

The Cunningham Courier

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July 2, 2026

City Council Hears Discussions on Daycare

BY BOB MORRIS
Managing Editor

Cunningham residents Kari Osner, Krystal Beat and Lydia Vierthaler visited with the Cunningham city council Monday about the need for daycare in the city because the daycare center in town is closing.

The three attended the meeting along with Julie Lyon, who has assisted multiple counties in finding funds to help support daycare facilities in rural cities.

Osner noted that she works in Pratt and feels like "it's easy for me to take my kid somewhere else, but I want him here." She noted that Beat and Vierthaler both work in Cunningham, so they have nowhere in Cunningham to take their kids.

But she said that having a daycare in town is important to the community and keeping them here.

"And I think there's a lot of other young families that will be starting their families

or growing their families," Osner said. "And we need to try to do what we can to keep them here or we're not going to keep them here."

Osner said she has visited with USD 332 Superintendent Dr. Kelly Amberger and believed that, while the district wasn't interested in running a daycare, that the district would support whatever solution was determined.

She asked if the city was aware of any properties available that could be uti-

lized for a daycare. The discussion turned to a building that the United Methodist Church owned, but the property was going to be listed for sale and it would depend on the property's appraisal and asking price.

Regarding help that the city could provide, Council President Jason Ruckle said the issue the city has is its revenues sources are limited. But Ruckle said he has had this conversation with others and he would like to see a daycare in Cunningham.

Beat said that there are people in Cunningham who would like to run a daycare, but the question is how many of them are willing or understand what would go into getting one operational.

Lyon explained what she had done to help get daycares either established in rural cities or to keep existing daycare operations going. She noted that the daycare in Cunningham got \$50,000 from a \$165,000 grant for four different projects, with that money to help pay off

half the daycare's mortgage.

But Lyon said there were issues that remained, such as the fact that the church owned the property and, if the mortgage was paid off, who would own the property or whether the daycare would have to pay rent.

She said she knows of two people in Cunningham who would be willing to operate a daycare, with one set to go through orientation about what is involved.

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Cunningham City Council Receives Budget Update

BY BOB MORRIS
Managing Editor

Scot Loyd of Loyd Audit Group spoke with the Cunningham city council Monday night about the city's financial statements, giving them guidance as the city prepares its budget for 2027.

Following his discussion, the Cunningham city council scheduled a special meeting for Monday, July 13, to pass a resolution that the city may exceed the revenue neutral rate.

Loyd noted that the city's valuation increased, from which most of the increase came from real estate, and that has impacted the city's revenue neutral rate for 2027. The RNR will be 57.360, and for 2026, the city had a mill levy of 61.677.

The revenue neutral rate is the mill levy for a governing entity that will generate the same amount of revenue

See **CITY** / Page 2

Coffee Break



STEPHANIE JUMP / The Courier

SC Gives Back: Cunningham Treated to Daydrinkers

The Cunningham community was treated to coffee and treats thanks to SC (formerly SC Telcom) last Friday. SC Director of Public Relations Shelly Hansel was in town to treat residents and customers at Daydrinkers Cafe as part of the company's way to give back to the community. Hansel, R, shown talking to Cunningham resident Leroy Panek, said this is just one of the ways the company shows appreciation to the communities they serve.

CHS Volleyball Wraps Up Summer Season

BY BOB MORRIS
Managing Editor

The Cunningham volleyball team wrapped up its run in the summer volleyball league that Kingman hosted this past month.

CHS head volleyball coach Carrie Knee said she thought it was a great experience and hoped the girls found value in it.

"It was well-organized, offered a great balance of playing time to downtime, and gave everyone meaningful opportunities to grow," Knee said.

The summer league included Kingman, Chaparral, Medicine Lodge, South Barber, Caldwell and Wichita West. While Cunningham and South Barber are both members of the Heart of the Plains League, the other teams are not and it allowed the Lady Wildcats a chance to play teams they don't always see during the regular season.

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Kingman County Commissioners Continue Budget Talks

BY BOB MORRIS
Managing Editor

Kingman County Financial Officer LaDawn Stegman gave the Kingman County commissioners a bigger idea about how the 2027 budget might take shape during Monday's commissioners' meeting.

Stegman met with County Commissioner Jack Thimesch late last week to go over the budget and presented a worksheet that did make a few adjustments to department requests and outside agency requests, but didn't include updated figures for health insurance and didn't include overtime.

Based on those numbers, the county would be looking at a mill levy of 59.748. The county's revenue neutral rate is 59.752, so the

county wouldn't have a lot of wiggle room to avoid a revenue neutral rate hearing if it went with the figures as presented.

Stegman told the county commissioners that she utilized the state's budget workbook as that it would allow her to calculate ad valorem (property) taxes and things like that.

The payroll budget included in the sample didn't include overtime. Thimesch said that is an area that the commissioners need to examine closely and get explanations from departments as to why overtime is utilized.

He noted that the sheriff's department accounted for a lot of overtime and it would help to know what the reasons are for so much overtime.

Thimesch also mentioned the sheriff department's previous proposal to add two more deputies and to have shifts so that a deputy would be on the clock at all times. He said he didn't think the county could afford that expense.

County Commissioner Jeff Young agreed that he didn't see how that could be done. He noted that if the county started down that road, "you can't back up."

Thimesch added that he joined Stegman in going through the pay matrix to come up with numbers that should be fairer to employees, so that everyone gets a similar increase.

Stegman explained that the pay matrix would call for moving the dollar stipend for employee benefits into the payroll and giving a

60 cent an hour raise.

As for department requests, Stegman said she asked each department what it wanted and then examined the requests to see if any capital equipment requests were included.

She noted that some requests departments put in will be covered by money that won't come out of ad valorem taxes. One example was a drug scanner for the sheriff's department, which Stegman said the department intended to use the county's share of money received from the opioid settlement.

But as for other capital requests, Stegman said those might not be paid out of ad valorem taxes, but the county could either use the capital outlay reserves or PILOT money for such requests.

As for outside entities, Stegman said the county is still waiting to hear from the city of Kingman about the EMS budget, but noted the city is still putting together its budget.

In other cases, Stegman said she looked at what an outside entity requested and then asked them for either their financials or audited figures, so she could see what reserves the entity had.

As an example, Stegman said, Arrowhead West got \$62,350 for the 2026 budget and requested the same amount. Arrowhead West contracts with the county to provide services for adults with developmental disabilities.

Stegman said Arrowhead West had \$4.5 million in cash reserves in 2025 but had \$19 million in expen-

ditures. That meant their reserves over their expenditures came to 21 percent, which means Arrowhead West doesn't have much room to draw into its reserves.

Meanwhile, the Kingman County Council on Aging asked for \$130,000 this year after getting \$100,000 last year, but Stegman said the council has a healthier reserve.

The county also has debt service of about \$4 million but Stegman noted that is going to "walk out the door just in one pen stroke" as the county is paying off in 2027 a bond originally issued for road and bridge work.

In her example, Stegman gave the budgetary authority to spend the "rainy day

See **COUNTY** / Page 2

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NEWS

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Lightning Strikes Home in Cunningham

BY BOB MORRIS
Managing Editor

Nobody was injured after lightning struck a house on East First Avenue in Cunningham, starting a fire in the attic.

Cunningham Fire Chief Harold Stark visited with the Cunningham city council about the fire, which happened Thursday during a thunderstorm.

He said the occupants of the house were inside at the time of the lightning strike, but they weren't hurt, "and that's a miracle that one of them wasn't." Stark said the flames were confined to the attic, though the lightning strike did knock bathroom tiles loose.

Stark noted that the rains were heavy at the time of

the call, which made fire-fighting efforts difficult.

Firefighters from Kingman, Zenda, Turon and Preston were among the departments who joined Cunningham firefighters on the scene to provide mutual aid. Stark added some firefighters from Pratt and Reno County also came to the scene. Township 12 also provided assistance and both Kingman EMS and the Kingman County Sheriff's Department assisted.

During discussion, it was noted that neighbors helped out to move their furniture and belongings out of the house and into a garage or onto porches.

"It was just a community effort," Stark said. "I'm pretty proud of everybody for doing that."



STEPHANIE JUMP / The Courier

Cunningham Fire Chief Harold Stark praised community members for their assistance in helping with the fire that resulted from a lightning strike on June 25. Multiple agencies responded to provide mutual aid in the fire.

DAYCARE

• From Page 1

There was talk about the community center being utilized for a daycare and Lyon said that might work in a temporary situation. But she said there has to be a long-term solution in place and that the daycare complies with all state regulations.

As far as a location goes, Lyon said it would depend on how many kids a daycare provider would host. She said it might be possible to look into a modular home that could be located on a lot, as such as a home would cost less to build.

She also mentioned that some providers may prefer to only have a few kids and operate out of their own home, rather than look at a daycare as a small business, in which case the operation might have more kids and be located on commercial property.

Other discussion focused

on the need for housing in Cunningham and how that's impacted if a house or lot is acquired for the purpose of locating a daycare.

The council discussed multiple houses and lots available in the city, but property office Jackie Ruckle noted that her biggest struggle has been getting certain property owners to get their houses fixed up or show a willingness to rent them out.

Ruckle suggested that the three get a conversation going with people in the community about the need for daycare and see what ideas are suggested. Another suggestion was to set up a booth for the Fourth of July celebration to allow people to visit about ideas.

The council didn't take any action but those who spoke during public comment they would continue to look at options for at least a temporary location until a permanent solution could be determined.



LEFT: Sage Thimesch, L, and Alyssa Osner go for the block during the last night of summer league games played in Kingman. RIGHT: Katie Ogg goes for the kill during a game Wednesday evening in Kingman. Volleyball summer league play has now concluded for the summer.



STEPHANIE JUMP / The Courier

CHS

• From Page 1

"It gave us a fresh perspective," Knee said. "We faced teams we normally don't play, which introduced new challenges and forced us to adapt."

There were varsity and junior varsity divisions, so the Lady Wildcats moved players between the two divisions. Knee said that gave the girls more reps, exposure to different positions and the chance to play with different teammates.

"This helped me learn how each player responds in

different situations — information that will be valuable as I meet with players to set goals and prepare for the upcoming season," she said. "I also think the girls learned more about my coaching style and expectations, which I hope instills confidence and motivates them to work hard."

Along with summer league, Knee has offered open gym and small group training on request. Eric and Nicole Kerschen have offered summer weights and conditioning and several girls participated in a volleyball tournament at Newman

University.

The head coach said she would like to see more athletes participate in these offerings but understands that many are balancing jobs, other sports and other activities. But she said the other offerings offer a lot of benefit to the girls.

"The small-group sessions are especially valuable because they allow us to further break down technical skills and refine details that can get overlooked in a full team environment," Knee said. "The extra games in a tournament also help expand our volleyball IQ by presenting

different scenarios and decision-making opportunities, giving us clearer insight into where we perform well and where we should focus our efforts in future practices."

She added that she appreciates the Kerschens investing time in the athletes, as that weight training and conditioning work will pay off for the girls who participate.

As for the upcoming season, Knee said her expectations are the same as last year: for the girls to "show up, be coachable, always give your best effort, be a good teammate and have fun."

CITY

• From Page 1

as the previous year. If an entity intends to exceed the RNR, it must schedule a public hearing, along with its public hearing about the budget itself.

Lloyd explained that, for the city of Cunningham, one mill will generate \$4,000, meaning the revenue neutral rate of 57.360 is the mill levy the city would set to generate the same amount of revenue it budgeted for 2026.

Lloyd noted that the state legislature tried to change some things with how property tax was assessed but Gov. Laura Kelly vetoed what was passed. He said he didn't know if things will change with property tax or RNR in the future.

"I don't like RNR, it's

just like... there's a lot of reasons," Lloyd said. "But it's just like they don't understand that you guys aren't just spending money out here willy-nilly."

"You know, you're actually trying to operate a little city called Cunningham, Kansas. And that's the same for counties and everything."

But Lloyd added that when a person has property valuation increase, that in turn increases their taxes unless the mill levy is lowered.

Lloyd also discussed with the council about exemptions given to properties, such as a pipeline that runs through multiple counties, including Kingman County. He noted that hurts the counties, and thus RNR hits them hard because cities have other revenue sources that counties don't have.

As for the revenue neutral

rate hearing, Lloyd said that a resolution needs to be passed early enough to give the city time to notify the county clerk, so that notices can be sent to property owners about the hearing. The hearing notice also has to be published at least 10 days before the date of the hearing.

The city council went with the July 13 special meeting to pass its RNR resolution so it could be done in enough time to get notice to the county clerk's office. The next regular meeting would be July 27.

One thing Lloyd noted that, when the city does pass such a resolution, it must include the maximum mill levy it intends to set. The city could then set a mill levy lower than that amount, but it could not go higher. Lloyd also reviewed the

city's 2025 audit, which did not show any significant findings and indicated that all numbers were fairly stated.

He did point to council members the "prior year points revisited," in which the audit found items that, while not significant, could be addressed to improve accounting principles.

Among them were reviewing employee time cards, having a second person review journal entries, addressing the swimming pool account and improved financial statement reporting. City Clerk Molly Morgan noted that the city has addressed several of those items.

Lloyd also noted a recommended list of policies and procedures to put into place, but told the council that is something the Lloyd Audit Group does with most cities.

because that is based on the dollar amount raised. That, in turn, may make it more difficult to do things like raises or cover increasing costs for insurance.

County Clerk Carol Noblit agreed, adding that more property tax exemptions and more mandated expenses will make it harder to budget.

The county commissioners will continue budget discussions at its next meeting this Monday, July 6.

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OPINION

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Tallgrass and Tumbleweeds

By Gaille Pike

Dear Readers,
I was sitting outside in the big work shed when the rain began to fall. Rain on a tin roof. There's nothing quite like it. The huge bay doors were open and I sat in my cozy camping chair, sipping my coffee, and just watched the whole blessed world change all about me. The sun faded and skies darkened and the trees turned up their leaves to catch as much moisture as they could. The distant thunder was not threatening but more a polite reminder that you are not really in control of anything around here.

And the critters all switched gears. The ducks love puddles even more than the pond and they dug their bills deep into the mud, popping up looking like kids with chocolate milk moustaches. And wherever the phrase "mad as a wet hen" comes from I can attest that it is inaccurate. Chickens will frolic in the rain all day like truant 12-year-olds if it isn't a pounding downpour. The squirrels get hyper-squirrely, dashing about as if it is the last chance they'll have to collect

their caches of nuts and hurry them back home to their snug little condos in the high branches. The barn swallows swooped inside with me to visit their nests in the rafters, dodging at my head like Stukas.

I have often heard that many people find the rain depressing and I just cannot understand that at all. If nothing else it is immensely rejuvenating. Isn't that what it's for? Isn't that the whole purpose of being rain? To reinvigorate and revive? To renew and refresh. I can testify it refreshes the heck out of me because now I won't have to water the gardens and plants for a few days. And even those flowers, plants and vegetables seem to yawn and sigh with relief and appreciation when those first few satiny droplets caress their fronds and petals.

And as I sit here watching the treeline and pastures and ponds glistening in this miracle we all take for granted, I am reminded of a friend of mine who loves thunderstorms. His credo is "A little rain never hurt anybody and a lot of rain is even better."

And he wanted his son to love the rain as much as he does. So when his boy was only a few months old a massive thunderstorm broke over his farmhouse. And he wrapped that kid in a blanket and carried him onto the porch, beneath the tin roof where the rain was deafening and the thunder rumbled and the lightning crackled. And they held their hands out under the eaves and felt the water like pins and needles against their palms. And that little boy did not flinch. Safe in his father's relaxed arms, his eyes widened and he smiled and laughed and they stayed out on that porch until it was over.

That boy is a young man now. And he is farming out in western Kansas. And yesterday he called his Dad and told him he was stuck in an outrageous thunderstorm. There was flooding and the police had closed off the road. And when his father asked him if he was all right that boy said, "You kidding me? I LOVE this stuff!" Talk about refreshing.

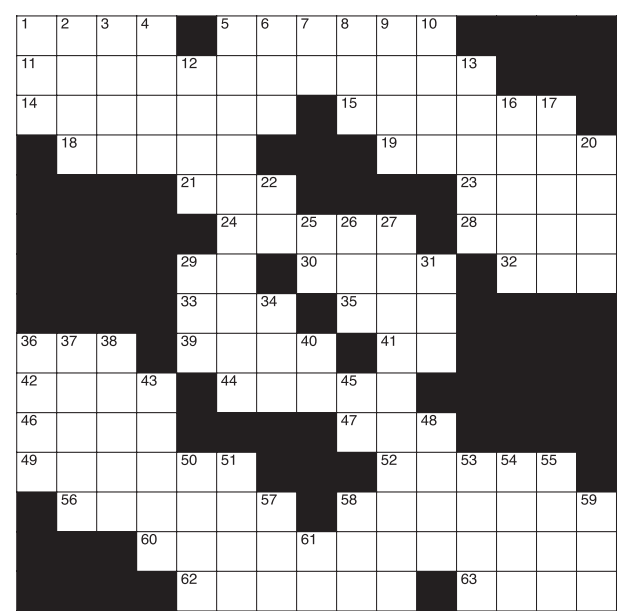
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CLUES ACROSS

1. ___ chat
5. Statue near the Pyramids
11. A process to change the look
14. Herb
15. Think about excessively
18. Bass vocal part
19. Supreme Allied Cmdr. of NATO
21. A major division of geological time
23. New Zealand parrot
24. Cognitive contents
28. Lump of yarn
29. Atomic #109
30. Let go of
32. Indian title of respect
33. Whereabouts unknown
35. Electronic data processing
36. Drivers' licenses count
39. Snakelike fishes
41. They precede C
42. Popular personal computers
44. Intermediate community stage in ecological succession
46. Wings
47. Indicates position
49. Pleasantly smooth or soft
52. Jeweled headdress
56. In slow tempo
58. ___ Falls
60. Reassertions
62. Eras
63. Hyphen

CLUES DOWN

1. Corporate executive
2. A plant used for flavoring food
3. Opinion or belief
4. Sheep in their second year
5. Intensities of sound
6. Indicates support for
7. Expression of laughter
8. OJ trial judge
9. Pointed ends of pens
10. True bugs genus
12. Lawyers argue theirs
13. Body parts
16. Closes tightly
17. World Heritage site in Nigeria
20. Islamic calendar month
22. Commercial
25. "Westworld" actor Harris
26. They ___
27. Religious guilds
29. Woman (French)
31. Parts per billion (abbr.)
34. Brew
36. Spiritual leader
37. Indigo bush
38. Burn with a hot liquid
40. Older citizen
43. Scad fish genus
45. Morning
48. Line passing through the center (abbr.)
50. Double S-shaped curve
51. Small, thin person
53. Older
54. Mars crater
55. Humanities
57. Word element meaning ear
58. To the ___ degree
59. Residue
61. It cools your home

Waving

By Dean Marple

The sweet smell of lilacs and peonies was gone, and the first hints of summer heat, real heat, were nudging the thermometer. But really, it didn't make any difference; hot weather didn't affect me. I was always there. Blazing heat, freezing temperatures, hail or ice, I was there.

Of course, when I said I was always there, I didn't mean me personally. The bright sun's rays were dulling my colors in this, my third and probably last summer, but my earlier brothers proudly stood here before me. A 40-foot perch gave us a grand view.

In 1983, a terrible storm bent my pole, and I hung dangerously close to the ground, but I didn't fall. In 1967, Vietnam War protesters tried to burn me, but I wouldn't come down. I'd

never been prouder than in 1945 when V-J Day ended that bloody war. Silently, respectfully, I've stood here, outside the courthouse, since it was built in 1890, blessed with the best views in town.

I looked east and gazed in the courthouse windows. Young couples, grinning and hugging, strolled beneath me, clutching their marriage licenses. With bowed heads, grumbling men in shackles were hustled up the courthouse steps with men in blue right beside them.

To the west, I saw wheat, corn and steers that looked like little black dots in a faraway green pasture. I saw white farmhouses with freshly washed clothes flapping on a line just because little boys couldn't resist every mud puddle they saw. Inside the houses, I heard bedtime prayers and a softly whis-

pered "I love you" as moms tucked in little ones. None of these houses had poles as grand as mine, but they all flew my brothers.

Looking south, I saw factories, stores and grit. There, bent over an engine, was a mechanic working late because he knew the plumber needed his van. Over here, in the early morning, young men and women hurried to stock grocery store produce shelves. An old veteran slowly shuffled beneath me, and I felt pride in representing something this man believed in. Finally, forlornly, I saw the undertaker, with a hose and sponge, cleaning the black hearse, getting ready for one final ride.

I watched the hearse lead a long line of cars north with headlights shining. Next to a mound of dirt and a small headstone, the hearse

stopped, and the doors opened. Six men carried a casket, a casket covered by a 50-star brother of mine. Heads were bowed, the preacher spoke, and for a moment, the only sounds were the wind and a small flutter as the casket-covering flag was folded and presented. No words could express the pride I felt for men and women willing to fight and die for the values I represented.

The widow cried, the cars left, and the dirt was shoveled, filling the void. I saw it all, waving high above the courthouse lawn. Later, I watched a man stand beneath me as he did every evening. As dusk lingered, he slowly lowered me as the metal snap hooks clanged against the solid pole. Old Glory was done for the day, but I'd fly again tomorrow. Proudly.

Fresh From the Hen House

By Ashley Burkhart Walter

My son signed up for the small engines project through 4-H this year. With his love for old lawn tractors, it seemed like a good fit for him. With old lawn tractors comes a bit of troubleshooting, like, "Why won't it start today?" He's getting better at diagnosing each little issue that arises. Isn't that how it works? Something goes wrong, and you seem to learn the most.

Aside from entering a small engine that he has overhauled or rebuilt, which he isn't there yet, he could enter displays, a trifold, or a poster. Surprisingly, he was pretty into choosing a couple of subjects for trifolds. He was loaned an old small engine repair book from a family friend and used it to choose "2 Stroke vs. 4 Stroke Engines."

Now, I could make an attractive trifold, something he has never done before, but I knew nothing about two-stroke and four-stroke engines. We put his knowl-

edge of small engines and my creativity together to make a small engines trifold project, and that is truly the beauty of 4-H — and, well, raising kids.

I've never been one to throw the kids into something and have them figure it out or fend for themselves. I've always believed in guidance. Time, guidance and the right tools can do so much for any kid. It's why we have a 15-year-old who can confidently bake any recipe she wants, even macarons. Now, there are plenty of kids who can figure out so much on their own, and that is amazing, but I revel in my role as a mom of 4-H'ers and do what I can.

I can't honestly say how my son's trifold would have turned out if I had dropped the supplies in front of him and walked away, but by guiding him through his first several, I feel confident he'll have a good idea of how to put together a decent trifold on his own.

The perk of getting to help him organize his trifold is that I now know the difference between a two-stroke and a four-stroke engine. I have a feeling he's going to be top-notch at explaining his displays after explaining and re-explaining everything to me while we put the information together.

As I'm spending all my spare time filling out project information forms, making tags for sewing, copying instructions and plans for projects, I feel like 4-H is a lot for me, not just my kids, and really, it is. It truly is a family thing.

Just as it's important for a teacher to teach, it's important for a 4-H parent to make sure all the boxes are checked. You want to set your kids up for success, so you help with the paperwork, you guide them on projects, and you give them your feedback. You help create capable children who can listen to a judge and then want to use the advice they

were given to make something even better next year.

4-H is as much as you want it to be, but I do think it's the perfect opportunity for kids to explore their interests. Go support your local 4-H'ers during fair season this year and maybe slip their moms a thumbs-up... or a coffee. A coffee will be needed.

Peanut Butter Overnight Oats

- Ingredients**
- 2/3 cups old-fashioned oats
 - 1 1/3 cups milk
 - 1 tbsp chia seeds
 - 3 tbsp peanut butter
 - 1 ripe banana mashed
 - 1 tsp vanilla extract
 - 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon

Mash the banana in a large bowl. Add your oats, milk, chia seeds, peanut butter, vanilla, and cinnamon. Mix well.

Transfer the oats into mason jars. Cover and refrigerate overnight or up to four hours minimum. Enjoy as an easy breakfast.

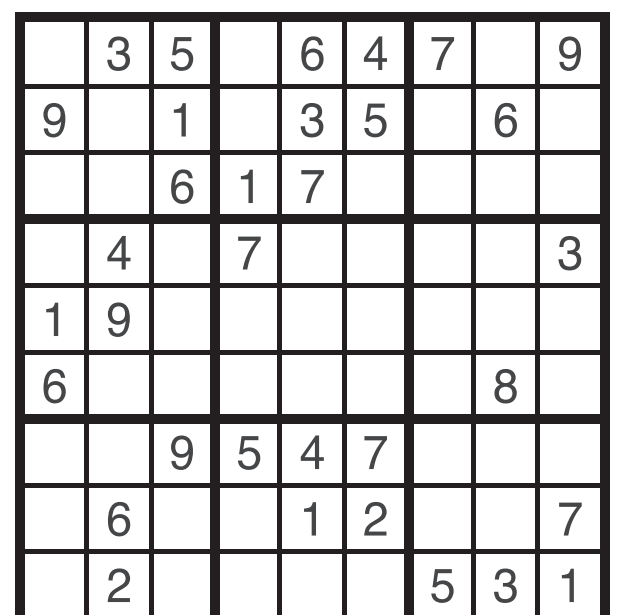
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P G P F P G X L H K Y M G P F G O S W M
G S M A R C E E A L P E F I L D L I W S
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DAY AT THE PARK WORD SEARCH
BENCHES, BIKING, COMMUNITY, FITNESS, FLOWERS, GARDEN, GRASS, HIKING, LEISURE, NATURE, PARK, PATHWAYS, PICNIC, PLAYGROUND, RELAXATION, SOCIAL, SPORTS, SUNLIGHT, SWINGS, TRAIL, TREES, WELLNESS, WILDLIFE, YOUTH

NEWS

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

PUZZLE ANSWERS

C H I T S P H I N X
 R E D E C O R A T I O N
 O R E G A N O O B S E S S
 B A S S O S A C E U R
 E R A K A K A
 I D E A S S L U B
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HELP WANTED

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We now have certain online Auctions you can register to bid online. Please take a look!

FOR SALE

The City of Turon is selling our fogger as is and will be taking sealed bids on it and will open the sealed bids at the next meeting on July 13th, 2026, at 7 p.m.

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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 604 N. Walnut
 Medicine Lodge, KS 67104
620-886-3222
 8 a.m. to noon / 1 to 5 p.m.
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NEWS

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

DOCKET

KINGMAN COUNTY SHERIFF BLOTTER

Sunday, June 21
 Animal Complaint 14000 Blk NE 10 St, Cheney
 Traffic Complaint N Hwy 11 & NW 50, Kingman
 Theft/Recovered 15000 Blk BE 50 St, Cheney
 Injury Accident E Hwy 42 & S Robbins, Norwich
 Disabled Vehicle 15000 Blk NE 10 St, Cheney

Monday, June 22
 Miscellaneous 120 N Spruce St, Kingman
 Agency Assist/KMPD N Cedar & W Sherman, Kingman
 Check Vehicle NW 50 & W Hwy 54, Kingman
 Warrant Service 120 N Spruce St, Kingman

Tuesday, June 23
 Traffic Stops 1
 Civil Paper Service 4
 Traffic Complaint E Bluff St & NE 80, Kingman
 Accidental 911 Dial 500 Blk SW 150 St, Spivey
 Non-Injury Accident 300 W Central Ave, Nashville
 Weather Watch SW 170 & SW 80 St, Nashville

Animal Complaint NW 170 & NW 20, Cunningham

Wednesday, June 24
 Traffic Stops 6
 Civil Paper Service 10
 Theft 120 N Spruce Street, Kingman
 Disabled Vehicle 5000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
 Transport Inmate 120 N Spruce Street, Kingman
 Disabled Vehicle 3000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman
 Animal Complaint SE 10 St & SE 60 Ave, Murdock

Thursday, June 25
 Traffic Stops 2
 Court/Inmate 130 North Spruce St, Kingman
 Injury Accident 4000 Blk S Hwy 14, Kingman
 Fire/Residential 200 Blk E 1st St, Cunningham
 Non-Injury Accident 4500 SW 170 Ave, Cunningham
 Miscellaneous 5800 Blk NE 140 Ave, Cheney
 Agency Assist/KHP 16000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney

Friday, June 26
 Traffic Stops 1
 Disabled Vehicle 11000 Blk SE 60 St, Murdock
 Suspicious Vehicle NE 35 St & NE 40, Kingman
 Animal Complaint 210 S Main St, Spivey
 Miscellaneous 1200 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
 Recovered Property 120 N Spruce St, Kingman

Saturday, June 27
 Traffic Stops 3
 Traffic Complaint NE 30 St & NE 150 Ave, Cheney
 Fraud 12000 Blk SE 40 St, Murdock
 Follow Up 1100 Blk E Hwy 42, Rago
 Traffic Complaint 12000 Blk S Hwy 14, Rago
 Agency Assist/KMPD 200 Blk W Copeland, Kingman
 Warrant Service/Arrest 200 Blk E F Ave, Kingman
 Traffic Complaint 6000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman
 Miscellaneous 400 Blk E Leiter, Cunningham
 Miscellaneous 100 Blk E Sherman, Kingman

KINGMAN COUNTY ACCIDENTS

May 15: The Kingman County sheriff's department investigated a one-vehicle crash in which Megan Elizabeth Ann Green, 27, of Murdock was driving a 2014 Ford Explorer eastbound on SE 20th Street when, about half a mile south of SE 150th Avenue, she struck a deer that came out of the ditch. Green was not injured.

May 17: The Kingman County sheriff's department investigated a one-vehicle crash in which Ismael Jose Carrasco, 19, of Pratt was driving a 2015 Toyota Avalon eastbound on U.S. Highway 54/400 when, about one mile west of NE 150th Avenue, he struck a deer that came out of the ditch. Carrasco was not injured.

June 10: The Kingman County sheriff's department investigated a one-vehicle crash in which Carol Faye Voran, 71, of Kingman was driving a 2023 Chevy Blazer eastbound on SE 70th Street when, about two-tenths of a mile east of SE 50th Avenue, she struck a deer that came out of the south ditch. Voran was not injured.

June 15: The Kingman County sheriff's department investigated a one-vehicle crash in which Mariah Michelle Klusener, 33, of Manhattan was driving a 2014 Subaru Legacy westbound on U.S. Highway 54/400 when, about half a mile east of SW 90th Avenue, she struck a deer that ran into the roadway. Klusener was not injured.

June 20: The Kingman County sheriff's department investigated a one-vehicle crash in which Sarah Nicole Mack, 43, of Cunningham was driving a 2024 Nissan Altima eastbound on NW 50th Street when, just west of NW 90th Avenue, she struck a deer that came from the north ditch. Mack was not injured.

June 23: The Kingman County sheriff's department investigated a one-vehicle crash in which John Wesley Poindexter, 77, of Nashville was driving a 2016 Hyundai Sonata eastbound on Kansas Highway 42 when, about two-tenths of a mile west of SW 180th Avenue, he struck a deer that came from the north ditch. Poindexter was not injured.

KINGMAN COUNTY DISTRICT COURT

Judge Roseanna Mathis Thursday, June 2
2026: State of Kansas vs. Mitchell D. Bowen, first appearance.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Marilynn S. Thiel, first appearance.
2025: State of Kansas vs. Jacob William Gillespie III, hearing.
2025: State of Kansas vs. Jacob William Gillespie III, hearing.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Casey Jordan Williams, first appearance.
2026: State of Kansas vs. John D. Smalling, hearing.
2026: State of Kansas vs. John D. Smalling, hearing.

2026: State of Kansas vs. John D. Smalling, hearing.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Terry Lee Headgepath, hearing.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Joseph R. I. Greathouse, arraignment.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Joseph R. I. Greathouse, arraignment.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Hailey Rose Evans, first appearance.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Paul Wesley Stranger II, first appearance.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Steele Kinte Blackmon, diversion.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Robert Lee Barajas, hearing.

2026: State of Kansas vs. Oscar Alberto Valdez Rodriguez, hearing.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Ezekiel E. Childers, hearing.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Ashley Daniela Hayes Vargas, first appearance.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Keaton Michael Lee Clark, first appearance.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Anthony G. Marino, first appearance.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Samuel Rivera Hernandez, first appearance.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Michael L. Rice, first appearance.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Joel Dean Eilert, bench trial.

KINGMAN COUNTY JAIL BOOKINGS

June 23: Edgar Cesar Meza Lopez, 45, housed for Kiowa County, served five days, released to Immigration and Customs Enforcement.
June 23: James Colton Perkins, 24, housed for Kiowa County, served five days.
June 24: Jared Cole Griffin, 38, housed for Kiowa County, released to Kiowa County deputies.

June 24: Jonathan Michael Ford, 41, criminal trespass and violation of protection order, \$15,000 OR bond.
June 24: Clinton Harold Davis, 43, failure to appear, bond reinstated and court-ordered release.
June 26: Kenedy Mugisha, 27, served last 60 hours of five-day sanction.

June 26: John Allen Grey, 51, housed for Kiowa County.
June 27: Kaydence Olivia Dent, 22, violation of protection order, released on OR bond.
June 27: William Austin Horn, 31, failure to appear (Harvey County warrant), \$500 bond.

KINGMAN COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES

June 22 Meeting

Chairwoman Lyon called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. June 22, 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; Renee Elpers; Carol Voran; Vicki Mader, Horizons Mental Health; Carrie Nation, Horizons Mental Health. Anita Drake, Council on Aging Administrator, Corey Krehbiel, Council on Aging Board, Carol Voran, Council on Aging Board, Chad Osborn, Council on Aging Board.

Online Visitors: DH; Randall Miller; Caller 1; AS
 Staff: LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director.

Commissioner Young gave the invocation.

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

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

Chairwoman Lyon asked for public comments.

Shae Brooks, Kingman Fire Chief let the Commissioners know that they are submitting the AFG grant application today and would like to be on the agenda for next week for an update on it.

Dale Enyart discussed the GOP Meeting held last Thursday and that the State Board of Education Republican Candidate Alana Williams presented and if you get a chance to talk with her she is a good candidate for State Board of Education.

8:33 a.m. Vicki Mader, Horizons Mental Health Administrator and Carrie Nation, Horizons Mental Health were in with a quarterly update.

Ms. Mader went through their current budget status for this year.

Ms. Mader and Ms. Nation left the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

Carol Noblit, County Clerk submitted the June 15, 2026, Commission meeting minutes for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve June 15, 2026, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve paid vacation leave for a Sheriff department employee. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Ms. Drake let the Commissioners know that legal services provided to individuals is held every 60 days and appointments are required.

Kingman County Council on Aging board members, Corey Krehbiel, Carol Voran and Chad Osborn were in to discuss the budget request for 2027.

Ms. Drake, Mr. Krehbiel, Ms. Voran and Mr. Osborn left the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

9:15 a.m. LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer was in to review budget numbers with the Commissioners.

Ms. Stegman left the meeting at 10:11 a.m.

10:11 a.m. Tiffany Aumiller, Benefits Administrator and Don Hightower, Airmed were in to discuss the service that was provided this last year.

Commissioners agreed to have Airmed talk with County Employees August 6, 2026.

Mr. Aumiller and Mr. Hightower left the meeting at 10:21 a.m.

10:21 a.m. Danielle Hollingshead, AdamsBrown was in to go over the 2025 County Audit with the County Commissioners.

MOTION: Chairwoman Lyon to approve the 2025 County Audit from Adams-Brown. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Ms. Hollingshead and Ms. Stegman left the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

Commissioner Young discussed that there was a lot of water over county roads and the County put some cones out on some of the roads.

Commissioners discussed a call and text received from an individual who hadn't paid taxes and will not be in the NRP program any longer.

10:47 a.m. Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director was in with the Road & Bridge May financial report for the Commissioners to review.

Commissioners discussed water over roads and thanked Charlie and his staff for the work they did closing off roads for safety.

Mr. Arensdorf gave an update to the Commissioners on the Hot Mix Overlay on NE 10th St.

Mr. Arensdorf gave an update on the Windfarm Road Repairs review of bids on July 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 11:26 a.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

New Traffic Law Takes Effect

PRESS RELEASE

Construction season is in full swing, and there are some new changes that the Kansas Department of Transportation wants drivers to be aware of on Kansas roads this summer.

Senate Bill 366, which Governor Laura Kelly signed into law this spring, will go into effect on July 1. This law prohibits handheld mobile device use in active construction and school zones.

"Active" means in school zones when a reduced speed limit is enforced, and in construction zones while workers are present and signs are posted at the beginning of the road construction zone alerting drivers to such workers. Devices are still allowed to be used in hands-free mode.

Removing the distraction of handheld devices in school and construction zones is an effort to improve safety in locations where vehicles and pedestrians or construction workers are brought into close contact with one another.

Law enforcement officers shall issue warning citations to anyone violating this law beginning July 1 and continuing until June 30, 2027, after which time traffic citations will be issued with a fine of \$60.

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Get puzzle answers, recipes and more at www.kidscoop.com

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AMERICA 250

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!

July 4, 2026, marks 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Grab your red, white and blue crayons and celebrate with today's Kid Scoop page!

Yikes! Help me catch up with the parade!

Use my picture clues to finish the puzzle!

How many stars can you find on this page in two minutes?

Freedom Finder
Set a timer for four minutes. Circle all the words or pictures in the newspaper that describe what you like about the United States. Reset the timer and have a friend or parent look for more. Who found the most words?

Extra! Extra! Freedom Finder
Set a timer for four minutes. Circle all the words or pictures in the newspaper that describe what you like about the United States. Reset the timer and have a friend or parent look for more. Who found the most words?

Patriotic Pattern Draw the missing symbol in each row to continue the pattern. Have a friend check your work.

Kid Scoop Puzzler There were 13 stars on the first American flag. Can you find 13 stars here?

Double Word Search Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

Write On! Freedom What does freedom mean to you? Write about it. Share what you write with your family members.

FROM THE KID SCOOP LESSON LIBRARY

American Celebration Look through the newspaper for articles and pictures about the different ways people are celebrating America's 250th birthday. Clip the articles and photos and save them to look at again on America's 275th birthday!

Which U.S. state has the best grades?

Notable Events in Colonial America in 1776

METRO CONTENT.

The year the United States came to be was an interesting time to be alive, particularly for those living in colonial America. The American Revolutionary War began in 1776, and much of the year was marked by events stemming from that conflict. Below are some of the more notable events to take place during a year that has come to symbolize so much to generations of Americans.

Thomas Paine publishes his 47-page pamphlet *Common Sense* in Philadelphia on January 10. Initially published anonymously, the pamphlet is considered a watershed moment in American history, as Paine's easily digestible writing style appealed to the masses, helping promote his arguments that encouraged common people to fight for an egalitarian government.

The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge takes place near Wilmington, North Carolina on February 27. The battle is sparked when loyalists, after storming across a bridge over Moore's Creek, attack a group of men they believe to be rebels. Though the engagement was brief, two loyalist leaders are killed, another is captured

and the force is scattered. The failed attempt later complicated efforts to recruit loyalists in the area to fight.

The Fifth Virginia Convention is held in Williamsburg between May 6 and July 5. The meeting of the Patriot legislature of Virginia ultimately leads to the declaration of Virginia as an independent state and the production of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, which asserts the state's right to reform or abolish any form of government it deems inadequate.

Thomas Hickey becomes an early casualty of the burgeoning conflict between the colonies and England when the Irish-born soldier is the first to be executed by the Continental Army for "mutiny, sedition, and treachery" on June 28 in New York City. Hickey had been part of a protective detail for General George Washington but was briefly jailed for passing counterfeit money. During that brief incarceration, Hickey told a fellow prisoner he was part of a conspiracy, and reports ultimately indicated he might have been part of a plot to assassinate General Washington, which proved enough to warrant his execution.

An uptick incidents of violence between Native Americans and settlers in Kentucky was a ripple effect of the American Revolutionary War, and that increase in aggression was behind the capture of Jemima Boone and the Callaway girls on July 14. Days later Daniel Boone led a successful attempt to rescue his daughter and Elizabeth and Frances Callaway, who were the children of Colonel Richard Callaway, one of the first white settlers in Kentucky. A fictionalized version of the incident was included in James Fenimore Cooper's novel *The Last of the Mohicans*.

The Great Fire of New York destroys as much as 25 percent of all buildings in New York City as it burns through areas in lower Manhattan on September 20 and 21. The fire broke out shortly after British forces began occupying the city. While each side accused the other of arson in the aftermath of the fire, historians dispute such assertions, noting the fire likely started with burning rooftop debris before windy conditions spread the conflagration to surrounding buildings.

UNITED STATES TRIVIA

Test your knowledge of the history of the U.S.

- 1 How many original colonies were there?
- 2 Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?
- 3 Which explorer is America named after?
- 4 In what year were women finally granted the right to vote in the U.S.?
- 5 Who are the only two non-presidents to appear on widely used U.S. currency?
- 6 What are the three branches of the U.S. government?
- 7 If someone requests your John Hancock, what are they referring to?
- 8 Who was the first woman to serve on the United States Supreme Court?
- 9 Which Civil Rights figure led the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955?
- 10 True or False? Apple pie was invented in the U.S.
- 11 Who was the first U.S. astronaut in space?
- 12 What is the United States motto?
- 13 When was Washington established as the capital of the United States?
- 14 Which state was the first admitted to the Union?

Answers: 1. Thirteen 2. Philadelphia 3. Amerigo Vesputci 4. 1920 5. Alexander Hamilton and Benjamin Franklin 6. Legislative, Executive and Judicial 7. Signature 8. Sandra Day O'Connor 9. Martin Luther King, Jr. 10. False; it originated in England 11. Alan Shepard 12. "E pluribus unum," 13. 1790 14. Delaware

Did You Know?

America's Birthday

July 4, 1776, is an important date in American history that is widely considered the birthday of the United States of America. But some people argue that August 2 should actually be America's birthday, since that was when the Declaration of Independence was signed. The National Archives says that the Second Continental Congress adopted the United States Declaration of independence on July 4, 1776, formally severing ties with Britain. The approved Declaration was printed on July 5. On July 19, Congress ordered that the document be engrossed on parchment, which is a process of copying an official document in large hand. It is surmised that the engrosser was Timothy Matlock, an assistant to Charles Thomson, secretary to the Congress. It was nearly a month after the Declaration was adopted before the document began to be signed by delegates. The signing of the Declaration of Independence occurred primarily on August 2, 1776, at the Pennsylvania State House in Philadelphia, a building later renamed Independence Hall. John Hancock, who was the President of the Congress, was the first to sign the engrossed copy. Signatures were arranged by states from northernmost to southernmost. Fifty-six delegates eventually signed the document, although not all were present to sign on August 2. Some delegates never managed to sign the Declaration, including Robert R. Livingston of New York, who was a member of the Declaration's drafting committee.

From all of us at M³ Publishing, we wish you a happy and safe 4th of July.