

City Passes RNR Notice But Hopes Not to Exceed It

BY BOB MORRIS
Managing Editor

The Kingman City Commission Thursday approved sending out a notice to possibly exceed the revenue neutral rate, though City Manager Dan Knoell told the commission he was working to ensure the city didn't exceed it.

The commissioners voted 4-0, with Mayor Tracy Winsor absent, to potentially exceed the revenue neutral rate with a ceiling of 70.073 for the mill levy, along with setting

a date of Sept. 10 for the public hearing on the revenue neutral rate and the budget.

The city's revenue neutral rate for 2027 is 66.581, meaning that is the mill levy that would generate the same amount of budgeted revenue for the city set in its 2026 budget.

Knoell told the city commissioners that "the goal, obviously, is still, because the goal will always be to hit the R&R, and that still is my goal." However, he said he was trying to get confirmation about when the bond rolls over for the

stormwater culvert project.

Knoell said he was supposed to get that information before Thursday's meeting but didn't get a phone call in time. He said his assumption is the bond rolls over in 2028, but if that's not the case and it's due in 2027, the city needs to make sure there's room within the budget to fund that.

The first payment will be \$68,000 and, because the city will generate a little more than \$26,000 from each mill, Knoell set a ceiling of 70.073, which would generate a

little less than \$91,000 more than the 2026 budgeted revenues. That would also give the city a little wiggle room in the budget.

"I'm just asking for a buffer just in case, which if we end up not exceeding the RNR, the hearing doesn't have to happen," Knoell said. "This is just warning the county that we are potentially going to exceed the RNR."

Entities must notify the county clerk by July 20 of the intent to possibly exceed the revenue neutral rate.

Following the motion that City Commissioner Jon Wollen made, Wollen made an additional comment that he would always vote against staying within the RNR because "there are always contingencies and unknowns."

In a related manager during his city manager's report, Knoell told the commissioners that three different versions of the 2027 budget have been sent to the budget committee members. Once those are reviewed, the city commission will know where things stand.

County: We Don't Want 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.

Trash Truck Fire



BOB MORRIS / Leader-Courier

Fire Call: Grass Clippings Spark Flames

The Kingman Fire Department responded to a call about a Waste Connections trash truck that caught fire late Wednesday afternoon, July 8, on North Main Street near Walker Avenue. Kingman Fire Chief Shae Brooks said that some grass clippings slipped between the trash bin and the cab of the truck, went into the exhaust and ignited. She said a member of the fire department was working nearby and called it in, but the trash truck driver got his fire extinguisher and put out the flames. Brooks said the fire department inspected the truck, which was later towed from the scene.

City Agrees to Buy Back Land It Previously Sold

BY BOB MORRIS
Managing Editor

The Kingman City Commission Thursday approved buying back land it previously sold to an individual who wanted to build there, but has since changed plans.

The commissioners voted 3-1, with Vice Mayor Travis Kaufman voting "no," to buy back the land for \$47,500. Kaufman voted against the motion because he didn't believe the city needed to "do land ownership."

Mayor Tracy Winsor was absent from Thursday's meeting.

The city originally entered a contract with Eck Fabrication back in August of 2023 to sell city-owned land in the industrial park on the north end of the city. That company had intended to build a new facility there.

At the time the city entered into that contract, it had a right of first refusal clause. That gave the city the option to buy back the property if plans for Eck Fabrication changed, or to decline and allow the company to sell the property.

Knoell said the \$47,500 cost to buy back the property would be the same amount that the city sold the property for in 2023.

At the time the city sold the land, there had been discussion about locating houses there.

City Commissioner Mark Arensdorf, who made the motion to approve buying the land back, noted that it wasn't much money.

Kaufman asked what the city was going to do with the land, to which Arensdorf said the city would have control of what goes there.

"So why not let somebody else buy it?" Kaufman asked. "That's what I'm weighing in my head, is why are we in the land business in the city?"

Arensdorf said that the land is in an area that, if anything is done with the land, that person is probably going to come to the city asking for help, so the city could purchase it back and sell it at a lower cost as the incentive for a developer.

City Manager Dan Knoell noted that, whenever the U.S. 54/400 bypass goes in, the city will "want to find a way to grow north anyway." And because the city already owns 54 acres adjacent to the property, this land purchase would add to that and give the city opportunity to offer more land to developers.

USI Services Talks Insurance With County

BY BOB MORRIS
Managing Editor

Jen Elliott, Sally Tatro and Haley Gross of USI Services met with the Kingman County Commission Monday to discuss proposals for health, dental and vision insurance.

If the county stayed with Crumdale, its current insurance provider, the county would be looking at an 11 percent increase. Crumdale is part of the Aetna network.

However, the commissioners learned about another option to go with a provider called Marfay, which is part of the Cigna network. Gross noted that Marfay came in with a "firm quote" but it was competitive with Crumdale and would be a slight decrease over current rates.

Gross explained that the coverage would be basically the same if the county made the switch to Marfay, but USI Services could double check to ensure the same providers that county employees visit are part of the coverage network.

They also presented two options from Blue Cross and Blue Shield, which differed in terms of the deductible, and a plan from Allied National.

Elliott said that, regardless of what plan the county chose for health insurance, the maximum increase the county would be looking at would be 12 percent.

Tatro reviewed options for dental insurance, for which USI Services had quotes from current provider Blue Cross Blue Shield and from Delta Dental. She noted that Delta had a higher lifetime maximum for dental implants and a program that covered children 12 and under at 100 percent of treatment with no deductible, with the exception of orthodontics.

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NEWS

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STEPHANIE JUMP / Leader-Courier

A portion of SE 100th Avenue was closed last Wednesday, July 8 after issues with a bridge located about one-fourth of a mile south of Murdock. A portion of the bridge deck settled and made it unusable for traffic.

County OKs Fire District, Which Will Take Effect Jan. 1

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 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.

RNR

• From Page 1

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 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 with information he received was 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 Thimesch said 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.

USI

• From Page 1

As for dependents, Tatrot said, Delta would cover them up to age 19, but Blue Cross would cover them up to age 21.

She noted that the Delta plan is a national plan while Blue Cross is specific to Kansas. Tatrot said that Delta is a plan that people could get the same benefits if they got dental work out of state, though there may not be a lot of situations in which that would happen.

The three also reviewed options for long-term care and said they would get more information to the county about how those benefits work. Tatrot noted

that these plans are “portable,” meaning an employee would still have the coverage if he or she retired.

As for vision insurance, the county’s current plan would remain unchanged as far as costs go.

County Treasurer Jamie Smith, who was present for the discussion, said that she believed that changing anything would be “a nightmare for employees,” as some employees were still having trouble getting services covered. She said she was one of those people but didn’t want to go into specifics.

“I know people that have had things approved, and then they’ve gotten bills later, and vice versa, so they’re just not going to the doctor,” Smith said.

Elliot acknowledged that there can be some issues when an entity changes providers. But she said that Smith and all employees were welcome to reach out to USI Benefits to discuss any concerns and they will make sure things are addressed.

The county also discussed the wellness plan that USI Benefits offered to employees. The commissioners noted that it’s been helpful for employees to know about their health and what they might need to address, such as their cholesterol levels or when it may be time for a colonoscopy.

The county commissioners didn’t take any action on specific plans and will continue to review options.

OBITUARY

MARJEAN A. FORD

Marjean A. Ford, 82, died July 9, 2026.

She was born Sept. 26, 1943, at Nashville, the daughter of Herman and Alfreda Miller Youngers. A lifetime resident of the Kingman community, she was a homemaker and care-giver.



Marjean was a member of the St. Patrick Catholic Church and was a Kingman High School graduate.

She married Jack Ford in 1979; he died in 2007. Survivors include brothers Ron (MaryAnn), Al (Mary), and Chuck; sisters Marietta Hixson (Barry), Rita Kinsler (Ron), Peggy Boroughs (Ben); step-daughters Kathy Broniecki, Kara Phillips, and Kelly Baker; seven grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. She was also preceded in death by her brother Dave.

A parish rosary and Mass of Christian Burial were held Tuesday, July 14, both at the St. Patrick Catholic Church, Kingman. Family interment will be at a later date.

Memorials may be made with the St. Patrick Grade School or St. Croix Hospice and both in care of Livingston Funeral Home, 1830 N. Main, Kingman KS 67068.

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LEGAL NOTICE

(First published in the Kingman Leader-Courier, Thursday, July 9, 2026) 3t

**IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS**
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
EUGENE A. HENNING, Deceased.

CASE NO. KM-2025-PR-53
(Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on July 6, 2026, a Petition was filed in this Court by Rhonda Mattal, duly appointed, qualified and acting Executrix of the Estate of Eugene A. Henning, deceased, praying Petitioner’s acts be approved; account be settled and allowed; the heirs be determined; the Will be construed and the Estate be assigned to the persons entitled thereto; the Court find the allowances requested for attorneys’ fees and

expenses are reasonable and should be allowed; the costs be determined and ordered paid; the administration of the Estate be closed; upon the filing of receipts the Petitioner be finally discharged as the Executrix of the Estate of Eugene A. Henning, deceased, and the Petitioner be released from further liability.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before August 4, 2026, at 10:00 o’clock a.m. in the District Court, Kingman, Kingman County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

Rhonda Mattal, Executrix

Matthew W. Ricke, #20995
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(620) 532-3103
Attorney for Petitioner

(USPS 307-500)

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OPINION

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Part 2 - After writing my last letter to the editor June 26 publication, I did more research on what exactly the state tourism site TravelKS.com has available, and I came across county tourism sites for Chase County.

It is excellent, complete with a mission statement, in my opinion! It could be a great asset to ask the Chase County Chamber of Commerce how they built their website and what the potential cost might be. It should be able to do something similar for our small county — maybe even a very part-time city position. “Visit Kingman.com” is

an open URL and a great tourism site name.

All you have to do is go to the state website, poke around the different counties, and find a visitor website or any thing your might want to visit across the state, it takes you to all the information and contact details. Some of the contacts are simple Gmail or Yahoo accounts, nothing fancy. They also have an events section where things like the Pretty Prairie Rodeo are listed. You can search by date range.

Looking between July 16 and Sept. 30, and lo and behold — not a single

event showed up for Kingman County. No county fair, no rodeos, not even our fall fest at the end of September. I’m curious why we’re not using great tourism assets already in existence by the State, yet some want to spend hundreds of thousands of tax dollars on a visitor center building. For the size of our county, we should be taking baby steps and not rush into a enormous expense when there are free and low cost options.

Trish DeDamos

Kingman Resident and Tourism expert

Visiting Hours

By Bernie Sheahan

I stayed beyond the suggested 2 to 5 p.m. visiting hours, and no one kicked me out. Hospital, you’re wondering? Nope. Family reunion.

Wasn’t my family, exactly. Sort of. Not immediate, but extended, and beloved. All seven kids of Rose Mary and Roman Kerschens, grand-kids, great-grands, spouses, partners, 45 or so of just Kerschens celebrating the 75th wedding anniversary of the oldest of Billy and Mabel Sheahan’s nine and the youngest of Michael and Anna Kerschens’s nine. Also celebrating the... 74th and 73rd (?) birthdays of Sheahan Cousins No. 1 and No. 2, Carol Marie Walle and Jan Johnson, oldest of the 40 Sheahan grandkids.

“Bernie, maybe you should stop trying to name all the limbs, branches and twigs on your family tree, huh? People don’t have time for this.” Is that what you’re thinking right now, because you want to know what I did at this party, and not who’s related to who and why, where and when?

Then you must not be related to me. Or live in my town, where everybody

seems to be kin every which way. Folks over, let’s say, 50, do care. Under 50, or even 60, not so much. I’m No. 8 in the Sheahan cousin lineup. After No. 10, no one cares. Sure they do. They just won’t admit it.

So it’s after 5 p.m., all the non-Kerschens have disappeared except me. I’m parked on a swing, being quiet, and a tiny redhead interrupts my reverie.

“Hey, will you help me? I need to move something.”

It was a corn hole thing, kid-size, and it was a godawful shade of blue and red with a picture of an ugly bird and the letters “KU”. First, she pointed at the ugly bird and the letters. “Say this. Rock, chalk, Jayhawk, Go KU.”

“Do it again.”

“Rock, chalk, Jayhawk, Go KU.”

“Again!”

“Rock, chalk, Jayhawk, Go KU.”

She shot me an approving glance. “You’re gettin’ it.”

If you’re not from these parts, you might not know

what a violation that was, of everything I know to be holy and good. My dad went to Kansas State, but the Kerschens are so thoroughly Jayhawked and it was their celebration, so... I did it. I did the stupid cheer for Kansas University, in honor of Uncle Roman, baseball star cousin Kevin Kerschens, a southpaw who still holds records at KU, and the whole Jayhawk gang.

Thank goodness we were far enough away that nobody heard me. I’d never hear the end of it from those darn Kerschens cousins. I said it four times. That was all I could take.

No more, says I. Let’s sing a song! Cute (and rather bossy) redhead plans our entrance and our announcement, then we rehearse “Happy Birthday” on my pink Barbie guitar, me holding down left hand chords and she slapping her thumb down on the strings while sitting on my lap.

Then showtime. She demanded that all 45 of the Kerschens gang gather round, which they did, all but one who was in the shower. Little bossy redhead wasn’t having

it. “Tell her to get out.”

So we sang, she danced, and all were delighted. It was totally worth me staying past the 5 p.m. suggested departure time for non-Kerschens visitors.

What’s up with that? you ask. It was a full but never-long-enough weekend that the 45 far-flung Kerschens had together, and the rest of us family and friends were cordially invited for a lovely afternoon, and were delighted to see everyone.

All of us, related or not (mostly were), felt the love of a big family that was formed and fashioned by a girl from Willowdale and a boy from St. Leo, my Irish dad’s beloved big sister and her German husband. My dad used to say, “My sister and that Roman...they sure were different but they raised some of the best people I’ve ever known.”

Me, too. Happy Anniversary, dear aunt and uncle. Happy Birthday, dear No. 1 and No. 2. Rock, chalk, Jayhawk.

I feel sick. Going to the hospital. Visiting hours between 2 and 5 p.m., but I won’t tell if you stay late.

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 woodworking 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 every-

day 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.)

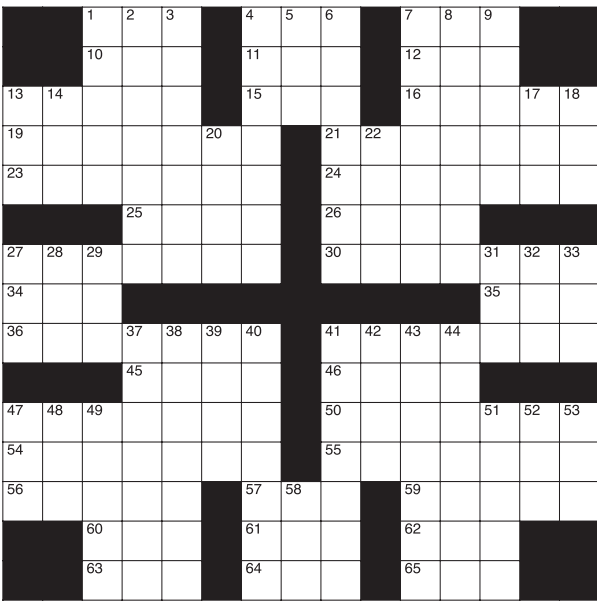
PUZZLE ANSWERS



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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

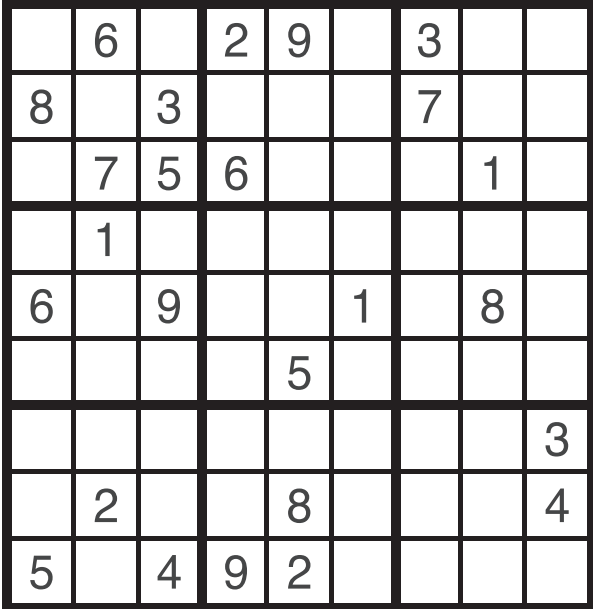


CLUES ACROSS

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

CLUES DOWN

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



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

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Kid Scoop Together

Funniest Story

Ask a friend or family member to give you each type of missing word to fill in the blanks. Read the silly story together!

Can YOU Set a Record?

Some world records are about being the fastest or the strongest. But a lot of world records are pretty weird! Try these activities with your friends to see who can set the record!

Longest Domino Trail

Work with a friend to make a long, twisty trail of dominoes. Then, tip the first one and watch them fall. Who can make the longest trail without accidentally knocking them down? (Want to beat the world record for the longest line of dominoes? You'll need more than 15,524!)

At the end of each row, draw the domino that will continue the pattern.







Tallest Tower of Stacked Coins

How many coins can you stack into a single tall tower in 60 seconds? The world record is 91 coins.



How many differences can you find between these two pictures?



My uncle set the world record
for building the tallest
_____. He won an
_____ NOUN
_____,
ADJECTIVE NOUN
and his story was published in
_____ our local newspaper.

The reporter asked him, "How
many _____ did
PLURAL NOUN
you use? Did anyone help
when you decided to _____
VERB
into your workshop?"

My uncle explained that he
stacked _____
PLURAL NOUN
on top of _____
PLURAL NOUN
Carefully, he added a
_____,
ADJECTIVE NOUN
_____.

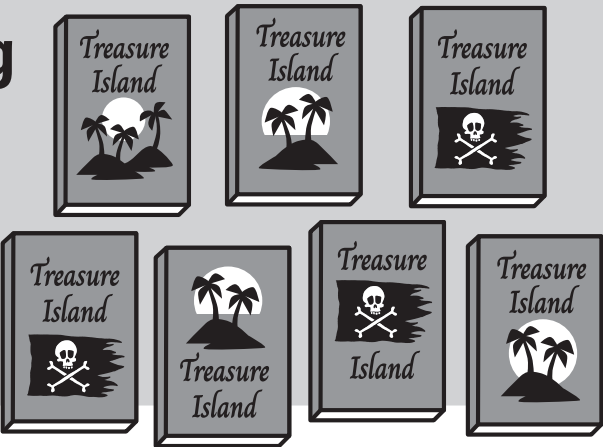
The tower was higher than a
_____, and a few
NOUN
_____ fell out of it.
PLURAL NOUN
But he continued to _____
VERB
until it was finished.

Right after the photo was
taken, everyone cheered,
causing it to _____
VERB
into a million pieces!

Book Balancing

This is a fun challenge to try with friends! Who can walk the longest distance while balancing two books on their head?

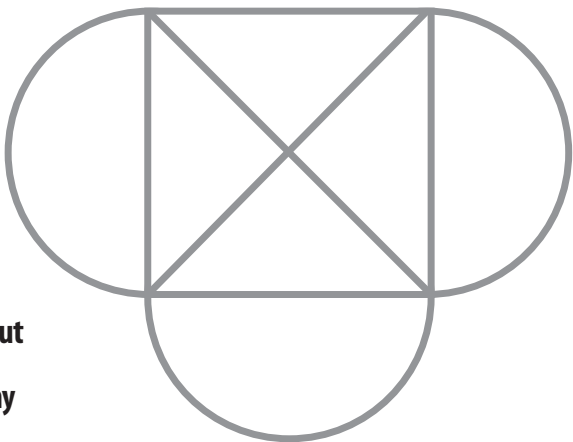
LOOK CAREFULLY:
Can you find the two
identical book covers?



Longest Chalk Line Without Stopping

How long can you make a single chalk line? To break the record (1.528 miles), you can use more than one piece of chalk, but the line must not have any gaps.

Trace this path without lifting your pencil or drawing back over any of your lines.



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written instructions.

"Aaaaaahhh..."

Get a stopwatch. Which family member can say "ahhhhhh" the longest without taking a breath?



Extra! Extra! The Silliest Holiday

Look through the newspaper ads. Imagine a silly holiday about something being advertised. How would people celebrate this silly holiday? Draw a poster for this holiday.

HAPPY Onion Soup Day

Standards Link: Language Arts: Spell grade-level words correctly.

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Teacher
Activity Pack!

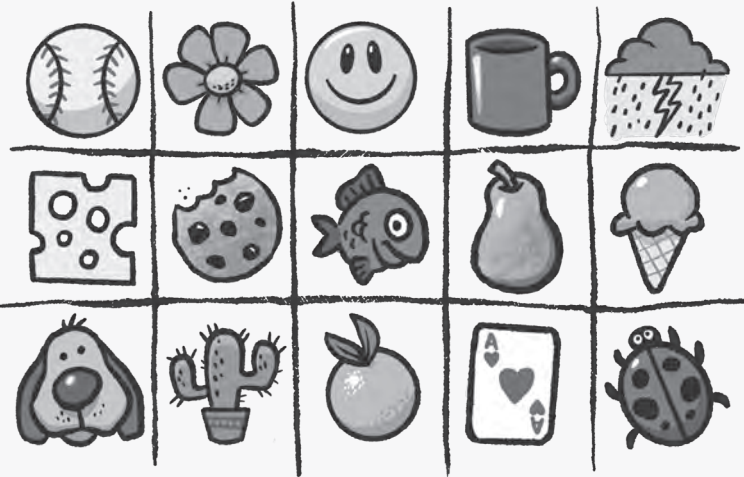
With hundreds of topics, every **Kid Scoop** printable activity pack features six-to-seven pages of high-interest extra learning activities for home and school! Get your free sample today at: 

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Kid Scoop® Puzzler

Best Memory

Have friends look at this grid for 30 seconds. Cover it. Have them name all the items they can remember. Who can remember the most items?



Double Double Word Search

ADS
BOOKS
CHALK
COINS
DRAW
FALL
GAPS
LINE
PATH
RECORD
SAY
SEE
SILLY
STACK
WEIRD
WORLD

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

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

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word:
MEMORY

The noun **memory** means the part of your brain that stores what you see, hear and learn.

I used my **memory** to learn the song for our talent show.

Try to use the word **memory** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Tortoise Diner

Study a newspaper ad for a restaurant. Pretend you are in charge of the menu for a restaurant just for giant tortoises. Create a name, a menu and a newspaper ad for this restaurant.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Write an opinion supported by facts.

Why can't you play hide-and-seek with mountains?



ANSWER: They always peak!

Write On! Outdoor Fun

Share with other kids the games you like to play outdoors during the summer.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Write descriptively using supporting details.

Auto | Home | Life



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DOCKET

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

KINGMAN CITY POLICE BLOTTER *By Police Chief David Lux*

Sunday, July 5			Disturbance	200 Blk E F Ave.	Lockout	300 Blk E D Ave.
Traffic Stops	2		Suspicious Activity	700 Blk N Elm St.	Medical Emergency	400 Blk S Chariton St.
Traffic Complaint	1		Harassment	300 Blk E A Ave.	Violating Protective Order	200 Blk W B Ave.
Civil Standby	900 Blk N Spruce St.		Disturbance	400 Blk E D Ave.	Theft	500 Blk N Cedar St.
Animal Complaint	300 Blk W C Ave.		Wednesday, July 8			
Fireworks	400 Blk E Washington Ave.		Traffic Complaint	2	Friday, July 10	
Fireworks	1300 Blk N Spruce St.		Found Property	100 Blk N Spruce St.	Traffic Complaint	3
Fireworks	1000 Blk N Coronado St.		Found Property	1100 Blk E US 54 Hwy.	Juvenile Matter	1
Monday, July 6			Medical Emergency	500 Blk W G Ave.	Medical Emergency	200 Blk N Sunflower Dr.
Traffic Stops	1		Fire	2400 Blk N Main St.	Check Welfare	200 Blk E A Ave.
Traffic Complaint	1		Animal Complaint	200 Blk E H Ave.	Animal Complaint	300 Blk E Third Ave.
Suspicious Activity	1200 Blk N Broadway St.		Suspicious Activity	700 Blk W A Ave.	Animal Complaint	600 Blk N Cedar St.
Fireworks	200 Blk E F Ave.		911 Hang-Up	1100 N Coronado St.	Suspicious Person	300 Blk E Washington Ave.
Tuesday, July 7			Disturbance	1400 Blk N Main St.	Saturday, July 11	
Traffic Stops	1		Theft	100 Blk W A Ave.	Traffic Stops	1
Traffic Complaints	2		Theft	800 Blk E E Ave.	Traffic Complaint	1
Civil Matter	2100 Blk N Koch Industrial		Thursday, July 9		Juvenile Matter	1
Medical Emergency	400 Blk W Sunset Dr.		Traffic Stops	1	Assist Outside Agency	US 54 Hwy MM 178
Trespass	500 Blk N Main St.		Traffic Complaint	1	Civil Matter	900 Blk N Spruce St.
					Trespass	300 Blk W C Ave.

KINGMAN COUNTY SHERIFF BLOTTER

Sunday, July 5		Miscellaneous	2300 Blk NE 168 Ave, Cheney	Traffic Stops	2
Traffic Stops	2	Disturbance	200 Blk E F Ave, Kingman	Civil Paper Service	4
Non-Injury Accident	E Hwy 42 & SE 60 Ave, Rago	Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman	Injury Accident	NW 10 & N Hwy 11, Kingman
Animal Complaint	SE 50 St & SE 100, Murdock	Suspicious Vehicle	4200 Blk SW 160, Cunningham	Court/Inmates	130 N Spruce St, Kingman
Agency Assist/Medical	8000 Blk SW 100 Ave, Spivey	Accidental 911 Dial	1900 Blk SW 20 Ave, Kingman	Miscellaneous	13000 Blk SE 20 St, Murdock
Check Welfare	400 Blk S Wilmot, Cunningham	Agency Assist/KMPD	400 Blk E D Ave, Kingman	Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Miscellaneous	900 Blk N Spruce St, Kingman	Animal Complaint	1700 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman	Transport Inmate	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Suspicious Person	9000 Blk W 42 Hwy, Nashville			Fraud	6500 Blk SE 150 Ave, Norwich
Animal Complaint	SE 110 St & SE 40 Ave, Rago	Wednesday, July 8		Miscellaneous	400 Blk S Chariton St, Kingman
Miscellaneous	400 Blk E Leiter, Cunningham	Animal Complaint	200 Blk E Grover, Spivey	Follow Up	SE 60 St & SE 100, Murdock
		Follow Up	13000 Blk SE 20 St, Murdock	Theft	500 Blk N Cedar St, Kingman
		Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman	Warrant/Arrest	400 Blk N Joliet St, Kingman
		Accidental 911 Dial	7500 Blk SW 18- St, Harper		
Monday, July 6		Follow Up	13000 Blk SE 20 St, Murdock	Friday, July 10	
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman	Agency Assist/KMPD	1400 Blk N Main St, Kingman	Civil Paper Service	4
Miscellaneous	600 Blk S Morningside, Norwich	Disabled Vehicle	W Hwy 54 & NW 20, Kingman	Abandoned Vehicle	SE 60 St & SE 160 Ave, Norwich
Traffic Complaint	6000 W Hwy 54, Kingman	Fire/Truck	W Walker & N Main, Kingman	Transport/Inmate	120 N Spruce St, Kingman
Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman	Miscellaneous	120 N Spruce St, Kingman	Trespassing	2200 Blk SE 100 St, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	4000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman	Animal Complaint	2500 Blk N Hwy 14, Murdock	Miscellaneous	13000 Blk SE 20 St, Murdock
Traffic Complaint	18000 Blk W H 54, Cunningham	Follow Up	SE 40 St & SE 100, Murdock	Suspicious Person/Activity	300 Blk S Somerset St, Norwich
		Miscellaneous	5600 Blk NE 20 Ave, Kingman	Traffic Complaint	7000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman
		Accidental 911 Dial	4200 Blk SE 80 ave, Murdock		
Tuesday, July 7		Animal Complaint	4700 Blk S Berry Ave, Kingman	Saturday, July 11	
Traffic Stops	3	Check Welfare	16000 Blk NE 50 St, Cheney	Trespassing	200 Blk E Gover Ave, Spivey
Civil Paper Service	2	Animal Complaint	1600 Blk S Main St, Kingman	Motorist Assist	E Hwy 42 & SE 110, Norwich
Follow Up	16000 Blk SE 30 St, Cheney	Agency Assist/KMPD	700 Blk W A Ave, Kingman	Animal Complaint	E Hwy 54 & NE 20, Kingman
Traffic Complaint	6000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman	Agency Assist/Medical	500 Blk W G Ave, Kingman	Non-Injury Accident	12000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney
Agency Assist/Medical	400 Blk W Sunset Dr, Kingman			Disturbance	Norwich City Park, Norwich
Court/Inmate	130 N Spruce St, Kingman			Injury Accident	13000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney
Check Welfare	14000 Blk SE 10 St, Cheney				
Warrant Service	120 N Spruce St, Kingman				
Agency Assist/KHP	14000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney	Thursday, July 9			

KINGMAN COUNTY DISTRICT COURT

Judge Roseanna Mathis	2026: State of Kansas vs. Craig M. Wise, bench trial.	2026: State of Kansas vs. Cammie Jewellann Martin, first appearance.
Thursday, July 16	2026: State of Kansas vs. Jennifer Annette Landreth, first appearance.	2026: State of Kansas vs. Adan Eduardo Rivas Aguilar, hearing.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Amber D. Freiling, first appearance.	2025: State of Kansas vs. James Paul Sowter, hearing.	2026: State of Kansas vs. Emilee Elizabeth McComb, diversion.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Rebecca L. Reid, first appearance.	2025: State of Kansas vs. James Paul Sowter, hearing.	2026: State of Kansas vs. Levi James Coykendall, first appearance.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Craig M. Wise, bench trial.	2026: State of Kansas vs. Devin Michael Miller, sentencing.	2026: State of Kansas vs. Shamarian Dequan Carter, first appearance.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Antonio F. Sweetwater, hearing.	2026: State of Kansas vs. Jason Keith Stewart, hearing.	2026: State of Kansas vs. Geovanni Gonzalez Garcia, first appearance.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Casey Jordan Williams, first appearance.	2026: State of Kansas vs. Savannah Jean McElwain, hearing.	2026: State of Kansas vs. Trey Alexander King, first appearance.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Craig M. Wise, first appearance.	2026: State of Kansas vs. James Paul Sowter, hearing.	2026: State of Kansas vs. Hugo Demesio Rojas-Jacquez, first appearance.
2026: State of Kansas vs. Alisha Marree Hemken, hearing.	2026: State of Kansas vs. James Paul Sowter, hearing.	2026: State of Kansas vs. Raquel Munoz, hearing.

KINGMAN COUNTY JAIL BOOKINGS

July 7: Nathan Ellis Young, 58, DUI, \$500 bond.	July 9: Carl Patrick Cromer, 48, failure to appear, picked up by Sedgwick County Sheriff's deputies.	ual traffic offender, \$9,000 bond.	July 12: Angela Nicole Hughes, 44, DUI, \$500 bond.
July 7: Joseph Louis Keeling, 32, driving with suspended license, \$500 OR bond.	July 10: Stanley Kent Terwort II, 51, driving with suspended license, no proof of insurance, no vehicle registration or expired tag, habit-	July 11: Jessica Lynn Meier, 41, DUI and transporting open container, \$1,000 bond.	July 12: D'Angelo Esteban Martinez, 21, disorderly conduct, \$500 bond.
July 9: Lorenzo Chavira Jr., 34, housed for Kiowa County.		July 11: Cole Weston More, 43, driving with suspended license and no proof of insurance, \$3,500 bond.	July 13: Jaqualyn Deandre Amiere Massey, 25, warrant arrest.

LEGAL NOTICE

(First published in the Kingman Leader-Courier on Thursday, July 2, 2026) 3t

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
SANDRA K. CUTLER, Deceased.
CASE NO. KM-2026-PR-18
Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on June 29, 2026, a Petition for Issuance of Letters of Administration was filed in this Court by Mike Cutler.

All creditors of the decedent are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within the latter of four months from the date of first publication of notice under K.S.A. 59-2236 and amendments thereto, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Mike Cutler, Petitioner

Matthew W. Ricke
Ricke & Ritcha Law Office
349 N. Main, PO Box 113
Kingman, KS 67068
Attorney for Petitioner

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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SPORTS

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Bob Morris at (620) 532-3151 or email bmmorris@kcnonline.com

Nearly 50 Kids Participate in 2026 Junior Golf Program

BY BOB MORRIS
Managing Editor

The Kingman junior golf program drew 47 participants of all ages, from kindergarten to high school, which event organizer Becky Pickett said was great to see. “We try to avoid all other camps when we are scheduling golf camp, and I think we were successful this year,” Pickett said. “The interest in the game has also grown tremendously. Many kids are starting at a very young age which gives them a great foundation. “We also had a large number of middle school aged golfers and I am excited to see them stick with it and join their high school team in the future.” She said that 15 of the campers were new to the sport and every new golfer said they loved it and would like to come back next year and continue playing. “That is huge for the future golf teams in Kingman,” Pickett said. “The more kids we can get interested in the game at a young age, the stronger our teams will be in the future. As kids stay interested in the game, it

helps support the course and the golfing community as a whole in Kingman. “Working with kids who have never tried golf before is a passion of mine. Getting them started with a solid foundation of skills will set them up for a successful golfing experience.” As for the participants who have attended in previous, Pickett said she and KHS head golf coach Kyle Meireis — who helped Pickett with the program — noticed their improvements. “That comes from them being more interested, playing more often and getting stronger mentally and physically,” she said. “It’s fun to watch how these young golfers grow their golf skills from year to year.” The participants got to play a two-man scramble with adults on Tuesday. Those adults could be either parents, relatives or family friends. There were 40 golfers who took part. Pickett said the course was full of eager golfers and they had fun. “The junior golfers really look forward to showing off their skills for their family and friends,” she said. “The



BOB MORRIS / Leader-Courier

Becky Pickett, left, gives some pointers to two of the younger participants in the junior golf program, which took place at Eagles Pub and Golf Course last week. There were 47 participants in kindergarten through high school who participated in this year’s golf camp.

amount of support we have for this event grows every year. We can’t thank the parents, family members, and friends enough for coming out to support these young golfers.”

Pickett said she appreciated Meiries helping out with the camp, as the two have enjoyed working together with the youngsters each year. She also thanked Shawn and Christie Sny-

der and the greenskeeping staff at Eagles Pub and Golf Course for their help. “We also want to thank all the parents and family members who work hard to get the kids to camp everyday

as well as those playing in the scramble,” Pickett said. “It takes a strong community to put on events like this and the golfing community of Kingman is very supportive.”



BOB MORRIS / Leader-Courier

Participants in the junior golf program got to play on the course Friday, the final day of the camp. The golfers formed different groups based on age to conclude the five-day camp. On Tuesday, many of the golfers returned to the course to team with a parent, relative or family friend for a junior-adult scramble.

NORWICH SWIM TEAM AT ATTICA SWIM MEET

Photos by Stephanie Jump



Fewer Sports Events Doesn’t Necessarily Mean More Time to Relax

BY BOB MORRIS
Managing Editor

It’s hard to believe that summer break is halfway over and it won’t be long before fall sports practices get underway. Of course, there’s been no shortage of activities taking place pertaining to high school sports. Football, volleyball and basketball teams have spent the summer either with workouts, open gyms or summer leagues. Meanwhile, local coaches have been working with kids in

golf, tennis and cross country, plus summer baseball and softball have either finished or are still ongoing. People have asked me if the summer gives me a chance to relax. While that’s happened to an extent, there’s still plenty of news that’s happening and, with Jason and Stephanie having acquired multiple papers, there really isn’t much time to get away from it all. I can only imagine what things are going to be like once the fall sports season gets underway. I will say that we do have some people

who will help us out with coverage of events, though it still means there will be plenty of work to do. I guess in a way I can relate to the high school athletes, in that it may be summer but that doesn’t mean lots of time to relax. Along with sports, students are busy with jobs, 4-H, FBLA and other activities. It’s like they don’t get any more time to relax than those of us in the newspaper business do. As for why I stick around in this job, it comes down to the fact that I enjoy writing, watching sports and

talking to the coaches and athletes involved. If I didn’t enjoy this work, I wouldn’t be doing it. I imagine it’s the same thing for our high school athletes. If they didn’t enjoy their activities, they wouldn’t be doing them — though maybe the same might not always be said about a job. (Believe me, I know about jobs I didn’t like.) Regardless, I do hope that every high school student finds the time to get away from it all. As for me, I’m hoping to do that once the fair is out of the way, though I do have

to ask the question about what I can afford to do with gas prices being what they are. Still, once high school sports are back in full swing, I’ll look forward to seeing what our local athletes can do, as much as I imagine athletes look forward to to playing again. Here’s wishing the best of luck to all Kingman County athletes as the fall sports season approaches. As for me, regardless of how much work is involved, nothing makes me happier than watching those athletes enjoy success.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

4	6	1	2	9	7	3	5	8
8	9	3	4	1	5	7	6	2
2	7	5	6	3	8	4	1	9
3	1	8	7	6	2	9	4	5
6	5	9	3	4	1	2	8	7
7	4	2	8	5	9	1	3	6
9	8	6	1	7	4	5	2	3
1	2	7	5	8	3	6	9	4
5	3	4	9	2	6	8	7	1

V	S	K	E	W	E	R	S	O	G	R	C	K	Z	G	D	E	N	H	Z	
Z	S	P	T	E	W	P	N	I	N	O	A	T	Z	U	Z	C	L	L	W	K
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MOTION: Commissioner Thiemesch 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.

Published in the Kingman Leader-Courier on Thursday, July 16, 2026) 1t

State of Kansas
Towship

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of
DRESDEN TOWNSHIP
KINGMAN

will meet on August 10, 2026 at 7:00 pm at Dresden Township Hall for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at Dresden Township Hall and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2027 Expenditures and Amount of 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 2025		Current Year Estimate 2026		Proposed Budget 2027		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2026 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	10,553	1.291	25,746	1.162	30,332	17,372	1.106
Road	78,271	8.865	161,022	7.902	193,431	104,124	7.537
Special Machinery							
Totals	88,824	10.156	186,768	9.064	223,763	121,496	8.643
Funds Supported by Township Only - Revenue Neutral Rate**							7.537
Funds Supported by Township and 3rd Class City - Revenue Neutral Rate**							1.106
Less: Transfers	0		40,200		0		8.643
Net Expenditure	88,824		146,568		223,763		
Total Tax Levied	124,120		121,527		XXXXXXX		
Total Assessed Valuation	19,102,913		16,746,150		15,708,413		
Township Assessed Valuation Only					13,814,750		

Outstanding Indebtedness,

	2024	2025	2026
Jan 1	0	0	0
G.O. Bonds	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Lease Purchase Principal	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

*Tax rates are expressed in mills.

**Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

John Huffman

Treasurer

Page No.

7

NEWS

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

USD 331 Board of Education Reviews AI Policy

BY BOB MORRIS

Managing Editor

The USD 331 Board of Education Monday held the first reading of a policy regarding AI usage in the classroom, one that had been discussed earlier this year but had never been approved.

Per the policy, the framework for AI usage in the classroom includes a stop-light model, which indicates when AI may or may not be utilized.

At red level, no AI may be used, such as for tests, quizzes and assessments. Yellow level refers to planning and brainstorming, for which AI may be used to organize thoughts or ideas but final work must be original.

At green level, AI may be used for collaboration with oversight, such as drafting content, then editing it after a critical review. Blue level allows for full AI use, such as with advanced projects, innovation challenges or any AI-powered research.

USD 331 Superintendent Kip Wilson said that teachers had requested some sort of structure and guidelines in how AI may be utilized. He said that kids should learn how to use it and it can be useful to measure how much they are learning.

Wilson said that the model gives students and teachers an idea about when AI may be utilized and allows students to learn how AI works.

In response to board questions about whether or not there should be a standard for teachers when it came to a percentage mark of AI usage, Wilson said that he didn't know if that would be spelled out in the policy but it's something to look at. He added that it ties into other discussions about technology, such as balancing between classroom work with technology and without it.

Something else Wilson mentioned was the usage of GoGuardian by teachers, which allows teachers to keep track of technology students use and restrict access to certain programs when they

are using their Chromebooks.

The policy is expected to come back before the board at its August meeting for approval.

Also at Monday's meeting, the board approved seeking bids to install a concrete path on the preschool playground and shade structures, for which estimated costs are \$53,500.

USD 331 Assistant Superintendent Andy Albright told the board that the district had about \$49,500 in grant money to go toward the project. Kingman Elementary School preschool teacher Morgan Clouse spoke with the board in May about her ideas and the grant funding she had secured.

Board member Errica Parsons, who made the motion to seek bids, noted that the district wouldn't have much difference to make up between the estimate and the funding already secured.

To read the rest of the story about the USD 331 Board of Education meeting, visit kconline.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(First published in the Kingman Leader-Courier on Thursday, July 9, 2026) 3t

SCR 1611 Constitutional Amendment

A PROPOSITION to amend sections 5, 8 and 15 of article 3 of the constitution of the state of Kansas; relating to the supreme court; providing for direct election of justices; abolishing the supreme court nominating commission; permitting justices to make contributions to and hold office in a political party or organization and take part in political campaigns.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Kansas, two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the Senate and two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the House of Representatives concurring therein:

Section 1. The following proposition to amend the constitution of the state of Kansas shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the state for their approval or rejection: Sections 5, 8 and 15 of article 3 of the constitution of the state of Kansas are hereby amended to read as follows:

“§ 5. Selection of justices of the supreme court. The citizens of Kansas who are qualified electors shall elect the justices of the supreme court. The rules applicable for such elections and the designation of position numbers shall be provided by law. Justice positions 1, 2 and 3 shall be elected at the general election in November of 2028, justice positions 4 and 5 in November of 2030 and justice positions 6 and 7 in November of 2032, and every six years thereafter, respectively. Any vacancy occurring on the supreme court for an unexpired term shall be filled by election as provided by law.

(a) Any vacancy occurring in the office of any justice of the supreme court and any position to be open thereon as a result of enlargement of the court, or the retirement or failure of an incumbent to file his declaration of candidacy to succeed himself as hereinafter required, or failure of a justice to be elected to succeed himself, shall be filled by appointment by the governor of one of three persons possessing the qualifications of office who shall be nominated and whose names shall be submitted to the governor by the supreme court nominating commission established as hereinafter provided. (b) In event of the failure of the governor to make the appointment within sixty days from the time the names of the nominees are submitted to him, the chief justice of the supreme court shall make the appointment from such nominees. (c) Each justice of the supreme court appointed pursuant to provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall hold office for an initial term ending on the second Monday in January following the first general election that occurs after the expiration of twelve months in office. Not less than sixty days prior to the holding of the general election next preceding the expiration of his term of office, any justice of the supreme court may file in the office of the secretary of state a declaration of candidacy for election to succeed himself. If a declaration is not so filed, the position held by such justice shall be open from the expiration of his term of office. If such declaration is filed, his name shall be submitted at the next general election to the electors of the state on a separate judicial ballot, without party designation, reading substantially as follows:

—“Shall
(Here insert name of justice.)

(Here insert the title of the court.)
—be retained in office?”

—If a majority of those voting on the question vote against retaining him in office, the position or office which he holds shall be open upon the expiration of his term of office; otherwise he shall, unless removed for cause, remain in office for the regular term of six years from the second Monday in January following such election. At the expiration of each term he shall, unless by law he is compelled to retire, be eligible for retention in office by election in the manner prescribed in this section. (d) A nonpartisan nominating commission whose duty it shall be to nominate and submit to the governor the names of persons for appointment to fill vacancies in the office of any justice of the supreme court is hereby established, and shall be known as the “supreme court nominating commission.” Said commission shall be organized as hereinafter provided. (e) The supreme court nominating commission shall be composed as follows: One member, who shall be chairman, chosen from among their number by the members of the bar who are residents of and licensed in Kansas; one member from each congressional district chosen from among their number by the resident members of the bar in each such district; and one member, who is not a lawyer, from each congressional district, appointed by the governor from among the residents of each such district. (f) The terms of office, the procedure for selection and certification of the members of the commission and provision for their compensation or expenses shall be as provided by the legislature. (g) No member of the supreme court nominating commission shall, while he is a member, hold any other public office by appointment or any official position in a political party or for six months thereafter be eligible for nomination for the office of justice of the supreme court. The commission may act only by the concurrence of a majority of its members.”

“§ 8. Prohibition of political activity by justices and certain judges. No justice of the supreme court who is appointed or retained under the procedure of section 5 of this article, nor any judge of the district court holding office under a nonpartisan method authorized in subsection (a) of section 6 of this article shall directly or indirectly make any contribution to or hold any office in a political party or organization or take part in any political campaign, except when such judge is a candidate for election to a position on an appellate court.”

“§ 15. Removal of justices and judges. Justices of the supreme court may be removed from office by impeachment and conviction as prescribed in article 2 of this constitution. In addition to removal by impeachment and conviction, justices may be retired after appropriate hearing, upon certification to the governor, by the supreme court nominating commission that such justice is so incapacitated as to be unable to perform adequately his duties. Other judges shall be subject to retirement for incapacity, and to discipline, suspension and removal for cause by the supreme court after appropriate hearing.”

Sec. 2. The following statement shall be printed on the ballot with the amendment as a whole:

“Explanatory statement. This amendment gives the voters the right to elect the justices of the Kansas supreme court. The justices shall serve terms of six years, with the elections of justice positions 1, 2 and 3 to occur in 2028, positions 4 and 5 to occur in 2030 and positions 6 and 7 to occur in 2032, and every six years thereafter. The rules applicable for such elections and the designation of position numbers shall be provided by law. Any vacancy on the court for an unexpired term shall be filled at an election as provided by law.

“A vote for this proposition would give Kansas citizens the right to elect Kansas supreme court justices as provided by law. Justices will hold office for terms of six years. The Kansas supreme court nominating commission, whose membership consists of a majority of lawyers, would be abolished.

“A vote against this proposition would continue the current system in which the Kansas supreme court nominating commission, whose membership consists of a majority of lawyers, provides the governor a list of three individuals to choose from for vacancies on the Kansas supreme court. Justices hold office for a term of six years and retain their offices if they win a retention election in which they do not face an opponent.

Sec. 3. This resolution, if approved by two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the Senate and two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the House of Representatives, shall be entered on the journals, together with the yeas and nays. The secretary of state shall cause this resolution to be published as provided by law and shall cause the proposed amendment to be submitted to the electors of the state at a special election, which is hereby called on August 4, 2026, pursuant to section 1 of article 14 of the constitution of the state of Kansas, to be held in conjunction with the primary election held on such date.

LAND

• From Page 1

The land had been zoned for agriculture but Knoell

said that the planning and zoning commission could determine how it should be zoned, with the city commission approving it.

In other business, the city commission voted to go with Wilson and Company as the engineering firm for the next phase of road work

to be done on D Avenue east of Main Street. Wilson and Company has been the firm who did the engineering work on previous phases.



11 Years Ago

Kingman County Commissioners revisited talks about building a new law enforcement center; two previous votes on the subject of funding its construction failed to receive support to move forward with proposals. The USD 331 board of education voted to take over the Kingman County Learning Center rather than continue an agreement with Educational Services and Staff Development Association of Central Kansas. A lawsuit regarding damage to downtown buildings caused by a roof collapse was dismissed after the Kingman County Commission agreed to purchase the buildings for \$1 each and demolish them. Sister Rosalia Govert, a member of the Dominican Order of the Sisters of Peace, was set to celebrate her 100th birthday. Danny Finder was named the new head coach of the Kingman Middle School football team. The Kingman freshman volleyball team won the silver bracket of the summer league tournament in Pratt. Rich Skelton, a PRCA world record holder in team roping, was among the competitors set to attend the 2015 Pretty Prairie Rodeo.

35 Years Ago

Joe Davies was named a Melvin Jones Fellow by Lions International; past District Governor Byron Blue visited the Kingman Lions Club to present Davies with the award. D.L. Hawkins of Pretty Prairie was reunited with three of his friends in the U.S. Navy in 1946: Ken Foster, Bob Pierce and R.I. Trahan. City Mayor Bill Near announced voluntary watering restrictions, with residents with odd street numbers to restrict watering to odd-numbered days and those with even street numbers to water on even-numbered days and no watering at all on Sundays. The Kingman High School Class of 1981 held its 10-year reunion. Tim Helm and Amber Helm won their divisions at the Mariah Hills Junior Golf Tournament in Dodge City. Members of the Cunningham 4-H Club were out on Main Street painting windows to remind residents about the upcoming Kingman County Fair. A total of 152 blood donors came to the American Red Cross Bloodmobile. Sarah Goetz competed for the title of Miss Teen of Kansas in Salina. Rose Henning and Jennifer Watts repeated as champions of the Kingman

Country Club ladies' member-guest tournament.

60 Years Ago

I.B. Williams of Houston signed a contract to purchase the bankrupt Bonanza Truck Stop in Kingman and awaited the bankruptcy court's hearing in August to finalize the sale. Mr. and Mrs. Earl Borgelt returned from New York City, where they attended the International Convention of Lions Clubs. Paul Conrardy was elected the president of the USD 332 Board of Education. Don Brittain, a former Kingman High School baseball standout, threw a no-hitter against the Wichita Boosters as Rago advanced in the VFW softball tournament. Gerald Hawkins and his family welcomed family members living in London, England, for a brief visit. Judy Gillen was one of 39 4-H members who attended a citizenship course in Washington D.C. Roy Atchison chatted with the Leader-Courier about the many years he continued running the Atchison Ice Cream Shop. Merle Reno of Cheney was appointed a member of the Kingman County Farmers Home Administration Committee by state agency director Jackson

George. U.S. Representative Bob Dole announced he was accepting applications from young men interested in entering service academies in 1967.

85 Years Ago

Jonas Graber, former Kingman hardware store owner, was appointed state director of the Federal Housing Administration. Claire Probst of Cunningham was named the new assistant in the county welfare office. Condemnation proceedings on five tracts of land along the half-mile stretch of the Missouri Pacific railway crossing west of Kingman on U.S. Highway 54 were filed in district court by the state highway commission. Tax levies for 1942 expenditures from the City of Kingman were revised downward by the city commission, resulting in a property tax decrease for residents. Invitations were sent out for teams to come to a softball tournament sponsored by the Kingman Chamber of Commerce; the tourney was to start July 30. Perry Hundley shot an eagle on Hole No. 1 at the city golf course. Pay Day Market advertised three pounds of bananas for 17 cents.

NORWICH CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

June 1 Meeting

Mayor Mitch Hewitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Nathan Adams, June Hardaway, Eldon Headrick, Lanny Hower, and Steve VanGieson. Employees present: Chrissy Bartel, Chris Bartel, Muriel Boyce, Carol Poe, Tab Turner, and Monte Vavra.

Citizens present: Molly Wall and Lindsay Hardaway.

Upon the mayor's recommendation, and consensus of the council, of Steve VanGieson to fill the vacant council seat, Carol Poe performed the loyalty oath for Steve VanGieson.

Molly Wall presented the Summer Fun schedule and street closure applications. June Hardaway moved to approve both street closure applications for July 10 & July 11 as presented. Lanny Hower 2nd. Motion carried 5-0. June Hardaway moved to approve the 2026 Summer Fun schedule of events. Nathan Adams 2nd. Motion carried 5-0.

Lindsay Hardaway gave a tour of the upstairs 4-H fire room. Ms. Hardaway reviewed the time and money spent on the upgrade and asked the council if they would replace the windows and obtain a mini split/HVAC system.

Eldon Headrick moved to approve the consent agenda, including the May 4, 2026, regular meeting minutes, treasurer's report through April 30, 2026, and warrants through May 31, 2026. Lanny Hower 2nd. Motion carried 5-0.

Nathan Adams made a motion to approve the special warrants for Ye Olde General Store, which was seconded by Eldon Headrick. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0, while June Hardaway abstained from voting.

June Hardaway reviewed the swimming pool.

Nathan Adams discussed airport painting and getting bids for windows upstairs.

Lanny Hower stated the streets that were sealed look

good. Mr. Hower also mentioned the sidewalks on Westview need to be removed before millings and the curb by telephone office needs fixed. The purchase of a backhoe was discussed.

Monte Vavra provided his public works report. Mr. Vavra discussed problems with city truck, rezoning a property, and getting bids for pool painting. He will also be ordering salt for the water plant next week.

Tab Turner gave an oral fire report.

Chrissy Bartel provided her EMS report. After discussion, June Hardaway moved to approve having a travel voucher fundraiser. Nathan Adams 2nd. Motion carried 5-0. Ms. Bartel requested spending memorial funds for an airway training manikin and a Verathon Gledoscope totaling \$5,114.38.

Eldon Headrick moved to approve spending memorial funds as stated. Nathan Adams 2nd. Motion carried 5-0.

Carol Poe provided her

admin/clerk report. Ms. Poe stated the accounting software is being upgraded and is working on the budget. She also gave an update on grants.

Muriel Boyce provided her treasurer report.

Chris Bartel provided his compliance hours. A blanket ordinance to replace law enforcement with compliance officer or city personnel was discussed.

The mayor discussed the burn pile and the need to manage it.

Carol Poe stated no fire-works licenses were requested.

2027 budget was discussed.

June Hardaway passed out suggestions on updates to the personnel policy to be reviewed and discussed next month.

The next meeting will be July 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Eldon Headrick moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m., June Hardaway 2nd. Motion carried 5-0.

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LEGAL NOTICE

(Published in the Kingman Leader-Courier, Thursday, July 16, 2026) 1t

Private Foundation Notice

In accordance with Code Section 6104(d), the public is advised the Annual Report for the period ending December 31, 2025 for the Chester and Sylvia Hartley Scholarship Trust is available at 239 E C Ave. Kingman, KS 67068 (620) 491-1760. During the business hours of 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. for 180 days of this publication.

LEGAL NOTICE

(Published in the Kingman Leader-Courier, Thursday, July 16, 2026) 1t

On behalf of USD 331 Kingman-Norwich, DCS Services is soliciting bids for playground work at Kingman Elementary School. Interested parties should contact DCS Services at 316-869-1008. We encourage participation by disadvantaged small and minority businesses and women's business enterprises.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in the Kingman Leader-Courier, Thursday, July 16, 2026) 1t

NOTICE OF HEARING TO EXCEED REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE

The governing body of
BELMONT TOWNSHIP
will meet on August 25, 2026 at 2:00 pm at 8319 SW 20th Ave, Kingman, KS for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to revenue neutral rate and proposed tax rate, as required by KSA 79-2988.

SUPPORTING COUNTIES
KINGMAN COUNTY

Revenue Neutral Rate*	48.930	Proposed Tax Rate	65.499
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* Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

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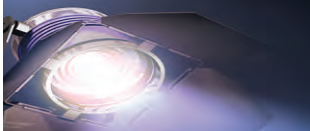
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