

# The Cunningham Courier

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

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Website: [www.cunninghamcourier.news](http://www.cunninghamcourier.news)  
(620) 298-2659

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photo by Diana Wegerer

## Page Turning at CPL

The calendar page from December 2024 to January 2025 isn't the only page turning at the Cunningham Public Library (CPL). As announced in early October, long-time librarian, Kerri Steffen, is retiring at the end of January. The library board of trustees is pleased to announce that Debi Dunlap has been selected as the next Librarian at CPL.

Debi, her husband, Cody, and daughters, Tabitha and Tessa, moved to Cunningham in 2020 when Mr. Dunlap began as principal at Cunningham Schools. Since that time, son, Theodore (Teddy), has joined the family. The Dunlaps can be seen at many school and community functions and are a welcome addition to the town.

Prior to accepting the librarian position, Debi worked at Joe Bob Outfitters in Hays and as director of the Cunningham Child Care Center before resigning to enjoy spending time with Teddy. She loves books, reading, helping people, and is looking forward to learning all about being a librarian. She is even mulling over some ideas for upcoming programs.

The month of January will be a time of transition as Kerri works closely with Debi, sharing the ins and outs of the library. Patrons are encouraged to pop in and meet Debi, if you haven't already.



Kerri Steffen will officially close her chapter as CPL Librarian on January 31st, after 18 years of service. There will be a come-and-go reception in her honor at the library on Sun., Jan. 26th, from 2-4 p.m.



Debi Dunlap has been selected as the next librarian for Cunningham Public Library. Stop in and meet Debi and wish her well.



Debi Dunlap and Kerri Steffen, incoming and outgoing CPL librarians, discuss a book before jumping into creating the volunteer work schedule for January.

Submitted by Mary Stackhouse

## Minutes from November City Council Meeting

November 25, 2024

The Cunningham City Council met in a regular session on Monday, November 25, 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: Wylan Betzen and Sy Romine

Council President Ruckle called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Motion by Newell, second by Woodard, to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2024 meeting as written. Motion carried, 4/0.

Mayor Murphy arrived at 6:34 p.m.

Public Comments – No public comment.

Fire Department Report – Chief Stark was unable to attend, so Molly

reported that two early morning false alarms at the school had summoned the fire department. The Chief responded two consecutive mornings. Pinnacle replaced a part and the system is currently working correctly.

Water Tower Contract – It was the consensus of the Council to not sign the proposed contract with Viking Industrial Painting. Due to the financial risk of the contract, the Council would like a proposal for making necessary repairs only. Mesa will talk with John Reimer and discuss what work needs to be in the proposal. A special meeting will be scheduled as soon as Viking sends a new proposal.

Pavement Marking at School – Motion by Ruckle, second by Schultz, to accept the bid from Stripes & More for \$1218.00. Motion carried, 4/0.

Cereal Malt Beverage License Renewals – Motion by Ruckle, second by Woodard, to approve the CMB license for Cozy's LLC (2024-01.) Motion carried, 4/0.

Motion by Schultz, second by Ruckle, to approve the CMB license for Love's Travel Stops #695 (2024-02.) Motion carried, 4/0.

2025 Council Meeting Dates –

Motion by Newell, second by Woodard, to approve the 2025 Council Meeting Dates with the edit of April 30<sup>th</sup> meeting time of 5:00 p.m. Motion carried, 4/0.

It was the consensus of the Governing Body that the Budget Amendment Hearing would be scheduled for December 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. John Regier with Loyd Group will prepare the proper notice for the newspaper.

Maintenance Report – Mesa gave the maintenance report. \*Ten trees were planted in Lion's Park. \*Leiter Avenue has been grinded and graded. \*Tie-ins are being completed at the new home at 421 N Douglas. \*Mesa has not received a response from Mayer Specialty Services regarding the schedule for clean out. \*There was another significant rain event at the sewer plant. Both pumps ran for nine hours. There was no overflow. \*Mesa will be scheduling the dig for the new burn pit. \*Meter pit for new business at 121 E First Street should be dug now if it will be needed before spring.

Property Officer – Jackie could not attend, so Molly gave the report. Jackie is still working with two residents on cleaning debris and weeds from their properties.

Planning & Zoning – Motion by Ruckle, second by Schultz, to approve permit 2024-19 for a new structure at 121 E First. Motion carried, 4/0.

Motion by Schultz, second by Woodard, to approve permit 2024-20 for a six foot privacy fence at 410 N Lincoln. Motion carried, 4/0.

Motion by Woodard, second by Ruckle, to approve permit 2024-21 for vinyl fencing at 218 E Fourth Street. Motion carried, 4/0.

Motion by Schultz, second by Newell, to approve permit 2024-22 for an addition to a deck at 221 W First. Motion carried, 3/0. (Ruckle abstained.)

Employee Holiday Bonus – Motion by Newell, second by Schultz, to approve a \$100 holiday bonus to Mesa Sallee, Molly Morgan, Jackie Ruckle, and Sam Theis. Motion carried, 4/0.

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

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

Mayor Murphy adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

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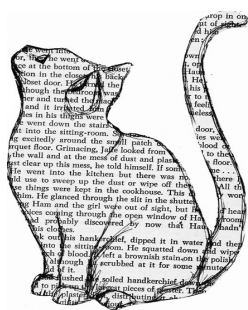
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Meanderings

Do you ever just feel lazy? You can hear the warm bed calling? Or the wonderfully odd novel summoning you from the pages of the story?

That is me most days. Today I kept nodding off as I'm typing. Yes, I am drinking coffee. I have

one of those tall percolator coffee pots. The kind my mom and dad poured coffee from. I am 1/2 way through the second pot of the day and so badly want to take a little nap.

Alas, I know when it is all said and done, I won't be able to sleep tonight. I'll go in, warm my feet under the electric blanket, pick up my book, holler at Barney to come and purr, and read until my eyes hurt, but my brain and mind will continue on their caffeine-induced non-sleep.

Tomorrow, driving to Hutchinson to pick up our

papers from the newspaper office/print shop, I will grow a bit drowsy, unless there's something really good on KMUW (89.1). I'll stop and get a soda before coming home to keep me awake.

I don't learn from experiences with this, I'll just start it all over next week.

I can remember when I was younger, I could fall asleep so easily. Sleep like the proverbial baby... those were the days, my friends, and they did end.

And I could read well into the night and my

eyes seldom got tired....

I suppose that is why we have retirement. Can't sleep? Take a nap in the afternoon....that is if you don't have a parttime job.

\*\*

I am beginning my search for someone to take over this paper. It really is a great job. The very best part.... You can work from home, with little beasts keeping you company. The kitchen is right there. The bathroom is just down the hall. It is the best job I've ever had. But then, I am my own boss.

You don't have to tell

anyone you are going to take a break. You get free admittance to school ballgames. Kansas Press Association issues press passes for other events. KSHAA offers press passes to tournaments....

Nice perks.

Don't panic. I will continue to publish this paper until another publisher/editor/owner steps forward. Or until printing and/or postage makes it cost prohibitive.

The next publisher may just take it on-line to cut down on costs. Ninety-five percent of newsprint is imported

from Canada, so if tariffs are levied, it may well be the end of many printed newspapers.

Which will happen eventually, tariffs would just speed up the process.

Always reading, and currently reading, "The Husbands"

by Holly Gramazio, (recommended by Debi Dunlap)

Roberta

For those partial to cat stories, be sure to read Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds by my friend, Gaille Pike.

Pets are so entertaining.

Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds by Gaille Pike

Dear Readers, I often tell tales about two of my cats, Delaney and his baby sister Luca, yet only mention their mother, BatKat, in passing. I've avoided telling this cat's remarkable story because I've been embarrassed to publicly disclose what a bad owner I was her first year here. In a nutshell, I believed a close friend, a neighbor who I thought was knowledgeable—not once, alas, twice—when he told me I had "plen-

ty of time" to get her spayed. To this day I give that friend grief about his "advice." But the truth is: SHAME ON ME. Two litters, eleven babies later, I added "Mommala" to her moniker...and did right by her. I found forever-homes for seven of her kids and kept three (one of which now prefers living "wild.") One kitten which lived only a few hours rests in our yard, its grave marked by a seashell. It is no secret that Mommala BatKat rules my world and this house as Queen of the Maypole.

Five years ago, on a blustery autumn day, she curled up on our porch..

She was an itty-bitty, mud splattered mess. When I saw her iconic-Kansas-sky-blue eyes, I fell in love. Scientists have evidence that cats are physically incapable of expression. But this cat's face had a dare written all over it. "Feed me or not. I'll die if I must. I am not going anywhere. This is the end of the line."

We fed her and made a little shelter on the porch. It took weeks to coax her inside. Then she ran under the sofa and refused to come out for three days. After another week or so, I thought I'd clean her up and that was when I discovered she was not covered in

mud at all. She simply had the most unusual markings, including a Batman-masked face. Considering her coat pattern and her devastatingly azure eyes, I guessed she was a cross between a Siamese and a calico. She is unlike any other cat I've known in terms of intelligence, temperament and looks. Around Christmas that year, she decided I could be HER momma. She still jumps in my lap to knead my belly and often is inclined to sleep with me.

It remains a mystery where BatKat came from. In the days following her arrival, we checked to see if any of our neighbors

were missing a kitten. They were not. As Spring brought warmer temperatures, my heart skipped beats as BatKat disappeared, again and again, for three or four days at time. But she always came home. So instead of asking where she'd been, I started asking, "Have you been to see the Queen?" And she'd just give me a Mona Lisa smile.

When I FINALLY got her to a vet, the entire place erupted that I'd brought in a true "Tortie" (Tortoiseshell breed.) I'd never heard of such a thing but they are known as the "divas" of the cat world. The vet's

theory is that whoever spent a pretty penny on BatKat couldn't handle her Tortie personality and dumped her in the country. BatKat's pedigree wasn't the only shocker the vet had for me. Delaney, I was told, was a...King of the Maypole. Remember that friend who told me twice I had time to prevent BatKat getting pregnant? Well, he's the one I trusted to gender all BatKat's kittens, the one that told me Delaney was a girl.

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



The Legislative Season

Glenn Brunkow, Pottawatomie County farmer and rancher

The circle of life is moving from one season to the next. For instance, we are moving from the holiday season to the legislative season. OK, that is a bit of a stretch but it does the job to illustrate my point.

January starts a new session in both our state

legislature in Topeka and our national legislature in Washington, D.C. In both cases we have a lot of new faces filling seats in both the statehouse and Congress. We also know on the federal side the balance of power has shifted to the Republicans.

What does that mean? Your guess is as good as mine, but regardless of who is in power Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) will be working to help guide future legislation to improve the lives of farmers and ranchers.

This is where the policy we carefully crafted over the past year

comes into play. Our policy book at the state and national levels is the playbook our staff use as a guide. The policy members brought forward at issue surfacing meetings, then honed at the listening post meetings and finally adopted at both the KFB and American Farm Bureau Federation annual meetings. This process informs those who are lobbying on your behalf.

However, just because we have our policy fine tuned that doesn't mean our work, as members, is done. No, our work has just started. Kansas Farm Bureau has an incredible

staff working for us in Topeka and Washington, D.C., but the real strength of our organization is the grassroots muscle we can flex.

The most important thing I have learned over the years is that as good as our staff is, the opinions that carry the most weight are those of the voters. Our lobby team is very well respected and they carry a great deal of influence but when it gets really critical nothing moves the needle like our members' voices.

That is why it is so important for each of us to create relationships with our elected officials. We

need attend events in the districts and our county Farm Bureaus need to host legislative events. It is important when critical votes come up, our elected officials know their constituents back home and seek out their opinions.

It is also important for each of us to be informed about the current issues and legislation being proposed. We need to understand how it fits into Farm Bureau policy. We also need to be signed up for action alerts and be ready to respond when a call is sent out. Nothing is more powerful than a loud response from Farm

Bureau members. Never underestimate how much influence your voice has especially when it is magnified by the grassroots nature of Farm Bureau.

Yes, we are entering the legislative season. I know it is not nearly as much fun as the holiday season but it is not one we can ignore either. Please make sure you take an active role in Kansas Farm Bureau's efforts and have a Merry or at least a Happy Legislative Season.

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News from Kansas Farm Bureau

Poetry From Daily Life

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

Poetry from Daily Life: Not all poems are art — embrace the 'silly' and 'stupid' ones

By Janet Wong My guest this week on Poetry from Daily Life is Janet Wong, who lives in Gig Harbor, Washington. Janet is a graduate of Yale Law School and former lawyer who switched careers to become a children's author. She was the 2021 recipient of the NCTE Excellence in Poetry for Children Award, one of the highest honors that a children's poet can receive. A fun fact: on a recent month-long trip where she spoke at schools nationwide, Janet (a pickleball fanatic) made time to play pickleball in eight states. ~ David L. Harrison

Roses are red, violets are blue

One of my strongest poetry memories took place

at a black-tie dinner at the Library of Congress where George W. Bush introduced his wife Laura with a poem. He explained that she had been away on a diplomatic trip the previous week and he had missed her so much that he wrote a poem for her. He then read his poem, which went something like this: "Roses are red / Violets are blue / You've been gone a long time / I sure missed you."

The audience — including authors presenting at the National Book Festival the next day — giggled at this silly ditty. A few people muttered, "Well, that was...stupid." But I thought it was terrific. I admired President Bush for his willingness to share this frivolous but heartfelt bit of fluff. Was it art? No. But poetry doesn't need to be art all the time. It doesn't have to be serious, or beautiful, or thought-provoking, or "inspiring." It's perfectly all right to write something "stupid" — especially when it's a little spur-of-the-moment gift meant to make someone happy.

Embrace your inner four-year-old

"Thank you for being willing to make a fool of yourself," a boy at an international school in Asia wrote in a note to me after I visited his school via Zoom. When I perform at schools, I aim to provide moments of levity both to buoy the students' spirits and to keep them attentive. In between the funny poems, I share serious poems about kindness, respect, and inclusion (and science and math and social studies); the funny poems help to keep the kids "with" me. When they're having a good time, they listen more carefully. The funny poems also just make kids happy, and I believe that the best learning takes place when we have happy kids.

Here's one of the sillier (and yes, most stupid) poems from the newest anthology created by my colleague Sylvia Vardell and me, "Clara's Kooky Compendium of Thimblethoughts and Wonderfuzz." (Like many of the poems in this book, this poem was written by me "in the voice of Clara.")

The Morning Rush

Has Mom in a Tizzy

by Clara Mom told James to eat "quore mickly." "Crack your backpack! Flush your hair!" "Furry with your shoes!" she shrieked. "And don't forget your ... wonderwear!"

◆◆◆

One of the best things about an anthology (when compared to a single-poet collection) is that you'll find a wealth of diversity in voices. Every single reader will find a poem that resonates. The poets in this anthology of 100+ poems represent a mix of poetry superstars and brand new voices, including: Alma Flor Ada, Calef Brown, F. Isabel Campoy, Yangsook Choi, Margarita Engle, Douglas Florian, Charles Ghigna, David L. Harrison, Sara Holbrook, Alan Katz, Irene Latham, George Ella Lyon, Kenn Nesbitt, Eric Ode, Michael Salinger, Darren Sardelli, Eileen Spinelli, Padma Venkatraman, Charles Waters, Allan Wolf, and many more.

When times are hard

In "Humor, Seriously: Why Humor Is a Secret Weapon in Business and Life," Jennifer Aaker and Naomi Bagdonas suggest that "[p]layful cultures allow teams to thrive, even (and especially) when the stakes are high and times are hard." In these "high stakes, hard times" times of ours, we need humor more than ever — immediately and often. So next time you see someone having a hard day, reach for a pen and write a little poem to cheer them up.

"Roses are red / Violets are blue / Try it and show / they're important to you."

Janet Wong (janet-wong.com) is the author of more than forty books; her newest book is "Clara's Kooky Compendium of Thimblethoughts and Wonderfuzz," a journal-style anthology co-authored with Sylvia Vardell that features a unique mix of poems, quotes, questions, and facts about science, social science, and more. Learn more about it (and the teacher guide for it) at PomeloBooks.com.

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**Community Bulletin Board**

<b>Friday, January 3</b> No School: Teacher Inservice **	<b>Saturday, January 11</b> B-Team tournament
HS BB vs Canton-Galva at HOME	<b>Monday, January 13</b> B-Team Tournament
<b>Monday, January 6</b> Back to School ***	<b>Tuesday, January 14</b> HS BB vs Burrton Boys at HOME
JH BB at Central Christian	<b>Wednesday, January 15</b> 6:00 Shop Guild at High School
<b>Tuesday, January 7</b> HS BB at Macksville ***	<b>Thursday, January 16</b> HOPL HS Scholars Bowl at HOME ***
Lions Club Meeting	JH BB vs South Barber at HOME
<b>Thursday, January 9</b> JH BB vs Skyline at HOME	
<b>Friday, January 10</b> HS BB vs Kinsley at HOME	

*The Community Calendar is sponsored by*



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**Upcoming Auctions**

Consignment Auction 9:30 a.m. on  
**January 11, 2024**

For more information and a complete list of auctions, see our website at [www.hammauction.com](http://www.hammauction.com)

107 NE State Road 61,  
Pratt, Kansas, 67124  
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**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.  
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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**  
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10:00 - 7:00  
Friday: 10:00 - 6:00  
Saturday: 10:00 - 2:00  
Closed on Sundays  
(620) 672-3041

**Health Clinics**

Kingman County Health Department will be in Cunningham January 8th from 9:30-12:00 and in Nashville from 1:30-4:00.

Next Thursday, January 9, 2025, has been declared a National Day of Mourning. The Post Office will be closed so The Courier will be mailed on Friday.

**Don't Forget This Celebration!**

100th Birthday Card Shower is requested for Martha Rohlman! Martha will be turning 100 on January 11, 2025 and would love it if you would help her celebrate by sending her a birthday card!!

Cards can be sent to:  
Martha Rohlman  
c/o Hilltop Manor  
403 S. Valley Street  
Cunningham, Ks. 67035

**Minutes from the Kingman County Commission**

Chairman Henning called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. December 23, 2024, in the County Commissioners room at the Kingman County Courthouse. Present were 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; Aaron Murphy; Christy Crews, Hometown Grants; Jamie Hower, Strong's Insurance; Scott Strong, Strong's Insurance.

Online Visitors: Caller O1; Tammy

Staff: Jamie Smith, County Treasurer; Sheriff Brent Wood and Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director

Chairman Henning asked if there were any additions to the agenda.

Chairman Henning would like to add an executive session for attorney-client privilege if needed.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the agenda with the addition of an attorney-client privilege executive session. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a unanimous

vote 3-0.

Chairman Henning asked if there was any public comment.

Jamie Smith, County Treasurer was in with a department update. Ms. Smith submitted the list of delinquent taxes for the tax sale.

Carol Noblit, County Clerk submitted the December 16, 2024, Commission meeting minutes for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the December 16, 2024, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

Commissioners signed abatements and escaped taxes.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve Resolution 2024-R19, A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF KINGMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ESTABLISHING AN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POLICY. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

Commissioners discussed passing a resolution for expanding days of sale at retail of cereal malt beverage and alcoholic liquor in original package within unincorporated areas of the county.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve Charter Resolution 2024-R20, A CHARTER

**RESOLUTION OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS, EXPANDING THE DAYS OF SALE AT RETAIL OF CEREAL MALT BEVERAGE AND ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR IN THE ORIGINAL PACKAGE WITHIN UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF THE COUNTY ON ANY SUNDAY, EXCEPT EASTER, NOT EARLIER THAN 9:00 A.M. AND NOT LATER THAN 8:00 P.M.**

Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

Amanda Stucky, Field Appraiser was in to discuss land that has been sold in several different lots and one has been sold in a 15-acre lot which if planning to build there is a zoning process that should be done.

Mr. Ritcha, County Counselor, let Ms. Stucky know that it is a civil matter and the County should not be involved at this point.

Sheriff Brent Wood was in to discuss grant money purchase and where the funds will be paid out of.

Commissioners discussed the County purchasing policy. Christy Crews, Hometown Grants was in to introduce herself and the grant writing services she could provide for the County and Cities within the County.

Scott Strong and Jamie Hower with Strong's

Insurance was in with 2025 Property Insurance information for Kingman County.

Mr. Strong went over the price increases for coverage.

Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director was in with a department update.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch made a motion to go into executive session at 10:49 a.m. with Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director and Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor to discuss attorney-client privilege pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and they will return to open session in the Board Meeting room at 10:54 a.m. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was passed upon the unanimous vote of 3-0.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 10:54 a.m. with no decision made. Mr. Arensdorf discussed lettings for the new year with the County Commissioners. Commissioners discussed the vacancy on the Dale Township. MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to appoint David Stucky to the Dale Township Treasurer position. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 11:10 a.m. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

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We ALWAYS need photos for the paper!!

**Kingman Historic Theatre**  
237 N. Main in Kingman  
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All Seats are \$3.00 (cash or local check only)

Showtimes:  
Friday at 7:30  
Saturday 7:30  
Sunday at 5:30

**Wicked**  
Rated PG

The balcony will be closed on Friday, January 3rd.

Thank YOU for supporting YOUR Kingman Historic Theatre.

**All Paths Lead to Tears**

By Laurie Glass

In spite of grieving, try to think of all the good throughout the years.

Yet even happy memories still usher me the other way, and all paths lead to tears.

Their actions showed their love, which surely warms my heart, but how I miss them now.

It isn't long till sadness hits, and I begin to fall apart.

It matters not where I begin. No matter where I aim, the sorrow still ensues. Emotions trend me back to grief. The paths all end the same.

I smile as I think of laughter and the fun, and yet it doesn't last. My feelings drift the other way, with tears I'm overcome.

I do recall the happy times, not just the hard or sad.

But either way, it matters not, for my emotions lean the same.

I end up feeling bad.

I'm thankful they were here for all the years they were.

But even gratitude still leads me back to grief.

To tears I must defer.

In spite of grieving, try to think of all the good throughout the years.

Yet even happy memories still usher me the other way,

and all paths lead to tears.



**Reunion at the Beach**

By Venice Kichura

"Take me now, Sonny. Today would have been our fiftieth wedding anniversary if my Walter hadn't died nine months ago."

"But Aunt Bessie, you know I can't take you to the beach. You need your rest and probably the nursing home director won't let you go."

"Oh fiddlesticks." "Tell him whatever you have to. Just grant a sick, old woman one last wish."

Arguing with his stubborn old aunt was nothing unusual for Pastor Delwin. He may have led countless souls to Christ as a gifted preacher, but when it came to persuading his Aunt Bessie about anything, especially her soul, it was a lost cause.

Affectionately called "Sonny" for the son she never had, Delwin was her only living relative. Bessie's late husband, his Uncle Walter, had been her whole life and now she was alone. When he passed away part of Bessie died, too. Unable to live alone, she went into a nursing home, as she recuperated from two major heart attacks.

"Okay," he said,

reluctantly.

Wheeling Aunt Bessie to the front desk, he said. "I want to take my aunt out for just a couple of hours."

"All right, just watch her carefully and bring her back before dark," the director said.

Lifting her frail, 98-pound body from the wheelchair into the front seat, Delwin carefully fastened her seat belt and closed the car door, praying silently, "She's all yours, Lord. This trip is against my better judgment, but I'm listening to my heart. I place her in your hands."

As he drove, Bessie retold the familiar story of how she and Walter had rekindled a teenage romance almost 51 years ago at a high school reunion beach party. Six months later they stood in front of the ocean, saying "I do". Each year on their anniversary they would return to the beach.

They had enjoyed a charmed life together. The only thing missing was a common faith. Uncle Walter was a Christian, but Aunt Bessie was not the religious type, although she was a devoted wife. After awhile, Uncle Walter

stopped saving her a seat at church.

Smelling the fresh, salty air, they knew the beach was up ahead.

"There's the spot!" exclaimed Aunt Bessie. "It's under that palm tree that we got married."

Delwin drove into the beach parking lot and debated if she should get out. The excitement would be too much for her, he thought.

Instead of insisting they get out of the car, Bessie suddenly became quiet. Her tired, hazel eyes grew serious. She turned to her nephew and asked. "Is it too late?"

"No, the beach doesn't close until dark. But I don't think it would be a good idea for you to get out. Remember your heart."

"Hold on, Sonny. You don't understand. Is it too late for me? I want you to baptize me. I want to go to heaven, but I'm not good enough."

Delwin was stunned! After all these years his obstinate aunt wanted salvation.

"Oh, Aunt Bessie, "No one is good enough," he said, silently thanking God for an open door.

Praying for the right words, he heard himself say, "Let's go down to the beach. I'll carry you."

Carrying her to the shore, he said, "See all those footprints? Imagine they're your sins. Now look at the oncoming wave crashing over them. They're all gone, now, washed away forever. It's the same with our sins. When we accept Jesus, God washes over our sins and carries them out to sea.

Aunt Bessie's eyes melted.

"Now I understand. That's what I want, Sonny."

Delwin sat her down on a towel, under the same palm tree where she got married, and took her wrinkled 90-year-old hands in his. Trembling, she repeated after him a simple prayer of repentance and salvation, asking Jesus into her heart.

Scooping water into an empty can lying on the sand, Delwin sprinkled it on her white, uncombed hair. "I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost," he said.

"I'm ready now, Sonny. Bessie's eyes closed and she peacefully slipped into eternity. She was with Walter, again, on their golden anniversary.

They had kept their yearly date at the beach.

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

**Check the Blessing Box east of the Methodist Church. Anyone can give or take from the Blessing Box at any time.**



**Cunningham Hands of Hope, Inc.**

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

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

**What:** Food

**When:** First 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.

**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 Janet DeWeese 620-298-2717)

**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 Kerri Steffen)

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

**Catholic Churches**

**Sacred Heart, Cunningham**  
Sunday 10:00 a.m.

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

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

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

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



**Lutheran Churches**

**St. John, Nashville**  
620-246-5220  
Sunday School & Bible Class  
9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service  
8:30 a.m.

**Trinity, Medicine Lodge**  
620-886-3397  
Sunday School & Bible Class  
9:15 a.m.  
Worship Service  
10:30 a.m.

Pastor vacancy until further notice.



**Church of Christ**

**Penalosa**  
Sunday 11:00 a.m.

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



**Zenda Methodist Church**

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

Pastor J L Nichols 620-243-6953

**CHS Lady Wildcats** vs Chaparral

**CHS Lady Wildcats** vs Argonia



*Macy Neufeld*



*Ava Bock*



*Emily Ogg*



*Rylee Miller*



**CHS Wildcats** vs Argonia



*Luke Albers*



*Stephen Kerschen*



*Will Wegerer*



**CJHS Lady Wildcats** vs Stafford



*Alyssa Osner*



*Katie Ogg*



*Yeah Rogers*

The photos on this page, taken by Molly Morgan, are from pre-Christmas break and I didn't receive stories to accompany them, as coaches were on a well-deserved break as wel. -- RK



**CJHS Wildcats** vs Stafford



*Bryce Simon*



*Grady Smyth*

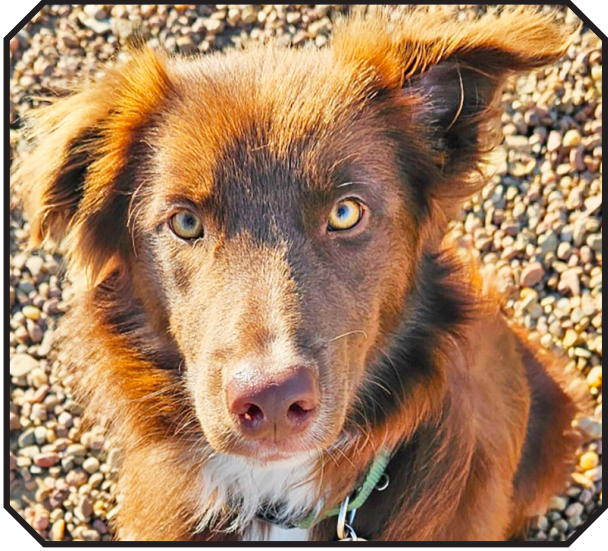


*Brody Halderson*

## KCHS Pets Ready for Adoption

### Hank

Sponsored by The Cunningham Courier



Hank is an absolutely gorgeous Australian Shepherd/ Brittany Spaniel mix. He is still a pup at about 10 months of age. He's good with other dogs, good with kids, people friends, housetrained. What's not to love?

He has been at the shelter since December 1 and has made appearances at pet adoption events. His adoption fee is \$200.00.

"Hank can put the energizer bunny to shame. He is a non-stop, let's go play super cute ball of fur, not for couch-potatoes kind of dog. But if you love the outdoors, are active and adventurous, he will be perfect for you. Hank loves to play catch, he chases squeaky balls, loves to go on long walks (and walks great on the leash). He's a mini-Aussie so in addition to high energy, he is smart and super loyal. He will want to be by your side and will follow you to the end of the earth. He gets along with other dogs but will prefer to have you all to himself. Hank is not for everyone but for the right person he is absolutely a WINNER!"

### Tawney

Sponsored by Baker Accounting



Tawney looks a bit scared in this photo, but he is a good kitty now that he's adjusted to the shelter life. He is about 6 months old and has been at the shelter since October 10.

His adoption fee is \$85.00. Surely a bargain for a companion of many years.

## 2025 Ambassador Chili and Bingo Night

Join the Kingman County 4-H Ambassadors on January 12 for a fun evening of Chili and Bingo at the Hanger in Kingman (former VFW Hall). For \$10 adults can eat all the chili they would like and have one bingo card. Kids 12 and under are \$5 for all-you-can-eat chili and one bingo card. Additional bingo cards can be purchased for \$2 each. All the proceeds from this event will go to the Kingman County Humane Society. This will be the second year for this event to benefit the Kingman County Humane Society.



## Scholarship Opportunity!

SCTelcom's membership with NTCA is providing a scholarship opportunity via the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS). FRS seeks to sustain and enhance the quality of life in America by advancing an understanding of rural issues. FRS strongly supports the continuing education of rural youth.

Applications being accepted until February 14, 2025.

Please find additional information here - <https://www.frs.org/programs/youth-programs/scholarships>

Please contact our office at 877-723-6875 if you have questions.

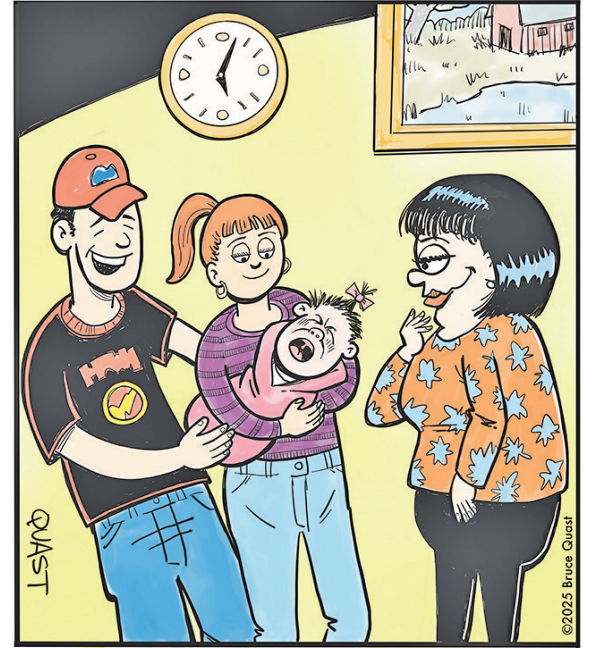
**sctelcom** sctelcom.net / 877-723-6875



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

"Some people talk to animals. Not many listen though. That's the problem." — A.A. Milne, Winnie-the-Pooh

## Comfortably Dumb by Bruce Quast



"We named her 'Jennings', because she's always wailin'!"

## USD 332 Staff Spotlight: Bart Ricke: Athletic Director, Science Teacher, Coach

## USD 332 Staff Spotlight: Ingrid Ricke: 2nd Grade Teacher, Coach

**STAFF SPOTLIGHT**
*Bart Ricke*

**WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT USD 332?**  
"Working with great staff and wonderful kids!"

**ABOUT ME**

**experience:** 29 years, 24 in Cunningham

**family:** Wife Ingrid - 31 years, 3 girls - Kelsey, Kortney, and Kylee, 5 grandkids

**pets:** 2 dogs - Josie & Ollie

**hobbies:** Time w/family, puzzles, watching sports

**FAVORITES**

**food:** Whatever my lovely wife puts on the table.

**place:** Home

**book:** Don't really have a favorite, if I had to choose, probably Hatchet

**subject:** P.E.

**Fun Facts:**

- I'm the oldest of 8 children and I have 85 first cousins.
- The dogs are actually my wife's.

**STAFF SPOTLIGHT**
*Ingrid Ricke*

**WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT USD 332?**  
"I love teaching and coaching kids who love to learn and improve in their sports. I also love the small town atmosphere and the support our community has for our kids. Getting to see my family during the workday is an extra bonus I'm blessed with."

**ABOUT ME**

**experience:** 33 years, 25 in Cunningham, 3 in Zenda

**family:** Husband Bart, 3 beautiful daughters & 5 amazing grandchildren Josie & Ollie

**pets:**

**hobbies:** Time with family & friends especially sitting at the kitchen table

**FAVORITES**

**food:** Steak and Fries Chicken

**place:** Home, School, or anywhere I can swim

**book:** No absolutely favorite but I love to read!

**subject:** Reading and Math

**Fun Fact:**

- This year has been extra special as I am getting to teach my granddaughter Avery!

YEARS AGO IN

*The Cunningham Clipper*

W. A. Bradley / William Bradley

**1929**

December 27, 1929 - Santa Claus arrived as per schedule last Thursday afternoon to attend the Community Christmas tree and program arranged by the business and progressive citizens of the city and community. Approximately 1000 treats to the kiddies and to many "kids" who had seen many other Santa Claus days were handed out by those in charge. At the last they ran out of the sacked treats and had to give apples, oranges, and bananas. The short program, which was greatly appreciated as the main address by William Cooley. Taken all in all, it was a great day for Cunningham merchants and had the appearance of meeting with favor from those who attended.

The success of this venture will undoubtedly decide the advisability of such a plan being repeated next year.

Fire, caused by an overheated stove, was responsible for a loss ranging from \$300 to \$500 to the Eureka Theatre and Masonic Hall at Zenda last Wednesday evening.

**1934**

December 28, 1934 - Santa Claus arrived in town last Saturday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock as scheduled, and with the assistance of the Boy Scouts of the city, delivered treats to everyone, both old and young. A large crowd was on hand to greet the famous old man, and all seemed to get a thrill out of the occasion. Santa came into town astride the radiator of a car, and received lusty cheers from the many children line along the street ready to greet him. No program was attempted this year, but the Chairman of the Christmas Tree Organization, Wm. Cooley, gave a short talk, until Santa was seen approaching from the north end of town.

The Young People Society of St. Leo is presenting "Little Miss Jack" on December 30th and January 1st. Everybody come to see it. Lots of Comedy and yet it will bring a tear to your eye. You can't imagine it - you must see it.

Cast of Characters

- Maggie..... Virginia Eck
- Jimmie..... Albert Dick
- Julia Trevars..... Mrs. Elmer Fiegel
- Jacqueline..... Alma Kampling
- Dr. Carlyle..... Elmer Fiegel
- Paul Sandborn.. Mike Schnittker
- Neena.....Dorothy Schnittker
- Aunt Katie..... Blanche Fiegel
- Rider.....Raymond Fiegel
- Drake.....Walter Heimerman

Curtain will rise promptly at 7:30 o'clock P.M. Admission only 10c & 25c. Special music begins at 7:15 P.M.

**1939**

December 29, 1939 - Among those who gathered at the home of Wm. Cooley and enjoyed Christmas dinner were: Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Baber, Jean Baber and Anita Kay; Mr. Glenn Cooley, Dale, Mary Elizabeth, and Eugenia; Mr. and Mrs. Warren Kailer; Mr. and Mrs. Ora Anderson, Mary Louise, Jo Anne, and Norma; Mr. and Mrs. Norman DeLair; Mr. and Mrs. Loren Cooley, June and Johanna; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Cooley and Larry; John German, Dempsey Liebl, and Mr. Cooley. Those who came in the afternoon were Eleanor and Vera Shelman and Eleanor Irene Shelman.

Guests of the Editor's family on Christmas Day were the following relatives: Mr. and Mrs. Ray Amick, Betty, Bonnie, and Beverly; Mrs. Jessie Nossaman, Calvin and James; Mrs. Phoebe Gage; Mr. and Mrs.

**1949**

December 30, 1949 - A large crowd welcomed Santa Claus to Cunningham and community last Friday afternoon. The community's first attempt with a parade met with enthusiastic approval and featured floats depicting the Nativity scene, the Girl Scouts, the 4-H Club, the school band, the marching Pep Club, the Boy Scouts, and, of course, Santa Clause, who passed out almost 1,000 treats to youngsters and oldsters.

A new shoe repair shop will be opened in Cunningham about January 5, and will be located in the former White Eagle filling station on U. S. highway 54. J. E. DeGraffenreid, who has had experience in shoe repair work in Denver, Colorado, is the proprietor. Mr. DeGraffenreid says his shop will be equipped with modern shoe repairing equipment and welcomes your patronage. Cunningham has been without a shoe repair shop for about two weeks, since E. A. Pond moved to Burlson, Texas.

**1954**

December 30, 1954 - Mr. and Mrs. Creighton Boen and children of Russell, and Mrs. And Mrs. Charles Crow and family of Hoisington. Christmas Day guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Hauser and Ann were Mr. and Mrs. Ray Shafer, Mrs. Edith Haynes, and Miss Lizzie Millhauser. Afternoon callers were Mr. and Mrs. Don Dunn and daughters.

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Cooley and daughters, and Glen Cooley were Christmas Day guests of Mr. and Mrs. Clark Wise and family of Augusta. Dale Cooley of Wichita was an additional guest. Mr. and Mrs. Rufus

Leiter, Mary Frances and Robert, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Allbritten were Christmas holiday weekend guests at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Frank Allbritten Jr. and family in Kansas City. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Halderson and children of Glasco, were Christmas holiday guests at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wetherall. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Raney and family were Christmas Day guests of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hageman and Rex of Isabel. Christmas Eve dinner guests of Mrs. Elsie Simonson and Bessie were Bob Osborn and children of Pratt, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Schreck and Mike, and Mrs. and Mrs. Burnard Simonson.

NOTICE - Ten percent discount on all tractor and combine parts January, and thereafter until it rains or snows. Fee Hardware Company Phone 73 Cunningham, Kansas

**1959**

December 31, 1959 - Quick action by neighbors and the volunteer fire department save the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Burr and family about 7:30 o'clock Christmas morning (Friday). Fire from an undetermined source broke out in the wall of the residence while the family was away. Damage was confined to one room. The house is owned by Everett Hauser.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Shelman, Mr. and Mrs. Waldo Graves, Janet and Sue, Mr. and Mrs. Waldo Shelman, Kenton, Keith, and Randy, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Swander and Marshall, and Mr. and Mrs. Alferd Helmers and sons of Scott City, were Christmas Day guests of Mr. and Mrs. Brad Shelman and family in Wichita.

Mrs. Anna Steffen had as her Christmas Day guests, Mr. and Mrs. Don Link and family of Wichita, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Low and family and Mr. and Mrs. Clair McElwain and family of Mullinville, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Steffen and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Steffen and family, and Herman Steffen.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Long, Terry and Steve, entertained with a Christmas Day dinner. Their guests were Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lewis and Vicki, and Mr. and Mrs. James Luce.

Mr. and Mrs. John Schnittker had as their Christmas Day company, Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Schnittker and son of Dodge City, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Schnittker and family, and Mr. and Mrs. Don Schnittker and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Ellis announce the birth of a daughter, Tuesday, December 22, at the Pratt County Hospital. he weighed eight pounds.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Dunn, and paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Roy Ellis, all of Cunningham.

**1964**

December 31, 1964 - Happy New Year from these advertisers - The First National Bank, Creamer's TV and Radio, Knotty Pine Motel, Baber's Sundries, Gano Grain, Em's Beauty Shop, Ace Cleaners, B&H Electric, Virginia's Cafe, DeWeese Hardware and Variety, Scripsick Standard Service, Cairo Co-op Equity Exchange, Reno Telephone, The Cunningham Clipper, Vern's Mobil Station - Arnold Heeke, Bob's Repair Shop, Kingman Savings and Loan, Hauser's AG Market, Patton's Skelly Station, Kincheloe Impl. Co., Cozy Cafe, Cunningham Repair Shop, Dafforn Appliances, Rose Garage, Mary's Fantasy Salon, Raney's Truck Service, McCool Radio and TV, Hilltop House, and Ellis Derby Service.

Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Leiter of Cunningham, announce the engagement of their daughter, Mary Frances, to Cadet First Class William A. Swick III, son of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Swick Jr. of Spenard, Alaska.

- Winchester Stick Chili, lb. 49¢
- Sunshine Crackers, lb. 29¢
- Choice Round Steak, lb. 79¢
- Choice Sirloin Steak, lb., 89¢
- Choice T-Bone Steak, lb., 89¢
- Arizona Head Lettuce, 2 heads 29¢
- California Sunkist Navel Oranges, 20 for \$1
- California Sunkist Lemons, 6 for 29¢
- Avacados, 2 for 25¢

**1970**

January 1, 1970 - A group of young people from the St. Leo - Cunningham community, will leave Wichita by chartered Continental Trailways bus, Wednesday morning, for Dallas, Tex., where they will attend the Cotton Bowl football game on New Year's Day between the University of Notre Dame and the University of Texas.

In the group are Jerry Reif, Kenny Kerschen, John Holcomb, J. C. Kerschen, Ruth Eck, Jim McCune, Fred Holcomb, Chuck Holcomb, John Adelhardt, Elmer Adelhardt, Ned Albers, Bonnie Albers, John Eck, Alan Albers, Tom Strohl, Wayne Jarmer, and Ron Albers.

The Cunningham Grade School basketball teams started out December 4 on a winning note by defeating St. Leo in three games. The "B" boys defeated the St. Leo "B" boys team, 6 to 5. The Cunningham girls defeated the St. Leo girls, 27-12. The top scorers were Delores Mertens with 12, Reta Ratcliff with

8, and Bonnie Hamlett with 7. The Cunningham "A" boys defeated the St. Leo "A" boys, 19 to 15. Kent Scripsick was the high point man with 5 points, followed by Mike Oller, Bob Kampling, and Steve Jones, who scored 4 points each.

Bonnie Hamlett and Debbie Cain, reporters.

Hilltop House Nursing Home News by Olin S. Northrup

John Mertens visited Sam McMichael, Wednesday evening, Friday Morning, and Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Fr. Eugene Robl visited the home Sunday morning.

The UFO group of carolers visited the home Sunday evening, and brought boxes of candy and cookies to the residents. In the group were Albert, Wava, Bill, Bob, and Mike McGovney, David, Suzanne, and Mark Steffen, Nancy and Larry Nolte, Teresa Long, Kris Sheldon, Sheryl Dunn, Mark Dafforn, Kathy McCune, Kandi Bradley, Linda Jo Cain, Monte Rose, Edna Bishop, and Elaine Webster.

Fourteen years ago, January 1, 1956, the Hilltop House was opened under the management of Mrs. Virginia Gray and the Douglas J. Millers.

YEARS AGO IN

*The Cunningham Clipper*

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

**1975**

January 2, 1975 - Mr. and Mrs. Herman Miller of Zenda are the parents of a son born December 16, at the Attica Hospital. He weighed seven pounds, twelve ounces, and has been named Darrel Alan. The grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Fred Miller of Spivey and Mr. and Mrs. Ben Albert of Cheney. Mrs. Ana Detmer is a great-grandmother. Mrs. Miller is the former Agnes Albert.

Mrs. Josephine Albers, Ron Albers, and Martha Osner were Christmas Day dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Phil Theis and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Ned Golden and family were Sunday evening visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Towns and boys of Sawyer, Kansas.

YEARS AGO IN

*The Cunningham Clipper*

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes  
Editor: Scott Newton  
Reporter: Florine Kampling

**1980**

January 3, 1980 - Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Heintzelman are proud to announce the arrival of their first child, Jimmie Lee. He was born on December 9 at 6:37 p.m. weighing 7 lbs.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Spade, Cunningham, and Mr. and Mrs. Claude L Hadsell of Cullison. Great-grandparents are Mrs. Gen O'Bannion, Clifton, Wisc., Mr. and Mrs. Leo Spade, Nashville; and Mr. and Mrs. Olav Weese, Cullison.

Stacie Tharp of Pratt spent Friday and Saturday visiting Mr. and Mrs. Harold DeWeese. Robbie and Scott DeWeese were New Year's Eve overnight guests at the DeWeese home.

**1985**

January 3, 1985 - Vincent E. (Sonny) Spade, 64 died at Lancaster, Calif., after a sudden illness December 21, 1984. He was the son of Edwin and Eleanor Spade, former Kingman County residents.

Several members of the Cunningham Methodist Church youth group and some of their friends spent Wednesday afternoon at the Harold DeWeese home sawing trees and clearing brush and downed limbs caused by the recent ice storm.

Nashville News: Mr. and Mrs. Duane Hensiek and Troy, Bartlesville, Okla., Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Hensiek, Danny and Douglas of Sand Springs, Okla. And Galen Hensiek spent the Christmas holidays with Goldie and Myrna Hensiek.

Edna Westerman, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Westerman, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Westerman, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Westerman and Kim, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Westerman, Emery and Orin Westerman, all spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Wiens and family at Cimarron.

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FitzSimmons Insurance Agency, Inc. is an independent insurance agency and an equal opportunity provider

Kingman County Sheriff's Report

Sunday, December 22

Traffic Stops 14  
 Suspicious Vehicle NE 50 St & NE 160 Ave, Cheney  
 Agency Assist SW 90 Ave & W Hwy 54, Kingman  
 Theft 300 Blk W C Ave, Kingman  
 Non-Injury Accident 5400 Blk SE 100 Ave, Murdock  
 Suspicious Activity Fabpro Way & W A Ave, Kingman  
 Non-Injury Accident 400 Blk E Grant Ave, Kingman

Monday, December 23

Civil Paper Service 8  
 Traffic Complaint 16000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham  
 Suspicious Vehicle NW 170 Ave & NW 40 St, Cunningham  
 Harrassment SE 50 Ave & SE 70 St, Kingman  
 Animal Complaint SE 90 St & SE 150 Ave, Norwich  
 Follow Up 100 Blk E 1st St, Cunningham

Tuesday, December 24

Traffic Stops 2  
 Civil Paper Service 3  
 Abandoned Vehicle E Hwy 42 & SE 140 Ave, Norwich  
 Traffic Complaint 13000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney  
 Animal Complaint E Hwy 54 & NE 150 Ave, Cheney  
 Animal Complaint 13000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney  
 Suspicious Person E Hwy 54 & NE 120 Ave, Murdock

Wednesday, December 25

Traffic Stops 2  
 Animal Complaint 13000 E Hwy 54, Cheney



Miscellaneous  
 Agency Assist  
 Agency Assist

Thursday, December 26

Traffic Stops 6  
 Civil Paper Service 1  
 Transport Inmate 120 N Spruce St, Kingman  
 Disabled Vehicle 2000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman  
 Court 130 N Spruce St, Kingman  
 Medical 700 Blk Km State Lake Rd, Kingman  
 Check Welfare 11000 Blk SE 140 St, Norwich  
 Disabled Vehicle NE 10 St & NE 100 Ave, Murdock  
 Agency Assist 200 Blk N Sunflower Dr, Kingman  
 Miscellaneous 300 Blk E A Ave, Kingman

Friday, December 27

Traffic Stops 4  
 Medical 100 S Orange St, Penalosa  
 Disturbance 14000 E Hwy 54, Cheney  
 Disabled Vehicle N Hwy 11 & NW 20 St, Kingman  
 Transport Prisoner 120 N Spruce St, Kingman  
 Non-Injury Accident 7300 Blk NE 50 St, Pretty Prairie  
 Disturbance 300 Blk E A Ave, Kingman

Saturday, December 28

Traffic Stops 2  
 Non-Injury Accident 300 Blk SE 100 Ave, Murdock  
 Fire / Semi Trailer 16000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham  
 Traffic Complaint 2500 Blk S Hwy 14, Kingman  
 Traffic / Arrest 3000 Blk S Hwy 14, Kingman

Pratt County Commission Minutes

The Pratt County commissioners met in regular session Monday, December 16, 2024 at 2:00 pm in the commissioner room, 1st floor of the courthouse. The following members were present: Thomas W. Jones III, Rick Shriver, Dwight Adams, Lori Voss, county clerk and Mark Graber, IT director. Tyson Eisenhauer was absent.

Heather Morgan, economic development consultant, reported at the PADC meeting, they went over the last of the façade applications. The housing assessments will be done after the first of the year for Pratt County. She reported there is a company looking at establishing a solar farm

in the eastern part of the county. It is in the exploratory stages only at this time.

She reminded the commissioners they need to appoint someone to serve on the PADC board. She reported she had been in contact with representative Kyle Hoffman, concerning the Sawyer gas project. The RFP guidelines have been done and should be out the first of the year. Rate studies will be conducted.

Chairman Shriver made a motion to appoint Chase Galle to the PADC board. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the minutes from December 9, 2024. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Shriver

read resolution 12-06-2024 to transfer funds to special equipment. The transfers are: noxious weed \$25,000, election \$25,000 and health \$80,000. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve resolution 12-06-2024. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve a .50 raise for Margo Roberts, appraiser's office. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Tara Pagenkopf, RSVP, presented checks for signatures. She presented a new hire slip for Mary Kocher. Commissioner Jones made a motion to hire Mary Kocher for RSVP bus driver at \$10.10 per hour. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

She reported she and Amy Jones, treasurer were working on transferring her funds and accounts to Pratt County Banking.

Chairman Shriver gave a report on filing the claim for the lightning strike at the LEC. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the payment vouchers for December 16, 2024. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Adams made a motion to cancel the commissioner meeting December 23, 2024. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Brian Atteberry, EMS, presented 3% raise slips for his employees to go into effect January 6, 2025. He presented a new hire slip for a part time employ-

ee, Jeremy Thompson. Commissioner Jones made a motion to hire Jeremy Thompson as part time EMT at \$14.45 per hour. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the 3% raises to EMS employees. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Kristina Kaufman, Blythe Fitness director,

gave an update on events that are planned in 2025. Also, thanked the commissioners for their continued support so they can have these tournaments and events.

Commissioner Adams made a motion to adjourn at 2:37 p.m. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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© StatePoint Media  
 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.

News Breaks by Charles Keller

High heels are going out of style and women are in for a big let down.

A new indoor tennis court was built and the builder made a good net profit.

A new escalator was installed at the shopping mall and everyone said it was a step in the right direction.

New metal dog leashes are being sold in chain stores.

Card playing was banned by the navy and the ships lost their decks.

Statepoint Crossword Theme: Synonyms

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13					14			15				
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63					64	65		66				67
68					69			70				
71					72			73				

ACROSS

- Half of half-and-half
- \*Gratuity
- Remain unsettled
- Pita, alt. sp.
- Uncle Sam wants whom?
- Played violin, e.g.
- "Encore!"
- Young canine
- Amber warning
- \*Entice
- \*Agreement
- "\_\_\_ Te Ching"
- Goose egg
- Antonym of keep
- \*Affection
- Open wine, e.g.
- Frosts a cake
- Leave in a bucket
- \*Parlor
- Coating of aurum
- Like many bathroom floors?
- Border pass
- Full of emotion (2 words)
- Opposite of talker?
- Tel \_\_\_\_, Israel
- Auto \_\_\_ website
- \*Module
- Compass point between NE and E
- \*Insane
- Old-fashioned before
- \*Prevent
- \*Ditch
- Peninsula of 38th parallel fame
- Single-\_\_\_ plastics

- Donkey + horse, pl.
- All told (2 words)
- '80s band "\_\_\_ At Work"
- Bay window
- Chapter 11 issue
- Mouse turf
- Email option
- DOWN
- Tax pro, acr.
- Capital of Latvia
- Bibliographical abbr.
- Not upright
- Instructions handbook
- Use an Underwood
- Promissory note letters
- Cocoon dwellers
- Horse and mallet sport
- \*Pitcher
- One ridiculed for studiousness
- Banned insecticide, acr.
- Kevin \_\_\_ and Sir Francis \_\_\_
- Resting spot for a chicken
- French vineyard
- \*Avid
- \*Correct
- \*Slipperier
- 4th letter of Greek alphabet
- \*Nothingness
- Spanish sparkling wine
- Martini garnish
- Violinist's pine resin
- \*Rogue
- Wall support
- It often precedes "eye"
- Laundry room appliance

- Correspondence friend
- Feel remorse
- Seismic shake
- Card game move
- Accustom
- \*Sharpen
- A in UAE
- Cheesy patty
- Be inclined
- Paper holder
- Dog command
- Baby goat
- Pirate's turf
- "Rocky" creator

8	1	2	9	7	9	3	6	
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D	D	W	O	B	O	L	A	V	A	T	I	P			
N	E	D	P	E	T	P	M	A	R	E	C				

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**Help Wanted**

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

**B-29 Museum**  
is open on Sundays from 2:00 to 4:00 pm  
Pratt Army Airfield – 82 Curran Road  
Visit them on Facebook at www.prairie-bombers.org for more information. If you would like to visit the museum at another time call 672-8321, 672-2444 or 620-797-2919 to schedule an appointment!

**Public Notice**

First published in The Cunningham Courier on Thursday, December 19, 2024 (3t)

are or may be concerned:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Kingman County, Kansas, by Linda Bennett praying for title to be quieted and given to the Plaintiff regarding a 2007 Jeep Patriot 4x4, VIN# 1J8FF28W67D303843.

You are hereby required to plead to said petition on or before January 29th, 2025, in said court, at the Kingman County Courthouse, Kingman, Kansas. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course on said petition.

Linda Bennett, Petitioner  
Matthew W. Ricke  
Attorney at Law, LLC  
349 N. Main, PO Box 113  
Kingman, KS 67068  
(620) 532-3103  
Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS  
LINDA BENNETT, Plaintiff,  
vs.  
2007 JEEP PATRIOT 4X4, VIN #1J8FF28W67D303843, ALIESHAHELM a/k/a ALIESHA SHEARY, and ANY AND ALL PERSONS OR ENTITIES WITH AN INTEREST IN OR TO THE ABOVE VEHICLE, and KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, Defendants.  
Case No. KM 2024 CV 000022 (Petition Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 60)  
NOTICE OF SUIT  
STATE OF KANSAS TO:  
Any and all other persons who

**Public Notice**

Published in The Cunningham Courier on Thursday, December 26, 2024 (3t)

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS PURSUANT TO K.S.A. 58a-818 TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:**

You are notified that Betty Ann Halderman died on September 13, 2024. The decedent was the Settlor of the Revocable Trust Agreement of Betty A Halderman dated October 11, 2022. James D Holt of Valley Center, Kansas serves as agent for the Successor Trustee, the Kansas Nebraska Southern Baptist Foundation. The Successor Trustee has the power to pay the outstanding debts of the decedent from the trust property upon receipt of proper proof of the debts. In accordance with K.S.A. 58a-818, creditors of the decedent must present claims for such debts to the trustee in writing within the later of four (4) months from the date of the first publication of notice, or thirty (30) days after receipt of actual notice if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable by the Successor Trustee. If a creditor fails to present such claims to the Successor Trustee within such prescribed time period, the creditor will be forever barred as against the Successor Trustee and the trust property.

James D Holt, Agent for the Successor Trustee  
Revocable Trust Agreement of Francis Marion Shrode and Eva Mae Shrode  
P.O. Box 75037, Wichita, KS 67275-5037  
316-264-8000

**Public Notice**

First published in the Cunningham Courier, Thursday, December 19, 2024.

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:  
BRUCE TIMMONS, Deceased.  
Case No. 2024 PR 14  
(Petition Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)  
NOTICE OF HEARING  
THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on December 17, 2024, a Petition was filed in this Court by Dustin Goetz, duly appointed, qualified and acting Executor of the Estate of Bruce Timmons, deceased, praying Petitioner's acts be approved; account be settled and allowed; the heirs be determined; the Will be construed and the Estate be assigned to the persons entitled thereto; the Court find the allowances requested for attorneys' fees and expenses are reasonable and should be allowed; the costs be determined and ordered paid; the administration of the Estate be closed; upon the filing of receipts the Petitioner be finally discharged as the Executor of the Estate of Bruce Timmons, deceased, and the Petitioner be released from further liability.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before January 7, 2025, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in the District Court, Kingman, Kingman County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

Dustin Goetz, Executor  
Matthew W. Ricke, #20995  
ATTORNEY AT LAW, LLC  
349 North Main, P. O. Box 113  
Kingman, KS 67068  
(620) 532-3103  
Attorney for Petitioner

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## Larry Pierce

Larry Eugene Pierce, 81, died Friday, Dec. 27, 2024, at his home in Penalosa.

He was born April 20, 1943, at Norwich, Kansas, the son of Carl and Edith Ely Pierce. A lifetime resident of Kingman County he was a volunteer firefighter, an electrician, and a bus driver, all for the city of Kingman; was a Penalosa City Council member; and was a foster parent to many, many children over the years.

Larry was a veteran of the U.S. Navy; and was a member of the Salt City Cowboy Church in Hutchinson.

On June 1, 1964, he married Charlotte Patterson at Kingman; she died Nov. 22, 2019. On May 25, 2021, he married Rosemary Webster. Other survivors include daughters Monica (Jerry) Mart and Leia (Mike) Lawrence; step-sons Chad and Eric Webster; brother Jimmy; sisters Nancy (Cecil) Gillen and Mona (Bob) McCoy; 4 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Larry absolutely loved attending the Salt City Cowboy Church, where he was a member of the Security Team. He also enjoyed many trips to casinos; and loved animals, especially goats, ducks, cats and dogs.

Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024, at the Livingston Funeral Home, Kingman. Friends may call from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday, Dec. 30, 2024, at the funeral home, with the family present from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Burial will be at the Hoosier Cemetery.

Memorials may be made with the Salt City Cowboy Church.



## Barr Bullard

Barr Bullard, 89, died Dec. 30, 2024 in Midlothian, Texas.

He was born June 13, 1935, at Cheyenne Valley, Oklahoma the son of Ray and Rosalie Barr Bullard.

A longtime Kingman resident, he was a retired aerospace engineer.

Barr was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

On July 21, 1961, he married Janice Hawkins at Kingman; she died Oct. 18, 2009. Survivors include son Scott and his wife Tamara; and 5 grandchildren. He was also preceded in death by a son David.

Services will be 2:00 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025 at the Walnut Hill Cemetery. Friends may call from 12:00 p.m. until service time at the Livingston Funeral Home.



## Evan Grund

Evan Fredrick Grund, 85, passed away December 28, 2024 at Leisure Homestead in Stafford, KS. He was born September 26, 1939 on the family farm in Wallace County, KS to Leslie and Juanita (Mather) Grund. Evan married Delores (Wise) Grund April 19, 1964.



Evan graduated from Wallace County High School. He went on to receive his Bachelors degree in accounting from Fort Hays State University. He worked as a CPA with Lemon & Son, Inc. and also had his own public practice. He was a member of Abundant Harvest Church of the Nazarene. He enjoyed sports (especially KU and the Kansas City Chiefs), hunting, and history. He was also an avid videographer of special events. His love of military aircraft inspired him to serve in the Kansas Air Force National Guard.

He is survived by his children, Stacey Canfield of Pratt, KS; Galen (Daryl) Grund of San Antonio, TX, Kevin (Alenna) Grund of Lenexa, KS; grandchildren, Destiny Canfield of Wichita, KS, Kody Canfield of Pratt, KS; Jenna (Hunter) Tormey of Dallas, TX, George Grund and Lily Grund of Lenexa, KS; great grandchildren, Hallie Rankin and Remington Halpin; Three Sisters, Jane Kreigh, Lenora Dyer, Navene Rains.

Evan is preceded in death by his Father, Leslie Grund; Mother, Juanita Grund; Wife, Delores Esther Grund; two brothers, Allen Grund, Loyal Grund; two sisters, Elaine Chisam, Leta Kay Grund.

Visitation will be Thursday from 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. with family receiving friends from 6-8 at Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt. Funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, January 3, 2025 at Abundant Harvest Church of the Nazarene, Pratt with Pastor Scott Powell presiding. Burial will follow at Greenlawn Cemetery, Pratt.

Memorials may be made to Abundant Harvest Church of the Nazarene in care of Larrison Mortuary, Ltd.. Online condolences may be made at [www.larrisonmortuary.com](http://www.larrisonmortuary.com).

## Peggy Mease

Peggy Jean Mease, 97, of Nashville, KS, died Sunday, December 29, 2024 at South Wind Home, Pratt, KS.

She was born on July 21, 1927 in Medicine Lodge, KS, the daughter of James Harvey Axtell and Goldie Elizabeth (Mills) Axtell.

On May 14, 1946, she married Ival Wayne "Pete" Mease in Pratt, KS. He preceded her in death on April 17, 2005.

Peggy was a homemaker and farm wife. She belonged to the Valley Builders EHU for many years and went to the Isabel Senior Center to play cards with friends for many years.

Surviving are four daughters, Patty (Patrick) Bridger of Ipswich, MA, Barbara (Merlin) Fluke of Medicine Lodge, KS, Debra (Greg) Alexander of Wichita, KS, and Sandra Cunningham of Medicine Lodge, KS; 12 grandchildren, 35 great grandchildren, and 7 great-great grandchildren; two sisters in heart, (sister-in-laws) Shirley Shaddox of Kingman, KS and Wanda Hartman of Isabel, KS; a multitude of nieces, nephews, and friends.

Peggy was preceded in death by her parents, Harve and Goldie Axtell, her husband, I.W. "Pete" Mease, three infant siblings, two brothers, Bill and Bob Axtell, three sisters in heart, (sister-in-laws) Marjorie Lauterbach, Lois Harding, and Thelma Shinliver, and a grandson, Earl Wayne "Trey" Meairs, III.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, January 1, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Larrison Funeral Home, 120 E. Lincoln, Medicine Lodge, KS 67104.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, January 2, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at the First Christian Church, Medicine Lodge, KS with Pastor Tom Walters officiating. Burial will be in the Mumford Cemetery, Nashville, KS.

Memorials may be made to the Mumford Cemetery or South Wind Home, in care of Larrison Funeral Home, 120 E. Lincoln, Medicine Lodge, KS 67104

Condolences may be left at [www.larrisonmortuary.com](http://www.larrisonmortuary.com)



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Medicine Lodge, Kansas 67104  
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8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
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Andrew W. Piester, OD  
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Kingman, KS 67068  
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