

# NEWS

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

## Resident Speaks With City About Tank Repainting

BY BOB MORRIS  
Managing Editor

Les Wing spoke to the Kingman city commission Thursday night about the possibility of repainting the tank that sits by the Kingman Armory.

Wing said he found some suppliers who found the type of paint that needs to be used, along with a restoration specialist who works for the Nimitz Foundation in Texas. He noted that specialist did restoration work for the World War II Pacific Theater Museum.

“So it’s a credible source and I do have the information on the websites as to where to order that paint, as I’ve talked to several people about this finish on that tank now — I would call it ‘burnished,’” Wing said.

“In other words, it’s got kind of a gloss. There is no appreciable surface rust. So it would still require immediate blasting to rub that surface of the paint.”

Wing said that the paint would then need to be sprayed on and it cannot be rolled or brushed. He said it would be better to hire a professional to do the work.

He added that there had been talk about using the tank as a “salute” for the Fourth of July. But he didn’t think that would be possible, because the main gun is plugged and may have wasp nests.

He told the city commissioners he would be happy to be on the agenda for the next city meeting if the commis-

sioners wanted to visit more with him.

Also during public comment, city resident Baja Barojas spoke to the commissioners about his concerns regarding traffic traveling at high speeds along G Avenue. Barojas has spoken with the commissioners a couple of times, noting that there are cars that take the corner at Coronado Street too fast.

Barojas asked if the city had been able to get a speed trailer on G Avenue, as the city had indicated might be possible. Police Chief David Lux said that the speed trailer, which is owned by the county, wasn’t available because it is being repaired.

Lux said, in the meantime, he is having officers patrol the street, though he couldn’t say if any drivers have been issued tickets.

Barojas asked if it would be possible for an officer to sit somewhere along the street to watch for traffic. He said there are several spots at which officers could do that and that neighbors would be fine with officers being there.

“If everybody knows that the police officer’s just patrolling, they slow down,” Barojas said. “But when (officers) are out on the main roads, I mean, that’s a racetrack, and it’s ridiculous.”

Lux said that, as soon as the trailer is repaired, he will ask the county about getting it out there. Lux added that the trailer is useful because it can tell people how much traffic is there and how often drivers are speeding.

“So it’s very valuable information,

and sometimes it tells you, it paints the true picture of what’s going on,” Lux said. “So, until we have that — obviously the city doesn’t have one. But as soon as we get it, we’ll get it out there.”

Barojas asked if it would be possible to have a four-way stop at the intersection with Coronado. Interim City Manager John Deardoff said that there is usually a uniform traffic code with what criteria determining when stop signs are needed.

In other public comment, resident Darlene Redden expressed her concerns about residents being charged a 3 percent fee for using a debit card to pay for utility bills.

“There’s a lot of people in this town that are handicapped or restricted that have a hard time coming down to pay their bill,” Redden said. “We, personally, are on that list. I have a neighbor that’s on that list.”

The city started assessing a 3 percent fee on credit and debit card transactions because of concerns about it costing the city a lot of money to pay that fee each time. While private entities are prohibited from passing on a fee for debit card transactions, government entities are not prohibited from doing that.

Mayor Tracy Winsor explained that one reason why the city chose to pass on the fee is because of the municipal court fees.

“There are a lot of people that pay that are not from Kingman, and we

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## NEWS BRIEF

### KLC OFFICE TO BE CLOSED FRIDAY, MARCH 20

The Kingman Leader-Courier office will be closed on Friday, March 20 for Spring Break. Normal office hours will resume on Monday, March 23. The annual Spring Sports Preview will be in the March 26 edition of the Kingman Leader-Courier.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in the Kingman Leader-Courier on Thursday, March 19, 2026) 1t

REQUEST FOR BIDS: The City of Kingman is requesting bids for Bulb Out & Clock Tower Garden Maintenance. Bid packets are available at Kingman City Hall, 324 N Main St., Kingman KS, and at [www.cityofkingman.com](http://www.cityofkingman.com). Sealed bids are to be submitted NO LATER THAN 9:00am on April 2, 2026.

## MOLITOR ANGUS RANCH

47th Annual Production Sale  
**Saturday, March 21, 2026**  
**1 PM at the Ranch**  
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## CITY

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the gas tax reserve fund, but some of that is earmarked for planned work on the current U.S. Highway 54/400 route that runs through Kingman.

He said if the city wanted to pave four blocks of unpaved streets per year, the city would need to add another \$80,000 to the budget.

Deardoff told the city commissioners that it was hard for him to say which streets should be done until she knows there’s money available to do them. He said it would be up to the commission to determine a priority list.

He added that Kari Goldston had suggested improving drainage of some dirt streets, which could help with concerns about the streets becoming too diffi-

cult to navigate after it rains or snows.

Mayor Tracy Winsor said she did agree with what Economic Development Director Leslie Schrag mentioned last month about people who paid for specials when they built a new house.

“I think there is something to say there when it’s the homeowners that are paying for that street,” she said.

On the other hand, Winsor said, there may need to be something done with a dirt street if it becomes impassable every time it rains or snows.

“I think something has to be done to improve those roads if they’re just bad roads,” Winsor said.

Vice Mayor Travis Kaufman cited the 2025 budget, in which the city budgeted for \$2.2 million in revenue for streets but the fiscal activity showed \$2.5 million.

The city also budgeted \$2.6 million for expenditures, but spent \$2.5 million.

“We spent less money than what we budgeted for, and we had a positive variance,” Kaufman said. “So in opportunities like that, and I think that’s why our budget means so much, we say that we only allocate \$80,000, but clearly we have a surplus of money that we’re not spending.”

Deardoff said one thing to keep in mind is that, if the city spends 100 percent of its budget and has no fund balance, the city has no money to cover payroll in January because of how taxes are distributed. There could also be issues with bonding, Deardoff said.

Kaufman didn’t have the reserve numbers in front of him, but noted that, if the city is bringing in more revenue than projected and spending less than projected,

the city should be building its reserves up.

“We have money to dedicate, which it sounds like we’re already behind on our rotation, so we probably need to allocate more funds during the budgetary cycle,” Kaufman said. “But going back to the statement that you had earlier of how we need to allocate the number of funds, then we can prioritize the roads.”

Commissioner Jon Wollen said his concern was, if the city paves more streets, that adds to the amount of streets that require maintenance and repaving.

He said that if people want to petition to have an unpaved road that runs along their property paved, they could do so and agree to pay a portion, which allows city tax dollars to go farther and the property owners then have “skin in the game.”

## OBITUARIES

### DONALD LEROY PATTERSON

Donald LeRoy Patterson, 93, died March 15, 2026, at his home in Penalosa.

He was born Jan. 19, 1933 at Pratt, the son of Devon and Sarah Moore Patterson. A longtime resident of the Kingman community, he was a retired trackman for the Missouri Pacific Railroad and a farmer.

Donald was a member of the Catholic Church; and was Mayor of Penalosa.

On Dec. 2, 1951, he married Clara Mae Cockrell in Kingman; she died Apr. 1, 2001. On Apr. 17, 2002, he married Bonnie Webb at Great Bend. Other survivors include daughter Donna Heckart; sons Robert and Glen; brothers James, Alton, Eddie, Bruce and Henry; daughter Crystal Thornton; and several grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by sons Norman and Raymond; brothers Robert, Pat and Sonny; sisters Sarah, Almarie, Mary, Pamela, Margaret, JoAnn and Marjorie; and son Timothy Thornton.

Donald was jokester and had a great memory. He loved fishing, hunting, road trips, tinkering (he built a Model T) and most of all his family. He loved life to the fullest.

Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Friday, March 20 at the Livingston Funeral Home, Kingman. Friends may call from 1 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, with the family receiving friends from 5 to 7 p.m. Burial will be in the Cleveland Cemetery.

Memorials may be made with the Humane Society in care of Livingston Funeral Home, 1830 N. Main, Kingman KS 67068.



### LESLIE E. MABE

Leslie E. Mabe, 73, was born Oct. 6, 1952, in Kingman, to Clarence and Louise Mabe.

He passed away March 1, 2026, in Augusta.

Les graduated from Kingman High School in 1970 and was a retired Boeing worker.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Louise Mabe, and his three brothers, Neal, Frank, and Earl Mabe.

He is survived by his daughter, Sara; grandchildren Melody, Dylan, and Jacob.

Les will be remembered as a devoted father and his daughter’s biggest supporter and for his independent spirit.

A Celebration of Life and family visitation will be held Saturday, April 4 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Victorian Lantern, 134 West E Street, Kingman.

Memorials may be sent to Lakepoint of Augusta, 901 Lakepoint Drive, Augusta, KS 67010.



### JUDY CONRADY

Judy J. Conrady, 76, died March 13, 2026, at Hilltop Manor, Cunningham.

She was born Aug. 24, 1949, at Kingman, the daughter of Clarence and Veta Gray Conrady. A very longtime resident of Hilltop Manor, she was one of the original residents of Hilltop Manor in 1976.

Judy is survived by her brothers Ken, Bill and Mike; special cousin Cathy Conrady; three nephews and one niece. She was preceded in death by her parents; and a brother Tony.

Memorial services will be 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 7 at the Hilltop Manor, Cunningham.

Memorials may be made to the Hilltop Manor, Cunningham and may be mailed to the Livingston Funeral Home, 1830 N. Main, Kingman KS 67068.

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**M<sup>3</sup> Publishing, LLC**  
OWNERS  
Stephanie Jump  
PUBLISHER  
sjump@kcnonline.com

Published by:  
Kingman Leader-Courier  
140 N. Main Street  
Kingman, KS 67068

Weekly - Thursday  
Periodicals Postage Paid at  
Kingman, KS 67068

POSTMASTER:  
Send address changes to  
Kingman Leader-Courier  
PO Box 374  
Kingman, KS 67068

Sports Editor:  
bmmorris@kcnonline.com  
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