

KTEN-TV ISSUES/PROGRAMS LIST January – March 1999

January, 1999

Health - Robert Hornacek reports on legality and regulation of body piercing in Denison.

Community involvement - Group of Austin college students return from Nicaragua after helping victims of Hurricane Mitch. Students worked with organizations such as "Save the Children." (staff report)

Economics - New year gets off to bad start with closing of Bonham's Schlumber-Ghey Technologies. Loss of 200 jobs. Total is nearly ten percent of all homeowners in Bonham. Company is trying to transfer some of those jobs elsewhere.

Agriculture - A group of Illinois students gave Bryan County farmers a gift...300 bales of hay. Texas and Oklahoma farmers and ranchers are trying to get through tough drought and other financial problems. This gift of hay will help feed livestock. (Allison Alexander reports)

Education/Health - Sulphur woman, who is deaf, agrees to help train her replacement at Bank First. Replacement is also deaf from Oklahoma School for the Deaf. This is part of a school-to-work program. (staff report)

Elderly/Native Americans - Chickawaw Nation hosts a ribbon cutting to open a new retirement center. 4-thousand-foot facility designed to house at least 28 Indian households. Applicants must be at least 62 years old. (staff report)

Environment - Grayson County officials have given go-ahead for a new waste management site. Now, however, some property owners are objecting saying their land and home values will drop because of the location of this waste site. County must still obtain proper permits and meet other requirements to operate the landfill. (Melissa Wilburn reports)

Crime - Four local burglars are arrested shortly after committing car burglaries. Three Denison men and one woman are caught because of description given to them by witness. Citizens are urged to lock their cars and keep valuables out of sight. (Allison Alexander reports)

Children/Crime - "Teddy Bears on Patrol" program is off to flying start. Two local radio stations (KLAK & KMKT) asked for donations of teddy bears for police officers to give to children who may be involved in traumatic situations. Donations have rolled in. Donation sites were again discussed. (staff reports)

Economy - A short-term economic forecast says future looks bright for Sherman/Denison metro area. Wages are up nearly two percent. Retail sales are up more than six percent. Employment is predicted to reach 50,000 by year 2003. (staff report)

Economy - Oklahoma governor Frank Keating calls for special legislative session to address crisis in oil and gas industry. It's hoped solutions can be found to protect the industry and people's jobs. (staff report)

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Obscenity - A Denison club cancels a performance by Chip & Dales, male dancers, because they may violate Texas obscenity law. Dancers were to appear at Texas Twister club. Denison police informed owners that the dancers could violate obscenity laws. Police said citizen's complaints led to this action. (Robert Hornacek reports)

Economy - Three local counties will be able to share millions of dollars. Funds will be used to create jobs and economic development in Pontotoc, Coal and Johnston counties. 50-million-dollars will be split up over the next ten years. (staff report)

Crime - Texas lawmakers consider a bill that would give Texas one of the lowest legal blood-alcohol limits in the country. Local citizens react both ways on this story. Legal blood-alcohol level could fall to point-zero-eight. (staff report)

Economy - Pillsbury Company in Grayson County says it will expand. The project will add 50,000 square feet to company's distribution plant. No new jobs to be added right away...but additional jobs will be probably created at a later date. (Allison Alexander reports)

Crime - Scam artists are contacting area people saying they can fix bad credit record by issuing a new social security number. This is illegal. U.S. government is trying to find out how wide-spread this problem is.

Story is a warning to our viewers. (staff report)

Science/Crime - DNA evidence now proves two Ada, Oklahoma men did not commit a murder they were convicted of in 1987. Ron Williams and Dennis Fritz now hope charges against them will be dropped and they will be freed from prison. Viewers are updated on the use of DNA tests to fight crime.

Children/Safety - In the past eight years at least 57 children choked to death inside bunk bed safety rails. Consumer Product Safety Commission is issuing a warning to all parents. Report helps warn our viewers. (staff report)

Black Americans - 4 February story marks the 86th birthday of civil right's pioneer Rosa Parks. Parks is example of how black Americans can succeed today. Local students comment on black struggles. (Lyndall Stout reports)

Family - Milburn, Oklahoma family loses everything in trailer home fire. Cash and clothing donations are asked for. First Baptist Church of Milburn becomes collection site. (staff report)

Education - Over 100 students from Sherman/Denison area participate in "Texoma School-to-Work" program. Students learn skills at area businesses to help prepare for the future. (staff report)

Children/Crime - Van Alstyne officials offer a way to track your child should they get lost or abducted. Newborns up to 15-year-olds get finger-printed and photos taken at free clinic. (staff report)

Consumers - 5 February report marks the last day of National Consumer Protection week. With this in mind area residents are being warned of the dangers of credit fraud. Home equity and home repair scams are exposed. (staff report)

Public Appearances by station personnel addressing community issues and concerns

Alan Mitchell – 2/16/99, Wapanucka School. Topic: Meteorology Career

Alan Mitchell – 2/17/99, George Washington Elementary; 100 3rd graders. Topic: Weather Safety Program

Alan Mitchell – 2/17/99, Washington Irving; 360 students. Topic: Weather Safety Program

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Children/Crime - Local kids get a special diploma. Gang Resistance, Education and Training (GREAT) teacher Mike Eppler with the Denison Police Department heads the program. Viewers are urged to have their children take this program that steers kids away from trouble. (staff report)

Crime/Drugs - Methamphetamine Labs are on the rise in Oklahoma. KTEN reporter Tracy Sears reports that the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs predicts over 300 Meth labs will be found before the end of 1999. Public is urged to be on the lookout for labs and cooperate with police.

Native Americans - Bingo means thrills for people...but the "real winners" may be Indian Tribe members. In this early March report by Lyndall Stout, bingo is shown to be big business for the Choctaw Tribe. The millions of dollars earned are used to create jobs and improve education.

Crime/Courts - Members of the Loe Family convicted in a federal conspiracy trial will be sentenced in Sherman. Some of the charges include: fraud, lying to the IRS and money laundering. Public is informed that the marina the Loe family operates, will still be available to them for use. The marina is very important to area economy. (staff report)

Crime/Economy - The Oklahoma Department of Corrections is considering pulling its prisoners out of county jails. May Tjoa reports in this March story that overcrowding is the main concern. But if prisoners are pulled from the county jails, the jails could suffer economic problems since the state pays for the prisoners. For example: Bryan County earns about \$87,000 a year from housing state prisoners.

Education/Crime - The investigation into alleged mis-use of funds by two East Central University employees is coming to a close. Six thousand dollars may have been mis-used. Pontotoc County officials will now decide whether to press charges against the two employees. (staff report)

Agriculture - Many area farmers may suffer even more from a dry year. Not only were crops hurt by drought, the warm, dry weather may cause bad insect problems. Usually cold weather kills the bugs...but because of a mild winter, bugs that affect crops may become plentiful soon. (Robert Hornacek reports)

Crime - People who use storage sheds are warned that a string of robberies have targeted local storage facilities. Tips are given on how to choose a safe storage area and mark your goods to help identify them if they are stolen. (Robert Hornacek reports)

Lake Texoma - Recent heavy rains have not helped raise the level of Lake Texoma. Rains may have helped drought victims, but runoff into the lake is still small leaving the lake a foot below normal. (staff report)

Taxes/Economy - Tax time is here. Robert Hornacek gives viewers tips on how to deal with tax problems. Where you can get the right forms and advice is given.

Transportation - Sherman officials hope to make a Highway 75 on-ramp safer for motorists. Staff report says Department of Transportation wants to lower the speed limit for the ramp between Houston and Washington streets. The ramp was recently closed because of numerous traffic accidents. Viewers are warned about possible speed limits.

Public Appearances by station personnel addressing community issues and concerns

Alan Mitchell – 3/10/99, Dickson Jr. High, 7th and 8th. Topic: Meteorology Career

Alan Mitchell – 3/13/99, Weather School, Ardmore;. Topic: Weather Safety Program

Alan Mitchell – 3/17/99, Caney Elementary;. Topic: Weather Safety Program

Alan Mitchell – 3/19/99, Mayes Elementary; 4th grade. Topic: Weather Safety Program

Alan Mitchell – 3/25/99, Vallient School; 24 students Topic: Weather Safety Program

KTEN-TV ISSUES/PROGRAMS PREVIEW 2nd Quarter 1999

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Proposed 2nd Quarter Issues to be addressed for Community

KTEN News- During 2nd Qtr 1999, KTEN News will address ways the public can “fight back against crime.” Self Defense, laws, protecting you home and property from thieves, etc. will be addressed. Also, severe weather protection and education issues will be reported on.

Community Appearances- Alan Mitchell plans to continue his weather safety campaign through 2nd Quarter 1999. He will visit area schools, community organizations and public meetings with his weather education program.