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Tax options, budget cuts up for review

By Suzanne Adams
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KINGMAN – Kingman City Council will be looking at alternative methods of increasing revenue or cutting the budget during Tuesday's meeting.

Council will discuss the possibility of changing the city's sale tax rate in order to generate more revenue for the city. Mayor John Salem brought up the idea during the Council's March 1 meeting.

City Council

At that meeting, City Financial Services Director Coral Loyd told the Council that due to more than $1.5 million in state cuts and falling gas tax returns over the past several years, the city would have to dip into its reserves. The city currently has $8.5 million in reserves, she said. However, dipping into the city's general fund reserves could negatively impact the city's bond and credit ratings, especially if the reserves fell below $5 million.

Salem proposed raising the sales tax rate by .15 percent, bringing the combined city, county and state sales tax in Kingman to 9 percent.

The proposal was opposed by Vice Mayor Robin Gordon and Councilwoman Carole Young, who felt raising the tax rate would hurt businesses and that there were other areas in the city budget that cuts could be made.

Councilwoman Janet Watson and Councilman Keith Walker agreed with Salem, saying the city has already cut millions from its budget over the past few years and it needed a permanent funding source for future street improvements.

The discussion of raising taxes was also brought up during a February town hall meeting held by Residents Against Irresponsible Development. At that meeting several residents proposed a variety of ideas for cutting the city budget, including once-a-week trash pickup, fighting against

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Club will give you a run for the money

Fundraiser for Kingman Boys and Girls Club now set for Saturday

By James Chilton
For the Miner

KINGMAN – A fundraiser for the Kingman Boys and Girls Club that had been originally scheduled for last weekend has been rescheduled for Saturday.

The "Lucky Fly By," a five-kilometer/one-mile walk-run through downtown Kingman, had initially been scheduled to take place March 12. But according to Boys and Girls Club president Noreen Frisch, the event was rescheduled due to a conflicting fundraiser taking place at the same time and place.

"We tried it last year and raised some money, so we wanted to do it again this year," Frisch said.

The event will now begin the Saturday morning at the Boys and Girls Club headquarters at 301 N. First St. Those wishing to participate in the one-mile run should be there by 8 a.m., with the five-kilometer walk beginning at 8:30.

"The 5K is $25 to enter and the one-mile is $20 for an individual, for a family it's $40," Frisch said. "We'll have lots of giveaways and prizes for the participants."

She added that the event will go a long way toward helping fund the club's local activities, which include homework assistance for schoolchildren, arts and crafts, physical activities, moral development, and a food assistance program for kids whose families earn less than 200 percent the national poverty rate.

This year's fundraiser provides an additional incentive from philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein, who has agreed to divide $1 million among

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Taking Root

JC AMBERLYN/Miner

A tree planting celebration in honor of Arbor Day was held at the newly renovated train depot in downtown Kingman Saturday morning, with a host of city and county officials present. Several trees were planted at the depot, while gardening advice was given to the listening crowd. There was also a model train open house by Whistle Stop Railroad Club, a raffle and gardening fun for the kids. The Mohave County School Gardening Program, the Clean City Commission and Historical Preservation Commission organized the event. Many groups and volunteers made the event possible, including Mohave County Master Gardeners, Cerbat Garden Club, 4-H Youths, Hispanic Student Union, Boys Scouts and many local businesses. Kingman Parks and Recreation and Public Works provided the planting site and helped with preparation. Here, Master Gardener Vince Beatty stands and gives advice to the crowd on planting trees in Kingman while fellow Master Gardeners Mike Ward, Charlene Ware and Lynda Goldberg plant a pink dawn chitalpa.

Billboard appeal may be heard next month

By Suzanne Adams
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KINGMAN – The owner of Mother Road Harley-Davidson on Beverly Avenue will have to wait until April to get a chance to argue his case for a new billboard on his property before City Council.

John Morotti's request to move and replace his current billboard with a much larger one was denied, not approved as was previously reported, by a 5 to 2 vote of the City Planning and Zoning Commission Tuesday.

Morotti approached the city last year about relocating or replacing his billboard at the edge of his property so that he could develop the property into a commercial center. He was told the sign could be removed or remain but could not be replaced because it was within 500 feet of the Interstate 40 ramp entrance.

The Planning and Zoning Commission approved an amendment to the sign ordinance in January, allowing property owners to seek a conditional use permit to place a sign between the beginning and the end of the taper points of a freeway entrance ramp.

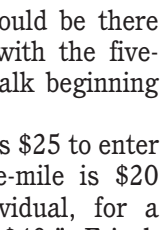
Morotti then applied for a conditional use permit to replace his current 25-foot high sign with a 50-foot high, 672-square-foot double-sided billboard.

Staff recommended limiting the size of the sign or denying it at the meeting.

A letter from the owner of neighboring property also asked the commission to deny the request, saying the sign posed a danger to his property if it blew over, would create light pollution at night and would keep him from putting a similar sign on his property.

After much discussion, the commission decided even though Morotti had fulfilled all of the requirements for conditional use permit for the sign, the sign was a "want and not a need" and denied his request.

WILLIAMS



DOC THE CUB

Doc, the first cub born at Bearizona Wildlife Park in Williams, arrived in the middle of January and was removed from the den on Feb. 28. He will join another cub that was rescued from Missouri earlier this month, Itty, and they will play together all summer in Fort Bearizona, the walking portion of the park.

Currently, Doc and Itty are on exhibit in the gift shop for visitors to get a very up-close look before they will move into their own exhibit later in the season. Visit www.facebook.com/bearizona for more information.

FLAGSTAFF

(AP) – A Northern Arizona University professor is reported to be safe and back with her family in Mexico after being briefly kidnapped. School officials said Saturday that Veronica Perez Rodriguez was the victim of a kidnapping late Friday while visiting family members in Ciudad Juarez.

They say Rodriguez's colleagues have received e-mails from her saying that she's OK and in the company of family members.

No other details were immediately released.

School spokesman Tom Bauer says the NAU Police Department is working with the FBI on the case. Rodriguez is an associate professor of anthropology at NAU and has been with the Flagstaff school for seven years.

NEW JERSEY

(AP) – One of the most famous drummers in jazz music history has died.

Family members say Joe Morello died Saturday at his home in northern New Jersey. A cause of death was not immediately available.

Morello, who was 82, was best known for his work with the Dave Brubeck Quartet. He was a member of the group for more than 12 years and was featured on such jazz classics as "Take Five" and "Blue Rondo a la Turk."

Morello also played with many leading jazz musicians over the years, including pianist Marian McPartland's Hickory House Trio in the early '50s.

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Weekend Box Office

BATTLE: LOS ANGELES	$36 MILLION
RANGO	$23 MILLION
RED RIDING HOOD	$14.1 MILLION
ADJUSTMENT BUREAU	$11.4 MILLION

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