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June 25, 2026

County's 2025 Audit Has No Major Issues

BY BOB MORRIS
Managing Editor

Kingman County received an unmodified opinion on its 2025 county audit, meaning no significant issues were found in a review of its budget figures.

Danielle Hollingshead of Adams Brown visited with the Kingman

County commissioners Monday to talk to them about the audit. She reviewed the auditor's letter in the report, which stated that Adams Brown didn't have any difficulties encountered in performing the audit and had no significant findings.

She said the only issue cited was an "internal control of segregation of duties," which refers

to dividing financial tasks among different employees.

"So we made mention of that in here, but otherwise we didn't have anything major that needed to be put in the letter," Hollingshead said.

She said the financials were presented fairly and that there were no issues found that needed

attention.

In reviewing the financial statement, Hollingshead said that, while the county basically went up \$1.6 million in cash over the prior year, it had \$1.5 million in the "rainy day reserve" because of that. She said that wasn't necessarily a large increase from the prior year outside of that reserve,

so the county was budgeting in line with its revenues and expenditures.

She added that there were no state statute violations found, that things checked out with the long-term debt schedule and there were no budget violations.

The county commissioners then approved acceptance of the audit.

Renewals for Courier Sent

PRESS RELEASE

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Library Hosts Balloon Races

STAFF REPORT

It was off to the races, balloon races that is, last Thursday morning at the Cunningham Library. Several children and parents were in attendance to have a chance to race balloons against other attendees. The Kingman County Extension office interns presented a program and helped the kids make their own balloon racers. The kids then took turns racing against each other.



STEPHANIE JUMP / The Courier Dawson Wood (back left) and Abby Clover (back right) help get balloons ready to race during last Thursday's STEM program at the Cunningham Library.

Wildcats Compete



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Cunningham High School trapshooting team competed at State this past weekend. Pictured (L to R) are Coach Jeremiah Schnittker, Jace Oldham, Janessa Schnittker, Will Halderson, Kendall Rogers, Cole Gridley, Adam Sterneker, Gage Dunn and Kane Reid.

BY BOB MORRIS
Managing Editor

The Cunningham trapshooting team competed in the state trapshooting tournament Saturday in Wichita.

The Wildcats competed in the Class 1A division. The Class 2A division tour-

namment was held Sunday.

In the varsity competition, Jace Oldham, Kendall Rogers and Adam Sterneker competed for Cunningham. Sterneker scored 86, Rogers scored 83 and Oldham scored 72.

In the junior varsity competition, those competing for the boys were Gage

Dunn, who scored 71 and Cole Gridley, who scored 64, while Janessa Schnittker competed for the girls and scored 73.

In the novice competition, Will Halderson scored 87 and Kane Reid scored 59. Halderson placed fourth overall among the boys and fifth overall

among all novice competitors.

Cunningham trapshooting coach Jeremiah Schnittker said he thought the kids did well and did a good job of going into the competition, doing the best they can.

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Pratt Regional Medical Center Receives Funds

PRESS RELEASE

Pratt Regional Medical Center recently received \$2.8 million in Rural Health Transformation Program funds for the conversion of two endoscopy rooms to dual-purpose OR endosuites, expanding the Family Birth Suite, and launching the first breast MRI cancer screening program.

Hamilton Campaigns in Cunningham

STAFF REPORT

Democrat Adam Hamilton was recently in Cunningham to meet with residents about his run for the United States Senate. Residents had the opportunity to talk to the candidate in an informal setting. Hamilton is a resident of Dickinson County.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Adam Hamilton, right, made a stop in Cunningham on Sunday afternoon and spoke with residents regarding his campaign for U.S. Senate.

Salaries Dominate Latest Discussion of County Budget

BY BOB MORRIS
Managing Editor

Budget discussion during the Kingman County commission's meeting Monday focused extensively on how raises should be handled.

County Financial Officer LaDawn Stegman presented the commissioners with an example of what expenditures would look like if county employees got a certain percentage raise, which prompted comments from County Commissioner Jack Thimesch about whether it would make more sense to give raises based on a dollar amount.

The discussion started after Stegman reviewed the total expenditures for non-exempt employees, meaning somebody who isn't in an elected or salaried position. She then gave examples of what a percentage increase would look like.

As an example, if the county did a 3 percent increase and rolled all over stipends into base pay, the county would be looking at a difference of \$167,000 compared to current salaries.

Thimesch said that, if the county were to give a 3 percent raise, that raise for a person making \$35 an hour wouldn't be the same as the one for a person making \$15 an

hour. "They're both going to go to the grocery store and they're going to fill the bag up with groceries," Thimesch said. "But the one that gets the 3 percent at \$15.50 is not going to put in as much groceries. So how is that cost of living fair to that person when the one who makes the \$35, he can fill the bag up and I'm going to sell him an extra steak?"

He said he wanted to get back to a system that was "more fair" to people on the lower end of salaries, just as much as to people with higher salaries.

That led to discussion about the county's salary matrix, in which

Stegman noted the factors that went into that, such as the type of job, experience, education and the complexity of duties.

Thimesch said he wasn't sold that the pay matrix was working as intended.

"We've got people who have been here since (19)82, and you can say their job title's the same, but that person trained that person for that job and they're both making the same dollar amount," Thimesch said.

Stegman said she didn't think any sort of change to the matrix can't be "a one-year fix. It needs to be a process of recognizing the is-

ues with the matrix and payroll."

"And knowing we need to adjust things, I think it would just be extremely difficult to institute all those changes. You could do it, but then I think there would be so many factors going into somebody's pay of adjusting. It wouldn't be very transparent," Stegman said.

County Clerk Carol Noblitt said that the question is when the county gives a cost of living increase, how much it means to a particular employee. She also cited the difference in pay based on percentages, in which a 3 percent increase for

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NEWS

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Jason Jump at (620) 532-3151 or email jasonjump@thecunninghamcourier.com



Days of Yore

60 Years Ago

Enrollment has reached 90 students in the Remedial Reading Classes in Unified School District No. 332 being held this summer at the Cunningham Grade School. Registration for the classes closed Monday.

Other student assistants, in addition to those named in last week's news story, include Jean Brady and Frank McClellan.

Visitors are welcome to attend sessions of the classes, which are held each morning Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 11:30 o'clock. The classes will be held for the next seven weeks.

Blessed with hot and windy weather since last Saturday, wheat harvesters have virtually completed harvesting operations in the Cunningham area.

Yields ran surprisingly good, according to re-ports, despite the late freeze and drouth effects. Averages were reported as running from 12-20 bushels per acre.

65 Years Ago

Farmers in the Cunningham area are cutting a very fine 1961 wheat crop this week. Harvesting began in earnest last Monday afternoon, and aided by almost perfect harvesting weather, farmers have made a sizable swath down through some real good wheat stands.

Estimates on yields are hard to compute until most of the wheat is delivered to the grain elevators, but most farmers are saying their yields are running better than last year.

Some are reporting that parts of fields are yielding up to 40 bushels per acre, with the poorer ground turning out from 15 to 20 bushels per acre.

The end of the week, if the good weather holds up, should see the harvest over three-fourths completed in this area.

Cunningham's Little Leaguers, Junior Leaguers, and Babe Ruth Leaguers all chalked up victories during the past week.

The Little Leaguers defeated Turon by a 7-1 score last Friday evening. Mark Maier and Curtis Kitson did the pitching and Danny Theis the catching.

The Junior Leaguers also won their game from Turon the same evening. The final score was 13-7, with Dennis Theis doing the hurling and Ronnie and Harold Gillen sharing the back-stopping duties.

The Babe Ruth Leaguers defeated Haven here, Monday evening, by a 7-5 score. Tony Thompson, Kenneth Spade, and Mike Krug shared the pitcher's mound and Harold Gillen was behind the plate.

Games during the next week have been scheduled for tonight (Thursday), Friday, and Monday evenings.

Tonight (Thursday), the Babe Ruth Leaguers will play Sharon here. Friday evening, the Little and Junior Leaguers will play a doubleheader here with Pretty Prairie. The first game will start at 7:00 o'clock.

Monday evening, June 26, the Little and Junior Leaguers will play a double header at Haven.

The June meeting of the Christian Women's Fellowship was held last Thursday afternoon in the church undercroft, with Mrs. Marvin Shelman and Mrs. Albert Harris as hostesses.

The meeting was opened with a piano prelude by Mrs. John Baber, after which President Mrs. Everett Hauser read the poem, "Meditation," and the group sang the song, "Send the Light," followed with prayer by Mrs. Bob Stillwell.

Members and guests answered roll call with their favorite flower, after which Treasurer Mrs. Seth Whitmore and Social Reporter Mrs. Wesley Hendricks gave their yearly reports.

The devotionals were given by Mrs. Baber, who used the theme, "Loveliness of Mind," and Mrs. Willis Welch presented the lesson on flowers and floral arrangements.

Mrs. Hauser presented perfect attendance awards to Mrs. Nellie Shelman, Mrs. Floren Rose, and Mrs. Hendricks, and Mrs. Hauser was given a gift certificate by the members as retiring President.

The meeting closed with the hymn, "Blest Be the Tie," and prayer by Mrs. Hauser.

70 Years Ago

The population of Kingman County is 10,681, according to a summary of the assessor's reports this spring compiled by County Clerk Sylvester Biggs. This is a loss of 178 people since a year ago.

Of this loss, 75 was in the cities and 103 in the townships. Cunningham, Norwich, Spivey, and Penalosa were cities showing gains in population, while Kingman, Nashville, and Zenda lost residents.

Cunningham gained eight in population and the total figure now stands at 595. This is about the 15th year in a row that Cunningham has shown a small gain in population, and we should go over the 600 mark next year.

Norwich gained 19 and now has a total population of 432; Spivey is up two to 139, and Penalosa gained 12 to 83.

Kingman lost 75 in population and now stands at 3,638 in total population; Nashville lost five to 138, and Zenda lost six to 177.

Rural and Dresden Townships both dropped slightly in population during the past year. Rural lost four to a 181 total, and Dresden lost 10 to a 243 total. Kingman Township showed a gain of 13 to 308, but Union Township dropped six to 167 total.

The 1956 wheat harvest is almost over in the Cunningham community, with only patches and small fields of late wheat to be cut. The yield was surprising to most farmers, and it is expected the county average may be around 15 bushels to the acre, with most reported yields around here being between 12-25 bushels per acre. The quality of the harvested wheat has been very good, with tests of 60 pounds

and over with 12 percent or less moisture content due to the perfect, dry harvest weather in the past two weeks. Best yield reported to the Clipper was a 10-acre patch cut by Charles Ratcliff which produced 68 bushels per acre. Other small patches have made as high as 40-50 bushels per acre.

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June 22, 1951

Daniel Blasi left Monday for induction into the United States Army. He is the fourth son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Blasi to enter military service. Richard served in the Air Corps, and Floyd and Vernon in the Navy, during the last war.

Wheat harvesting in this community will start about the middle of next week. A wind and rain storm struck this area, Wednesday evening, disrupting telephone and electric service throughout Thursday.

80 Years Ago

The First Presbyterian Church in Pratt was the scene of a beautiful appointed wedding service Saturday afternoon at four o'clock, when Miss Arlene Tade, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Basil F. Tade of Centerville, Iowa became the bride of Mr. William Bradley, Editor of the Clipper, and son of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Bradley, of Cunningham. Rev. E. A. Nossaman of Towanda, Kansas, uncle of the groom, read the double ring service before a throng of invited guests.

The marriage commemorated the twenty-fifth wedding anniversary of the groom's parents.

Baskets of fern, peach gladioli, and carnations, with tall seven-branch candleabra with white tapers decorated the altar, before which the vows were read. While the wedding guests were assembling and during the lighting of the tapers, an organ prelude was played by Mrs. Reece, church organist, including Shubert's "Ave Maria," "I Love You truly," "Interlude," "Romance," and the "Love Theme from Romeo and Juliet."

Preceding the ceremony, Miss Roberta Tade, sister of the bride, sang three numbers. "At Dawning," "Because" and "Through the Years," accompanied by Mrs. Reece at the organ, who played the traditional

wedding marches for the processional and recessional.

The tapers were lighted by Beverly Ann Amick and Patty Lou Raney, cousins of the groom, dressed alike in white organdy dresses fashioned with a peplum ruffle. They both wore a red rose shoulder corsage.

Miss Betty Amick attended the bride as Maid of Honor and wore a gown of yellow net, made with a fitted bodice and bouffant skirt, with which she wore a head piece of matching net, made shoulder length with a fitted top. Her bouquet was of deep wine red carnations.

The bridesmaids, Misses Virginia Nan Bradley, Virginia Popkins of Wichita, Margie Buss of Wichita, and Bonnie Lou Amick wore gowns of net, in peach and blue, fashioned alike with fitted bodices with deep berthia flares and bouffant skirts. The former two wore peach net and carried bouquets of rose-red carnations tied with matching satin ribbon, the latter two were dressed in blue net with bouquets of pink carnations tied with pink ribbon. All wore matching head pieces fashioned like that of the Maid of Honor.

The ring bearer, Kurt Engelmang of Wichita, cousin of the bride, wore a white suit and carried the rings on a satin pillow, while his sister, Judy Engelmang, flower girl, wearing a dress of flowered silk, scattered rose petals in the path of the bride.

The groom was attended by his brother, Jack Bradley, as best man, while Phillip Fee, Elmer Steffen, Francis Wilson and Calvin Nossaman served as ushers.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her Father was lovely in a gown of white lace and net, fashioned with a fitted lace bodice at the wrist. The skirt was of net which lengthened into a graceful train with lace insertions. Her veil of sheerest illusion billowed from a head piece of lace trimmed with pearls. She wore white silk mitts trimmed with lace and gold colored sandals, and carried an ex-quisite bouquet of white gladioli, carnations and baby breath showered with white satin ribbons knotted with carnations. Her only ornaments were a strand of pearls and pearl earrings, a gift of the groom and brought from Japan. She carried a white silk handkerchief which had belonged to the groom's grandmother.

Mrs. Tade, Mother of the bride, was gowned in black crepe with which she wore pink accessories. Her corsage was of pink roses. Mrs. Bradley, Mother of the groom wore a gown of navy blue crepe with white accessories and her corsage was of white gladioli.

Following the ceremony

See YORE / Page 6

OBITUARY

RALPH RICHARD DICK

Ralph Richard Dick, 90, died June 19, 2026, at Parkwood Village, Pratt.

He was born July 31, 1935, at Zenda, the son of Louis and Matilda Dick Burns. A longtime resident of the Isabel community, he was a farmer and stockman and had served as a Barber County commissioner.

Ralph was a member of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus, past member Isabel CO-OP board and the Valley Township board; a supporter of 4-H; and was a veteran of the United States Air Force.

On Jan. 31, 1959, he married Myra Gerdes at Zenda. Other survivors include a son Allen; daughter Cynthia Rogers and her husband Michael; brother Walter; nine grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Ralph was preceded in death by sons Steven and Eugene; brothers Wayne, Harold, Leo, Delbert and Norbert; and sisters Marcella, Grace, Rosallen, Beatrice and Virginia.

Parish rosary will be 10 a.m., Saturday, June 27 at the Holy Rosary Catholic Church followed immediately by the Mass of Christian Burial. The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, June 26 at the Livingston Funeral Home, Kingman. Burial will be in the Isabel Cemetery.

Memorials may be made with the Holy Rosary Catholic Church or Rivercross Hospice and mailed to Livingston Funeral Home, 1830 N. Main, Kingman KS 67068.

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OPINION

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Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds

By Gaille Pike

To say that I am not mechanically inclined would be an understatement. When it comes to fixing things I am devoid of any knowledge or skill usually required when fixing things. Out of the entire universe of tools I might be able to identify three or four of them and if I'm lucky I might be able to ascertain how they are applied to certain tasks. A hammer hammers things. A screwdriver screws things. A saw saws things. But if the name of a tool does not explain what that tool actually does I am up that creek without a paddle thingy. Channel locks? What in the world do they do? And this is where I rely on the kindness of friends and neighbors who possess those skills I am so lacking.

My little patch of Kansas, like all our state's stomping grounds, is chock-a-block with unassuming men and

women with talents they've amassed over the decades. Many of them are retired and they have secret little workshops where they ply their mysterious trades and hobbies. And my desperation when something breaks has put me in contact with most of them. And they never actually charge me anything. I'll lay out for parts but never labor no matter how much I try to cram cash into their pockets. Undaunted, I will persevere until they begrudgingly accept some farm fresh eggs, produce or game. These stalwart craftspeople have repaired chainsaws, lawnmowers, dishwashers, fixture wiring, rototillers and automobiles. Some have even trapped pesky critters or plowed my drive. But none of these life-savers could help with what broke last week.

I will make this as uncomplicated as possible. What

happened was a bolt broke off in the hole it was meant to occupy. This rendered my riding mower inoperable. And all the King's Horses and all the King's Handymen could not extract this chunk of metal. And the gist of this is if that bolt did not come out I'd probably need a new engine or possibly a whole new mower. That's when I was directed to Doug.

Though I passed Doug's shop at least ten times a week I never knew what went on in there if anything. It is an 80-year-old Quonset hut on the side of the road with an ancient sign declaring "Smith's Shop." And there sat Doug, sharpening mower blades on an enormous grinding wheel, sparks flying everywhere in that dark, cavernous shed. He assessed my situation, took my phone number and said, "I'll see what I can do."

Well he saw and he did

because a short time later he called and informed me he had done the impossible. And what he charged me for this was so minimal I am embarrassed to tell you. Upon leaving I said, "Doug, I never knew you were even here. How long have you been in operation?" And Doug said, "141 years." What? Turns out in 1875 Doug's family opened up a blacksmith shop at that same location and had been operating uninterrupted since. Now in his 70s, he proudly explained he was a fifth-generation blacksmith, appropriately enough named Smith. And many of the tools of that trade going back 15 decades can still be seen inside that shop. So if you ever break a bolt off in a bolt hole, have I got a guy for you.

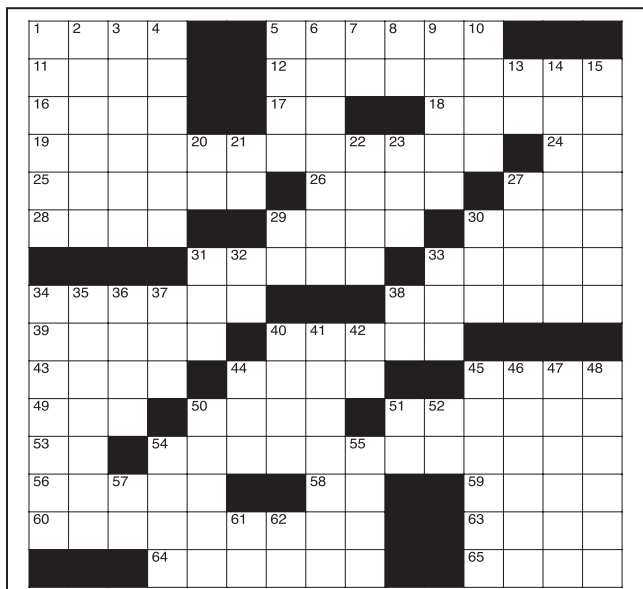
Keep your eyes on the stars and your back to the wind.

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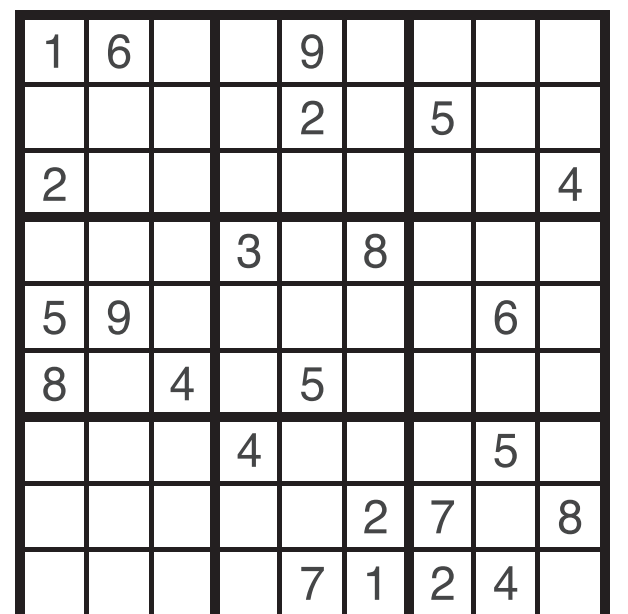


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Nocturnal S. American rodent
- 5. Requesting
- 11. Give temporarily
- 12. Excitedness
- 16. Armed Forces branch
- 17. Actor Harris
- 18. Middle Eastern capital
- 19. Air hostesses
- 24. Partner to "Pa"
- 25. Percussion instrument
- 26. Popular computers
- 27. Reduce light
- 28. Asian mountain range
- 29. Every one of two or more
- 30. Absence of difficulty
- 31. A public announcement of a proposed marriage
- 33. Whittles
- 34. Impact
- 38. Serviceman
- 39. A French river
- 40. Prehistoric people
- 43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 44. ___ Clapton, musician
- 45. Ancient Greek sophist
- 49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 50. Singer Hansard
- 51. A way to disentangle
- 53. Atomic #93
- 54. Manifesting approval
- 56. Indigo bush
- 58. Former AL MVP Vaughn
- 59. Off-Broadway theater award
- 60. Fencers
- 63. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
- 64. Relating to passerine birds
- 65. Arrange systematically

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Colorless fluid
- 2. Of a main artery
- 3. Photographer's tool
- 4. Blues Traveler hit "But ___"
- 5. Grew older
- 6. Not the leader
- 7. ___ Lang (country singer)
- 8. A driver's license is one
- 9. Nests of pheasants
- 10. Wildebeests
- 13. Equal to one quintillion bytes
- 14. Japanese three-stringed lute
- 15. Type of cat
- 20. It cools your home
- 21. The ancient Egyptian sun god
- 22. Pouches
- 23. German trigraph
- 27. Form of Persian
- 29. Measurement unit
- 30. Body part
- 31. Bridge building degree
- 32. Indicates position
- 33. Political action committee
- 34. Snack food
- 35. Front part of a quadruped
- 36. Locate
- 37. Pitching statistic
- 38. ___, myself and I
- 40. City in Utah
- 41. They play in the trenches
- 42. "Can't Touch This" rapper ___ Hammer
- 44. Type of tree
- 45. Performers
- 46. Slang for mistake
- 47. More open
- 48. Most slick
- 50. Needles
- 51. University of Dayton
- 52. Atomic #11
- 54. Large fish of the mackerel family
- 55. Not any
- 57. ___ and behold
- 61. Popular sports highlight show (abbr.)
- 62. "The Great Lakes State"



T R A D I T I O N N F V I H A B H B G L
 W M G B E V K R U N H H A V K C T R L I
 I B E U C W I S D O M A B A R B E C U E
 R G N G N H C A O C L P H W V T T T K D
 H S E N A K S S E N D N I K N W B O T G
 C R R F D R E L I A B I L I T Y A R H B
 N E O L I R D T Y H S I I H N H E U R Y
 L H S S U N E V F W N F M K U L D A Y T
 G T I K G C A S G R L O S H A F V P Y I
 B A T S D R O W P P B K I T N E G Y G N
 U F Y B W C R Y P E K P E T R B L M O R
 F A T H E R H O O D C D H Y O I T K L E
 O K I G L Y C A G E L T T E M V B T A T
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 E E W S M E N T O R S H I P Y H V S F E
 O G B S L E B D G C E L E B R A T I O N

FATHERS DAY FUN WORD SEARCH

APPRECIATION, BARBECUE, BRAVERY, CELEBRATION, COACH, DAY, DEDICATION, DEVOTION, FAMILY, FATHERHOOD, FATHERS, FISHING, GENEALOGY, GENEROSITY, GRILLING, GUIDANCE, HERITAGE, KINDNESS, LEGACY, MENTORSHIP, PATERNITY, RELATED, RELIABILITY, RESPECT, TRADITION, TRIBUTE, WISDOM, WORDS

The Challenge

By Dean Marple

It lay there, glowing, silently lurking. A soft electronic text carrying a bold challenge. The Class of 2026 threw down the gauntlet, daring the Class of 1996 to a charity baseball game. Two conference champions, the only two in the school's history, separated by 30 years and hopes met and unmet.

"You're not seriously thinking about playing, are you?" was the question asked by wives around more than one dinner table.

"Oh, I don't know. I think we can beat those kids," was the response of several middle-aged men.

"You get winded bending over to tie your shoes. How can you compete with a bunch of 17-year-olds when you can't even see the bathroom scale under your belly? Sure, it's for a good cause, but what if you get hurt? This makes absolutely no sense."

Never underestimate the male ego's ability to ignore common sense.

Two weeks and three hastily improvised practices later, the ancient ones found themselves standing on the first baseline as introductions were made. The

mayor was speaking, but they really weren't listening. They were too busy looking at the high school team lined up on the other side of the diamond.

"Blah, blah, charity, blah, blah."

Wow, those kids look young and fit. They're bouncing up and down and grinning ear to ear. Even their cheerleaders look perky.

"Blah, blah, sportsmanship, blah."

We've got a catcher who can't squat, a first baseman with two Coke bottles for glasses and three outfielders with the grace of a water buffalo.

"Blah, blah, raised \$1,895, blah, blah."

Their left fielder is showing off, touching his toes with his palms.

"Blah, blah, blah, play ball!"

Three grey beards came up to begin the game, top of the first inning. Two strike outs and one pulled muscle were the results, while the youngsters scored four runs in the bottom of the first. And so it went, first inning 4-0, second inning 7-0, third inning 11-2.

One side wolfed down hotdogs and Gatorade in their dugout as they laughed and flirted with their girlfriends in the stands.

The other dugout was a pitiful sight. Sweaty, fat men sat with bowed heads as they started to realize what the phrase "pushing 50" really meant. It was all they could do to make repeated trips to a large cooler. Something about silver cans with mountains turning blue seemed to attract them. Slowly, steadily, something changed in that dugout.

Their walks to the plate might have been slightly unsteady, but their swings became things of beauty. Full force, full extensions. Waists that hadn't twisted in years began to twist. Strike one, strike two, a mighty blast over the left field fence.

On the field, outfielders actually started to catch balls with one-handed grabs and leaping (well, sort of leaping) catches that invoked memories of years past. Middle-aged wives began to hoot and stomp the aluminum bleachers in rhythmic cheers that put the young cheerleaders to shame. The game became

fun.

With grins and backslaps, the game continued until the five-gallon plastic donation bucket overflowed and the muscles of old men called for relief. A two out line drive by the last batter sent the final baserunner in motion. Wheezing, the runner rounded third as the left fielder made his throw to home plate. A white blur as the ball crossed the infield, the runner launched himself into something that resembled a slide.

When the dust finally settled, three things were apparent: the slide stopped a good two feet from home plate, the runner's belt was now somewhere in the vicinity of his neck, and the catcher was laughing so hard he forgot to tag the runner out. This strange situation left the umpire with only one option.

The losing team actually cheered when the umpire declared the game over. Not to be outdone, the winning team cheered when the local pizza joint offered free pizza for the winners. Even the local druggist smiled when he thought of all the Ben Gay sales he'd make tomorrow.

A Mom's Musing

By Stephanie Jump, Co-Owner, M³ Publishing LLC

I am probably about to ruffle some feathers this week, but please hear me out to the end.

Last Friday, our middle daughter fell on our stairs. I was home with our oldest, and we heard her fall. I didn't think much about it to be honest. She is 20. We thought she would just pop back up. We were wrong.

After some "mom" assessment, I had our oldest make the call to the ambulance. Cue the rescue squad to come help lift her off the stairs. Long story short, two ambulance rides, two emergency rooms later we landed

in a trauma bay in Wichita on a Friday night around midnight. That's a story for another time, but let's just say it was uncomfortable to say the least.

Here is where as a parent I have some major issues. Yes, she is 20, but she asked for us to be with her and she was denied for an ambulance ride, as well as being alone in a trauma bay (and yes I understand the rules), where pain meds were given and then more information about her condition was discussed along with another condition she didn't even know about. All alone.

All by herself. All while on painkillers.

As a society we like to think that magic number of adulthood is 18 or 21. We can send kids to war, but they legally can't buy a beer. The second they turn 18 the world views them as adults when in reality, most of them are just kids in bigger clothes. Do they need to learn independence? Yes. Do they need to learn how to manage day-to-day life? Yes. But when a young "adult" is in a vulnerable position, common sense would say that they still need mom and dad, especially when

they are asking for them.

Do I have answers to this issue? No. Unfortunately I do not know what to do to help alleviate this for the next family, but I think we need to have some common sense when it comes to helping our young adults making transitions into said adulthood.

We see it in colleges, healthcare and finances. Everywhere they are trying to figure out how the world works, we are shutting out the voices that need to be heard the most. And after this weekend, I am really not okay with it anymore.

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QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Jason Jump at (620) 532-3151 or email jasonjump@thecunninghamcourier.com

DOCKET

KINGMAN COUNTY SHERIFF BLOTTER

Sunday, June 14

Traffic Stops 1
Check Welfare 3700 Blk E Bluff St, Kingman
Traffic Complaint SW 90 & W Hwy 54, Kingman
Theft 700 Blk E C Ave, Kingman
Miscellaneous 4700 Blk SE 150 Ave, Cheney
Non-Injury Accident 15000 Blk NE 50 St, Cheney
Trespassing 14000 Blk NE 50 St, Cheney

Monday, June 15

Civil Paper Service 5
Follow Up NE 10 St & NE 100, Murdock
Miscellaneous 15000 Blk NE 10 St, Cheney
Court/Inmates 130 N Spruce St, Kingman
Miscellaneous SE 70 St & SE 50 Ave, Kingman
Disabled Vehicle 1200 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Fire/Pasture SW 120 St & SW 50 Ave, Spivey
Traffic Complaint N Hwy 14 & E H 54, Murdock
Animal Complaint 600 Blk E D Ave, Kingman
Fir/Vehicle SW 50 & SW 90, Cunningham

Tuesday, June 16

Traffic Stops 3
Civil Paper Service 2

Animal Complaint 8000 Blk W H 54, Cunningham
Follow Up NE 10 St & NE 100, Murdock
Traffic Complaint 7000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman
Miscellaneous 300 Blk N Dresden, Cunningham
Traffic Complaint 1200 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Disabled Vehicle 5000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Suspicious Vehicle/Arrest NE 20 & E Hwy 54, Kingman

Wednesday, June 17

Traffic Stops 3
Civil Paper Service 1
Agency Assist/KHP 10000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney
Follow Up 600 Blk NE 20 Ave, Kingman
Animal Complaint SE 20 St & SE 120, Murdock
Miscellaneous 120 N Spruce St, Kingman

Thursday, June 18

Traffic Stops 5
Civil Paper Service 3
Motorist Assist 16000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney
Miscellaneous 700 Blk W D Ave, Kingman
Disabled Vehicle 6000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Disabled Vehicle 4000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman
Disabled Vehicle NW 170 & NW 20, Cunningham

Accidental 911 Dial 13000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney
Theft 3900 Blk SW 30 St, Kingman
Accidental 911 Dial SE 80 St & SE 150 Ave, Norwich
Warrant Arrest 120 N Spruce St, Kingman

Friday, June 19

Traffic Stops 2
Theft 4900 Blk SW 30 St, Kingman
Traffic Complaint 7400 Blk E Hwy 42, Rago
Miscellaneous NW 180 & W 1st, Cunningham
Found Property E Bluff St & SE 60, Kingman
Miscellaneous 400 Blk E D Ave, Kingman

Saturday, June 20

Traffic Stops 2
Check Welfare 15000 Blk SE 20 St, Cheney
Abandoned Vehicle NE 40 & E Hwy 54, Kingman
Miscellaneous 2500 Blk SE Murdock, Murdock
Disabled Vehicle 9000 Blk E Hwy 54, Murdock
Agency Assist/KHP 1000 Blk W D Ave, Kingman
Misc./Jail Incident 120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Theft NE 30 St & NE 70, Kingman
Non-Injury Accident NW 50 St & NW 90, Penalosa
Traffic Complaint SE 160 & SE 60 St, Kingman

KINGMAN COUNTY DISTRICT COURT

Judge Roseanna Mathis

Thursday, June 25

2026: State of Kansas vs. Antonio F. Sweetwater, hearing.

2026: State of Kansas vs. John D. Smalling, hearing.

2026: State of Kansas vs. John D. Smalling, hearing.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Michael N. Gustamantes Jr., first appearance.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Roberto C. Gonzales, first appearance.

2025: State of Kansas vs. Aaron Tracer Bice, hearing.

2025: State of Kansas vs. Toby C. Eshelman, hearing.

2025: State of Kansas vs. Shkelqim Fans, hearing.

2025: State of Kansas vs. Emily L. Wenke, hearing.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Jason Keith Stewart, hearing.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Savannah Jean McElwain, hearing.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Harley Rose Evans, first appearance.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Maxie Ann Eckhart-Havens, hearing.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Andy Argudin Leon, hearing.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Weston Quinn Walton, hearing.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Robert Samuel Gladwell, hearing.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Enyioma Armstrong Alex, diversion.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Oscar Alberto Valdez Rodriguez, hearing.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Brodrick Tyrone Brown, sentencing.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Colton T. Johnson, first appearance.

2026: State of Kansas vs. James Sowter, hearing.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Gabriel Salvador Heredia Alegria, hearing.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Miriam Ntuyenabo, hearing.

2026: State of Kansas vs. James D. Lane, hearing.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Anthony Scott Mills, hearing.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Justice Thomas Drake Hammond, hearing.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Raquel Munoz, first appearance.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Nathan D. Grusing, hearing.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Jeffrey A. Hawkins, hearing.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Jackson Alan Lee Korbe, diversion.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Torie Joan Thrash, hearing.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Wesley Douglas Dossdall, hearing.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Adan Eduardo Rivas Aguilar, first appearance.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Jacob Michael Clover, first appearance.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Kael Wyatt McBeth, diversion.

KINGMAN COUNTY JAIL BOOKINGS

June 16: Marilyn Susan Thiel, 75, speeding, driving without a license and no proof of insurance, \$1,000 bond.

June 16: Shawn Paul Schouten, 49, failure to appear, \$1,000 bond.

June 16: David Alan Barrios 31, housed for Kiowa County, served five days.

June 16: Jonathan Michael Ford, 41, driving without a license and no proof of insurance, \$1,500 bond.

June 18: Mitchell David Bowen, 38, failure to appear and driving vehicle with no registration or expired tag, \$3,000 bond.

tration or expired tag, \$3,000 bond.

June 19: Kenedy Mugisha, 27, served 60 hours of 120-hour sanction.

June 19: John Anthony Kennington, 37, failure to appear, \$5,000 bond.

June 20: Cody Lee Lane, 41, criminal trespass, domestic battery and violating protection order, \$7,000 OR bond.

June 21: Esggar Noe Lopez, 41, driving with suspended license, no proof of insurance and possession of drug paraphernalia, \$3,000 bond.

KINGMAN COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES

June 15 Meeting

Chairwoman Lyon called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. June 15, 2026, in the County Commissioners room at the Kingman County Courthouse.

Julie Lyon, Chairwoman
Jack Thimesch, Commissioner

Jeff Young, Commissioner
Carol Noblit, County Clerk

Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor

Visitors: Dale Enyart; Bob Morris, Kingman Leader-Courier; Shae Brooks, Kingman Fire Chief; Julie Early; Renee Elpers; Keith Baringer

Online Visitors: DH; Caller 01; Caller 1; B; Spivey Clerk

Staff: Ron Leroux, Noxious Weed Director; Amanda Stucky, Field Appraiser/Zoning Director; LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Sheriff Wood; Undersheriff Sowers; Jeremy Webb, Emergency Manager; Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director.

Chairwoman Lyon gave the invocation.

Chairwoman Lyon asked if there were any additions to the agenda.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve

the agenda. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Chairwoman Lyon asked for public comments.

Dale Enyart wanted to remind the Commissioners of the Republican Committee meeting this Thursday evening at the Kingman Expo Center North Room.

8:33 a.m. Ron Leroux, Noxious Weed Director was in to give the County Commissioners a department update.

Mr. Leroux discussed the spraying that has been done.

Mr. Leroux left the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

8:42 a.m. Amanda Stucky, Field Appraiser/Zoning Director was in to discuss a property that is overgrown and items in the yard.

Ms. Stucky discussed the current owner has passed away and there is no contact information available at this time.

Ms. Stucky reminded the County Commissioners of the Zoning meeting next Monday.

Ms. Stucky left the meeting at 8:52 a.m.

8:52 a.m. Chrissy Bartel, Norwich EMS Director was in to discuss that she is applying for the AFG grant for

an Ambulance to replace the 1995 ambulance that they have.

There is a 5% match which would be \$21565.44 and asked if the Commissioners would be in favor of paying half of the match funds.

Ms. Bartel let the Commissioners know some of the things that they have purchased with current grant funds.

Ms. Bartel discussed all the grants that they are applying for to help with purchases.

Ms. Bartel let the Commissioners know that they will now be able to bill Medicaid starting July 1, 2026 to Treat in place (TIP) an amount of \$250.00 per individual that services are provided for.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to pay \$11,000.00 of the 5% match for the Norwich application for the AFG Grant out of the Kingman County Economic Budget Fund. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Ms. Bartel left the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

9:10 a.m. LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer was in to discuss budget information with the County Commissioners.

Ms. Stegman let the Commissioners know that the 2025 Audit will be presented next week by AdamsBrown.

Ms. Stegman left the meeting at 9:49 a.m.

County Commissioners discussed Resolution 2026-R18, A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO K.S.A. 19-3602, PROPOSING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIRE DISTRICT WITHIN KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS HEREIN REFERRED TO AS THE "RURAL FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1".

County Commissioners will have a public hearing on July 13, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for the Rural Fire District #1.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve Resolution 2026-R18. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0 vote.

Commissioners discussed that Commissioner Thimesch had purchased an old fire truck at a live auction and was later sold to the Township.

MOTION: Chairwoman Lyon moved to approve the June 8, 2026, Commission meeting minutes with the corrections. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

10:07 a.m. Jeremy Webb, Emergency Manager, Sheriff Wood and Undersheriff Sowers were in with updates.

Mr. Webb was in to discuss what he has been doing and the communications he has had with individuals and departments.

Mr. Webb let the Commissioners know that he will have the Command Trailer down at Norwich Days to show it and to use for cooling people off.

Mr. Webb and Undersheriff Sowers discussed the old 800 radios that weren't able to be upgraded with encryption. 20 portables and 14 mobiles were distributed to fire departments in the County.

Mr. Webb left the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

Sheriff Wood discussed an error on an overtime spreadsheet that had been presented to the County Commissioners and the figures were incorrectly reported by the Financial Officer.

Sheriff Wood discussed replacing three vehicles this year because four were replaced last year.

Sheriff and Undersheriff were in to discuss budgeting for two more deputies to be hired for 2027.

Sheriff Wood and Undersheriff Sowers left the meet-

ing at 10:40 a.m.

10:40 a.m. Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director was in with the Hot Mix Overlay RS 359-SW 170th Ave contract from Schwab Eaton for Commissioners signatures.

Mr. Arensdorf left the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

Chairwoman Lyon discussed that they received Resolution 2026-01 from Spivey City, A RESOLUTION PETITIONING THE KINGMAN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO CREATE A NEW FIRE DISTRICT THAT WOULD INCLUDE THE CITY OF SPIVEY.

Commissioner Thimesch discussed a call received from Carol Voran about the spraying being done in the County and let the Board know that he mentioned that she call her District Commissioner.

Commissioners discussed that they all work together to support the County and all its individuals.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 11:06 a.m. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

SPORTS/NEWS

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Jason Jump at (620) 532-3151 or email jasonjump@thecunninghamcourier.com

STATE

• From Page 1

Schnittker took over as the team coach last year and he said there were a lot of competitors at state. He was pleased to see Halderson place high in the novice division, noting that was a personal best for Halderson.

Schnittker added it was good for the kids to see a lot of the competition. Normally, the Cunningham kids are practicing against each other, so it's a good experience to face a lot of other shooters and get an idea about what that's like.

The CHS trapshooting coach said he looks forward to next year.

"I'm excited about coming back for another year with the kids," Schnittker said. "I have some new ideas about what I want to do to get kids to shoot more clays or get better on whatever they need to work on."

Two Kingman students also competed in the tournament. Michael Harbert shot 85 and Wyatt Grilliot shot 70. Both competed in the junior varsity division.



LEFT: Kendall Rogers, graduating senior at Cunningham, competes at the state trap shoot in Sedgwick. He has been on the trap team since seventh grade when it first got established in Cunningham. RIGHT: Cunningham trapshoot team members (L to R) Will Halderson, Gage Dunn, and Kane Reid prepare to shoot during the state event Saturday.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Increased Medicaid Reimbursements Announced for Rural Hospitals

PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) announced the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved Kansas' application to allow critical access hospitals (CAHs) and rural emergency hospitals (REHs) to receive enhanced payments through the state's provider assess-

ment program.

During negotiations on the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*, Sen. Moran included language in the legislation to make certain Kansas rural hospitals could receive increased Medicaid reimbursements.

"Rural hospitals across Kansas will now be able to access additional federal dollars through the Med-

icaid program, helping strengthen our rural providers," said Sen. Moran. "During the consideration of last year's reconciliation bill, I secured language to make certain Kansas rural hospitals could participate in the state provider assessment program and that the state's application would remain eligible for consideration and approval."

"CMS' approval of Kansas' 2026 state directed payment preprint is a meaningful step towards providing critical stability for Kansas hospitals serving Medicaid patients across the state," said Chad Austin, president and CEO of the Kansas Hospital Association.

With this new approval from CMS, Kansas CAHs and REHs

will be able to benefit fully from this increased assessment rate and generate more than \$72 million a year for rural hospitals. In addition, this application approval continues the increased PPS hospital provider assessment rate, which is expected to generate approximately \$1 billion annually for Kansas providers.

BUDGET

• From Page 1

\$35 an hour is \$1.05, whereas it's about 47 cents an hour for the employee who makes \$15 an hour.

County Commission Chairwoman Julie Lyon said that working stipends into the base salary makes sense, but as for the matrix, she likes having that in place.

"And even if the matrix needs to look different or something, I think that helps protect us and makes things easier and keeps things consistent," Lyon said.

She said it may be possible to work a specific dollar amount raise into the matrix, though it might take some time to figure out how it would work.

Noblit said that it has been done before, as one year the county gave a 25-cent raise to all employees and worked it into the pay matrix. She said that the percentages

that consider factors such as experience and education still worked out.

In other budget discussion, Stegman noted that the county is still waiting to get the final figures for insurance for the coming year. Representatives from USI Services, who handles the county's insurance, plan to visit with the county commissioners this Monday.

But Stegman noted that the payroll will account for a significant part of the budget.

Stegman also reviewed the department requests and what the picture looks like when all revenues that are not ad valorem taxes (property taxes) are accounted. She did that to give the county commissioners an idea about what revenue they would need to generate from ad valorem taxes.

She said that there are \$3.8 million in anticipated revenues that are not ad

valorem taxes, with \$18 million in department budget requests. That would leave a shortfall of about \$14 million.

Stegman added there would still need to be PILOT money transfers, plus a \$4 million bond payment. If those are accounted for, that leaves the county with \$9 million in needed revenue from ad valorem taxes. If the county wants to stay within the revenue neutral rate, she said, they would have \$1.8 million in requests above anticipated revenues.

She said that the county could utilize reserves if they are healthy but the county should keep a certain percentage of reserves. Stegman said that some departments could have reserves that have become large, such as with public health getting a reduction in ad valorem taxes for expenditures to work their reserve fund balance down as it was high.



FILE PHOTO

Throwback Thursday: Summer Ball

While going through old files, the photo labeled "Union Star School Punkinball Title Winners" was found and the Courier staff thought it was a fun throwback for the first full week of summer.

YORE

• From Page 2

a reception was held at the home of the groom's mother in Cunningham, attended by a hundred guests. The reception rooms were decorated with summer garden flowers, and the bride's table, covered with a lovely lace cover, was centered with a crystal bowl of rose dahlias illuminated by white tapers in crystal holders. A three-tiered wedding cake at one side of the table was topped by a white wedding bell, and garlanded with pink and white rosebuds.

Brick ice cream centered with a pink rose, cake, fruit punch and nuts were served the guests.

Assisting Mrs. Bradley and Mrs. Tade at the reception were the groom's aunt, Mrs. Jessie Nossaman, Mrs. Lizzie Baber, Mrs. Mary Vermillion, Mrs. Alva Hellar, Mrs. Albert Ditto, Misses Cozette Taylor, Wilma Fountain, Claudine Chamberlain and Marie Sterneker.

Following the reception Mr. Bradley and his bride departed on a wedding trip to Colorado. For travelling the bride wore white accessories and a shoulder bouquet of white gladioli.

Upon their return the young couple will make their home with the groom's mother for the present.

85 Years Ago

Wheat harvesting will get underway in

this community in the next four or five days, as farmers are waiting for hot, drying weather following a deluge of rain during the first part of the week.

Rev. Arnold Weller has been assigned to St. Leo's Church, succeeding Rev. Robert Herklotz, according to an announcement from Bishop Christian Winkelmann of the Wichita Catholic Diocese. Rev. Weller comes to St. Leo from Loretto. Rev. Herklotz, who has been serving St. Leo's Church since the death of Rev. John Kienhoeffer several months ago, will go to Loretto.

90 Years Ago

Cunningham received \$3,555.56 from the PWA Administration this week on the waterworks system. The total payments are \$12,444.44 thus far, representing 35% of the total cost of the project. The PWA is paying 45% of the total cost, so the city will receive another payment when the water-works system is entirely completed.

95 Years Ago

Wheat harvesting will get underway in this community this week-end, with prospects considered good. With the price at only 40¢ a bushel, farmers say they must do much of the harvesting themselves as they can't afford additional labor. Wages to harvest hands will be from \$1.50 to \$2.50 a day, with tractor and combine operators getting \$3.00 a day, and custom cutters receiving about \$2.00 per acre.

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