

SOCIETY

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Stephanie Jump at (620) 532-3151 or email sjump@kcnonline.com

Captain Brent Strong Retires From Navy

PRESS RELEASE

Mike and Colleen Strong of Kingman visited their oldest son, Captain Brent Strong, in Washington, D.C., on March 28 to attend his retirement ceremony from the Navy which culminated his 30-year career.

Brent graduated Kingman High in 1991 and ventured to Annapolis, Md., where he attended the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA). Upon graduating from USNA in 1995, CAPT Strong traveled to Pensacola to begin Naval

Flight Officer training. He earned his wings in 1996 after completing flight training and was assigned the P-3C Orion, an antisubmarine warfare aircraft.

Over his 30-year career he deployed to six of the seven continents and completed assignments in Barbers Point and Kaneohe, Hawaii; Jacksonville, Fla.; San Diego; Oak Harbor, Wash.; Newport, R.I.; and Washington, D.C., while deploying to over 15 overseas bases.

In his final assignment,

he was a Chief of Staff and the National Reconnaissance Office which is responsible for designing, building, and operating intelligence satellites in support of the Department of Defense and the Intelligence Community.

Brent is married to the former Denise Jones of Severn, Md., and they have four children, Abigail, Caleb, Evan and Sophie. With retirement from the Naval service, Brent and his family intend to remain in the Washington, D.C., area and he intends to



CAPTAIN BRENT STRONG

continue to support the defense of the United States through the development and procurement of capabilities required to support the armed forces.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Norwich groups recently awarded scholarships to Norwich High School seniors. Pictured are scholarship winners L to R: Kyler Murphy, Alayna Reese, Maddison Hilger and Ava Shipley.

Local Norwich Groups Award Scholarships

ORGANIZATION REPORT

At the annual Senior Girls' Breakfast on May 1, the Community Christian Women awarded their scholarship to Alayna Reese. Consideration is given to KAY participation and community involvement. With such excellent applications the group also gave scholarships to Kyler Murphy, Ava Shipley and Maddison Hilger.

The Norwich High School Alumni Scholarship Foundation was established to increase the number of students receiving funds to further their education in any field. Ava Shipley was given a scholarship and this group also provided the Valedictorian scholarship to Alayna Reese. These students are all college bound, Alayna, Kyler and Ava to Kansas State University and Maddison to Hutchinson Community College. We are grateful to have so many well qualified applicants and offer congratulations to the 2025 class.

Whispering Willow Meets at Pretty Prairie Skating Rink

ORGANIZATION REPORT

In April, the Whispering Willow 4-H Club met at the Pretty Prairie skating rink for our fun meeting. At the meeting, leaders reminded members of fair entry deadlines and told us about upcoming events. Following the meeting, members were able to skate and have fun with our friends. The club had a great time and enjoyed the skating rink.

Sammy Thimesch, Reporter

Kyler Murphy Receives Wheatland Electric Cooperative Scholarship



KYLER MURPHY

PRESS RELEASE

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC) announced that Kyler Murphy, a senior at Norwich High School, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship at WEC's annual meeting in Scott City April 23.

Each year, WEC awards a \$1,000 scholarship to one high school senior from each of the 13 high schools in WEC's service territory, as well as one at-large scholarship for a student who does not attend one

of these schools but has a parent or guardian that is a WEC member.

A panel of the WEC Board of Trustees reviewed and selected all the scholarship recipients.

"Wheatland Electric is committed to the leaders of tomorrow and is proud to award these scholarships to assist students in obtaining their educational goals," said CEO/General Manager Bruce W. Mueller.

County Commissioners Voice Support for Nudity Ordinance

BY JASON JUMP

Staff Writer

A pair of Kingman County commissioners voiced support for local municipalities adopting ordinances that would make it easier for law enforcement officials and the county attorney to take action against public nudity following the approval of an ordinance restricting public nudity in Cowley County last week.

Kingman resident Dale Enyart spoke to the commissioners during the public comment portion of the meeting Monday. Enyart said he had sent each of the commissioners information regarding an ordinance passed by the Cowley County commissioners.

Cowley County commissioners approved and ordinance that could punish offenders with a fine of \$500 and up to 30 days in jail, according to a story by the Cowley Post. Cowley County's ordinance states "It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly or intentionally appear in a state of nudity in a public place or on private property (outside of the home) where visible to others."

The Cowley County commissioners took action after numerous complaints were made regarding an Arkansas City man "going on nude walks," within the community.

The board of commissioners did make exceptions for children under 10 and mothers who breastfeed their children.

Kingman County and Kingman city commissioners received complaints last year when an unidentified woman was seen dancing at the city's splash pad. While the woman was clothed witnesses said her clothing became transparent when she started dancing in the water, which exposed her body to those

that were at the splash pad, including small children.

"What happened down there (at the splash pad) that was not right," District #1 Commissioner Jack Thimesch said. "Would it be wrong for us or the city to have an ordinance to protect our kids and grandkids?"

"I would support something to keep this from happening. If the city comes up with something, as a county commissioner I would support that."

District #3 Commissioner Pat Elpers said he would "almost go as far as the county adopting the same resolution" as something the city of Kingman would consider passing.

County Counselor Brandon Ritcha said the current state statute "leaves plenty to be desired as far as formal prosecution (of public nudity)."

"That's why cities and counties are going in this different direction," he said. "I think it's worth looking at. My question will then be . . . is it more appropriately a municipal ordinance? Probably. There might be something we can do at the county level as well."

Ritcha said he would look into the ordinance Cowley County passed, as well as visit with Kingman City Attorney Cody Smith regarding a potential ordinance for the county commissioners to consider.

Board Chairwoman Julie Lyon did not comment on the matter, and no official action was taken by the commissioners.

Wichita State University Study

In other county news, Kingman County resident Larry Landwher told commissioners he thought the board needed to see the results of a recent study conducted by Wichita State University regarding the fire and EMS de-

partments within the city of Kingman.

"Mr. (Jon) Wollen is here today, and I think it would be appropriate maybe even ask him — WSU did a study on the fire department I think and they did one on the ambulance," Landwher said. "And I don't think we've ever seen them (the results), and being as we have a vested stake in them, I think we ought to try and get that information so we can be studying a little before it goes any further. That would be my recommendation anyway."

Kingman City Commissioner Jon Wollen, who attended a portion of Monday's county meeting, said he was not aware of the study but would look into the matter.

The *Kingman Leader-Courier* reported on the study in October 2023. The Wichita State assessment team did make some recommendations regarding the Kingman Fire Department, which included hiring a full-time fire chief, which the city has done. The study also recommended having a number of firefighters "on call," as well as those on-call firefighters getting paid to respond.

Another recommendation included a fire station large enough to accommodate a 24-hour staffing capability, which the Kingman EMS department established when it moved the EMS station to the current location on Highway 54.

The assessment team also recommended the KFD look at engine replacements due to the age of the current fleet. The report said the average age of the engines was 29 years old in 2023 and the National Fire Protection Association recommends departments "seriously consider the value or risk" of engines more than 15 years old and replacing those more than 25 years old.

Friendship Meals

Call (620) 532-5562 for reservations

Monday, May 19: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, cabbage au gratin, glazed cherries and milk.

Tuesday, May 20: Ham hash, mixed vegetables, peaches, wheat roll with butter and milk.

Wednesday, May 21: Meatloaf, scalloped potatoes, corn, Ambrosia fruit salad and milk.

Thursday, May 22: Site closed, frozen option.

Friday, May 23: Liver and onions or beef cutlet, brown rice, glazed carrots, mixed fruit and milk.

Menus are subject to change based on availability.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in the *Kingman Leader-Courier* on Thursday, May 15, 2025) It

The Kingman County Landfill will be closed on Monday, May 26, 2025 in observance of Memorial Day. We will return to our Summer schedule on Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED WATER/WASTEWATER OPERATOR

The City of Anthony is accepting applications for a full-time Water/Wastewater Operator. Anthony is a great work environment with a good team. The city provides on-call housing during the one-week per month an employee is on-call, so applicants do not need to live in Anthony. Here are the details but feel free to call to learn more!

Applicants must be 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent, and no criminal record. Salary is 38k/yr D.O.E. Excellent benefits including BC/BS health insurance, dental, KPERS retirement, and PTO. For complete job description and requirements, contact the city.

Send application and three work-related references to: City of Anthony, P.O. Box 504, Anthony, KS, 67003. Call 620-842-5434 for additional information. Position open until filled. E.O.E.

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Scott's Advice For The Week:

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