

KNEL- AM / KNEL-FM

3<sup>rd</sup>. Qtr. Issues

July – Sept. - 2023

Key issues facing the community addressed by KNEL in the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 –

Mason County Judge Sheree Hardin issued a Proclamation July 3<sup>rd</sup> declaring a state of disaster due to threat of wildfires.

McCulloch County Commissioners and Brady City Council held an EMS Workshop July 17<sup>th</sup> as they worked to develop and inter-local agreement covering EMS services and reach agreement on the division of the cost for EMS services. An agreement was reached by the two groups at the meeting, and an inter-local agreement was approved by both during the quarter.

McCulloch County Commissioners voted July 25<sup>th</sup> to implement a 90-day burn ban in the County due to high temperatures and continuing drought. McCulloch County joined others area counties – Mason, Menard, San Saba and Brown Counties – in implementing Burn Bans. The Burn Bans were lifted in mid-Sept. following several days of rain.

McCulloch Commissioners approved an order July 25 transferring a portion of Grace Ave. in Rochelle to the Rochelle Baptist Church.

U.S. Congressman August Pfluger held Town Hall meetings in Brady, Mason, San Saba and Coleman. KNEL broadcast the Brady Town Hall meeting live on KNEL-FM and re-broadcast it later in the week on KNEL-AM.

Local Cities, Counties and School Boards went through the process of developing budgets and proposed tax rates for the next fiscal year during the quarter. And, as part of the process, each held a series of public hearings to allow for citizen input to the process.

Due to a line break near Doole on Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>, the Millersview-Doole Water System was order to implement a Boil Water Notice while repairs were being made. McCulloch County Commissioers, the Lohn Volunteer Fire Dept. , Salvation Army, local businesses and local landowners worked to provide for both personal and livestock use during the outage. McCulloch County Judge Frank Trull declared a local disaster due to the threat of injury and loss of life created by the loas of water. Crews from the State of Texas responded to the declaration by sending work crews to the County to help in making repairs.

A confirmed case of Measles was reported by the Texas Dept. of Health Services in a young child in Melvin. The child was treated and recovered. In addition to reporting on the case, KNEL also presented information on recognizing symptoms and steps to take if exposure is suspected. Only the one case was reported.

#### ELECTIONS –

Wes Virdell announced his candidacy for the District 53 seat in the Texas House of Representatives in the 2024 Republican primary election.

#### EDUCATION –

Area schools resumed classes in August.

#### COMMUNITY –

58<sup>th</sup> Annual Mason County Round-up and Rodeo held July 6-8. Event included team roping, rodeo, parade, naming of a Round-Up Queen and entertainment.

KNEL and Destination Ford Presented 2023 Favorite First Responder Award to Priscilla Campbell, an employee of Brady Fire/EMS. The award was launched in May with the “Nominate Your Favorite Teacher” award. Also included was presentation of an award for the Favorite Volunteer to Dustin Jordan in August.

The Haven Family Shelter and Texas Performing Arts Academy hosted a Performing Arts and Mentoring Camp in July designed to help children expand their imaginations and build self-confidence through performing arts.

The Third Annual HonkyTonk Festival was held in Brady Aug. 16-19 at the Brady Civic Center with two bands performing each night. Over 1,200 tickets were sold and fans came from across the Country to hear the music.

The 49<sup>th</sup> Annual World Championship BBQ Goat Cook-Off was held at Richards Park Labor Day weekend.

Pontotoc Volunteer Fire Dept. held a BBQ and Cake sale fundraiser Sept. 16.

Mason's Old Yeller Day event was held on Sept. 30, celebrating the frontier lifestyle made famous by Mason author Fred Gipson.

A Dogg Oound Championship wrestling event was held in Brady Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, with the proceeds benefitting the Haven Family shelter.

The Brady VFW Post #3234 hosted a 9/11 memorial on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### LOCAL ECONOMY –

Brady/McCulloch County Chamber of Commerce announced the hiring of a new executive director, Daniel Mendoza, in July.

Sales tax rebates to area Cities and Counties were reported each month on KNEL, indicating how much funding was being returned to the local economy from Sales Taxes collected in each one.

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

A grand opening was held on Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> for The Menard Station in Menard. A converted gas station, The Menard Station covers a broad range of activities -- food, water, history, education, technology and ranch life are a part of the new business. The Menard Station is a sales outlet for Menard County raised Wagyu beef and Dorper Lamb products. It also hosts a weekly Ranch to Table Farmers market and a monthly Rummage sale at the facility.