



# Kingman Leader-Courier

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July 9, 2026

## County Has Decisions to Make to Not Exceed RNR

BY BOB MORRIS  
Managing Editor

If Kingman County wishes to stay within the revenue neutral rate, the county commissioners will have to make some decisions about what it can afford to put into the budget.

Kingman County Financial Officer LaDawn Stegman reminded the county commissioners at Monday's meeting that the deadline for all government entities to determine if they will exceed the revenue neutral rate or not is July 20.

Any entity that does not approve a notice of intent to exceed the revenue neutral rate by July 20 will not be allowed to exceed the RNR.

That deadline is set to allow county clerks time to get notices out to property owners about any revenue neutral rate hearings scheduled.

According to state law, any government entity that exceeds the RNR — or the mill levy that will generate the same amount of revenue as the prior year — must schedule a public hearing.

Stegman told the county com-

missioners that entities don't have to exceed RNR if they schedule a hearing. County Counselor Brandon Ritcha added that is why so many governing bodies give such a notice, so that they have the option to exceed it if it comes down to that.

The county budgeted about \$7.4 million from ad valorem (property) taxes for 2026 and that's the amount of money it cannot exceed in its 2027 budgeted revenues unless the county schedules a revenue neutral rate hearing.

Stegman noted that, based on

the salaries currently budgeted for 2027, plus benefits and overtime, the county is already close to \$6 million in expenditures. She said the county does get some other revenue, but the bulk of it comes from property taxes, meaning there isn't a lot left out of \$7.4 million in budgeted revenues once payroll is taken into account.

County Commissioner Jack Thimesch agreed that it won't be an easy task to figure things out.

"We've got tough decisions ahead of us here yet, and they're just going to keep getting tougher,"

he said.

Stegman said that the county will also need to consider its usage of PILOT money and where the commissioners want it to go. She said potential uses include buying down the mill levy, giving a residential property tax rebate as Thimesch has suggested, or covering expenditures.

But Stegman said that, while the \$2.19 million in PILOT revenue will help, she wanted to focus on payroll to get an idea about where

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## HR Firm to Update County Employee Handbook

BY BOB MORRIS  
Managing Editor

The Kingman County commissioners Monday voted to hire HR On Call out of Wichita to revise the county employee handbook and for an I-9 audit, while Sara Dwyer of HR On Call prepares a contract to send to County Counselor Brandon Ritcha to potentially offer additional human resources services.

Dwyer has 30 years of experience in working for human resources and was willing to offer her services to take some of the burden off others who have taken up HR duties after Stan Goetz retired a couple of years ago.

County Commissioner Jack Thimesch noted that Goetz "kind of wore like five different hats" and, since his retirement, other county employees have taken some of the roles he filled. But he said that hasn't worked as expected.

"My personal opinion is, we need some help," Thimesch said. "We need to get through this. I think we've got issues up above, but personnel (issues) that could have been resolved had we had an outside HR to do that."

Dwyer said her first questions would be whether people are trained in their positions, if certain positions are top heavy or if some duties can be combined. That's where having independent guidance is useful to help with such decisions, she said.

Dwyer said she looked at the county's policy handbook and noted that the last updates to it were made in 2015 and 2017. She said there have been quite a few changes in state or federal law that haven't been reflected in the handbook.

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## Father and Son



JASON JUMP / Leader-Courier

Kingman Islanders head coach Toby Munz and his son and assistant coach Mason Munz discuss pre-game details prior to a game with the Phenoms last week at Riverside Park, which featured the first pitch from former Kingman High School and Islanders player Nolan Freund.

## Roles Continue to Evolve for Toby, Mason Munz

BY BOB MORRIS  
Managing Editor

Kingman Islanders head coach Toby Munz previously coached his son Mason as a member of the Islanders, and as a member of the Kingman High School baseball team before that.

Now father and son are both coaching the Islanders.

Mason said it wasn't a difficult decision because he's always enjoyed returning to Kingman. He noted that the Islanders are "kind of a Munz family thing" in that Toby started the team so that players such as himself could stay in a local area and didn't have to travel to play summer ball.

"And so, coming back here and helping coach is, I wouldn't say was

like a dream, but it's kind of a dream come true because I get to learn from my dad and experience what it's like to coach here in Kingman." Mason said "So, me deciding to come up here just kind of fell into the hands. It was just kind of how our journey collided, and it's been exciting, it's been fun."

Toby said there wasn't necessarily a point in time that he noticed that Mason might have what it took to be a baseball coach.

"You know, as a dad, you want your kid to be successful, and all your kids to be successful, and more successful than you, and I, to be honest, I probably wouldn't have chose coaching for him if I could have," Toby said. "It's a high stress and low reward, and doesn't pay the bills all

the time, but it does have a lot of its benefits in the relationships and the small rewards that it has, but I tell him all the time, you know, survive the lows, and, you know, ride out the highs."

Toby said that he noticed the struggles that his son sometimes went through when in high school and college, but he was able to recover and handle them well. Toby said that is what makes one successful in any career, adding that Mason has had his success as well.

"I'm just excited that all my kids have been real successful, whatever they've done," said Toby, adding that Mason's mother Lucia has also played a big role in Mason's success.

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## Schrag Attends Placemaking Conference

BY BOB MORRIS  
Managing Editor

Kingman Economic Development Director Leslie Schrag attended the International Placemaking Conference June 24-26 in Detroit.

There, Schrag gave a presentation about the Planes on the Plains project, in which artwork was utilized to celebrate Clyde Cessna, his work in the aircraft industry and how that impacted Kingman County.

Schrag said her focus was on how public art can help communities celebrate their identity, create destinations and support economic development.

"I discussed how the project connected Kingman, Cunningham, and Norwich through a shared aviation heritage while creating attractions that encourage residents and visitors to explore the region," Schrag said.

She said that a successful project doesn't end with the installation of artwork.

"They become platforms for future events, tourism initiatives, partnerships, and economic development opportunities that continue to build value over time," Schrag said. "As communities evolve, placemaking projects can evolve with them. New programming, partnerships, or even a future location can create additional opportunities to build on the original investment. The important thing is that the project continues to serve the community."

The session also highlighted several other Kansas Arts Commission initiatives, including the Artist Residency Program in Matfield Green and the Independent Market Initiative, which pairs artists with locally owned grocery

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# NEWS

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

## RNR

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things will stand with the budget once the commissioners make a decision there.

“To me, until we get something more firm with payroll, the rest of the budget is going to be harder to do, because this is such a large amount of our ad valorem,” she said.

Thimesch said the county will

need to keep in mind how much it is spending, as should all entities. He made the remark that “we are inflation,” referring to entities making more expenditures and, thus, needing more revenue to cover them.

“All these things that people think that we can afford to do, do cost the taxpayer dollars, and they do add up,” Thimesch said. “At some point, even doing this property tax refund, how long can we do

that with wind farm money, with the inflation that we’re in? We’ll eat it up.”

One thing that Thimesch hoped will help is that certain property tax exemptions will end, such as the pipeline that runs through Kingman and was exempted by the state. That reduced countywide valuation for taxation purposes by \$9 million.

County Clerk Carol Noblit noted there are expenditures that aren’t

always under the county’s control. She noted that postage rates have increased, along with gasoline prices, the latter impacting anyone who utilizes vehicles for county work. Also, the cost of running elections has increased because of state requirements, with Noblit saying that her election costs have increased 23.68 percent over the last four years.

The county commissioners didn’t take any action regarding the

budget at Monday’s meeting and will continue to have more discussions at next week’s meeting.

County Commission Chairwoman Julie Lyon indicated she would “hate to see this go over RNR” and hoped the county could hold the line.

County Commissioner Jeff Young agreed, noting that if the county stays below RNR, it would be the third straight year to do so, “which is pretty dang good.”



BOB MORRIS / Leader-Courier

## July 4: Family Fest, Concert Take Place

The family parade down Main Street, part of the Kingman Area Chamber of Commerce’s Family Fun Fest, took place Saturday morning, though delayed because of rainfall. Other activities highlighted the morning festival. In the evening, a concert featuring King Midas took place on Main Street. That concert was organized by a committee of Kingman residents who wanted to put together a special event to mark America’s 250th birthday.

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## OBITUARY

### LESTER WILLIAM DONLEY

Lester William Donley, DO, beloved physician and proud Kingman Eagle, spent 101 years living exactly where he wanted to be — in the town he loved, caring for the people in it. He died on June 19, 2026.

Lester was born on Dec. 6, 1924, in McPherson, arriving a few minutes before his fraternal twin brother, Leonard. When the twins were six months old, their parents, James and Anna Donley, moved the family to Kingman so that their father could establish his osteopathic practice. Family lore has it that the twins were so ornery that their mother swore off ever having any more children.

Lester grew up a true Kingman Eagle. He attended grade school and high school in Kingman, where he quarterbacked the football team all four years. In his senior year, he led the Eagles to their first undefeated and untied season. He was equally at home with a saxophone or clarinet in hand and was the founding member of the dance band “Cokey and his Cocoanuts.” He graduated in 1942 with his sights set on becoming an osteopathic physician, just like his father.

After a year at Kansas State, Lester was drafted into the Army Medical Corps and stationed at Schick Army Hospital in Clinton, Iowa. When rumors spread that his unit would be transferred to the Pacific following the Battle of the Bulge, Lester seized the moment — and married his high school sweetheart, Mary Jane Baker, on March 24, 1945, in Kingman. After the war, he completed his premedical courses and was admitted to the Kansas City College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery in 1948. He joined his father’s practice in Kingman in 1953 and never looked back.

To his patients, he was simply “Dr. Lester” or “Doc,” and he was the last of a vanishing breed — the country doctor.



He treated everybody like they were somebody. He made house calls and nursing home visits, truly listened, and was generous with his time in ways that are rare in any era. He had a particular love for obstetrics and claimed to have delivered over a thousand babies, often whistling cheerfully as he worked. His light-hearted demeanor and dedicated work ethic made him a beloved figure throughout the community. He was elected president of the Kansas Osteopathic Association in 1978. He was also inducted into the Kingman High School Hall of Fame in 2020.

Outside of medicine, Les was a devoted sports fan who never missed a chance to watch the Kansas City Royals or the Chiefs. He was a fervent supporter of Kingman High School athletics and music, a past vice president of both the Kingman Historical Society and the Kingman Humane Society, and a lifelong member of the Kingman Methodist Church. At his death, he was the longest continuously serving member of the Lions Club, having joined in 1953. He was a proud Kingman Eagle to the end and would not have chosen to live anywhere else.

Lester was devoted to his family. He had three children with Mary Jane: Jim, Steve, and Christine. Following her death in 1969, he found love again in Naomi Goenner, whom he married in 1971, and became a stepfather to her three children: Beverly, Mindie, and Rick, whom he loved like his own.

He is preceded in death by his father, James Donley, and his mother, Anna Donley, as well as his twin brother Leonard Donley, his first wife, Mary Jane (Baker) Donley, and his second wife, Naomi (Goenner) Donley. He is survived by his three children, Jim, Steve, and Christine; and three stepchildren, Beverly, Mindie, and Rick. He is also survived by a combination of 14 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Memorial service were held at the Kingman Methodist Church on Sunday, June 28. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Rivercross Hospice or The Kingman Hospital Foundation.

## 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 ATTORNEY AT LAW, LLC 349 North Main, P. O. Box 113 Kingman, KS 67068 (620) 532-3103 Attorney for Petitioner

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# OPINION

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## A Joyful Noise

By Bernie Sheahan

When a couple dozen or so of your townspeople have rehearsed for weeks to produce an inspiring choral celebration of our nation's 250th birthday, you shouldn't call it "A Joyful Noise," probably. Unless you explain that somewhere in the Holy Bible it says we should do that very thing. But it wasn't noisy, it was lovely. The program was named "Stars and Stories," which are two things we have in abundance here. Big skies, full of stars. Big hearts, full of stories.

It was a throwback idea, getting citizens to join in a musical tribute to a place they love. My friend and former mayor Jon Wollen, who is full of good ideas (thanks for spearheading the 250th committee), thought we should pull together one of our town's favorite and old-fashioned events that we read about in the old newspapers (this very one, available online at Kansas Historical Society's digital collection—plug in a family name and be thrilled!).

Singing! Imagine that. Because of television, YouTube, and whatnot, we've grown accustomed to performance

instead of participation. "Oh, I can't sing" is a standard answer these days from your average American (is that you?). The Voice, America's Got Talent — they've turned us into viewers when we used to be singers, unfettered by self-consciousness.

My own family loved to gather and sing all the old songs. The Sheahans have a family history book thanks to Grandpa's cousin, Frances Sheahan McFadden, who pulled it off despite having 100 percent laid-back Irish DNA. Frances was grandmother to the Don and Maureen Bogner family, who grew up on one of the old Sheahan farms currently owned by a direct descendant of William Sheahan, who died right there in the living room after a horrible farm accident. (Happened often, a hundred years ago, and you can read all about that in the digital archives.)

In that very living room you can still hear the songs that were sung on the old Sheahan place, like "The Immigrants Lament" and "Potatoes They Rot" (I made that one up). Hear them in your imagination, really, but

that family is apt to burst to song at any given moment, still.

All our families were. Have TV and radio and Spotify ruined us? Maybe not. Jon Wollen said no; we can sing, and we should. On Sunday, July 5 it was part performance, part sing-a-long, just like in the old days, there in our high school auditorium. Jon enlisted the folks who could pull it off: director Eric Kerschen and family, and pianist Amelia Yust. There were teenagers and older folks — I mean, people my age — choir, soloists, even a men's quartet. I didn't hear "The Immigrants Lament" but there was Stephen Foster and Edwin Hawkins and "The Wiz," barbershop harmonies and '50s tunes, and it all started with a quartet hymn that sprung an eye-leak from me on the second note, second chord. It was emotional from beginning to end, especially during the patriotic songs that we sang along with whether they asked us to or not.

That's what we used to do around here, and everywhere: sing. Whether we had a "good" voice or not. I have

my great-grandpa's fiddle, which sounds like a cat fight when I try to play it. I come from a long line of Irish fiddlers, I say. But nobody said they were any good.

You don't have to be a professional or aspiring professional to make music. That was entertainment on cold winter nights and summer afternoons, like yesterday, when the "Stars and Stories" gang reminded us that we, the people, can make a joyful noise.

Last week, my musical partner-in-crime Doris McPherson and I did a program at Wheatlands for their big patriotic celebration. Doris picked the best of the sing-a-longs and the residents sang so loud and so enthusiastically that I had to stop in the middle and get a box of Kleenex. I lead sing-alongs at Wheatlands on a regular basis and I'd never heard such full-throated singing from the crowd. So much emotion, so much enthusiasm from folks who remember that making "a joyful noise" makes you joyful as well.

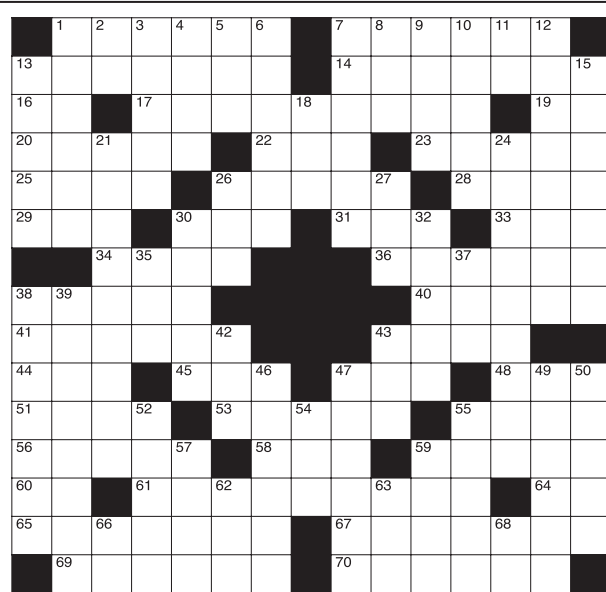
And who doesn't need more joy?

## PUZZLE ANSWERS



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Financial Advisor  
240 N Main St  
Kingman, KS 67068  
620-532-1190

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

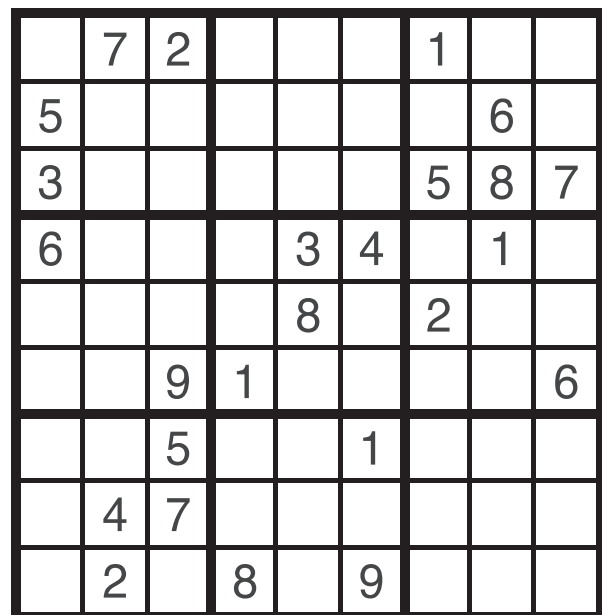


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Mended
- 7. Hymns
- 13. Commercial transport of goods
- 14. Poked holes in the ground
- 16. They precede C
- 17. Branch of knowledge concerned with wealth
- 19. Larry and Curly's pal
- 20. Injured
- 22. Popular type of dance
- 23. Moon crater
- 25. American state
- 26. Places to lock valuables
- 28. Stalk that supports the capsule
- 29. Keyboard key
- 30. "\_\_\_ death do us part"
- 31. A type of cage
- 33. A place to sleep
- 34. Annual music awards show
- 36. Made over
- 38. Hard, stony substance
- 40. Incantations
- 41. Long-legged, wading bird
- 43. Breathe noisily
- 44. Congressman
- 45. Rip off
- 47. Golf score
- 48. Popular pickup truck
- 51. Where infants sleep
- 53. Music term
- 55. Small opening in a surface
- 56. Musical term meaning "very"
- 58. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 59. Treats with powder
- 60. Email subject line feature
- 61. A British lawyer
- 64. Expression of laughter
- 65. Farmer's calendar
- 67. Seeds used as food
- 69. Eurasian shrubs
- 70. Periods of inactivity

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Hard things to kick
- 2. Collective of countries
- 3. Letter of Hebrew alphabet
- 4. One-time Alabama running back Eddie
- 5. One's sense of self-esteem
- 6. Of the teeth
- 7. Treat with care
- 8. Type of whale
- 9. Curved structure
- 10. Emits coherent radiation
- 11. One of the Gospels (abbr.)
- 12. Smallest interval in western music
- 13. Netherlands seat of government
- 15. Gives to charitably
- 18. Lout
- 21. Pastas
- 24. Release from restrictions
- 26. Female sibling
- 27. Title of respect
- 30. Silver coins
- 32. Region in India
- 35. Partner to cheese
- 37. Dark or dusky
- 38. Pacific Northwest tree
- 39. Exaggerate
- 42. Toddler
- 43. Touch lightly
- 46. Fundamentals
- 47. Jeopardies
- 49. Curved structures
- 50. Isolated, flat-topped hills
- 52. Forming the bottom layer
- 54. Reciprocal of sine
- 55. Genus of Old World birds
- 57. New York college
- 59. Cloak
- 62. Kawhi Leonard's team (abbr.)
- 63. Vietnamese offensive
- 66. "The Great Lakes State"
- 68. "\_\_\_ myself and I"



A E U Q I N U U B R W N E H C I N D S E  
E P L N Y G H P L O I O C H W K L V E Q  
A P O W M N M E V R U E K H O O Y S G V  
T I Y O N R G B N L B T H Y N W E S Y N  
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### RETAIL SUPPORT WORD SEARCH

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## A Mom's Musing

By Stephanie Jump, Co-Owner, M<sup>3</sup> Publishing LLC

I hope everyone had a wonderful Fourth of July holiday, ours was pretty low key at the Jump house. We covered some events and took some much needed rest, well most of us. Jason is pretty much at the office everyday, whether here or another one.

Life continues to be crazy, hectic and a constant whirlwind of motion. We are trying to figure out how to get the middle kid back to school this fall in Wyoming, the youngest is having a great time working at a very popular burger place, our oldest

has been roped back into working with us this summer since his replacement broke her back a few weeks ago.

The Jump household is constantly full of laundry and dishes it seems and never the right food that anyone wants to eat at any given time. But

for some reason, it also contains a very large amount of different varieties of ice cream. Most of which people will probably eat half of and then the rest will eventually freezer burn and be thrown out. Does anyone else have this issue?

## PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in the Kingman Leader-Courier on Thursday, July 9, 2026) 1t

### RESOLUTION NO. 2026- R19

A RESOLUTION CHANGING THE ZONING DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS, UNDER THE AUTHORITY GRANTED BY THE ZONING REGULATIONS OF THE COUNTY AS ORIGINALLY APPROVED BY RESOLUTION NO. 2007-38.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS:

SECTION 1. That having received a recommendation from the Kingman County Planning Board on Case No. Z-26-003, and proper notice having been given and hearing held as provided by law and under authority and subject to the provisions of the Zoning Resolutions of the County as originally approved by Resolution No. 2007-38, the zoning district classification from the A-1 Agriculture District to the R-R Rural Residential District of the lands legally described herein are changed as follows:

Legal description: A tract of land in the Northwest Quarter of Section 4, Township 30 South, Range 5 West of the 6th P.M. in Kingman County, Kansas. Commencing at the Northwest corner of said Section 4; Thence Easterly along the North line of said Section 4 and on an assumed bearing of South 89 degrees 59 minutes 48 seconds East a distance of 1416.00 feet to the Point of Beginning; Thence Southerly on a bearing

of South 00 degrees 14 minutes 53 seconds East a distance of 700.00 feet; Thence Easterly on a bearing of South 89 degrees 59 minutes 48 seconds East a distance of 684.00 feet; Thence Northerly on a bearing of North 00 degrees 14 minutes 53 seconds West a distance of 700.00 feet to a point on the North line of said Section 4; Thence Westerly along said North line and on a bearing of North 89 degrees 59 minutes 48 seconds West a distance of 684.00 feet to the Point Of Beginning. Said tract contains 10.99 acres of land more or less which includes road right-of-way on the North.

SECTION 2. That upon the taking effect of this Resolution, the above zoning change shall be entered and shown on the Official Zoning Map(s) as previously adopted by reference and said map(s) is hereby re-incorporated as a part of the Zoning Regulations as amended.

SECTION 3. That this Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after its adoption and publication once in the official county newspaper.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS ON JULY 6, 2026.

Julie Lyon, Chairperson  
ATTEST:  
Carol Noblit, County Clerk  
Jack Thimesch, Commissioner  
Jeff Young, Commissioner  
Approved as to Form:  
Brandon Ritcha, County Counsel

## PUBLIC NOTICE - PRIMARY ELECTION NOTICE

(First published in the Kingman Leader-Courier on Thursday, June 25, 2026) 3t

### PRIMARY ELECTION NOTICE OF PLACES AND DATES OF REGISTRATION

Pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 25-2311(c), notice is hereby given that the books for the registration of voters in Kingman County, Kansas will be closed from 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 and will remain closed until the day after the Primary Election which will be held in the County of Kingman, State of Kansas on the 4th day of August, 2026. Books will reopen on August 5th, 2026.

#### OFFICE HOURS:

The books will be open each day Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the County Clerk's Office. At 5:00 p.m. on July 14th, 2026 the books will close and remain closed until August 5th, 2025, which is the day after the Primary Election.

To register you must be 18 years of age or older, or will have attained the age of 18 years before the next

election.

When a voter has been registered according to law, his or her registration shall continue to be valid until one of the following occurs:

1. The voter changes name by marriage, divorce or legal proceedings.
2. The voter changes residence in which he resided at the time he registered.
3. When a voter dies or is disqualified for voting, his or her registration will be pulled from the files after verified.
4. When a voter fails to vote in two consecutive General Elections after the NVRA process, such voter's name may be removed from the registration books and party affiliation lists. Such voter must re-register in order to be able to vote.

In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 16th day of June, 2026.

(SEAL)  
Carol D. Noblit  
Kingman County Election Officer

# KID SCOOP

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

## Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Get puzzle answers, recipes and more at [www.kidscoop.com](http://www.kidscoop.com)

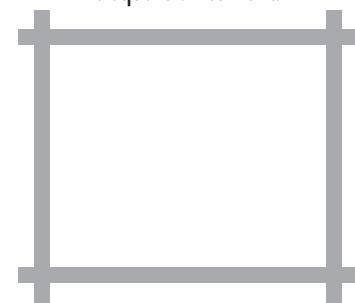
© 2026 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 42, No. 32

### Kid Scoop Together

## Masking Tape Masterpiece

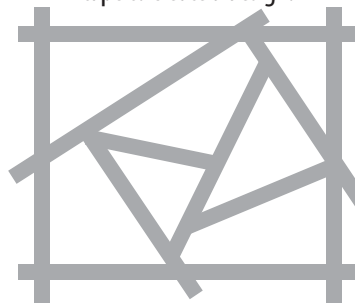
### STEP 1

Use masking tape to create a square on cement.



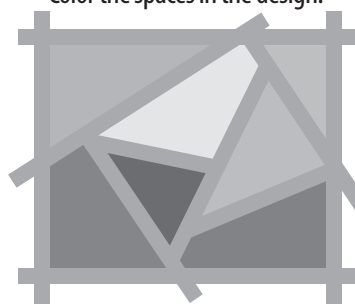
### STEP 2

Add more strips of masking tape to create a design.



### STEP 3

Color the spaces in the design.

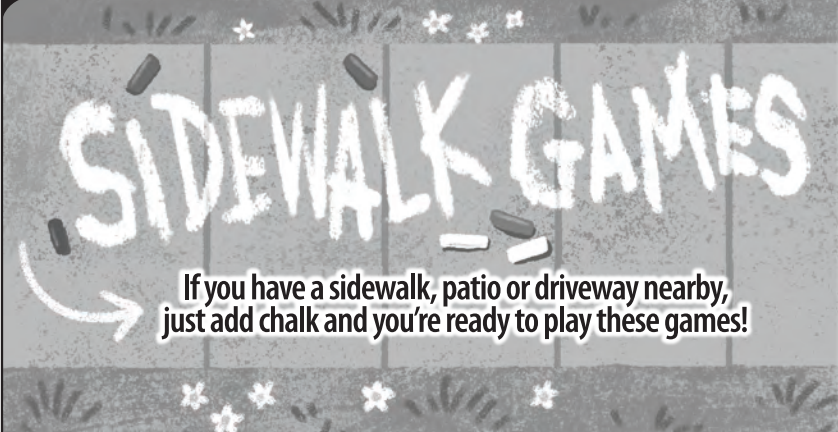


### STEP 4

Carefully remove the tape.

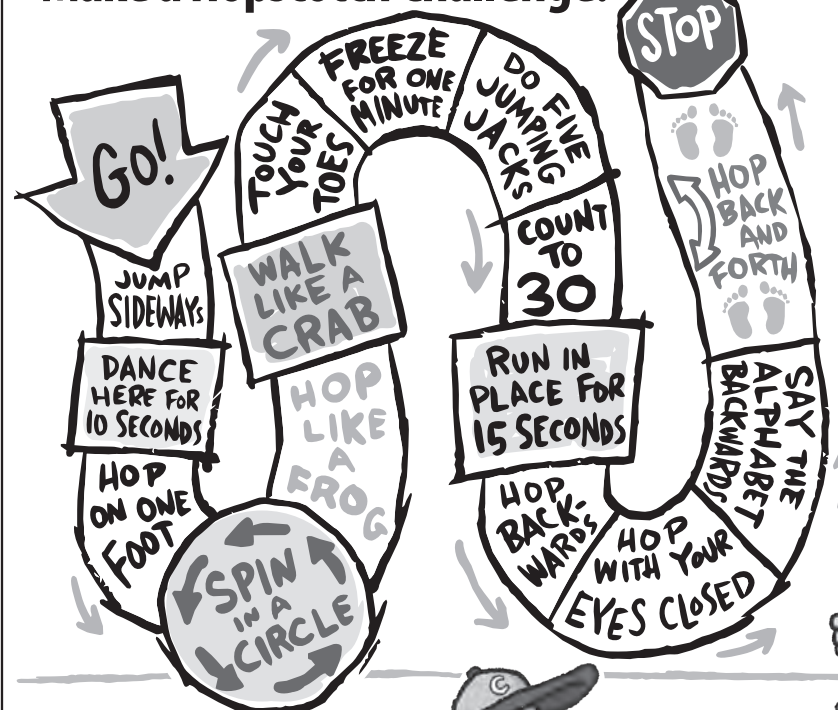


Standards Link: Reading: Follow simple, written directions.



If you have a sidewalk, patio or driveway nearby, just add chalk and you're ready to play these games!

### Make a Hopscotch Challenge!



### Monster Word Game

1. Draw a large grid with squares that are large enough for you to stand in. The grid should have at least four squares on each side.
2. Write a letter inside each square on the grid. Be sure to include at least four vowels, but not in a row.
3. Take turns stepping from one letter to another to create a word. You can jump over a square if you need to. Write each word that is spelled out in chalk on the sidewalk. What is the largest word someone can make?



Standards Link: Spell grade-appropriate words correctly.

What can you draw starting with these chalk lines?



### Maze Mix-Up!

#### STEP 1

You need three different colors of chalk for this game. Start by making three shapes lined up in a row to be START spots.

#### STEP 2

Move forward at least 10 feet and make a matching-colored shape to be the END spot.

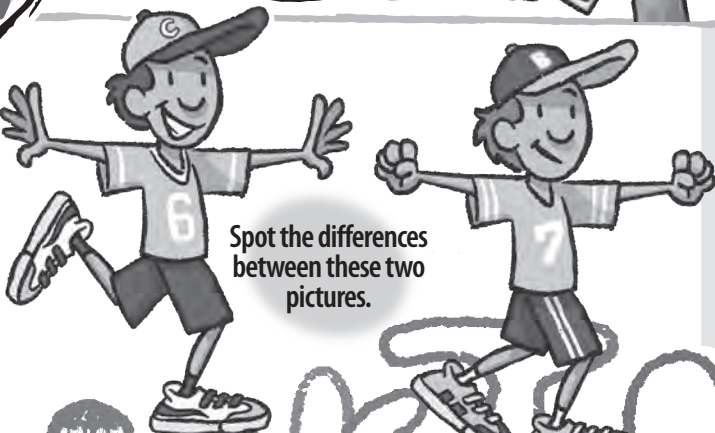
#### STEP 3

Draw a crooked line between each pair of START and END spots of the same color. Be sure to have some of the lines cross over each other.

#### STEP 4

Each player picks a colored line and follows it, doing different activities like these:

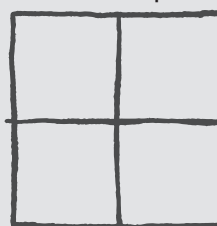
- bouncing a ball
- twirling
- hopping on one foot
- walking backwards
- walking on tiptoes
- walk in slow motion



Spot the differences between these two pictures.

### Play Four Square

- Find three friends. Draw a big square and then divide it into four smaller boxes of the same size.
- You and each friend stand in a different square.
- Find a bouncy ball and start serving and returning the ball from square to square.



Standards Link: Follow basic written directions.

### Extra! Extra! Number Words

Look through the newspaper for five numbers under 100. Rewrite each spelled out with letters of the alphabet. Use chalk if you have it!

Standards Link: Spell out whole numbers from zero up to ninety-nine.

What other activities can you think of?



Standards Link: Learn rules, strategies, and problem-solving skills needed to play a game.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

In the morning or late afternoon, have a friend stand in a pose while you trace their shadow's outline with sidewalk chalk. Then, have your friend trace your shadow. Decorate your shadows in colorful and creative ways.

Draw lines to connect each hand to its shadow.



Standards Link: Reading: Follow simple, written instructions.

### Double Double Word Search

- ART
- CHALK
- COLOR
- DRAW
- FOUR
- FROG
- GRID
- HOP
- JUMP
- LINE
- PLAY
- RED
- SHAPES
- SPIN
- SQUARE
- TRACE

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



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

### FREE DOWNLOAD: Kid Scoop 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:



[kidscoop.com/activity-pages/](http://kidscoop.com/activity-pages/)

### Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **DRIVEWAY**

The noun **driveway** means a road that leads from a street to a building, such as a house or a garage.

We can fit two cars on the **driveway** at my aunt's house.

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

### FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

#### Places to Play

Look through your newspaper for places in your community where it is safe for children to play. Write a letter to the editor with your opinions about these places and whether or not your community needs more like them.

Standards Link: Write letters that link opinions to factual evidence.

### Why are pencils great actors?

ANSWER: They never forget their lines.

### Write On!

#### What Makes You Smile?

Write two or three sentences about one or more things that make you smile.

Standards Link: Self-reflect to identify personal sources of joy (SEL).

Your phone can't call the future.

Sure, you can get insurance online. But your app won't listen and answer questions like an agent will.



Charlus J Bishop, LUTCF  
220 West D Ave.  
Kingman, KS  
620.532.3188  
CharlusBishop.com



# DOCKET

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

## KINGMAN CITY POLICE BLOTTER *By Police Chief David Lux*

**Sunday, June 28**  
 Traffic Stops 2  
 Suspicious Person 1300 Blk W Kansas Ave  
 Found Property 300 Blk E D Ave.  
 Disturbance 1000 Blk N Spruce St

**Monday, June 29**  
 Traffic Stops 4  
 Animal Complaint 200 Blk E Washington Ave  
 Theft 900 Blk N Spruce St  
 Harassment 300 Blk E A Ave  
 Disabled Vehicle 300 Blk N Main St  
 Suspicious Person 200 Blk N Cedar St  
 Violating Protection Order 900 Blk N Spruce St

**Tuesday, June 30**  
 Check Welfare 900 Blk N Spruce St  
 Civil Matter 300 Blk N Main St

Traffic Complaint 700 Blk W D Ave

**Wednesday, July 1**  
 Traffic Stops 7  
 Disabled Vehicle 1200 Blk E Hwy 54  
 Suspicious Person 600 Blk E D Ave  
 Medical Assist 300 Blk E D Ave  
 Animal Complaint Riverside Park  
 911 Hang-Up 300 Blk W C Ave  
 Warrant Arrest 100 Blk W Wallace Ave

**Thursday, July 2**  
 Traffic Stops 1  
 Suspicious Person Riverside Park  
 Suspicious Person 600 Blk N Spruce St  
 Motor Vehicle Accident 100 Blk W F Ave

**Friday, July 3**

Traffic Stops 2  
 Alarm 1200 Blk E US 54 Hwy  
 Suspicious Person 200 Blk N Main St  
 Suspicious Person 600 Blk N Spruce St  
 Suspicious Activity 1000 Blk E US 54 Hwy  
 Suspicious Activity 300 Blk E A Ave  
 Fireworks Complaint 200 Blk W Kansas Ave

**Saturday, July 4**  
 Traffic Stops 3  
 Juvenile Matter 1  
 Assist Outside Agency Murdock, KS  
 Assist Outside Agency Wichita, KS  
 Alarm 1200 Blk E US 54 Hwy  
 Suspicious Person 100 Blk E D Ave  
 Disturbance 800 Blk E D Ave  
 Disturbance 400 Blk E C Ave  
 Fireworks Complaint 200 Blk E 4th Ave

## KINGMAN COUNTY SHERIFF BLOTTER

**Sunday, June 28**  
 Traffic Stops 2  
 Civil Paper Service 1  
 Trespassing 10000 Blk NE 10 St, Murdock  
 Trespassing 4700 Blk SE 150 Ave, Cheney  
 Traffic Complaint 3900 Blk NE 30 Ave, Kingman  
 Follow Up 15000 Blk NE 50 St, Cheney  
 Agency Assist/KWP 15000 Blk NE 50 St, Cheney  
 Suspicious Person N Red Barn & W Kansas, Kingman  
 Agency Assist/KHP 2000 Blk W Hwy 54, Kingman  
 Motorist Assist 8000 Blk E Hwy 54, Murdock  
 Accidental 911 Dial 10000 Blk SE 20 St, Kingman  
 Non-Injury Accident SE 40 St & SE 100, Murdock  
 Miscellaneous 120 N Spruce St, Kingman

**Monday, June 29**  
 Traffic Stops 1  
 Civil Paper Service 6  
 Miscellaneous 5700 Blk NE 10 St, Kingman  
 Court/Inmate 130 N Spruce St, Kingman  
 Abandoned Vehicle NE 30 St & NE 20, Kingman  
 Trespassing 2200 Blk E Bluff St, Kingman

**Tuesday, June 30**

Traffic Stops 2  
 Court 130 N Spruce St, Kingman  
 Disabled Vehicle E Hwy 54 & NE 150, Cheney  
 Animal Complaint SE 90 St & S Hwy 14, Kingman  
 Suspicious Person/Vehicle 12000 Blk SW 100 St, Zenda

**Wednesday, July 1**  
 Traffic Stops 4  
 Civil Paper Service 1  
 Transport/Prisoner 120 N Spruce St, Kingman  
 Agency Assist/Medical 400 Blk E Leiter, Cunningham  
 Miscellaneous 1000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman  
 Miscellaneous 15000 Blk NE 50 St, Cheney  
 Theft 600 Blk N Main St, Spivey  
 Transport Civilian 4000 Blk E Hwy 54, Kingman  
 Follow Up 600 Blk N Main St, Spivey  
 Suspicious Activity 100 Blk W 3rd Ave, Norwich  
 Traffic Complaint E Hwy 54 & NE 40, Kingman

**Thursday, July 2**  
 Traffic Stop 1  
 Transport/Inmate 120 N Spruce St, Kingman  
 Transport/Inmate 120 N Spruce St, Kingman  
 Non-Injury Accident SE 160 & N Hwy K2, Norwich

Harrasment 1200 Blk NE 150 Ave, Cheney  
 Accidental 911 Dial 15000 Blk NE 50 st, Cheney  
 Injury Accident 600 Blk N Robbins Rd, Norwich  
 Abandoned Vehicle SE 140 & SE 170 St, Norwich  
 Miscellaneous N Pine St & E A Ave, Kingman

**Friday, July 3**  
 Traffic Stops 3  
 Suspicious Vehicle NE 30 St & N Hwy 14, Kingman  
 Miscellaneous N Main St & E A Ave, Kingman  
 Accidental 911 Dial 16000 Blk NE 50 St, Cheney  
 Suspicious Person 600 Blk N Spruce St, Kingman

**Saturday, July 4**  
 Traffic Stops 2  
 Disturbance 13000 Blk SE 20 St, Murdock  
 Injury Accident 10000 Blk SE 40 St, Murdock  
 Miscellaneous 120 N Spruce St, Kingman  
 Suspicious Person 15000 Blk E Hwy 54, Cheney  
 Miscellaneous 16000 Blk SE 30 St, Cheney  
 Animal Complaint 5200 Blk SE 20 St, Kingman  
 Animal Complaint E Hwy 42 & S Hwy 14, Rago  
 Agency Assist/KMPD 400 Blk E C Ave, Kingman  
 Non-Injury Accident SE 60 St & SE 80 Ave, Murdock

## KINGMAN COUNTY JAIL BOOKINGS

**July 1:** Justin Eugene Hess, 44, held for Department of Corrections for court hearing, transported back to DOC.  
**July 1:** Serena Marie McIlrath, 62, warrant arrest, \$2,500 OR bond.  
**July 4:** Steven Glenn Kind, 33, driving with suspended license, habitual traffic violator and no proof of insurance, \$7,500 bond.  
**July 4:** Jonah Gustaf Nowak Sr., 29, attempted first degree murder (two counts) and criminal trespass.

## KINGMAN COUNTY DISTRICT COURT

**Judge Roseanna Mathis**  
**Thursday, July 9**  
**2025:** State of Kansas vs. Phillip Duebonae Redrick, motion.  
**2026:** State of Kansas vs. Angela D. Rennaker, hearing.  
**2026:** State of Kansas vs. Paxton T. Goldston, hearing.  
**2025:** State of Kansas vs. Ace L. Watson, sentencing.  
**2026:** State of Kansas vs. Aiden Christopher Rau, first appearance.  
**2026:** State of Kansas vs. Robert Samuel Gladwell, hearing.

**2026:** State of Kansas vs. Shane Leon Driver, hearing.  
**2026:** State of Kansas vs. Harvey Lee Anderson, hearing.  
**2026:** State of Kansas vs. Jacob Joe Bigger, diversion.  
**2026:** State of Kansas vs. Andrew A. Camp, first appearance.  
**2026:** State of Kansas vs. Paola Rodriguez Robles, diversion.  
**2026:** State of Kansas vs. Roy Lee Smith, first appearance.  
**2026:** State of Kansas vs. Marshall Lane Ratzlaff, first appearance.

**2026:** State of Kansas vs. Chaz Joseph Henry Teafatiller, first appearance.  
**2026:** State of Kansas vs. John Ivy Shoemaker, first appearance.  
**2026:** State of Kansas vs. Nubia Vanessa Melendez, first appearance.  
**2026:** State of Kansas vs. Emiliano Perales Gonzalez, first appearance.  
**2026:** State of Kansas vs. Rashan D. Browning, first appearance.  
**2026:** State of Kansas vs. Shawn Michael Mardis, first appearance.  
**2026:** State of Kansas vs. Katy R. Pisano, hearing.

## Community Watch

**If you SEE something, SAY something!**  
**Help watch out for your neighbors and make Kingman County better for all!**  
**Call 620-532-5133 for Kingman Co. Sheriff's Office, 1-800-kscrim or 911.**



## Man Arrested After Reported July 4 Shooting

**STAFF REPORT**  
 A 29-year-old man was arrested early Saturday morning after a report of shots fired in northeast Kingman County.  
 Jonah Gustuf Nowak Sr. was booked into Kingman County Jail on two counts of attempted first degree murder and one count of criminal trespass, where he is still being held as of Wednesday.  
 According to a Kingman County Sheriff's Office news release, deputies responded to a report of shots fired shortly after 1:30 a.m. Saturday.  
 The initial investigation determined that a verbal altercation ensued between several adult males who were attending a July 4 event, the release stated.  
 The altercation escalated as one individual fired a handgun, the release stated. Two people and the suspect were injured.  
 The suspect was arrested at the scene and all three were transported by various EMS agencies to Wichita hospitals for treatment, according to the sheriff's department.  
 The release also stated that, while responding to the incident, a Kingman County Sheriff's deputy was involved in a single vehicle crash on an unlit rural road. That deputy received minor injuries and was taken by EMS to a Wichita hospital, where the deputy was treated and released.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

*(Published in the Kingman Leader-Courier on Thursday, July 9, 2026) 1t*

**ORDINANCE NO. 445**  
 AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN LANDS LOCATED IN THE CITY OF NORWICH, KANSAS, UNDER THE AUTHORITY GRANTED BY ARTICLE 11 OF THE ZONING REGULATIONS OF THE CITY AS ORIGINALLY APPROVED BY ORDINANCE NO. 300.  
 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS THAT:  
 Section 1. Having received a recommendation from the City Planning Commission on Case No. Z0155-26, and proper notice having been given according to Article 11 Section 100 (E) and hearing held as provided by law and under authority of Article 11 Section 100 (F) and subject to the said provisions of the Zoning Regulations of the City as originally approved by Ordinance No. 300, the zoning district classification of the lands legally described hereby are changed as follows:  
 Change of zoning district classification from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to B-1 (Central Business District).  
 Legal description: Block 25, Lots 1,2,3 in the Original Town, Norwich, Kansas.  
 Generally located at: 203 S. Briarwood.  
 Section 2. Upon the taking effect of this Ordinance, the above zoning change shall be entered and shown on the Official Zoning Map(s) as previously adopted by reference and said map(s) is hereby reincorporated as a part of the Zoning Regulations as amended.  
 Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage, approval, and publication once in the official city newspaper.  
 PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS, THIS 6TH DAY OF JULY, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Mayor, Mitchell J. Hewitt  
 ATTEST:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City Clerk,  
 Carol Poe

**THANK YOU TO OUR WEEKLY ADVERTISERS, SUBSCRIBERS AND PATRONS FOR MAKING LOCAL NEWS POSSIBLE.**

# SPORTS

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

## Islanders Generate Hits But Not Runs in Recent Games

### STAFF REPORT

The Kingman Islanders lost five games this past week, three on the road and two at home.

On July 1, the Islanders lost to the Performance Factory Phenoms 4-1 in Wichita. The Islanders led 1-0 through five innings, then the Phenom scored three runs in the sixth and one more in the seventh.

The Phenoms had eight hits while the Islanders had four. Jesus Yanez and Connor Rowe each went 1-for-3 and Owen Schmidt and Josiah Schmidt each went 1-for-4.

Caleb Strong pitched five innings and gave up no runs off three hits with four walks and four strikeouts. Kane Ast pitched two

innings and gave up four runs off four hits with two walks and four strikeouts. Logan Snyder pitched one scoreless inning, giving up one hit.

Last Thursday, the Islanders lost on the road to the Great Bend Bat Cats 30-6. The Islanders had 10 hits while the Bat Cats had 29.

Yanez was 2-for-4 with a double and two runs batted in, Mitchel McDaniel was 1-for-3 with a double, Owen Schmidt was 2-for-3 and Josiah Schmidt and Mak Lerra each went 1-for-2 with one RBI.

Last Friday, the Islanders lost at home to the Bat Cats 5-0. The Islanders had nine hits but could never bring in runners, while the Bat

Cats had 12 hits and did enough to bring in runs. Great Bend scored twice in the fourth, once in the fifth and twice in the eighth.

Karston Wall was 2-for-4 with a double, Yanez was 2-for-4 and McDaniel was 3-for-4.

Ethan Reese pitched six innings and gave up three runs off eight hits with one walk and three strikeouts. Max Thimesch pitched three innings and gave up two runs off four hits with two walks and one strikeout.

On Monday, the Islanders lost at home to the Junction City Brigade 15-2. The Islanders had eight hits while the Brigade had 13, but the Brigade got more hits with runners in scoring position.

Owen Schmidt was 2-for-3, Jack Jewell was 2-for-4 with one RBI and Jack Schreiner was 1-for-2.

Julian Morrison pitched three innings and gave up seven runs off six hits with five walks and two strikeouts. Drew Stanton pitched three innings and gave up four runs off six hits with two walks and three strikeouts. Caydon Holly pitched two-thirds of an inning and gave up four runs off one hit with five walks. Jack Jewell got the final out on the mound.

The Islanders lost at Junction City 12-2. Again, the Islanders got plenty of hits but were unable to bring in runs. They had seven hits while the Brigade had 14.

Wall was 2-for-4 with a double,

Owen Schmidt was 2-for-3 and Josiah Schmidt, McDaniel and Snyder each went 1-for-3.

Snyder pitched three innings and gave up six runs off seven hits. McDaniel pitched two innings and gave up one run off two hits with two walks and three strikeouts. Wall gave up four runs, three earned, off four hits with one walk. Mason Munz pitched two-thirds of an inning and gave up one run off one hit with one walk and one strikeout.

The Islanders (2-21) were set to host the Derby Twins Wednesday, then play at Derby Thursday. They will then play at the Kansas Cannons on Sunday and host the Haysville Aviators this Tuesday.



BOB MORRIS / Leader-Courier

TOP LEFT: Kingman Islanders outfielder Owen Schmidt connects for a hit during the team's home game Monday against the Junction City Brigade. TOP RIGHT: Kingman Islanders pitcher Julian Morrison makes the delivery during the second inning. BOTTOM LEFT: Kingman Islanders catcher Jesus Yanez throws the ball back to the pitcher in between innings. BOTTOM RIGHT: Kingman Islanders third baseman Jack Jewell catches a fly ball during the third inning.

## MUNZ

• From Page 1

Mason has already taking a job as an assistant coach for Cisco College in Texas and said he didn't expect much of a change from being a player. But then he got to see more about what coaching was all about.

"What all the coaches actually have to do, and figuring out what you have to do behind the scenes, and all the talks about lineups, and all the talks about what we're gonna do this day, and what we're gonna do that day, it kind of was eye-opening to me," Mason said. "It's like, you don't realize how much work coaches actually put in for their players, for them to be successful."

"And here, we spend time and time, and it's like, we take kids traveling, because that's what our job is to do, and have kids travel with us, and we love it. I wouldn't say it's a job. I would say it's my lifestyle. If it was a job, I probably would quit, but being on this side has been eye-opening, and it's been fun."

Toby said it has been "eye opening: to see how well Mason relates to the players and talks with them during games. While there are

times that Mason has gotten "frustrated" with him, Toby said he wants his son to understand what coaching is all about.

"I'm trying to mentor him a little bit more, and show him the ropes, and learn some of those things that maybe it won't take until he's 45 or 50 years old to figure out, that I had to, and show him some of those things at a younger age that help him be more successful, not just as a coach, but just as a human being, and as a young man," Toby said.

"So, just mentoring him, and working with him, and hopefully, he may make a little bit more money than me someday, but gets more wins than me, too, and just have some success as an adult."

Mason said he has learned a lot from his father about what's involved with coaching.

"I came into it with an open mind, and I thought it would be a lot more stressful, and a lot more, we'd get a little bit more heated," Mason said, "but it's actually been, I learned a lot how to take a step back, and him letting me do the lineups has also helped me out, like, reading players, knowing what players are doing,



LEFT: Kingman Islanders coach Mason Munz visits with the umpires prior to the start of the June 29 game against the Performance Factory Phenoms at Riverside Park. RIGHT: Kingman Islanders coach Toby Munz, right, talks to Islanders player Connor Rowe after he reaches first base on a hit. The Munz father-and-son duo are guiding the Islanders this summer, after Mason Munz played for the Islanders the past four summers.

it just helps me out not just here, but at the next level."

Toby said he is happy that Mason got his opportunity to coach at Cisco College and he thinks he'll do well. At the same time, he's glad his son chose to come coach the Islanders this summer.

"I'm just real proud of him, but I'm hoping to see some real jumps from him, even at the juco level, because he turned down sever-

al things to come back here to Kingman, which makes me real proud that he wanted to come back here and give back to a place that we gave him so much," Toby said, "and so him coming back here meant a lot, meant a lot for me as a dad, but also as his former coach, and wanting to come back here to Kingman and give back, so I'm pretty proud of that."

Mason said he plans to return next summer to coach the Islanders again.

"I want to make this a good program, and I want to start making people think of the Kingman Islanders differently, and that's kind of a goal," Mason said. "I mean, it's a Munz thing, so it'd be really fun to turn this thing around and want people to be an Islander instead."

Toby said, as the Island-

ers enter their final month of play, he hopes that Mason can do more on the coaching side of things.

"Just letting him take a little bit more control, more and more as the season gets going in the coming month, to being a good coach and being a better young man and an adult, and giving back to, like I said, giving back to a place that's given him a lot, too," Toby said.



JASON JUMP / Leader-Courier

# FOURTH OF JULY

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



# NEWS

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



STEPHANIE JUMP / Leader-Courier

## Street Closure: Main, B Ave. Closed for Culvert Project

The intersection of Main Street and B Avenue was closed on Wednesday, the start of a month-long closure while crews work on the culvert project. The project is to overhaul the underground storm drainage system and the intersection is estimated to reopen for traffic in about one month. Parking is still available downtown and the city of Kingman posted on Facebook that the Kingman Police Department will not be enforcing J-turns until the intersection is reopened. Traffic is being diverted down Spruce and Cedar Streets as a detour until the intersection reopens.

## 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.

## PUZZLE ANSWERS

HEALED PSALMS  
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AB ECONOMIC MO  
GIMPY TAP HEDIN  
UTAH SAFES SETA  
ESC TIL RIB COT  
AMAS REDONE  
CORAL RUNES  
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SEN ROB PAR RAM  
CRIB TACET PORE  
ASSAI SSR TALCS  
RESOLICITOR HA  
ALMANAC LEGUMES  
LILACS STASES

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

## PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in the Kingman Leader-Courier on Thursday, July 9, 2026) 1t

NOTICE OF HEARING TO EXCEED REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE AND BUDGET HEARING  
The governing body of South Central Kansas Library System, Kingman, Reno County  
will meet on August 21, 2026 at 9:00 AM at SCKLS, 321 N. Main, South Hutchinson, KS for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to be levied and Revenue Neutral Rate. Detailed budget information is available at SCKLS, 321 N. Main, South Hutchinson, KS and will be available at this hearing.  
SUPPORTING COUNTIES  
Reno County (Home county) Harper, Stafford, Kingman, Rice, Harvey, Cowley, Sumner, Barber, McPherson, Butler, Sedgwick  
BUDGET SUMMARY  
Proposed Budget 2027 Expenditures and Amount of Current Year Estimate for 2026 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2027 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUNDS	Prior Year Actual for 2025		Current Year Estimate for 2026		Proposed Budget Year for 2027		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Amount of 2026 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*	
General	3,223,426	1.001	3,763,630	1.062	7,090,194	3,613,901	1.062
Debt Service							
Employee Benefits	274,509	0.849	409,333	0.898	513,838	335,029	0.898
Capital Improvement	73,211		75,000		839,825		
Non-Budgeted Funds	217,634						
Totals	3,785,861	1.160	4,247,962	1.160	8,451,857	3,948,930	1.160
Revenue Neutral Rate**							1.093
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditures	3,785,861		4,247,962		8,451,857		
Total Tax Levied	3,594,235		3,734,866		XXXXXXX		
Assessed Valuation	3,099,698,497		3,216,588,887		3,401,575,743		

Outstanding Indebtedness:  
Jan 1, 2024: 0  
G.O. Bonds: 0  
Revenue Bonds: 0  
Other: 0  
Lease (Inc. Princ): 0  
Total: 0

\*Tax rates are expressed in mills.  
\*\*Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by RSA 79-2988  
Paul Hawkins, Director  
No assurance is provided.

## LEGAL NOTICE

(First published in the Kingman Leader-Courier on Thursday, June 25, 2026) 3t

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:  
CARSON T. WILLSIE,

Case No. KM 2026 PR 17

Deceased.  
(Petition Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)

### NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Martha Janette Kitchens Willsie, an heir of Carson T. Willsie, deceased, praying:

Descent be determined of the following described real estate, situated in Kingman County, Kansas:

Lots 238, 240, 242 and 244 on Main Street North, in North Addition to the City of Kingman, Kingman County, Kansas AND

All that part of the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (NW/4 SW/4) of Section Thirty-two (32), Township Twenty-seven (27) South, Range Seven (7) West of the 6th P.M., Kingman County, Kansas, that lies and is situated East of Main Street North, in the City of Kingman, Kansas, as shown by the recorded plat thereof, and West of Lots 238, 240, 242 and 244 on Main Street North, North Addition to the City of Kingman, Kansas, as shown by the recorded plat thereof and more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest corner of Lot 238, Main

Street North, in North Addition to the City of Kingman, Kansas; thence West on the extended South line of Lot 238 Main Street in North Addition to the City of Kingman to the East line of Main Street, as condemned and laid out by Ordinance No. 125 of the City of Kingman, Kansas; thence North adjacent to the East side of Main Street as aforesaid to the extended North line of Lot 244, Main Street in North Addition to the City of Kingman, Kansas; thence East to Northwest corner of Lot 244 Main Street in North Addition to Kingman, Kansas, as shown by the recorded plat thereof; thence South on the West line of said Lots 244, 242, 240 and 238 to the place of beginning.

and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by decedent at the time of death. And that such property and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by the decedent at the time of death be assigned pursuant to the laws of intestate succession.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before July 20, 2026 at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in the city of Kingman, in 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.

Martha Janette Kitchens Willsie  
Petitioner

BY: Matthew W. Ricke  
349 N. Main, PO Box 113  
Kingman, KS 67068  
(620) 532-3103  
Attorney for Petitioner

THANK YOU TO OUR WEEKLY ADVERTISERS, SUBSCRIBERS AND PATRONS FOR MAKING LOCAL NEWS POSSIBLE.

# NEWS

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

## COUNTY

• From Page 1

“Here’s what I can tell you — 100 percent of handbooks that have not been done by a professional are wrong,” Dwyer said. “So I would start there. I would say, it’s kind of like building a house. You’ve got to start with the foundation.”

“You’ve got to have a strong foundation. If you don’t have that strong founda-

tion, then my hands are tied and I’m very limited in what I can do. Tear it down, start with a new handbook, build it back up.”

She said the next step would be to have employee meetings about the new handbook, so employees learn the expectations. Dwyer added that having an organizational chart would be useful, so people understand who they report to.

Also, Dwyer said, an I-9

audit would be necessary to make sure those forms were correctly handled. An I-9 form is used to verify the identity and legal authorization of a new employee to work in the United States.

She said she could also look at positions to determine if some are top heavy, others are bottom heavy and how duties might be better shifted.

“Do you have somebody that doesn’t have enough to

do?” Dwyer said. “Do you have somebody that’s overwhelmed and they can’t get their work done? What do we need to do to help these people?”

“And sometimes I have to make unpopular decisions. But when I tell you, I give you an opinion, there’s always a why. I don’t just give you the opinion and say, that’s it. I will always give you the why — why I think it’s important and why I think

you should do it. And what could possibly happen.”

Currently, Tiffany Aumiller holds the duties of payroll and benefits administrator. She was present at the meeting when Dwyer met with the commissioners. Thimesch said Aumiller has done a good job with her duties but wasn’t interested in HR duties. Dwyer said she understood, noting that payroll and human resources are two different things.

One thing Dwyer said an HR person can do is help with a sit-down interview and understand what questions to ask. That person can also do exit interviews to understand why they are leaving and what might need to be changed at the office, if anything.

After discussion, Thimesch made a motion to have Dwyer start with the county handbook and I-9 files, which passed 3-0.

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### 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

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142 N. Main St.  
Kingman, KS 67068  
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jon.wollen.g7g6@statefarm.com

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# NEWS

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

## SCHRAG

• From Page 1

stores to create public art and strengthen community gathering places.

Schrag said the invitation to the conference came after Kate Van Steenhuyse, assistant director of the Kansas Arts Commission, submitted a proposal to present at the conference. That session focused on how state art agencies can serve as a catalyst for economic and community development in rural communities. Kingman was invited to participate through its involvement through the Engaging Placemaking for Innovative Communities (EPIC) program, through which Kingman, Norwich and Cunningham created the Planes on the Plains project.

She called the chance to attend the International Placemaking Conference “an incredible opportunity” to represent Kingman and the state.

“The event brought together community leaders, planners, artists, and economic development professionals from around the world who are all working toward the same goal of creating communities where people want to live, work, invest, and vis-

it,” Schrag said.

“I was especially grateful for the opportunity because it was made possible through funding provided by the Kansas Arts Commission. Without that support, attending an international conference like this would likely not have been feasible for a community our size. It allowed Kingman to share one of our success stories while also bringing back ideas and best practices that can benefit our community for years to come.”

She added, “It was also encouraging to see that communities of every size are facing many of the same challenges. While the scale may be different, the conversations about attracting investment, supporting local businesses, and creating vibrant public spaces were remarkably similar to the conversations we’re having here in Kingman.”

While at the conference, Schrag learned more about the challenges Detroit faced and that those were similar to rural communities. She noted that Detroit experienced population decline, the loss of businesses and a shrinking tax base.

“Through intentional investments in public spaces,

placemaking, and neighborhood revitalization, the city has changed that trajectory and is now experiencing growth and renewed private investment,” Schrag said.

She said that, while Kingman’s challenges are on a much smaller scale, she sees many of those same principles at work here.

“Communities don’t grow by accident,” Schrag said. “They grow because they make thoughtful investments in creating places where people want to be.”

She noted that residential utility accounts have increased from a low of 1,559 in 2018 to 1,594 in 2025, while community utility accounts have increased from 310 in 2019 to 317 in 2025. Schrag added that the community has experienced enough economic growth to the point that Kingman no longer qualifies for several grant programs previously available.

“While that means fewer funding opportunities, it is also an indication that our community continues to move in a positive direction,” Schrag said.

The conference also reinforced that placemaking is better than beautification, Schrag said, as placemaking

is an economic development strategy.

“Investments in our downtown, parks, public art, community events, and other quality-of-life projects help create places where people want to spend time, businesses want to invest, and families choose to call home,” Schrag said.

“Those are the same principles we are continuing to apply in Kingman, and it is encouraging to see measurable signs that we are moving in the right direction.”

Schrag thanked the Kansas Arts Commission for making the opportunity possible and recognizing the work taking place in Kingman. She also thanked partners in Cunningham and Norwich, the members of the EPIC committee, sponsors and everyone who helped with the Planes on the Plains project.

“I would especially like to recognize our lead artist, Robert Shea,” Schrag said. “Robert passed away before the final sculpture was completed and installed, but his vision and creativity will remain a lasting part of these communities for generations to come. It was an honor to share his work and the story of this project on an international stage.”

## SCKAA MEALS

Please call 620-553-4177 for meal reservations

**Monday, July 13:** BBQ chicken pizza, corn, garden salad, cookie, canned pears, milk

**Tuesday, July 14:** Fish sandwich, tator tots, carrots, mixed fruit, milk

**Wednesday, July 15:** Biscuits, casserole, German mixed vegetables, blushing

pears, bread pudding, milk  
**Thursday, July 16:** Chicken fried steak sandwich, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, cantaloupe, roll, milk

**Friday, July 17:** Cheesy ham potato bake, parmesan baked zucchini squash, applesauce, Jello, bread, milk

## CARD SHOWER

Help me wish Pauline Harbert a happy 95th birthday on 7/28/26 requesting a card shower. Cards can be sent to 5071 SW 90th Ave. Cunningham KS 67035.



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### 11 Years Ago

The Kingman County Commissioners learned that health insurance premiums for 2016 would increase by more than 50 percent, but Blue Cross and Blue Shield representatives had warned the commissioners earlier in the year that rate increases were likely. Mark Schnittker and his dog “Little Man” entertained viewers of the Fourth of July parade, with Schnittker holding out treats as the dog jumped through a hoop. The Kingman Police Department investigated the theft of a sandstone marker from Hole No. 4 at the Kingman golf course. Commander Brian M. Stites, son of Fred and Margaret Gillen, was named the Commanding Officer of the Naval Reserve Unit, Science and Technology 106, which supports the Office of Naval Research and the Naval Research Laboratory. Parker Maloney and Sada Smith received the 2015 Kingman Lions Club Student Athlete of the Year awards and scholarships. Anna Livingston, Cassie Balkenbush and Jayden Garrison were among those receiving Swimmers of the Year awards after the swim season finals at Pratt.

### 35 Years Ago

1991 Kingman High School graduate Brent Strong received an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. Joe Thieme, John Albers and Christy Albers were among the many carrying U.S. flags down Main Street during the annual Kingman Fourth of July parade. The Kingman Pizza Hut softball team won the Newton Chisholm Trail Softball Tournament and advanced to the state tournament. John Rosacker,

research analyst for the Bureau of Rail Affairs for the Kansas Department of Transportation, said that the sale of 830 miles of the Santa Fe Railway line to a Chicago area railroad company was still expected to go through. The USD 331 Board of Education opted to rescind a vote earlier in the year to implement a seven-period day at Kingman High School. The Kingman County Commissioners signed a permit to Ronald Brozek to erect a house in the Bomholt Addition of the Evan Township. Gary Nye and Brent Wood competed in the Pratt Junior College Summer Basketball League.

### 60 Years Ago

Gene Shay was elected president of the USD 331 Board of Education, Dwight Stephens was elected vice president and John Boyer as treasurer. A drought and high temperatures meant a large increase in electric and water consumption; the City of Kingman showed an average home consumption of 322 kilowatts of electricity, a 25 percent increase from the year before, and an average water usage of 14,800 gallons, a 128 percent increase. Marvin Rehiss of Douglass won the Kingman Recreation Commission horseshoes tournament. Robert Belt left Kingman for the Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, where he was to be stationed for six weeks, then return to Kansas to be stationed at the McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita. Dale Anderson of Kingman was photographed sweeping broken soft drink bottles toward the curb at the intersection of Broadway and Avenue A after 12 cases of pop fell from a delivery

truck. Congressman Garner Shriver stopped by the Leader-Courier, along with 4th District Republican Committee Chairman Ken Bruce, to visit with publisher Merle Butcher. Jean Brady, Carolyn Witt, Lynn Meyers and Joyce Young were selected to attend the Farm Bureau Citizenship Seminar in Rock Springs.

### 85 Years Ago

Former Kingman resident Wilbur Lee O’Dell, who served as governor of Texas, was close to securing election to the United States Senate. Chas Lower and Wallace Griffen showed off the many appliances available for sale at the newly-opened Griffen Appliance Company. Lester H. Brown was named the new music teacher for Kingman schools and Miss Winifred Pinkerton was named the new third-grade teacher. A crowd estimated as high as 10,000 people watched the Fourth of July fireworks display at Riverside Park. Judge Clark Wallace, chairman of the Kingman County Red Cross, called an organizational meeting to select new officers for the coming year. V.L. Cline headed up the local efforts to collect aluminum to assist the United States with in reducing the temporary shortage of metal. A home nursing course, limited to 20 students, was offered in the Methodist church basement with Myrtle Kuhns as instructor. Frank Meade, proprietor of the Meade Theatre, announced that a Founder’s Birthday Party would be held each year on July 14 in memory of his father, S.F. Meade. Safeway advertised hams for 25 cents per pound.

## GUN AUCTION

ANTHONY POLICE DEPARTMENT - SELLER -  
FRIDAY JULY 17TH 6:00 PM - 202 S. BLUFF, ANTHONY, KS

### Long Guns.


- 500 Mossberg 12g V0036011
- Sturm Ruger 033 LR
- Remington “Wingmaster742” 30-06 7212645
- Harrington & Richardson youth 20g. AZ53A047
- 500A Mossberg with folding stock 12g P147498
- Western Field Mont. Ward C-Lect-Choke 12g. H272598
- 702 Mossberg “Plinkster” .22LR ENJ4058233
- Brasileria de Cartuchas .410 Mod. SB C96472
- Ruger 10/22 356-59610 Carbine Stock
- 100 ATR Mossberg 30-06 BA031878

### Hand Guns

- Ruger Redhawk .44 Mag. 501-34505
- Mod. P-380 Davis Industries .380 Auto AP 181042
- Mod. 84 Pietro Beretta .380 B12066Y
- S&W 9mm M&P HWK0232
- Raven Arms Mod. MP-25, .25 Auto. 1341154
- L.A. Western .22 Rev. (German made by JP Sauer & Sohn) A5858
- P 250 Sig Sauer 9mm EAK 128318
- CDM Prob. Inc. 22 272478
- Raven Arms Mod p-25 .25 Auto
- Taurus PT-908 9mm TMA 93521D
- Ruger P-95 9mm 318-11091
- Item has been removed from auction.
- RG Industries Mod RG14 .22, L726741
- Interarms Star Eibar .45ACP 2064592
- KelTec 9mm Lug SE 334
- Glock 43, 9mm BC21577
- Ruger Super Single Six .22LR 60-68914
- Hi-Point Mod CF380, .380 ACP

AMMO - Approximately 3500 rounds of new .40 S&W

TERMS: All items sold as is. Cash or check accepted as payment the day of the auction. Buyers must be 18 or older to purchase a long gun and 21 or older to purchase a hand gun. Buyer must be in good standing with the ATF and State of Kansas and must be a resident of Kansas to purchase a firearm. There are no small items, we will start the auction with guns and end with ammo. DON'T BE LATE!



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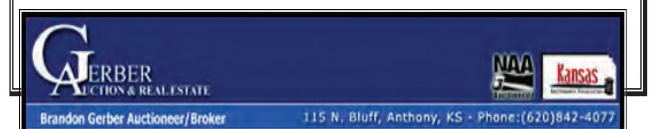
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