

# The Cunningham Courier

July 11, 2024  
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photo by Mike McGovney

## Minutes from June School Board Meeting

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

7:00 p.m. on Monday June 3, 2024, in the gym lobby by President Brent Miller.

President, Brent Miller; Vice-President, Bjorn Halderson, Members, Travis Thimesch, Vicki Oldham, Megan Green, Jason Osner, and Abby Bock; Superintendent, Kelly Arnberger; Principal, Cody Dunlap; Clerk, Stacy Webster; and Guests, Becky and Sebastian Huelskamp, Roberta Kobbe, and Mindy, Jake & Keith from Coryell Roofing.

Motion made by Jason Osner, seconded by Vicki Oldham, to approve the agenda as amended, adding h. Kingman Co Neighborhood revitalization. Motion carried 7-0.

President Miller welcomed the guests.

Motion made by Bjorn Halderson, seconded by Travis Thimesch, to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2024 regular meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Travis Thimesch, seconded by Megan Green, to approve the payment of bills and the financial reports as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Superintendent Arnberger turned the meeting over to Coryell Roofing to discuss with the board options for the Grade School Roof.

Coryell Roofing guests left the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

President Miller called for a break at 7:54 to 7:59 p.m.

Superintendent Arnberger stated that there are new KASB policies that will be reviewed in July. He would like a retreat meeting before the regular July board meeting to discuss those and other items the board would like to add. He also gave an update from the USA conference he and Cody attended.

Principal Dunlap recapped several positive highlights from the last school year. He shared assessment data and an idea he has for students in good standing policies. He then turned the meeting over to Sebastian Huelskamp. Sebastian shared parent e-sport survey results and potential e-sport policies.

Member Bjorn Halderson shared that the coop approved the Lloyd Group as 24-25 auditor and Infinitex for required staff training. He also shared negotiations continue depending on categorical aid outcomes.

Motion made by Vicki Oldham, seconded by Abby Bock, to go into executive session in the Ag classroom with Principal Dunlap and Kelly Arnberger at 8:35 p.m. to discuss personnel for the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA and return to the gym lobby at 8:55 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

President Miller declared the meeting in open session at 8:55 p.m.

Motion made by Jason Osner, seconded by Travis Thimesch, to go into executive session in the Ag classroom with Principal Dunlap and Kelly Arnberger at 8:55 p.m. to discuss personnel for the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA and return

to the gym lobby at 9:05 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

President Miller declared the meeting in open session at 9:05 p.m.

Motion made by Vicki Oldham, seconded by Megan Green, to go into executive session in the Ag classroom with Principal Dunlap and Kelly Arnberger at 9:05 p.m. to discuss personnel and return to the gym lobby at 9:10 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

President Miller declared the meeting in open session at 9:10 p.m.

President Miller declared a break at 9:10 p.m. until 9:15 p.m.

Motion made by Travis Thimesch, seconded by Megan Green, to approve Scarlet Mattal as Custodian. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Travis Thimesch, seconded by Abby Bock, to go into executive session in the Ag classroom with Principal Dunlap and Kelly Arnberger at 9:15 p.m. to discuss Negotiations for the employer-employee negotiations exception under KOMA and return to the gym lobby at 9:30 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

President Miller declared the meeting in open session at 9:30 p.m.

Motion made by Vicki Oldham, seconded by Abby Bock, to go into executive session in the Ag classroom with Principal Dunlap and Kelly Arnberger at 9:30 p.m. to discuss Negotiations for the employer-employee negotiations exception under KOMA and return to the gym lobby at 9:35 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

President Miller declared the meeting in open session at 9:35 p.m.

Motion made by Vicki Oldham, seconded by Travis Thimesch, to approve the 2024-2025 Negotiated Agreement. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Travis Thimesch, seconded by Abby Bock, to approve 24-25 classified staff salaries as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Vicki Oldham, seconded by Jason Osner, to approve a 2500.00 stipend for Principal Dunlap and 3000.00 stipend for Superintendent Arnberger in July 2024. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Abby Bock, seconded by Bjorn Halderson, to approve the addition of a 5% MTSS Supplemental duty position. The position is to be filled by Becky Huelskamp in 2024-2025. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Jason Osner, seconded by Travis Thimesch, to approve the 2024-2025 fee schedule. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Travis Thimesch, seconded by Bjorn Halderson, to approve the food service procurement plan and unpaid meal policy for 24-25. Nays: none. Motion carried 7-0.

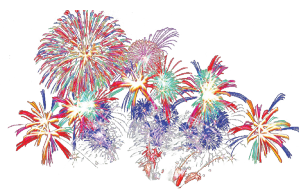
Superintendent Arnberger confirmed July 8th as the next board meeting date. He then opened the discussion for the Kingman Co. Neighborhood Revitalization request. Discussion followed. Dr. Arnberger will gather more information for the July meeting. No action taken.

Motion made by Travis Thimesch, seconded by Jason Osner, to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

## Celebrating Independence Day in Cunningham



*"Blooming under a cold moon,  
we are like fireworks...  
Rising, shining, and finally scattering and fading.  
So until that moment comes when  
we vanish like fireworks...  
Lets us sparkle brightly,  
Always..."*  
— Tite Kubo



Photos by Mike McGovney



*"...now I'm a spent  
firework; but at least  
I've been a firework."*  
— David Mitchell,  
Cloud Atlas



When was the last time **YOU** had a tune-up?

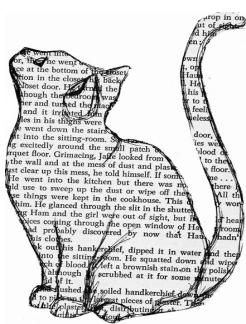
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Meanderings

This little canine companion of mine, Harlequin Jester, or “Quin” as he’s called by his felines and me, is just a spoiled rotten dog. When I first wake in the morning, he sometimes allows me to get up and potty before he starts his demands for pets. And sometimes I have to fight my way off the bed to get

to the bathroom. But once we’re settled back in bed and I start our petting routine, he practically goes comatose. He lays perfectly still, his eyes stare into space, and he just relaxes.

If I didn’t know better, I’d think he was experiencing what it must feel like in an opium den. He likes his tummy rubbed. His ears played with, his elbows rubbed. What is with the elbows? I can just massage his elbows for hours and he’s perfectly content.

When I stop petting or massaging, his tail starts wagging and his head comes up and rests on my shoulder, pleading eyes

on my face. Sometimes I will pet him some more, but I try not to go over 30 minutes. We do have to get up and get stuff done.

He is quite excited as well, when I say, “UP! Let’s eat!” No opium den behavior then, it’s like he’s on crack cocaine and bounces everywhere. Cats usually scatter.

He’s a good little guy to have around, so I suppose I will keep him and continue our morning snuggle sessions.

Good news! I received this message from the Medicare caseworker/liaison in Ron Estes’s office: “I did hear back from our processing cen-

ter, and double checked. Medicare now shows “invalid enrollment” on our end. There was no way to make it disappear completely, but the manager indicates he believes Ms. Kobbe should not have any issues applying for other health care benefits. If she continues to have any difficulties, please let me know.”

I contacted Blue Cross/Blue Shield, and they said it was indeed fixed on their end and they will be running my claims over the past year through their system again. Whew! Now maybe some of my medical bills will get paid, and I might get some reim-

bursement. (HA!)

I do worry, though, that in two years when I do apply for my REAL Medicare, it won’t be an issue. That whole “No way to make it disappear completely” has me worried. BUT I can’t worry about something that is two years down the timeline and may not give me any issues.

Summer is the best time for fresh food. I do love eating corn right off the cob. So easy to fix! If you haven’t tried this, you should: place the ear of corn, husk and all, into the microwave. Cook for about 5 minutes. Cut off the bottom,

grab by the top, and the ear slides right out, completely clean of silks. If cooking more than one, add about one minute per ear. Handle with care.... They are hot, but they stay warm for a nice long time. Now, that being said, I have not yet had the experience of cooking a worm or a bug inside the husk. I am 100% positive I would NOT eat it if I found a cooked worm in it. UGH!

Always reading, and currently reading, “Cool Repentance” by Antonia Fraser, Roberta

Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds by Gaille Pike

Dear Readers,

The tomatoes are blushing in hues ranging from chagrined pinks to cheeky cherry while my canna buds swell, candy-cane petals tightly wound in a spire, waiting to unfurl. And with sixty feet of proudly waving blue and white wild buttoned bachelor flowers, this natural bunting gives the yard a distinctly patriotic flare. I expected Morther Nature’s stars and stripes

salute to fade in the two inches of rain fell in the last 48 hours but it remains unfazed. But now it threads through vegetation exploding in greens and golds. Red, white and blue may herald Summer’s arrival but this month, the Flint Hills are showered in emeralds and ambers.

For those of us that can see color, the internet says we can distinguish around 300 shades of green, which is more than we can for any other, out of a million colors. When I step outside, it seems every green that can be seen is represented here.

I thought counting the hues I could see might be entertaining but I quickly lost interest in that because, besides constantly getting distracted which meant I had to start over, I felt like I couldn’t keep up. One second I thought the string bean leaves were Kelly Green but a second later they looked Army Tent Olive. It felt like every plant was not only growing right before my eyes, but also changing color.

I can see how much my garden (and the lawn) changes between morning and night, especially after rain bursts early

July’s hot bubble. I know I can’t see it happen but I have evidence “growing” is occurring at a tremendous pace, which I assumed accounted for why it looked like everything kept changing colors. But that’s not how the whole “seeing color” things works, apparently.

I don’t really understand what goes on when I look at an object (in the proverbial blink of an eye) that allows me to see colors. There are multitudes of explanations and diagrams online but the simplest explanation I found is that light, my eyes and brain all work

together to detect and identify a color. And then in reaction to every imperceptible light change and/or unconscious movement of my eyes and face, my noodle re-colors the image, re-identifies and renames its hue or distinguishes more subtly its shade. Color changes occur inside ME.

So that’s basically how it works, crazy as it sounds. I color everything—plants, animals, persons, places and things—as I look at my world. Even nuttier is the mishmash of science, culture and personal perceptions that result in me

saying ripe tomatoes are red, not white or blue. Scientists can determine IF an individual can see color but say it’s impossible to conclude how we each perceive colors. This, they say, leads them to strongly suspect that we don’t all color our worlds the same way. And that’s okay. But I wish you could see what I see because I my world’s colored in Summer fun... and I hope yours is, too.

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



The Joys of Summer

Kim Baldwin, McPherson County farmer and rancher

FA few months ago, I registered my two children for two weeks of swimming lessons at our town’s pool. Registering my 8-year-old daughter for lessons was a non-negotiable. She needs to continue learning skills that’ll help her keep her head above water while also gaining strength as a swimmer. My son, on the other hand, had a choice

of taking lessons or not.

When I presented him with the option of lessons, I warned him that he’d probably be the oldest kid in his swim level. I told him I’d again register him for the highest level offered at the pool. He easily met all of the required swim skills in that same level last summer, so this would be more like a review rather than an assessment. I half thought he’d decide to pass on lessons because of my warning.

After a few minutes of contemplation, my son announced that if taking 45-minute swimming lessons guaranteed him pool time for two weeks, he’d do it!

Summer for my family is definitely spent a little differently than others. Yes, there’s guaranteed pool time in the form of swimming lessons for two weeks. Yes, there’s summer ball games with friends, and occasionally there’s a friend that can come over to play or spend the night. But summer for my family also means a steady flow of farmwork, and the kids are an active part of it all.

Because of that, we generally experience long summer days and sleep hard at night before getting up and starting the day before it gets too hot. Between wheat harvest, planting of fall crops, irrigation chores,

checking livestock and debris cleanup following summer storms, my two kids will always have a different summertime story compared to their classmates.

There have been times I have questioned my decision to haul the kids to town every day for two weeks during our busiest time of the year. Scheduling swim lessons in the middle of winter would work better with our farming schedule. However, I have to remind myself they need to experience the joys of summer as children.

Yes, they need to understand the value of work. Yes, they need to be given responsibilities.

Yes, they need to see that being part of a farming family includes helping when needed.

And honestly, leaving the farm and driving to town so the kids can get their guaranteed pool time also means that I have an opportunity to relax in the shade and read a book or listen to a podcast for 45 minutes by myself – something I might not do without this intentionally built-in time during the summer. It’s been a pleasant opportunity to pause and enjoy short breaks during an otherwise very busy time of the year.

The joys of summer can be had at any age, it’s just a matter of rec-

ognizing when the opportunity presents itself and making the time to take advantage of those moments.

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

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News from Kansas Farm Bureau

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Poetry From Daily Life

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

Poetry from Daily Life: Jo Van Arkel describes a dog-shaped absence

By Jo Van Arkel  
My guest this week on Poetry from Daily Life is Jo Van Arkel, who lives in Springfield, Missouri. Professor Van Arkel is a Teaching Fellow in Writing, Department of Languages and Literature, at Drury University. She started writing poems and stories when she was a child, inspired by the many books she checked out from her local library. She likes to write both poetry and fiction and is currently at work on a novella

in flash about life in the Ozark Mountains. She has a letterpress studio where she makes prints and etchings that sometimes illustrate her words. ~ David L. Harrison

Elegy for a dog

I am sharing with you an elegy for my dog Scruffers, who was a small black and tan Jack Russell mix my family rescued from a shelter. Scruffers was a handsome fellow with a jaunty stride. He and I kept company together for more than ten seasons.

An elegy is very old poetic form that serves as both a lament and a celebration. It might seem strange to write an elegy for a dog, but as many writers and poets have found, pets in general and dogs in particular, make wonderful muses. Scruffers, for instance, taught me the art of taking a slow walk around the block, pausing to sniff every scent and study even the most subtle shift in the grass for signs that a mole might be hidden just beneath the next soft mound of dirt.

Dogs have a way of weaving themselves into our everyday rhythms and rituals, and when they die, we feel death most acutely through their absence — they no longer run to the door to greet us or do a happy dance in the morning when we rise or follow us around to lick up any crumbs we might drop from an afternoon snack.

I now have a new dog at my feet. Her name is Story, and she has her own unique proclivities including a habit of running wide circles in the yard to express her joy anytime someone comes to visit. She keeps me in a constant state of won-

der at the pleasures and challenges of sharing life with an animal. But I have not forgotten the lessons Scruffers taught me, and I miss him still.

Elegy

Dogs lives are too short. Their only fault really. Agnes Sligh Turnbull

This is before we put the dog down, so there is still time

to drive to the park, top peeled back, sky for a rooftop.

It’s not pleasure exactly, more like vanity to say stay

with me forever—or at least through one more cycle of seasons.

We believe, the dog and I, we can track down scent of those

who have come before, sniffing at the roots of whatever is lost.

Learn more about Jo Van Arkel’s writing and art at her website: [jobethvanarkel.com](http://jobethvanarkel.com).

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Community Bulletin Board

<p><b>Thursday, July 11</b> 10:00 CPL STEM Activity for all ages *** 7:15 p.m. Aqua Exercise</p>	<p><b>Monday, July 22</b> on-line School Enrollment Opens</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, July 16</b> 10:00 CPL Story Hour (ages 3 - 5) *** 7:15 p.m. Aqua Exercise</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, July 23</b> 7:15 p.m. Aqua-exercise</p>
<p><b>Thursday, July 18</b> 10:00 CPL STEM Activity for all ages *** 7:15 p.m. Aqua Exercise</p>	<p><b>Thursday, July 25</b> 10:00 CPL STEM activ- ity for all ages</p>
	<p><b>Wednesday, July 31</b> 7:00 Book Club</p>
	<p><b>Tuesday, August 6</b> Primary Elections</p>
	<p><b>Wednesday, August 7</b> School Enrollment</p>

The Community Calendar is sponsored by



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Summer Reading  
June 13<sup>th</sup> – July 25<sup>th</sup>  
Sign up at the library or online at  
cunninghamlibrary.com




**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

**Kingman Historic Theatre**  
Wednesday, July 17  
**Candidate Forum**  
**Be an INFORMED Voter!**  
7:00 p.m.

2024 Kingman County Vintage Farm Machinery and Rural Heritage Show

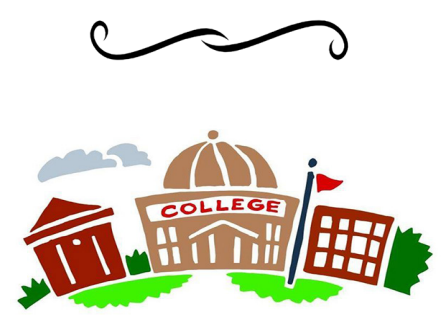
Join us on Saturday, July 27th at Riverside Park for this year's Vintage Farm Machinery and Rural Heritage Show. If you would like to enter vintage tractors, farm equipment, or stories about farm life of yesteryear set up will be from 11 am to Noon. If you would like to come and enjoy what is showcased, come down to the park from 1:00 to 4:00 to take a step back in time. New this year, prizes will be awarded for the following categories, Best of Show, Oldest Entry, Longest Distance Traveled to be in the Show, and Best of Show. The Kingman FFA Chapter will provide a complimentary meal for participants. For more information contact Len Messenger at 620-243-4419.

2024 Kingman Economic Development Contest at the Kingman County Fair

There is a new photography event this year at the Kingman County Fair! The Kingman Economic Development is holding a special contest for the community. This event will have three categories, people, places, and commerce. All pictures need to be taken within Kingman County. Winning photos will be used for the Economic Development promotional materials and on their website. A \$25 cash prize will be awarded to the winner in each of the 3 categories plus twenty honorable mention winners will receive a \$5 prize for each entry. For complete contest rules, please call the Extension Office at 620-532-5131 or email Melissa Thimesch at mthimesch@ksu.edu.

2024 Paul Conrardy Festival of Breads at the Kingman County Fair

Start looking in your recipe books now to plan your entry in the 2024 Paul Conrardy Festival of Breads at the Kingman County Fair on July 26. This contest is for youth and adults with cash prizes awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. Classes include yeast bread, French bread, fancy sweet bread, muffins, quick bread, rolls, bread machine, and bread sculpting. Entries must be made with wheat flour or some variation thereof. Check-in time for this event will be on July 26 from 1:00 to 2:00 pm with the judging beginning at 2:00. There will not be an entry fee for this contest. If you want more details about this event, please contact the Kingman County Extension Office at 620-532-5131.



Local Students Named to Dean's Honor Roll at Wichita State University

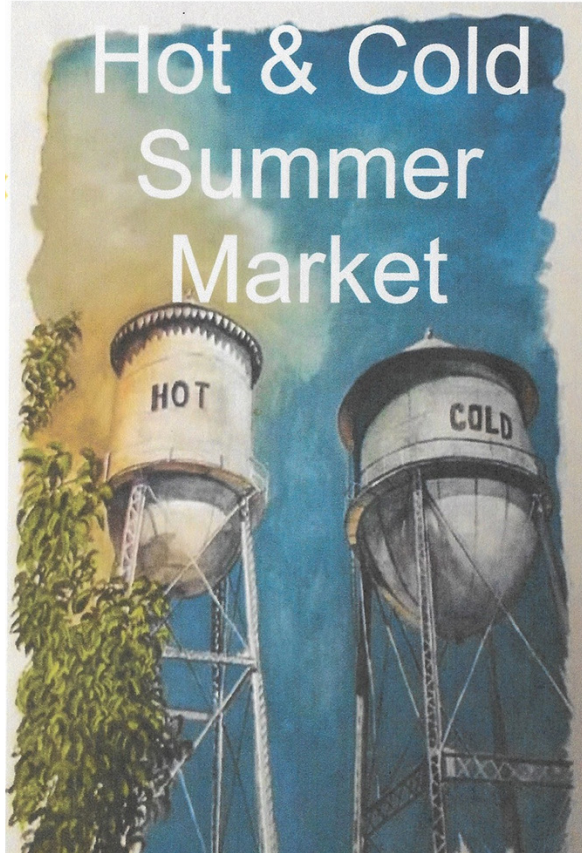
WICHITA, Kan. (July 8, 2024) - Wichita State University has announced the names of 3,430 students who were on the WSU Dean's Honor Roll for spring 2024.

To be included on the dean's honor roll, a student must be enrolled full time (at least 12 credit hours) and earn at least a 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

The Innovation Campus, which is a physical extension of the Wichita State University main campus, is one of the nation's largest and fastest-growing research/innovation parks, encompassing over 120 acres and is home to a number of global companies and organizations.

Students from Cunningham area who made the Honor Roll are:

- Alice P Huelskamp
- Maddison D Panek
- Ethan H Paris
- Michelle L Sours



**Announcement:**  
Hot & Cold Summer Market  
Will be held:  
Saturday, July 13th, 2024  
10 am - 2pm  
The Pratt Municipal Building  
117 W 3rd st. Pratt, KS.

Thank you for advertising with The Courier

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We ALWAYS need photos for the paper!!

**Kingman Historic Theatre**  
237 N. Main in Kingman  
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http://www.kingmantheatre.org/  
All Seats are \$3.00 (cash or local check only)  
Showtimes:  
Friday & Saturday at 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday at 5:30 p.m.

July 12 - 14  
**Despicable Me 4**  
Rated PG

Thank YOU for supporting YOUR Kingman Historic Theatre.

**Alvin Josiah MacRaney III**

By Joanne Sher

Alvin Josiah MacRaney III was in ministry up to his eyes. He gave to the needy, encouraged the weak, and responded to many souls' cries.

MacRaney was part of a family of preachers; the pulpit was part of their lore. He learned the importance of loving the brethren from his father and grandpa before.

Dear Alvin was praised by his plentiful flock for the blessings he oft gave away. They often sat speechless, in bounteous thanks for the many he'd lift when he'd pray.

But MacRaney's great passion - and his congregants', too was his preaching of God's holy Word. His pastoral fervor and "gift of the gab" were obvious to all those who heard.

"Repent! The Lord loves you," was his pulpit refrain.

"Each person's a great big fat sinner. If you do your part and let Christ in your heart, then God will see you as a winner."

He'd flip through his bible, taking copious notes (that no one but Alvin could read), extracting the wisdom he'd share with the folks whose souls he was aiming to feed.

He shared the Word boldly with those of his flock and closed with a rousing "Amen." He then put his congregants back in the toy box and napped until "church time" again.

**Can Bad Be Good?**

By Amy Michelle Wiley  
Community service.

The ol' judge had assigned her to community service. The thought of picking up garbage had been disgusting, but not as disgusting as the mental ward.

Andrea VonStratton was stuck with the psychos.

As it turned out, it wasn't the mental ward exactly, but a day care for "special needs" teens. Andrea was ushered into a room of teenagers playing on the floor like toddlers. A Mrs. Hardy filled out the never-ending state paperwork and handed her a nametag that said "Volunteer." As if.

"You came at a good time. Everyone is quiet." Good time? Yeah right.

The lady waved a hand. "Why don't you mingle and get to know everyone?"

Ha! Andrea sat in the farthest corner. She wasn't convinced this was better than jail. At least the hours were better; two hours three times a week for a few weeks. She supposed she should be grateful the judge had given her leniency since it was her first shoplifting charge.

Andrea VonStratton wasn't grateful for anything.

"Are you sad?" One of the smallest girls stood almost in her face.

Andrea recoiled, but the girl seemed unfazed. "You look... lonely."

Oh great. She was being psychoanalyzed by a psycho.

"I'm Kara. Who... are you?" Her speech had an odd rhythm to it.

"Andrea."

"And...weh. Come. I will show... you around." To her horror, the child slipped her short fingers into Andrea's hand and pulled her towards a table. "Here." She slapped a green crayon onto a crumpled, but blank, paper.

Andrea folded her arms. "I am an adult. I don't color."

Kara stared, aghast. Then she took on a teaching tone. "Grown ups... do too... draw! Look. Tim-oty draws." She pointed to an older boy. "He's. Vewy. Good." Her words were emphatic.

Timothy bent over the paper, seemingly oblivious to the commotion around him. He was a good artist.

Andrea VonStratton did not use crayons, talented Timothy or no.

For two weeks Andrea endured the volunteer work that was anything but voluntary. For two weeks Kara shadowed her everywhere she went. Then Andrea exploded.

"Just lay off, would you? Leave me alone!"

Kara regarded her. "What's... wrong?"

Andrea growled under her breath. "I just don't

want to be here, that's all.."

She wasn't expecting the look that came into Kara's eyes. "You don't... want... to be here?"

"No! And you know what? Fifteen more minutes and then I'm finished. And good riddance to you all."

She slammed the door on her way out. Slammed the door on Kara's hurt.

Andrea VonStratton slammed the door on her heart.

For the rest of the month, she ignored her conscience knocking on that door. She busied herself trying to catch up on all the gossip and "hanging out" she had missed during her probation. In the mall one day, she found herself eyeing a digital camera.

One of her friends grabbed her shoulder. "You stupid? Tryin' to get thrown in jail this time?"

Another friend mocked, "Maybe she wants more time with the retards! Just can't get enough of them, can you?"

"They aren't retards!" An emotion Andrea didn't know existed boiled to the surface. "Some of those kids are smarter than you'll ever be." She stomped away.

It was more from spite than anything else that Andrea turned her nose up at her friends the next day, and announced that she was not going to the movies.

Andrea VonStratton returned to the day care center voluntarily.

Kara approached her with the forgiveness of a child. They settled at the table. Kara looked up with big almond-shaped eyes. "Why... did you have to come... help here... if you... didn't want to?"

Andrea looked away. "I did something bad. It was punishment." It hurt to say, to tell the girl she had only come because she'd been forced.

Quiet for a time, Kara drew a purple crayon idly across a page. "Sometimes... when you're bad... it makes you sad... and then you're glad..." She seemed unaware of her Dr. Seuss-ness. "And then... you..." Apparently she had confused herself.

"Do you mean," Andrea felt the words out slowly, "That sometimes when you have to do something you don't like, you discover that it really is good?"

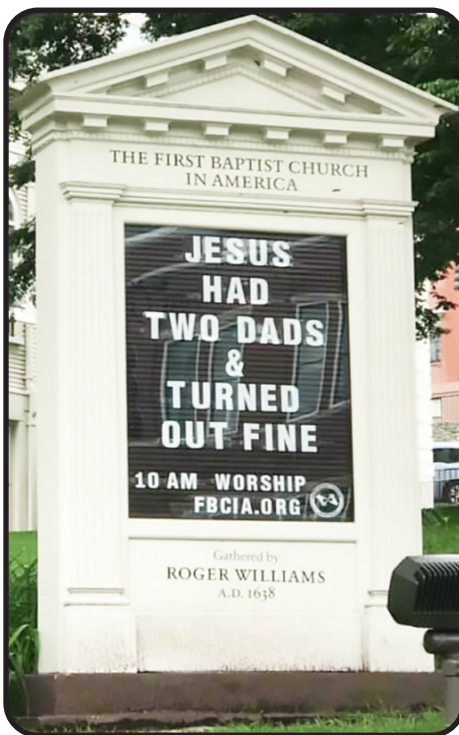
"Yup." Kara smiled.

An orange crayon stared up at Andrea. She picked it up and drew a bold line on the paper.

"I'm glad... you came... back." Kara leaned a head on Andrea's shoulder. "That... is good."

Andrea VonStratton agreed.

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



**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.

620-243-5451  
620-246-5370



**Lutheran Churches**

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

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

Pastor vacancy until further notice.



**Church of Christ**

Penalosa  
Sunday 11:00 a.m.



**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  
620-491-0680

**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** (Money is being raised to dig a well in the village of Kakindu, Kenya)

**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)

**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.

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

**1959**

July 9 – Cindy Allbritten returned to her home in Kansas City, Mo., Monday after spending the past few weeks visiting the Frank Allbritten and Rufus Leiter homes.

St. Leo Picnic and Dance will be held on the church grounds in St. Leo Tuesday evening, July 28.

Den II of the Cub Scout Pack will have their annual overnight backyard camp next Friday and Saturday at the Lewis McMillian home.

Inspection will be held Friday evening at 7:00 o'clock, and visitors will be welcome at that time.

FOR SALE – Large Frigidaire Refrigerator. Excellent Condition. Across the top freezer. Only \$99.95. See it at Dafforn Appliances.

The final performance of the Summer Band Concert Programs in Cunningham will be held Saturday evening, July 18, at 7:30 o'clock in Watertower Park.

Come as you are and enjoy the music from your car.

Mr. and Mrs. Chet Spade, new owners of the Cunningham IGA, were a little overwhelmed the other day by the list of breakfast cereals they can get to stock the store. There are 101 of them. Chet Says it that wasn't enough, there are 39 different brands of cigarettes to pick from.

**1964**

July 9 – A spectacular fireworks display that wasn't planned that way, culminated Cunningham's annual Fourth of July aerial fireworks program in about 15 to 20 seconds at the ball park, Saturday night.

The two "shooters," Dan Bayer and Fr. Eugene Robl, had opened the fireworks program with about a half-dozen aerial salutes and colored star shells, when a fragment of burning paper from one of the expended fireworks landed in the box containing the yet-to-be-fired fireworks.

The burning paper caught the box on fire, setting off 17 or 18 star shells and fancy rockets, creating a spectacular fireworks display that almost defies description.

Fr. Robl and Dan both escaped possible serious injury by literally "fleeing for their lives."

The "sudden end" to the fireworks display also brought the fire whistle. After checking the ball field for possible fire from the fireworks, the volunteer fire department answered a fire call at Hauser's AG Market, where a Roman candle had caught the store awning afire. The blaze was quickly extinguished with loss of a portion of the awning.

**1969**

July 10- A former resident of this community willed his property, valued at \$43,000, to seven charity and religious projects, including his home parish and the Catholic Diocese of Wichita.

Charles Kemp, a member of the St. Leo Parish for 57 years, provided in his last will and testament, a sum of money for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the parish of St. Leo, two mission projects, a brother and sister, his nieces and nephews, and directed that the residue of his estate be given to

the Catholic Diocese of Wichita for the education of young men for the priesthood.

Mr. Kemp, who had remained single throughout his life, died on December 31, 1967. His will was recently probated in the Kingman County courts.

Cunningham and St. Leo will play the opening game of the week-long 22-game St. Leo Invitational Men's Slo-Pitch Softball Tournament, beginning Sunday evening, July 13, at 7:30 o'clock in St. Leo.

Proceeds from the tournament will go to the St. Leo Recreation Commission for use in their youth program. Members of the commission committee are Norman Schnittker, Paul Hageman, and Albert Adelhardt.

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

**1974**

July 11 – Faulty wiring in the attic was believed to the cause of a fire at Mrs. Rufus Leiter's home Wednesday afternoon, July 3.

Maintenance man, Don Becker and Mrs. E.C. Hauser's grandchildren, Scott and Mark Fewin noticed smoke pouring out from under the eaves of the house.

There was fire damage in the attic, smoke damage in the rest of the house, and water damage to the kitchen area and in the basement.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Wegerer of Cunningham announce the birth of their daughter, Renee Ann, at the Kingman Community Hospital, January 29.

She weighed seven pounds, twelve ounces.

Mrs. Wegerer is the former Diana Albers. The Wegerers also have a son, Kevin.

Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Rakestraw, Dana, 2, and Travis, 3, formerly of Sterling, have moved into the Carol Poland property on Main Street.

Mrs. Rakestraw is the former Diana Huhman. Mr. Rakestraw works for City Service at Kingman.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Johnston, Kathy, Kim, and Karla, have moved to Blue Rapids.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Almond have purchased the Harry Johnston residence and have moved in.

Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Darcy will move Saturday into the Ruth Weir property in the southwest part of town.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Freund, Cindy, Nancy, and Loren Jay of Hermitage, Tenn., arrived Sunday to spend a week at the Loren Cooley and F.M. Freund homes.

Kim Eck returned by plane from Pemberville, Ohio, Friday, June 28, where she had been visiting her cousin, Laurie Oberhouse.

Candice Rohr and Mike Quillen were united in marriage in an evening ceremony on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of June 1974.

**- WANTED -**  
**Old Photos for Our Community Album**  
**Call (620) 298-2659 or email**  
**couriernews@yahoo.com or send**  
**to 320 North Stadium Street,**  
**Cunningham, KS 67035**

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

**1979**

July 12 1979 – Joe Strohl of Cunningham is among the 574 students who have enrolled for the fall semester at Fort Hays State University.

Arm Wrestlers Compete, by Curt Rakestraw – Once again from the dark corner a very battered and oddly shaped table was pulled to the center of the floor at Sam's Place, to turn the relatively quiet and sophisticated atmosphere into a wild frenzy. For some of the combatants this was the big payoff for many months of preparation, whether it meant winning the prized trophy or just beating his biggest rival. Yes, the name of the game is arm wrestling.

Arm wrestling at its best brought to you from grunts, groans, pains and shrieks, wild cheers from the crowd and moans from losers. Where speed and psyche versus brute strength usually brute strength prevails. Where good friends face each other over the table but for a few seconds turn into the fiercest of enemies.

This year there were 48 finely tuned, sharpened athletes competing. Many drove long distances with visions of becoming a champion only to be sent home with merely a handshake. Physically sore, mildly depressed from the misfortune of defeat.

But for the people listed below the taste of victory is sweet and we give them a well-deserved congratulations. Lt. wt. women, Jean Depenbusch; Hvy. Wt. Women, Cheryl Freund; Fly wt. men, Steve Shreck; Lt. wt. men, Jeff Bardot; Middle wt. men, Terry Arnett; Hvy wt. men, Larry Thomas; officiated by Phil Theis and Curt Rakestraw.

Karla Denise Osborn and Lee Edward Stillwell were united in marriage May 26, 1979, at Sacred Heart Church, Cunningham. Father Dwight Birket officiated the double ring ceremony.

**1984**

July 12 – Friends and neighbors of Paul Theis brought their own implements to the Theis farm July 3 and made short work of turning under wheat stubble.

Thirteen tractors with a total of 88 plow bottoms didn't take long. Helping out were Eugene, Clara Mae, Kristen, Doug, and Steve Freund; Roger, Blondie, Leroy, Dale, and Gene Panek; Ted, Pat, Shawn, and Mark Neises; Bruce Sterneker; Marge, Rob, and Marty Sterneker; Jim Holcomb; Josephine Albers; Ronnie, Martha, and Chris Albers; Allan Theis; Bernie Albers; and Don Fischer.

Hilltop Manor: We played Bingo on Wednesday conducted by Louise Armstrong who was just back from a vacation spent in Vail, Colorado, The Ski Capitol of that State.

Coleen Kerschen of Cunningham visited her grandfather, Martin Scripsick.

On July 28, 1984, a Swim for Heart event will be held at the Cunningham Pool to benefit the American Heart Association.

The Cunningham Lassie Girls softball team finished a successful season on Monday, July 2, by taking third place in the League Tournament.



**Sybil Ludington's Midnight Ride – An American Story**

"Freedom lies in being bold."  
 Robert Frost

Sometimes called the female Paul Revere, 16-year-old Sybil

Ludington's bold exploits and bravery during the chaos of the Revolutionary War deserve to be remembered.

On the night of April 26, 1777, young Sybil, in response to the British attack on the town of Danbury, Connecticut, mounted her horse Star and set off on a mission to muster the local militia troops. Riding all night

through the rain, Sybil returned home at dawn having successfully given the order to assemble nearly 400 Colonial troops. Following the battle, it is reported that Sybil was personally thanked by George Washington for her service and her bravery.

Sybil was born on April 5, 1761, in Fredericksburg, New York (now the city of Kent). She was the oldest child of Colonel Henry Ludington, a respected militia officer who commanded the 7th Regiment of the Dutchess County Militia, a volunteer regiment during the Revolutionary War. Colonel Ludington later became an aide to General George Washington.

On April 25, 1777, a British force of 2000 men commanded by General William Tryon landed near the mouth of the Saugatuck River, at Fairfield, Connecticut. The next day they moved north into Danbury, where the Continental Army had a supply de-

pot. Colonel Ludington's militia had disbanded for the planting season, leaving the town of Danbury unprotected.

In Danbury, the British troops began a search for the Continental Army's supplies. The British soon discovered stores of flour, beef, pork, wheat, corn, sugar, molasses, rice, and coffee, along with several hundred cases of wine and rum. The soldiers decided to consume the rum, discipline soon broke down, and much of the town was set on fire.

A messenger was dispatched from Danbury and sent to Colonel Ludington's farm, arriving at approximately 9 p.m. Colonel Ludington began to organize the militia, but most of his men were scattered in their homes throughout the county. It was feared that the messenger, exhausted and unfamiliar with the area, would be unable to find and alert the militia. Sybil, who had just turned 16, was familiar with the area and willing

to sound the alarm.

Sybil left her home that night, traveling over 40 miles (twice the distance traveled by Paul Revere on his famous ride). She rode from her home, in what is now the town of Kent, south to Mahopac, and then north to the town of Stormville. Riding through the night in heavy rain, Sybil had to avoid British soldiers along with British loyalists and outlaws who were called "Skinners." Sybil carried a stick she used to bang on farmhouse shutters, shouting "the British are burning Danbury!" By the time she returned home at dawn, most of the militia were assembled and ready to fight.

Colonel Ludington's men were not able to save Danbury, but they met the British along with other Continental troops at the Battle of Ridgefield the following day. The American forces spanked the British and drove General Tryon's forces back to the British fleet at Long Island Sound,

protecting more towns and halting the redcoat's advance.

After the war, in 1785, Sybil married Edmond Ogden. They had one son, named Henry, after Sybil's father. Henry Ogden became a lawyer and would go on to be elected to the New York State Assembly.

Sybil Ludington lived to the age of 77, passing away on February 26, 1839. She is buried next to her father in Patterson, New York.

In 1935, the state of New York erected a series of historic markers outlining the route that Sybil rode. In 1961, a bronze statue of her by renowned sculptor Anna Hyatt Huntington was erected in Carmel, New York. The statue depicts young Sybil atop her horse Star, waving her stick and shouting the alarm. In 1975 Sybil was honored with her likeness on a U.S. Bicentennial postage stamp. It shows her riding hard on that rainy night in 1777. And, since 1975, the Sybil

Ludington 50K ultramarathon has been run each year, following the route she traveled that fateful night.

It should be noted that some contemporary historians have questioned the authenticity of Sybil's story, citing a lack of recent scholarship and multiple sources of evidence. The earliest known record of the 1777 ride came from Sybil's nephew, Charles H. Ludington, in 1854. Sybil's story was included in an 1880 book about New York City written by historian Martha Lamb. Another reference appeared in the 1907 memoirs of Sybil's father, written by Willis Fletcher Johnson, and published privately by his grandchildren. Personally, I believe this story is true and consider Sybil Ludington an American hero.

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### Minutes from County Commission Meeting

Chairman Henning called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. July 1, 2024, in the County Commissioners room at the Kingman County Courthouse. Present: Jerry Henning, Chairman; Pat Elpers, Commissioner; Jack Thimesch, Commissioner; Carol Noblit, County Clerk; Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor  
Visitors: Dale Enyart; Bob Morris, Kingman Leader-Courier; Leslie Schrag, Economic Development Director  
Online Visitors: Caller 01; Caller 02; Lee Tyrell, EMC Insurance; Susan Hubbell  
Staff: Amanda Stucky, Planning/Zoning; Mendy Frampton, Expo Center Director; LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Jamie Smith, County Treasurer and Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director.  
Chairman Henning asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Commissioners want to add Atty-Client Executive Session with the County Counselor.

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.  
EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Elpers moved to go into executive session with Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor at 8:36 a.m. to discuss the County's position in pending administrative proceedings pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 8:46 a.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.  
Commissioners returned to regular session at 8:46 a.m.  
Amanda Stucky, Planning/Zoning was in to submit the following building permits:  
Relph Construction for a New Home in Section 36, Township 27, Range 05W.  
David Brant for a garage in Section 6, Township 30, Range 05W.  
Andy Strong for a New Home in Section 36, Township 27, Range

05W.  
Mendy Frampton, Expo Center Director was in to let the Commissioners know that the electrical installed in the barn has been completed.  
Ms. Frampton gave updates on things that were painted and completed around the grounds.  
Ms. Frampton discussed a leak that she had with the amount of rain received this last weekend.  
Commissioners reviewed Resolution 2024-R11, A Resolution closing the Kingman County Ambulance Fund and transferring the balance therein to the General Fund to be held and used for the same purpose.  
MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve Resolution 2024-R11, A RESOLUTION CLOSING THE KINGMAN COUNTY AMBULANCE FUND AND TRANSFERRING THE BALANCE THEREIN TO THE GENERAL FUND TO BE HELD AND USED FOR THE SAME PURPOSE. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.  
The County Clerk submitted the June 24<sup>th</sup>,

2024, Commission meeting minutes for approval. MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.  
Leslie Schrag, Kingman Economic Development Director was in to discuss the EPIC Grant and request for funding from the county.  
Ms. Schrag submitted a photo of a sculpture that will be placed at the visitor center and let the Commissioners know that there will be a smaller version in Cunningham, a small portable version and maybe one in Norwich with the lower cost of the sculpture.  
Ms. Schrag asked the Commissioners for \$3,000.00 to help with the EPIC grant.  
Ms. Schrag requested a support letter be signed for the EPIC grant.  
Commissioners signed the support letter.  
LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer was in to review 2025 budget figures with the County Commissioners.  
Commissioners discussed cutting a couple entities budget re-

quests because of the reserve funds they have on hand. Commissioners asked Ms. Stegman to let them know if they cannot withstand the cuts to come and talk to the Commissioners with their reasons.  
Commissioners discussed the other requests.  
Jamie Smith, County Treasurer and Carol Noblit, County Clerk were in to discuss the Integris Master Services Agreement.  
MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to table the Master services agreement from Integris until the contract can be reviewed. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.  
Ms. Smith discussed that she would like to allow the Department of Veteran Affairs representative to park her work vehicle at the courthouse on the weekends.  
MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the parking of the Department of Veteran Affairs vehicle can be parked here at the Courthouse on the weekend. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director and also, via go to meeting, Lee Tyrell, EMC Insurance joined and discussed with the County Commissioners the 2005 Mack Truck replacement and how the insurance came up with the replacement figure.  
Commissioners discussed that they would like to see if they could check figures with closer vendors and the cost of their trucks.  
Mr. Tyrell that he would gladly look at those trucks if they could get him the information.  
Mr. Arensdorf discussed the KDOT Cost Share Program for the Norwich Road and that the County wasn't selected for funding this time but they will re-apply in the fall again.  
Mr. Arensdorf let the Commissioners know that he had a field check on North Main done and should get the cost of that project.  
MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 12:20 p.m. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

### Minutes from Pratt County Commission

The Pratt County commissioners met in regular session Monday, July 1, 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. Nate Humble Heather Morgan, economic development, reported the city of Iuka is getting closer to getting their Sam's renewal resolved. She will be assisting. She is still working on Pratt County's Sam's renewal. Pratt Area Economic Development meeting has been moved to July 3, at 3:30 p.m. They have a speaker coming in to discuss how other economic development boards are run.

Commissioner Adams asked what the ARPA funds are encumbered for. Heather explained that it is encumbered for government services, that they have plans for the funds. They will need to be expended by October 2026. Tyson asked why economic development has the speaker coming down. She stated some members are wanting to do more, she has told them there will be no more funds allocated from the county.  
Trent Whited, asked if could metal detect in the county courthouse lawn. The Commissioners agreed to allow him to after hours.  
Darcie Vandervyver, health, discussed the grants she just received, a total of \$35,257.00  
KDHE is hosting the Kansas Public Health Roadshow, August 22, 2024, noon to 2:30 p.m. She has been assisting PRMC with the health fair this fall which is

October 18, 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The health survey top concerns are: safe affordable housing, new patient access, and radiation/dialysis services offered in Pratt. The executive coalition meeting is July 19.  
Commissioner Jones made a motion to recess into executive session for five minutes at 2:22 p.m. for an attorney/client concerning newly passed legislation. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.  
Commissioner Jones made a motion to return from executive session at 2:26 p.m. with no action taken. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.  
Doug Freund, lake/road, reported on the rain-fall/flooding in the Pratt County. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the road crossing for maintenance for Enterprise Products at NW 20th

Avenue and NW 20th Street. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.  
He presented two quotes for repairing the shelter houses at the lake. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the quotes from Home Lumber and Cooper Thompson in the amounts of \$2250.78 and \$7028.33 to be paid out of the Lake Fund. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.  
They will start laying asphalt after the Fourth of July.  
DJ McMurry, appraiser, presented Ryan Frazier's contract for a year. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the contract for Ryan Frazier for July 2024 to July 2025. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.  
Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the minutes from June

24, 2024. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.  
Commissioner Jones made a motion to recess into executive session for five minutes at 2:40 p.m. for an attorney/client concerning the opioid litigation. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.  
Commissioner Jones made a motion to return from executive session at 2:45 p.m. Chairman Shriver seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.  
Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve Tyson signing the opioid participation agreements. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.  
Chairman Shriver stated he had received an invoice from Kirkham Michael for the drain off pond at the Public Safety Building for \$2,855.60. He stated there was an email from Department of Commerce about the micro loans. Tyson asked

to have the email forwarded to himself and Heather.  
Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the payment vouchers for July 1, 2024. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.  
Commissioner Jones made a motion to recess for 30 minutes at 2:59 p.m. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting recessed. Chairman Shriver made a motion to return from recess at 3:13 p.m. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.  
Scot Loyd, Loyd Group, LLC went over the second 2025 budget draft.  
Commissioner Jones made a motion to adjourn at 3:52 p.m. Chairman Shriver seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

### KANSAS WHEAT Day 10, Kansas Wheat Harvest Report

This is day 10 of the Kansas Wheat Harvest Reports, brought to you by the Kansas Wheat Commission, Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, Kansas Grain and Feed Association and the Kansas Cooperative Council.  
As the calendar flips over to July, the combines keep rolling across western Kansas, albeit getting a late start on Monday due to lingering moisture from rain over the weekend. Better than

expected final yields can mean of one of two things to western producers — either that they are actually cutting fields they expected to zero out due to drought or they are seeing yields above last year or the county average in fields that caught spotty rains or winter snows. While yields are highly variable, test weights, protein and optimism remain strong.  
Officially, the Kansas wheat harvest is 80 percent complete, well ahead of 39 percent complete last year and 49 percent on average, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service crop progress report for the week ending June 30, 2024.

Wheat harvest is nearly complete in Ness County, according to Gary Gantz, president of D.E. Bondurant Grain Co. Inc. in Ness City. The Gantz family has operated the last remaining private grain elevator in Kansas for nearly four generations and reported this year's wheat crop is nearly double what they took in last year.  
Great stands going into winter had area farmers feeling optimistic for a good crop, but a lack of moisture over the winter and into the spring put a damper on final results. Still, Gantz said most folks are "happy with the way things have shaken out" with average yields at about 30 bushels

per acre, adequate test weights from 57 to 60 pounds per bushel and strong average protein at 12 percent. Standout varieties for the year include KS Western Star and KS Hamilton.  
This year's wheat crop is also performing better than expected in far western Kansas, according to Clay Schemm, who farms with his parents in Wallace, Logan and Greeley counties.  
"I would not say it's a great year, by any means, but definitely above what we had anticipated. We anticipated a pretty rough year," he said. "I'd say we're looking at an average to maybe slightly below average year on the wheat yield."

Harvest started in the area on June 20. With four or five days left, showers overnight on Sunday, June 30, meant combines were getting a late start on Monday, July 1. Whether or not a field got a good stand during the dry planting season is making the difference between yields.  
"We were really dry last fall; it was hard to get the wheat up and get a good stand," Schemm said. "If you were able to get that decent stand, the wheat seemed to have enough legs under it this year to finish off. The wheat that had trouble last fall has been yielding — across the farm — lower than the wheat that did get that decent

fall stand."  
The places that did catch spotty rains or winter snow are yielding up to 45 bushels per acre, but average yields are closer to 35 to 40 bushels per acre. Quality is also variable, but test weights are excellent at a 62 to 63 pounds-per-bushel average and average protein is strong at 12 to 13 percent.  
He noted area farmers have not had issues with Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus (WSMV) this year because they did a good job keeping volunteer wheat under control and choosing resistant varieties like KS Dallas.  
Scattered rains and  
(cont' from on page 10)

**Independence Day Spark in the Park**

The Seventh Annual Spark in the Park youth sand volleyball tournament was held on July 4, 2024. There were 7 teams in the high school division, and 7 teams in the junior high and younger division. Congratulations to the winning teams!



High school: Ava Bock, Emily Ogg, Luke Albers, Will Wegerer, Nate Sterneker, Rylee Miller.



Submitted by Shavna Sterneker

Junior high: Front row John Paul Kerschen, Cooper Neufeld, Katie Ogg. Back row Colton Rohlman, Liam McGuire, Keyonna Raney.



Photos by Molly Morgan





**ALL HOURS - 620.220.5701**

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## Soft Red Winter Special Edition Harvest Report 2024

This Hard White Wheat Special Edition of the Kansas Wheat Harvest Reports is brought to you by the Kansas Wheat Commission, Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, Kansas Grain and Feed Association and the Kansas Cooperative Council.

Hard white (HW) winter wheat varieties continue to be popular among some western Kansas farmers for their high yields, disease resistance and quality. Kansas Wheat continues to work with the grain handling industry and Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) to revise the grain standards to facilitate the movement of hard white wheat in domestic and international markets and lessen the burden on grain handlers.

Hard white wheat had been growing in export demand, primarily to Nigeria out of the Texas Gulf, but the past several

years of drought-stricken production shortfalls have impacted that business for Kansas farmers.

Eric Sperber from Cornerstone Ag in Colby, who has been trading hard white wheat since the late 1990s, said, "We've never matched up demand with supply. Either there's more demand and not enough supply, or more supply and not enough demand." He said, "Unless we can get Nigeria back, it's hard to market hard white wheat."

Although Sperber anticipates less than 10 percent of their receipts to be hard white wheat this year, down from years past, he's pleased with the excellent quality and quantity of wheat in the area.

Wheat coming into his location, both hard red and hard white, have test weights of 60+ pounds per bushel, protein averaging about 12 percent, and variable yields that will likely end up above average overall. Most farmers in his draw area of Rawlins, Thomas, Sheridan and Logan counties have been "pleasantly surprised" by this year's wheat harvest.

Hard white wheat

makes up 16.3 percent of planted acres in west central and southwest Kansas. Joe is the top seeded hard white wheat variety, making up 8.4 percent of planted acres in southwest Kansas and 7.9 percent in west central Kansas. Overall, hard white wheat was seeded on 4.3 percent of Kansas' 7.7 million acres, accounting for 331,100 acres seeded to hard white wheat in the fall of 2023. KS Big Bow, being the most recent HW release and projecting to be a Joe replacement with higher yield potential, better disease package and milling and baking quality.

Overall, the quality of this year's hard white wheat crop is excellent, in line with the quality of this year's hard red winter wheat crop.

The Millershaskis from Lakin in Kearny County are growing both Joe and KS Big Bow, hard white wheats from the Kansas Wheat Alliance, this year.

Gary Millershaski reports that their "test weights have been unbelievable, 60 to 65 pounds per bushel." They have very good sized berries and clean samples.

They have not tested for protein because the elevators in the area do not pay for protein.

In February, the crop looked fantastic. Kyler Millershaski said he was excited to topdress because it was looking so good.

They got a really good stand on all their acres last fall, and even had snow cover over the winter.

But, then the spigot turned off and they received no more moisture until late May.

"I had higher hopes," Kyler said. "It's disappointing."

Even with the lack of moisture in the spring, their farm will average approximately 28 bushels per acre, down from an average in the mid-40s.

They received a major hailstorm, which resulted in one field being a total loss and a few others with yields of only 10 to 20 bushels per acre.

They haven't had any issues with wheat streak mosaic virus, even though some of their neighbors have it.

"Joe has been such a good staple for this area," Gary said, referencing its wheat streak resistance.

Like Millershaskis'

operation, the Suppes' in Lane County see farming as a family affair.

Ron, his son Shane, nephew Jace, and a skilled group of hired hands started cutting their hard white winter wheat crop on June 18. With dry weather, they expect to finish in the next seven days. They were using stripper headers, which maximize the use of straw left behind for moisture conservation and weed management.

This year they planted Joe and KS Big Bow and have been pleasantly surprised by their resilience to the spotty weather they have had. They gave some credit to timely rains during the grain filling period.

The family was happy to report an average of 50 bushels per acre and proteins at 12.5 percent. Their wheat crop this year faced some pressure from wheat streak mosaic virus which put a damper on yields, but was not a huge factor due to the advancements made by wheat research.

"It's the genetics shining through," said Jace as he reflected on this season's challenges.

Stewart Whitham, who farms near Leoti,

in Wichita County said there was a tremendous amount of variability potential in this crop, just a few weeks before getting started cutting.

Over the course of the weeks leading up to harvest, grain filling weather was ideal, which allowed for his crop to be "better than expected."

Whitham's crop of KS Big Bow had average test weights of 62.7 pounds per bushel, with protein averaging 13.2 percent.

U.S. Wheat Associates produces an annual Crop Quality Report that includes grade, flour and end-product data for all six U.S. wheat classes. The 2024 Annual Wheat Quality Report will be available at [uswheat.org](http://uswheat.org).

The 2024 Harvest Report is brought to you by the Kansas Wheat Commission, Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, Kansas Grain and Feed Association and the Kansas Cooperative Council. To follow along with harvest updates on Twitter, use #wheat harvest24. Tag us at @kansaswheat on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to share your harvest story and photos.

*Written by Amelia Schatz for Kansas Wheat*



## Wheat Scoop: Gone with the Wind

Deb and Ken Wood share their farming story through tornado recovery to retirement and beyond

The lives of one Kansas farm family was forever changed after a large and violent long-track tornado tore across north central Kansas on May 25, 2015. Ranking as one of the most violent tornadoes of the season with an EF4 rating and estimated winds of 180 miles per hour, the funnel was on the ground for more than a staggering 90 minutes, bending railroad tracks and snapping trees three or four feet wide in half.

The worst damage was to a single farmstead one mile southwest of Chapman, where the home and all the outbuildings were completely blown away as the operation's matriarch hid in the basement underneath pillows. But what could be only a story of devastation is also one of hope, community and resilience for Ken and Deb Wood, who shared their story with Aaron Harries, Kansas Wheat vice president of research and operations and host of the Wheat's on Your Mind podcast.

Today, Ken is a retired wheat farmer, who has served on the boards of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers and the National Association of Wheat Growers. He still serves as a board member for the National Wheat Foundation. Deb works as a family resource management agent for K-State Research and Extension in Salina.

The day the tornado

struck wasn't expected to be a very severe weather day. Ken was away in Hays for KAWG meetings and Deb went to and came home from work like normal. Their farmstead was picturesque, located in a river bottom with a traditional farmhouse, nine outbuildings and all the machinery you would expect on a working farm – minus the combines that were stored at a different location. Ken had all his corn and about half of his soybeans planted and he recalled he was three weeks to a month out from wheat harvest.

Deb came home like any other day, got a bite to eat and had the news on. There was a storm building east of Bennington, but it was Kansas and May, so thunderstorms and tornadoes are just part of the normal weather broadcast.

"There's tornadoes around Kansas all the time, so I didn't think too awful much of it until things started getting closer," Deb said. "Looking back, if I knew then what I know now, I would have put as much stuff into my vehicle as I possibly could have and gotten the heck out of Dodge."

Ken stayed in Hays for supper. He got an alert on his phone that there was some severe weather developing, but he just watched as it developed like a normal storm. He got on the road and headed for home, but the longer he drove, the more he realized the storm was developing into something dangerous.

In Kansas, tornadoes typically move from the southwest to the northeast or due north. This night's tornado moved west to east, took a right turn, went south across I-70 and hit the Wood's

farmstead out of the northwest as a monster.

"When you live in Kansas, you spend a lot of time in the basement when there's a warning," Deb said. "Most of the time, I go downstairs and I just kind of sit there, listen to the radio and wait for it to be over with. I had done that and then I had gone back up as I was getting texts from people. And that's when I started worrying."

Deb quickly gathered what she could – some medicine, work clothes and, importantly, Ken's work boots. Then she ducked under a desk in the basement, taking pillows off the bed in the room and stuffing them around her. Still, it didn't occur to her that the storm would take everything else.

Then the storm hit. The glass broke. The sub-floor was totally blown away. And the entire house was gone.

"There was nothing left at the farm and I mean nothing left," Deb said. "There was just nothing. It just chewed everything up into little pieces."

The glass all broke, it ripped off the subfloor totally. The house's center beam broke into two and a wall landed on Deb. Then it started raining and then it started hailing. Still, Deb kept her cool.

"I called Ken to let him know we'd taken a direct hit, but I was fine, but I couldn't get out," Deb remembered.

A local fireman who had lost part of his own farming operation in a 2008 tornado that hit nearby Chapman was first on the scene. Deb could hear him calling for her, so she started hitting on top of the wall. He removed what he could but had to wait for help to get her out entirely.

Ken got the call when he was in nearby Abilene. He raced down the road but was stopped on his normal route on Old 40 Highway because there were poles across the road. When a deputy came flying around the corner and heading north towards I-70, Ken got behind him and followed him all the way – not stopping at a single stop sign, only slowing when they hit a heavy hailstorm.

By the time Ken got home, it was still light enough to see the damage. Deb had very deep bruises on her back, but no broken bones. Although they had no house, no clothes, no food, the community immediately rallied together. Ken and Deb stayed that night at Ken's brother's house, but neither slept a wink.

The next morning brought help that did not stop – from family, friends, neighbors, the community, former co-workers, the KARL program, the wheat family. Anyone and everyone who could offer help did. Two former teachers of Ken offered to rent them a two-story farmhouse west of Junction City that was fully furnished. The couple moved in with half a trash bag full of clothes and a pan of lasagna from a neighbor and lived there for 10 months. Although, the fridge was already so full of offerings that the lasagna barely fit.

In addition to the farmhouse and yard, the couple lost irrigation pivots, bins, other buildings and a couple of pieces of equipment. But one of the hardest chores was cleaning up all the acres where debris was scattered like crumbs.

"It literally just chewed stuff up and so

there was a lot of stuff that was spread out over the fields," Ken said. "Little pieces. You'd find a handle off a truck, and there was a lot of things that you couldn't tell what they were."

In addition to picking up individual pieces of debris, Ken and his helpers burned wheat stubble and then had to mine the debris hidden under the stubble. It couldn't be done all at once, so it was done one smoky, dusty terrace at a time.

Within just a few weeks, it was time for wheat harvest. Luckily, Ken was no stranger to borrowing trucks or tractors from his brother or neighbors. And wheat harvest felt like a return to something normal.

"That was the first thing that felt like I was doing something that's not picking stuff up and not tornado-related," Ken said. "Although harvest was a real trip, cutting around stuff out in the wheat fields, that was what got me back into the right frame of mind to at least start a plan."

The couple navigated insurance and deciding where and how to rebuild their farmstead. The home builders broke ground at the end of September and they moved into their brand-new home the first week-end of the next April.

Their story does not end there. When health issues popped up, Ken made the difficult decision to retire. One of the neighbors who stepped up after the tornado and brought out a loader to help out had a son coming home and wanted to expand his operation. So Ken and Deb made the calls – first to their landlords and then to others – it was time to turn over the operation to a new generation.

"One weekend, that's about all I did was call people and let them know," Ken said. "As it turned out, I've been way healthier than I was expecting to be from this whole deal, so I could have kept going. But once you make the decision, I've been at peace with it pretty much."

While COVID-19 disrupted retirement travel plans, the Woods have found themselves as busy as ever. Deb now helps share her story about taking an inventory of both everything in the machine shed and in the house, but also putting together a grab-and-go box with all the policy and phone numbers needed if the worst happens. And Ken found he missed serving on wheat industry boards, so he quickly applied when a spot opened up for the board for the National Wheat Foundation.

"Now I'm probably busier than I want to be, but it's self-inflicted," Ken said. "So I'm good with that."

Through it all – farming, tornadoes, rebuilding a home, retiring – Ken and Deb know one truth above all else – it's the people around you that matter most.

"I feel like we've come out on the other side stronger and more resilient," Deb said. "All of the people that helped us get through the recovery; we couldn't have done it without them. Building those relationships and keeping in touch with people and having that community – it really helps you get through things like this."

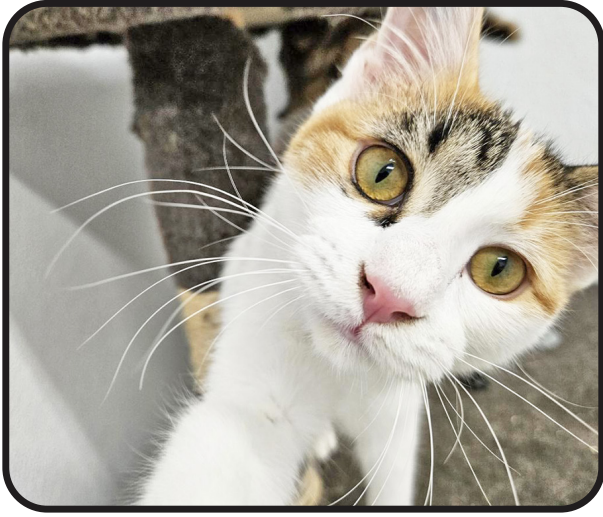
*Listen to Ken and Deb's full story on the podcast or find other episodes of "Wheat's On Your Mind" at [wheatsonyourmind.com](http://wheatsonyourmind.com).*

*Written by Julia Debes for Kansas Wheat*

## KCHS Pets Ready for Adoption

### Snickers

Sponsored by The Cunningham Courier



Miss Snickers here is a pretty, spicy and fun short-haired kitty. She weighs about 6 pounds and is about 8 months old. She has been at the shelter since May 28th. Her adoption fee is \$50.00

## Dottie

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Dottie is mix breed pup. She has some American Blue Heeler and American Bulldog in her. She weighs about 35 pounds and is about 2 and 1/2 years old. She has been at the shelter since May 14, 2024.

Housetrained  
Single Dog Home

She's a little hesitant around new people but Dottie is very smart and will be very loyal to her owner. She can be your guardian angel and will protect you from other dogs, or anyone that appears to be threatening. She will do best in an adult-only home with no other pets. She's housetrained, crate trained. Dottie knows basic commands such as "sit", "stay", "lay down", "roll over" and "shake" She's not for everyone, but with the right person, she will be your best friend!

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



## Day 10, Kansas Wheat Harvest Report

con't from page 6

accompanying humidity also kept producers from starting cutting until early afternoon in Hamilton County. Jason Ochs, who farms near Syracuse, reported he started cutting on June 21, but was delayed the following week by rain. Rain chances every night is stretching out a normal two-week harvest window, but the bigger theme of this year's harvest is variability — within and between fields.

When local farmers say wheat is yielding better than expected, that

may be only 20 bushels per acre on fields they didn't even expect to cut. Others are seeing yields up to 60 bushels per acre.

"We've covered the bases for sure," Ochs said. "We have short-rated wheat that never came up last fall. We've zeroed wheat out that just didn't get the rains. We've had fields that caught on fire that we didn't get cut. We have fields that are hailed out 80 to 90 percent. And yields are ranging up to well above 50 bushels to the acre. I have a really big spectrum."

Across the county, Ochs guessed most people will end harvest above the county average of 30 to 32 bushels per acre across their entire operations. Test weights indicate good quality, coming in at or above 60 pounds per bushel. Proteins are ranging from

11.8 to 13 percent.

Ochs delivers his wheat to Scouler Grain in Coolidge. Ellie Katzer, senior originator at that location, reported seeing good quality wheat so far with yields higher than anticipated. The rains have not hit test weights and quality has hung on with the lingering harvest. Test weights are averaging 60 to 61 pounds per bushel. Average protein is 12 percent, but the range is from 8 to 15 percent.

The elevator took in their first load on June 12 but harvest did not kick into full gear until June 17. Katzer expects to harvest to have a "long tail" and finish up in mid-July.

"Everyone is pretty content with harvest this year," she said. "It's nice to see good quality, and there are some good yields out there."

The return of heat advisories on Monday is likely to dry up lingering moisture from the weekend and keep the combines running for the rest of the holiday week. Stay tuned for the next Kansas wheat harvest report on Tuesday, July 2.

The 2024 Harvest Reports are brought to you by the Kansas Wheat Commission, Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, Kansas Grain and Feed Association and the Kansas Cooperative Council. To follow along with harvest updates, use #wheat harvest24 on social media. Tag us at @kansawheat on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to share your harvest story and photos.

Written by Julia Debes for Kansas Wheat



## Improve Your Backyard, Deck or Patio by Hanging String Lights

(StatePoint) Outdoor lighting can extend the time you can spend enjoying your backyard with your friends and family. While there are a host of involved and expensive outdoor lighting solutions, there's one easy DIY alternative that offers a lot of charm.

"String lights are a beautiful, inexpensive and fun way to add per-

sonality and ambience to your yard and patio," says expert landscape designer, Doug Scott.

In a recent Exmark Done-In-A-Weekend Projects video, Scott demonstrates how to hang simple, cost-effective backyard lighting. With the best part of the summer still on tap, he is offering his steps for this two-day project for improving your outdoor living space:

1. Determine where you'll hang your lights. You can hang them from fence posts, on trees, off porch railings, or even purchase light stakes that do the hard work for you.
2. Research the style

of backyard lights that you want to use.

3. Sketch an outline or design of how you want the lights to look. You may want to crisscross the lights or string them just around the perimeter of the patio. Knowing your design will help you determine how many strands of lights you need. Just be sure your design represents you and how you want to live outside.
4. Determine what installation equipment you need. You may need extra equipment such as an extension cord or hardware to hang the lights. Make sure that all hardware is weatherproof and outdoor-grade.

5. Measure the area where you'll hang your lights, being sure to leave room for slack and to reach the outlet.
6. When you begin hanging the lights, try to have the light strand connections be as discrete as possible.
7. Install light hooks.
8. Hang outdoor string lights. To avoid breakage,

remove all of the bulbs from the light strings before hanging them. Once the strings are hung, install one bulb in each strand and test it to make sure it works. Then add the remaining bulbs.

9. Reveal your space. Now it's time to light up your backyard living space and kick back and enjoy!

To view the tutorial and get inspired, visit Exmark's Backyard Life, a multimedia destination that provides everything from lawn care tips to gardening and outdoor hosting advice, at [exmark.com/backyard](http://exmark.com/backyard).

String or strand outdoor lighting will add after-dark pizzazz to your outdoor living space. And though this improvement makes a big atmospheric impact, it's one that won't break the bank.



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If you have large, bulky items for pick up (i.e. appliances or furniture) please call Nisly at 620-662-6561. They pick up bulky items once a month. This service is included in your trash bill with the city! No extra charge!

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**Public Notice**  
*First published in The Cunningham Courier Thursday, July 4, 2024 (2t)*  
**NOTICE OF PLACES AND DATES OF REGISTRATION:**  
Pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 25-2310 and 25-2311, notice is hereby given that the books for the registration of voters of Kingman County, Kansas will be closed from 5:00 p.m. on July 16, 2024, until the day after the Primary Election on August 7th, 2024.  
OFFICE HOURS:  
The books will be kept open each day from 8:00a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the County Clerk's Office, Kingman County Courthouse, Kingman, Kansas through July 16th, 2024.  
If you have never registered in Kingman County, Kansas and have lived in the ward or township for 30 days or more and will have attained the age of 18 years by the time of the General Election, and a U.S. Citizen, you must register before you can vote.  
When a voter has registered according to the law, his registration shall continue to be valid until one of the following occurs:  
The voter changes name by marriage, divorce, or legal proceedings.  
The voter changes residence in which he resided at the time he registered.  
When a voter dies or is disqualified for voting, his registration will be removed from the files.  
If you are a foreign birth, you must present final naturalization papers to register. Everyone wishing to register must appear in person at one of the places listed above or may request in writing by mail to the County Election Officer to register. Voter Registration forms can be provided by the County Election Officer upon request in person or in writing from an individual. Such application shall be signed by the applicant under penalty of perjury.  
In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 27th day of June 2024.  
Carol D. Noblit  
Kingman County Election Officer

**This advertising space available for \$12.00**

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### Virginia Bleier

Virginia May Padfield Bleier, 84, died July 4, 2024 in Kingman.

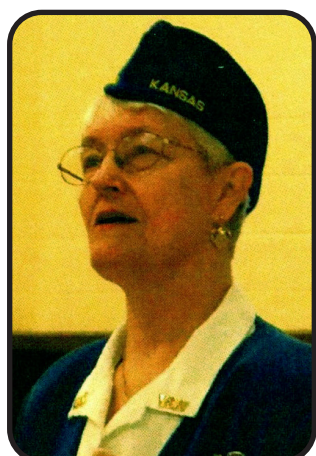
She was born July 5, 1939, near Kingman the daughter of Elmer L. and Edith Smith Denison. A Kingman resident most of her life, she was a homemaker as well as many other occupations.

Virginia was a member of the First Baptist Church, Kingman; and was former President and District 7 President of the VFW Auxillary.

In Feb. 1956, she married George Padfield; he preceded her in death. In 1978, she married John Bleier; he also preceded her in death. Survivors include a daughter Georgia Epley; a son John and his wife Diane; sister Anna L. Smith; 6 grandchildren; and 4 great-grandchildren. She was also preceded in death by son Stanley Padfield; brothers LeRoy, Bobby, Jack and Jerry Denison; and granddaughters Adela Georgianne Silba and LaDonna May Silba.

Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m., Thursday, at the Livingston Funeral Home, Kingman. The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Wednesday at the funeral home. Burial will be in the Hoosier Cemetery.

Memorials may be made with the Pretty Prairie High School Scholarship Fund, Rivercross Hospice, Wheatlands Healthcare Center, and the VFW National Home, all in care of Livingston Funeral Home, 1830 N. Main, Kingman, KS 67068.



### Susie Belding

Susie Belding, 79, passed away Tuesday, July 2, 2024 at Hilltop Manor in Cunningham. She was born on January 25, 1945 in Redfield, Iowa to Gilbert Lionel and Thelma (Ballinger) Beane. Susie married Larry Belding on December 31, 1966 in Redfield, Iowa. He preceded her in death on June 18, 2012.

Susie graduated from Dextfield High School in Redfield, Iowa. She worked as a bookkeeper for Kanza Coop. She enjoyed sewing, bowling, reading and watching John Wayne films.

She is survived by her children, Kara (Richard) Davis of Arcadia, Florida and Blayne Belding of Mullinville; brothers, Keith (Norella) Beane of Lathrop, Missouri and Gary (Joan) Beane of Des Moines, Iowa.

Susie is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Larry Belding; and brothers, Lee Beane and Paul Beane.

Visitation will be Sunday, July 7, 2024 from 1:00 p.m - 5:00 p.m. at Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt. A Graveside Service will be held at 10:00 a.m., Monday, July 8, 2024 at Greenlawn Cemetery, Pratt with John Hamm presiding.

Memorials may be made to American Cancer Society in care of Larrison Mortuary.



### Mark Sutton

Pratt - Mark Allen Sutton, 61, passed away Monday, July 8, 2024 at Pratt Regional Medical Center. He was born on July 20, 1962 in Nashville, Kansas to Oliver Lee Sutton and Jean (Harding) Jenson.

Mark attended Cullison High School. He was a member of All Saints Episcopal Church.

He enjoyed playing guitar and listening to music, especially 70's and 90's Rock. He also enjoyed attending car shows and races.

He is survived by his sister, Gale (Ralph) Voss of Pratt; brother in-law, Mike Carmichael of Cullison; and several nieces and nephews as well as many greats and great-great nieces and nephews.

Mark is preceded in death by his parents; sister, Sue Carmichael; and brother, Larry (Denise) Sutton.

Cremation has taken place. A graveside memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, August 9, 2024 at Coats Cemetery, Coats with The Reverend Karen Lemon presiding.

Memorials may be made to Donor Choice in care of Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt.



### Heatstroke in Cars is Riskier For Young Children

Children are at more risk of heatstroke or death because their body temperatures rise up to five times faster than adults, even on cooler days in the summer.

This is why the Kansas Department of Transportation, the Drive To Zero Coalition and emergency responders remind parents and caregivers to never leave a child in a car.

Children suffer heatstroke in cars primarily from three preventable actions. "First, don't forget you have a child in the back seat of a car," said KDOT Behavioral Safety Manager Gary Herman. "Next, don't leave a car unlocked even at home, where children may wander off and gain access to that car. And don't knowingly leave a child in a car, thinking a cracked window or quick stop will be OK."

This safety information will be shared with the public from July 8-21 to increase awareness of the dangers excessive heat can have on children. SAFE KIDS reports on average, every 10 days a child dies from heatstroke in a vehicle. In over half of these deaths, the caregiver forgot the child was in the car. A car can heat up 19 degrees in just 10 minutes, and cracking a window doesn't help.

The National Safety Council stated there were five child heatstroke deaths in vehicles in Kansas from 2019-2023. These children were aged 2 and under. One of these deaths occurred when the outside temperature was reported at 59 degrees.

Anyone transporting a child should develop habits to avoid forgetting a child:

Keep a stuffed animal or other memento in your child's car seat when it's empty and move it to the front seat as a visual reminder when your child is in the back seat.

Place and secure your phone, purse, laptop, bag, etc., in the back seat when traveling with your child.

If you are a bystander and see a child in a hot vehicle:

Make sure the child is okay and responsive. If not, call 911 immediately.

If the child appears to be okay, attempt to locate the parents. If someone is with you, one person should actively search for the parent while the other waits at the car.

Learn more about protecting kids from heatstroke by visiting <https://www.safekids.org/heatstroke> and <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/safety-topics/child-safety/vehicular-heatstroke-prevention>



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**Advertise with The Courier**

**Upcoming Auctions**  
Saturday, July 13, 2024 Consignment Auction - Hamm Auction Center - 9:30  
Monday, July 15, 2024, Kingman Co Land Auction - 1:30 pm Hamm Auction Center, Pratt, KS  
Monday, July 22, 2024, Harper Co Land Auction, 1:30 PM, Municipal Hall Anthony KS  
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

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

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**Happy Birthday, Aaven Quinones!**