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USD 331 Makes Reduced ‘As Is’ Counter Offer for District Building

BY BOB MORRIS
Managing Editor

The USD 331 Board of Education will move forward with offering the current district office building as is to a potential buyer but at a price much lower than the listing price. If the buyer who made the initial offer decides against moving forward, the district would agree to let the buyer out of a pending sales agreement and release the money the buyer put into escrow. The board’s motion at its Mon-

day meeting was to make a counteroffer to the potential buyer who made an offer last month, in which the building would be sold as is, but at a lower price than what the buyer offered. The direction was to give the buyer 24 hours to decide whether or not to accept the counteroffer. If the potential buyer decided not to do so, the district would allow the buyer to move on and then offer the building for sale as is at a much lower price than originally listed. The vote to move forward was

4-1 with board President Tab Turner, board Vice President Kristi Brown and board members Angie Maloney and Jeff Samuelson voting “yes” and board member Melissa Tetrick voting “no.” Tetrick didn’t not offer a reason for her vote. Board members Leesa Beam and Errica Parsons were absent from Monday’s meeting. The building has been offered for sale at Floyd Auction and Real Estate with a listing price of \$139,900. The board had hoped to use the proceeds from a sale to cover costs of

remodeling a portion of Kingman Elementary School to serve as the new district offices. USD 331 Superintendent Kevin Hansford indicated that the district had capital outlay funds available to cover that cost. He added that the district would still have to do heating, ventilation and air conditioning repairs at Kingman Elementary for the portion that would serve as the district office. Assistant Superintendent Andy Albright told the board that two individuals who were in Kingman

to examine another brick building noticed the district building was up for sale and asked to look at it for a proposal for repairs. Those individuals informed the district that the building needed additional repairs. The potential buyer was aware of an issue with the wall but had an engineering firm examine the building for any other issues. Albright said the district still hadn’t received an official report from that firm.

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City Ponders How to Allow UTVs Access Into Riverside Park

BY BOB MORRIS
Managing Editor

The Kingman city commission Thursday tabled a revised UTV ordinance because it wanted to get clarification on what can be done to allow people who drive UTVs to access Riverside Park. At a previous meeting, Vice Mayor Tracy Winsor had requested making a couple of changes to the ordinance after conversations with Police Chief David Lux. Those changes would increase the speed limit restriction from 30 to 40 miles per hour and remove the requirement that drivers be at least 18 years old, but require them to have a valid driver’s license. During public comment, city resident Danny McDorman mentioned that he had been told by an officer that he could not drive a UTV on Main Street south of U.S. Highway 54-400. He asked if the ordinance could address that. McDorman noted that there are people who would like to drive UTVs to Riverside Park, but the only way to access the park within the city limits is to travel down Main Street and across the bridge. When the ordinance itself came up on the agenda, City Commissioner Adrian Harrel mentioned it was a “weird situation” because it shouldn’t be an issue to allow people to drive UTVs to Riverside Park. He said he didn’t want to force people to drive a long way around just to access the park. City Attorney Cody Smith said that the issue is that South Main Street is a state highway and state law does not allow people to drive UTVs on a state highway. He said that the city can go beyond what state law allows but the city cannot opt out of a state law. This led to discussion about what happens if one is crossing a highway while riding in a UTV or what it may mean if someone driving a UTV uses a section of a road designated as a highway to access another location. Harrel noted that the South Main Street bridge over the Ninescah River is not only the lone access point to Riverside Park in the city limits, but the lone access point

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BOB MORRIS / Leader-Courier

USD 331 Graduation: Kingman, Norwich Seniors Get Diplomas

TOP: Kingman High School Class of 2025 members throw their hats into the air after receiving their diplomas during Saturday’s graduation ceremony. Sophia Kaufman was the valedictorian for the KHS Class of 2025, Colby Arensdorf was the salutatorian and Morgan Freund received high honors. BOTTOM: The Norwich High School Class of 2025 members opted to set off confetti poppers for the most part to conclude their graduation ceremony. Alayna Reese and Kruce Liddeke shared valedictorian honors for the NHS Class of 2025 while Kyler Murphy was the salutatorian.

Thimesch: Hubbell Should Pay for IT Services Out of Her Own Wages

BY JASON JUMP
Staff Writer

Kingman County District #3 Commissioner Jack Thimesch said Monday morning he has become so frustrated with the current IT situation that Register of Deeds Susan Hubbell needs to pay for her department’s IT bill out of her own pocket. The squabble between the Register of Deeds office and

the board of commissioners stems from a decision by the commissioners to change IT service providers, however, Hubbell opted to stay with the previous vendor, having told the commissioners that the new provider was unable to provide her services, after saying her department had to comply with certain state requirements. County Financial Officer LaDawn Stegman and

County Treasurer Jamie Smith made the commissioners aware of a need to replace outdated computers in September 2024, while the county was seeking bids for IT services. Eventually the county voted to switch from Integris to Reach IT Solutions. Both companies reportedly told the county it was a good idea for all departments to be under the same umbrella

as far as computer security goes, according to an article in the *Kingman Leader-Courier* on Dec. 5, 2024. However, Hubbell continues to use Integris, having previously told the commissioners that Reach IT representatives informed her they would not be able to provide her services. Former County Commissioner Jerry Henning requested a policy to be imple-

mented to make all county departments utilize the same IT provider. That policy was passed in late December of last year, however, the resolution did not contain any enforcement mechanism. The county has two unpaid bills for Integris, which includes fees for shutting down service and equipment pick up from all the county departments except the Register of Deeds office, as

well as some hourly support charges. “We switched to a Reach company for our IT protection . . . one entity did not go along with that ride so now we are getting a bill from Integris too,” District #1 Commissioner Jack Thimesch said Monday morning. “As commissioners we made a policy to change and the

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NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK (MAY 11-17)
In recognition of National Hospital Week, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to our staff, volunteers, and board members for their contributions that make Kingman Healthcare Center truly exceptional. We also wish to thank our patients for placing their trust in us to care for their health and wellness needs.

