

# The Cunningham Courier

September 19, 2024  
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Photo by Josh Theis

## Minutes from the BOE Budget Meeting

The West Kingman County Board of Education budget hearing was called to order at 6:50 p.m. on Monday August 12, 2024, by Vice-President Bjorn Halderson.

Vice-President, Bjorn Halderson; Members, Vicki Oldham, Megan Green, Jason Osner, and Abby Bock; Superintendent, Dr. Kelly Arnberger; Principal, Cody Dunlap; Clerk, Stacy Webster; and Guest, Roberta Kobbe.

Vice-President, Bjorn Halderson welcomed the guest.

Motion made by Jason Osner, seconded by Vicki Oldham to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion was held regarding the proposed 2024-2025 budget.

Member Travis Thimesch arrived to the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Motion made by Jason Osner, seconded by Travis Thimesch, to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.



## Minutes from the August BOE Meeting

The West Kingman County Board of Education meeting was called to order at

7:08 p.m. on Monday, August 12, 2024, by Vice-President Bjorn Halderson.

Vice-President, Bjorn Halderson; Members, Travis Thimesch, Vicki Oldham, Megan Green, Jason Osner, Abby Bock; Superintendent, Dr. Arnberger; Principal, Cody Dunlap; Clerk, Stacy Webster; and Guests, Roberta Kobbe and Sheena Albers.

Motion made by Megan Green, seconded by Abby Bock, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried 6-0.

Vice-President Halderson welcomed the guests.

Motion made by Jason Osner, seconded by Abby Bock, to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2024 regular meeting with amendments. Yeas: Halderson, Thimesch, Oldham, Green, Osner, Bock. Nays: none. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Vicki Oldham, seconded by Megan Green, to approve the payment of bills and the financial reports as presented. Yeas: Halderson, Thimesch, Oldham, Green, Osner, Bock. Nays: none. Motion carried 6-0.

Superintendent Arnberger presented rough drawings of a 2nd gym, spoke about transportation issues and possible

after school program, shared information for the strategic planning time line and EMC insurance quotes then finished up talking about facility use.

Principal Dunlap reported that the schedules are getting finalized for school to start, shared about the safe and secure schools grant we received and informed the board of KSHAA calendar changes that will effect graduation date. The board asked him about pick up and drop off locations for the start of school.

Bjorn Halderson reported that officers were elected, appointments and resolutions were approved, policies were reviewed and the negotiations were approved.

Dr. Arnberger requested a break at 8:20 p.m. until 8:25 p.m. At that time the board returned.

Dr. Arnberger shared updates on building lettering, stop sign, library shelves and concrete.

State assessment scores were discussed as part of the needs assessment.

Motion made by Travis Thimesch, seconded by Jason Osner, to go into executive session with Superintendent Arnberger and Principal Dunlap at 8:50 p.m. to discuss personnel for the non-elected exception under KOMA and will return to open session at 9:05 p.m. in the board room. Motion carried 6-0.

Vice-President Halderson declared the meeting in open session at 9:05 p.m.

Motion made Vicki Oldham, seconded by Abby Bock, to approve Larry

Eisenhauer as HS Boys Basketball Coach for the 24-25 school year. Nays: none. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Travis Thimesch, seconded by Vicki Oldham, to approve Jeanette Rogers as JH Assistant Volleyball Coach for the 24-25 school year. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Abby Bock, seconded by Travis Thimesch, to approve Barb Schultz as Secretary and Food Service Representative for the 2024-25 school year. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Jason Osner, seconded by Megan Green, to adopt Resolution 2025-015 LOB percentage. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Jason Osner, seconded by Travis Thimesch, to adopt the 2024-2025 Budget to address the needs assessment and state assessments as reviewed by the board. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Travis Thimesch, seconded by Vicki Oldham, to authorize Superintendent Arnberger to invest idle funds into a 12 month CD at Ninescah Valley Bank. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Travis Thimesch, seconded by Abby Bock, to approve recommended updates to the work comp policy GAOE. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Megan Green, seconded by Travis Thimesch, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

## Hard to Believe School has been in Session for a Month

As I type this, I wonder at how much has taken place in such a short time. It feels like we started last week. But, that is not the case. Learning has been taking place in our building for almost a month. We are settled into the routine of rigorous learning. Maybe that is why it is hard to fathom the time spent already. Maybe I am just aging.

I appreciate all of you who tune into the weekly "Wildcat Bites" and those learning about and tuning into Mr. Dunlap's podcast, 3-3-2-1-Go. That said, I am also of a generation who likes to relax with a newspaper and a cup of coffee. Reading the paper is like a tether, slow me down, step back from the speed of hurry, a welcome respite. The paper allows me to absorb at my own pace. But I digress, something I also like to do.....chase into the weeds.

What is happening at school? We are putting the finishing touches on the building project. The students are enjoying the new facilities. In fact, for those interested, there is a new com-

munity guild being started this week. See Mr. Huelskamp for details. In short, we are providing an opportunity for the community to make use of the brand new shop facilities as they are truly outstanding.

Landscaping is well underway. I cannot wait until next spring when the new grass fills in and the trees begin to blossom. I am certain the space will be pleasing and inviting to all. We are still waiting on lettering for the new building. It is my hope that when the lettering is placed, it will really highlight the view from main street.

You may have noticed some roof work on the original portion of the elementary school recently. We have replaced the section of the roof covering the elementary school constructed in 1948. The next step will be a cosmetic makeover next summer in that portion of the building. The work will ensure the students of USD 332 enjoy top notch facilities for the entirety of their educational experience.

Academically, our teachers continue to provide optimal learning experiences. We also recognize that beyond academic and athletic activity, we must

provide other opportunities for students to grow. Thus, we have begun an effort this year to systematically provide opportunities for extended learning. We recently hosted a speaker who talked to students about the power of community.

In October, our students and teachers will learn tools to manage their technology to make sure technology remains a tool and not a habit or dependence. In November, our secondary students will receive training on the short and long term effects of vaping and other substances. Please check out our app, website, and other social media for specific dates and times as each activity will include a specific time for community members to attend. We welcome everyone to learn and engage with our students.

There is always so much going on. I am certain I have missed much. But, I have hit the bottom of the coffee cup, so, until next time. Thank you for your support of our students and staff at Cunningham schools.

-Dr. Kelly Arnberger, Superintendent of Schools

## Minutes from the Kingman County Commissioners' Meeting

Chairman Henning called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. September 9, 2024, in the County Commissioners room at the Kingman County Courthouse. Present: Jerry Henning, Chairman; Jack Thimesch, Commissioner; Carol Noblit, County Clerk; Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor

Visitors: Bob Morris, Kingman Leader-Courier; Mr. Carson; Larry Landwehr

Online Visitors: Heather; iPhone; User 1

Staff: Amanda Stucky, Field Appraiser; LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer and Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director.

Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor gave the invocation.

Chairman Henning asked if there

(continued on page 10)

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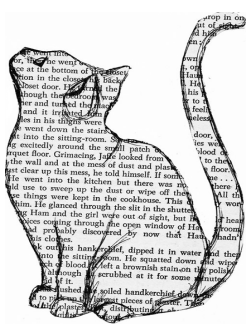
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Meanderings

I worked hard on this edition. I had to squeeze a great deal into these 12 pages. I had enough 'stuff' for 13 pages, but they don't print 13 pages, and I didn't want to just add some 'stuff' to make 14 pages.

Because I had to squeeze so much into these pages, I have little

room left for meandering. And that's okay for this week. \*\* Be sure to read Gaille Pike's bit underneath about gravy. I will admit, gravy isn't a dish I can make well. I just can't get the hang of it. No, no helpful hints,

I've tried them all. I think I just lack the patience. I suppose I make decent gravy, but compared to Mom's and Grandma's it isn't that great. \*\* I had a very successful craft fair turnout on Saturday. I enjoyed meeting new people and visiting with other crafters...

young and old. There are many in this part of the world. I will be at Cessna Fest this Saturday, there under the parking garage. If you venture over to Kingman (instead of Medicine Lodge) be sure to stop by for a visit or to buy a card for someone(s) special.

Always reading, and currently reading a book given to me by Karen Eck, "Karl Jansen's Find", by Mary E. Ropes, Roberta



Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds by Gaille Pike

Dear Readers,

For the next two weeks, I'm making an exception to my rule-of-thumb avoidance of controversial topics. It won't hurt my feelings if you choose not to join me in the exploration of a contentious subject, but please don't bother my Editor or cancel your subscription because you don't approve of my broaching this subject—feel free to chew me out via email at [grp@cotewebsynergy.com](mailto:grp@cotewebsynergy.com).

I believe our peculiar-

ly American mainstay, "gravy," creates division across our Nation, within households, extended families and communities, largely because we don't talk about it. It doesn't help that we are also often oblivious to the acrimonious gravy-attitudes we each bring to the table. Clearly, I can't address all our gravy-issues in one column. Though I do not expect us to mop up our gravy-quagmire in two conversations, I do think it's time to stop being gravy-babies. So let's get started with, "Stickin' our heads in gravy, Part One."

Given gravy's ubiquitous presence among our dietary choices, few facts

about it, or its origin, are available on the internet. Dictionary definitions of gravy are not wrong that gravy as a type of sauce that is NOT called sauce (because sauces are made from "other ingredients" while gravies are only made from meat drippings and juices.) But I'm unconvinced that every sauce made from meat drippings is a gravy. Historians seem to agree that gravy was not "invented," that it evolved as humans began to cook meat. The first written references to gravy are found in Middle English texts written between 1100 and 1500, so some scholars give credit the Brits for what we call

our meat sauces today. These academics claim the English 'gravy' label was derived from 'grave,' an Old French word that means "a seasoned broth or sauce." And voila, the gravy-slinging begins. French experts call the word-borrowing Brits les idiots because they say "grave" means grain. But all you have to do to get the British and French (and pretty much the rest of the world) to put down their ladles and unite in disgust is mention... American gravy. When it comes to what we recognize as gravy, historians agree on only one thing: immigrants brought white and brown/gold/grey

meat gravies to America. MOST historians will say the story that "sawmill gravy" came from 1800s Appalachia here it was a cheap dish fed to sawmill workers is plausible but that there's no evidence it's true. However, many Southerners (and Midwesterners and God only knows who else) take offense to the re-naming of the "country gravy," which depending on their ancestry has at its base either a roux or a béchamel, both considered classic French "Mother Sauces." Both these gravies were a staple of my childhood. Three Master gravy-makers shaped my gravy-attitudes, my

maternal Grandmother and Grandfather and my mother. But I am responsible for the gravy-biases I carried into adulthood and still wrestle with today. I hope you'll join me next week (Part Two) as I explore my "good gravy vs. bad", storebought vs. homemade and cornstarch vs. flour gravy bigotries, and more importantly, consider gravy-etiquette...because sometimes it's challenge (enchilada sauce is NOT chili gravy!) to "live and let gravy-live" .

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



The Punny Farm

Greg Doering, Kansas Farm Bureau My grandfather was always quick with a joke and more often than not the punchline was a play on words. Or, in at least one case a play on letters. My grandparents kept a green glass candy dish on a low bookshelf that was normally stocked with peppermints or caramels, except for one time when my mother removed the lid to find only a slip of paper reading "MT". It

took a couple minutes for her, and everyone except my grandfather, to decipher the message: the bowl was empty. Another time he regaled the entire family with a story about finding a cooler on the side of the road that was filled with ice and a single big toe. After a sufficient windup that involved thinking through exactly who to contact, he ultimately decided the best course of action was to call a tow truck. The comics page in the newspaper was also a frequent source of laughs, with a particularly funny one being clipped out and secured to the refrigerator

door for the occasional reminder to laugh, or double check to see if everyone had read it yet. While situational humor was always welcome, it was the corniest of puns that usually garnered the loudest laughs, whether it was a toe truck or an MT container. There's no shortage of farm-related puns to lighten the mood. Here are just a few examples: A bankrupt rancher has no complaints. Sorry, they have no beef. Be careful when talking to a dairy farmer. You're likely to hear udder nonsense. It's easy to spot a great farmer. They're

out standing in their field. But if they're growing corn, it's also possible they can't find their way out of the maize. Most people don't know the term coward came from a couple of scared cows, or a cow-herd, if you will. A lost steer is a miss-steak. Anyone in the search party can claim to be on a steak out. The key to losing weight is to simply follow what horses do and eat a stable diet. I've always thought mathematicians would make great farmers. They know how to use protractors. Chickens are excellent

musicians. They have their own drumsticks. As with any kind of comedy, timing is everything. I wouldn't suggest workshopping any of these while sorting cattle or immediately after a key piece of machinery breaks down. But in the right spot, they should get a laugh out of just about anyone. One of my favorite puns to use while driving is to loudly shout "hey" and wait for everyone in the vehicle to look before pointing at some haybales in a field. My wife thought it was funny the first time I did it, and now she's doomed to a lifetime of hearing it. It's

OK, she knows who she married. For all the serious issues farmers and ranchers deal with, like unpredictable weather, high prices for inputs and low prices for outputs, sometimes the only thing you can do is laugh at the situation. It might not be every day, but occasionally there's room for pun on the farm. "Insight" is a weekly column published by Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm organization whose mission is to strengthen agriculture and the lives of Kansans through advocacy, education and service. Copyright © 2024 Kansas Farm Bureau,

Poetry From Daily Life

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

Poetry from Daily Life: A visit from a wasp brings inspiration

By Dottie Joslyn

My guest this week on Poetry from Daily Life is Dottie Joslyn, who lives in Springfield, Missouri. She has been writing most of her life in some form, but poetry "landed in me" fairly early, and I've been writing it ever since." Dottie has a published book, "Just Show Up," and she's collecting some of her newer poetry for a second book, which she hopes to publish in the next couple of years. She is a Certified Applied Poetry Facilitator in the field of Poetry Therapy and has worked with people with mental illnesses, as well as other community groups. ~ David L. Harrison

Encounters in our daily lives can be substantial or mundane. I like to find meaning in the mundane, something to examine closely and possibly find a new view or an uplifting discovery. We were given a writing prompt at a retreat last year: to go outside, find something that we noticed with new eyes, and write about it. At first what I saw were

things I expected to see and hear in this out of the way place: colorful fall wild flowers waving in the breeze, the river tumbling over rocks then lapping up on shore, silence. Then, the smallest encounter I found took me into a different world with a perspective I didn't expect. I am not fond of most insects, especially ones that bite or sting, but I sat down on a crumbling rock wall of a raised bed planter and a wasp appeared, her translucent wings spread wide until she landed beside me. At another time, a wasp would cause me to immediately stand up and walk away, but somehow this one seemed benign, maybe even friendly, so I stayed, unmoving, on my rock seat. I don't know how long we stayed there together, but we looked at each other with curiosity, and I talked softly to her. A strange thing happened as I sat there: my world shrunk into hers, and everything became smaller, just the tiny area where we were, surrounded by pieces of earth, grass, sky. A rickety green gate seemed just sturdy enough for me to lean against without falling into the raised bed, so I snuggled into it and watched the wasp flit back and forth from the gate to a half fallen tree just a few wing beats away. Maybe she was taking a breather from being so close to me or just exercising her wings, I don't know. But she kept coming back, and she watched me, her antenna twitching, her green eyes glowing. I wondered what she was thinking about my being there, or if she even had the capacity to think. In any case, she knew I was there, and we communed for a while, I don't know how long. Slowly, I brought out my journal and began to write about her and about us there together. It didn't seem to bother her that I was moving a little, writing about her and our encounter. But the time came when I had to go back to my class, so I moved slowly, putting away my journal, talking to her. She seemed to understand me, and maybe was communicating with me with her twitching antenna, although that was probably imagined

on my part. When I stood up to leave, she remained there on the gate, watching. For a few moments, I was disoriented, coming back to the larger world that I had left a while ago. Reluctantly, I moved away, and she watched me as I stepped back into my world and walked away. Wasp Her iridescent wings unfold, and she glides toward me, eyeing me with her green eyes, then floats away, then back, never far away. I lean in and look her in the eye, and my world shrinks to the green gate where she lands and the ragged tree where she goes to rest. I am entranced by her gaze and wonder what she is thinking, what she sees when she looks at me. She moves closer and cocks her head, unafraid. She twitches her antenna taking stock of me, as I do, her. I am in her realm now. I lean against the gate, but she doesn't move away. The scent of freshly mown grass woven into the damp air engulfs us, and I rest in her presence, eye to eye, until it is time for me to leave. Looking up at the depth of the sky and the wide grounds around me, I am disoriented for a moment as I stand between the two worlds and our existence there together, and she watches as I walk away. Dottie Joslyn has had poems published in several journals and anthologies including: American Tanka, Buffalo Bones, Poetry from the Trail Ridge Writers, Beginning Again: Creative Responses to Poetry of Presence, The Bards of Moon City: An Anthology of Poetry Volumes One and Two, Paddle Shots, Along the Shore: Strategies for Living with Grief, and Gyroscope Review. Her website is [www.joslynpoems.com](http://www.joslynpoems.com)

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Community Bulletin Board

<b>Thursday, September 19</b> JH/HS Cross Country at St. John *** JH VB at South Barber *** JH FB at Fairfield at South Barber	<b>Thursday, September 26</b> JH VB v. Pretty Prairie and Burrton *** HS and JH Cross Country at Larned *** JH FB vs Pretty Prairie and Burrton at HOME
<b>Saturday, September 21</b> JH VB Reno County Sabres Tournament at Sterling	<b>Friday, September 27th</b> K- 2 goes to Exploration Place *** JH to Peace Treaty Re-enactment in Medicine Lodge
<b>Monday, September 23</b> HS JV FB with South Central	<b>Saturday, September 28</b> HS VB at Central Tournament *** HS FB v. Tescott at HOME
<b>Tuesday, September 24</b> HS VB at Attica with Skyline	<b>Monday, September 30</b> HS JV FB at Tescott
<b>Wednesday, September 25</b> 7:00 Book Club	

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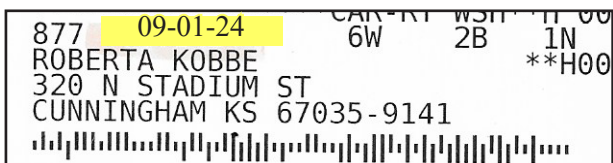
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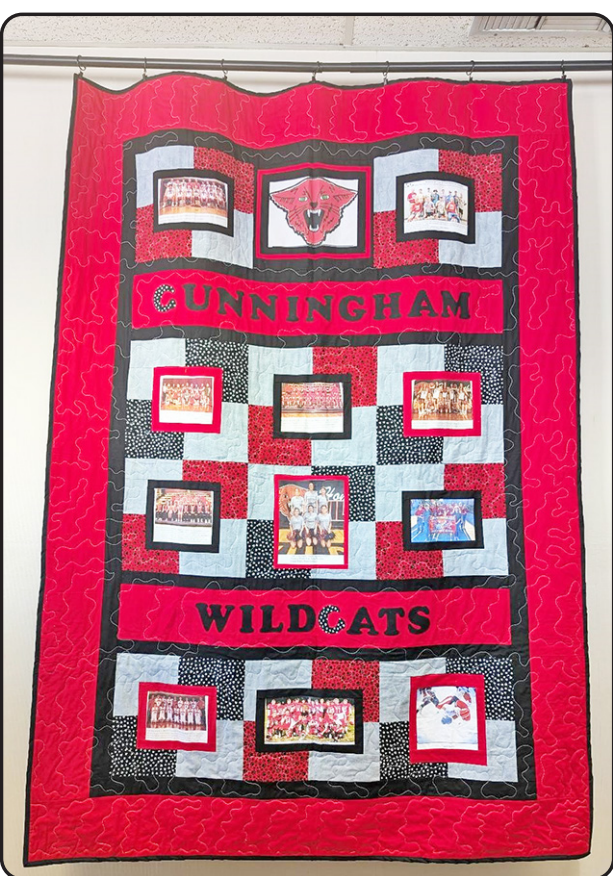
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Quilt Raffle



The Cunningham High School Junior Class is raffling off a memory quilt to raise money for Prom. The quilt is on display at the Ninnescah Valley Bank in Cunningham. You can purchase tickets at all home football games. The drawing will be held at the home football game on October 11th.

Community-Wide Garage Sale

It has been requested that the city have community-wide garage sales this fall.  
The scheduled date is October 12th.  
More information will be forthcoming.



Community Fall Festival will be October 19

A Fall Festival to raise funds for the Cunningham Historical Museum will be held October 19 from 2 to 8 p.m. Join in the fun of a pumpkin carving contest. Main Street business decorating contest. Come and celebrate with food and other vendors. Buy your fall pumpkins in the the pumpkin patch. More information will follow.

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Letters TO THE Editor

Support the Cunningham Historical Museum

by Casey Renner

History isn't for everyone. I'll admit it was not my favorite topic in school. It's simply not everyone's passion or interest, and that's ok. Living in a fast-paced society, many of us don't have the time or capacity to slow down and think of what has been; we are all so focused on what is in front of us and what comes next. That's more than understandable. Considering the recent focus on fundraising efforts for the Cunningham Museum, I thought it an opportune time to express why I personally find the Cunningham Historical Society and Museum so incredibly precious and offer some perspective on why this organization is such a vital part of our small community. So, even if you aren't a history buff, hear me out.

History is the story of change. History demonstrates that while society is ever changing, people still want the same things today that they wanted in previous generations- security, happiness, success, fulfillment, opportunity, and the freedom to maintain and improve upon their way of life. Those who came before us had the same hopes, dreams, fears, struggles, and desires that we have today. They wanted their crops and livestock to thrive, they wanted to have babies and watch their children grow up healthy in safe and happy places, they wanted access to education and infrastructure that supported their health and wellbeing, they wanted opportunities to socialize and worship and play sports. They weren't so different than us. Many of us descend from families that have decades if not a century worth of history right here in Cunningham, Kansas and the surrounding areas. Our last names are scattered throughout our local cemeteries, are still present on our local businesses, are read in the Cunningham Courier, and written on the deeds to our land. Our grandparents, great grandparents, and older generations of family walked the very same ground that our feet stand on today. Our family trees are quite literally rooted in the land and spaces that we look at and work on every single day. That longevity and that legacy means something. It's who we are.

History tells us that without those before us, we would not be here. As we explore our local history, keep in mind our forefathers survived times unimaginable to us today- Civil and World Wars, the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl, the Vietnam draft, the Industrial Revolution, times of global and political upheaval, and (gasp) they did it without the technology and resources we have today. How? How did they survive? How did they manage, how did they thrive? I personally would give anything for the chance to sit down with my Gramps and ask him about those times and his struggles. Though I can't do that, I do feel a sense of admiration every time I walk through the cemetery and see my last name, a name that brings me pride just like I hope yours brings you, and I know that behind every name on my family members' headstones was a very strong person- a person strong enough to survive those unimaginable times, a person who had such resilience they made it though. Because of those people, here I am living a happy life in a safe, clean, wonderful community that I am so very proud of.

That is why history is important. In every act we take to preserve our local history, we show the ones that came before us, related or not, that what they struggled through and what they worked for was not in vain. Supporting our local history is the best way to express our familial and community pride. Take a stroll through our local museum and I guarantee you will find remnants of your own family history there, pictures of your forebears, proof of their struggles and successes. And while you are strolling through, maybe give them and all the previous generations of Cunningham citizens a silent little thank you. If not for them, there would be no us.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Fall Festival to celebrate the season and support our Cunningham Historical Society and Museum.

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**What Is Behind Is Behind**

By Art Fahy

I wish I could tell you it only took a day. I would be happy to say a week, a month or a year. It took longer. Decades to be exact. I fought to let it go. It was like my best friend. Someone I could rely on. All it took was a thought, and I was off and running. This so-called friend had a name. It was called the PAST. I couldn't leave it behind. I was forever dragging it into the present.

I played head games. I would bring up a failed relationship and start the game. Why didn't I say this when she said that. I would change the entire scene to a favorable outcome for me. These head games drove me crazy. I knew this thinking was insane. But it provided a temporary relief from the world outside of me that I didn't know how to cope with. I feared asking for help. I felt it would be better to waddle in my misery with the wrong decision and its consequences than ask for help. One bad decision led to another and then another. They were stacking up and I needed a backpack to get around. It got heavier over the years and slowed me down. I saw and acted all my life through the past that I was hanging onto. My life was one cloudy

day after another. When I wanted to escape reality, I would pull up one of my mistakes from the past. Which one did I want to play in? What will make me feel better right now? Change something from the past for instance saying no to that first drink or relationship.

I carried this habit into my Christian walk. I was relying on these thoughts from the past for peace and comfort. I believed the only one I was hurting was me. Later, I learned I also hurt my Almighty God. My real peace and comfort come from Jesus. He is the only one who has real peace to offer no matter what the secular world wants us to believe. Diving into the past brought me temporary peace and happiness prevailed for a moment. Little did I know every time I dwelled in the past I was moving away from the Lord. This lasted some time even after I accepted Jesus as my Savior. After accepting Jesus, I believed this habitual sin would leave me immediately. To my surprise and disappointment, it did not. I believed once I became a christian my sins would leave me. I thought I would be perfect.

The more I studied God's word I found out this sin nature would be with me until my last breath. The blood of Jesus freed me from being a

slave to sin. Accepting Jesus, as my Lord and Savior, I have received His Spirit. The Holy Spirit can direct me in how to live if I let Him. He will guide me down the path of righteousness when I have an open heart to do God's will. This sin nature must be surrendered to God. Paul writes in Galatians 5:16, "Walk by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh". It took me awhile to leave the past where it belongs behind me. The Holy Spirit has the power to remove any stronghold I am holding onto. My responsibility is to say no to temptation and yes to Jesus.

We as Christians must build our relationship with the Lord with our hearts. We must forget the past and look to the future. In Isaiah 43:18,19 The Lord told Isaiah, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." The way the Lord promises us will elude us if we carry the past into tomorrow. We have a choice. We can live in the darkness of the past or walk in the light of the future the Lord holds for us. Leave what is behind...behind. So, we may enjoy what the Lord has to bless us with in the present.



**Cunningham United Methodist Church**  
invites you to a  
**Worship Service in Lions Park**  
**Sunday, September 22nd**  
**10:45 a.m.**  
**Blessing of seed wheat and Fall harvest crops**  
**Cookout and Games after the Service**  
*Please Join Us*  
*All are Welcome*  
**Please bring a lawn chair**



**The Board Meeting**

"There will be a meeting of the Church Board immediately after the service," announced the

pastor.

After the close of the service, the Church Board gathered at the back of the sanctuary for the announced meeting. But a stranger was in their midst — a visitor who had never attended their church.

"My friend," said the

pastor, "Didn't you understand that this is a meeting of the Board?"

"Yes," said the visitor, "and after today's sermon, I suppose I'm just about as bored as anyone else who came to this meeting."

**The Miraculous Cane**

Bent over and obviously in pain, the old man with a cane hobbled laboriously through the sanctuary and into the

pastor's office while the choir practiced.

Ten minutes later, he came out, walking upright and moving gracefully and quickly.

"Good gracious," the

choir director exclaimed. "Did the pastor heal you by faith?"

"No," the old man said with a smile. "He just gave me a cane that wasn't six inches too short!"



**Check the Blessing Box east of the Methodist Church.**

**Anyone can give or take from the Blessing Box at any time.**

**Cunningham Hands of Hope, Inc.**

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

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

**What:** Food

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

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

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

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

*Do you need assistance outside distribution hours?*

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

**Giving Opportunities in our Community**

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

**West Kingman County Education Foundation**

Use your Dillon's Card! (to donte contact Janet DeWeese 620-298-2717)

**Hands of Hope** (contact any church)

**Cunningham Alumni Scholarship Fund**

(send checks to the West Kingman County Education Foundation)

**Cunningham Community Center** (leave donation at the bank)

**Lions' Club**

**Cunningham Museum** (to donate contact Alan Albers or Mike McGovney)

**Cunningham Public Library** (to donate, contact Kerri Steffen)

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

**Catholic Churches**

**Sacred Heart, Cunningham**  
Saturday 4:00 p.m..

**St. John, Zenda**  
Sundays 10:00 a.m.

**St. Leo**  
Sudnay 8:30 a.m.

**St. Peter Willowdale**  
Saturday 5:30 p.m.

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



**Lutheran Churches**

**St. John, Nashville**  
620-246-5220

**Trinity, Medicine Lodge**  
620- 886-3397

Sunday School & Bible Class  
9:15 a.m.

Sunday School & Bible Class  
9:45 a.m.

Worship Service  
10:30 a.m.

Worship Service  
8:30 a.m.

Pastor vacancy until further notice.



**Church of Christ**

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

**First Christian Church**

**Cunningham**

Sunday School 9:30 am

Morning Worship 10:45

Sunday Evening Worship 6:00

Jr High Youth Group 4:00 pm Sunday

Sr High Youth Group 7:30 pm Sunday

Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00

Pastor Mike McGovney 620-298-3201



**United Methodist Church**

**Penalosa**

Worship 9:15 a.m.

Pastor Mathew Ndambuki Musyoki

620-298-2090

**Cunningham**

Worship 10:45 a.m.



**Zenda Methodist Church**

Worship 9:00 a.m.

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

Pastor J L Nichols 620-243-6953



YEARS AGO IN

*The Cunningham Clipper*

W. A. Bradley / William Bradley

**1929**

Sept. 13 – New Senior Class officers are Joe Pelzl, President; Elsie Crow, Vice-President; and James Hoagland, Secretary-Treasurer. New Junior Class officers are Anna Crow, President; Lulu Cozens, Vice-President; and Audrey Washburn, Secretary-Treasurer.

All businessmen of the city have signed a petition whereby they agree to close their stores at seven o'clock each evening after October 1.

**1934**

Sept. 14 – Twenty local men went to work, Monday, digging ditches for the Kansas Power and Light Company, who are putting in the new gas distribution system in Cunningham. The company stated this week that they would dig free service lines to the customer's house foundation if they would use gas.

Eighty-three students are enrolled in high school this year, according to an announcement by Principal Thomas Richards.

Alois and Albert Laggart of Willowdale, purchased the Cirkel Grocery Store from H. E. Cirkel this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Nixon, who operated a hamburger stand here a few months ago, are back in town with a steel street car, in which they have equipped a dandy little café.

**1939**

Sept. 15 – Skelly Oil Company reported two new gas wells, one new oil well, and one dry hole, and four new locations during the past week in the Cunningham-Cairo Field.

Miss Lola Shelman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Shelman, and Mr. Everett Swander, son of Mr. Lou Swander, were married, Saturday, in Kingman.

Robert Wadlow, tallest man in the world at eight feet, eight inches, will be in Pratt, Friday, at the Orr-Sigley Shoe Store.

**1949**

Sept. 16 – Mr. and Mrs. James Luce announce the engagement of their daughter, Helen, to Bob Long, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lewis.

E. C. Dafforn is the new "Glamour Boy" of Cunningham. Mr. Dafforn had his picture taken with the perennial movie star, Mae West, while vacationing last week in Colorado.

The school lunch room served 167 hot lunches on the first day of its operation. Cooks are Mrs. Myrtle Baber, Mrs. Elsie Simonson, and Mrs. Cleve Baber.

**1954**

Sept. 16 – County Clerk Sylvester Biggs announced this week that the tax levies for 1954 in the City of Cunningham were up about 15 mills to a total tax levy of 63.33 mills, or \$63.33 for each \$1,000 valuation. The 1953 tax levy for Cunningham was 48.60 mills.

The tax mill breakdown is as follows:

State	1.32
County	12.62
City	20.84
District No. 30	13.22
RHS District No. 3	15.08
Cemetery District No. 1	.25
Total	63.33

There are 12 First Graders this year – 6 boys and 6 girls. They are Jimmy Cain, Lloyd Gridley, Don Hellar, Ronald Murphey, Norman Patton, Dennis Raney, Mary Faith Cusenbary, Susan Duncan, Pam Krug, Teresa Rose, Karen Shaffer, and Debby Sheldon.

There are 28 Seniors in this year's class, 16 boys and 12 girls. They are Fred Adelhardt, Victor Becker, Billy Benson, Brenton Bortz, Roger Buntmeyer, Elmer Freund, Charles Garrigues, Leaman Harris, Marcus Huslig, Donald Pelzl, Ronald Peterson, Richard Phillips, Robert Sterneker, Tommy Strickland, Wilbur Tarrant, Charles Thornhill, Carolyn Ball, Johnna Cooley, Lynda Finch, Carol, Glenn, Sue Jarboe, Barbara Johnson, Ruth McClellan, Anita Murphey, Donna Renner, Norma Rose, Bessie Simonson, and Karen Whitmore.

**1959**

Sept. 17 – In compiling a short history of the Cunningham Post Office for the formal dedication ceremony this week-end, it was revealed that the post office location has not moved as many times as we have had postmasters.

The post office has had five locations, included the present one, and seven postmasters, including present Postmaster William E. Thornhill.

The first post office was located about where the Clipper Office is now located; moved to the corner where the Skelly Service Station is now located (that building now houses Ace Cleaners); moved across the street to the rear part of the First National Bank; moved to the east of the Fee Hardware Company, and now in its new location – the first building built according to post office specifications.

The seven postmasters include J. George Smith, George Jones, J. M. Cannon, J. E. Hare, Henry Gibbens, Roy Wetherall, and present Postmaster Thornhill.

Rural Route carriers out of the Cunningham Post Office were and are Frank Shelman, John P. Wymer, John C. Steffen, Ora Anderson, Russell Wilson, W. Verne Bainum, Oren Blackwell, and the present carriers James W. Luce and George L. Urban. Mr. Urban completed 29 years of service July 1, 1959, and Mr. Luce will complete 41 years of service January 1, 1960.

Besides Mr. Thornhill, Mr. Luce, and Mr. Urban, other local post office employees are Mrs. Inez Lash and Mrs. Frances O. Nossaman, Clerks, and Eldon L. Spencer and John Baber, Rural Route Substitute Carriers.

**1964**

Sept. 17 – An all-school party was held last Thursday evening, entertaining the new teachers and new students with a hayrack ride to Cooley's Grove, where the group enjoyed a wiener roast and watermelon feed.

The Better Homes and Gardens Club held their first fall meeting last Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Loren Cooley.

A large audience greeted the grade and high school faculties and their families in the high school gym-auditorium last Friday evening, when the four churches of the community, Christian, Methodist, First Baptist, and Sacred Heart, entertained at a reception in their honor.

The Homemakers HDU met in the home of Mrs. Sylvester Lindemann last Friday afternoon, with Mrs. Harol Baker assisting.

The September meeting of the Past Noble Grand Club was held at the home of Mrs. Harold Schreck, Monday evening.

**1969**

September 18 – A large crowd of school patrons and parents greeted the Cunningham teachers at the school gym-auditorium, Monday evening at a reception hosted by the Cunningham churches and the Cunningham Lions Club.

Rev. Henry Dutcher served as master of ceremonies, and Supt. Milton Brooks introduced all the new teachers.

The program included an accordion solo by Mrs. Mark Osner; a vocal solo by Rogene Cooley, accompanied by Miss Joyce Rogers; and a vocal duet by Linda Cain and Kris Sheldon, accompanied by Mrs. Bill Bradley.

The tea table was centered with a beautiful fall bouquet. The guests were served cookies and punch.

The Community YWCA held their first fall meeting with a salad supper in the United Methodist Church undercroft, Monday evening, Sept. 8.

Forty-five members and guests enjoyed a style show, presented by Joyce's of Pratt. Mrs. Joyce Chadd and Mrs. Shirley Meyers provided the clothes, using local ladies as models.

Mrs. Chas Boen was hostess to the Sunshine Club in her home, Tuesday afternoon, Sept. 9.

The group enjoyed playing games, with Mrs. Willis Welch and Mrs. Frances Nossaman winning high and low score prizes.

YEARS AGO IN

*The Cunningham Clipper*

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Rex Zimmerman

Reporter: Marie Ann Mantooth

**1974**

September 19 – May O'Bryant's 92 birthday and Mr. and Mrs. Burnard Simonson's wedding anniversary were celebrated Sunday, September 8, with a dinner held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Fitzsimmons.

Others present besides the honored guests were Jane and Terry Simonson, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Fitzsimmons, Paula, Dean and Deana, Mr. and Mrs. Preston Smith, all of Cunningham and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Webster and Holly of Raymond, Kansas.

Mr. and Mrs. John Albers and family honored their daughter, Nancy for her 12 birthday on Friday evening, September 6.

Homemade ice cream and cake were served to the honoree, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Wegerer, Kevin and Renee, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Albers and Patrick, and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Albers and Gary.

Mary Oller had an unusual experience last Sunday evening. Mary had attended the Cosmetology Convention in Wichita and had stopped at a restaurant to 'grab a bite' before heading west. While she was eating a fire broke out and the fire units were called and quickly came and extinguished the fire, causing considerable smoke damage.

Maybe you are wondering the thing I did – Yes, Mary finished her meal before returning to Cunningham.

-by Marie Mantooth

School Board: It was suggested that the two boards, Pratt NO. 382 and Cunningham No. 332, get together as soon as possible and review out-of-district requests from patrons of both districts residing in the Cairo vicinity. An agreement, which probably goes back to the early days of unification, 1966, is no longer a guideline for patron requests.

Zenda News: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Morris, Tulsa, Okla., were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Morris. Sunday morning they all visited Mrs. Phyllis Taylor, Medicine Lodge

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Mantooth, Cunningham, called on Mr. and Mrs. Edd Nichols Sunday afternoon.

YEARS AGO IN

*The Cunningham Clipper*

Publisher: Charles G. Barnes

Editor: Scott Newton

Reporter: Florine Kampling

**1979**

September 20 - Harold T. Doherty, 73, died Saturday at Pratt County Hospital. Born Dec. 6, 1905, at Waverley, he married Olean Lafferty in 1925. She died in 1940. He married Rachael Dinger Dec. 6, 1949, at Zenda. He was a farmer.

The grade school softball teams switched positions this week as the girls won 10-7, but the boys lost 14-9, in their games with Sylvia on September 13. Terry Alley pitched a fine game, with 8 strike-outs as the girls won their first game of the year. Debbie and Kathy Beat each had 2 hits to pace the offensive showing, while Linda Sterneker batted in 4 runs.

In the boy's contest, Cunningham couldn't stand prosperity and lost an early lead as Sylvia rallied from behind. Tom Norrish had three hits, with Doug Hageman, Ed Park, and Scott DeWeese adding two hits each. Ahlstedt hit a home run for Sylvia. This loss evens the Cunningham record at 1-1.

September 20 1984 -- Carol Voran, R.R. #3, Kingman, presented the 1984 Kansas State Fair Governor's Cookie Jar. Her winning cookies also placed third in two other divisions. The winning cookie jar was given to Governor Carlin on Thursday, Governor's Day at this year's Fair.

Ruth Bane, Spivey, received a Heart of Kansas Quilters Quilt Award in clothing and Textiles judging at this year's Fair. A first place win with a pattern quilting project earned this special award.

Other Kingman County winners in Clothing and Textiles are Tami Hill, Kingman, second in an unclassified youth project; Jane Meyers, Cunningham, first with a quilted sampler, and Jeanne Theis, Cunningham, third in the same class.

Cunningham Cub Scout Pack #759 placed first in the DaKoy Ya district physical fitness contest held in Wichita September 12. The local boys were defending the championship which they won last year. Seven Cub Scout Packs were represented in the competition. Each Pack was represented by a three member team entering one boy in each of three age divisions (eight, nine and ten years of age). Each boy participated in five events which included: Standing long jump, overhand softball throw, pushups, situps, and the 50 yard dash.

The Cunningham team members included Eric Webster, Chad Webster, and Stephen Petz. Trophies were presented to the first, second, and third place teams. Individual first, second, and third place medals were presented in each age division. Chad Webster placed first in the nine year old division and Stephen Petz placed second in the ten year old division.

Fred Sherman and Alpha Litchfield of Turon and Sylvia played and sang old time songs for residents of Hilltop Manor on State Fair Day.

**Museum Hours**  
**Tuesdays, Thursdays,**  
**and Saturdays**  
**9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

or contact

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

**(Volunteers Needed**  
**at the museum)**

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### Jr. High Wildcats Clip the Titans.

On Thursday, September 12, the Cunningham Jr. High football team played their 2024 home opener against the always competitive Argonia & Attica Titans and escaped with a 20-12 victory. Neither team was able to find the end-zone in the fast moving first quarter, one in which each team only possessed the ball for one possession.

The second quarter was shaping up the same way when the Wildcats were able to finally get on the scoreboard when John Paul Kerschen hit Liam McGuire for a 57-yard catch and run play with 2:39 to go in the first half, the PAT failed, but CJH led 6-0. A&A was able to answer on a 3-yard touchdown run that was set up by a long pass play of their own, the Titans PAT failed, and the score was 6-6 at the half.

Both teams' defenses continued to keep the other team out of the end-zone for much of the 3rd quarter, the Wildcats were aided by an interception by Liam

McGuire. The Wildcats would once again crack the scoreboard when Kerschen and McGuire hooked up again, this time for 23 yards, again the PAT failed, but the Wildcats led 12-6.

The Titans would later tie up the game with just over 2:00 to go in the game on another 3-yard run. With game tied, the Wildcats would take over on their own 15, after gaining five yards on their first play of their possession, they would however lose one yard on the next two plays and faced a 4th and 6 on their own 19. The Wildcats lined up to punt and were able to draw the Titans off-sides, making it 4th and 1 on their own 24.

The Wildcats then decided to go for it on 4th down when Kerschen squirted thought the line and broke off a 56-yard run for a touchdown, this time the PAT was successful on a Kerschen run. The Wildcat defense would then stop the Titans to secure the 20-12 win. The win improved the Wildcats to 2-0 on the season.

-Coach Bart Ricke



Carson Strohl



Molly Morgan photos

### Junior High Lady Cats vs. Argonia and Attica



HarLee Barber



Shandie Romine



Leah Rogers



Mackley Glenn



Addyson Huffman



Jessica Dittmer



Cozy's Pizza  
115 N. Main  
Cunningham,  
KS 67035

620-298-7000

Mon., Tues., & Thurs. - 11:00 to 8:00

Friday and Saturday - 11:00 to 9:00

Closed Wednesday and Sunday



### There's a New Kid in Town!

Familiar league opponent South Barber Chieftains have joined the 6-man Football fun this year. The Cunningham Wildcats opened the season on the road in Kiowa against the Chieftains. South Barber has young, talented athletes and the game plan was pretty straightforward. Start fast, get them on their heels, and secure the momentum early.

After losing the coin toss and Dagim kicking a touchback, the Cats put

the game plan into action. On the first play of the 2024 season, Dylan tackled the ball carrier and forced a fumble. Luke pounced on it to set up great field position. On the third offensive play, Will threw a TD pass to Luke on a very unscripted backyard-looking play. Dagim nailed the Extra Points kick for an early 8-0 lead.

Back on Defense after another touchback, Skyler knocked down a pass and the Cat defense forced a 3 and out. After a punt return, Skyler had back-to-back runs of 10

and 15 yards. Will capped the drive with a 6-yard TD pass to Dylan. Dagim made the kick which made the score 16-0.

The next defensive series was textbook! Skyler got a sack. Stephen got a sack. Then Stephen scored a pick 6 from the 5-yard line. The defensive front and the backs all did a great job of team defense on the series. The kick sailed wide, leaving the score 22-0.

The defense had their one big letdown on the night allowing a big pass play, but no extra point. Score 22-6.

The Cats countered on their next series with an exciting connection from Will to Luke for 37 yards. Skyler chipped in a 16-yard run and a 4-yard TD reception from Will. Dagim made the kick for a 30-6 lead.

The defense allowed a drive even though we got great pressure. We locked down with our backs near the goal line. It took the Cats no time to score, however. Will connected on a short pass to Stephen who took it 69 yards for the TD. Kudos to Luke and company for great downfield blocking.

Dagim made yet another extra point kick for a 38-6 lead.

The second quarter started with a big return from Luke, but a penalty cost some yardage. The Cats then had a rare fumble turnover. Our defense responded by clamping down hard on the home team who went 3 and out. When our offense took the field, Will scrambled 44 yards for a touchdown. Dagim pounded the ball through the uprights for a 46-6 lead.

It seemed that the Cats got hungrier as the game

progressed. Relentless is the word that comes to mind. Skyler gave great pressure and Dylan came out of the pile with a fumble recovery. Will connected with Stephen for a 20-yard gain, but the Cat offense stalled on the doorstep of putting the game away. Dagim hit a 34-yard Field Goal for a 50-6 halftime score.

The Cats did not mess around in the 3rd quarter. Will hit Dylan for a 33 yard TD strike to finish the game. 56-6. - Coach Lance McGuire

### Wildcats Play First Home Game of the Season

There's no better place to be on a beautiful September evening than under the Friday Night Lights. On September 13 the Wildcats hosted Peabody for our home opener.

Peabody is an up and coming team with lots of young talented players. They wanted to measure themselves against the Wildcats in a non-district game, and we happily obliged. The Cats received the opening on-side kick, putting our

offense to work at mid-field. Will completed a 14 yard pass to Luke, backing that play up with a 30 yard pass to Skyler for a touchdown. Dagim completed the first series with an extra points kick.

The Cats were off to an 8-0 lead. After a 3 and out by the defense the Warriors punted the ball to the Cats, and Luke returned it 25 yards to set up the offense. Will rushed for a 20 yard touchdown but there were no points gained on the kick. 14-0 Cats.

The next series was a lot of fun. After holding Peabody's first down play to nothing, Skyler pressured the QB who

retreated too far. Stephen finished the play with a safety! Cats up 16-0. After the safety the Warriors had to kick back to the Cats. Skyler returned the kick 61 yards for the score. Will had the block that sprung it. The extra points kick was good. 24-0 for the home team.

At this point either Peabody woke up or the Cats went to sleep. The Warriors returned the ball to mid-field on the kick off. They had a crazy catch and toss back for good yards and later scored on the Cats. With no extra point the score stood 24-6. The Cats locked in after that.

On the next series Will ran the ball into the endzone for a 45-yard touchdown. No extra point, so the tally was 30-6. On defense Stephen forced a fumble and Skyler recovered the fumble. Will completed a 15 yard pass to Dagim and then a 6 yard TD to Luke. 36-6 after the extra point failed.

The next series needs some explanation. On the first play on defense Luke picked the ball and ran it over 40 yards for a touchdown. There was no whistle but they said he was out of bounds and walked the ball back to mid-field. On the next play, Will ran for a touch-

down and there was a penalty on Peabody. However, there was an inadvertent whistle, so the Cats only gained yards from the original line of scrimmage.

Everyone was confused but the whole situation did not appear to bother the Cats. It's easier to give grace to new officials when you're on the right side of the score and in control of the game. Will connected with Stephen for a 34 yard TD. The PAT was good. 44-6. Overall translation: The experienced Wildcats were not phased by several plays that worked out unbelievably well for the visi-

tors. In the end the Cats scored yet again. Our defense was not done. Stephen got another sack on the defense, getting another 3 and out. The offense jumped on good field position. Will completed a 25 yard pass to Skyler and a 16 yarder to Stephen for the score. No extra point(s), so we were at 52-6. Skyler got another sack. The reserve offense had some good and bad plays. Dylan iced the game by intercepting a pass and running it down deep in Warrior territory. Game over 52-6 at half.

- Coach McGuire



Dagim Reed



## CHS Lady Wildcats This Week



Emily Ogg



Grace Hageman



Macy Neufeld



Janessa Schnittker (JV)

"They remembered volleyball as a laid back backyard barbecue pastime, or a gym requirement. They had no idea how fierce and cool the sport had become, how girls had taken it over."

— Louise Erdrich, LaRose





Kingman County Sheriff's Report



**Sunday, September 8**  
 Traffic Stop 1  
 Injury Accident 5000 Blk N Hwy 14, Pretty Prairie  
 Miscellaneous 300 Blk N Ninnescah St, Kingman

**Monday, September 9**  
 Traffic Stops 8  
 Civil Paper Service 6  
 Found Property 120 N Spruce, Kingman  
 Disabled Vehicle NE 50 St & N Hwy 14, Pretty Prairie  
 Parking Complaint E 1st Ave & N Valley St, Cunningham  
 Follow Up 400 Blk E Leiter Ave, Cunningham

**Tuesday, September 10**  
 Traffic Stops 3  
 Transport Prisoner 120 N Spruce, Kingman  
 Animal Complaint NE 50 St & NE 10 Ave, Kingman  
 Fire / Vehicle 6700 Blk SW 80 Ave, Kingman  
 Miscellaneous 15000 Blk NE Paint Pony Trl, Cheney  
 Disturbance 15000 Blk NE Paint Pony Trl, Cheney  
 Miscellaneous 400 Blk East B Ave, Kingman  
 Traffic Complaint 18000 W Hwy 42, Nashville

**Wednesday, September 11**  
 Traffic Stops 3  
 Miscellaneous 8700 Blk SE Burns Ave, Kingman  
 Non-Injury Accident NE 10 St & NE 100 Ave, Murdock  
 Fire / Pasture 12000 Blk SE 70 Ave, Spivey  
 Disabled Vehicle 2000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman  
 Traffic Complaint SE 60 St & S Hwy 14, Kingman  
 Miscellaneous 120 N Spruce, Kingman  
 Follow Up 1900 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman

Suspicious Vehicle NE 110 Ave & NE 10 St, Kingman  
 Fire / Pasture 12000 Blk SE 70 Ave, Spivey

**Thursday, September 12**  
 Traffic Stops 6  
 Civil Paper Service 4  
 Fraud 120 N Spruce, Kingman  
 Check Welfare 12000 Blk SE 80 Ave, Rago  
 Follow Up 12000 Blk SW 70 Ave, Zenda  
 Disabled Vehicle E Hwy 54 & NE 150 Ave, Cheney  
 Agency Assist 200Blk E H Ave, Kingman

**Friday, September 13**  
 Traffic Stops 6  
 Miscellaneous 16000 Blk SE 90 St, Norwich  
 Traffic Complaint SE 90 St & SE 50 Ave, Kingman  
 Miscellaneous 120 N Spruce, Kingman  
 Warrant Service / Arrest 7400 Blk SW 100 Ave, Spivey  
 Disabled Vehicle 4000 S Hwy 14, Kingman  
 Suspicious Person 15000 Blk NE Countryside Dr, Cheney  
 Non-Injury Accident 800 Blk W D Ave, Kingman  
 Suspicious Person E Hwy 54 & NE 160 Ave, Cheney

**Saturday, September 14**  
 Traffic Stops 6  
 Traffic Complaint 12000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham  
 Traffic / Arrest SW 80 St & SW 90 Ave, Kingman  
 Miscellaneous 200 Blk S Main St, Nashville  
 Traffic Complaint 8000 Blk W Hwy 54, Cunningham  
 Disabled Vehicle NE 30 Ave & NE 50 St, Kingman  
 Check Welfare SE 50 St & S Hwy 14, Kingman  
 Traffic Complaint 14000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney  
 Animal Complaint 18000 S Hwy 14, Rago

Pratt County Commission Minutes

The Pratt County commissioners met in regular session Monday, September 9, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. in the commissioner room, 1st floor of the courthouse. The following members were present: Thomas W. Jones III, Rick Shriver, Dwight Adams, Tyson Eisenhauer, county counselor, Lori Voss, county clerk and Mark Graber, IT director.

Heather Morgan, economic development consultant, reported the county has received Love, Kansas funds. They were deposited and will be distributed to the Pratt Library when instructed. The Kansas water office is doing their second round of water planning. The meetings are being held in Wichita and Newton. She recommends the commissioners attend the one in Newton. The Pratt Area Development Corporation meeting is this week. She stated the grant for the city of Sawyer has not been posted. She will keep checking the status. Chairman Shriver asked if there was a deadline of when it

might run out. She stated it is state ARPA funds and they could run out which is her larger concern.

Jon Roach, noxious weed, gave an update on the areas they have sprayed. The spray system on the side by side and it is not spraying. The cost to replace the system is \$9,719.53 from Fairbank Equipment. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the purchase of the spraying system for the side by side from Fairbank Equipment for \$9,719.53. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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

Tara Pagenkopf, RSVP, presented checks for signatures. She would like to hire Bryant Tatro for \$10.10 per hour for transportation bus driver. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve hiring Bryant Tatro for \$10.10 per hour for transportation bus driver. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Shriver made a motion to re-

cess into executive session at 2:18 p.m. for fifteen minutes to discuss non-elected personnel concerning bus drivers. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Chairman Shriver returned from executive session at 2:22 p.m. with no action taken. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to recess into executive session at 2:23 p.m. for an attorney client matter for fifteen minutes to discuss the tax delinquent lawsuit and the PBC. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Jones made a motion to return from executive session with no action taken. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Doug Freund, road/lake presented bids for two semis from Grask Truck Group of Kansas. He is trading in two and purchasing two new trucks for \$177,000 each minus trade in value for the road department. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the purchase of two trucks for \$177,000 each

minus trade in value. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to recess Into executive session for fifteen minutes at 2:46 pm to discuss attorney/client matter concerning state papers. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to return from executive session at 2:55 p.m. with no action taken. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. DJ McMurry, appraiser, requested an executive session. Commissioner Jones made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 2:56 p.m. for ten minutes for non-elected personnel. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to return from executive session at 3:01 p.m. with no action taken. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

He talked about finding a company to do the appraisal of the ethanol plant. No decision was made.

Darcie Vander Vyver,

health, gave an update on what they are doing right now. They are attending EHR conference to be paid out of workforce funds. The conference is October 3-4, in North Carolina. Flu shots have been received.

Chairman Shriver reminded everyone the RNR/budget hearing is next Monday, September 16, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the payment vouchers for September 9, 2024. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to adjourn at 3:16 p.m. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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

Statepoint Crossword Theme: Greeks and Romans

**CROSSWORD**

- ACROSS**
- Fountain order
  - Christian minister, abbr.
  - Betelgeuse or Deneb
  - Isaac's firstborn
  - Senegal's neighbor
  - Nobody (2 words)
  - Bangladeshi currency
  - Chopin's creation, e.g.
  - Like thick smoke
  - \*Greek goddess in 1995 Woody Allen movie title
  - \*Mars, to the Greeks
  - Ooze out
  - Edible tuber
  - \*Poet of "Aeneid" fame
  - \*\*"Pair of writing tablets"
  - Outrage
  - A small part
  - European currency
  - Jousting pole
  - B & B
  - Sunni religion
  - Et alibi, abbr.
  - Newspaper VIP
  - 4 2 . F i r s t w o m a n , Biblically-speaking
  - Return of disease
  - Washer, during a certain cycle
  - Last month
  - Belittle
  - Taro plant
  - \*Athenian Acropolis tourist attraction
  - Anticipate

- Black-and-white cookie
  - Small European freshwater fish
  - \*#18 Across, to Romans
  - Big cat sound
  - Future atty.'s exam
  - Work units
  - Tight one, in football
  - Sunrise direction
- DOWN**
- Facebook owner
  - Quickly, acr.
  - Hundred thousand, in India
  - Sahara's Berber people
  - R in R.E.M.
  - Wash out with solvent
  - Workbench holding device
  - \*Plato's famous teacher
  - Ripped
  - Black tropical cuckoo
  - \*Not black-figure, but \_\_\_\_\_figure
  - Spacecraft's detachable unit
  - W.E.B Du Bois's org.
  - Oxygen-containing compound
  - \*Olive derivative
  - More reprehensible
  - About to explode
  - Kidney-related
  - Exertion
  - Christmastides
  - Have a hankering
  - \*Poet of "Iliad" fame
  - Ocean motion
  - "Wheel of Fortune" request (2 words)

- \*\*"I, \_\_\_\_"
- Like Bushmills whiskey
- Boston time
- \*Demosthenes of Cicero
- Land parcels
- Conifer's leaf
- New York Jets' quarterback
- Bakery offering
- Pitcher
- "Shoot!"
- Minute opening
- Civil space org.
- #22 Across, pl.
- Left after deductions
- Map abbr.

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## USD 332 Staff Spotlight: Sheena Albers: Kindergarten Teacher and Coach

**STAFF SPOTLIGHT**
*Sheena Albers*

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT USD 332?

**"I enjoy the small school community and being able to see my kids throughout the day!"**

**ABOUT ME**

**experience:** 12 years total, 5 in Cunningham!

**family:** Nick, Kalie, Luke, Rhett, Trey

**pets:** Dog - Missy

**hobbies:** Being outdoors and Visiting family out of town



**FAVORITES**

**food:** Mexican

**place:** The lake on a boat!

**book:** Junie B. Jones with her class

**subject:** No favorite

submitted by Cody Dunlap

### Students Featured in State Fair Showcases

Sterling College Debate/Forensics teams hosted two events at the Kansas State Fair this year. This was the eighth year Sterling College hosted the high school forensics showcase which was held Thursday, September 12. For the second year, the Sterling College team presented the debate exhibition, which was two days before on Tuesday, September 10.

Some 200 Students from numerous Kansas high schools attended the Debates Tuesday which featured Newton, Buhler, and Sterling High School debaters debating this year's resolution. The exhibition was not judged, and winners were not declared. The event acted as a preview of the year to come.

The Sterling High School debate team, coached by David Wilson, included Jamis Hale, Eli Jackson, Kailynn Hartman, Mason Lockhart, and Jackson Mendoza. The Buhler debaters are coached by Dakota Yates and included Rex Bradley, Conner Friars, Aidyn Lewis and Elizabeth Trumpp (two p's). The Newton debaters included Riley Ney, Sophia Reser, Adam Anderson, and Vaden Kurmar and were coached by Rob Eagen.

Another 230 students attended the Forensics Showcase event Thursday. Some brought entire forensics teams and classes and others a few students. "This is a unique event which gives everyone a chance to see a variety of quality forensics pieces and performances from across the state and to

see the level of work being done at all levels from 1A through 5A," said Sterling College Arts Director Dennis Dutton.

Students who had medaled at the State Forensics Championship Tournaments last May were invited to bring their award-winning performances to the State Fair audience. Students performed informative and extemporaneous speeches, pieces of prose and poetry as well as interpretive events like humorous and serious solo acting. While some topics and pieces were dramatic and more serious in nature, others were comic and lighthearted.

Elizabeth Paris from Cunningham High School presented her prose piece for the Forensics Showcase.

"It was impressive to see so many strong performances," said Sterling College Forensics Coach

Ken Troyer who hosted the event. "Students from small 1A schools like Cunningham to large 5A schools like Maize South participated in the Showcase this year. There was a terrific variety, and all the students were talented and could certainly continue performing and competing at the collegiate level."

As the sponsor of the event Sterling College's Forensics/Debate team was highlighted as having a recent national champion novice debater and being consistently named to the top 25 teams nationally. Coach Troyer encouraged all participants and students in the audience to consider participating in debate/forensics at the college level, noting that scholarships in those activities are comparable with athletic scholarships.



Elizabeth Paris

### Two Cross Country Runners Medal

I'm so proud of these kids!! We had our 2nd XC meet at Skyline. We started the day with Gage running his first ever cross country race as a 6th grader running in the 7th grade mile. He had a huge accomplishment of running the entire race without stopping and running a 9:49. Next was Will Halderson and Sean

Kostner in the JV 5K. Will placed 4th in his first ever 5K with a time of 21:35 earning himself a medal. Sean took off over 2 minutes from last year placing 12th in 23:31. Ada finished off the day placing 17th in 25:45 and earning a medal in the varsity girls 5K. These kids ran their hearts out and they sure made mine

swell with pride. Thank you to everyone that was there today to cheer these kids on. We appreciate your support! Our next meet will be next Thursday at the Stafford Country club. Way to go Wildcats!!

-- Coach Ingrid Ricke



Will Halderson and Ada Adams



Gage Dunn



Sean Kostner

### More about Black Kettle

In my last entry I mentioned more history about the Cheyenne Chief, Black Kettle. When I was being taught to teach all subjects when I went back to college at 51 years of age an instructor pointed out to me that the history books are written by the victors. I pointed this out to my students as I taught history at Skyline.

I had attended the Peace Treaty Pageant as a young child but saw it as a victory party for white people here on the Plains. I had only been given the white perspective that civilization was coming to the Plains. The reason that Black Kettle rebelled and tried to end the Treaty was that the tribes were forcibly being removed to Indian Territory in Oklahoma. This meant they were going to be removed from their native hunting land.

Many different tribes have called Kansas and the Great Plains home. Some had already been banished to Oklahoma before this and then more later. The Osage were the last to occupy our home area near Cunningham. Johnny Baber, a long-

deceased friend, had told me his family bought their land east of town from the Osage Tribe. That brings me to a discomforting part about history.

I would prefer that my ancestors were always good guys, but true history doesn't always prove that. While plowing the fields of our family farm I came to realize we couldn't have had a farm and ranch if others before me hadn't removed the earlier occupants. We want to always see ourselves as the good guys, the Native People didn't see us as this.

I see this as happening again in our present time. People don't want to admit their forefathers weren't always correct and they try to rewrite history. I see this happening today with CRT (Critical Race Theory). Instead of admitting that our Country was built partly by the slave labor of Black people, they want to censor books so the European people who immigrated to this country were right in possessing the land. Black Kettle saw this forced removal as wrong.

Earlier in our Plains history, he had a terrible experience with the white

people of our land. The Southern Cheyenne were also native to Eastern Colorado. Four years before the 1868 Peace Treaty, Black Kettle had encampment at Sand Creek in what is now Kiowa County, Colorado. Black Kettle at that time was one of the Peace Chiefs. The Tribe was living on the land that the earlier treaties had agreed upon. The village was flying an American flag and a white flag to show their peaceful intentions. In spite of flying these flags they were attacked on November 29, 1864. Colonel John Chivington (an ordained Baptist minister) ordered the Colorado Territorial militia to attack the sleeping village. Our modern history books tell of the attack in gory details. The raiding troopers not only shot and killed 230 men, women and children; the troopers also mutilated the Native People. Some soldiers cut off body parts and brought them back to Denver as trophies. More about the Massacre at Sand Creek next week.

Again, the Medicine Lodge Peace Treaty is Sept. 27-29th.

--Alan Albers



## KCHS Pets Ready for Adoption

### Chap

Sponsored by The Cunningham Courier



This jolly good Chap is a Border Collie/German Shepherd mix. He is about 3 and 1/2 years old and weighs about 50 pounds. He is outgoing and friendly and housetrained.

He has been at the shelter since August 23. His adoption fee is \$180.00

## Tang

Sponsored by Baker Accounting



Tang is a short-haired orange tabby. He is about 4 months old and weighs in at about 3 and 1/2 pounds. He has been at the shelter since July 16, and his adoption fee is \$85.00



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

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## Minutes from Kingman County Commission

(con't from front page)

were any additions to the agenda.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Chairman Henning asked if there was any public comment.

Mr. Carson discussed his property and it being taken off the Neighborhood Revitalization Program for unpaid taxes.

Chairman Henning let Mr. Carson know that Kingman County has some of the best help if you do not believe it go to any other county.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Carson for coming in and communicating with them.

Amanda Stucky, Field Appraiser was in to request an extension of NRP program for Steve and Tina Watts.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to extend the NRP for Steve and Tina Watts. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Ms. Stucky presented information on a classification change from Agricultural zoning to Rural Residential by Mitchell and Tavish Hall.

Ms. Stucky discussed that Olsson Studios will be here on Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. and would like decision makers in attendance.

Commissioner Elpers let Ms. Stucky know that he will be able to attend

the meeting.

Ed Laverentz was in to give the County Commissioners an update on Horizons East and most of the lots have been sold.

Mr. Laverentz wanted to thank Mr. Goetz for all his help to make it happen and Leslie Schrag for helping set up the RHID.

Andy Albright, Assistant Superintendent USD 331 was in to discuss that the school is looking at getting a new repeater and placing an antenna on the County Tower as a possibility.

Commissioners discussed that the County tower was put up with taxpayer money and the school is funded by taxpayers so there would be no rental fee for them to use the tower.

LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer was in to discuss the Expo Center Cost Analysis that was requested by the Commission.

Ms. Stegman let the Commissioners know that the money to go towards the electrical installed at the Expo Center has been received.

Ms. Stegman discussed Computer counts for replacement due to the Windows 11 upgrade by October of 2025.

Commissioners let Ms. Stegman know that desktops should be replaced before any laptops are replaced.

Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director was in with maps for the Nextera haul route and the new proposed haul route for Kingman Wind Energy I.

Mr. Arensdorf submitted the following permits:

Haviland Telephone Co. -Lay fiber optic cable along the west side of Section 4, Township 30, Range 05 (Bennett)

SC Telcom-Lay fiber optic cable along Sections 27, 32,33, 34,

Township 30, Range 07 (Valley).

Josh Diablo, Kirkham Michael was in with the Kingman County Peters #25 & Belmont #23 Guardrail KM#2312850 & 2405800 quotes received from the following:

L & M Contractors, Inc \$196,089.50

Smiley Concrete LLC \$361,010.50

Engineer's Estimate \$211,290.00

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the quote from L & M Contractors, Inc in the amount of \$196,089.50.

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

Josh let the Commissioners know that the early start date would be October 15, 2024, and should be done by Christmas.

Commissioners signed the notice of award on September 9, 2024, for L & M Contractors, Inc. Project No. 2312850/2405800.

Mr. Arensdorf and Ryan Haukap, Prairie Land Partners in Kingman were in to discuss a 130 HPO Tractor using a Governmental Tractor Rental Agreement with the County Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to allow Mr. Arensdorf the authority to move forward on the governmental tractor rental agreement process. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Mr. Arensdorf let the Commissioners know that the yearly water sampling event field work has been completed at the C/D landfill.

Commissioners signed

abatements.

The County Clerk submitted the minutes of the August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Commission meeting for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve the August 26, 2024, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Commissioners discussed a resolution for the use of social media Affiliated with Kingman County Government.

Commissioners discussed a charter resolution for annual sanitary inspections of school buildings and grounds.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve **Charter Resolution 2024-CR2, A CHARTER RESOLUTION EXEMPTING KINGMAN**

**COUNTY, KANSAS FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF K.S.A. 65-201 ET SEQ., SPECIFICALLY K.S.A. 65-202 SUBSECTION (C) REGARDING ANNUAL SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS BY THE LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER.**

Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 1:00 p.m. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion.

The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

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Seth Thibault, OD  
Andrew W. Piester, OD  
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Pratt, Kansas 67124  
620-672-5934  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. M - F

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Medicine Lodge, Kansas 67104  
620-886-3222  
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1:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
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Andrew W. Piester, OD  
104 West C Ave.  
Kingman, KS 67068  
620-532-3154  
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The Cunningham Courier will again take political ads and opinion pieces... for a price. Political display ads will cost the same as regular ads (\$6.00 per column inch). Political commentaries and opinions will run \$0.10 per word, minimum \$6.00. If you have something to say politically, email your comments to couriernews@yahoo.com.

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**Lois Becker**

Lois Ann Becker, 85, died Sept. 13, 2024, at Colwich Gardens, Colwich, KS.

She was born Dec. 14, 1938, at Nashville, KS, the daughter of Harol and Loretta Spade Baker. A longtime resident of Maize, KS, she was an LPN.

Lois was a member of St. Francis of Assissi Catholic Church, Wichita.

On Sept. 28, 1957, she married Victor Becker at Cunningham. Other survivors include sons Larry (Cherise), Dennis (Karen) and Tim (Brianna); daughter Michele (Jared) Gorges; brother George Baker; sister Carolyn Becker; 12 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a brother Richard Baker.

Family and faith were the cornerstones of Lois's life. She felt such joy helping others.

Parish Rosary will be 7:00 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 19, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Colwich. Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m., Friday, Sept. 20, 2024, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Cunningham. Interment will be at Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery, Cunningham.

Memorials may be made with Enhabit Hospice in care of Livingston Funeral Home.



**Rick Eckert**

Roy "Rick" Allen Eckert, III went home to be with his Heavenly Father on Friday, September 13, 2024.

Rick was born May 2, 1951 to Irene Hunter and Roy Allen Eckert, II at Camp Carson (now Ft. Carson), Colorado.

Both Rick's parents preceded him in death.

Rick grew up in Springfield, Missouri where he attended elementary and high school. He continued his education, graduating from Southwest Missouri State University with a Bachelor of Science in Urban Geography and City Planning and from Ambassador College with a Bachelor of Arts in Speech and Public Relations. Rick also held a Master of Arts in Political Geography from the University of Missouri.

By profession, Rick spent his entire career of more than 30 years in municipal management and consulting, serving as City Administrator in Lake Ozark and Osage Beach, MO; City Manager in Orange Beach, AL; Ketchikan Gateway Borough Manager in Ketchikan, AK, Interim City Manager in Powder Springs, GA; County Manager in Montrose County, CO; and City Manager in Wellington and Pratt, KS. During his career, Rick also served as City Management Consultant and Urban Policy Advisor with the University of Tennessee where he worked with towns and cities around the state to provide municipal management leadership and support. In addition, he spent a year in the United Arab Emirates as a consultant with CH2M Hill where he developed the governance structure for a new city in Abu Dhabi. On returning to the US, Rick continued with CH2M Hill as a project manager in Atlanta, GA where he met the love of his life, Jan, who would become his wife.

Rick was a member of the International City/County Management Association for more than 25 years. His hobbies and interests included photography, wood carving, traveling with Jan, and working outside on the property where they built their home in Pratt. Most of all, Rick's passion was Bible study and research. He and Jan attended Isabel Church of Christ.

Rick is survived by his loving wife, Jan, of more than 14 years. Rick is also survived by three children, Roy Allen Eckert IV (Jessie), Ketchikan, AK; Alanna (Matt) Eckert, Chandler, AZ; Adrian (Nils) Hordon, Cape Coral, FL, a sister, Johanna (Carter) Chadwick, Craig, CO; and four grandchildren, Hunter and Scarlet Eckert and Parker and Garrett Hordon. Extended family members include brother-in-law Bobby (Charlotte) Bryant, Dahlonga, GA; sister-in-law Karen (Paul) Montecalvo, Lula, GA; and cousin, Debbi Roy, Overland Park, KS.

A celebration of life and homegoing was held in the chapel at Larrison Mortuary in Pratt, KS Tuesday, September 17, 2024 with John Hamm officiating. A graveside service will be held at Pine Grove Cemetery, Gillsville, GA Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 11:30 a.m., with Rev. John Wayne Abernathy officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Alzheimer's Association of Central and Western Kansas or to Emmanuel Community Church, Gillsville, GA for the Pine Grove Cemetery Fund.

Larrison Mortuary, Pratt, KS and Little-Ward Funeral Home, Commerce, GA are in charge of arrangements.



**Rick Stimatz**

Rickey Lee Stimatz, 71, passed away at Stafford Co. Hospital on Sept. 8, 2024. Born July 18th, 1953 to parents Gary R. and Maurine L. (Post) Stimatz. Rick grew up South of Macksville graduating in 1971 and later attending FHSU. Rick married Toni L. Bright on Sept. 21, 1974 at New Jerusalem Church in Pawnee Rock, KS. He worked for Mull Land and Cattle for over 50 years. Rick and Toni moved to St. John in 2017 where they took over management of Mid Kansas Ag, Mid Kansas Ag Seed and Squeaks Club after the passing of their son Shane. Rick was an avid trapshooter and loved working with kids teaching his hobby; he also enjoyed working with the St. John trapshooting team. Memberships include the Kansas Trap Shooting Association and the Amateur Trap Association.



Survivors include his wife of almost 50 years, Toni (Bright) Stimatz; a daughter, Lacey Vieux; siblings, Joe Stimatz, Gary (Rita) Stimatz, Lisa Corr (Tom), Jana Stimatz, Kay Stimatz, Jill Stimatz (Michael Osborne), Reba Weisz (Clete); grandchildren, Colton, Brody, and Dylan Vieux

He was preceded in death by his parents; 2 sisters and a son, Shane Stimatz.

Funeral service were held Thurs., Sept. 12, 2024 with Pastor John Hamm presiding. Interment followed at Fairview Park Cemetery in St. John, KS. Memorials are suggested to the St. John Trapshooting team in care of Minnis Chapel, P.O. Box 34, St. John, KS 67576. Condolences may be left at www.minnischapel.net.

**Myrt Goetz**

Myrtle M. "Myrt" Goetz, 81, died Sept. 14, 2024 at Wheatlands Healthcare Center, Kingman.

She was born July 17, 1943, at Garden City, Kansas the daughter of Earl "Bud" and Bessie Wells Tackett. A long-time resident of the Willowdale and Kingman communities, she was employed by Kingman Community Hospital for many years.

Myrt was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, the Altar Society and Daughters of Isabella, all of Kingman.

On Feb. 11, 1972, she married Sylvester "Gus" Goetz at Lakin, Kansas. Other survivors include daughter Sarah Smith and her husband Chad; grandchildren Katlyn, Taylor, Garrett and Harley; and great-grandchildren Evelyn, Lila and Noah. She was preceded in death by her parents; son Earl; brothers Earl "Hop", Doug and Bob.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Friday, Sept. 20, 2024 at the Livingston Funeral Home, Kingman with a parish rosary being recited at 7:00 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:00 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024 at the St. Peter Catholic Church, Willowdale. Burial will be in the St. Peter Cemetery.

Memorials may be made with Kingman Healthcare Services and Wheatland Healthcare Center both in care of Livingston Funeral Home, 1830 N. Main, Kingman, KS 67068.



**A Note of Thanks**

*I would like to send my deep gratitude to the Willowdale Knights of Columbus for hosting my benefit, and also to the Other Guys Band and Derick Poe for providing the entertainment.*

*A special thank you to all who attended, donated and helped with it as well.*

*I am sincerely grateful for each one of you.*

**-Mark J. Rohlman-**

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