

Volume 36 / Issue 29

Official Newspaper for Cunningham & USD 332

July 16, 2026

Wichita Wind Surge Hosts Oak Heart Foundation

BY STEPHANIE JUMP
Staff Writer

Local youth and young at heart got to be special guests of the Wichita Wind Surge on July 7 in Wichita. Founder Maria Oak said that the Oak Heart Foundation was honored to be invited as special guests of the Wichita Wind Surge. “We were treated like

VIPs from the moment we arrived” Oak said. “We had the opportunity to participate in an on-field interview, and Bentley Oak proudly threw out the first pitch. “Couple of our boys were chosen to participate in a slam dunk contest during the seventh inning.” Oak said that the foundation had a special ticket link

available for supporters. For every ticket purchased through our link, the Oak Heart Foundation received \$5 back, helping support the mission and programs of the organization. “The boys had an amazing time making memories, meeting players, and enjoying all the special activities throughout the game,” said Oak. “We are incredibly

grateful to the Wind Surge organization for their hospitality and for making the experience so memorable.” Oak said they were excited to share that Oak Heart Foundation is already set to be included on next season’s schedule and wanted the community to keep “an eye out,” for the opportunity to join in the next round of baseball themed fun.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Local youth had the opportunity to enjoy a night at the ballpark.

Commission Approves New Fire District

BY BOB MORRIS
Managing Editor

The Kingman County Commission Monday approved a resolution establishing a fire district to cover Spivey and the townships that city’s fire department served.

However, the fire district won’t formally take effect until Jan. 1. County Counselor Brandon Ritcha explained that July 1 is the deadline to have such districts take effect.

The county last month approved a resolution that proposed the establishment of the district to cover Spivey and four townships, upon which a public hearing was scheduled. The public hearing took place at Monday’s meeting.

The district is to be referred to as “Rural Fire District No. 1” and would include Spivey and the townships of Richland, Chikaskia, Valley and Belmont.

But Ritcha said that the county could move forward with operating as though the district were in effect, find a way to fund it and begin the steps for what will happen once the district does take effect.

In response to questions from people in attendance for Monday’s public hearing, Ritcha said that a board that would oversee the district couldn’t officially take duties until after Jan. 1. However, he said, there was no reason that the board couldn’t be put into place, with the members ready to start Jan. 2.

During discussion, the indication was that a three-member board would oversee the district.

County Commission Chairwoman Julie Lyon said, from what she understood, everybody was on board with the idea of the fire district, with the only issue is that what was agreed upon wouldn’t take effect immediately.

The resolution the commissioners passed last

Wildcat Going Up



CHS Wildcats: School Building Gets New Addition
The Cunningham High School building has a new addition. A large Wildcat head was added to the side of the gymnasium last Thursday by industrial arts teacher Sebastian Huelskamp for the upcoming school year.

WSU Announces Spring Graduates

PRESS RELEASE

WICHITA — Cunningham residents Alice Huelskamp, Bachelor of Arts in Education, English-Language Arts 6-12, Summa Cum Laude and Lisa D Rector, Bachelor of Applied Science, Org Leadership and Learning, were two of more than 2,250 students completed a total of 2,450 degrees and certificates at Wichita State University in spring 2026.

For bachelor’s degrees, honors were conferred to the following: Summa cum laude: 149 students; Magna cum laude: 527 students; Cum laude: 336 students

Undergraduate students who have attained a grade point average of 3.9 out of a possible 4.0 received the summa cum laude award; those with an average of 3.55 received the magna cum laude award; and those with an average of 3.25 received the cum laude.

Cunningham City Council Votes to Exceed RNR

STAFF REPORT

The Cunningham City Council voted 4-0 to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate for the upcoming year, during a special meeting held on July 13.

Cunningham City Councilmember Tanner Newell was absent during Monday’s meeting.

Kingman County Commissioners to Decide Whether or Not to Exceed RNR

BY BOB MORRIS
Managing Editor

The Kingman County Commission is expected to make a decision at next Monday’s meeting about whether or not to exceed the revenue neutral rate, but during budget discussions at this past Monday’s meeting, the commissioners indicated they would want to not exceed it.

“I’ve already pretty much decided I want to hold it come hell or high water,” said County Commission Chairwoman Julie Lyon.

While Lyon said it might take some “drastic measures” to hold the line, she said she would not

want to set the mill levy above the revenue neutral rate for the county of 59.752.

County Commissioner Jack Thimesch said he didn’t want to exceed the RNR either. He said if the county commissioners didn’t hold the line now, then how would that impact future commission decisions, because the result would be the county generating more revenue than the year before.

An entity’s revenue neutral rate is based on the amount of revenue raised in a previous year. That means, if an entity exceeds the RNR in a given year, that entity intends to raise more revenue than the year prior, which in turn affects

the RNR in future years.

County Commissioner Jeff Young said he would prefer not to but would like more explanation from County Financial Officer LaDawn Stegman about the mechanics of how the pay matrix works and how that impacts the budget.

The deadline for the county, as with all entities, to decide on whether or not to exceed the revenue neutral rate is this Monday.

The commissioners have reviewed several proposals regarding the pay matrix and how to work in a raise for county employees, while staying within the budget and not having to exceed the RNR.

Stegman said she went over the pay matrix with Lyon last week and came up with a proposal to shift the county’s policy. Currently, a pay grade is defined as a three percent increase while a step on the matrix means a two percent increase. The proposal Stegman reviewed would put both at two percent. Stegman noted that, based on that proposal, the benefits line went down a little bit.

Overtime also took up much of the discussion at Monday’s meeting. Stegman said the county commissioners need to decide how to account for overtime in the

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NEWS

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



USD 332

Power School: USD 332 Hosts Regional Training

USD 332 hosted a regional PowerSchool workshop on June 29. The district welcomed multiple districts to the USD 332 facility for this training.

RNR

• From Page 1

budget and what they want to budget.

She said, in her discussions with Lyon, that Lyon's preference would be to have overtime charged to the department that the employee falls under.

Thimesch said he would like departments to do a better job of accounting for overtime. He said he would like to see specific documentation about what exactly

took place when an employee worked overtime hours.

"I'm not opposed to anybody having some overtime," Thimesch said. "As long as you can explain it and by explaining it in here, you're explaining it to the taxpayers why this is happening. Documentation, that's what I want."

He said one concern he had was with information he received from the sheriff's office, in which the commissioners received information about calls but not

specifically who went out on a call.

After discussion, the commissioners indicated they would like Stegman to work with Lyon's proposal for the upper tier of salaries, then get some reports on overtime to get a better idea about what should be budgeted.

The county commissioners also discussed the county's share toward Kingman EMS and what the city is seeking in the 2027 EMS budget. Thimesch said

he spoke with City Manager Dan Knoell, who indicated that EMS wanted to buy some new equipment, but he visited with a city commissioner who mentioned that there might be refurbished equipment that can be purchased to save some money.

Thimesch said he would prefer to stick with the EMS budget for 2026 for another year, then see where things are at. If something did come up, he said, the city could visit with the county about it.

FIRE

• From Page 1

month states that the county commissioners would govern the district pending further action.

In other business, the county commissioners approved a proclamation declaring an emergency for townships that received road damage during the recent heavy rainstorms, which would make them eligible to receive federal disaster funds.

Most of the damage the townships received was to

roads because of flooding.

Also at Monday's meeting, the commissioners heard an update from Public Works Director Charlie Arensdorf about the closure of a bridge on SE 100th Avenue, about one-fourth of a mile south of Murdock.

Arensdorf said that the bridge had to be closed because the deck settled on a portion of the bridge last Wednesday, making the bridge unusable for traffic. A portion of SE 100th Avenue has been closed as a result.

NEWS BRIEFS

COURIER RENEWALS TO BE SENT TO NEW ADDRESS

The Cunningham Courier renewals need to be mailed to P.O. Box 156, Cunningham KS 67035. We appreciate your patronage.

HIGH SCHOOL TO HOST THURSDAY NIGHT THROWS

Every Thursday evening CHS track coach Eric Kerschen will host Thursday night throws for anyone who would like to come practice throwing. Shot put is at 5 p.m., discus is at 5:45 p.m. and javelin begins at 6:30 p.m. This is free for all athletes of different ages and the goal is to improve performance and have fun at the same time. Throwing will take place at the Cunningham High School track and will go from July 9 to July 30 for anyone who is interested.

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Published by:
M³ Publishing, LLC
140 N. Main Street / Kingman, KS 67068
(620) 532-3151
jasonjump@thecunninghamcourier.com

Weekly - Thursday
Periodicals Postage Paid at
Cunningham, Kansas 67035

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to:
The Cunningham Courier
PO Box 156
Cunningham, KS 67035

DEADLINE:
Tuesdays by noon.

(USPS #006-101)

Billing/Notices/Subscriptions
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billing@m3publishing.news
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OPINION

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Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds

By Gaille Pike

Dear Readers,

I was watering my garden in this sweltering heat when a convoy of gravel dump trucks came thundering down the road, which also happens to be gravel. And man, were they flying! They kicked up at least a mile of dust, 30 feet tall and 40 feet wide, coating my little world in fine white gritty talc and coating sweaty me like a frosted, fairly aggravated donut.

I can only assume there is some kind of gravel emergency up the road to cause such expediency in moving tons and tons of little rocks from A to B. Maybe a levee broke. Maybe an asteroid blew an arena-sized hole in

the interstate. Who knows? But then I did a little research and found out that the speed limit on most Kansas gravel byways is 55 miles and hour. And that is pretty fast. But even if these stalwart teamsters were just doing the speed limit it kicked up quite a mess.

And of course I am not the only one who has to deal with this. Because (and get this) Kansas has about 70,000 miles of gravel road. I say again—70,000 miles of gravel road. And we have another 20,000 miles of dirt roads but that’s a story for another time. Because I can’t help dwelling on that 70 K.

To give this some per-

spective that means Kansas gravel roads (with the average width of 12 to 14 feet) will spread between New York City and Los Angeles 25 times. Kansas gravel roads can wrap around the earth three times. Kansas gravel roads can get you a quarter of the way to the moon. Our approximately 40,000 miles of paved roads are indeed the roads less traveled in this Land of Ahs. That might be a good thing because on a day like today where it is over 90 degrees that pavement can reach 140 degrees. Gravel gets hot but much less so. And it so entrenched in our lives we really don’t even notice it all that much.

Humorist Dave Barry quipped that “The four building blocks of society are fire, water, vinyl and gravel.” But a more philosophical approach to all that crushed up limestone might be the musings of Richard Bach. Richard, for better or worse, penned Jonathan Livingston Seagull. He also said that “We are each given a block of marble when we begin a lifetime, and the tools to shape it into sculpture. We can drag it behind us untouched, we can pound it into gravel, we can shape it into glory.” Ahhh, gravel, glorious gravel.

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

Coach

By Dean Marple

All men have two faces—the face they show the world, and the face they see in the mirror. The differences in the outward faces of the two men were apparent. Coach carried his 43 years fairly well, but his six-pack stomach was now a squishy nine-pack. Tim carried his hard, lean stomach with all the youthful vigor that came with 17 years. Coach was the face of past faded glory; Tim was the bright future.

Inwardly, there were more differences. Coach was at peace with his strengths and his insecurities. The fact that Tim broke the school records he set years ago was not something that kept him up at night. Coach knew who he was.

Tim? What did anyone

know at 17? Peace was an unknown to a 17-year-old. Tim hid his doubts behind a loud, cocky mask that pushed him even now as track practice started with a slow jog for everyone. While Coach plodded forward with the shot putters, Tim glided past him, then turned and danced backward so he could face Coach.

“Hey, Coach. Come on, let’s race.”

“Sorry, Tim, I’m afraid my racing days are over.”

“They sure are, I’d smoke you. Tell you what, I’ll give you a 10-meter head start.”

“Tim, you hold the conference records at the 200 and 400 meter distances. I don’t think 10 meters would help me much.”

“Ah, come on, Coach.

You know the team would love to see us race.”

To Coach’s surprise, that comment made sense. Being deep into the season, everyone was tired of practice, tired of minor injuries, aches and pains. The squad needed a fire lit.

“OK, Tim. I’ll tell you what. I’ll race you on two conditions. We do this the last day of practice, and I get to pick the distance.”

“Distance? You pick? Sure, it doesn’t make any difference, 100, 200, 400 meters. I’ll beat you.”

And so it began, the race of the century. Shot putters stopped complaining about the weight room. Sprinters stopped complaining when student managers forgot the right set of starting blocks.

All anyone wanted to talk about was the race. First it was the team, then the conversation spread throughout the school.

The general line of reasoning among the students was consistent. Come on, Coach is a decent guy, but he’s old and kind of fat. He doesn’t stand a chance. As were the thoughts of his fellow teachers. What in the world was he thinking? He doesn’t stand a chance. Maybe everyone already knew who the winner would be, but Coach was still surprised on race day at the number of students and even teachers scattered through the bleachers that faced the track. It kind of reminded

See **COACH** / Page 6

Fresh From the Hen House

By Ashley Burkhart Walter

It’s an odd feeling, having what you’ve worked so hard toward be over. The fair, the kids’ favorite time of the year, breezed by just as fast as it had come. Really, the reality of it being over won’t fully sink in for another day or two, when life is actually put back together. Not everything went as the kids had hoped, but there was a good balance to it all. The things that didn’t go as planned didn’t get them down, they handled them well and accepted how everything turned out.

The kids bounced from judge to judge for static judging. Products from both their old and new hobbies were evaluated, with each judge offering advice and constructive critiques. My son had an array of wood-working and small engine projects judged by one person. The kids can usually tell me tidbits from each judge, basically whatever sticks with them the most. What he told me after that judge was more of an observation. He said the judge told him he could tell he wasn’t one of the kids who goes inside and watches TV and that he was a unique kid. I have a feeling they had a great conversation, and my son took a lot away from it. Judges like him make such an impression on kids, and how lucky they are to have experiences like that through 4-H. It’s not always the color of the ribbon you get; it’s the encouragement and what you take away from the judging to make next year’s project better.

My oldest not only had a good selection of static projects, but poultry and livestock as well. She could

never pick an absolute favorite project, but poultry showmanship is pretty high on her list, along with market steer and photography. This year brought the opportunity for her to assist the younger ones with poultry showmanship, another wonderful judge giving a 4-H’er the chance to build leadership. Not only was I proud of her own showmanship but watching her guide the younger ones was a reminder that 4-H is about so much more than competition. She was so kind and patient while guiding them. Those moments of older members pouring into the younger ones are what make a bigger impact than any ribbon ever could.

If you asked my youngest what her favorite part of fair week is, she would probably say the time with her friends, “friends” being toddlers, high schoolers, and adults alike. She’s a social butterfly during fair week and interacts with more people in just a few days than I do in a month. She also loved showing a pig for the first time. Even though she didn’t enjoy the entire project, the pigs were a tad destructive and pushy, she walked out of the arena with her “Karis Dadson” bun and said she thinks this is her thing, she’ll be doing it every year, and she’ll be working on her death stare for the judge next year. How is that for 4-H goals?

I love watching my kids do well, every parent does, but I suppose what I love even more is watching my kids’ character. My oldest won her first buckle this year. She wouldn’t offer up that information unless

you asked; she’s humble. She shook the judge’s hand while receiving that prized buckle. After leaving the ring, she stepped off to the side, opened the box, and showed me and her dad. After a quick picture, she walked away. The next time I saw her, I glanced at her belt and noticed she hadn’t changed buckles; she still had her sentimental one on. She knew exactly what I was looking at and simply said, “It was someone else’s loss.” That gorgeous buckle sat in its box all day. I love how quiet she was about her win. That’s a big thing for a teenager. Quiet and humble, I do believe she will make a big impact in life.

As we convert the house back from a fair disaster area to normal, put projects on shelves and walls, and find places for the ribbons, we’ll settle back into everyday life. But I have no doubt the kids will smile when they think back on this fair week.

Chocolate Chip Sourdough Scones
Dry Ingredients
2 cups + 2 teaspoons (250 g) all-purpose flour
½ cup (100 g) granulated sugar
½ teaspoon (2.5 g) fine sea salt
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 stick (113 g) unsalted butter frozen or very cold
1 cup (180 g) semi-sweet chocolate chips
Wet Ingredients
½ cup (125 g) sourdough starter discard
1 large egg
2 teaspoons (10 g) vanilla extract
2 tablespoons (30 g) heavy cream milk or half and half can be used

Topping
2 tablespoons (30 g) heavy cream milk or half and half can be used
3 tablespoons (45 g) sanding sugar coarse sugar
Instructions
In a medium size mixing bowl, whisk the flour, sugar, salt and baking powder together. Use a cheese grater to grate the butter into the bowl. Toss the grated butter with the flour mixture with a fork to coat and separate the pieces of butter. Cut the flour into the butter using a pastry cutter or a bench scraper until the mixture comes together in pea size crumbs. Add the chocolate chips to the mixture and stir.

In a separate bowl, whisk the starter, egg, vanilla extract and heavy cream until smooth. Pour into the dry ingredients and use a fork to gently mix. The dough will be crumbly, resist the urge to add more liquid.

Dump the dough onto a clean work surface and use your hands to press and shape the dough into an 8” disc shape. (Use a small amount of flour if needed to help it from sticking to the surface.)

Cut the dough into 8 wedges using a bench scraper or a large knife. Arrange the wedges onto a parchment lined baking sheet with space in between each wedge. Place the baking sheet in the fridge to chill for 30 minutes.

When ready to bake, preheat the oven to 400°F. Brush the top of the scones with heavy cream and sprinkle with sanding sugar. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until the scones are golden brown. Remove and serve warm.

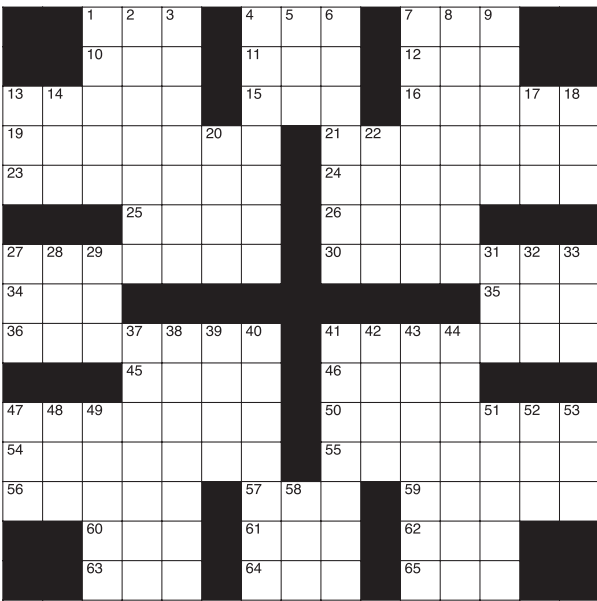
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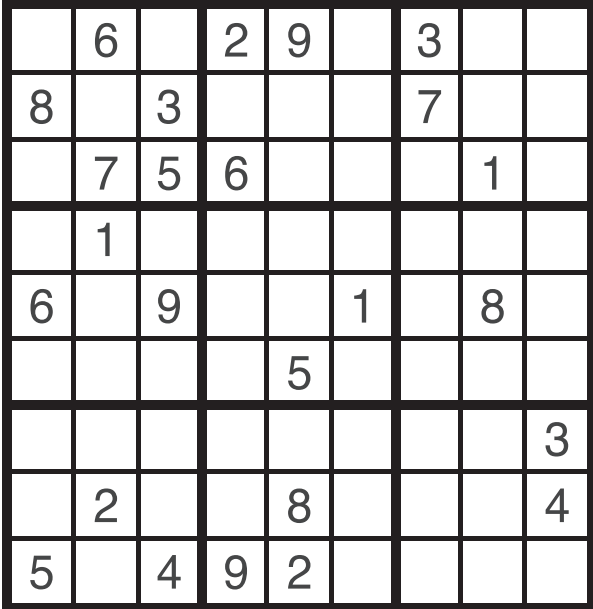


CLUES ACROSS

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|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Tire pressure measurement | 35. Prohibit |
| 4. Request | 36. Something you can take |
| 7. Clairvoyance | 41. Dish soap brand |
| 10. 007’s creator | 45. Ottoman military commanders |
| 11. Adult male | 46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony |
| 12. God of battle (Scandinavian) | 47. Makes somber |
| 13. Cloths spread over a coffin | 50. Discuss again |
| 15. Breeze through | 54. A tool to inject |
| 16. Ladyfish genus | 55. Support |
| 19. We all take them | 56. Informal term for money |
| 21. Earl’s jurisdiction | 57. Catch doing something wrong |
| 23. Members of U.S. Navy | 59. Prehistoric people |
| 24. Rummy-like card game | 60. Large African antelope |
| 25. Affected by injury | 61. Vehicle |
| 26. Member of a Semitic people | 62. Georgia rockers |
| 27. Withdrew from a union | 63. High resolution microscope |
| 30. Woman’s cloak | 64. Pitching statistic |
| 34. Spanish river | 65. Attempt |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
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| 1. Indoor plant | 31. Helps little firms |
| 2. Marketable | 32. Unhappy |
| 3. Rather | 33. Midway between northeast and east |
| 4. Collected | 37. Glowing |
| 5. A bag-like structure in a plant or animal | 38. Item to be addressed |
| 6. Irish hip-hop trio | 39. An informal body of friends |
| 7. Ageless | 40. Intrinsic nature of something |
| 8. Course requirements | 41. Neural structures |
| 9. Pokes at | 42. Brews |
| 13. TV channel | 43. A place for ships |
| 14. They ___ | 44. One who sings holiday songs |
| 17. Cooking material | 47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.) |
| 18. Investment account | 48. Scottish town |
| 20. Iron-containing compound | 49. The most worthless parts |
| 22. Swiss river | 51. Sticky |
| 27. Small coin (French) | 52. Put to work |
| 28. Electronic countermeasures | 53. Precursor to the EU |
| 29. Taxi | 58. Retrospective analysis (abbr.) |



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NEWS

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PUZZLE ANSWERS

	P	S	I		A	S	K		E	S	P	
	I	A	N		M	A	N		T	Y	R	
P	A	L	L	S		A	C	E		E	L	O
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V	T	Z	B	M	T	C	R	N	H	M	I	I	G	A	H	N	N	W	L
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Misc
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Misc
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Substitute City Clerk for Turon, KS. We are looking for an organized, reliable person to perform basic office tasks. You will be trained on the tasks you are expected to do. This is a part-time as needed position with the option of picking up extra hours. Need to fill this position immediately.

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CITY WIDE GARAGE SALE

The City of Turon is having a city-wide garage sale at the city park Sept. 19, 2026, from 8am-2pm, everyone is responsible for their own cleanup, sign-up is in the city office our number is 620-497-6443, and the hours are M-F 8-11 and 12-3.

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NEWS

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

KINGMAN COUNTY SHERIFF BLOTTER

Sunday, July 5

Traffic Stops	2
Non-Injury Accident	E Hwy 42 & SE 60 Ave, Rago
Animal Complaint	SE 50 St & SE 100, Murdock
Agency Assist/Medical	8000 Blk SW 100 Ave, Spivey
Check Welfare	400 Blk S Wilmot, Cunningham
Miscellaneous	900 Blk N Spruce St, Kingman
Suspicious Person	9000 Blk W 42 Hwy, Nashville
Animal Complaint	SE 110 St & SE 40 Ave, Rago
Miscellaneous	400 Blk E Leiter, Cunningham

Monday, July 6

Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Miscellaneous	600 Blk S Morningside, Norwich
Traffic Complaint	6000 W Hwy 54, Kingman
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	4000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	18000 Blk W H 54, Cunningham

Tuesday, July 7

Traffic Stops	3
Civil Paper Service	2
Follow Up	16000 Blk SE 30 St, Cheney
Traffic Complaint	6000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman
Agency Assist/Medical	400 Blk W Sunset Dr, Kingman
Court/Inmate	130 N Spruce St, Kingman
Check Welfare	14000 Blk SE 10 St, Cheney
Warrant Service	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Agency Assist/KHP	14000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney

Miscellaneous	2300 Blk NE 168 Ave, Cheney
Disturbance	200 Blk E F Ave, Kingman
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Suspicious Vehicle	4200 Blk SW 160, Cunningham
Accidental 911 Dial	1900 Blk SW 20 Ave, Kingman
Agency Assist/KMPD	400 Blk E D Ave, Kingman
Animal Complaint	1700 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman

Wednesday, July 8

Animal Complaint	200 Blk E Grover, Spivey
Follow Up	13000 Blk SE 20 St, Murdock
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Accidental 911 Dial	7500 Blk SW 18- St, Harper
Follow Up	13000 Blk SE 20 St, Murdock
Agency Assist/KMPD	1400 Blk N Main St, Kingman
Disabled Vehicle	W Hwy 54 & NW 20, Kingman
Fire/Truck	W Walker & N Main, Kingman
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Animal Complaint	2500 Blk N Hwy 14, Murdock
Follow Up	SE 40 St & SE 100, Murdock
Miscellaneous	5600 Blk NE 20 Ave, Kingman
Accidental 911 Dial	4200 Blk SE 80 ave, Murdock
Animal Complaint	4700 Blk S Berry Ave, Kingman
Check Welfare	16000 Blk NE 50 St, Cheney
Animal Complaint	1600 Blk S Main St, Kingman
Agency Assist/KMPD	700 Blk W A Ave, Kingman
Agency Assist/Medical	500 Blk W G Ave, Kingman

Thursday, July 9

Traffic Stops	2
Civil Paper Service	4
Injury Accident	NW 10 & N Hwy 11, Kingman
Court/Inmates	130 N Spruce St, Kingman
Miscellaneous	13000 Blk SE 20 St, Murdock
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Transport Inmate	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Fraud	6500 Blk SE 150 Ave, Norwich
Miscellaneous	400 Blk S Chariton St, Kingman
Follow Up	SE 60 St & SE 100, Murdock
Theft	500 Blk N Cedar St, Kingman
Warrant/Arrest	400 Blk N Joliet St, Kingman

Friday, July 10

Civil Paper Service	4
Abandoned Vehicle	SE 60 St & SE 160 Ave, Norwich
Transport/Inmate	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Trespassing	2200 Blk SE 100 St, Kingman
Miscellaneous	13000 Blk SE 20 St, Murdock
Suspicious Person/Activity	300 Blk S Somerset St, Norwich
Traffic Complaint	7000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman

Saturday, July 11

Trespassing	200 Blk E Gover Ave, Spivey
Motorist Assist	E Hwy 42 & SE 110, Norwich
Animal Complaint	E Hwy 54 & NE 20, Kingman
Non-Injury Accident	12000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney
Disturbance	Norwich City Park, Norwich
Injury Accident	13000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney

KINGMAN COUNTY DISTRICT COURT

Judge Roseanna Mathis Thursday, July 16

2026: State of Kansas vs. Jennifer Annette Landreth, first appearance.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Amber D. Freilinger, first appearance.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Rebecca L. Reid, first appearance.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Craig M. Wise, bench trial.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Antonio F. Sweetwater, hearing.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Casey Jordan Williams, first appearance.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Craig M. Wise, first appearance.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Alisha Mar-ree Hemken, hearing.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Craig M. Wise, bench trial.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Gabriel Salvador Heredia Alegria, hearing.
2025: State of Kansas vs. James Paul Sowter, hearing.
2025: State of Kansas vs. James Paul Sowter, hearing.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Devin Michael Miller, sentencing.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Jason Keith Stewart, hearing.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Savannah Jean McElwain, hearing.
2026: State of Kansas vs. James Paul Sowter, hearing.
2026: State of Kansas vs. James Paul Sowter, hearing.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Cammie Jewellann Martin, first appearance.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Adan Eduardo Rivas Aguilar, hearing.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Emilee Elizabeth McComb, diversion.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Levi James Coykendall, first appearance.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Shamarian Dequan Carter, first appearance.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Geovanni Gonzalez Garcia, first appearance.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Trey Alexander King, first appearance.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Hugo Demesio Rojas-Jacquez, first appearance.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Raquel Munoz, hearing.

KINGMAN COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES

July 6, Regular Meeting

Chairwoman Lyon called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. July 6, 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; Kristen Petz; Kaleb Howell; Clint Turner, Fair Board; Sara Dwyer, HR on Call

Online Visitors: DH; Caller 01; Caller 1; AS; Jamie Smith; B; B
Staff: LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director.

Commissioner Thimesch 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 told the Commissioners that the 4th of July festivities were good.

8:33 a.m. Amanda Stucky, Field Appraiser/Planning/Zoning Director was in with the following building permits:

1. Heather & Shane Gattis for a dwelling in Section 26, Township 27, Range 08.
2. Mike Maloney for Cattle/Equipment Storage in Section 15, Township 27, Range 08.
3. Timothy Lemon for a Dwelling in Section 3, Township 27, Range 08.

Ms. Stucky presented resolution 2026-R19, A Resolution changing the zoning district classification of certain property from Agriculture to Rural Residential.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve Resolution 2026-R19, A RESOLUTION CHANGING THE ZONING DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE UNINCORPORATED

ED AREA OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS, UNDER THE AUTHORITY GRANTED BY THE ZONING REGULATIONS OF THE COUNTY AS ORIGINALLY APPROVED BY RESOLUTION 2007-38. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Carol Noblit, County Clerk submitted June 29, 2026, Commission meeting minutes for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve June 29, 2026, Commission meeting minutes with one correction. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

8:45 a.m. Clint Turner, Fair Board Member was in with an update on the fair.

The Community Dinner is still scheduled to be inside the arena.

8:52 a.m. Kristen Petz and Kaleb Howell were in to discuss the RHID resolution.

Commissioners and Mr. Ritcha discussed what the next steps should be before approval of the RHID resolution.

Ms. Petz and Mr. Howell left the meeting at 9:08 a.m.

9:08 a.m. LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer was in to discuss budget requests not received yet.

Ms. Stegman discussed the Kingman EMS budget with the County Commissioners.

Commissioners discussed township budgets process with Ms. Stegman.

Ms. Stegman reviewed budget numbers with County Commissioners and asked what they want to do with payroll and the stipends.

10:03 a.m. Sara Dwyer, HR on Call was in to discuss Human Resources with the County Commissioners.

Ms. Dwyer talked about all the services she could provide for Kingman County.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to hire HR on Call to revise the Kingman County Handbook and the I-9 audit. Commissioner Young seconded

the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Ms. Dwyer left the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

10:35 a.m. Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director was in to discuss the Request for Proposals for filling the position of County Engineer.

Mr. Arensdorf discussed with the Commissioners about having a probationary period within the contract of a County Engineer.

Mr. Arensdorf left the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

Commissioners discussed the Flat Ridge 4 and Flat Ridge 5 Decommissioning Plans that were received to review.

Commissioners would like Mr. Ritcha to follow up with Stantec.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session at 11:02 a.m. with Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor to discuss an individual employee's evaluation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act for discussion of non-elected personnel matters of non-elected personnel in order to protect the privacy interests of the individual to be discussed, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 11:07 a.m. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 2-0 vote.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 11:07 a.m.

Ms. Noblit presented budget information from 2015 to 2027 that was received for the Commissioners to review.

Commissioners discussed the Fire District information that was received about July 1st deadline.

Mr. Ritcha discussed the deadline for the Fire District and that there will be more to be done before the Fire District is established.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 11:28 a.m. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

KINGMAN COUNTY JAIL BOOKINGS

July 7: Nathan Ellis Young, 58, DUI, \$500 bond.

July 7: Joseph Louis Keeling, 32, driving with suspended license, \$500 OR bond.

July 9: Lorenzo Chavira Jr., 34, housed for Kiowa County.

July 9: Carl Patrick Cromer, 48, failure to appear, picked up by Sedgwick County Sheriff's deputies.

July 10: Stanley Kent Terwort II, 51, driving with suspended license, no proof of insurance, no vehicle registration or expired tag, habitual traffic offender, \$9,000 bond.

July 11: Jessica Lynn Meier, 41, DUI and transporting open container, \$1,000 bond.

July 11: Cole Weston More, 43, driving with suspended license and no proof of insurance, \$3,500 bond.

July 12: Angela Nicole Hughes, 44, DUI, \$500 bond.

July 12: D'Angelo Esteban Martinez, 21, disorderly conduct, \$500 bond.

July 13: Jaqualyn Deandre Amiere Massey, 25, warrant arrest.

KINGMAN COUNTY ACCIDENTS

June 21: The Kingman County Sheriff's Department investigated a one-vehicle crash in which Michael Allen Justice, 70, of Norwich was riding a 2026 Gazelle electric bicycle eastbound on East Burns Avenue when, just west of North Robbins Road, his bicycle struck a pile of mud, which pushed him into the curb and he went over the handlebars and into the ditch. Justice was transported by Norwich EMS to a Wichita hospital with possible injuries.

June 25: The Kingman County Sheriff's Department investigated a one-vehicle crash in which Arlene Willbanks, 29, of Zenda was driving a 2007 Dodge R15 southbound on Kansas Highway 14 when, about one-third of a mile north of SE 50th Street, her vehicle went off the right side of the roadway into the west ditch, hit a culvert and damaged two reflective marker posts, then went airborne and landed on the road, rolled several times and came to rest in the east ditch. Willbanks was taken by Kingman EMS to the hospital with possible injuries. Passenger Bo Silas Drake, 2, was not injured.

July 2: The Kingman County Sheriff's Department investigated a one-vehicle crash in which Mara Kate Reid, 46, of Clearwater was driving a 2015 Ford Escape northbound on Kansas Highway 2 when, just west of SE 150th Avenue, she struck a deer that came from the south side of the roadway. Reid was not injured.

July 3: The Kingman County Sheriff's Department investigated a one-vehicle crash in which Skylar Madisin Thornbro, 25, of Marion was driving a 2015 Chevy Malibu eastbound on East Fifth Avenue in Norwich when, just east of Parkway Street, she lost control and her vehicle went off the road and hit a tree. Thornbro was taken by Norwich EMS to Via Christi St. Theresa hospital in Wichita with possible injuries.

July 4: The Kingman County Sheriff's Department investigated a one-vehicle crash in which Rose Marie Neises, 65, of Rose Hill was driving a 2014 Buick Regal eastbound on SE 60th Street when, about one-fourth of a mile east of SE 80th Avenue, she struck a deer that came from the north ditch. Neises was not injured.

July 5: The Kingman County Sheriff's Department investigated a one-vehicle crash in which Cainin Dean Joseph Hower, 19, of Kingman was driving a 2017 Ford Fusion westbound on Kansas Highway 42 when, about two-tenths of a mile west of SE 60th Avenue, he struck a deer that came from the north side of the road. Hower was not injured.



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Ice Cream Day

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STEPHANIE JUMP / The Courier

Fashion Revue: Kingman Co. Fair Kicks Off in Style

The Kingman County and 4-H Fair activities kicked off in style with the public fashion show held at the Kingman High School auditorium on Sunday. 4-Hers county wide showed their projects off in the annual event. From L to R are: Kristyn McAndrew, Jocelyn Firth-Koerner, Ty Schultz, Anna Schomacker, Vaishu Kamesh, Ava Neywick, Jessica Dittmer, Brin Bergkamp and Breckin Bergkamp.

COACH

• From Page 3

him of people who stopped to gawk at auto accidents.

On the track, Tim waited with a big grin spread across his face. He looked like a runner, a fast runner. “OK, Coach. Do you want to lose quickly or slowly?” Tim asked. “Your call, 100, 200 or 400 meters?”

“1,500 meters,” was all the coach said.

“What? What did you say?”

“It’s my call, and I call 1,500 meters.”

“So you’re going to make

me run about a mile just to show people how slow you are?”

“Yep. I’m afraid so.

Want to back out, forget the race?”

“Old man, get ready to see my back ’cause that’s the only thing you’ll see. Enough talk, let’s go.”

At 200 meters, Tim had a comfortable lead and a smile. At 400 meters, everyone’s thoughts, Coach doesn’t stand a chance, certainly looked true. Tim’s lead grew.

Until it didn’t.

At 600 meters, the gap between runners stopped

growing. At 900 meters, Tim’s explosive sprinting speed did him little good as Coach, plodding step by plodding step, started to close in on him. In the bleachers, students and teachers started to stand and look at each other. Could the impossible happen?

Laboring for breath, Coach caught Tim at the 1,400-meter mark and shot a sideways glance. He didn’t see a teenager’s face that said, here I am, world. He saw the face in the mirror of a scared little boy who was about to be

embarrassed, humiliated.

Upsets happen all the time in sports, the underdog wins.

But not today.

Somehow, Coach seemed to lose a step over the last 100 meters. Students who rushed to the field to congratulate Tim didn’t notice the slowdown.

Neither did the teachers who congratulated Coach on a close race. It was only Tim’s whispered, “Thank, you,” that revealed he knew.

Sometimes, there are more important things in life than winning.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Cunningham Courier on Thursday, July 16, 2026) 1t

State of Kansas
City

2027

NOTICE OF HEARING TO EXCEED REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE AND BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of
City of Cunningham

will meet on August 24, 2026 at 6:30 PM at Cunningham City Hall 119, N. Main St. for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds, the amount of ad valorem tax and the Revenue Neutral Rate. Detailed budget information is available at Cunningham Public Library and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2027 Expenditures and Amount of Current Year Estimate for 2026 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2027 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	Prior Year Actual for 2025		Current Year Estimate for 2026		Proposed Budget for 2027		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2026 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	506,373	45.170	518,465	53.093	843,812	229,130	53.093
Debt Service	38,738	7.299	59,709		76,306		
Library	14,640	3.562	18,489	3.605	18,862	15,559	3.605
Employee Benefits	19,567	4.920	18,413	4.979	31,775	21,489	4.979
Special Highway			13,836		45,126		
Water	170,577		143,500		399,458		
Sewer	78,572		82,500		105,804		
Non-Budgeted Funds	52,000						
Totals	880,467	60.951	854,912	61.677	1,521,143	266,178	61.677
Revenue Neutral Rate**							57.360

Less: Transfers	105,000	105,000	65,000
Net Expenditure	775,467	749,912	1,456,143
Total Tax Levied	227,349	247,547	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Assessed Valuation	3,730,018	4,013,647	4,315,609

Outstanding Indebtedness,			
January 1,	2024	2025	2026
G.O. Bonds	160,000	120,000	80,000
Revenue Bonds	0	0	0
Other	254,458	241,701	228,638
Lease Purchase Principal	25,322	19,526	13,555
Total	439,780	381,227	322,193

*Tax rates are expressed in mills
** Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

Molly Morgan

City Official Title: City Clerk

No assurance is provided.

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