

NEWS

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



BOB MORRIS / Leader-Courier

Kingman city commission candidates for the November election answered questions from the public during a candidate forum last Wednesday. Pictured (L to R) are Tracy Winsor, Adrian Harrel, Jim Lord, Danny McDorman, Mark Arensdorf and Travis Kaufman.

FORUM

• From Page 1

question about property taxes came up, he expanded upon that.

Kaufman said that the commissioners need to see where tax dollars are spent. He said he supports economic development but people need to understand that, when you get funding, there are associated costs with it.

Regarding property tax rates, he said, “I don’t think there’s a politician who will tell the public that they are for higher taxes. We definitely need to stay within limits.”

Winsor said that, while the city did pass a revenue neutral rate notice, that does not mean the city will exceed it. She said she voted for it to have the buffer if necessary, but added that she has visited with City Manager Greg Graffman about where the city can make cuts to get the mill levy down.

Harrel said the city never has a reason to not hold a revenue neutral rate hearing, saying it gives people an additional opportunity to discuss the budget.

“People don’t always understand how the mill levy works,” Harrel said.

McDorman noted that the city has over \$7 million in bonds and questioned about the need for a full-time fire chief and building Walker Park north of town when there is no infrastructure and that will be an added expense.

“We have to live within our means,” McDorman said, noting some residents are retired and on fixed incomes.

Lord said that property tax increases hurt everyone. He called for looking at the

budget and making the best possible decision, while understanding how everyone is struggling with their own expenses.

Arensdorf said that there are some things that can be changed, adding that he didn’t know if he agreed on having a full-time fire chief and that the county is no longer paying half the salary of the economic development director.

Regarding EMS transfers, McDorman said it was personal for him because his father-in-law had a stroke and waited six and a half hours for a transfer.

“There’s some that say and love to point fingers and say it’s not a city issue, it’s a hospital issue,” he said. “We live in this community, we have to work together. What are we going to do?”

Lord said that needs to be addressed, because nobody wants to have that issue happen to their parent or child.

Kaufman said it was personal for him, too, because his father-in-law had to wait on a transfer. But he said it was hard to comment without knowing more about the background of what happened. He said it might help to build up the hospital so that more services could be offered and, thus, reduce the need for transfers.

Arensdorf said it was hard to answer that question, too, without knowing more details. But he noted the city has a limited number of resources, though he said he didn’t think it was something that couldn’t be fixed.

Winsor said the issue hit close to home for her, too, because she had a family member who had to wait on

a transfer. She said she visited with EMS, asked why, and some of it related to staffing issues.

But Winsor said that the city and hospital are having conversations about what can be done. She pointed to a new law that says one does not have to be licensed EMT in order to drive an ambulance.

Harrel said that the priority of EMS is emergency services for county residents and that the transfers issue isn’t a recent thing. He said one idea might be to have standby personnel, whether it’s with EMS or the hospital, who are available to drive ambulances for transfers.

Another possibility, he said, was to see if a nurse might be available who is willing to drive an ambulance, but that clarification is needed to make sure that it’s legal and possible.

As for the pool, the issue was discussed at Thursday’s city commission meeting. Arensdorf noted that there was a period in which there was no maintenance done on the buildings.

“You can say the same thing is happening in the city park — you go down to Riverside, you look at the restroom down there, it’s an embarrassment,” Arensdorf said, adding he offered to do some work a few years ago but got no response.

He and Lord both noted that the splash pad doesn’t get utilized enough. Lord said he questioned the location of the current pool and that it probably wasn’t the best location.

McDorman said that people with Kingman Recreation Commission had expressed concerns about the maintenance and, eventually, the rec

board decided to no longer be involved with it. He said, because the pool has been closed for a few years, there should be money available to be put toward needed maintenance.

“We closed the pool, we did it without even a pool guy involved and made up these numbers and said we’re done,” McDorman said. “I’m all for a pool because it will attract younger people, younger generations to our community.”

Winsor said she was on the pool task force that was formed when the current pool was closed. She said the task force was told at the time that the pool couldn’t be fixed. But then, somebody who was on that task force raised the question a couple years later about why the pool couldn’t be fixed. At that point, a pool consultant came in and said it could be fixed.

But Winsor and Harrel said that the question is whether or not residents have the appetite to pay for the expected \$2.5M it will cost to fix the pool, plus an additional amount of money to fix the bathhouse.

“I don’t think there are many people who would be willing to spend \$3M to get the pool back to where it was before just with a new coat of paint,” Harrel said.

Kaufman said he wants to have a pool, but the city needs to figure out how much people are willing to spend on a pool and come up with a plan for that.

Winsor added that, if the current pool is fixed, it would not be just putting the pool back exactly how it was, but it would include new features for children and a zero-level entry point.

dale, though that provider is part of the Aetna network.

She added that Crumdale matched the co-pay and deductibles for the Blue Cross-Blue Shield plan the county previously had, will have lower premiums for the plans and will offer new benefits that employees did not have before.

Commissioner Sean Wallace said the cost might be a concern, saying that “until it hits the pocketbook, everyone is going to say they want a pool.”

City Attorney Cody Smith said he would get with Kingman County Clerk Carol Noblit about the deadline to get a question on the November ballot.

Sauers Named Rural Hospital CEO to Know

PRESS RELEASE

Preston Sauers, CEO of Kingman Healthcare Center in Kingman, Kansas was recently recognized by Becker’s Hospital Review in an press released titled “118 rural hospital and health system presidents and CEOs to know” for 2025.

Sauers brings a wealth of experience in rural healthcare to Kingman county and has been instrumental in the success at Kingman Healthcare Center. Sauers was formerly the Director of Business Operations at Ellsworth County Medical Center for 17 plus years.

KHC employs 150 fulltime staff and offers hundreds of services to the local area. Kingman Healthcare Center is a 25 bed critical access hospital with 24 hour emergency room, inpatient services, and two family practice clinics. KHC has earned the prestigious recognition as a Top 100 Critical Access Hospital by the National Rural Health Association for eight years, two of which were in the top 20.

News Briefs

KLC OFFICE TO BE CLOSED FRIDAY, AUG. 1

The Kingman Leader-Courier office will be closed on Friday, August 1. Normal business hours will resume on Monday, Aug. 4.

DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAX LIST TO BE PUBLISHED

The Delinquent Real Estate list will be sent to the *Kingman Leader Courier* next week for publication. This list will include properties with unpaid real estate taxes as of Aug. 1. If you are unsure whether your taxes have been paid, please contact the Treasurer’s Office at (620) 532-3461 to verify your status. We understand that this is not a pleasant experience, but please note that publication of the delinquent list is a statutory requirement of this office.

Thank you for supporting **YOUR KINGMAN HISTORIC THEATRE**
Bad Guys 2
Rated PG - National Opening Weekend
Showing Aug. 1-3 - Admission \$3
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COUNTY

• From Page 1

funded. County Commissioner Jack Thimesch said it may be possible to find grant funding in which the county would likely have to make a 50 percent match.

He added the other question would be what to do

with county offices while work is completed. Thimesch asked if it might be necessary to bring back trailers, which was done when the new law enforcement center was being built and the sheriff’s offices needed space to work.

County Clerk Carol Noblit said another option could be

to move offices into the expo center.

The commissioners also discussed whether or not work could be completed one floor at a time.

Also at Monday’s meeting, County Commission Chairwoman Julie Lyon clarified that the county’s new health insurance provider is Crum-

POOL

• From Page 1

It would also include overhead lighting above the pool and underwater lights.

DePaul would install a PVC membrane to create a watertight pool. In response to a question from City Commissioner Adrian Harrel, DePaul said it would be

preferable to sandblasting and painting the pool surface because it would last longer and be a similar cost to install one membrane over the same time period as painting the pool two or three times.

The deck would be replaced and a six-foot chain link fence would be installed.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Tracy

Winsor, DePaul said that if the project were to start today, he would ask for about a year to complete work.

Winsor said that the question about whether to move forward with fixing the pool needs to go before voters.

“No matter what happens, it needs to go before the voters to see their appetite for it,” she said.

Commissioner Sean Wallace said the cost might be a concern, saying that “until it hits the pocketbook, everyone is going to say they want a pool.”

City Attorney Cody Smith said he would get with Kingman County Clerk Carol Noblit about the deadline to get a question on the November ballot.

LEGAL NOTICE

(First published in the Kingman Leader-Courier on Thursday, July 31, 2025) 3t

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY,
KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
LAVONE V. MACE, Deceased
Pursuant to K.S.A. 59

CASE NO. 2025 PR 28

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on the 21st day of July, 2025, a Petition for Probate of Will and Issuance of Letters Testamentary was filed in this Court by Shane Reeder, as executor and devisee of LaVone V. Mace, deceased.

All creditors of the above-named decedent are notified to exhibit their demands against the estate within four months from the date of first publication of this notice, as provided by law; and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

SHANE REEDER
Petitioner

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Attorneys for Petitioner
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District Magistrate Judge

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