

KNEL-AM/FM

4TH QTR. ISSUES

OCT. - DEC - 2019

Key issues facing the community addressed by KNEL in the 4th Quarter of 2019.

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

Local issues were the subject of coverage during KNEL newscasts and through regular appearances by local officials from the Cities of Brady and Mason, McCulloch and Mason County Commissioners, Brady and Mason School Districts and AgriLife Extension representatives who appeared on KNEL's daily public affairs program - KNEL Morning Program.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT -

The City of Brady continued to operate without the City's "North" electrical transformer damaged in the Spring. Status of the repairs and projected return of the transformer were followed closely.

City of Brady Clean Water and Waste Water improvement projects move forward with final approval of \$29 million in funding from Texas Water Development Board and completion of engineering plans that set the stage for start of construction for both major projects in 2020.

City of Mason secures funding for water radium reduction project, and engineering nears completion.

Discussion of the merits of replacing the existing Landfill by the City of Mason continued in the 4th quarter. Ultimately, a final decision was reached to move ahead with a new landfill.

McCulloch and Mason Counties sporadically implement Burn Bans due to continuing drought conditions.

ELECTIONS -

Candidate filing for the Mar. 3, 2020 Primary election ended in the Quarter. As a result of Cong. Mike Conaway's decision to not seek re-election, a total of 10 candidates filed for the Republican nomination for the U.S. House Dist. 11 seat, and four candidates filed for the Democrat nomination. There will also be contested elections for State House or

Representatives; County Commissioners in McCulloch County and Sheriff in McCulloch, Mason and Menard Counties.

In the November elections, in addition to the state-wide constitutional questions, voters in Eden approved a bond issue to build a new school facility, while voters in Menard rejected a bond issue to fund street repairs.

EDUCATION -

Brady ISD continued renovations of Brady Elementary, construction of Career Center at Brady High and safety and security upgrades for all campuses.

Search for a new BISD Superintendent continued. Overall, BISD reports enrollment decline year-to-year by 100 students due to closure of area sand mining facilities over the past year.

Brady and Lohn ISD engage in discussions of an inter-local agreement covering school bus pick-ups of Lohn students inside Brady ISD boundaries.

AGRICULTURE -

Daily agriculture and commodity reports on status of Agriculture across the area and in Texas.

New McCulloch County AgriLife Extension Agent hired and introduced to community.

Cooperative County Range and Wildlife Workshops held in area counties.

LOCAL ECONOMY -

Quarterly Good News lunch sponsored by Brady/McCulloch County Chamber covered activities of local business, government, education and charitable organizations.

Mason and McCulloch Counties continued to feel negative effects of the closure of a number of local sand mining operations over the past year.

KNEL continued reports of monthly and year-to-date sales tax rebates for areas counties.

Plans for construction of a white cement plant in McCulloch County ended in Dec. with announcement the proposed site had been sold to a buyer who pledged not to allow a cement plant at that location.

Construction of new wind turbine farm begins in Concho County.

In conjunction with the start of deer season, Hunter Appreciation dinners/events were held in Menard, Mason, McCulloch and Concho Counties.

Brady EDC completed conversion to "Type B" organization. The EDC then presented plans to the Brady City Council for implementation of a range of incentive programs for local small businesses.