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Kingman

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# County Reviews First Draft of Solar Energy Regulations

BY BOB MORRIS  
Managing Editor

The Kingman County commissioners Monday reviewed the first draft of regulations for the application process for solar energy systems.

Field appraiser Amanda Stucky said that the regulations will still need input from the planning and zoning commission, along with the county commissioners, before they are finalized.

The regulations discuss the pur-

pose and intent behind the application for a special use permit to build a solar energy system (SES) in the county. The regulations do not apply to the installation of small-scale systems for homes or businesses, defined as rooftop systems or small-scale ground mounted systems. The latter would require a zoning permit, though.

But a commercial intermediate scale SES that occupies between five and 25 acres of ground mounted panels, and a large-scale SES that occupies more than 25 acres,

would require a public hearing by the board of zoning appeals for approval of a special use permit.

The first draft calls for a development plan to be presented and recommends consultation with the planning and zoning administrator.

Issues the first draft calls for considering before approving a special use permit include current and future land use and values, visual impact, bird migration, endangered species, wildlife habitat, soil erosion, water quality, company experience, public health and safety,

infrastructure, aviation and other factors.

Also, no certificate of zoning compliance would be issued until the applicant has secured a power purchase agreement for electricity generated.

Requirements for approval include how the solar farm will be accessed, setbacks from dwellings and other structures, safety fencing, signage, electrical connections and safe installation. Panels may not exceed 15 feet in height, per the first draft.

County Commissioner Jack Thimesch said it would be good to visit more with neighboring counties about what they have in place, to ensure that Kingman County is similar to them.

Stucky noted that other counties have visited with her, including Johnson County, about what Kingman County might consider in SES regulations.

She added it will be a while before the planning and zoning

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BOB MORRIS / Leader-Courier

## Community Service: KHS Students Give Back

Kingman High School held its annual community service day last Wednesday, April 30. Students helped with various projects in the city, such as washing the fire trucks for Kingman Fire Department (top) and clearing out items from the USD 331 district building (bottom) that is in the process of being sold and vacated. Students also helped with projects at the high school, Wheatlands Health Care Center, Kingman County Humane Society, 360 Total Fitness and at Depot and Riverside parks.

## County OKs Reimbursing Some Money for Zenda Fire Department Radios

BY BOB MORRIS  
Managing Editor

The Kingman County commissioners approved reimbursing the city of Zenda for money that came out of the pocket of the new fire chief for equipment related to the purchase of new radios for the Zenda Fire Department.

County commissioner Jack Thimesch explained that the fire department has a new fire chief and treasurer and, during the switchover to new leadership, the city received a grant with a 50 percent match to purchase new radios.

Thimesch said that led to a conversation with County Emergency Manager Macay Ewe, who recommended a business out of Wichita to purchase brackets, antennas and microphones. The fire chief paid that money and turned it into the treasurer for reimbursement, but Thimesch suggested that the county cover that cost.

The cost of the brackets, antennas and microphones came to \$1,068.

He said if another county fire department went out to seek a similar deal, the county would be “foolish not to talk about” helping that department with covering such expenditures.

The county recently purchased and installed a new 800 MHz radio tower at the county landfill to provide better coverage for the county.

In a related matter, the county commissioners mentioned an email they received from NextEra, which is planning to make donations to local fire departments. Thimesch noted that NextEra has donated to county fire departments before.

In one example, NextEra is planning to donate money to the Zenda Fire Department for repairs and restoration work at the fire station.

The Kingman County commissioners will meet again this Monday, May 12 at 8:30 a.m. County meetings are open to the public.

# Kingman, Norwich Educators Receive Innovative Learning Grants

### PRESS RELEASE

South Central Community Foundation has announced the 2025 Kingman/Norwich Innovative Learning Grant recipients.

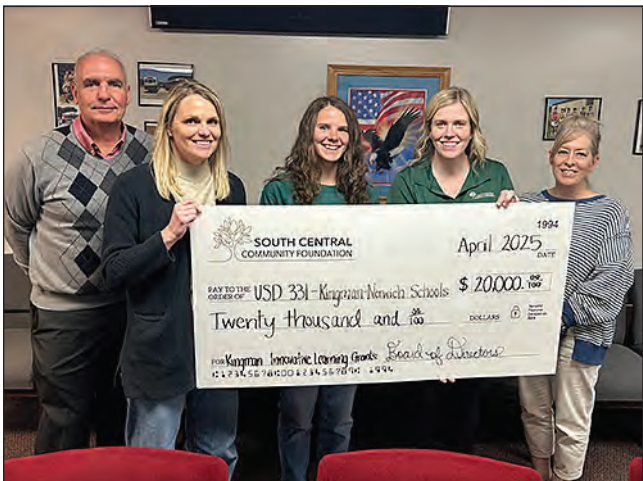
Starting in 2023 by the USD 331 Enrichment Foundation, this fund helps to encourage projects that increase innovative learning, provide opportunities and exposure to arts, humanities, or leadership training to both students and teachers.

This year, the local grant committees awarded \$20,000 each to Kingman and Norwich schools for multiple projects. This annual grant application will be available in August each year with a deadline at the end of February.

Kingman innovative grant recipients are:

- Financial Literacy - Jon Spexarth, fifth and sixth grades, \$430.
- Roots of Learning: Cultivating Knowledge with Hydroponics - Kristen Turner, second grade, \$429.
- Orff Instruments - Arlyn Knapic, first through sixth grades, \$2,961.
- Safe & Civil Schools Professional Development -

South Central Community Foundation awarded \$20,000 each to Kingman and Norwich schools in Innovative Learning Grants. LEFT: Presenting the awards to Kingman were committee members (L to R) Jon Wollen, Sara Adelhardt, Morgan Freund, Holly Launchbaugh and Stacey Walters. RIGHT: Presenting the awards to Norwich were committee members (L to R) Kruce Liddeke, Holly Launchbaugh, Alayna Reese, Kerri Hansford and Audra Hudspeth.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

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