

NEWS

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

WAGES

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policy was to use Reach and now we’re getting two bills, which is costing the taxpayers more dollars.

“We’re sitting on some bills here that that as far as I’m concerned will not be paid. She can come down and visit with us, and we can talk about it some more.”

Thimesch said he is having a hard time approving payment for bills “that we did not agree to.” He said there was never a contract signed.

County Clerk Carol Noblit said Hubbell told her the Register of Deeds office is no longer under a contract but is utilizing Integris’ services on a per-hour basis, which costs the county \$150 per hour for services rendered.

“That was her choice,” Thimesch said. “As far as

I’m concerned, she can pay it out of her own wages.”

District #3 Commissioner Pat Elpers said he agreed “100 percent.”

Thimesch told his fellow board members if the county continues to allow each department to make their own decisions despite what the board votes to do it will “divide this place” into a hundred different pieces.

“When you’re talking about security here, you’re making us more open to getting breached by having two (security) companies I feel,” Thimesch said. “I’m almost to the point we need to call Integris down there and say ‘we are not going to pay this bill,’ so she needs to work it out up there so we can quit talking about that check that we’ve been holding forever because she’s not coming down (to talk to us).”

Board Chairwoman Julie

Lyon said she would like to bring a representative from Integris into a future meeting to discuss the situation. Elpers said he didn’t want them here in person because they would “charge us \$150 per hour.”

“I would just send them a letter,” he said. “I just think we need to start with a letter to Integris, which says we no longer need them and see what happens.”

County Counselor Brandon Ritcha said his No. 1 concern was what the consequences may be for the county if they continue to hold out payment.

The board continued to discuss whether or not payment would be made for the off-boarding portion of the services rendered since that was part of the original agreement Integris had with the county.

“What is this going to cost

us later on if she did not get off when the rest of yous got off?” Thimesch asked. “We’ve got this bill for that. Are we going to get another bill later when she does have to?”

“She’s costing us money every day.”

Ritcha said the county could start with a letter to “clarify terms” of the meeting and to see if it would cost the county to have a representative come in person for discussions. He told commissioners he would provide a letter the board can review.

“I’m a little concerned as bad as this is getting, I hope Reach is willing to take them otherwise we are going to be looking for a whole new company,” Thimesch said. “This is not the way business should be done.

“Looking back on it, we should have never ever allowed it.”

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But Albright added it would be important for the potential buyer to know about what the individuals who examined the building had found and for the district to consider the next steps.

After considering the available information and visiting with Mike Floyd, Albright said he would recommend the board make a counteroffer to sell the building as is but at a much lower price than what

the buyer offered.

Albright added that, if the district did make the repairs, that would still be money the district must spend, even with a sale of the building.

Or as Brown put it during discussion, “Simply making the repairs would not add value” to the building and it would be a “sunk cost.”

Maloney brought up the district’s plan to use proceeds from the building sale for the planned work at Kingman Elementary and Hansford said the district should have money

available.

But Hansford said it didn’t make sense for the district to keep possession of the current district office building. He said there may have been a time when the district needed the space, but that is no longer the case.

“There is no benefit to investing in this particular building,” Hansford said.

As for the elementary building, for which the planned district office location are classrooms no longer being utilized, Hansford said the dis-

trict intends to keep that building for the foreseeable future.

Turner noted that the district had recently spent an additional \$75,000 to buy down its property insurance and questioned whether it made sense to spend a significant sum on repairs and continue to pay maintenance on the current district office building.

Brown agreed, saying that spending potentially \$60,000 or more on repairs and another \$30,000 per year on maintenance for the building “seems asinine to me.”

CITY

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for all of the south part of Kingman. He said there have been discussions before about ensuring emergency vehicles can access that part of Kingman and what happens if there is an issue with the bridge.

Smith said the city may need to visit with state legislators to get the law changed. He said he understood the situation, in that South Main Street within the city limits has a speed limit between 20 and 30 miles per hour, while highways sections outside the city have faster speed limits.

City Manager Greg Graffman suggested visiting with the Kansas Department of Transportation about the issue. He said he had no problem with talking to Smith more about the law and how it applies.

In other business, the city

took no action on any changes to its parking ordinance regarding vehicles that transport hazardous materials. This happened in response to an issue with Stephen Watts parking a hazardous material trailer on his property, at which other residential properties are nearby.

Smith told the commissioners that the federal regulations are mainly designed to regulate parking on public right of way, but they do not address parking on private property. He noted that state fire codes supplement those federal regulations through setback and zoning-based parking requirements.

Additionally, Smith said, there could still be issues because the federal regulations state a vehicle is only considered attended if the drive is awake, within 100 feet of the vehicle and has an unobstructed view of it.

Smith added there are concerns about public safe-

ty with hazardous material trailers, even when empty, because of the risk of residual vapors, fire hazard and explosion risks.

Fire Chief Shae Brooks told the city commissioners that she would be hesitant to change city ordinances pertaining to hazardous material trailers. She said there was a situation in Nickerson in which somebody drove through the city transporting such material and residents experienced issues after they could smell the chemicals.

Lux told the commissioners that, while he was concerned about the risks involved with such trailers, he understood that Watts needed the trailer for his business. Lux noted that, in a rural area, there will be people who do business with farmers and sometimes will deal in chemicals that farmers need.

Lux said whatever the city decided wouldn’t be an “easy

decision” because any decision could impact people either way, but he told the commissioners he would enforce whatever the city passes.

Watts spoke to the commissioners and noted that, under current city ordinance, there’s nowhere for anyone to park such a trailer within the city limits, even the city-owned lot designated for truck parking on South Main Street. He wondered where he would be able to park his trailer and be in compliance with ordinances as currently written.

Harrel acknowledged that this was a situation in which there is “no good way to solve it.” He said the issue is trying to find a way for people who make a living in dealing with such chemicals, but having nowhere to park vehicles in which chemicals are stored, and the only way he could think of it to solve it is to acquire more land to park them.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

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Kingman Public Transportation

305 North Cedar, Kingman, Kan.

Office (620) 532-5744



Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
First Come...First Serve

Funded in Part by KDOT Public Transportation Program

LEGAL NOTICE

(First published in the Kingman Leader-Courier on Thursday, May 15, 2025) 3t

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT, KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

In the Matter of the Estate of
KAREN LOU ROCHA,
Deceased

Case No. KM-2025-PR-000020
(Filed 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 LouWauna Obert, an heir of Karen Lou Rocha, deceased, requesting:

Descent be determined of a term royalty interest in the amount of .00846354167 for a term of 10 years from May 1, 1976 and as long thereafter as production continues from the following described real property, to-wit:

The Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (NW/4 SW/4); the East Half of the Southwest Quarter (E/2 SW/4) and the Southeast Quarter (SE/4) of Section 34, Township 29 South, Range 7 West of the 6th P.M., Kingman County, Kansas

and all other Kansas real estate and personal property owned by decedent at the time of death. And that such 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 to the Petition on or before June 9, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. in Kingman, Kingman County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

LouWauna Obert
Petitioner

JOHNSTON, EISENHAUER, EISENHAUER
& LYNCH, LLC
113 E. Third - PO Box 825
Pratt, KS 67124
620/672-5533
Attorneys for Petitioner

PUBLIC NOTICE

(First published in the Kingman Leader-Courier on Thursday, May 15, 2025) 3t

ELECTION NOTICE:

TO ALL RESIDENTS OF ALL INCORPORATED CITIES IN KINGMAN COUNTY BEING:

Cunningham City, Kingman City, Nashville City, Norwich City, Penalosa City, Spivey City and Zenda City.

To those persons living in these cities, there will be a General Election for mayors and city councilmen on Tuesday, November 4th, 2025, for persons to be elected to fill such offices. A Primary Election, if needed, for any positions will be held on August 5th, 2025.

The filing deadline for said positions will be at 12:00 NOON on Monday, June 2nd, 2025. The place of filing will be with the County Clerk located in the Kingman County Courthouse. Filing fee for these positions will be \$20.00 per candidate.

Dated this 7th day of May, 2025.

Carol D. Noblit

Kingman County Election Officer

TO ALL RESIDENTS OF USD #331 AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

According to K.S.A. 25-2018 (b):

There shall be a General Election on Tuesday, November 4th, 2025 for the purpose of electing USD #331 Board Members to the position #5, #6, #7 at-large & the unexpired

term of Position #1. A primary election, if any is needed, for all positions will be held on August 5th, 2025. The filing deadline for these positions will be at 12:00 NOON on June 2nd, 2025. The place for filing will be in the office of the Kingman County Clerk located in the Kingman County Courthouse, Kingman, Kansas. The filing fee is \$20.00 per candidate.

Dated this 7th day of May, 2025.

Carol D. Noblit

Kingman County Election Officer

TO ALL RESIDENTS OF USD #332 AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

According to K.S.A. 25-2018 (b):

There shall be a General Election on Tuesday, November 4th, 2025, for the purpose of electing USD #332 Board Members to three at-large positions. A Primary Election, if any is needed for all positions will be held on August 5th, 2025. The filing deadline for these positions will be at 12:00 NOON on June 2nd, 2025. The place for filing will be in the office of the Kingman County Clerk located in the Kingman County Courthouse, Kingman, KS. Filing fee is \$20.00 per candidate.

Dated this 7th day of May, 2025.

Carol D. Noblit

Kingman County Election Officer