



## Kingman County Commission

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### Committee to explore future of KCAC

Kingman County Commissioners are forming a committee to help envision the future of the Kingman County Activity Center, the county's number one venue.

A few user groups have approached the county in recent months to suggest improvements to the indoor arena. The idea for the committee grew from those conversations, with the county wanting to hear from others who use the facility on a regular basis before making any changes.

Groups that have rented the facility in the past two years have been asked to send a representative to serve on the committee, which will hold its organizational meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, June 2 at the Activity Center, 121 S. Main in Kingman. This meeting is open to the public.

The immediate goal is to determine what, if any, improvements can and should be made in the next year so the commission can consider them in its 2015 budget. The committee also will be asked to provide recommendations and guidance regarding long-term operations and improvements that could be made over the next three, five or 10 years. The final decision about any changes or improvements will be made by the county commission.

Neal Slack, a retired Kingman educator now living in Pretty Prairie, will chair the committee. The committee also will include Mendy Frampton, Activity Center director.

The Activity Center, built in 1979, entertains thousands of people each year. The facility had 411 bookings in 2013, 479 in 2012 and 430 in 2011. This year promises to be an equally busy year. Total rental fees collected over the past three years were \$49,530 (2013); \$53,410 (2012), and \$43,465 (2011).

Several groups can use the Activity Center at the same time because of its diversity. The indoor arena features a 20,000 square foot floor, permanent bucking chutes, roping boxes, catch pens and a return alley for cattle events. Permanent bleachers run the length of the east side and provide seating for 1,000. Nearby, 110 permanent WW and Preifert stalls are located in five different barns around the main building with enough portable panels to make another 30. The facility is busy most weekends, hosting a variety of equine, rodeo and other similar events.

The Activity Center also has three meeting rooms, which host a variety of events, including family reunions, birthday parties and workshops. One of the meeting rooms can double as a concession stand/show office. There is a full kitchen and restrooms include showers. Locally, the Activity Center is perhaps best known as the home of the annual Kingman County & 4-H Fair.

Frampton is the only full-time KCAC staff person. There also is a part-time equipment operator and community service provides 2,500-3,000 hours per year to help maintain the center. The 2014 operating budget for the Activity Center is \$128,238.

Those who have been invited to participate on the committee include the Heartland Youth Rodeo Association, the Gunslinger Rodeo Series, the Kingman Draft Horse & Mule Sale, Kansas Pony Club of

America Club, South Central Stock Horse Show, Kansas Foundation Quarter Horse Registry, Palomino Horse Exhibitors of Kansas, Stock Horse Show of Kansas, Kansas Mule and Donkey Show, Kraft Rodeo Company, Kansas High School Rodeo Association, Kansas Junior Rodeo Association, Kingman County 4-H Council, Kingman High School Future Farmers of America, Kingman Saddle and Ropers Club and the Kingman County Fair Association. Cities in the county, USD 331 and 332 school districts, Kingman County Economic Development Council, the Kingman-Norwich Recreation Commission and the Kingman Area Chamber of Commerce also have been invited to participate.

Each organization also received a survey that the county hopes will help guide any decisions about changes or improvements.

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