

KNEL- AM / KNEL-FM

1st Qtr. Issues

Jan. – Mar - 2023

Key issues facing the community addressed by KNEL in the 1st Quarter of 2023.

- Local Government
- Elections
- Education
- Agriculture
- Community
- Local Economy

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 –

Newly elected and re-elected Mason and McCulloch County officials were sworn in on New Year's Day.

The 452nd Judicial Court sentenced 10 people in January, while 29 others were indicted for various offenses.

Brady Mayor Tony Groves resigned his position at meeting of the Brady City Council on January 5th during a discussion by the Council on whether the City should consider accepting COVID-19 Relief Funds available to the City from the Federal Government. The Council had previously voted in 2022 to turn down receiving close to \$1 million in COVID 19 relief funds for which the City was eligible. After the Council ignored Groves' recommendation that it wait until a legal opinion was obtained from attorneys from the Texas Municipal League on the question of strings being attached to grants from the Federal Government, Groves announced his decision to resign.

Subsequent to his resignation, Groves filed as a candidate for election on the Place 4 seat on the City Council in the May Local Election. Subsequently, incumbent Council Members for Place 4 and Place 5 withdrew their applications to run for re-election. A candidate for the Place 5 seat also filed for election. Four candidates filed for the Mayor post. The election is scheduled for May 6.

KNEL provided coverage of the First Quarter "Good News" business lunch with reports on updates given by Brady City Manager and County Commissioner for Precinct 2 focused on the status of on-going negotiations on payment by the County to help cover cost of the City providing EMS services in the County.

State Representative Andrew Murr appeared on KNEL's Morning Program on Feb. 9 with a review the activities of the first month of the Texas Legislative session.

The need for upgrading and improving equipment for McCulloch County Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement were the focus of a meeting of the Commissioners' Court on Feb. 13.

State Senator Charles Perry introduced legislation in the Texas Legislature to create a Water For Texas Fund at the Texas Water Development Board. The funds would be for boosting water infrastructure projects across the State. Both Brady and Mason have utilized funds from the Texas Water Development Board for upgrading their water and waste water systems.

Makson City Commission met Feb. 28 to discuss water and sewer projects contemplated by the City. The session included awarding a contract for engineering services for Community Development Block Grant, and a presentation of a Master Planning Grant and a Sewer grant.

McCulloch County Commissioners held the first of what would be a series of meetings to review plans for two proposed rural subdivisions in the County. Issues focused on requested variances and road construction.

Boil water notice issued for City of Melvin Mar. 10.

Mason and Menard County Commissioners voted to implement 90-day Burn Bans at the end March.

City of Mason began public hearings on plans to seek Texas Dept. of Agriculture Community Development grant funds for sidewalk improvements on the downtown square and at Mason Schools.

ELECTIONS –

Filing period for Local Elections on May 6 began Jan. 17 and ended Feb 17.

EDUCATION –

52nd Annual KNEL-AM Band Booster Radio Auction was held Feb. 4. Funds raised go toward support for student needs and equipment maintenance. Again in 2023, total funds raised exceeded the \$10,000 mark.

Lohn School celebrated Public School Week with an Open House Mar. 1 to showcase the positive things happening in the classrooms and within the District.

AGRICULTURE –

Mason County Junior Stock Show was held in early January. KNEL provided live coverage of show progress and placings on both KNEL radio, KNELRadio.com. and KNELRadio.com Daily News e-newsletter.

Concho, McCulloch and Menard County AgriLife Extension offices presented the 2023 Tri-County Producer/Landowner Symposium on Jan. 26.

COMMUNITY –

Brady/McCulloch County Chamber of Commerce hosted the first quarter “Good News” business lunch, with KNEL providing live coverage of the meeting on KNEL-AM.

At the First Quarter “Good News” lunch, former Brady Mayor, Tony Groves, was recognized by the Salvation Army for his remarkable record serving as a Bell Ringer during the annual “Kettle” campaign.

Mason Chamber Music Festival Mardi Gras Fundraiser held Feb. 20 to support performances of the Artisan String Quartet in Mason scheduled for April.

The 34th Annual Heart of Texas Country Music Festival was held in Brady March 23rd through April 1st. Over the course of the Festival, over 20 individual events were held, with over 4,000 tickets sold.

LOCAL ECONOMY –

Sales tax rebates to area Cities and Counties were reported each month by KNEL, indicating how much funding was being returned to the local community from Sales Taxes.