



KSNG FCC Report – 4th Quarter 2014

HEALTH

The threat of Ebola is being taken seriously by the Sedgwick County Health Department.

At their meeting, the county health director updated the commission about the Ebola prevention effort going on in Sedgwick County.

Several local agencies have been devising a plan to deal with the virus-- even though the likelihood of ebola showing up here is very low.

"Ebola is a rare disease. it is not spread by air water food, it is transmitted by close contact with body fluids of a person infected with ebola."

The health director added that flu symptoms can be mistaken for Ebola symptoms, and recommended that everyone get a flu vaccine.

Kansas Today 10/16/14 1:05

Food day is today and the Health & Wellness Coalition and the Sedgwick County Health Department are trying to raise awareness regarding the importance of healthy eating. This year's theme will be "flip your fridge", promoting a healthy refrigerator.

What does it mean to flip your fridge? See your refridgator in a new light and ask yourself what you can 'flip' around to make healthy eating easier for you and your family.

Here are five steps to get started:

1. Place healthier snacks like fresh fruits and veggies at eye level. Use clear containers.
2. Make it snack ready - wash and cut up some of your produce so its easy to grab when hunger strikes.
3. Out of sight; out of mind - keep less healthy snacks at the back.
4. Be food-safety minded - keep any raw meat in bottom drawers.
5. Rethink your drink - best bets are water, seltzer water and unsweetened tea

Kansas Today - 10/24/14 1:25

Several hospitals in southwest Kansas are expanding.

The plan is to bring more health care options to that *rural part of the state.

The 99-bed Western Plains Medical Complex in Dodge City is improving its women's center which covers women's health including labor and delivery.

"About a 13 thousand square foot addition to the main hospital, and bringing up all the latest labor rooms for all the moms and everything."

"The new women's center will extend off of this section of the hospital instead of being in a separate building, across the street, and they tell me that proximity will help with daily procedures, as well as any emergency situations."

They're not the only hospital working on expanding care, Southwest Medical Center in Liberal is expanding to make room for a cancer center as well as an o-b-g-y-n.

A cancer center recently opened in Dodge and another is coming soon to Garden City, adding to the services available for southwest Kansans.

"We do prefer to keep services here in southwest Kansas as much as possible instead of having for people to travel great distances."

The women's center should be finished by summer of next year.

Kansas Today, 11/18/14 1:35

When the temperatures dip some worry they could be more susceptible to catching a cold...

But not everyone is on board with that theory.

"My theory is if you get enough sleep and take care of your body no matter what the temperature you're going to be ok."

"You get sick because you get germs from other individuals or other environments, not from the weather.

"People aren't expecting it to be 75 one day and thirty the next."

Doctor Gretchen Dickson insists while colds and viruses like the flu are more common in the winter months it's not the temperature that makes you sick.

"Cold weather is probably not going to make you sick but if you haven't prepared well for cold weather, if you haven't thought about the fact that flu season is coming then you haven't done the things necessary to keep you from getting sick."

Dickson says there are studies showing changes in temperatures can impact a person's immune system.. making it easier to catch a cold. But she says other researchers insist their clinical studies show no correlation between weather and illness.

"A lot of it is just that you're spending more time with people in closer quarters and because of that you'll be doing a lot more germ exchange than so wind up getting sicker."

And while neglecting to bundle up might not give you a cold...it could result in even more dangerous medical conditions..including frostbite and hypothermia.

5pm News 11/21/14 1:15

Flu season is officially here.

The first case was reported recently in Sedgwick County and there are other cases confirmed in Kansas. It comes as the CDC is warning that this year's vaccine won't be as effective.

"The flu virus has drifted some and so the flu vaccine is only going to be effective in about fifty percent of the cases."

There are *always multiple strains of the flu.... and picking *which strain should go into a vaccine, months ahead of a predicted outbreak -- can be difficult.

"There's always a chance that they're going to miss the make-up of the flu vaccine, and interestingly enough they only missed by four percent this year, so it's not awful but it's awful enough to have more sickness in our community so it can be concerning."

Health officials say they have seen less effective vaccines before but still encourage people to get their flu shot.

"I think in 09 with the h1n1, when that came about I think we were all seeing more influenza that season than we have in a while."

If you do get the flu there's medications you can take to shorten the course of the illness.

Health officials still say the flu shot is a good idea.

"The good news is you can still get a flu shot and prevent against the other virus strains that are present in the vaccine, that are present in the community as well."

5pm News, 12/5/14 1:05

Checking into the emergency room has now gone high-tech at Wesley Medical Center.

Patients can see how long the wait time is at all of its four emergency rooms.

They also have an app where you can start the check-in process before you arrive by giving your name, date of birth, and symptoms.

"We can know right away that you're coming and we can get a room ready for you. That gets you to a doctor quicker. the goal for us is for you to see a physician as quickly as possible so we can identify the care that you need and get it started and get you feeling better quicker."

The wait times for the e-r's are also posted on seven huge billboards around the city.

6pm News, 12/8/14 :45

COMMUNITY

As the upcoming November election fastly approaches many people still not registered to vote. But one local organization set up shop at this afternoon in hopes of helping the public sign up. A group known as Core, the Community Operations Recovery Empowerment, brought the national *rock the vote* campaign to Wichita.

Hundreds of people filed in and out of McAdams Park to not only register to vote, but also to get informed and educated about what and who they would be voting for in the upcoming elections.

Representatives from local movements and campaigns had tables set up to engage with those who came out.

Several politicians also took to the stage to speak to the public about voting.

Organizers say this event allowed for many people to be better prepared when they head to the polls next month.

6pm News, 10/11/14 1:00

Wichita city leaders spent the day reaching out to their constituents the old fashioned way.

As many as 20 city and county organizations filled O.J. Watson Park today for the inaugural south side community appreciation day.

The event also featuring family friendly events to get folks out of the house and face to face with people who live on the city's south side.

"A lot of people just don't realize the resources that are out there and we want to be able to communicate that. I brought my kids out here a lot of times it's just meeting different people and getting to know your neighbors."

City leaders say they've been working on developing several ways to communicate with people including phone and e-mail.

But Blubaugh says events like this, with face to face interaction, are important to connecting with the community.

10pm News, 10/11/14 1:05

Now to a story we first brought you Monday - the Wichita police department's plan to outfit every officer with body cameras went public yesterday - but it wasn't just their efforts to get every officer with a camera that has people excited.

While the plans are still on the drawing board, officials say they'll be trying to do more to keep the communication and openness flowing with citizens.

That means more efforts to up community policing, a possible increase in crisis intervention training, and a new independent board to take the place of the current city manager's review board.

"This is just a progress report, the only thing that is somewhat in concrete is the body camera plan.

Everything else is a report back to the community. We heard these as the major issues and here are some initial steps we're taking."

Interim police chief Nelson Mosley says he doesn't want the conversation to stop here.

He plans to have more community forums before the year ends to continue to get citizen input.

Kansas Today 11/13/14 1:10

Traditionally, the majority of Hispanic voters don't make it out to the polls on Election Day.

But some groups worked to get the word out this morning, by calling and going door to door to inform minorities of the issues.

"It's very important that the Latino community rises up and actually votes."

There are over 120-thousand Hispanic voters in Kansas, a small percentage of total voters.

But with such close races today, they have the potential to sway the outcome.

10pm News 11/4/14 1:00

The Wichita Thunder hockey team is helping the community as we head toward Christmas. Getting some off time before returning to the ice later this week, Thunder players and cheerleaders helped ring bells and collect money for the Salvation Army today at the Wichita Walmart near 21st and Maize.

Last year, the Salvation Army reportedly helped out nearly 50,000 Wichita area residents

"We wouldn't be here without our fans and the great community of Wichita, so it's just a great way to give back, great cause."

"Ever since I came here to Wichita it's been awesome, we do these things once a week, when we're back in town, giving back to the community, they support us, we want to find ways to give back, Thunder fans are great, every night they're cheering for us, anyway we can give back we want to help out."

6pm News - 12/16/14 1:00

One of the biggest holiday attractions in the state is adding a special partner and giving back to the community for the last week.

Illuminations at Botanica has become one of the largest and popular holiday destinations in Kansas.

To celebrate a successful run this season, Botanica is partnering with the Kansas Food Bank for Kids at Heart Week.

Adults can get two dollars off their admission, and pay six dollars the same as kids' admission. You just have to bring two cans of food.

It starts tonight at 5:30 pm and the offer will last until the final day of Illuminations on the 31st.

If you haven't been out there this year, you've missed some new additions like the Shakespeare Fountain that has been transformed with curved lights that looks like colorful water flowing from it.

Kansas Today - 12/26/14 1:10

YOUTH

Wichita police tried to create a more positive image with kids and at the same time promote safety and fitness.

That was the goal Saturday at the 10th annual Shocks Cops and Kids at Wichita State's Koch Arena. (you get to do all these things with people like cops and shockers)

10 years going strong, it's taking an interactive approach, on and off the field

Every year local police officers team up with WSU athletes, creating several workshops geared to promote healthy eating, exercise and most importantly building positive relationships.

(during the first half of the day the kids learn all about safety particularly internet safety and then the second half that's where the bond begins.)

(its a way to get at risk youth and youth in general in contact with law enforcement in an atmosphere that is positive at times the only contact kids have is when something bad happens.)

(when you see cops what do you think of? Arresting. Arresting? But now what do you think of cops? Fun.)

(I feel very,very pleased and if I can just get 1 or 2 kids to feel that way about us then the whole day is a success.)

Kansas Today, 9/29/14

Bethany Roy with Big Brothers Big Sisters joins us today.

I think people would be surprised to know that high schoolers can volunteer, what about the different programs available for Bigs and Littles.

"Spending time together out in the local community is primarily how bigs and littles develop their relationship. After all, to change a child's perspective of the world, it helps to spend some time out in it. school-based programs.

Sometimes the best place for enjoying activities together is at the child's school. And, the best part is, it can be a great learning experience in or out of the classroom.

Brew ha-ha! is one of Wichita's premier annual fundraisers. It is an exciting evening of beer tastings with food pairings created by Wichita's finest chefs. During the evening, more than 350 guests are transported via party buses to 6 locations on the beautiful Flint Hills National grounds. It is a casual event that everyone enjoys!

Best of all, Brew ha-ha! supports the mission of Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters serving Sedgwick County by providing needed funds to create mentor matches for our youth facing adversity.

Noon News, 10/8/14 2:10

The Wichita Children's Home is celebrating the opening of the first building on their new campus.

Residents will soon be moving into the Bridges apartment building, made for at-risk teens who are going through hard times.

On top of housing, WCH provides counseling, education, life-skills coaching and vocational preparation for those in need.

"There's a huge need, we have a lot of youth that are couch surfing, in our community that are either not getting along with their parents or their parents no longer want them in their home, so they're out there staying under the bridges or couch surfing with other people so there's a huge need for this."

In addition to the residential units, there's an on-site day care, teaching kitchen and classroom.

This is just phase one of the expansion project, and WCH anticipates moving its emergency center and administration offices to the new site by 2016.

10pm News, 11/17/14 1:10

There's still a lot of need out there and that's where firefighters are trying to help.

They're collecting hundreds of coats for kids.

You'll find these donation boxes at local fire stations as well as at the Kansas Firefighters Museum.

One of the organizers says he remembers one boy in particular who was extremely excited about getting his very own new coat.

"You know, most of the time he got his coats, his brothers' coats and sometimes his sisters' coats he had to wear so this kid was extremely excited and walked around, he was strutting around when he got it. He looked really great."

You can help the cause by dropping off new coats, hats, gloves and scarves at Wichita and Sedgwick County fire stations through Monday.

5pm News, 11/26/14 1:05

Dozens of Wichita teens spending part of their Saturday helping the community through the Mayor's Youth Council.

About 50 students volunteered with local non-profit organizations in need of holiday help, including the Salvation Army, Wichita Children's Home, and the city's parks and recreation department.

The service event happens in the fall and in the spring.

Students who got involved today say they just wanted a chance to do something to help.

"The mayor's youth council wanted to do something to give back to the community so this is our way to kind of give back."

The Mayor's Youth Council was started in 2007 by Mayor Carl Brewer to give youth in Wichita the opportunity to weigh in on community issues and learn about city government.

6pm News, 12/13/14 1:10

The Garden City Commission approved the star bond proposal that will help fund a multi-million dollar soccer training center.

The major league soccer team "Sporting KC" wants to use a soccer training center in Garden City to develop and recruit athletes.

Their plan is to create a semi-pro team complete with fields, a stadium and, youth soccer clubs.

The project falls under the requirements of a "star bond" by creating a destination location within the city that'll bring people in from outside the city-as well as other states.

"Really put Garden City on the map from a national perspective, I think we're going to be able to attract kids from all over the region to come to this training academy and develop into professional soccer players."

The star bond district is made up of the shops at Schulman Crossing.

Part of their sales tax revenue will be used to fund the facility estimated to cost at least 20-million dollars.

Now that the district has been approved at the city level "Sporting KC" will have to get approval from the state.

They say they've been speaking with the Department of Commerce and are optimistic about the next step.

Kansas Today, 12/17/14 1:00

EDUCATION

School districts across the state say they're seeing a higher number of their teachers retiring from the classroom.

Numbers collected by the state over the last five years show the annual number of retirees from the classroom statewide has more than doubled.

Meanwhile the annual number of teacher licenses issued by the state has stayed relatively flat.

"The problem is will we have enough teachers coming out of schools of education to replace those, particularly in hard-to-fill areas like math, science and foreign language."

In the Wichita area districts like Andover, Goddard and Derby tell KSN they saw small increases in teacher retirees this past year while Wichita, the largest district in the state, saw a small decrease.

Noon News, 9/30/14 1:00

Education experts say recruiting qualified teachers to Kansas is more challenging than ever.

According to the Kansas Center for Stem Learning, nearly 20 percent of current math and science teachers will become eligible to retire within three years, and experts say there aren't enough replacements being recruited.

There are several several reasons why, one of the most common is money.

Lawmakers say a law passed in July, which allows people without education degrees to get teaching licenses could help fill those openings, but retired teachers and the KNEA disagree, saying teaching is more than just knowledge of a subject, but a host of other responsibilities.

Noon News, 10/20/14 1:00

Education remains a hot topic in the state capital, as school leaders anticipate what *could result from the latest projected budget deficit.

The Kansas Board of Education met Wednesday, sorting through revenue reports and expectations.

Since about half of the state budget goes to education, Kansas' latest budget issues are prompting school leaders to brace for possible cuts, though they remain hopeful that won't happen.

"We're losing so much, and it's not fair to the kids of Kansas."

"It's just a fact of where we are, in the economy in which we live right now."

Overall, it's a mixed review from board members, but the board will continue focusing on education funding, hoping lawmakers will hold true to their campaign promises.

Noon News, 11/13/14 1:20

Over the weekend the 2015 Kansas Teacher of the Year was chosen.

Of nearly 100 nominees and eight finalists, Dodge City biology teacher Shannon Ralph won the prestigious award.

The teacher is known for her personal connection with her students...

"My educational philosophy centers around relationships with kids and I'm really passionate about that."

The teacher of the year wins a four-thousand dollar cash prize along with a 65-hundred dollar classroom technology package and a learning scholarship.

She says she hopes to use her title as a platform to reach out to other teachers and students to improve education in Kansas.

Kansas Today 11/25/14 1:00

Today the Kansas school efficiency task force looked at ways to cut money and try to find ways to better educate Kansas kids.

Critics of the task force say this is just one way to cut money from schools and some members of the task force today saying the state should take a close look at consolidating schools.

The task force is made up of former lawmakers, some principals, and others appointed by Kansas Governor Sam Brownback, including conservative think-tank members called the Kansas Policy Institute. The group talked about ways to define school standards but they also talked about making recommendations to lawmakers on how to consolidate and force schools to spend down their cash reserves.

Some school leaders today are asking if the efficiency task force is a way to cut schools.

This month, Governor Sam Brownback talked with reporters about education and school finance.

The governor led the way on increasing k-12 education spending in the last legislative session, by 230 million dollars to meet a court mandate on funding.

But this week, he told a reporter in Topeka that it could be "very difficult to sustain that level of an increase."

KSN reached out to the state budget director, to ask what the plan would be to find ways to fix the budget gap in the hundreds of million for the 2016 budget.

"If it's just at the end a way for the state to take more control it won't be good for kids, it won't be good for local taxpayers."

5pm News, 12/15/14 1:25

After promising to hold education harmless with no cuts to school funding, this week, Governor Sam Brownback says current funding levels may not be sustainable.

Teacher groups are firing back at the governor saying school funding should be left alone.

"He put more money into the retirement system and then two months later he's making cuts to it and saying he's not cutting education funding. You can't have it both ways.

KSN reached out to the state budget director, to ask what the plan would be to find ways to fix the budget gap in the hundreds of million for the 2016 budget.

A spokeswoman for governor Brownback responded by saying, "the governor has a plan to balance the budget and will present it to the legislature in January."

Kansas Today 12/19/14 1:00