

# The Cunningham Courier

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

February 6, 2025  
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(620) 298-2659

\$1.50

photo by Teresa McClendon

## Minutes from December City Council Meeting

The Cunningham City Council met in a regular session on Monday, December 30, 2024 at City Hall, 119 N. Main St.

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

Guests present: Chief Harold Stark, CFD; Roberta Kobbe, Cunningham Courier; and Steve & Kim Olson.

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

Motion by Schultz, second by Ricke, to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried, 3/0.

Motion by Woodard, second by Schultz, to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2024 meeting as written. Motion carried, 3/0.

Motion by Ricke, second by Schultz,

to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2024 special meeting as written. Motion carried, 3/0.

Budget Amendment Hearing – Mayor Murphy opened the hearing at 6:31 p.m. There were no public comments. Motion by Woodard, second by Ricke, to approve the 2024 Amended Budget. Motion carried, 3/0. Mayor Murphy closed the hearing at 6:32 p.m.

Public Comments – Mr. & Mrs. Olson requested permission from the Governing Body to remove the sidewalk on their property following Third Street and Henderson Street. They reported large areas are missing and the areas that remain are broken. They also reported that the drainage from the alley is causing flooding/standing water between their buildings on that property. They will submit a building permit for a retaining wall and addition.

Fire Department Report – Chief Stark reported two calls for the Cunningham Fire Department. 1) a diesel tanker

rolled south of town and 2) there was a semi-tractor fire due to no oil on a bearing. The driver was able to put it out with an extinguisher. The CFD assisted the driver to return to town without the fire starting again. CFD applied for a state-wide grant with the State Fire Marshall, but CFD was not selected to receive the bunker gear sets. Ninety-six volunteer departments applied, and only 101 bunker gear sets were awarded to 24 agencies.

Water Tower Contract – Motion by Woodard, second by Schultz, to approve the Viking Industrial Painting proposal to weld the gap on the water tower not to exceed \$21,000. Motion carried, 3/0.

ARPA Disbursement – Motion by Schultz, second by Ricke, to approve the distribution of ARPA funds for the purpose of payroll, during the time period of February 2024 to November 2024 with those funds going to the: "Payroll expense general" account in the amount of \$49,929.16 and the

"Payroll Expenses swimming pool" account in the amount of \$16,913.66, for a total disbursement of ARPA funds in the amount of \$66,842.82. Motion carried, 3/0.

Maintenance Report – Mesa gave the maintenance report. \*Mayer Specialty Services is scheduled to do the sewer clean out on the south side of town January 13th-15th. \*Pump #2 at the lift station is leaking in the housing. Parts ordered and will be fixed. \*Quarterly sewage tests completed.

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

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

Mayor Murphy adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

## Looking to the Future

by Dr. Kelly Arnberger,  
Superintendent of Schools

Diving into this article has proven more difficult than I thought it would be. I know the guts of what I want to share but I am struggling with the hook. I guess it comes down to this. It is cold. There is a lot of snow. I am glad the weather has been milder this week. The sunshine allows us to think about the future and once again see the things that could be. That includes how we continue to grow the exceptional school you continue to support.

We need some help. Back story. Last spring we began developing a strategic plan. We held a couple of work sessions and also sent out some surveys to determine what you want the school to look like, how it serves the community. The information received helped the school board determine our

mission.....Connect, Grow, Serve! That is what the district should do and it should be obvious to any observer. But, the next question is, "what does it mean and what does it look like?" We want to know from you what that mission means to you and so you will receive one more survey soon. The responses will direct our action plan. The action plan will be our road map directing our meaningful activities ensuring we are connecting, growing, and serving our community, our students, and our staff. We hope to have the plan completed and operational in time for the beginning of the new school year. After all, we have these beautiful facilities provided by you and we want to ensure they are utilized as well as possible. With that being said, please note that one of the great things we should not overlook is that this is already a high performing school and community.....the next phase is more about becoming even greater. It is a

bonus we are able to view the future from the perch we now sit.

The district and community are fortunate to be in a position to look at some facility considerations now that the bond project has been completed. An integral part of growing and serving is continual consideration of facilities. At the last board meeting the board engaged in a preliminary discussion of some of our facility needs. Some of the items discussed included the elementary classrooms. They need attention...carpet, trim, and painting to increase the inviting environment for our children. We are always talking about parking and how to ensure access for our staff and community. Conversation about academic growth also took place. That led to discussion of a gymnasium. Again, preliminary but with a bit more depth. Would that open up more academic opportunities for middle school students? Would that allow for more family time

as students would not be at school as early and so late? Would it allow for more learning opportunities during the day in health related activities?

These are all conversations that have merit but the truth is without a plan and work they are just conversations. That is why we ask that when you receive the next survey that you take a few minutes to let us know what connecting, growing, and serving means to you.

I thought I would end with some great quotes like "good being the enemy of great" or something like that but the truth is this. We are unique in what we are able to offer our students and community and it is something all of you can take great pride in as schools and communities like Cunningham do not exist everywhere. The question is now.....what do we want to do next to ensure that is always the case?



Photo by Alex Smith

## Library Board Honors Kerri Steffen

The Cunningham Public Library Board posed for a photo at the retirement reception of our long-time and dedicated public librarian, Kerri Steffen.

Left to right: Liz Miller; Linda Kerschen; Mary Stackhouse; CC Sterneker; Paul Hawkins, director of South Central Kansas Library System; Library Maven, Kerri Steffen; Jana Theis; Rogene Jarmer; and Ingrid Ricke.

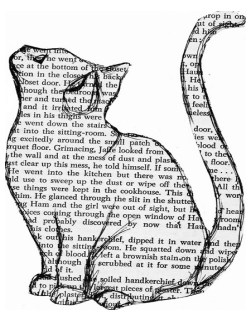


## CARDIOPULMONARY REHAB PROGRAM

After experiencing certain heart and lung conditions, it's common to face persistent symptoms or fatigue that can hinder your daily activities. You might also feel anxious about potential complications that could lead to another hospital visit. Our Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehab Programs are designed to help you rebuild your strength, adopt a healthier lifestyle, and regain confidence in your future.

For more info, talk with your provider or call our  
Cardiopulmonary Rehab Dept. at 620-532-0183.





Meanderings

Whew! I made it! Wow! I wasn't sure I was going to get everything in this paper. Okay, I didn't really, but I got most of it in.

I am avoiding going to 14 pages -- as much as I love a 'thicker' paper, the price at the printer's goes up significantly when I add an additional two pages. (\$150.00)

But, get this. It costs the same to print 8 pages as it does to print 10 pages as it does to print 12 pages. Go figure.

I had MANY photos to put in the paper this week, but, alas, no room for them.

Yeah, I could have

used page 9 for those, but then the folks who care about what is going on the two counties where we live would want to know what is going on in said counties.

So, another day. I hope next week.

Anyone who knows me well at all, knows I have a cellphone. A cellphone I am not very consistent about using or answering or charging. I'm a slacker when it comes to cellphone usage.

I find it incredibly invasive.

I did pick it up one day last week as I was making plans to have a birthday lunch with my friend, Jane (hers, not mine).

And I found two photos on there from about three weeks ago. Shoot!

Rita sent me these two photos from the snow we had earlier last month. They are beautiful photos, and I wanted to get them in this week's paper, but ... well, you know the story.

Apologies to Rita for forgetting her photos.

I have a sick kitty. My Barney has been ill for a couple of days.

Stool samples taken to the vet revealed nothing. It looks like we will have to head to the vet for some blood work.

After Eleanor died last fall, it took Ol' Barney a couple of weeks before he was comfortable sleeping with me. He doesn't snuggle like Eleanor, but he is a warm, purring pres-

ence. And the last two nights he has slept on his favorite spot in front of a window.

He doesn't even race me for the warm spot after I get up during the night to potty.

He doesn't eat. He doesn't want to go outside. I am very concerned.

Always reading, and currently between books (again!) Roberta

Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds by Gaille Pike

Dear Readers, Now that we've had two sunshiny afternoons in a row when the mercury climbed into the 50s, our yard and driveway are becoming less treacherous. Sure, the kitchen floor is continually crusted with dirty cat paw prints and I'm thinking about borrowing a pair of waders from my neighbor. But you won't hear even a whisper of a complaint from me because I'd rather deal with mud than that frozen mess of a snow-topped ice rink that's held us captive, both in the house

and on the farm itself, for over three weeks. So even if the groundhog sees his shadow and Winter plans on staying around, I know I can get to the car without breaking bones (or my head) AND make it to the nearest Pancake and Sausage Supper without hitching a ride on a county snowplow.

I'm not a big pancake fan and though I like sausage well enough, I'm more of a bacon-gal. But other than watching the Punxsutawney, PA antics on TV, Pancake and Sausage Suppers are the only way I know to celebrate our uniquely American Groundhog's Day. Though I never ventured up to witness

Punxsutawney Phil's Spring-arrival forecast in person, I learned while living in Philadelphia that this holiday was started there by German-speaking immigrants. They're known as the Pennsylvania Dutch because, although they don't trace their roots to Holland, they could never get their English-speaking neighbors to say "Deutsche."

Historians generally agree that these Germanic-Americans based Ground Hog's day on ancient European weather folklore and pre-Christian festivals that celebrated the midpoint between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox. In parts of

Germany, "Dachstag" (Badger Day) is still celebrated. In New World, the closest thing to a badger that could be found was the "Grund'sau ddk." Thus, we have our popular American tradition: Groundhog's Day. By the way, no scientific study has ever proven that groundhogs or badgers (or the bears used Hungary) can predict consistently the arrival of spring-time weather.

Today things got sticky, though, when I tried to piece together the whole Pancake and Sausage Supper / Groundhog's Day connection. That's because the Pennsylvania Dutch don't want to be associated with an Italian

and French Catholic Candlemas custom they consider...distasteful. Candlemas is celebrated 40 days after the Christ's birth, on Feb. 2. when Mary and Joseph first presented him to God in the Temple. Candlemas also celebrates the Purification of Mary because while at the Temple, the Virgin Mother underwent the purification required 40 days after giving birth. When Christianity spread to Italy and France, recently converted peasants snuck crepes into Candlemas meals as a way to hold onto their pagan tradition of using up all winter grain to ensure the next harvest was a bountiful one. I can't find any Italian or French

who'll admit to pairing their holiday traditions with anything German. And they aren't all that happy that crepes are related to our flap-jacks and johnny cakes but they can't dispute that all three are PANCAKES.

I can't explain it but I don't need researchers to prove the association between Groundhog's Day and Pancake Sausage Suppers. Within driving distance, I found at least 14 such events scheduled this week. So all I can say is, "Please pass the syrup."

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

A Column by Dorothy Rosby

Our Heroine Had a Wonderful Day

Photo by Pixabay I admire people who write novels. When I try writing fiction myself, I get so attached to my main character that I can't bear to have anything bad happen to her. And if nothing bad happens to your main character you don't have much of a story. "Our smart, strong and beautiful heroine woke up refreshed and had another

really great day. As usual, she made only wise decisions, and no one bothered her all day long." My protagonist would be gloriously happy and very nearly perfect, but no one would want to read about her.

You probably don't want to hear that the main character in my posts—me—only makes wise decisions and is nearly perfect either, which is lucky because that would be a lie. I'm able to endure writing about the cold, hard facts of day-to-day life because I only have to do it for around six or seven hundred words. That's another reason it would be hard for me to write a novel. Novels tend to be somewhat longer than that.

I've been writing this blog for an embarrassingly long time—embarrassing because after this long I should be better at it. But one thing I'm really good at is hitting 600 words. After so much practice, everything I write is that long—my grocery list, my will, my thesis. Actually, I've never written a thesis. But if I ever do, I'm sure it will be 600 words long, which means I probably won't pass my doctoral program.

You can see why there probably isn't a best-selling novel in my future—or a doctorate. But there is a literary craze I'm interested in trying because it's shorter than 600 words—one-line poems, six-word memoirs,

five-word stories. I'm not making that up. Don't get too excited though. My posts will never be that short. In fact, I'd call six words a headline. You might call it mercifully short.

Maybe it all started with Twitter. On Twitter you're limited to 280 characters to say all you want to say. And when you see what some people tweet about, you're glad that's all they get.

Of course, before Twitter there was the extremely short, but very important bit of writing, the epitaph. There's even a day set aside for it. Plan Your Epitaph Day will be observed on April 6, because a boring epitaph is a fate worse than death. And mini stories aren't

exactly new. There's that old poignant example of a six-word story: For sale: baby shoes, never worn. It's often attributed to Ernest Hemingway, but many believe it was actually written by that other equally prolific writer, Anonymous. Whoever wrote it, they did it long before Twitter.

This has all been a long way to say I want to try writing short. It just seems easier than writing a novel. Unfortunately, like so many other things, it's easy to do, but hard to do well. When I came across a contest offering a cash prize for a 20-word poem, I was inspired to write this: Of course our fine heroine had another wonderful day. Me being me, what else did you ex-

pect me to say? I didn't submit my poem to the contest.

Then I came up with this for a flash fiction six-word story contest: Our heroine made only wise decisions. I didn't submit that either.

But I do think that even if the judges hadn't liked my six-word story or my 20-word poem, they would have at least finished reading it.

The hardest one for me was the six-word memoir. I wanted to write, "I made only wise decisions" but that would be a lie and you shouldn't lie in a memoir. The best I could do was this little ditty: I'll be sticking to 600 words.

Poetry From Daily Life

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

Poetry from Daily Life: Exploring the world through a poet's eyes

By Georgia Heard

My guest this week on Poetry from Daily Life is Georgia Heard, who lives on Singer Island in South Florida. Georgia started writing poetry when she was 10 years old, penning poems to family members giving them away as birthday presents. She loved working on her new book, "Welcome to the Wonder House," because she wrote it with friend and fellow poet, Rebecca Kai Dotlich. She also loved working on "Boom Bellow Bleat: Animal Poems for Two Or More Voices" because she discovered amazing facts

about animals and their sounds, including that the second loudest creature on Earth is the big-claw snapping shrimp, which is only the size of a pinky finger. A fun fact about Georgia is that she was a professional ice skater when she was young and put herself through college by teaching hockey players how to ice skate. ~ David L. Harrison

Hidden wonders

When they asked the poet William Stafford, "When did you become a poet?" he responded, "That's not really the right question. The question is, when did you stop being a poet? We're all poets when we're young."

Children are natural poets. They see the extraordinary in the ordinary, are filled with wonder about the world, and pay attention to the small things — just as poets do. If you've ever taken a long walk with a young child, you know it can take half an hour to walk one block as they stop to pick up a rock, gaze at a ladybug, or watch a worm wriggle across the sidewalk. As you meander down the street, they ask a lot of questions: Why does a ladybug have spots? How does a tree grow from a seed? Or they might lift up a leaf or an acorn and study it closely.

I remember my own sense of wonder when I was a child; I spent days exploring the creek next to my house in Virginia. This is most likely where I found poetry, although I wasn't aware of it at the time. The creek held a secret world where I lost myself in endless exploration.

Beneath the rocks lived crayfish — these secretive creatures dwelling in the muck and the dark were a mystery to me. Hours slipped by as I gently lifted up rocks and peered beneath them, searching for the hiding crayfish. If I found one, I scooped it into a jar of water and gazed at it: its huge claws, its black beady eyes perched on delicate stalks. Sometimes it would turn to meet my stare, as if it too were curious about

me and the world beyond the creek. It sometimes seemed like an extraterrestrial visitor with which I felt a shared connection.

Even after I released the crayfish back into the creek, it left a mark on my heart. The creek and those crayfish opened up the world of poetry and curiosity — they made me love those creatures, those things in the world, that lay hidden beneath the surface. At first, they might seem strange, but on closer look, bring us a kind of tenderness and love for all that is wild in the world.

I wrote a praise poem for my new children's book, "Welcome to the Wonder House," in gratitude to these wild creatures — especially those that frighten us and are often misunderstood, like the crayfish I spent my childhood observing. Although, this poem doesn't mention crayfish per se, they're there in spirit.

Bristling centipede, Blue-bubbled man-o'-war, Spitting spittlebug. Hail to the hair-raising, hideous, weird, and wild.

If you want to write poetry, grab a notebook, go for a walk, slow down, jot down what you notice, and see the world with the wonder of a child.

Georgia Heard is the recipient of the 2023 NCTE Excellence Award in Children's Poetry and has authored more than 20 books. She is the founder of an online platform, The Poet's Studio, where she and invited guest speakers host writing workshops for both beginning and seasoned writers. You can learn more about Georgia by going to her website, www.GeorgiaHeard.com, and following her on Instagram and X @georgiaheard1.

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**Community Bulletin Board**

<b>Thursday, February 6</b> JH BB Heart of the Plains League Tournament at Burrton *** HS Forensics at Medicine Lodge *** HS Class 1 A Division II Regional Scholars Bow at Jetmore	<b>Thursday, February 13</b> JH BB HOPL Tournament at Burrton
<b>Friday, February 7</b> HS BB at Norwich 5:10 JV Boys 6:00 Varsity Girls 7:30 Varsity Boys ***	<b>Friday, February 14</b> HOMECOMING ** HS BB vs Skyline at HOME
<b>Saturday, February 8</b> JH BB HOPL Tournament	<b>Saturday, February 15</b> HS Forensics at Greensburg *** HS State Scholars Bowl at Elyria Christian-McPherson
<b>Monday, February 10</b> JH BB HOPL Tournament ***	<b>Monday, February 17</b> President's Day *** HS Forensics at Pratt *** NO SCHOOL: Teacher inservice
<b>Tuesday, February 11</b> HS BB at Central Christian	<b>Tuesday, February 18</b> HS BB vs Stafford at HOME *** Senior Night
<b>Wednesday, February 12</b> 7:00 p.m. BOE Meeting	<b>Wednesday, February 19</b> 6:00 Shop Guild at HS shop

*The Community Calendar is sponsored by*



nvalleybank.com Member FDIC

101 E. First Street  
Cunningham, KS  
620-298-2511

**We ALWAYS need photos for the paper!!**

**Libraries**

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

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

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

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

**BOE Will Meet Wednesday Evening**

AGENDA  
Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, February 12, 2025  
7:00 p.m.  
104 W 4th St., Cunningham, Kansas  
Call to Order  
Approval of Agenda (AI)  
Guest Recognition  
Approval of the minutes for the January 22nd regular meeting: (AI)  
Approval of financial reports and payment of bills. (AI)  
Receive Audit  
Stifel presentation- Future finance considerations  
**Reports**  
Superintendent Report – Dr. Arnberger  
Principal Report- Mr. Dunlap  
Special Education Report  
**Old Business**  
Transportation  
Strategic planning update  
Summer project review  
**New Business**  
Executive Session- Negotiations  
Executive Session – Personnel  
Review 2025-2026 Calendar  
Adjournment

**SCCF Testing Pilot Program: Grant Catalog**

South Central Community Foundation is excited to introduce a new pilot program called the Grant Catalog.  
This catalog will allow local nonprofits to submit a short application regarding funding needs for their project or program. The applications will then be made public for SCCF's current fund holders or community members to donate any amount to assist with these projects.  
The Foundation's intent with this program is to allow more opportunities for nonprofits to receive funding and community members to be kept up to date on local needs.  
If successful, this catalog will run in the spring and fall each year, allowing a one stop shop for all local giving needs.  
The Spring Catalog is now available for review and donations will be accepted through April 1st.  
Visit: <https://www.sccfks.org/grant-catalog.cfm>

**Upcoming Auctions**

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  
620-672-6996



**Kingman Historic Theatre**  
*Saturday, February 8*  
**T.G. Sheppard with Kelly Lang**  
**50th Anniversary Concert**  
7:30 p.m.  
Tickets available at [www.outhousetickets.com](http://www.outhousetickets.com)

**Kingman Historic Theatre**  
237 N. Main in Kingman  
(620) 532-1253  
<http://www.kingmantheatre.org/>  
**February 7 & February 9**  
**Dogman**  
**Rated PG**  
All Seats are \$3.00 (cash or local check only)  
**Showtimes:**  
**Friday at 7:30**  
**Sunday at 2:00**  
Thank YOU for supporting YOUR Kingman Historic Theatre.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE  
**BILLIONAIRE'S Banquet**  
Dinner and an interactive Murder Mystery by InCahoots Entertainment  
**SATURDAY 29 MARCH**  
SACRED HEART HALL, CUNNINGHAM  
To Benefit West Kingman Co. Education Foundation Scholarship Fund  
Watch for more details soon!

**Notice from Cunningham Public Library**  
Cunningham Public Library will no longer be accepting batteries to recycle.

**A Winning Game Plan: Drive Sober this Super Bowl**  
The Super Bowl is a time for people to gather and cheer on their favorite team. Before the game kicks off on Feb. 9 in New Orleans, the Kansas Department of Transportation reminds everyone to make a game-winning plan to drive sober.  
Alcohol-related crashes are preventable. Preliminary KDOT data shows that 69 people lost their lives in alcohol-related crashes in Kansas in 2024, and nearly 1,000 others were injured. Drive sober and save lives.  
"Drinking and driving is a choice," said KDOT Behavioral Safety Manager Gary Herman. "Doing so can cause injury or death to the driver, passengers and others on the road. Even one alcoholic drink could affect your ability to drive, and the consequences could be life-altering."  
Before the celebrations begin, create a plan. Hosts should provide non-alcoholic beverages and make sure guests have a safe way to get home. If fans choose to drink, make advance arrangements to use a designated driver, a rideshare or a cab. If a friend is leaving a Super Bowl party impaired, take the keys.  
If you see an impaired driver on the road, contact law enforcement.  
"Remember, in addition to affecting other lives, a DUI can cost thousands of dollars and impact your job as well as the rest of your life," Herman said.  
For more information and resources, visit [www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving](http://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving).

Professional Tax Preparer  
**MAT Enterprise, LLC**  
Income Tax Preparation & Bookkeeping  
Melissa Tetrick  
115 East Ave A - Kingman, KS  
620-532-1477 / [melissatetrick@gmail.com](mailto:melissatetrick@gmail.com)  
Over 35 years' experience. Give me a call for an appointment or just stop by.  
Mon., Tue., Thur. & Fri. – 9:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Wed. 9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Saturday and evening appointments available.

**Swaney Veterinary Clinic**  
Stacie Swaney DVM  
620-532-5544  
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  
**February is National Spay and Neuter Awareness Month**  
Swaney Veterinary Clinic is offering discounts on cat and dog spays/neuters during February.  
Ask about multi-pet discounts that are available.  
Call for prices and scheduling.  
620-532-5544

**Thank you for Supporting The Courier**

**A Ride to Church**

At Cunningham United Church, we believe that no one should miss out on worship due to transportation challenges. That's why we're excited to offer local transport within the Cunningham zip code every Sunday! Whether you're new to the area or simply need a ride, we're here to help you get to church.

Our transportation service will run between 9:30am-10:30am before our service, which begins at 10:45am and ends at 11:45am. We'll also provide a ride back after the service, so you can focus on worship and fellowship without worrying about how to get home.

Our friendly chauffeur, Alan Albers, is happy to assist you in

arranging transportation. Please reach out to him early in the week or before 9:00am on Sundays at +1 (620) 243-2553 so he can make the necessary arrangements.

We value our community deeply and truly believe we're better together. We would love to see you in church, and we hope this service makes it easier for you to join us for worship. Whether you're new to Cunningham United Church or have been with us for years, we welcome you with open arms.

We're saving a seat for you!

#Cunningham United Church #RideWithUs #SundayWorship #CommunityMatters

Pastor Mathew Musyoki Cunningham-Penalosa UMC



**Proverbs 24:23-24**  
To show partiality in Judging is not good: Whoever says to the guilty, "You are innocent" people will curse him and nations denounce him.

submitted by Alan Albers

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



**It Could've Been ...**

Kim Baldwin, McPherson County farmer and rancher

My sister called me out of the blue last week. As her name and face appeared on my cell phone screen, I immediately wondered what was wrong. She's a busy mom shuttling three boys around to practices after school on most week-

nights. I was making sure my kids had their homework done, the TV had been turned off and I was getting everyone ready for bed.

My sister and I don't normally call one another unless it's the weekend. If it's a weekday conversation, it's mostly through text.

I answered. She just wanted to make sure I was home. She couldn't remember if I was traveling that week. My schedule increases during the winter months to attend in-person meetings. Sometimes within driving distance, but mostly

beyond. And that's when she told me. A news alert about a plane originating from Wichita had come across her phone.

A passenger jet. A helicopter. Washington, D.C. A collision.

She was checking on me.

The next morning, I briefly turned on the news. It was all too much. Too close.

I wondered who was on that flight from Wichita and if I knew any of the passengers. Winter meeting season is in full force, and a lot of people I know fly from

Wichita to our nation's capital during this time of the year.

Perhaps those on that plane had walked similar steps to mine when routinely entering the airport in Wichita. Riding the escalator up to go through security. Contemplating grabbing a chicken sandwich or filling up a water bottle before heading to the gate. Hearing "Welcome to Wichita" over the intercom. Gate agents asking passengers to tag their bags. Receiving a welcoming smile from the flight crew while boarding. Texting a loved one with a "See

you soon".

It was all too much. An incredible, incomprehensible sadness nobody should have to face. Yet so many are. A terribly sad accident.

Over the course of the next 24 hours, I turned off the TV. I turned off the radio. I stayed off social media. I couldn't bear the noise. So much noise. The finger pointing. The blaming. The complete lack of decency. The disregard for so many hurting.

It's all so much. So much chatter. So much noise. So much.

And so I sit. And I

pray. I pray for those now facing the unthinkable. And I pray in silence. Avoiding all of the noise. Not adding to the noise. Because that's what I'd want for my family if it had been me.

It wasn't, but it could have been me.

"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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A Column by Dean Marple

**Picking Peas**

By W. Dean Marple

Each morning started with a dance across the sun-splattered linoleum floor. Approach the discolored sink, open the faucet, fill the tea-kettle. Slowly turn to the right and, with a not quite steady hand, guide the kettle to the nearest burner on the gas stove. Reach above the Formica counter, grab a cup, and gather the daily handful of pills. With a

slight limp, turn to the right and hand Nana her chipped cup, the one they got at Yosemite in 1988. Only after all of that did he sit down, slowly, gingerly at first, then with a plop and an emerging grin. Their five-year-old grandson stood in the doorway with his hair in disarray and a sleepy smile on his face. School vacations meant an overnight stay with Nana and Papa, followed by equal amounts of morning hugs and Nana's pancakes.

Twenty minutes later, and after having consumed two large pancakes and a warm glass of

Ovaltine, the kindergartener was dressed, wide awake, and ready to go. "Are we going to plant peas today, Papa? I want to help."

Lying in a rumpled pile on his nana's porch of peeling paint, his abandoned jacket was forgotten, as was her admonishment to wear it. Escaping down the warped porch steps, he didn't walk—he bounced, floated, and head bopped to a beat only he could hear. As random thoughts congealed in his five-year-old head, he jabbered to no one in particular.

"If I stick a dandelion

up my nose, will it come out my ear? Why do I have two eyes but only one nose? Is it scary when you die?"

His thoughts and legs were so much faster than Papa's.

Papa did not bounce. Papa did not float, and he certainly did not glide. He shuffled. Wearing his faded denim jacket over his frayed sweater, he felt the chill and regretted the fact that he wore his Vietnam veteran hat instead of a warm woolen stocking cap. He didn't know about dandelions or eyes vs noses, but he did know about being scared. Hearing one's doctor explain terminal cancer did that to a fellow.

"Kiddo, I've never died, so I don't know about being scared." He knew it was a lie the instant he said it.

"Who's going to die first? You or Nana?"

"Hey, buddy, why all these questions about death?"

"Cause."

"Cause why?"

"Cause I was supposed to be in bed sleeping, but..."

"What? You had a bad dream or something?"

"I heard Mommy and Daddy talking, and Mommy was crying. She said you were going to die."

"Oh."

It was strange how a 30 second pause could seem so long. Long enough for old eyes to moisten. Long enough for the kiddo to forget about peas and Papa to find the garden bench.

"Papa, are you really going to die?"

"Yes." The response came very softly. Maybe saying it quietly softened the blow. Maybe God wouldn't hear the affirmative.

"Can I still talk to you when you are dead?"

"You can talk, but I can't. Who knows, maybe I can listen."

"Like when I say my prayers?"

"Yes, probably something like that."

"Does dying hurt?"

"Not so far."

"Will you wake up after a while?"

"Nope."

"But Nana says if you believe in God, he'll

wake you up some day."

"Maybe."

"Who's going to plant your garden?"

"I think you could do it."

"But I'm just a little boy."

"But you really like peas."

"Why does God let good people die but bad people live?"

"I truly wish I knew the answer to that one. All I know is that I love you bunches and bunches."

Sometimes the number of questions exceeds the number of answers. Sometimes a touch is the best we can do. A little blond head wandered over to the bench and snuggled next to the gray head. They leaned together, and no more questions were asked.

The days grew longer as the peas grew and twined up their bleached wooden trellis. The white blossoms came then fell. Swelling, little green specks became plump peas ready for picking, but only little fingers plucked at them.

Maybe Papa was listening.

**Cunningham Hands of Hope, Inc.**

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

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

**What:** Food

**When:** First Tuesday of the month

**2:00-5:00 p.m.**

**Where:** 117 N Main (Old School Board Office)

**Why:** To provide food assistance to those in need.

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

Do you need assistance outside distribution hours?

Please call 620-770-9507 for immediate food assistance needs. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

**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.

**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

**Church of Christ**

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

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

**1930**

February 7, 1930 – The high school girls' basketball team won games from Turon, 28-13, and Castleton, 31-18, during the past week, while the boys' team went down before Turon, 28-10, but rose up to smack down Castleton, 23-17.

The price of a quarter-section of land near Cunningham was advertised this week at \$10,500.

The Cunningham High School Agriculture Class went out to Tom Sitton's to judge some horses last Thursday.

Roy McNamee shipped a carload of horses and mules to Wichita Wednesday. Mr. McNamee and Mr. Doty drove down Wednesday morning to watch them sell on the market.

The snow on the golf course has disappeared and the golfers are beginning to limber up their limbs swinging at the little white pill.

**1935**

February 8, 1935 – New and longer hours are now effective at the Cunningham Postoffice, according to Postmaster Henry Gibbens. The office will open at six-thirty o'clock each morning to accept west-bound mail, and will remain open until seven o'clock in the evening for the dispatch of east-bound mail.

A two-car accident occurred two and one-half miles north of town, Tuesday evening, seriously injuring three Turon boys driving a Model A Ford coupe, and the lone occupant of the other care, a new 1935 Terraplane. Dr. Ferd Burnett used over thirty stitches in closing the wounds of Harold Dimmick, Eugene Kitson, and Vernon Reed, all of Turon, and Herschel Staats of Pratt.

**1940**

February 9, 1940 – Consecutive victories No. 13 and 14 were chalked up this week by Cunningham's championship basketball team.

Friday night the Wildcats swarmed all over Adams, 39 to 9. The second team pulled the next to impossible, scoring a shutout over the Adams second fidders, 70 to 0.

Tuesday night the locals smothered Zenda under, 30 to 14, in a rough battle on the local court.

Cunningham lost Schwartz and Theis in the rough fray, with Austin Luce pacing the team with 16 points.

Members of the team are Donald Huhman, Delbert Schwartz, Leroy Carter, Austin Luce, James Theis, Don Schreck, and Junior Neagle.

Cunningham Rural High School's Debate Team placed second in the Class C District Debate Tournament at Pratt last week-end. Members of the team are Philip Fee, Alvina Greiving, Grimes Pearson, and Leroy Carter. Their coach is Bruce McCosh.

The Maud School presented the operetta, "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" in the high school auditorium last Friday evening. Members of the cast were Alma Barnes, Mary Cooley, Donna Barnes, Eugenia Cooley, Darlene Kelly, Jerome Irsik, Norma Jean Irsik, and Al Joe Stermeker. Mrs. Clayton Watkins directed the operetta.

**1950**

February 10, 1950 – Colonel John F. Kaster, Judge Advocate of the State Staff of the Kansas National Guard, attended the Federal Inspection of C Battery, 161st Field Artillery of the Kansas National Guard at Pratt Thursday night. This is a new unit and is limited to 15 men at the present time. Later it is expected the strength will be increased to 96 men. Three Cunningham young men, Wilmer Huffman, Jack Watkins, and Robert Urban, were among the first 15 men accepted.

**1955**

February 10, 1955 – Cunningham is contributing generously to the March of Dimes Campaign this year.

The largest single contribution to this worthy cause was the dance in Kingman two weeks ago, Donald Hoagland and his Orchestra of Cunningham provided the music free of charge, and receipts totaled \$192.50.

Three basketball games in the High School Auditorium, Tuesday evening, netted the March of Dimes Campaign a total of \$48.70 - \$36.60 from the game and \$12.10 from the concession stand operated by the Junior Class.

The high school has contributed \$11.96 to the campaign and \$40.52 has been contributed by the grade school.

Cunningham is doing its part to aid this worthy cause.

Friends of Dr. and Mrs. Ferd Burnett have received word that they are enjoying their trip through the southeastern states. They left Key West, Fla., this week for a five-day sojourn in Cuba.

This area of Kansas has been having plenty of weather during the past week. The near-blizzard of last Thursday subsided that night and school was held

Friday. This was followed by several days of thawing weather, during which the precipitation guesses from the several inches of snow say we received over an inch of moisture.

The weather flared up again this Thursday with flurries of snow, accompanied by very stiff cold breezes, forced the closing of school today. Our coldest temperatures of the winter were expected this evening and through the night, when the mercury was predicted to drop below zero.

**1960**

February 11, 1960 – Charles Dafforn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Dafforn, was awarded the coveted Boy Scout God and Country Award during the Sunday morning services at the Methodist Church.

The award was made by Rev. Sidney Dillinger, following the presentation of Scout Dafforn by Scoutmaster Virgil Delinger, and the reading of the requirements and charge of the award by Charles' brother, Life Scout Alan Dafforn.

The local troop is observing National Boy Scout Week during this week, and members are in uniform every day. A color guard has participated in raising the flag at the Post Office each morning.

186 people had chest x-rays during the visit of the Kansas State Board of Health's Mobile X-ray Unit here last Friday.

The unit's visit to Kingman County was made possible by the sale of Christmas Seals by the Kingman County Tuberculosis Association. Mrs. Ferd Burnett is the local chairman.

Kingman County residents purchased a total of \$520,923 in Series E and Series H United States Savings Bonds during 1959, according to a report from L. L. Kabler, Kingman County Savings Bond Chairman.

The total represented 102 percent of the county's 1959 quota.

**1965**

February 11, 1965 – Cunningham's freshman team did something last Saturday that no other Cunningham team has done thus far this year – they beat Sylvia 54 to 51 in a game matching both school's freshman squads.

Frank McClellan paced the Cunningham scoring with 16 points; Jim McCune had 12; Harold Stark 10; Paul Sallee 6; Charles Lackey and Monte Rose 4 each; and Wayne Jarmer 2.

**1970**

February 12, 1970 – The Cunningham Wildcats lost to the Attica Bulldogs here Tuesday by a 66-57 score.

Mike Schrant led the Wildcat scoring with 13 points; Curtis Kitson had 11; Eddie Panek 10; Marvin Oller and Gene Albers 7 each; Mike Cunningham 5 and Steve Albers 4.

The Cunningham Bees defeated the Attica Bees, 58-53, in the preliminary game.

The Nashville-Zenda Thunderbirds upped their season's record to 9-5 with an easy 70-39 victory over Partridge at Zenda last Friday night.

Randy Goetz and Steve Adelhardt had 24 points each to lead the T-Bird scoring. Mark Danahy had 10; Kenny Dirks 8, and Steve Goetz 4.

The N-Z Bees beat the Partridge Bees, 60-45. In the preliminary game.

Cunningham Grade School's basketball teams both advanced their season's records to five wins and one loss with victories over Glendale last Thursday night.

The girls started slowly and trailed 13-11 at halftime, but came on in the second half to win, 34-24. Reta Ratcliff again headed the Cunningham scoring with 16 points; Delores Mertens had 13; Linda Cunningham 4; and Karla Rohr 1. Bonnie Hamlet, Debbie Cain, Lisa Hageman, and Barbara Hansen performed well on defense.

The boys defeated the previously unbeaten Glendale boys by a 36-28 score. A balanced scoring attack was led by Steve Jones with 12 points; Bob Kampling had 8; Mike Oller and Kent Scripsick 6 each; and Jeff McCune 2.

YEARS AGO IN  
*The Cunningham Clipper*  
Publisher: Charles G. Barnes  
Editor: Rex Zimmerman  
Reporter: Marie Ann Mantooth

**1975**

February 7, 1975- Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Kampling and family have moved into the Jack Crick property on Main Street.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Young, formerly of Zenda, have moved into the Amy McClellan property, recently vacated by the Leroy Kampling family.

The first grade has a new boy. His name is Tracy Raney. First graders are reading "Jack and Janet." They have a workbook that goes with it.

They are learning to spell. Miss Mitchell gives them two words a day and Friday they have their spelling test.

There are some students with perfect attendance for the first semester. They are Ryan Ruckle, Charles Thimesch, and Kathy Beat.

The Cunningham Grade School split two basketball games with Abbyville Grade School last Thursday evening. The Cunningham girls were edged by the Abbyville girls 20-19 and the Cunningham boys were victorious by a score of 42-14.

The Cunningham girls, after trailing 12 to 6 at halftime, tied the ball game up at the end of the third quarter, but then got outscored by 1 point in the last quarter. Melva Oller led the Cunningham girls with 8 points, followed by Karen Cornelius with 6, Roberta Thimesch with 3, and Lori Rohr with 2 points.

The Wildcats again displayed a balanced scoring attack with Joe Strohl leading the way with 14 points, followed by Richard Cain with 10, Kevin Huffman with 8, Randy Newman and Wade Ruckle with 4, and Mike Beat with 2 points.

YEARS AGO IN  
*The Cunningham Clipper*  
Publisher: Charles G. Barnes  
Editor: Vickie Lohmann  
Reporter: Florine Kampling

**1980**

February 7, 1980 – At the Kingman County Conservation Annual Meeting on Jan. 10, two students from St. Leo School were honored for being state Winners in the state Conservation Essay Contest. The two students were Jeff Peters and Denise Goetz. Jeff won third place on his essay and Denise was honorable mention on her essay. The parents of the winners are Mrs. Barbara Peters and Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Goetz of Willowdale. Teacher of these students was Sister Mary Rose Engel.

Karen Simon, Nashville, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Simon who is a student at the Brown Mackie College of Salina has been named to the Brown Mackie President's Honor Roll for the 1979 winter quarter.

Robert Schnittker, a sophomore from Cunningham has been elected 1980 vice president of Phi Kappa Theta fraternity at Kansas State University. Schnittker, a graduate of Cunningham High School, is studying general business.

Hutchinson Community College has announced the names of students who earned academic honors for the fall semester. The honor students include: Chris E. Meyers and Janel R. Rohr, both of Cunningham, and John R. Ryan, Arlington, formerly of Cunningham.

**1985**

February 7, 1985 – Retired farmer Ben Depenbusch died Friday, February 1, 1985 at St. Francis Regional Medical Center in Wichita after a short illness. He had lived in Zenda most of his life and was 79 years old.

Mr. Depenbusch was born June 6, 1905, in West Point, Neb. He married Pauline Rohling May 4, 1937, in Cunningham. She survives of the home.

Additional survivors include, sons, Dr. F.L. of Hutchinson, Harold of Columbus, and Richard of Wichita; daughter, Pat Neises of St. Leo; sister, Marie Young of St. Leo; and 10 grandchildren.

Fourth grade news: by Becky Huffman and Patricia Sant: For Open House we had Kansas posers, cartoon character pictures, covered wagons, Kansas and Japanese questions and color-ins; and Japanese reports.

We had fun making and showing the things we made for Open House.

Lunch Menu for Cunningham- Monday: Chili, crackers, pickles, cheese, celery, cinnamon rolls, milk. Tuesday: Chicken patty, mashed potatoes, peas, hot rolls and butter, fruit, milk.

Lunch Menu for Nashville-Zenda – Monday: Beef and noodles, cabbage slaw, biscuits, butter, jelly, orange juice, milk. Tuesday: Porcupine meatballs, broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, cornmeal muffins, Mandarin orange jello, fortune cookie, milk.

The Cunningham Junior High boys defeated Nashville-Zenda 47-6. The bigger, more experienced Wildcats controlled the game from the opening jump. The Wildcats dominated in all areas of the game.

Both teams used their entire benches. The Wildcats received balanced scoring and good defenses off the bench. High scorers for Cunningham were Craig Huhman with 9 points, and Brian Horst with 6 points. Nashville-Zenda was led by Kevin Miller with 4 points, followed by Kevin Adelhardt with 2 points. The Wildcats remain undefeated.

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**CJHS Wildcats** vs Central Christian

It was Make-Up Monday on January 27th at Central Christian. With makeup games squished where we can get them in it feels like tournament week, and we still have 4 regular season games before the tournament. The Wildcats opened up the game like we had not played for a while. Even though we played less than a week ago we have not been tested for quite a

while. The Cougars were equal to the task early. The teams went basket for basket and it was low scoring which played into the Cougar game plan. The second quarter the Cats played faster and more physically on defense, allowing us to score in transition. We made better decisions on offense and built up a 10 point lead by half. The third quarter was more

about the Cats pushing the envelope setting up a solid 4th quarter where we could be patient and look for good shots.

Liam McGuire led the team in rebounds with 10. JP Kerschen pulled in 5. Liam had 4 steals and Colton had 2. Liam had 4 assists with Colton dishing out 3.

-Coach McGuire

Score	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Cunningham	7	14	9	10	40
Central Christian	5	6	2	2	15

**Wildcat Scorers**

Liam McGuire	21
John Paul Kerschen	6
Carson Strohl	4
Brody Halderson	3
Casyn Miller	2
Cooper Neufeld	2
Caden Johnson	2



**CJHS Wildcats** vs Burrton

CJH Boys faced off against Burrton January 30th. We knew going in we would be up against a struggling team, as Burrton has not won a game this season. We knew that we could score 50 or 100 if we really wanted to, but that isn't the example we want to set for future Wildcats or other teams, nor does it benefit us in any way, so we set some new goals for this particular contest. We did our best to get as many players as pos-

sible to score 1-3 baskets. Suiing up 14 and trying to slow the game down is not as easy as it sounds, but the boys rose to the challenge and shared the ball extremely well on offense, achieving our goal of everyone scoring but no one player over 6 points. As a team we had just under 50% field goal shooting with 100% from the line (2-2). On defense, we allowed 9 shot attempts and no makes the entire game. Wildcats played classy ball, and

the Burrton Chargers faithful were very complimentary about how the boys handled the situation. Congratulations, Cunningham! You are raising good ball players and quality young men.

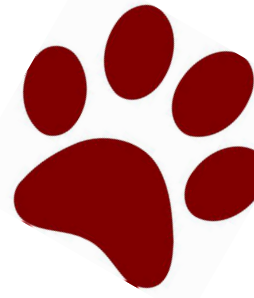
Carson Strol controlled the boards with 4 followed by Colton with 3. Casyn Miller led steals with 3 and Grady Smith had 2.

-Coach McGuire

Score	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Cunningham	15	10	8	6	39
Burrton	0	0	0	0	0

**Wildcat Scorers**

Carson Strohl	6
John Paul Kerschen	5
Colton Rohlman	4
Caden Johnson	4
Casyn Miller	2
Jace Oldham	2
Grady Smyth	2
Jax Thimesch	2
Landon Green	2
Wesly Preisser	2
Cooper Neufeld	2
Landen Hageman	2
Brody Halderson	2
Bryce Simon	2



Brody Halderson



Casyn Miller



Sage Thimesch



Alyssa Osner

Molly Morgan photos

**CJHS Wildcats** vs Skyline



EMPORIA, KS (01/28/2025)-- Emporia State University congratulates the more than 650 undergraduates named to the university honor roll. Students named from this area include:

**Alayna McGuire of Cunningham, Kansas.**

Griffin Wallace of Pratt, Kansas.

To qualify for the university honor roll, students earned a minimum 3.80 semester grade point average in at least 12 graded hours.

About Emporia State University

Emporia State University offers a range of academic programs through its institute and seven schools: Applied Health Sciences, Business & Technology, Humanities & Social Sciences, Interdisciplinary Studies, Library and Information Management & Library and Archives, Science &

Mathematics and Visual and Performing Arts, along with The Teachers College.

As the sole public university in Kansas to be recognized as a College of Distinction for eight consecutive years, ESU stands out for its innovative education practices. It ensures accessible education by offering in-state tuition rates to full-time undergraduate students from all lower-48 United States. Additionally, full-time undergraduates benefit from flat-rate tuition - students enrolled in 12 or more credit hours with at least one credit hour on campus pay a flat rate.

**USD 332 Staff Spotlight: Aimee Ogg, Secretary**

**STAFF SPOTLIGHT**

*Aimee Ogg*

**WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT USD 332?**

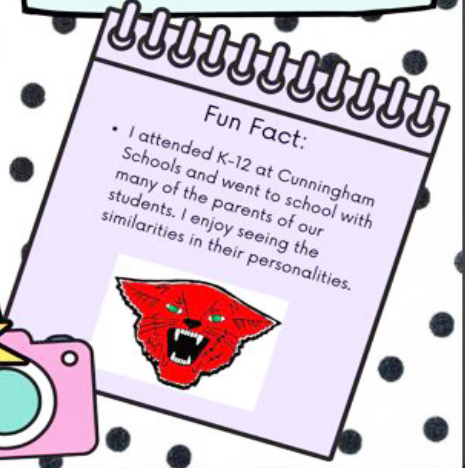
The support the school and students get from the parents and our community members makes Cunningham a great place to work!

**ABOUT ME**

**experience:** 4th year as secretary, 4 yrs. in Cunningham  
**family:** Tony 20 Yrs. - Emily (11th), Katie (8th) and Jonathan (4th)  
**pets:** Lucy the cat  
**hobbies:** Spending time with family/friends, cooking/baking

**FAVORITES**

**food:** Mexican  
**place:** Home or watching my kids play sports  
**book:** No time for reading  
**subject:** Math or science



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**CHS Lady Wildcats** at 54 Classic Tournament



Morgan Oldham



Grace Hageman



Emily Ogg



Kyra Morgan

Molly Morgan photos



Rylee Miller



Macy Neufeld



Ellie McGuire



**Powerlifting Begins**

Great day today lifting at CHS for our Powerlifting Practice Day. The next in-person Powerlifting meet for Cunningham is going to be on Feb. 15th at Larned.

Today Cunningham had several good lifts and we are making improvements on speed and power.

Lifting results for today at Cunningham, congratulations to all the lifters.

**Andrew Schultz**

205 clean PR  
175 bench press  
315 squat

**Stephen Kerschen**

285 clean PR  
260 bench press  
435 squat PR

**Andrew Kerschen**

175 clean  
145 bench press  
225 squat

**Liam McGuire**

175 clean  
170 bench press  
250 squat PR

**John Paul Kerschen**

175 clean  
135 bench press  
250 squat

**Trent Schnittker**

275 bench press  
425 squat

**Skylar Thimesch**

lifting at Wellington

**High School:**

173 weight class  
Clean 200 5th  
Bench 235 5th

Squat 385 3rd

Overall 820 total 5th

Coach Eric Kerschen



Ava Bock



Whitney Mead

**USD 332 Staff Spotlight: Barb Schultz and Sheri Mills, Secretaries**

**STAFF SPOTLIGHT** *Barbara Schultz*

**WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT USD 332?**

I enjoy working in the same place where my kids go to school, in a wonderful family-oriented atmosphere where the staff care about the students like they are their own. I also appreciate the staff who offer help and support while I learn all the new things.

**ABOUT ME**

**experience:** 1st job as secretary, 5 months in Cunningham  
**family:** Tim 23 yrs. - Taylor, Andrew, Ty & Maverick  
**pets:** 2 cats, Tucker Nelson & Pickles  
**hobbies:** Family time is the best, and I love making food for anyone who will eat it!

**FAVORITES**

**food:** I have to pick one?  
**place:** Anywhere with my family, S. Carolina is one of my favorites to visit.  
**book:** Any Christian based story  
**subject:** Art or computer/yearbook

**Fun Facts:**

- I have a teaching degree from KSU and have taught 2nd, 3rd & 4th grade at Pretty Prairie (23 years ago). I have also worked as a para at Kingman High School.
- I've known my husband since I met him in pre-school, graduated HS with him in 1996 and have been together with him for 31 years.



**STAFF SPOTLIGHT** *Sheri Mills*

**WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT USD 332?**

The small class sizes, welcoming environment from students, teachers, and staff. Watching students learn and be excited to be in school.

**ABOUT ME**

**experience:** 5 years  
**family:** Husband Randy (27 years), 2 Daughters: Secily Cameri, 3 Sons: Anthony, Kelden, & Keiden, 2 Son-in-Laws: Rex & Skylar 3 grandchildren with a new one coming in May.  
**hobbies:** I love gardening cooking, baking, and crafting; sewing, crocheting, and using my Cricut.

**FAVORITES**

**food:** Pizza and Mexican  
**place:** Home with family or anywhere with family!  
**book:** The Bible  
**subject:** Art, music and PE



**Fun Facts:**

- I like football... especially the MN. Vikings.
- I also like the snow.



Kingman County Sheriff's Report



<b>Sunday, January 26</b>	
Traffic Stops	8
Civil Paper Service	5
Suspicious Person	NE 40 Ave & E Hwy 54, Kingman
Suspicious Person / Arrest	9000 Blk E Hwy 54, Murdock
Miscellaneous	400 Blk E Burns Ave, Norwich
Miscellaneous	100 Blk S Orange St, Penalosa
<b>Monday, January 27</b>	
Traffic Stop	1
Suspicious Person	13000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney
Transport Prisoner	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Unlock Vehicle	400 Blk E Leiter Ave, Cunningham
Abandoned Vehicle	14000 Blk W Hwu 54, Cunningham
Warrant Service	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Suspicious Activity	2200 Blk E Bluff St, Kingman
Suspicious Activity	401 W Stanley Ave, Spivey
Miscellaneous	400 Blk E A Ave, Kingman
<b>Tuesday, January 28</b>	
Traffic Stops	6
Civil Process	5
Non-Injury Accident	SE 60 St & SE 150 Ave, Norwich
Traffic Complaint	300 Blk E Ave, Kingman
Miscellaneous	15000 Blk NE 50 St, Cheney
Traffic Complaint	S Main St & E Sherman Ave, Kingman
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Disabled Vehicle	W Hwy 54 & N Hwy 11, Kingman
Warrant Service / Arrest	6700 Blk NW 10 St, Kingman
<b>Wednesday, January 29</b>	
Traffic Stops	1
Civil Process Service	6
Miscellaneous	100 Blk S Westview St, Norwich

Miscellaneous	7400 Blk SW 100 Ave, Spivey
Harassment	1600 E Hwy 54, Kingman
Extra Patrol	200 Blk S Parkway St, Norwich
Burglary	E Burns Ave & S Main St, Norwich
Damage to Property	5000 Blk NE 150 Ave, Cheney
Harassment	300 E A Ave, Kingman
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Disabled Vehicle	NE 40 Ave & E Hwy 54, Kingman
Harassment	8300 SW 160 Ave, Nashville
Agency Assist	2000 Blkm E Hwy 54, Kingman
Miscellaneous	1100 Blk N Ekm St, Kingman
<b>Thursday, January 30</b>	
Civil Paper Service	1
Disabled Vehicle	3200 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Non-Injury Accident	W Hwy 42 & SW170 Ave, Nashville
Transport Prisoner	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Transport Prisoner	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Theft	200 Blk S Main St, Kingman
Injury Accident	10000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney
<b>Friday, January 31</b>	
Traffic Stops	6
Civil Paper Service	1
Follow Up	100 Blk W 4th St, Cunningham
Follow Up	200 Blk S Main St, Nashville
Traffic Complaint	9000 Blk E Hwy 54, Murdock
<b>Saturday, February 1</b>	
Traffic Stop	1
Traffic Complaint	1300 Blk W D Ave, Kingman
Suspicious Persons	17000 Blk SW 150 Ave, Nashville
Non-Injury Accident	6000 Blk E Hwy 42, Rago
Miscellaneous	500 Blk W F Ave, Kingman
Miscellaneous	15000 Blk SE 22 St, Cheney
Traffic Complaint	9000 Blk E Hwy 54, Murdock

Letters TO THE Editor

Dear Editor, My name is Justin Swope. In social studies class, we are talking about using our voice in our community. One way to do that is to write the editor. I enjoyed Martha Heller's picture of

birds in the January 16th—25th issue. Everyone needs to know the details of the school board meeting and events with the city. Using your voice and talking to people who make decisions is an important thing

to do. It was great to see a picture of my brother, Blake Swope, shooting a basket. That's a good picture, Molly! Thank you editor for your hard work and for caring for Cunningham. Sincerely, Justin Swope Sixth grade

Dear Editor, My name is Shelby Cluchey. We are studying about our community in Social Studies. I enjoy seeing the pictures of the snow in the January 16, 2025 issue. I also enjoy reading about our Paraprofessionals. They are my friends. The article about Nate

was fun and I remember when he went to school here. It is important to know what our elected officials are doing. The minutes from the county commission meetings keep everyone informed. Thank you for writing our paper for us. Sincerely, Shelby Cluchey 8th grade

84% of Kansans believe government should be required to publish public notices in print and digital newspapers as a service to the community

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Leavenworth County resident

KansasPublicNotices.com

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Statepoint Crossword Theme: Idioms

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ACROSS

- Actor Driver
- By way of
- Bambino
- Oscar De La \_\_\_\_
- \*Do this backwards to try hard to please
- Range
- Petri dish gel
- Celestial bear
- K-pop home
- \*Cold one is offensive
- Sportscaster Andrews
- Outer space path
- Hold title to
- \*Take this to commit to marriage
- Bullet factory
- Even, poetically
- Trim
- Sitar music
- Kon-Tiki and such
- Be in a cast
- Very, in music
- Actress Barrymore
- "Long Day's Journey into Night" playwright
- Between Mar. and May
- Annulling
- Loads
- Compass point between NE and E
- Dugout river ride
- Check-in via text
- \*Sign of nervousness (2 words)
- One up
- Lowest female voice
- One quark plus one antiquark
- Toothpaste brand
- Riddle without solution
- Cogito \_\_\_\_ sum
- \*Leg's partner, price-wise
- Make a mistake
- Robin's house

DOWN

- "Eureka!"
- \*They cause no problems when they sleep
- Nursemaid, in India
- \_\_\_\_ 5, band
- "Il Trovatore" composer
- Garment insert
- Month before Nisan
- Torus, pl.
- Word before sesame
- \*Cupful that's not for everyone
- Adjective derived from bulb
- Distorts
- \*Cutting these leads to poor results
- Prods
- Dot follower
- Lost, in Provence
- Live's partner
- Hungry
- Voting no
- Like Fran Drescher's voice
- Wide open
- Bear digs
- Group of buffaloes
- \*Breaking it relieves tension
- \*When these meet, one can afford what they want (2 words)
- Remote in manner
- Football's extra point
- "The Call of the Wild" author
- Gold bar
- Dig further
- One on artist's wheel
- Communion table
- Feline vibration
- Unit on a list
- \*Easy piece
- Ireland's other name
- Duds
- Edible tuber
- 1990s negation

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**Minutes from the Kingman County Commission**

Chairwoman Lyon called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. January 27, 2025, in the County Commissioners room at the Kingman County Courthouse. Present: Julie Lyon, Chairwoman; Jack Thimesch, Commissioner; Pat Elpers, Commissioner; Carol Noblit, County Clerk;

Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor  
Visitors: Bob Morris, Kingman Leader-Courier; Oleg Alba, Nextera; Allen Anderson, Nextera Attorney Online Visitors: Caller 01; Tammy; Caller; Jerika Staff: Jamie Smith, County Treasurer; LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Amber Hartley, Appraiser; Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director; Amanda Stucky, Zoning Director  
Chairwoman Lyon asked if there were any additions to the agenda.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote 3-0.

Chairwoman Lyon asked if there was any public comment. No comments made. Jamie Smith, County Treasurer was in to request removal of Jerry Henning from all bank accounts and to add Julie Lyon to all bank accounts.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve removal of Jerry Henning from all bank accounts and adding Julie Lyon to all bank accounts. Commissioners approved the motion with a unanimous vote of 3-0.

Mendy Frampton, Expo Center Director was in to discuss the remaining road repairs around the expo and that sealing will be done in the spring.

Ms. Frampton submitted financials for the last quarter. Heather Kinsler, Dispatch Administrator was in to introduce a new dispatcher to the County Commissioners.

LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer was in to review the December financials with the County Commissioners.

Commissioners asked Ms. Stegman if she could get them figures on what 1/2 a percent taxes would look like for a possible issue they were talking about.

Ms. Stegman answered questions Commissioners had on the receipts received.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Elpers moved to go into executive session at 9:30 a.m. with

Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor to discuss pending administrative proceedings pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act for discussion of matters which would be deemed privileged under the attorney-client relationship, an they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 9:45 a.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 9:45 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Elpers moved to go into executive session at 9:45 a.m. with Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor to discuss pending administrative proceedings pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act for discussion of matters which would be deemed privileged under the attorney-client relationship, an they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 9:55 a.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 9:55 a.m. with no action taken.

Tracy Barton, Executive Director of Kansas Natural Resource Coalition and Shawn, Norton County Commissioner were in to let the Commissioners know that their coalition is a coalition of counties, led by commissioners, who monitors and when appropriate intervenes to reduce the impact of the federal government's overreach on member counties and their citizens in the areas of human environment, natural resources, and land use.

Shawn discussed the Coalition and some of the things that the Coalition has accomplished. Commissioners asked what the cost would be to be members of the Coalition.

Ms. Batton let the Commission know that the cost is \$5,000.00 per year. Commissioners approved the summary of transfers and corrections submitted for December 31, 2024, in the amount of \$1,761,193.96.

Oleg Alba, Nextera Energy and Allen Anderson, attorney, were in to discuss the reconstruction process with the County Commissioners.

Mr. Alba let the Commissioners know that they will work with Kirkham Michael on the haul route usage.

Commissioners would like Mr. Alba to communicate with Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director, and Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor, on the haul routes and then they will report to the Commission.

Mr. Alba let the Commissioners know that they plan on starting replacement of components on the Nextera Wind Farm in July 2026.

Mr. Alba discussed with Mr. Arensdorf that his plans are to use the roads and repair them after the project is completed unless there is a safety issue on a road that needs to be addressed.

Mr. Alba let the Commissioners know that the megawatts will go from 200 to 206 with the reconstruction.

Charles Arensd01f, Public Works Director was in with a permit from the following:

1. Northern Natural Gas Company-Road Crossing-Salt Water pipeline-between sections 16 & 21, Township 27, Range !OW (Dresden).

Commissioners opened the following sealed fuel bids:

	Regular Unleaded Transp01t	Reg. Un-leaded Tank Wagon	#1 Diesel	#2 Diesel
KanzaCoop	\$3.10	\$3.30	\$3.32	\$3.02
Skyland Grain	\$2.81	\$2.99	\$3.25	\$2.95

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the fuel bid contract for 2025 from Skyland Grain. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

Mr. Arensdorf discussed equipment pricing information with the County Commissioners.

Christine Crews, Hometown Grants, was in to discuss funding consulting, strategy and grant writing program proposal.

Chairwoman Lyon read a letter from Liberty Township Clerk resigning his position on the Township.

Carol Noblit, County Clerk submitted the January 21st, 2025, Commission meeting minutes for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve the January 21, 2025, Commission meeting minutes for approval. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to do away with the County Facade and Dilapidated Programs. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to not renew services with SCKEDD. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 12:49 p.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

**Minutes from the Pratt County Commission**

The Pratt County commissioners met in regular session Monday, January 27th, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. in the commissioner room, 1st floor of the courthouse. The following members were present: Thomas W. Jones III, Rick Shriver, Morgan Trinkle, Tyson Eisenhauer, county counselor, Cescha Hoffman, county clerk and Mark Graber, IT director.

Heather Morgan, economic development, reported Stafford received a large grant to create a transload facility that will allow farmers to send grain via rail. Heather received word that due to a federal executive order the electric charger project for Pratt and other communities across

Kansas is on hold. The Kansas unemployment report was released this week and showed Pratt is 1% lower than the state average which continues to make the labor market tight for Pratt. Heather's final update was on the city of Sawyer. She has been working closely with Sawyer, Senator Hoffman and the municipal utility origination. The prebid is scheduled and the bid will open in February.

Commissioner Trinkle made a motion to approve minutes from January 13<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Trinkle made a motion to hire Justin Goode for the road dept at \$17.00 an hour. Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to approve the letter of support

for PRMC's tax exempt project. Commissioner Trinkle seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Scott Strong and Willie Jones from Strongs Insurance presented Pratt County's annual insurance renewal with an increase in premiums. Scott reported Pratt County has met all insurance conditions and will be renewed. Tyson asked for an update about the fleet policy. Scott reported he has reached out to EMC for better guidance and will report back when he hears from them.

Jon Roach, noxious weed, requested an executive session for non-elected personal. Commissioner Shriver made a motion to recess into executive session at 2:36 p.m. for ten minutes to discuss hiring. Commissioner Trinkle seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Jones

made a motion to return from executive session at 2:46 with no action taken. Commissioner Trinkle seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

BJ Hayes, emergency preparedness, presented the bags they will be giving all second graders for emergency preparedness. He presented an updated storm spotter guide. Commissioner Shriver made a motion to approve the new guide, Commissioner Trinkle seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

BJ presented an update on bylaws for LPC. No changes were made. Shriver made a motion to approve the LPC bylaws. Commissioner Trinkle seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

BJ presented a new contract for the generator at the public safety building. Commissioner Shriver made a motion to approve the contract

with Foley Cat for the generator. Commissioner Trinkle seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Tyson reported the court will issue their order to sell for the tax foreclosures and he will get that scheduled.

Commissioner Shriver requested to recess into executive session for attorney client privilege at 2:55 p.m. for 10 minutes to discuss LEC move. Commissioner Trinkle seconded the motion. Carried 3-0. Commissioner Trinkle made a motion to return from executive session at 3:05 with no action taken. Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Cescha Hoffman requested an executive session for non-elected personnel. Commissioner Trinkle made a motion to recess into executive session at 3:07 p.m. for 5 minutes to discuss

hiring. Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Trinkle made a motion to come out of executive session at 3:12 p.m. with no action taken.

Commissioner Shriver seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to hire Susan Pixler full-time with no rate change. Commissioner Trinkle seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to approve the payment vouchers from Jan 21st. Commissioner Trinkle seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Shriver motion to adjourn at 3:17 pm. Commissioner Trinkle seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Minutes from the Pratt County Commission**

**Special Meeting**

The Pratt County commissioners met in a special session requested by Chairman Jones, Commissioner Shriver, and commissioner Trinkle on January 27, 2025 at 11:00 am held at the Public Safety Building to discuss general matters with the city of Pratt.

The following members were pres-

ent: Thomas W. Jones III, Rick Shriver, Morgan Trinkle, Tyson Eisenhauer, county counselor, Cescha Hoffman, county clerk and Mark Graber, IT director. Also present, Kyle Farmer, Monte Hostetler, Doug Meyer, Gary Schmidt, Jeanette Siemens, Regina Goff, Brianna Garten, Nate humble, and Cody Smith.

Kyle Farmer, city mayor called the meeting to order at 11a.m.

Bruce Givens, president chair of the Pratt Area Economic Development Corporation gave an

update on their future plans. Bruce reported they would like to work toward a full time economic development employee funded by business partners. County commissioner Shriver expressed concerns of not having adequate housing and child care. Ashley Smith, Economic Development, reported the housing study would be presented in March.

City Commissioner Hostetler said he would be open to asking business to partner with the Economic Development Corporation. Kyle

Farmer, city mayor requested a representatives from economic development present a quarterly update to the city.

County Chairman Jones, and County Commissioner Shriver expressed interest in quarterly reports as well. Both city and county commissioners thanked Bruce for the report.

Regina Goff updated the commissioners on their intention to move forward with moving the city police office from the county law enforcement center to the community center. Police chief,

Nate Humble, thanked the commissioners for coming to the meeting and gave updates on why the move from the LEC to the community center is needed due to lack of space and currently being spread over 3 locations. The east side of the center will become offices for both patrol and detectives and be in one area. No tax increases are expected. Nate expressed he would like to work together with the seniors and commodities and his intention is not to disrupt elections or seniors. Regina reported on utility

cost and how utilities are split at both locations. Commissioner Shriver and county clerk Hoffman expressed concerns over moving the election with regard to election rules and regulations. County Commissioner Trinkle asked about the county funds that have been used to update the east side of the community center.

Regina reported she is gathering information and the city can refund if needed. Larry Eisenhower spoke on improvements made  
*(con't from page 10)*

**KCHS Pets Ready for Adoption**

**Rodeo**

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Nunu is about 4 months old, short-haired and needs a home with a sweet little girl to snuggle with. She has been at the shelter since January 1, and for \$85.00 she can be yours.

**And there is STILL PeeWee**



Abandoned PeeWee really needs a home and someone to love him. He is about 1 and 1/2 years old, He was an inside cat, but was forced to be an outside kitty after his family left him alone. He has been neutered, and vaccinated for rabies, feline leukemia, and distemper. He is a sweet and loveable cat and he needs you to adopt him. Call me at 620-298-2659 and I'll put you in touch with his current caregiver.

He'd be such a perfect pet. If I didn't have all my beasts, I'd take him in a heartbeat.  
--Roberta

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**Daisy**

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Daisy has about the cutest face of any dog ever. This little Beagle is about 1 year old and weighs about 20 pounds. Not a big pup, Daisy. She has been in the shelter care since January 20 and can be adopted for \$180.00. She gets along fine with other dogs and with cats. She's housetrained and loves to be with people.

"Daisy has a heart full of love and a nose for adventure! This sweet girl is searching for a forever home where she can be cherished unconditionally. With her floppy ears and soulful eyes, Daisy will melt your heart instantly.

She's still learning the ropes and would love a patient and dedicated family to help her. Daisy is eager to learn and grow into the perfect companion.

Daisy is enthusiastic and curious, always ready to play or a sniff-filled stroll. She'd thrive in a home where she can get exercise, mental stimulation, and—most importantly—love.

If you're looking for a loyal, affectionate young dog who will be by your side through all of life's adventures, Daisy is the one for you! Could you be the special person she's been waiting for?"

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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Mon., Tues., & Thurs. - 11:00 to 7:30  
Friday and Saturday - 11:00 to 8:00  
Closed Wednesday and Sunday

**Minutes from the Pratt County Commission Special Meeting**

(con't from page 9)

at the community center on the west half. LEC Commission will meet, work out details, and report back to both commissions.

Police Chief Nate humble reported the sheriff and the city police will still be able to communicate and have no issues with communication systems. Cheryl Phye

expressed concerns over space and the possibility of losing the senior area. Both county and city reassured her the seniors would have a place on the west side. Regina thanked the county for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Trinkle made a motion to adjourn at 12:37, commissioner Shriver seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Public Notice**

First published in the Cunningham Courier, Thursday, February 6, 2025.

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:

CECIL D. PRICE, Deceased.

Case No. 2025 PR4  
(Petition Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Kathy D. Price, an heir of Cecil D. Price, deceased, praying:

Descent be determined of the following described real estate, situated in Kingman County, Kansas:

An undivided one-half (1/2) interest in and to:

The Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SW/4 SW/4) of Section Twenty-six (26), Township Thirty (30) South, Range Ten (10) West of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Kingman County, Kansas.

The Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NE/4 NE/4) of Section Thirty-four (34), Township Thirty (30) South, Range Ten (10) West of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Kingman County, Kansas.

The Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NW/4 NW/4) of Section Thirty-five (35), Township Thirty (30) South, Range Ten (10) West of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Kingman County, Kansas.

The North Half of the North Half (N/2 N/2) of Section Twenty-five (25), Township Thirty (30) South, Range Ten (10) West of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Kingman County, Kansas.

The Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SW/4 NW/4) of Section Twenty-five (25), Township Thirty (30) South, Range Ten (10) West of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Kingman County, Kansas.

The South Half of the South Half (S/2 S/2) of Section Twenty-four (24), Township Thirty (30) South, Range Ten (10) West of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Kingman County, Kansas.

and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by decedent at the time of death. And that such property and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by the decedent at the time of death be assigned pursuant to the laws of intestate succession.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before February 25, 2025 at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in the city of Kingman, in 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.

Kathy D. Price

Petitioner  
BY: Matthew W. Ricke  
349 N. Main, PO Box 113  
Kingman, KS 67068  
(620) 532-3103  
Attorney for Petitioner

Please consider volunteering or adopting or fostering or donating to your local Animal Shelter.

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<p>Laubhan, Harbert &amp; Haas, L.C. Certified Public Accountants Complete Accounting Services Tax - Bookkeeping - Payroll - Consulting - Joseph A. Harbert, CPA 217 N Main St. Kingman, KS 67068 620-532-3667 Lorin Haas, CPA 420 S. Jackson Suite 200 Pratt, KS 67124 620-672-3400</p>	<p><b>Child Care</b></p> <p><b>4C</b> Cunningham Child Care Children 8 weeks to 11 years 120 West 3rd Cunningham, KS 620-298-2010</p>	<p><b>Insurance</b></p> <p>State Farm Insurance Jon Wollen, Agent 152 N Main Street Kingman, KS 67068 Bus: 620-532-3179 Toll Free: 800-824-6681 www.jonwollen.com</p>	<p><b>Pharmacists</b></p> <p>Kingman Drug 211 North Main, Kingman Pharmacists on call 24 hours Days - store ph. 620-532-5113 Emergency after hours call Merlin McFarland 620-532-3855</p>	<p><b>Repair Service</b></p> <p><b>BEAT REPAIR</b> TRUCK, TRAILER &amp; TIRE REPAIR 620-589-0114 <b>Services Available:</b> Oil Change New Tires Tire Repair Balance &amp; Rotate 825 E First St Cunningham KS <b>Our Living is Fixing Yours!</b></p> <p>Subscribe to your hometown paper!</p>
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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.  
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The Cunningham Courier.  
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**Public Notice**

First published in the Cunningham Courier, Thursday, January 30, 2025.

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:

DORIS CLOSSON, Deceased.  
 Case No. 2025 PR 3

(Petition Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Diana L. Drake, an heir of Doris Closson, deceased, praying:

Descent be determined of the following described real estate, situated in Kingman County, Kansas:

All that part of Block One (1), North Addition to the City of Kingman, Kansas, described as follows: Beginning at the Northeast corner of Block One (1), North Addition to the City of Kingman, Kansas; thence West along the North line of Block One (1) a distance of seventy feet (70');

thence South at right angles a distance of one hundred fifty feet (150'); thence East at right angles a distance of seventy feet (70') to the East line of said Block One (1); thence North along the East line of Block One (1) a distance of one hundred fifty feet (150') to the place of beginning.

and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by decedent at the time of death. And that such property and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by the decedent at the time of death be assigned pursuant to the laws of intestate succession.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before February 18, 2025 at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in the city of Kingman, in 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.

Diana L. Drake  
 Petitioner  
 BY: Matthew W. Ricke  
 349 N. Main, PO Box 113  
 Kingman, KS 67068  
 (620) 532-3103  
 Attorney for Petitioner

**Public Notice**

First published in the Cunningham Courier, Thursday, January 30, 2025.

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:

MARY AURORA DICK, Deceased.

Case No. 2024 PR 8

**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 January 28, 2025, a Petition was filed in this Court by Edward P. Dick and Gregory M. Dick, duly appointed, qualified and acting Co-Executors of the Estate of Mary Aurora Dick, deceased, praying Petitioners 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 re-

quested 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 Petitioners be finally discharged as the Co-Executors of the Estate of Mary Aurora Dick, deceased, and the Petitioners be released from further liability.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before February 18, 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.

Edward P. Dick and Gregory M. Dick, Co-Executors  
 Matthew W. Ricke, #20995  
 ATTORNEY AT LAW, LLC  
 349 North Main, P. O. Box 113  
 Kingman, KS 67068  
 (620) 532-3103  
 Attorney for Petitioners

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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.

**Vendors Wanted!**

The City of Sharon, Kansas, is having their First Annual "Seed Exchange and Garden Fair!" There is no fee, and we can provide some tables to those who reserve early. Vendor apps can be emailed to you. Call 620-294-5432 or email to sharoncityclerk@outlook.com.

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**Public Notice**

FIRST PUBLISHED IN THE CUNNINGHAM COURIER, THURSDAY, January 23, 2025

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:

STEVEN A. LONG, Deceased.  
 CASE NO. 2024 PR 19

(Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Scott M. Long, duly appointed, qualified and acting Administrator of the Estate of Steven A. Long, deceased, praying Petitioner's acts be approved; account be settled and allowed; the heirs be determined; the Estate be assigned to the persons entitled

thereto pursuant to the laws of intestate succession; fees and expenses be allowed; costs be determined and ordered paid; the administration of the Estate be closed; the Administrator be discharged and Petitioner be released from further liability.

You are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before February 11, 2025, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., in the District Court, 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.

Scott M. Long, Petitioner  
 Matthew W. Ricke  
 Ricke Law Office  
 349 N. Main, PO Box 113  
 Kingman, KS 67068  
 Attorney for Petitioner

**Public Notice**

FIRST PUBLISHED IN THE CUNNINGHAM COURIER, THURSDAY, January 23, 2025

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:

SONIA A. BAKER, Deceased.  
 CASE NO. KM-2024 PR 15

(Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Sheala Cunningham, duly appointed, qualified and acting Administrator of the Estate of Sonia A. Baker, deceased, praying Petitioner's acts be approved; account be settled and allowed; the heirs be determined; the Estate be

assigned to the persons entitled thereto pursuant to the laws of intestate succession; fees and expenses be allowed; costs be determined and ordered paid; the administration of the Estate be closed; the Administrator be discharged and Petitioner be released from further liability.

You are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before February 11, 2025, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., in the District Court, 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.

Sheala Cunningham, Petitioner  
 Matthew W. Ricke  
 Ricke & Ritcha Law Office  
 349 N. Main, PO Box 113  
 Kingman, KS 67068  
 Attorney for Petitioner

## Don Romine

Isabel - Don E. Romine, 77, passed away Monday, February 3, 2025 at Pratt Regional Medical Center. He was born on May 1, 1947 in Nashville, Kansas to Claude Wayne and Eva Ruth (Banks) Romine. Don married Kathleen (Gowens) Romine on September 29, 1978 at the First Christian Church in Cunningham. They were married for 46 years.



Don graduated from Isabel High School in 1965. He went on to trade school in Wichita and Kansas City. He worked for Pratt County Road Department doing road maintenance for 26 years. He enjoyed raising pigs and cattle, farming, vegetable gardening, turning wrenches and spending time with his grandchildren.

He is survived by his children, Steven Romine of Pratt, Wyatt Romine of Isabel, Deanne (Gregorio) Ramirez of St. John and Timothy (Alisha Ward) Romine of Isabel; brothers, Claude "Buddy" Wayne (Janice) Romine of Isabel, Conard (Teresa) Romine of Wichita, David (Marilyn) Romine of Isabel; sister, Glennis (Harold) Vanderbough of St. Peters, Missouri; grandchildren, Kaylah Basoco, Rusty Romine, Samantha Romine, Brittney Romine, Kylee Stareck, Kyler Terryn, Hunter Kring, Addisyn Kring, Trapper Kring, Weston Romine, Cooper Romine, Cheyanne Romine, Eva Romine, Matthew Ramirez, Phoenix Ramirez, Chandler Ramirez, Dausin Romine, Hailey Romine and Riley Romine; and great-grandchildren, Violet, Benjamin, Olivia, Maddilyn, Axel, Izaiah, Kahlieci, D'Angelo and another on the way.

Don is preceded in death by his parents and son, Roger Romine.

Visitation will be Thursday, February 6, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt. Funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, February 7, 2025 at Larrison Mortuary, Pratt with John Hamm presiding. A family burial will follow near Isabel.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Childrens Hospital in care of Larrison Mortuary.

## Eldon Sims

Eldon Wayne Sims, 83, passed away Thursday, January 30, 2025 at Parkwood Village. He was born August 22, 1941 in Pratt to Richard and Dulcie (Grunder) Sims.



Eldon attended and graduated from Byers High School. As an upperclassman, he drove the school bus. From the age of 14, he lived with and helped Ed and Doris Petrowsky on their farm between Iuka and Byers. His father passed away and the Petrowsky's made a home for him, treating him as a son.

As an adult, he enlisted in the Air Force and served his country for 20 years. During his time in the service Eldon was called by his middle name, Wayne, by his military buddies. He achieved the rank of Master Sergeant working in the medical corp as a Radiology Technician. Besides stateside assignments, he also served tours in Turkey and South Korea. In 1989 in the wake of an air disaster in Honduras, Eldon was chosen to be on the forensics team who identified the victim's remains at Dover Air Force base. During retirement, he became a world traveler and videographer and enjoyed morning coffee with his coffee group out at Rick's Restaurant.

Eldon was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Kenneth Sims. Also by Eddie Petrowsky, who considered him a brother.

He is survived by numerous cousins including Lisa Petrowsky, Eleanor Strait and Sharon Dodson and the Petrowsky siblings; Paul, Brenda Ford and Irene Wagner.

Cremation has taken place. A come and go memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 8, 2025 from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. with Military Honors at 3:00 p.m. at Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Rd., Pratt. Inurnment will follow at Arlington National Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Pratt Teen Center and Lemon Park Lights in care of Larrison Mortuary. Online condolences may be made at [www.larrison-mortuary.com](http://www.larrison-mortuary.com).

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## Darlene Studley

Darlene Anna Studley, age 89, of Greensburg, Kansas, passed away peacefully on February 2, 2025, at Kiowa County Memorial Hospital in Greensburg.



Darlene was born on June 13, 1935, to Henry Otto Hoeme and Matilda Briggeman Hoeme. She spent her early childhood on the family farm northeast of Pratt and she and her beloved chickens moved to town to the house her father helped build when she was 13. Darlene's early career began with a job at the soda fountain on Main Street in Pratt. She was a proud Pratt High School Greenback class of 1953 graduate. After graduation she attended Business College in Denver then returned to Pratt. She met Frank L. Studley when he was stationed at the Pratt Air Base when he came to inquire about a room for rent in the basement of their family home. They were married in 1954. After they married, they lived in Great Bend, then Salina where she worked over 26 years as a bookkeeper at Research Products, that later became McShares Inc. After retirement, she and Frank moved to Rogers, AR and later Ottawa, KS. Frank and Darlene loved going camping, boating and fishing and had many fun memories on their travels together.

After Frank's passing in 1998, Darlene remained in Ottawa and worked part time at Kansas State Bank for several years. In 2014, Darlene moved to Greensburg, KS.

She loved playing the organ and recorded some of her music on CDs for the family. As an expert Jello maker, it could always be counted to be on the table for a family meal. Darlene was always well dressed, with a large wardrobe and jewelry collection. She loved to shop and loved to find a sale. She was very skilled at holding a garage sale, so much that shoppers said it was like shopping in a store. She had perfected the art of gift wrapping, always giving beautifully wrapped gifts. She said a gift wasn't about what was inside but about the amount of love that went into wrapping it.

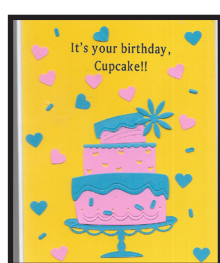
When visiting grandma's house, the grandkids could always count on a Pepsi and Pecan Sandies for a snack and for the TV to be on in the background on QVC, FoxNews or a soap opera. Known as GeeGee to her great grandkids, they are blessed to have had her in their lives and to hear stories of her life. Darlene was proud to be a Hoeme and Briggeman and always enjoyed the annual family reunions over the years.

Darlene is survived by sister Gloria Voge and husband Darwin of El Paso, TX. Children: daughter Ann L. Dixson, husband Bob of Greensburg, son Bryan Studley, wife Gayle, of Ottawa, KS. Six grandchildren, Stacy (Dixson) Barnes and husband Travis of Greensburg, Ashley (Dixson) Petty and husband Clint of Protection, KS, Tanner Dixson and wife Jill of Ellis, KS, Kelsie (Studley) Swain and husband Matt of Pomona, KS, Cole Studley and partner Chelsea McComb of Princeton, KS, and Kaden Studley of Ottawa, KS. Sixteen great grandchildren: Amelia and Truman Barnes, Jett, Judd, Saige, Sloan and Jaide Petty, Wyatt and Lane Dixson, Hensley Swain, Greyson, Brylin, Gavin, and Kale Studley, Paetyn and Christopher Kraus. She is preceded in death by her parents and husband.

Graveside service will be at St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery, Natrona, KS on Saturday, February 8th, 2025 at 2 pm. Reception at the church with the family following the service. Memorials in Darlene's memory may be made to the Kiowa County Senior Center or Kiowa County Memorial Hospital.

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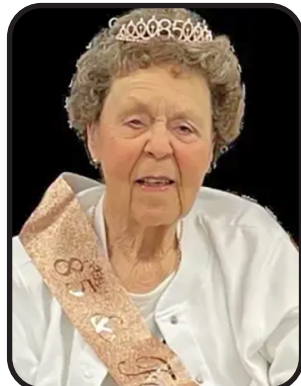
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## Darlene Proctor

Coldwater - Darlene Joyce Proctor, 86, passed away Sunday, February 2, 2025 at Woodward Skilled Nursing and Therapy. She was born on September 10, 1938 in Pratt County west of Iuka to Charles Henry and Frieda Marie (Huebner) Honeman. Darlene attended the rural Golden Valley Grade School and later attended Pratt High School. Darlene majored in accounting and became a book keeper at the Coop station in Pratt. She later worked at the Sears Store where her smile was her trademark. She enjoyed being a part of the Pratt High School "JUCO" & while at a JUCO football game food stand she met a young man, Bill Proctor from Coldwater.



It was God's plan for them to be married in November 23, 1958 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Natrona. Bill's work brought them to Wichita where Darlene found a book keeper position at the airport with a China Crystal Importer. Her career changed to household executive when Terri Lynn was born in August 28, 1961. Soon after Bill's promotion a move to Oklahoma City held new adventures which included becoming a church secretary.

The desire for a small school system for Terri to enjoy and the opportunity to return to the family farm north of Coldwater became a reality in 1968. Darlene helped Bill on the farm. She became a book keeper at the local weekly newspaper for the next 11 years. She became an employee at the County Appraiser office in the courthouse for the next 20 years. Following retirement from the county she became office manager for Husband - Bills Realty Appraisal business and they moved into their Coldwater home in 1998.

Darlene enjoyed traveling, the B.P.W., spending time with grandchildren, flower gardening, square dancing and playing cards.

She is survived by her daughter, Terri Lynn (Ivan) McDow of Woodward, Oklahoma; brothers, Larry (Janice) Honeman of Pratt and Glen Honeman of Iuka; two grandchildren, Thomas (Sarah) McDow of Coldwater and Jessica (Dayton) Davis of Conway, Arkansas; great-grandchildren, Elizabeth, Madi and Ryan Hensley and Joshua and Amelia Davis.

Darlene is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Bill Proctor; infant daughter, Cheryl Ann Proctor; and infant sons, William Edward Proctor, III and William Charles Proctor.

Visitation will be Thursday, February 6, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt. Funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, February 7, 2025 at Larrison Mortuary with Pastor Merlyn Lohrke presiding. Burial will follow at St. Paul Lutheran Church Cemetery, Natrona.

Memorials may be made to The Lutheran Hour at Peace Lutheran Church or St. Paul Lutheran Church in care of Larrison Mortuary.

## Dana McFarland

Dana Diane McFarland, 59, passed away Friday, January 31, 2025 at her home. She was born on April 8, 1965 in Pratt to Don Ray and Gloria (Wilson) McFarland. Dana married Richard Tripp and he preceded her in death.



Dana worked as a dishwasher. She enjoyed watching television and spending time with her family.

She is survived by her children, Jammy (Samantha) Divine, Isaac Divine both of Pratt and Tabatha Blackburn of Dodge City; brother, Eddie (Diana) McFarland of St. John; sister, Tina (Stan) Norris of Pratt; grandchildren, Jeremiah, Andrew, Mya, Icella, Danielle, Gloria, Dominic and Bruce Divine and Ada Lovell; great-grandson, Ethan; special niece, Kylee Norris; and many more nieces, nephews and cousins.

Dana is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Richard Tripp; son, Robert Eugene Divine; sister, Donna McFarland; brother, Donnie McFarland; and nephew, Nate McFarland.

Cremation has taken place. Family will have a service at a later date. Inurnment will be at a later date at Iuka Cemetery, Iuka.

Memorials may be made to Hope Center or Pratt Area Humane Society in care of Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt.

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