

# The Cunningham Courier

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

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photo by Martha Hellar

## Cunningham School Enrollment Stays the Same as Last Year

Someone asked me a few weeks ago if I had any enrollment figures from the Cunningham schools. I admitted I did not. I had thought of it early September, but by the time the final count day rolled around on September 20, I had forgotten it, mostly. I finally remembered to ask. But in the busyness of the school year, it got shuffled around, and finally, Dr. A responded to my query. These are the official numbers he sent me. I've also included last year's numbers as comparison:

2023 -2024 Enrollment:	2024 - 2025 Enrollment:
Pre Kindergarten - 25	Pre Kindergarten - 20
Kindergarten - 15	Kindergarten - 17
1st - 14	1st - 17
2nd - 15	2nd - 15
3rd - 11	3rd - 14
4th - 17	4th - 12
5th - 22	5th - 16
6th - 19	6th - 17
7th - 16	7th - 19
8th - 21	8th - 18
9th - 15	9th - 22
10th - 13	10th - 13
11th - 16	11th - 13
12th - 12	12th - 17
Total 231	Total: 230

## Luke Albers Scores 1000 Points



Senior Luke Albers scored his 1000th career point during Cunningham's 87-52 win over Canton-Galva.

## Governor Announces December Total

### Tax Collections Surpass Estimate by \$66.7M

TOPEKA – The State of Kansas ends December 2024 with total tax collections at \$1.1 billion. That is \$66.7 million, or 6.3%, above the estimate.

Total tax collections are up 8.1% from December 2023.

"As I've highlighted before, even though our state's revenues are healthy, we must practice fiscal responsibility," Governor Laura Kelly said. "That is how we will continue to maintain economic growth and preserve our fiscal stability."

Individual income tax collections

were \$451.5 million, \$31.5 million or 7.5% above the estimate, and up 13.7% from December 2023. Corporate income tax collections were \$275.4 million, \$45.4 million or 19.7% above the estimate, and up 16.8% from December 2023.

Combined retail sales and compensating use tax receipts were \$285.4 million, \$13.6 million or 4.5% below

the estimate, and down \$17.0 million or 5.6% from December 2023.

To view the December 2024 revenue numbers visit [https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/KSOG/2025/01/02/file\\_attachments/3117607/06\\_December\\_Revenue\\_FY2025\\_01-02-2025\\_Final.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/KSOG/2025/01/02/file_attachments/3117607/06_December_Revenue_FY2025_01-02-2025_Final.pdf)

## Food Sales Tax Completely Eliminated

Governor Laura Kelly on Thursday announced that in 2025, Kansans are projected to save \$156 million due to the reduction in the state sales tax rate from 2% to zero and the "Axe the Food Tax" legislation she signed in 2022. According to projections from the Kansas Department of Revenue, reducing the state sales tax on groceries from 2% to zero will save shoppers \$13

million per month this year.

"The complete elimination of the state sales tax on food is a win for Kansas," Governor Laura Kelly said. "By axing the food tax once and for all, the average family of four will save \$500 per year on groceries. I'm proud that we've put more money back into Kansans' pockets thanks to this commonsense legislation."

After working tirelessly to put the state on solid financial footing, in 2021 Governor Kelly called on the Kansas

Legislature to eliminate the state sales tax on groceries as soon as possible. The Legislature ultimately passed legislation that gradually reduced the state sales tax on groceries over three years.

In 2023, the state sales tax rate on groceries went down from 6.5% to 4%, saving consumers \$187.7 million per year. At the end of 2024, it was projected that shoppers saved nearly \$570 million due to the reductions in the state sales tax rate on food and food ingredients during the two years the reduction

has been in effect.

The state sales tax reduction applies to food, food ingredients, and certain prepared foods. When looking at a receipt, shoppers will see two tax rates, one for qualifying purchases and one for all other items.

The total elimination of the state sales tax on qualifying items went into effect on Jan. 1, 2025.

## Recycling Wind Turbine Blades: A Farmer's Ingenuity

by Tod Bowman

Wind turbine blades play a crucial part in clean energy generation, but their disposal poses a growing challenge. Luckily, innovative solutions provide new ways to keep them out of landfills.

As the wind industry grows, there is an increasing need for replacement of older wind turbine blades with larger, more efficient ones. With a lifespan of approximately 25 years, the sheer number of blades and other components that

will eventually need to be decommissioned will strain current repurposing and recycling capabilities, leading to increased landfill waste if new solutions are not developed.

To address the challenge, developers and rural communities have explored various recycling initiatives. One approach, mechanical recycling, typically uses a shredding facility to break down turbine parts. Companies, like REGEN Fiber in Iowa, use the resulting product to create construction materials such as concrete by mixing fiberglass with rock or plastic.

Greg Birkhofer, an Iowan with a pas-

sion for conservation, has taken blade recycling a step further by repurposing the most challenging section—the eight-foot base—into fence posts for agricultural use.

According to Greg, the recycled posts are stronger and more durable than traditional fence posts, and they are fully insulated. His innovation eliminates the need for constant maintenance, including replacing insulators.

If they can be mass produced, Greg believes the blades will prove less expensive than current fencing materials. His vision extends beyond fence posts alone; he believes recycled blades have

the potential to be used for a wider range of products, such as dock posts.

Pioneers like Greg lead the way in finding new life for decommissioned wind turbine blades. Distinctive vision and creativity will be crucial in shaping the future of wind energy and responsible waste management.

Established in 1973, the Center for Rural Affairs is a private, nonprofit organization working to strengthen small businesses, family farms and ranches, and rural communities through action oriented programs addressing social, economic, and environmental issues.

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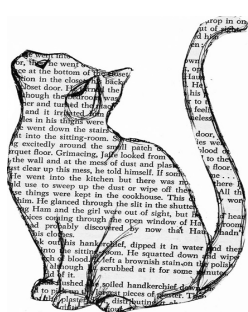
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Meanderings

I am ready for winter to move on. Quickly. I have had enough snow and ice. My beasts are getting a bit stir crazy. They are picking fights with each other more than usual. I try to convince them to hibernate, but they look at me like I'm some sort of heathen asking for such a thing.

As much as they love to sleep, hibernation is not on their agendas. They might miss a sunshine opportunity.

I saw an article the other day on the world wide web. It was actually a recipe for Japanese Souffle Pancakes. They look divinely delicious. I will have to try these delectable looking delicacies in the near future. They don't look difficult to make. They are just pancakes after all. Something I've made countless times in my life.

HOWEVER, there is that ONE ingredi-

ent... Japanese mayonnaise. (Kewpie is the best brand, so I read, but there are also Kenko and Tetsujin.) I've not looked for Japanese mayo at the grocery store yet, hopefully my friendly Dillons store in Pratt will have it. I have priced it on Amazon. Not prohibitively expensive there. A 12 oz. bottle is 5 to 6 dollars.

Oh, and there are those 'round pancakes molds.' I don't have those. I priced them on Amazon, they're not expensive. Less than 15 bucks for a set of two.

Here's the recipe: 1 cup milk

1 tablespoon white vinegar
1 cup all-purpose flour
1/4 cup white sugar
2 teaspoons baking powder
2 large eggs, separated
1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 tablespoon Japanese mayonnaise (such as Kewpie®)

1 tablespoon butter
Combine milk and vinegar in a large bowl. Allow to sit until milk has soured, about 5 minutes.

Meanwhile, sift together flour, sugar, and baking powder in a separate bowl; set aside.

Beat egg whites in a glass, metal, or ceramic

bowl with an electric mixer until stiff peaks form.

Add egg yolks and vanilla extract to the soured milk; mix until well combined and pour into the center of the flour mixture. Use a whisk to combine all ingredients. Add mayonnaise and stir until there are no lumps. Fold in egg whites.

Heat a griddle on the stovetop over medium-low heat and melt butter. Grease round pancake molds and place onto the buttered griddle. Fill each mold halfway with batter. Cook until pancakes are golden brown on the bottom and not too liq-

uid across the top, 4 to 6 minutes. Flip each pancake and mold together. Cook until the other sides are golden and pancakes have doubled in thickness, 4 to 6 more minutes. Slide the molds off the pancakes.

Doesn't sound complicated. When I remember to get the mayo and order the molds, I'll give it a try.

Always reading, and currently reading, "Political Death" by Antonia Fraser (last one in the series)

Roberta

Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds by Gaille Pike

Dear Readers, Happy 2025! Thanks to you, this week Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds enters its sixth year in syndication. As many of you know, I began chronicling my adventures following my return to Kansas after living in the metropolitan Philadelphia, Pennsylvania area for more than three decades. I've decided to share one of my earliest columns. I've moved permanently to the Flint Hills since this was written and haven't given it any thought for a long time... until 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 31, 2024.

An unlucky postal

worker, stationed outside Emporia Post Office's locked doors, apologized for any inconvenience caused by "the decision to close early for New Year's Eve." I was only mildly inconvenienced because I was just trying to mail a package. But P.O. Box holders were vexed and said it just didn't make sense they could not get their mail until Jan. 2., which reminded me of when my address was a P.O. Box. My mail now is (supposed to be) delivered where I LIVE, though it comes from Lebo, seven miles to the east while the USPS insists my address is in Reading, seven miles to the north. I know this because I once spent an afternoon chasing the rural car-

rier all over Lyon and Coffee counties, wishing I still had P.O. Box SOMEWHERE. I hope you enjoy this encore presentation of "Going Postal, reprinted from February 12, 2020.

Upon returning to the Land Of Ahs, life as I knew it changed in less than three minutes. That's how long it took to change my address on the USPS website. The first inkling my new postal life was different was when I realized I now had TWO ADDRESSES—a street address and a P.O. Box address. Sound confusing? Well, it sure as heck was and is. My P.O. Box is for the U.S. Mail and my actual brick and mortar address is for anyone else who wants to send me things WITHOUT the

vaunted services of the USPS. Beginning with my first college dorm and ending with my last residence outside Philly, I've only had one address at a time. And that is where the USPS would deliver my mail. And mail always arrived.

Have you moved lately? If not, do yourself a favor and DON'T. Even if all your belongings are put away, you're NOT moved in the eyes of the legitimate working world until you change your address...everywhere and with everyone. The first phone calls and on-line submissions took more time than the USPS web site. But I did it! Bolstered by support and success, I next dialed the Scott City K-DOT office.

To change my driver's

license address, I needed my social security card and my passport. No problem, I had both. Next I was told I also needed "two pieces paper showing my current street address." When I told the woman I'd moved to Dighton, for which the USPS only recognizes P.O. Box addresses, she sighed.

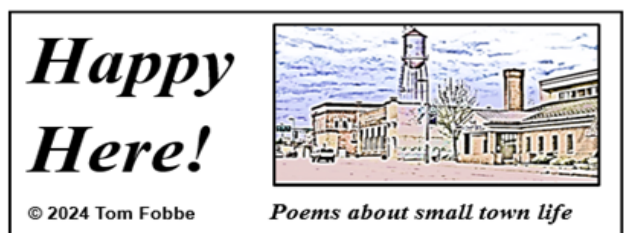
Eight weeks and seven phone calls later, I obtained a KS license that lists my Dighton STREET address.

Lord help us all if K-DOT tries to mail me anything—'cause I ain't getting it.

Why'd it take so long and how'd I do it? Well thank you Vera at FNB-Dighton for setting up my bank account to print both addresses on my

statement! I had the first "piece of paper" I needed within a month. The second one? The Scott City K-DOT office finally agreed to accept an envelope if both addresses were on it, IF it also had a USPS postmark. So my mother mailed a card addressed to my P.O. Box, with my street address, also "doodled" on the envelope. The mail truck took it from Dighton to Wichita. And I waited for it to return, to be delivered...to my P.O. Box. Then, and ONLY then, was I able to change my driver's license address and obtain my KS license.

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



\* To receive my separate collection of 50 funny little poems, just say so in an email to: tjfobbe@gmail.com

Ten o'clock Frank Jenks drove by. I waved and so did he. Drove by again At half past ten, Another wave: him, me.

Forty minute drive to work, A tad bit more for some. Though no big deal For those who feel Their choice of home is "plum".

Kids can freely ride their bikes Most anywhere they want. And often choose, Just to amuse, A somewhat distant jaunt.

Chance of bad things happening Increase where more folks are. Less people means Less rotten teens, Less chance of stolen car.

Poetry From Daily Life

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

Poetry from Daily Life: Writing a seriously comical poem about the Show-Me State

By William Trowbridge

My guest this weekend on Poetry from Daily Life is William Trowbridge, who lives in Lee's Summit, Missouri. Bill says he came late into writing poetry. He was studying for his PhD comps when he came across a poem by Howard Nemerov that made him want to write a poem, though he was studying to be an American literature scholar, specializing in modern American fiction. "But I kept writing poems," he says, "and liked it so much that I gradually turned myself into a poet, studying the major modern poets and using the 'monkey see, monkey do' method to pick up on the art and craft rather than enrolling for an MFA in Creative Writing. I suppose that's the 'unique fact' about me." Two of Trowbridge's currently favorite books are "Central Air: Poems," by George Bilgere and "Only as the Day is Long: New and Selected

Poems," by Dorianne Laux. ~ David L. Harrison

Most of my favorite writers in poetry or prose write in what's called the seriocomic mode, which involves something that's comic on the surface and serious beneath. A humorous voice is important because comedy is an essential element of the human condition. And, as the poet Thomas Lux wrote, "I think one uses humor/satire to help combat the darkness."

As Missouri Poet Laureate, I was asked to write a Missouri poem. Since a lot of the state poems I'd read had a similar tone, I thought I'd try something different — in, of course, the seriocomic mode.

Unofficial Missouri Poem

You won't find 76 trombones in this poem (that was Iowa); no orations about rolling rivers, or salutes to emerald pastures, stately peaks, or glittering skylines, though we've got our share of each, not to mention thirty-four kinds of plastic worm in the world's biggest bait shop, or the train station where Pretty Boy & Co shot it out with the law, or towns like Cooter, Roach, Enough, Licking, Tightwad, and Frankenstein — along with Peculiar, so called because the state said the name had to be that or "unique" — and the grave of Harry, who fired MacArthur because, "I wasn't going to let the s.o.b resign on me" and the license plate with a bluebird you have to tailgate to see and weather that can wash your house into the next county or sing it to sleep on a soft May night and where the state rock is something called "Mozarkite" and bathtubs with feet resembling animal paws are against the law, and where 15,000 souls throng annually to the town of Nixa for Sucker Day to eat their fill of that tasty bottom-feeder, and where the immortal Satchel Paige

first bamboozled batters with the "hesitation pitch." It's the birthplace of Mark Twain, Jesse James (and the coward Robert Ford), Chuck Berry, Tennessee Williams, Charlie Parker, Josephine Baker, Joseph Pulitzer, Omar Bradley, Belle Starr, T.S. Eliot, Calamity Jane, Willie "The Rat" Cammisano, and J.C. Penney.

Add to all that the world's largest pecan, the big shoe made entirely of shoes, the Cookin'-from-Scratch Chicken Car, the world's smallest cathedral, the Bonnie and Clyde Ambush Apartment, the world's largest concrete soccer ball, the Jesse James Feather Duster of Death, the Walt Disney Dreaming Tree and Barn, the grave of Pete Kibbie's Foot, the home of Throed Rolls, the world's largest fork, the Dental Health Theater, a giant concrete turtle park, the world's largest chigger, Cowboy Muffler Man, the world's largest ball of string (not twine), and the Nuclear Waste Adventure Trail and Museum.

If you think you've found a place that can pluck more tunes on your inner banjo, show me. (From "Put This on, Please: New and Selected Poems")

William Trowbridge's tenth poetry collection, "Father and Son," was published by Wayne State College Press in April. He is a faculty mentor in the University of Nebraska-Omaha Low-residency MFA in Writing Program and was Poet Laureate of Missouri from 2012 to 2016. For more information, see his website, williamtrowbridge.net.

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**Community Bulletin Board**

<b>Thursday, January 9</b> JH BB vs Skyline at HOME	<b>Friday, January 17</b> HS BB at South Barber
<b>Friday, January 10</b> HS BB vs Kinsley at HOME	<b>Saturday, January 18</b> B-Team Tournament begins
<b>Saturday, January 11</b> B-Team tournament	<b>Monday, January 20</b> Martin Luther King, Jr. Day ***
<b>Monday, January 13</b> B-Team Tournament	Teacher Inservice - No School ***
<b>Tuesday, January 14</b> HS BB vs Burrton Boys at HOME	HS Girls BB vs Attica
<b>Wednesday, January 15</b> 6:00 Shop Guild at High School	<b>Tuesday, January 21</b> HS BB Boys 54 Classic at HOME ***
<b>Thursday, January 16</b> HOPL HS Scholars Bowl at HOME ***	Lions Club Meeting
JH BB vs South Barber at HOME	<b>Wednesday, January 22</b> FFA Public Speaking
	<b>Thursday, January 23</b> JH BB at Fairfield

*The Community Calendar is sponsored by*



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**Smartphone Zombies & the Electronic Crack Pipe**

I hate my smartphone. For years I carried a dumbphone. Were it not for the ridicule I endured from my slew foot friends, I would have traded up sooner, but I've never been one to bend to peer pressure. Make fun of me for carrying a dumbphone - I'll carry it for another five years. But my friends finally tired of teasing me, so I made the leap a few years ago. At the time I was involved in some serious feral hog trapping (we had a hog infestation out at the ranch). The convenience of having a smartphone with a good camera in my pocket was seductive. I wanted to document my hog trapping progress. I also quickly learned to appreciate the mobile device that lets me monitor the news, catch baseball highlights, and watch YouTube videos on hog trapping. So now you can count me among the smartphone minions stumbling throughout North America and around the globe. But I still hate my phone.

I dislike being tethered to it, accessible and connected all the time. Continuing research is

showing that our phones are changing our brains, making us sad, bored, and unable to focus. Unable to go anywhere without them, many of us are literally addicted to our phones. Your smartphone is like an electronic crack pipe. It fosters addiction. This addiction comes from dopamine. Dopamine is a feel-good chemical that makes you happy. When you are engaged with your phone (receiving notifications, laughing at TikTok videos, scanning social media, getting likes on Instagram, etc.) you are receiving frequent triggers that cause your body to release dopamine. We like these hits, and smartphones give us an *unlimited supply*. Carrying your smartphone is like having a pocket full of peanut M&Ms that you can eat anytime you want. This consistent release of dopamine stimulates the neurotransmitter pathways in our brains. All you must do to get this neurological impact is to be on your phone. We scroll through our phones seeing hundreds of images, and like eating potato chips, we can't seem to stop. The billionaire tech nerds call this a feedback loop. Frequent phone checking makes you check your phone even more.

Constant phone use desensitizes us from normal, healthy, everyday organic stimuli. Good things that give you dopamine hits become less exciting. Healthy activities that trigger dopamine release include spending time with your spouse,

children, and friends, being outdoors, petting your dog, enjoying good food, hobbies, exercise, sports, and any activity that you enjoy.

Excessive phone use also decreases our attention spans, making it more difficult to focus and harder to delay gratification. Your brain learns that the longer you must wait for a dopamine hit, the less value it has. People who use their phones more are conditioning their brains to seek immediate gratification and constant pleasure. This can lead to *Anhedonia* - the inability to feel pleasure of any kind. Phone addiction can cause depression and make you sad, really sad.

So, the question is, are you addicted to your smartphone? Ask yourself these questions. Would you rather look at your phone instead of interacting with your spouse, your kids, or friends? Does engagement with your phone affect your mood? When you see someone having a good time do you feel sad, or jealous? Are you happier if you get lots of likes on a post? Sad if you get few? Are you spending increasing time on your phone? Do you get withdrawals or anxiety when you are away from your phone for any length of time?

If you do have a phone addiction, there is some good news. Our brains are capable of neuroplasticity - the ability to heal and rewire our damaged connections. Like smartphone rehab, you can heal your phone addiction and

still benefit from its use. Consider the following (all of these will help your brain heal as you become less dependent on your phone).

Limit your phone time. Restrict phone use to a narrow window of time (say 1-6 hours a day). This will let your brain re-adapt, re-wire and heal itself.

Limit physical access to your phone by turning it off and putting it away at a certain time and place. Store it away from you and only retrieve when needed. Consider things like phoneless family meals.

Make your phone boring or less appealing - use grayscale or change your home screen photo to something you don't like to look at (use a smiling pic of Barry Manilow and you'll never want to pick up your phone).

Consider using your phone only for texting and calls and use your computer for online activity.

For practical purposes, life in our modern George Jetson world makes it almost impossible to function without a smartphone. But just because the intricacies of modern life require that we carry these contraptions, it doesn't mean that we have to live in bondage. We can use our phones in moderation and avoid addiction. Put your phone in a drawer and pet your dog instead. You will be happier for it...

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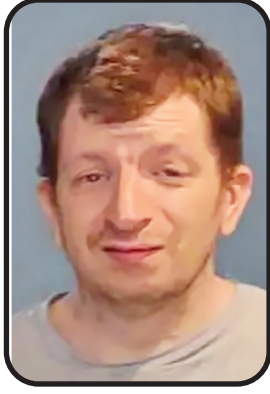
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## Aaron Marsh

Aaron Jacob Marsh, 43, passed away Thursday, January 2, 2025 at his home. He was born on February 12, 1981 in Pratt to Richard Alan and Lela Jane (Schmidtberger) Marsh.



Aaron graduated from Pratt High School in 2000. He most recently worked at Mike's Rent to Own and previously at Stanion Wholesale Electric. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church. He loved watching sports especially football and the Kansas City Chiefs, watching the Olympics, going to Pratt Public Library to do research, attending Pratt High School football and basketball games, spending the Holidays with family.

He is survived by his parents, Dick and Lela Marsh of Pratt; grandparents, Marvin and Nancy Schmidtberger of Pratt; brothers, Garrett (Brooke) Marsh of Prosper, Texas and Ian (Emily) Marsh of Nickerson; nieces and nephews, Ashlyn and Cassidy Marsh and Isabelle, Bentley and Amelia Marsh; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Aaron is preceded in death by his grandparents, Don and Gloria Marsh; and nephew, Blake Marsh.

Mass of Christian Burial was Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Pratt with Reverend Charles Atuah presiding. Burial followed at Greenlawn Cemetery, Pratt.

Memorials may be made to Sacred Heart Church Building Fund in care of Larrison Mortuary.

## The Perfect Opportunity for Sheila McGuire

By Amy Michelle Wiley

"Is anyone sitting here, ma'am? I heard the plane is going to take off in five minutes. 'Course, a flight attendant's five minutes is more like twenty, but still, I thought I was gonna miss the flight. I only made the reservation a few days ago and didn't have much time to pack and git a ride here and all that.

"But when I heard about the beauty school in Atlanta, I said to myself, 'Sheila McGuire, that is the perfect opportunity for you, girl!' See, I'm not made for anything much. I mean,

I'm not anyone special or anything, but doing ladies' hair is filling a need, you know? And that's as noble as anything, I figure.

"Is that a picture of your granddaughter, ma'am? She must be about six years old and so cute I could just eat her up! Is that who you're going to visit? Leukemia? Oh you poor dear, I could just give you a hug right now. Don't you worry, though, 'cause I just know that our Daddy in heaven is holding that chil' in His arms so tight, an' won't let go until you get there yourself.

"Oh, He cares, ma'am! Don't you worry none about that. He cared so much He gave

His own Son for us, and that's a fact. That's why we can have faith. And you know what, ma'am? I have faith that your little granddarling will be healed all up. And if she isn't, well, if she isn't, all ya'll just trust she'll be waiting up there right in the arms of God. Now isn't that a comforting thought?

"Here we are taking off and you'll be there before you know it. We're leaving right on time, too! God had this flight planned out for us, I can tell. You'll be there in time for that little angel's chemo treatment, and I'll be there in time for my training.

"Yes, that's right, I'll just be cutting hair. No high and mighty plans

for me. Not like my sister and her wonderful husband. They are going to Nicaragua next month to tell them natives about Jesus. At first I was feeling a little sad for myself when they told me, and that's the truth, but now I know this is enough for me.

"My sister tol' me, 'Honey, you don't gots to go to deepest, darkest Africa to be a missionary. You can be one right in yer own town.' I tol' her I knows that, but I just ain't been given no special gift like that. No, Sheila McGuire just wasn't made to be a missionary. I'm just not much good at it, you know?"

## Written on the Heart

By Pamela Kliewer

I walked through the garden of my heart, barefoot.

The loose soil felt good on my feet, cooling them.

Suddenly, I stubbed my toe on a huge rock.

Anger welled up in me.

I cursed.

How'd that rock get there?

I'd been doing everything I could to keep the soil of my heart free of impurities.

Child.

I looked around.

Huh, no one there.

Child.

The voice was firmer this time, but gentle too.

I glanced around again.

Jesus! What are you doing here?

Well, didn't you invite Me in quite some time ago?

Y-yes, I did.

My head hung in shame.

He held a finger to my

chin, a beckoning gesture, to look at Him.

Slowly, I raised my head.

Those eyes.

So full of compassion.

No condemnation.

Child.

Yes, Lord?

What have you been doing?

Just walking through the garden, Lord.

I stubbed my toe on a huge rock.

I've been doing everything I can to keep this soil in good shape.

I don't know where that rock came from.

It seems to Me, you need some soil amends.

Excuse me?

Lord.

You're best efforts aren't good enough.

But Lord, I've been working so hard.

How can you say that?

Do you really think that all that effort will keep the soil pure?

Well, yes, doesn't the Bible say to do good works?

It says faith without works is dead.

And like I said, you need some soil amends.

Lord, I'm sorry, I don't know what you're talking about.

There are places in your heart where the soil is depleted of essential nutrients.

Oh, Well, I've been doing my best.

Oh My child, your best isn't good enough.

Lord, You already said that.

What do You want from me?

I want you to allow

Me to amend the soil

What, exactly, will You do?

Will you trust Me?

It will require full surrender, but I promise, it will be worth it.

Surrender.

I did not like that word.

But when I stubbed my toe on that rock it hurt, bad.

I looked at Jesus.

His gaze penetrated to the deepest part of my heart.

In that look, I knew that He knew me completely.

I could hide nothing from Him.

OK, Lord, I trust you, I surrender.

Thank you.

This will hurt, but remember to trust Me.

It's all for the best.

He bent down and yanked on a weed.

It came up easily.

This isn't so bad.

He pulled on another. Ouch!

Tears coursed down my cheeks.

That's a deep root.

He kept pulling.

The pain was excruciating.

When He finally got it, He held it up to show me.

It was a thick root with thin hair like roots extending off of it.

Lord, what is that?!

That is all your good works done by your own efforts

Will you allow Me to amend the soil now?

I need to add some nutrients.

OK, Lord, I'm Yours,

I don't want pain like that

again.

Jesus got out a tool that looked like...

Words.

As He sprinkled them around

I felt my heart expanding.

What an incredible feeling.

Joy danced through my heart.

Peace floated by in a stream, settling my mind.

Love bubbled up from a fountain,

A love such as I had never felt,

Or been able to give.

Jesus, what is this?

What are these Words? My child, they are My

Words written on your heart

So that you will know how to live from now on.

They will be your guide and you will learn to live

In My righteousness. Time passed.

I danced through the garden of my heart, barefoot.

The loose soil felt good on my feet, cooling them.

The Words Jesus left to amend the soil,

Filled my heart with

Wonder

Delight

Awe.

Walking in the light

Of His Words,

Rekindled

Rejuvenated

Reclaimed

Me,

Putting me on a path

of gratitude.

I would never be the

same again.

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\*\*\*  
221 N. Main in Cheney  
cheneykflorist.com  
(316) 542-0054  
Sheila Jayne,  
Owner/Operator

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

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

**Cunningham Hands of Hope, Inc.**  
Who: A Not-for-Profit (501c3) organization providing assistance through donations and volunteers.  
Who we serve: Residents within the USD #332 school district  
What: Food  
When: **First 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.

<p><b>Catholic Churches</b></p> <p><b>Sacred Heart, Cunningham</b> Sunday 10:00 a.m.</p> <p><b>St. Leo</b> Saturday 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>Father Daryl Befort 316-706-1627 620-246-5370</p>		<p><b>St. John, Zenda</b> Saturday 5:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>St. Peter Willowdale</b> Sunday 8:30 a.m.</p>		<p><b>First Christian Church Cunningham</b> 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</p>	
<p>† † † † † † †</p> <p><b>Lutheran Churches</b></p> <p><b>St. John, Nashville</b> 620-246-5220 Sunday School &amp; Bible Class 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 8:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>Trinity, Medicine Lodge</b> 620- 886-3397 Sunday School &amp; Bible Class 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Pastor vacancy until further notice.</p>		<p>† † † † † † †</p> <p><b>United Methodist Church</b></p> <p><b>Penalosa</b> Worship 9:15 a.m. Pastor Mathew Ndambuki Musyoki 620-298-2090</p>		<p>† † † † † † †</p> <p><b>Zenda Methodist Church</b> Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School: Children 8:30 a.m. Adults 10:00 a.m. Pastor J L Nichols 620-243-6953</p>	
<p>† † † † † † †</p> <p><b>Church of Christ</b></p> <p><b>Penalosa</b> Sunday 11:00 a.m.</p>					



YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

W. A. Bradley / William Bradley

1930

January 3, 1930 - Cunningham Rural High School's Second Annual Alumni Banquet was held last Friday evening. Appearing on the program were Ray Amick, Mrs. C. L. Kimel, Mrs. W. A. Bradley, Mrs. Mabel Carter, James Luce, Ted Hart, Avery Maxedon, Geraldine Allbritten, and Earl Ratlief.

1950

January 6, 1950 - E. A. Pond announced this week that the Cunningham Shoe Repair Shop is now open for business.

Bob Huffman, Jerome Schnittker, and Marcellus Schwartz returned to Kansas State College at Manhattan, Tuesday morning, after spending the holidays with their respective parents.

Miss Esther Sheldon returned to Winfield and Southwestern College, Monday evening, after spending the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Sheldon.

Kenneth Watkins and James Stanley, who attend Kansas State College at Manhattan, spent the holidays with their respective families.

Bring your old shoes to the Cunningham Shoe Repair Shop. Take them home like new. - adv.

Cunningham Rural High School lost their first basketball game of the season last Friday night, to Zenda by a 20 - 13 score.

1955

January 6, 1955 - The Reno Telephone Association, Inc., of Hutchinson closed purchase agreements as on December 31, 1954, with the Western Light & Telephone Company, Inc., and assumed the ownership and management of the telephone exchange in Cunningham, and the telephone exchanges in Pretty Prairie, Arlington, and Sylvia. The RTA also acquired three privately-owned exchanges at Partridge, Langdon, and Castleton.

This business transaction this week ended 28 years of telephone service to Cunningham by the Western Light & Telephone Company, Inc. The first telephone service in Cunningham was built and installed in 1903 by John Elder, who owned and operated it, with his successors, until it was acquired in 1927 by the Southern Kansas Telephone Company, which later became the Western Light & Power Company and still later, in 1937, Western Light & Telephone Company.

Electric Serviceman Dale Williams will continue to reside in Cunningham, but will maintain no office. Electric bills will be collected at the First National Bank. The telephone company will maintain its office here in the same building, with Betty Amick as Cashier, Bob Pennock of Langdon, telephone serviceman for the Cunningham and Langdon exchanges for the RTA, will reside in Cunningham, and maintain his office here.

Off the Record

A lot of people never listen to their conscience because they know they'll get poor reception.

Some folks are born poor, but parents of college students get that way by degrees.

If you ride your reputation, you're apt to be thrown. Swallowing angry words is much easier than having to eat them.

The trouble of letting off steam is it usually only gets you into more hot water.

The Democrats say they deserve to win the 1956 election on their record. The budget can't be balanced -- and they were the first party to prove it.

People who take themselves too seriously are apt to be seriously taken.

1960

January 7, 1960 - Mr. and Mrs. Jack V. Crick and family of Hutchinson, moved to Cunningham last week, and are living in the Harry Nossaman property on the west part of town. He will be the new Rural Route One mail carrier, January 15, when George Urban moves to Rural Route Two as James Luce retires on that day.

In a three-way housing move last week-end, Mr. and Mrs. Max Lagree moved into their new brick home in the northwest part of town; Mr. and Mrs. Dean Mantooth and family moved from the Ed Pelzl property into the Ed Maxedon property vacated by the Lagree family, and Jack Meyers moved into the Pelzl property vacated by the Mantooth family.

The Cunningham Wildcats evidently thought they were still on their Christmas vacations when they took the court against Kiowa here, Tuesday evening, dropping a 63 to 37 decision to the Chieftains.

It was a night and a game when our boys couldn't do anything right - and Kiowa didn't do anything wrong.

Jerry Pelzl and Tony Hartle each scored 8 points, Duane Wegerer made 7, and Bill Murphey and Marshall Swander scored six points apiece. Bobby Meyers, who has averaged 12 points a game in five previous games, could only connect for one field goal.

The new blue and white 1960 car and truck license plates went on sale at the office of the County Treasurer, Mrs. Letha Jones, Monday morning, with County Commissioners John Raup, Pete Bohrer, and Marvin Cox purchasing tag numbers one, two, and three.

Among the low numbers from Cunningham are Max Lagree with number eight and James Wilson with number 10.

Mrs. Jones says the sale of the Kansas Centennial plates is slow.

One hundred and one fathers and sons of the Cunningham, Cairo, and Preston Methodist Churches, enjoyed their annual Father and Son Banquet in the church undercroft here, Wednesday evening.

Merle Cales of Cunningham served as toastmaster, and the dinner was served by the Cairo WSCS.

The Cunningham YWCA will meet at the home of Mrs. Glenn Patton, Monday evening, Jan. 11, at 7:30 o'clock.

1965

January 7, 1965 - The Cunningham Wildcats won their sixth straight game of the current basketball season in easy fashion here, Tuesday night, as they scored a 50-point victory over Sharon, 94 to 44.

Four Wildcats scored points in double figures with Jim Cain and Ronnie Murphey hitting 18 points apiece; Elmer Adelhardt canned 17; and Danny Meyers came up with 12. Gerry Schnittker made 9 points; Dennis Theis 7; Tom Jarmer 5; Bob Witt and Kenny Kerschen 4 each.

The Cunningham seconds took a 51 to 35 decision from the Sharon reserves in the preliminary game. Dennis Raney with 11 points, and Tom Jarmer with 10 paced the Wildcat seconds to their fifth victory against a single defeat. Dennis Theis came up with 9 points; Kenny Kerschen made 8; Frank McClellan scored 7; Jim McCune counted 4; and Don Kitson added 2.

The Community YWCA will hold their regular monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. Athol Chase, Monday evening, Jan. 11, at 7:30 o'clock.

The Rose families enjoyed a Christmas dinner in the Glendale School Auditorium, a week ago Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Pelzl moved into their new home in the southwest part of town.

1970

January 8, 1970 - Cunningham sophomore center Mike Schrant calmly sank two free throws with one second to play in overtime to give the Wildcats a 57-55 victory over the Isabel Vikings in a fiercely contested non-league basketball game here Tuesday night.

The win was the third for the Wildcats against four losses, and avenged an earlier 56-44 defeat by Isabel.

Eddie Panek paced the Wildcat scoring with 17 points; Schrant had 15; Curtis Kitson 11; Mike Cunningham 7; Marvin Oller 5; and Dean Simon 2.

Isabel tied the score at 53-all in the final three seconds when Alan Pagenkopf threw a court-length pass to brother Brad Pagenkopf who flipped the ball in the goal. Brad paced the Viking scoring with 23 points, while Alan, not starting and hampered with a badly sprained ankle, came up with 11 points. Isabel led 13-9 at the end of the first quarter; 25-23 at half-time; and 39-38 at the three-quarter mark.

The Cunningham Bees overwhelmed the Isabel Bees, 82 to 21, in the preliminary game.

Cunningham Masonic Lodge No. 427 recently elected new officers for the coming year.

They are Dean Cooley, Worshipful Master; Milton Brooks, Senior Warden; Frank Cain Jr., Junior Warden; Herman Hayes, Treasurer; Evan Thornhill, Secretary; Ray Amick, Senior Deacon; L. A. Strickland, Junior Deacon; R. O. Underwood, Senior Steward; Francis Dafforn, Junior Steward; R. D. Baber, Tyler; and Henry Hart, Chaplain.

The Kingman County Historical Society announced this week that they will begin accepting donation or loan of articles for the society's museum, located in the old city building in Kingman.

Persons making donations or loans of museum items should have a brief history of the item.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Rex Zimmerman

Reporter: Marie Ann Mantooth

1975

January 9, 1975 - Don Hellar of Chicago and Sue Hellar of Ottawa spent from Tuesday until Sunday of Christmas week visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alva Hellar.

Mr. and Mrs. Brenton Bortz and Berry were Saturday evening visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Klein, Patrick and Steven at Kinsley.

Mrs. Dale Sheldon arrived in Wichita by plane Thursday, January 2, from Lisle, Illinois, where she had been visiting and helping care for Mr. and Mrs.

Randy Sheldon who caught the 'flu bug' while they were visiting at the Henry Nare, Jr. home in Cincinnati, Ohio.

LeAnn Marie Fischer became the first baby born in Kingman County in 1975, arriving January 5 at 10:55 in the Kingman Community Hospital. Proud parents are Mr. and Mrs. Leon Fischer of Isabel, Mr. Fischer is employed by Becker Manufacturing in Isabel.

Girl Scout Troup NO. 55 and Cadet Troup No 9 met at the Wildcat Den January 7, 1975.

Officers elected for the new year were Treasurer, Paula Fitzsimmons, assistant, Mari Rohr, Scribe, Jenny Kincheloe, assistant, Bobbi Ross, and Song Leader, Allison Meyers, assistant, Janet Rhodes.

We are getting ready for our cookie sale on January 24, 1975. The rest of the meeting was spent singing. Scribe, Jenny Kincheloe.

YEARS AGO IN

The Cunningham Clipper

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Scott Newton

Reporter: Florine Kampling

1980

January 10, 1980 - The annual meeting of the Cunningham Volunteer Fire Department was held Jan. 2 during the regular January fire meeting. Of the 23 members on the roster, 9 members were present. Wages were discussed for meetings and fire runs. It was decided to maintain the same wage since it is a volunteer fired department. They would rather have additional funds used toward purchasing additional equipment.

It was decided to check into a new 100-watt 2 channel business band radio for the new rural tuck and to be sure the CB radios are in good working condition.

Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Panek of Cunningham celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Saturday, December 29 at St. Leo. Many relatives and friends joined them in their celebration with a mass at 7 p.m. and then a dance at the parish Hall.

LeRoy Panek of Cunningham and Blondie Spade of Nashville were married on December 28, 1954, at St. Leo and have lived and farmed near St. Leo since their marriage. They have four sons, Gene, Dale, Duane and Roger of the home.

Barbara Jones, Hutchinson, was a Sunday dinner guest of Mrs. Ruth Weir.

Mr. and Mrs. Duane Gamble, Turon, announce the engagement of their daughter, Sandy Delisa to Thomas Edward Crawford, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Crawford, Sr. of Cunningham.

The bride elect is a graduate of Fairfield High School and is employed by K-Mart Enterprises. Tom is a graduate of Cunningham High School, is attending McPherson College, and is employed by Moody Oil Company. A summer wedding is planned.

1985

January 10, 1985 - The Homecoming King and Queen will be honored next Friday night, January 11, during the basketball games with Sharon.

The Cunningham High School Alumni Banquet will be held May 25. Anyone one who has any new or address changes of alumni of the school should contact Mona Steffen as soon as possible, so the mailing list may be brought up to date.

Four Cunningham students were among the "420 Bright Kids" as described by the Wichita Eagle who attended the High Q Super Saturday event at Butler County Community College, El Dorado, Kansas on January 5. These students were Orin Stillwell (captain), Mike Fischer, Kathy Sant, and Jim Harbert. They were accompanied by sponsors, Rubie Cusenbary and Principal Leon Sant.

The Lady Wildcats opened their League season with a victory over Attica that could be stated as nothing short of a miracle. With 1:35 left to play, Attica was ahead by 7 points. However, Cunningham came storming back to win by 4 points, 60-56.

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JH Wildcats Trounce Stafford

The junior high Wildcats were able to squeeze in one more game before Christmas break. They started off hot even for them, going up 21 to 0 in the first quarter. They took good shots, rebounded well, and could not have played much better on defense. The Cats continued to share the ball and worked for layups, resulting in a bunch of high percentage shots and 9 boys in the scoring column. The boys rotated a bunch as the game worked into the 4th quarter in a very lopsided game. One of

the few blemishes on the game was that the starters once again did not get to "just play". It is hard to try and NOT score and rub it into a team that is young and struggling while competing is not an easy task. The boys are passing extra and working the ball so they can stay on the court longer. That may be a meager silver lining, but it is some solace. The bottom line is that for no fault of their own, several players had to sit with a huge lead. The boys are looking and hoping for better games in the future, but

some things are out of our control. We will continue to work to get better each and every week.

Carson led in the rebound department with 9. Liam and Landon Green each had 6. Liam had 3 steals with Casyn, Landon Green, and Brody all had 2. Liam had 4 assists. Casyn, Landon Green, and Brody all had 2.

- Coach Lance McGuire

Wildcat Scorers

Carson Strohl	14
Caysn Miller	9
Liam McGuire	6
Cooper Neufeld	6
Colton Rohlman	6
Brody Halderson	5
Landon Green	4
Landen Hageman	3
Wesly Priesser	2



Score	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Cunningham	21	8	14	12	55
Stafford	0	2	5	0	7



USD 332 Staff Spotlight: Bob Stackhouse: HS Math Teacher

USD 332 Staff Spotlight: Lynnea Johnson: GS/HS Math Teacher

**STAFF SPOTLIGHT** Bob Stackhouse

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT USD 332?  
I enjoy seeing the successes of the students and staff in both academics and extra-curricular activities.

**ABOUT ME**  
experience: 39 years, 34 in Cunningham  
family: Wife - Mary, 2 sons - Brian & Justin  
pets: None  
hobbies: Watch sports, go camping, and visit presidential libraries.

**FAVORITES**  
food: Pizza  
place: On the road  
book: Ray Romano, Everything and a Kite  
subject: Hum? Math

**Fun Facts:**  
• Mary and I just celebrated our 38th anniversary. We have two sons, Brian and Justin, with one daughter-in-law, Isabel, and will be adding daughter-in-law, Sarah, in March.  
• I'm looking forward to slowing down and seeing more of the country.

**STAFF SPOTLIGHT** Lynnea Johnson

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT USD 332?  
USD 332 has a fantastic staff and great students.

**ABOUT ME**  
experience: 32 years in education, this is my 1st year in Cunningham  
family: Husband - Troy, 4 adult kids - Aaron, Danica, Cory & Sierra  
pets: One dog, Midnight.  
hobbies: I enjoy hiking, pickleball, puzzles and Bible study.

**FAVORITES**  
food: Mexican food  
place: Home with family  
book: The Bible - I read it every year!  
subject: Math

**Fun Facts:**  
• This is my 17th year teaching at the secondary level. Prior to that I taught 15 years as an adjunct professor for BCC.  
• I have 7 grandkids - Landon, Gracelynn, Dax, Tessa, Rose, Araya and Audra

**Kansas** Department for Children and Families

**LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

LIEAP can help pay your home heating bills!

Applications accepted **November 18, 2024** through **March 31, 2025**

Applications **must** be received by DCF by **5 p.m.** on March 31, 2025 to be accepted.

Qualifying households must:

- not exceed household income limits
- be personally responsible for the heating fuel costs payable either to the landlord, utility company, or fuel vendor

INCOME GUIDELINES	
Persons living at address	Maximum gross monthly income
1	\$ 1,882.50
2	\$ 2,555.00
3	\$ 3,227.50
4	\$ 3,900.00
5	\$ 4,572.50
6	\$ 5,245.00
7	\$ 5,917.50
8	\$ 6,590.00
each additional	\$ 672.50

Apply or find more information: visit your **local DCF office**, call **1-888-369-4777**, or go to **www.dcf.ks.gov**.

Funding provided by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Community Services - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

**Save the date!**  
Saturday, February 1st  
11 am-4 pm

**Pratt Municipal Building**  
117 W. 3rd St.  
Pratt, KS

**Asian Cultural Event**

**PRATT PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**DAVID VOLLBRACHT**  
Corridor Exhibit: 11.12.24 through 7.5.25

Midpoint Meet-the-Artist Reception: 1.25.25 from 5pm-7pm



**CHS Wildcats** vs Canton-Galva



*Dagim Reed*



*Dylan Halderson*



*Kendall Rogers*



*Nate Sterneker*

Molly Morgan photos

**CHS Lady Wildcats** vs Canton-Galva



*Ava Bock*



*Emily Ogg*



*Grace Hageman*



*Rylee Miller*



*Kyra Morgan*



**Applications for 2025 Boys State of Kansas Session Open**

January 7, 2025 — The American Legion Boys State of Kansas is accepting applications for its 2025 session. The event is set to be held Sunday, June 1, through Saturday, June 7, at Kansas State University in Manhattan. This will be the program's 33rd consecutive session at KSU and 87th overall.

Traditionally, Kansas Boys State has been for individuals who will com-

plete their junior year of high school in the spring just prior to the start of each session. However, the ALBSK program will again expand the pool of applicants for this year's session to also include those who will complete their sophomore year of high school this spring.

The American Legion Boys State of Kansas program provides a relevant, interactive, problem-solving experience in leadership and teamwork that develops self-identity, promotes mutual respect and instills civic responsibility to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to community, state and nation. Boys State is a "learning by doing" political exercise that simulates elections, political parties and government

at the state, county and local levels, providing opportunities to lead under pressure, showcasing character and working effectively within a team. It's also an opportunity to gain pride and respect for government, and the price paid by members of the military to preserve democracy.

The cost to attend the Boys State of Kansas program is \$375; however, in many instances, sponsors pay the majority of the fees, with the delegate or his family paying \$50. Those wishing to attend the 2025 session should visit [ksbstate.org](http://ksbstate.org) to apply. The deadline to apply for the 2025 program is Wednesday, April 30; applications are accepted after that date, but on a space-available basis. In addition, those who regis-

ter by Friday, Jan. 31, will receive a \$50 early-bird discount.

Kansas Boys State attendees are eligible to receive a three-hour course credit (Introduction to Political Science [POLSC 110]) through Kansas State University, as well as earn merit badges to attain the Eagle Scout rank through Boy Scouts of America. Additionally, attendees can apply to win a Samsung American Legion Scholarship. The American Legion Department of Kansas finalist is guaranteed to receive a \$1,250 scholarship, with the opportunity to receive up to \$10,000 as a national scholar.

Potential sponsors, such as American Legion posts, civic organizations, businesses, clubs and interested individu-

als should visit [ksbstate.org/sponsor-a-delegate](http://ksbstate.org/sponsor-a-delegate). Questions? Contact the ALBSK at [info@ksbstate.org](mailto:info@ksbstate.org) or (785) 550-6492.

For complete information about the American Legion Boys State of Kansas program, visit [ksbstate.org](http://ksbstate.org). For information about the 2025 American Legion Auxiliary Sunflower Girls State, which will be held Sunday, June 1, through Friday, June 6, at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, visit [ks-girlsstate.org](http://ks-girlsstate.org).

The American Legion Boys State of Kansas is an interactive simulation that teaches high school seniors-to-be the value of democracy and civic duty. Participants form mock governments and campaign for positions at the city, county and state levels.

After the elections, participants find out firsthand the difficult decisions made daily by those in government through a series of challenging simulations. Delegates, nominated to attend by their high school counselors and other influential people in their lives, are sponsored by American Legion posts and various civic organizations from across the state. All delegates demonstrate outstanding leadership qualities in student government, athletics and/or other activities.

The Boys State program was founded by Legionnaires Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card in Illinois in 1935, and was first held in Kansas two years later in Wichita. The Kansas program moved to the University of Kansas in Lawrence in 1963 and remained there until 1991. The following year, it moved to its current location at Kansas State University in Manhattan.





Kingman County Sheriff's Report

Sunday, December 29

Traffic Stops	1
Abandoned Vehicle	4900 Blk NE 150 Ave, Cheney
Abandoned Vehicle	N Hwy 14 & E Hwy 54, Murdock
Traffic Complaint	9000 Blk E Hwy 54, Murdock
Theft	18000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
Follow Up	18000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
Disabled Vehicle	N Hwy 11 & W Hwy 54, Kingman

Monday, December 30

Traffic Stops	7
Civil Paper Service	1
Medical	300 Blk N Logan St, Cunningham
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Agency Assist	400 Blk E D Ave, Kingman
Miscellaneous	700 Blk W Washington Ave, Kingman
Alarm	12000 Blk SE 110 Ave, Norwich

Tuesday, December 31

Traffic Stops	11
Animal Complaint	14000 Blk E Hwy 2, Norwich



Wednesday, January 1

Civil Paper Service	5
Return of Property	120 N Spruce St, Kingman

Thursday, January 2

Animal Complaint	NW 20 St & NW 110 Ave, Kingman
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Medical	300 Blk E C Ave, Kingman
Agency Assist / Traffic / Arrest	18000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham
Disabled Vehicle	1500 Blk NW 170 Ave, Cunningham
Traffic Complaint	SW 70 St & SW 50 Ave, Spivey
Traffic Complaint	13000 Blk E Hwy 2, Norwich
Miscellaneous	N Pine St & E Washington Ave, Kingman

Friday, January 3

Traffic Stops	8
Civil Paper Service	4
Alarm	13000 Blk SE 60 St Norwich, KS
Disturbance	400 Blk E Burns Ave Norwich, KS

Saturday, January 4

Traffic Stops	1
Disabled vehicle	NE 100 Ave and E U54 Hwy, Kingman
Assist in Jail	120 N Spruce St, Kingman

Farm and French Toast Preparation

Kim Baldwin, McPherson County farmer and rancher

By the time this column hits the presses, the first significant winter weather system of 2025 will have arrived. For our area, the weather experts are all forecasting periods of ice, strong winds, extreme cold and heavy snow.

The winter storm watch notifications have been constant on my phone. Road crews have

already started treating the roads and people have been making their way to the grocery store to stock up.

It is no longer a calm before the storm.

The term "French Toast Warning" is being used to describe this incoming weather event, which is basically suggesting people get to the store and stock up on all of the essentials for French toast including eggs, milk and bread.

I'm an early prepper, so I got all of my ingredients before the masses did. Early prepping is

something we have to do during this time of the year, because we aren't just preparing our household for the weather; we are having to prepare the farm for the weather as well.

Machines need to be winterized, fuel tanks need to be filled, equipment needs stored.

Since there's a chance of losing power with this storm, the generator is at the ready, propane tanks are topped off, flashlights and lanterns are charged and batteries are tested. The cabinet doors under the sinks have been

opened and water jugs are filled.

With or without power, the animals still need cared for. Straw bales are moved and spread to provide warm bedding for the animals. Hay bales are strategically placed for future feedings. Ice breaking tools are brought out, and the heavy-duty winter choring clothes are hanging near the back door.

A pile of old towels are at the ready for use on floors to combat wet and muddy boots or to wrap up and dry off tiny newborn lambs since we are

currently in the middle of lambing.

It's my hope that our storm prepping is not needed, but after an incredibly brutal January in 2024 that kept the kids home more than they were at school, roads continually drifted shut, and farmers and ranchers working around the clock to care for their livestock, it's wise to be ready.

Even if this anticipated first winter storm of 2025 ends up being all that is described, maybe, just maybe, we'll be able to use the ingredients from our pre-winter

weather grocery run and get to enjoy some warm French toast in between feeding, watering and caring for our livestock during this first winter storm of 2025.

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

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News from Kansas Farm Bureau

Social Security Supports Rural Communities

Social Security touches the lives of nearly every American. Millions count on us — retirees, people no longer able to work due to disability, dependents, and survivors. As a member of the Rural Partners Network, we want to continue reaching out to rural communities.

We make it easy for you to access our programs and services. Our website offers a convenient way to apply online for benefits. Visit [www.ssa.gov/applyonline](http://www.ssa.gov/applyonline) to learn how to apply for:

- Retirement or Spouse's Benefits – You must be at least 61 years and 9 months and want your benefits to start in

no more than 4 months.

- Disability Benefits – Our disability program pays benefits to workers who are insured and certain family members. This means that they worked long enough – and recently enough – and paid Social Security taxes on their earnings.

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) – SSI provides monthly payments to adults and children with a disability or blindness, or people 65 or older, who have low income and resources. After you begin your application online, we will review the information you submit and contact you by mail or phone if we have questions.

- Medicare – Medicare is a federal health insurance program for people who are 65 or older or have a disability

or end-stage renal disease. If you are not receiving Social Security benefits and not covered under an employer group health plan, you may want to consider applying for Medicare 3 months before turning age 65.

- Extra Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Costs – Extra Help assists with monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and co-payments related to Medicare prescription drug coverage for people with limited income and resources. Apply at [www.ssa.gov/extrahelp](http://www.ssa.gov/extrahelp).

Rural community leaders should encourage others to sign up for a personal my Social Security account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount). With a personal my Social Security account, they

can request a replacement Social Security card, verify earnings, get future benefit estimates, and obtain benefit verification letters.

If they are not able to use our online services, they can speak with a representative by calling our National toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. If an office visit is required, we can make an appointment.

In addition, our automated phone services are available 24 hours a day, so they may not need to wait for a representative. Learn more at [www.ssa.gov/agency/contact/phone.html](http://www.ssa.gov/agency/contact/phone.html).

We remain committed to helping maintain the well-being of the people we serve—including those in rural areas.

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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: Snow Day

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- ACROSS**
- Larger-than-life
  - Capone's family
  - Wild swine
  - "You're not allowed," to a baby
  - Deal with it
  - Cunningly
  - Shower with affection
  - Allege
  - City in Belgium
  - \*Snow Day exercise?
  - Poet Pound
  - Ovine sign of the zodiac
  - Tasseled hat
  - All together (2 words)
  - Military College of South Carolina, with The
  - For every
  - a.k.a. association football
  - \*All-day Snow Day garb?
  - Delete
  - Crude fuel
  - Read-only disc
  - Good's counterpart
  - Popular flowering shrub
  - Female ancestor
  - Two heads are better than one, e.g.
  - Bering Strait state
  - Rudolph's Clarice, e.g.
  - Like thick smoke
  - Fountain option
  - \*No two are alike, sing.
  - Surround (2 words)
  - Tangerine plus grapefruit
  - \*Like a river, with over
- DOWN**
- Odds' partners
  - Tubby little cubby
  - "He's Just Not That \_\_\_ You"
  - Of the same period
  - \*Popular Snow Day pastime
  - Some tournaments
  - Zugspitze, e.g.
  - \*Severe weather
  - Deed hearing
  - Algae, sing.
  - Marble bread
  - \_\_\_ Jack, English pirate
  - \*As opposed to rain
  - Irregular
  - Type of conifer
  - Musketeers' swords
  - High-strung
  - Cerebellum location
  - Unit of life
  - Students' dwellings
  - \*Snow Day reading choice
  - Helping theorem
  - \*Like soft pj's
  - Intelligence org.
  - \*Slope fun
  - Shorter than California
  - Number of years
  - No, it doesn't crawl in one's ear
44. Horse of certain color, pl.
46. Spontaneous additions
48. Obtuse one
49. Tom Cruise's "The \_\_\_ of Money"
50. Highway hauler
51. Bad sign
52. Of a particular kind
53. Smoothie berry
54. Superman's last name
55. Part of a seat
56. \*Like chocolate on a Snow Day

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Winter Photos and Others



photo by Martha Hellar

Martha sent me the winter photos today, I took the one from my deck with my cheap little Tracfone. The ice on that tree in Annette's yard was just too pretty not to capture... even if the photo isn't high quality.

Teresa and Mary's recent photos I've had in my 'to use someday soon' photo file. A file that is now empty. (HINT to all my photographers out there).



Courier photo



photo by Martha Hellar

*"I wonder if the snow loves the trees and fields, that it kisses them so gently? And then it covers them up snug, you know, with a white quilt; and perhaps it says, "Go to sleep, darlings, till the summer comes again."*

— Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland / Through the Looking-Glass*



photo by Mary Stackhouse

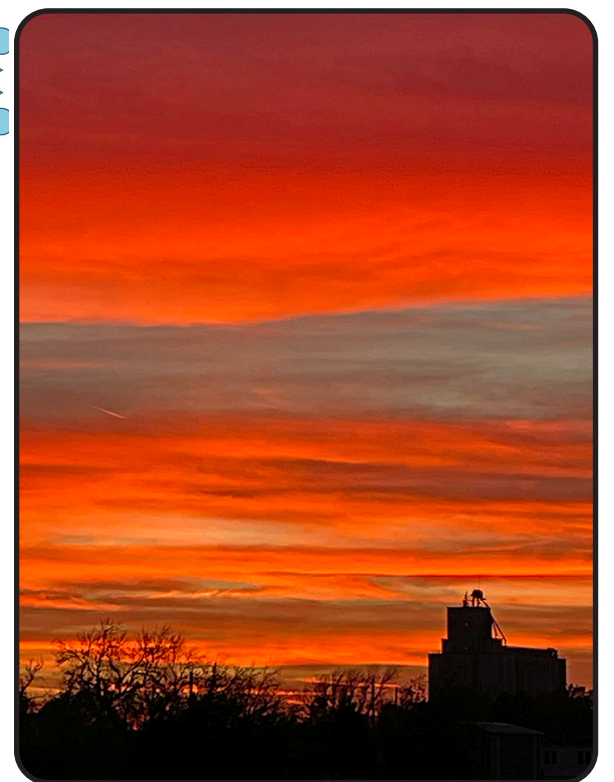


photo by Teresa McClendon

Upcoming Beginner-Friendly Painting Class

Logan, KS. – 1/7/2025... The Hansen Museum Continuing

Education Program is pleased to welcome certified Bob Ross instructor Hope Blakely of Arvada, Colorado to teach two *Joy of Painting* classes on January 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, the class

will paint "Twilight," and on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> the class will paint a Bill Alexander Painting, "Mountain Island." Classes are held in the Hansen Museum Community Room, 110 W. Main Street, Logan,

KS, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with an hour-long lunch break each day.

This class offers a fun and easy approach to creating a beautiful painting. Beginner friendly, participants will be guided

step-by-step to complete a painting each day. All painting supplies are provided, and no previous experience is necessary. Students need only bring a roll of paper towels. Young and old alike (13 and older) will enjoy

the camaraderie of these classes.

Register online at [hansenmuseum.org](http://hansenmuseum.org) under Classes & Workshops. Discounts are available for Patron and Sustaining Hansen Museum Members. This enjoyable learning opportunity is brought to you through the Hansen Museum Continuing Education Program, underwritten by the Dane G. Hansen Foundation. For more information, please call 785-689-4846.

The Museum is open weekdays 9-12 and 1-4; Saturdays 9-12 & 1-5; Sundays and holidays 1-5. We are closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. The Museum is handicap-accessible and thanks to the generosity of the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, there is never an admission fee.



Saturday: Twilight



Sunday: Mountain Island



**Kansas Farm Bureau to Honor Tradition, Heritage on Family Farms**

MANHATTAN — Kansas Farm Bureau is continuing in 2025 its recognition for “Sesquicentennial Farms” in conjunction with its annual “Century Farm” program. The Century Farm program honors Farm Bureau members who own farms of at least 80 acres within the same family for 100 years or more. The Sesquicentennial Farm recognition goes to farms in the same family for at least 150 years.

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

The deadline for consideration to be part of the 2025 programs is May 15. Kansas Farm Bureau has recognized 3,210 Century Farms and 132 Sesquicentennial Farms since their inception. Complete details for qualification and applications for both programs can be obtained at county Farm Bureau offices across Kansas or on the KFB website, www.kfb.org/centuryfarm.

**Comfortably Dumb** by Bruce Quast



You or your business can sponsor a Humane Society pet for \$10.00 a week per pet. Fifty percent of the profits will be donated to the Humane Society.

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on Wed., from 8:00 - 12:00  
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1015 East U.S. 54, Kingman, KS

**Kingman County 4-H Ambassadors Chili and Bingo Night**  
Sunday, January 12  
5:30-7:30

The Hanger, Main Street Kingman  
Adults \$10 for All You Can Eat Chili and 1 Bingo Card  
Kids 12 and under \$5 for All you Can Eat Chili and 1 Bingo Card  
Extra Bingo Cards \$2 each

Proceeds from this event go to:  
Kingman County Humane Society

Kingman County Humane Society | K-STATE Research and Extension | Kingman County

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact Melissa Thimesch at 620-532-9131.

**KCHS Pets Ready for Adoption**

**Savana**

Sponsored by The Cunningham Courier



Savana wants to be your BFF! She is a mere 27 pounds and five to six years old. This little Corgi girl has been with the shelter since December 17, and her adoption fee is \$200.00.

“We LIED! Someone told us this dog was not good with other dogs but apparently Savana didn't get that memo! She's currently in a foster home with several other dogs and she is having the time of her life! She's house-trained and very people friendly. Loves to go on walks and chase balls. Savana is pretty active, not planning on running in any marathons but does need to shed a few pounds.”

**Campbell**

Sponsored by Baker Accounting



Mr. Campbell, here, is three months old with a bum leg. But a bum leg isn't slowing this kitten down one bit! The vet thinks Campbell may have some nerve damage possible caused by an injury but it doesn't seem to be causing this active boy any pain. He's playful and loves romping with the other kittens in his herd. He's perfect for an indoor only cat and is already wearing the cutest tuxedo we have ever seen! He has been at the shelter since October 29, 2024, and his adoption fee is \$85.00

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For more information see display ad on page 5

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Seth Thibault, OD  
Andrew W. Piester, OD  
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Pratt, Kansas 67124  
620-672-5934  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. M - F  
604 N. Walnut  
Medicine Lodge, Kansas 67104  
620-886-3222  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
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Andrew W. Piester, OD  
104 West C Ave.  
Kingman, KS 67068  
620-532-3154  
1-800-371-3154  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Monday - Thursday  
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Friday

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Effective October 1, 2024: Ads are \$6.50 per column inch. Front page ads are \$11.00 per column inch. All ads are subject to approval of this paper, which reserves the right to edit, reject, or properly classify any ad. Note: The views and opinions expressed in advertisements in The Cunningham Courier do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the Courier or staff. Errors will be corrected when brought to my attention.  
Classified Ad Rates  
\$6.00 minimum charge for one-week run.  
DEADLINES: 2:00 p.m. Tuesdays

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**620-770-6054**  
murphylauren2001@gmail.com

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**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

**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!

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**The Cunningham Courier**  
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In Kansas: \$48.00 per year / Out of State: \$53.00  
Students: \$33.00 and \$38.00



## Ginny Schneider

Virginia "Ginny" Schneider, 60, passed away December 29, 2024 at her home. She was born on July 21, 1964 in Wichita to Joseph Landon and Karen (Meeks) Bunch. Virginia married Mark Schneider June 29, 2002 in Pratt, Kansas. He preceded her in death on Oct. 9, 2013.



Ginny graduated from Wichita North High School in 1983. She was a homemaker who enjoyed puzzles, and shopping. She loved spending time with her family and most of all, her pets.

Virginia is preceded in death by her parents and nephew, Adrian Scott Wallace.

She is survived by her sister, Judy (Tony) Wallace of Topeka, Kansas; brother, Landon (Toni) Bunch of Wichita, Kansas; nephews, Nathan (Sasha) Wallace and Trey Bunch; niece, Brandy (Will) Poyner and furry companion Chance Schneider

Friends may sign her register book on Friday, January 10, 2025 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt, Kansas. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, January 11, 2025 at Larrison Mortuary with pastor Mike McGovney presiding. A graveside service will follow at 2 p.m. at Hillcrest Cemetery, Great Bend, Kansas.

Memorials may be made to Pratt Area Humane Society in care of Larrison Mortuary. Online condolences may be made at [www.larrisonmortuary.com](http://www.larrisonmortuary.com).

## Paula Davis

Paula Adele (Tuttle) Davis, our "Mudder Dean", loving wife and mother passed from this life on December 27, 2024, after decades of fighting the good fight. She was born March 15, 1950, in Pratt, Kansas, to Gerald and Beulah (Cutright) Tuttle.

She was preceded in death by husband Richard, November 17, 2020, mother, Beulah, November 13, 1995, father, Gerald, February 5, 1998, two brothers Byron, November 12, 2017, and Jerry, February 26, 2022. On March 4, 1972, Paula married the love of her life, Richard Olen Davis, or maybe it was his 1957 Chevy she loved.

She had two sons Travis of Coats, Kansas and Waco (Kristen) of Hutchinson, Kansas. Paula attended Haviland High School, Pratt Jr. College and Tabor College, earning her teaching degree. She taught 5th grade and special education in Kiowa and Comanche counties until her MS diagnosis in 1979. Even then, Mom went on to spearhead multiple projects in and around Kiowa County, including the formation of the Kiowa County Historical Society and Museum, the Fromme-Birney Round Barn restoration and its placement on the historic register, along with the SRCA Dragstrip in Great Bend, Kansas. She served on the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review for several years. When asked, she said "My biggest accomplishment was my kids, my children, my boys, to see that they would become the great men that they are today." We Love you, Mom, Have a great night and a better tomorrow, Mudder Dean! A memorial graveside service was held on January 3, 2025, at the Haviland United Methodist Church, Haviland, Kansas, with John Hamm presiding. A private family inurnment will be held at a future date. The family has requested donations to Hilltop Manor Nursing Center, 403 S. Valley St. Cunningham, KS 67035, and SRCA Dragstrip, PO Box 1362 Great Bend, KS 67530, or in care of Fleener Funeral Home, PO Box 41, Greensburg, KS 67054.

## Sherril Udell

Sherril Jean Udell, 66, passed away Monday, January 6, 2025 at her home in Pratt. She was born on April 2, 1958 in Wichita, Kansas to Louis and Geneva (Rush) Little. Sherril married Jack Udell and they spent 30 plus years together.

Sherril graduated from Arcadia High School in California. She worked in retail and restaurant customer service. She was a member of Moose Lodge in Spring Valley, California. She enjoyed crafting and taking care of her family.

She is survived by her husband, Jack of Pratt; children, Robert Udell of Denver, Colorado, Shauna (Shad) Greenup of Denver, Colorado, Amanda (Tommy Lee) Rogers of New Mexico, Leanne Henry of Pratt, Joshua Udell of San Diego, California and Christopher Udell of Pratt; brother, Dale Little of Texas; sister in-law, Pat Dunbar of Pratt; brother in-law, James Udell; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Sherril is preceded in death by her parents.

Cremation has taken place. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date in California. Inurnment will be in Roseville Public Cemetery District, Roseville, California at a later date.

Memorials may be made to Kansas State School for the Blind in care of Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt, Kansas 67124.

## Irene Spade

Irene Spade passed away December 29, 2024 in Scottsdale, AZ. She was preceded in death by her husband of 45 years, Elmer Spade. Irene was the Mother of 11 children: Doris Bruner, Donna Means, Karen Schmitt (deceased), Roger Spade, Geneva Soukup, Larry Spade, Viola Spade, Evelyn Marchi, Kent Spade, Kevin Spade & Keith Spade as well as and 33 grandchildren, 61 great grandchildren and 9 great-great grandchildren.



Being a centenarian, you can imagine she saw a lot in her lifetime. Born in 1924 in Cunnigham, KS to Bill and Rosa Becker she grew up on a farm with 14 siblings. At 19 she married Elmer Spade at St Leo Catholic Church and soon after started a family. After having 8 children she was blessed with triplet boys. In 1959 the family packed up and made the journey to Phoenix, AZ in a Chevrolet Black and White Station Wagon. Irene was the Matriarch of the family until the day she passed. First and foremost, she was a wife, mother and homemaker. She was an active member of OLPH Catholic Church and St. Leo Alter Society. Many of her children and grandchildren discovered a love for crafting. She sewed (excelling at clothing), crochet, ceramics, painting, baked (were known for her cinnamon rolls), quilting and anything else she thought she would enjoy.

She is survived by four siblings, Eugene Becker, Victor Becker, Walter Becker and Gladys Randolph.

The visitation is scheduled for Friday, January 10, 2025 at Whitney & Murphy Funeral Home, 4800 E. Indian School, Rd, Phoenix, Arizona from 5 PM - 6: 30 PM, followed by rosary at 6:30. The funeral Mass is scheduled to be held at 10:00 AM, Saturday, January 11, 2025 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church, 7655 E. Main St. Scottsdale AZ 85251.

## Jared Adcock

Jared Zachary Adcock was born to Jesse and Margaret Adcock on May 13, 1989, in Liberal, Kansas. He asked Jesus into his heart at the early age of 7 and was baptized at 14 at Holcomb FSB church. He passed from this Earth to a Heavenly home on December 31, 2024.



Jared attended schools at Dighton and Holcomb before graduating from Kingman High School in May of 2008. Jared continued his education at Pratt Community College in the field of computer science when he met and married Megan Runnebaum. The couple had three children, Daeymn, Emrys, and Gwyndolin. Early in their marriage Jared joined the Army and was trained as a 64-d Apache helicopter crew chief maintainer at Fort Sill, OK. Jared and his family were then stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McCord, Seattle, Washington. Jared also completed tours in Afghanistan, South Korea, and Germany. Jared was honorably discharged from the Army in October 2019. He moved back to Kingman, Kansas in June of 2020.

Jared was a caring and conscientious (proud) father. Jared's interests throughout his life included music, reading, playing the guitar, online gaming communities and karaoke. Many remember Jared for his smile and sense of humor.

Jared is survived by his parents of Kingman, two sisters, Melody Longhofer (Cale) of Coats, KS and Alicia Adcock of Pratt, KS, two sons, Daeymn and Emrys Adcock and a daughter, Gwyndolin Adcock, all of Warrensburg, MO, uncle Bill Adcock (Sandra), aunts, Doris Adcock, Anita Miller, Phyllis Stephens (Kim), Cathy Miller, cousins Tanner Adcock, Jessica Jenkins (Jimmy), Becca Stephens, and maternal grandmother, Doris Miller.

Memorial services was Monday, Jan. 6, 2025, at Livingston Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Wounded Warrior Project or Tunnel to Towers Foundation in care of the funeral home.

## Robert Cocherell

Robert G. Cocherell, 72, died Dec. 29, 2024 at his home in Spivey.

He was born June 8, 1952, at Nashville, Kansas the son of Glenn and Lucile Cocherell.

A longtime resident of the Spivey community, he was a retired oil pumper.

In 1983, he married Debra Crossman; she survives. No services are planned at this time.

## Lewie Hillard

Lewis Frank Hillard, 90, passed away Sunday, December 29, 2024 at Grand Plains Skilled Nursing in Pratt. He was born on November 30, 1934 in Pratt, Kansas to Frank and Mary Elizabeth (Parham) Hillard. Lewie married Sharon Alyne Phillippi on February 27, 1966 in Wellington, Kansas. They were married for 58 years, until her death on June 28, 2024.



Lewie graduated from Glendale School in 1952. He was a plumber, a dairyman, a farmer and a member of the Old Glendale Union Church. He enjoyed cards, fishing and hunting. He was a Mason and a Shriner.

He is survived by his children, Scott (Chris Wiese) Hillard of Caballo, New Mexico and Kathrine Hillard of Medicine Lodge; brother, Paul Thomas "Pete" (Patricia) Hillard of Lexington, Tennessee; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Lewie is preceded in death by his parents and his wife.

A Funeral service was held Monday, January 6, 2025 at Larrison Mortuary with Jan Blasi presiding. Burial followed at Cairo Cemetery, Cairo.

Memorials may be made to Shriners Hospital for Children or American Kidney Fund in care of Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt. Online condolences may be made at [www.larrisonmortuary.com](http://www.larrisonmortuary.com).

## John Braden

John Scott Braden died on January 4th, 2025, after a lengthy struggle with heart disease, complicated by Agent Orange exposure.



John was born on October 23, 1950, in Pratt, Kansas, the second son of Loren and Anne Braden. His early passions in life, some that continued into adulthood, were riding horses, raising dogs, building model cars from kits, buying/driving "cool" vehicles, and swimming.

In August 1969, at the age of 18, John followed a family tradition, and entered military service as a Marine. Within five months, John was deployed to Vietnam as a rifleman, assigned to the 1st Marine Division, stationed in Da Nang. During his 12-month deployment, John was given increased leadership responsibility, progressing from Rifleman to Fire Team Leader to Squad Leader, moving up in rank from Private to Lance Corporal. While in Vietnam, John participated in at least three named combat operations, and more than 190 combat patrols and ambushes, repeatedly distinguishing himself by his courage and composure during critical situations as he led his team against enemy positions. After serving four years and attaining the rank of Sergeant, John was discharged from the Marines with honor.

In 1973 after leaving the military, John and his bride, Peggy (Willbanks) Braden, moved back to Kansas, where John transitioned to a civilian job with Gibson's Discount Center as Assistant Manager in Great Bend. Based on his leadership abilities, a year later, John was promoted to Manager of the Gibson's Store in Clinton, Oklahoma.

After the birth of their son, Barry, John and Peggy moved back to Kansas in 1977, where John began his career as a police officer in Kingman. By 1995, John attained the rank of Police Chief, serving his community faithfully 31 years until his retirement in 2008.

During his time in Kingman, John supported various community and veteran associations. He was a proud member of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 1164, and served in various membership positions.

John was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Peggy; and his older brother, Howard. Surviving relatives include his son and daughter-in-law, Barry and Angela Braden; grandson and grand daughter-in-law, Devon and Kyleigh Braden; great-grandchildren, Calloway, Sawyer and Annabelle; loving companion, Claudia Owens; sister and brother-in-law, Roma and Steve Jackson; sister-in-law, Jan Braden; sister and brother-in-law, Belinda and Tom Kerschen; brother and sister-in-law, Victor and Marla Braden; brother-in-law, Richard Willbanks; sister-in-law, Robin (Willbanks) Roth; sister-in-law, Rhonda (Willbanks) Weathers; maternal aunt, Rita Adams; maternal aunt, Linda Rupe; numerous nephews, nieces, and cousins; and many friends, all of whom will greatly miss John.

Memorial services will be held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, April 25, 2025 at the Livingston Funeral Home. The family suggests memorial be made to the Kingman County Humane Society.

**More Life Celebrations  
can be found on page 4**