

Cunningham Wildcats Perform at Track Meets

The last couple of weeks the track teams have been busy. Due to some late results posted we finally have some official results to post. Some really good performances by HS and JH kids.

JH participated in a split meet last week some attending a meet in Kiowa and others attending a meet in Stafford. Some highlights: Liam McGuire wins all his races and produces an

astounding triple jump of 42’10.5”. This mark would win most high school meets and even place in the state meet. Only 3 feet off the high school record held by a good friend of mine Kevin Ford. As a senior Kevin went 45-6. Katie Ogg also had a gold medal day winning the 100, 200, 400 and Long Jump. John Paul Kerschen was at Kiowa and produced at 11’10”

pole vault winning the event as well as the discus and shot put. Big PR in the shot put by 7th graders Landon Green and Cooper Neufeld as well as Landon Green running some fast times in the 100 and 200 and leaping a big long jump.

HS participated in the Kiowa meet last week with the boys winning the invitation which hasn’t been done since the 2008

season. Will Wegerer hit a big 16’ PV shattering the school record and establishing him as the #1 in the state by quite the margin. We had some good jumps that day with Ada Adams in the Triple winning the event and Cole Hageman winning the HJ with a jump of 5-8. Stephen Kerschen threw a good discus at 143’ winning the event and the shot put crew has a great showing finishing 1st and

2nd 43’ Trent Schnittker and 42’ Nate Sterneker.

HS also had a good meet at Kingman on Tuesday April 22nd with Will Weger jumping good again at 15’10” and Nate and Trent finishing off the shot put with some good places. Kyra Morgan is another athlete throwing really consistent and finishing always in the top 3 in her throwing events. Throwing over 36’ in the shot, over 100 in both

the discus and javelin respectavally.

Great job kids.
-Coach Kerschen

Minutes from the Kingman County Commission

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Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director was in with a quick update for the County Commissioners.

Jamie Smith, County Treasurer was in to discuss that second half of taxes will be due by May 12th due to the 10th being on a Saturday.

Ms. Smith gave an update on the tax sale to the Commissioners.

Ms. Smith discussed interest that was received from investments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Elpers moved to go into executive session with Jamie Smith, County Treasurer and Brandon Ritcha,

County Counselor at 9:20 a.m. to discuss individual employee’s evaluation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act for discussion of non-elected personnel matters of nonelected personnel in order to protect the privacy interests of the individual(s) to be discussed, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 9:25 a.m. Commission Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 9:25 a.m. no action was made.

Staci Jackson, District Court Clerk was in to give an update on the shortage of court reporters in the State of Kansas.

Ms. Jackson let the Commissioners know that they are going to have to get a recording system for the Courtroom to record jury trials and wanted to give the Commissioners an idea of what the cost will be.

LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer was in to let the Commissioners know that the Auditors were here April 9th, 2025, and things went well.

Ms. Stegman went over March Financials with the County Commissioners.

Ms. Stegman discussed the capital equipment fund with the Commissioners.

Mary Schwartz, Health Nurse was in with a department update for the County Commissioners.

Ms. Schwartz gave a measles update and that

it is still concentrated in Western Kansas.

Ms. Schwartz let the Commissioners know that she has started an ESF-8-emergency medical response group and they met April 9th, 2025, with a discussion on measles response.

Ms. Schwartz discussed her PCI/DSS compliance concerns and that to be entirely “compliant” is not feasible now but it most important task is to update our card reader.

Ms. Schwartz discussed purchasing two surface pros with Reach IT.

MOTION: Chairwoman Lyon moved to approve the purchase of two surface pro computers from Reach IT with grant funds and having remaining expense not covered to be paid out

of Capital Equipment fund. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

Ms. Schwartz let the Commissioners know that they have upcoming conferences that they will be attending. Kan Be Healthy Training May 1st, Kansas Immunization Conference May 22nd, and the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments Mid-Year Meeting June 24-25th.

Ms. Schwartz left the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

Chairwoman Lyon discussed a bill that they would like to talk about being moved to the April 28th, 2025 meeting.

Commissioners agreed to move it until April 28th, 2025.

Carol Noblit, County Clerk submitted the April 14th, 2025, Commission meeting minutes for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the April 14, 2025, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 10:56 a.m. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners 3-0.

Minutes from Pratt County Commission

The Pratt County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, April 21, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. in the Commissioner Room, 1st floor of the Courthouse. The following members were present: Rick Shriver, Morgan Trinkle, Tyson Eisenhauer, County Counselor, Cescha Hoffman, County Clerk and Mark Graber, IT Director.

Economic Development Update

Heather Morgan reported Pratt County unemployment rose slightly to 3.7%, the state average remains unchanged at 3.8%.

KDOT Southwest Corridor Group is meeting on April 22, 2025. Heather states she plans to attend virtually via Zoom and a report from the meeting will be provided next week. Heather also gave an update on the Sawyer RFP project. The returned bid did not meet expectations and came in higher than expected. There is a 25% contingency due to tariff uncertainties. The timeline is long, potentially spanning multiple fiscal years, this may allow for additional financing options. Heather has been and will continue to be in contact with Representative Hoffman, Municipal Utility Organization and the City Clerk of Sawyer.

A negotiated procurement approach is likely next. More updates will be provided as the situation develops.

Approval of Minutes

Motion – To approve the minutes of April 14, 2025. Motion by – Commissioner Trinkle. Seconded by – Commissioner Shriver. Motion passed 2-0

Register of Deeds Personnel Update

Sherry Wenrich, Register of Deeds presented a salary adjustment form to the commissioners for Tishawna Dudrey’s 1 year anniversary. Tishawna will now be Deputy Register of Deeds and will take her oath that will be filed with her bond.

Motion – To increase Tishawna Dudrey’s pay from \$17.00/hour to \$18.00/hour. Motion by – Commissioner Shriver. Seconded by – Commissioner Trinkle. Motion passed 2-0.

Discussion of Emergency Preparedness/ Communications Job Description

Tyson asked that we change the classification. The role is not exempt and should be treated like any other hourly position. Sheriff White is currently being paid to serve as Assistant Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. A visit with Sheriff White is needed before finalizing decisions.

Approval of Spyglass Invoice

Spyglass performed

an audit of Verizon accounts, identifying savings for the county. The cost of the audit is the first year’s captured savings. Commissioners agreed to pay the invoice out of the Commissioners Budget.

Motion – To pay the Spyglass invoice in the amount of \$10, 862.42. Motion by Commissioner Shriver. Seconded by Commissioner Trinkle. Motion passed 2-0

Approval of RSVP Account Closure

Motion – To close old RSVP account at Legacy Bank. Motion by Commissioner Trinkle. Seconded by Commissioner Shriver. Motion passed 2-0.

Emergency Preparedness Personnel Update

Motion – To hire Shaphan Staats as a part-time emergency management during storms at a rate of \$15/hour. Motion by Commissioner Shriver. Seconded by Commissioner Trinkle. Motion passed 2-0.

Approval of Bid for Painting Clerk’s Office

Motion – To approve the bid from Sanchez Stripping for the painting of the back storage rooms of the clerk’s office in the amount of \$1,996.88. Motion by Commissioner Trinkle. Seconded by Commissioner Shriver. Motion passed 2-0.

Approval for Courthouse Floor Cleaning & Maintenance

Three quotes were presented. Stanley

Cleaner would clean only and not strip for \$1,500/ floor.

Chris Munch quoted \$15,000-\$22,000.

Whitson Commercial Cleaner quoted \$3,653.95 and quarterly maintenance of \$714.82.

Motion: To hire Whitson Commercial Cleaners in the amount of \$3,653.95 for floor cleaning. Motion by Commissioner Trinkle. Seconded by Commissioner Shriver. Motion passed 2-0.

Motion – To hire Whitson Commercial Cleaners to provide quarterly maintenance of floors for \$714.82. Motion by Commissioner Shriver. Seconded by Commissioner Trinkle. Motion passed 2-0.

Consider Meeting Request for Interest in PRRC Building and Land

Marissa Weber expressed interest in discussing the PRRC building and surrounding land. Commissioners requested a meeting with her in a few weeks for discussion.

EMS Personnel Update

Brian Atteberry, EMS Director presented a salary adjustment form to the commissioners for Bailey Tatro’s six-month evaluation. Brian also updated the commissioners on a recent power surge that caused damaged to Medic 3 and Medic 2.

Motion- To increase Bailey Tatro’s pay from \$17.00/hour to \$17.50/hour. Motion by Commissioner

Shriver. Seconded by Commissioner Trinkle. Motion passed 2-0.

Consideration to Vacate Road

A request was made by Nas Miller to vacate a portion of North Jackson Street South of a previously vacated section. The proposed area extends toward the intersection at Cottingham Street. County Counselor Eisenhauer advised limiting the vacation to the existing stone markers for a straightforward process with minimal risk. If given authority County Counselor Eisenhauer will work with the County Appraiser on creating a legal description of the area to be vacated. And once reviewed and voted on by the Commission formal notices will be published and mailed.

Motion– To give Tyson authority to work on a legal description and present notices to commissioners for further action. Motion by Commissioner Shriver. Seconded by Commissioner Trinkle. Motion passed 2-0.

Consider EMC ONCALL Nurse Program

Clerk Hoffman pre-

sented the commissioners an option for Workman Comp processing. The service is of no cost to the county, will help with medical advice when an accident occurs and file the initial documentation to get the claim rolling. The commissioners wanted to wait to make decision since it can be implemented at any time.

Consider Freedom Insurance

Darren Theel with Theel Insurance met with Commissioners to give a final presentation on the proposed insurance plan. Commissioners will make a decision next week when Chairman Jones is present on enrollment.

Approval of Vouchers

Motion To approve the vouchers from April 14, 2025. Motion by Commissioner Shriver. Seconded by Commissioner Trinkle. Motion passed 2-0.

Adjournment

Motion – To adjourn the meeting at 3:40 p.m. Motion by Commissioner Shriver. Seconded by Commissioner Trinkle. Motion passed 2-0.

Great Invention

New York.—An English inventor is here with a great boon to humanity. E. Peter Jones brought with him an automobile that prevents back-seat driving. It is quite simple. One sitting on the rear seat faces the opposite way from the driver.