

KNEL- AM / KNEL-FM

4th Qtr. Issues

Oct. - Dec- 2023

Key issues facing the community addressed by KNEL in the 4th Quarter of 2023.

- Local Government
- Elections
- Education
- Agriculture
- Community

Local issues were the subject of coverage during KNEL daily newscasts, regular daily public affairs programming, special event broadcasts and inclusion on KNELRadio.com web site. Coverage included appearances by local officials from the Cities of Brady and Mason, Mason and McCulloch County Commissioners Courts; Brady and Mason School Districts; and AgriLife Extension representatives in newscasts and on KNEL's daily Morning Program public affairs program.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT –

U.S. Congressman August Pfluger joined other members of Congress sent a letter Oct. 2nd to encourage President Biden and Congress to take action to fund the government and secure the border. Appearing on KNEL October 1st, Cong. Pfluger outlined his position that shutting down the border must be included in the budget negotiation process.

On Oct. 9th, Cong. Pfluger responded to Hamas' attack on Israel with a statement condemning the attack as horrific and barbaric. Cong. Pfluger serves as the Chairman of the House Homeland Security Counterterrorism Sub-Committee.

At their meeting on Nov. 7, the Brady City Council deferred a decision on accepting bids for the start of renovation of two facilities to serve as headquarters for the Police and Fire Departments. New member of the Council and the Mayor had additional questions about the suitability about the two facilities being renovated and the costs - \$1.9 million for the Police Dept. and approximately \$4 million for the Fire Station. The Council continued to discuss the issued through the end of the Quarter, with no decision made.

At their Nov. 27 meeting, McCulloch County Commissioner Don Bratton proposed that two FEMA road projects that originated from flooding in 2018 be discontinued. Bratton outlined his frustration with now knowing how the roads were selected and how much work had been done before the took office. However, concerns were expressed by the County judge and other Commissioners tht the County could be excluded from future projects as a result. In a 3-2 vote, the Court voted to not terminate the FEMA projects.

City of Mason announced plans for improvements to downtown sidewalks around Courthouse Square. Appearing on KNEL's Morning Program, Mason Mayor Bartlett outlined a series of steps to be taken to improve convenience and safety of sidewalks, with the start of construction expected early in 2024.

On Dec. 4th, Congressman August Pfluger celebrated the House passage of the I-27 Numbering Act formally renaming the Ports To Plains Corridor as Interstate 27.

Brady City Council approved a proposed ordinance to allow open consumption of alcohol on the sidewalks adjacent to 202 W. Main in downtown Brady.

Lakeland Water Services implemented a Boil Water Notice on Dec. 4 following a loss of pressure in the System. The Notice was lifted early the next week.

Congressman August Pfluger on Dec. 13th voted to formalize the impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden.

ELECTIONS –

The filing period for candidates in the March 5 Primary was held in Nov. and Dec. State Representative Andrew Murr announced he would not seek re-election. Two candidates filed for the seat and will meet in a contested race in then March 5 election. In McCulloch County, an open seat County Commissioner for Precinct 3 drew four candidates. Incumbent McCulloch County Sheriff Matt Andrews is being challenged in the Primary. U.S. Representative August Pfluger is not being challenged in the Primary election.

EDUCATION –

At their Oct. meeting, the Brady School Board approved the Campus Improvement plans and recognized the District's teachers from all three campuses. The Board also recognized the Special Education Dept. for their terrific work.

The Menard High School won the State UIL Class 1A Marching Band competition in a performance at the Alamo Dome in San Antonio. It was the second time in three years the Menard band had won the UIL championship.

AGRICULTURE –

McCulloch County Jr. Livestock Show was held Nov. 30-Dec 2 and included a wide range of 4H and FFA members and a lot of animals. In addition to live reports on the progress of the Stock Show, KNEL also provided live video coverage of the Show through Facebook and YouTube.

COMMUNITY

On Oct. 3rd, Brady joined communities across the nation to participate in National Night Out activities to promote police-community awareness, build comradere, improve relationships and make neighborhoods safer.

The Brady/McCulloch County Chamber of Commerce held is Fourth Quarter "Good News" lunch Oct. 18th. The Quarterly lunch provides for a sharing of information on positive things happening in the community. KNEL broadcasts the presentation live on 1490 KNEL-AM.

Vocal Community Assoc. hosted its annual fish fry and auction Oct. 14th.

Melvin Volunteer Fire Dept. hosted a Chili & Stew fundraiser on Nov. 4.

In the month of November, Hunter Appreciation Dinners were held in Brady, Mason, Menard and Eden recognizing the contribution hunters make to the communities each year.

Mason's historic Seaquist House mansion was decorated for the Holidays and opened for pubic tours Dec. 2nd.

The 6th Annual Christmas in the Heart was held in downtown Brady on Dec. 9. Sponsored by the Brady Clergy Association, the event included Santa, crafts, food, games, music and lighted parade to usher in the season.