

KVII-TV QUARTERLY REPORT OF PROGRAMMING ON ISSUES OF COMMUNITY IMPORTANCE

JULY 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

KVII-TV NEWS PROGRAMS PROVIDING THE MOST SIGNIFICANT TREATMENT OF COMMUNITY ISSUES:

PRONEWS 7 DAYBREAK	M-F 5-7A
PRONEWS 7 MIDDAY NEWS	M-F 11-1130A
PRONEWS 7 @ 5P	M-F 5-530P
PRONEWS7 @ 6P	M-SAT 6-630P AND SUN 530-6p
PRONEWS 7 @ 10P	M-SUN 10-1035P

All of the above programs are locally produced news programs presenting a mix of news, weather, sports, including some issue-responsive segments and multi-part series. Such segments are normally one to two minutes in length.

The following features are weekly and cover a vast array of issues that are of great interest to our viewers:

Consumer Confidential with 10 PM Anchor Jay Ricci airs on Mondays in the 5 PM news with tips and ideas to deal with home and car repair.

The Practicing Parent with 5PM Anchor and first time Mom, Lisa Schmidt airs Mondays and Wednesdays in the 6PM Newscast. Lisa covers a large array of topics in which all parents have an interest. Some of the topics have been: routines, navigating blended families, safety seats and many more timely topics.

The Waiting Child airs on Tuesdays in the 6 PM news with Daybreak Anchor Steve Myers and a host of Children looking and hoping for a Big Brother or Big Sister.

Education Spotlight airs on Thursdays in the 6PM Newscast. Lindsey Steiner has covered many topics that concern any parent of school-age children such as School safety, funding and curriculum.

The Panhandle Spirit airs weekly in the 10 PM news and Steve Myers interacts with some of the people that make up the Panhandle Spirit with stories about various cultures and historical pieces.

KVII-TV airs many National and locally produced PSAs that deal with various amounts of topics from Big Brothers, Big Sisters to spousal abuse and Medical issues.: United Way, careers, Driving and texting/talking, Local charity, The Bridge for abused Children

Following is a list of some of the news stories covering significant problems and needs of the KVII-TV service area:

The city of Fritch has lifted the notice to boil water that has been in effect since July 17, according to Cody Bengel, Interim Public Works Director.

After many long hours and an excruciating wait for part repairs the pumps for the wells are back on line. Samples of the water passed the state tests and water from the tap is good for cooking or drinking.

The following areas are no longer affected by the boil water notice:

Sage Mesa
Ponderosa
Little Ponderosa
Arroyo Verde
Antelope Mesa
Vinson Development
Lake Meredith Harbor
Sanford Estates

The Texas Agri-life, Texas A & M system, has been helping the agricultural community for seventy-five years.

The scientist and researchers have developed strong programs that benefit our nations agricultural from the farm field to the dinner plate.

But they get lots of help from our nations government and private sector business too.

"On the Federal side it's base funds, it's part of the USDA budget, we've been pretty blessed here." said David Brauer, research argonomist. "From the State side, it comes through the Texas Agri-life Texas A & M system, a lot of state funds. But we also have that supplemented by grants and those could be grants from like...Sorghum Check Off or from pretty high powered science foundation like National Science Foundation."

The over the years the facility has conducted research to improve crop productivity and water use, to improve the quality of life for people and communities of the panhandle.

Farmers and producers have used the research to better their own crop yields and to deal with the Texas High plains droughts and weather.

"Since the station started in 1938," said Charles Schlab, "wind erosion was one of the big things then, you know, we still have the wind but we learned to control it; control the dust anyhow."

Despite the adverse conditions of the panhandle, over the years, the research has proven to be effective. That eventually gets passed on to farmers.

"In other words, it kind of becomes common knowledge," said Schlab, "In other words it gets passed from research to farmer to farmer and from news media. On and on, you know."

There is science to farming and the panhandle has had a facility for seventy five years that has been helping farmers and other agriculture producers better their crops.

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The city of Dumas has lifted water boil notice for most water users. Water customers including Mooretex, the DeKalb addition, and the areas south of 14th St. may resume normal water usage.

The one exception are those customers who are by the airport line on the south side of U.S. 87 west of Dumas. Those customers are still asked to abide by the water boil notice prior to water consumption.

The boil water advisory will be lifted when water samples pass required bacteriological testing. It may take a few more days to obtain these test results.

If you have questions concerning this matter, you may contact the City of Dumas water utilities office at 806-935-4101 during business hours or after-hours and weekends at 935-2151. If a customer wishes to contact the TCEQ, they may call 512-239-4691.

A new proposal from the Texas Department of Transportation could cost the city of Amarillo more than they are prepared to deal with or pay for.

The proposed Turn Back program will relinquish the state's control of many non-freeway highways, saying they will be returning control and the costs to city governments.

"The Turn Back program is a cooperative program between the Texas Department of Transportation and local governments that choose to participate in it," said Mark Cross, TxDOT spokesperson. "the program will expand the use of our limited funding resources for maintaining the state highway system and keep Texas communities safely connected."

In Tuesday's city commission meeting the city leaders made their stance clear, they are against the program.

"Well I think the Turn Back name is a misnomer," said Mayor Harpole. "This not a Turn Back Program. We've never owned those roads. They are deeded to the State of Texas and so they are just abandoned and forcing them back on us and keeping the money that the taxpayer sent them to take care of those roads."

City leaders are headed down to Austin to discuss with TxDOT how the program will be implemented.

With all the cities in Texas that this will affect, the committee is only allowing one hour to hear questions and comments from city leaders state wide.

This comes right after budgets have been set for the year, after legislatures have wound up their sessions.

This may mean that both cities and and TxDOT may be at odds for several more years. Many of the city officials question the motives and are angered. There are too many questions left unanswered.

If the Amarillo city commission decides to participate with any roads from the state highway system, the city will become responsible for all maintenance and upkeep including street sign repair, stripping lanes, salting and removing snow from roads during the winter and mowing the grass along side the areas.

"So in other words the local government would have local control of things like traffic flow, parking, driveway access speed limits, road closures, utility work, utility permits, maintenances schedule. All those types of things would fall under the jurisdiction of the local government on these roadways rather than TxDOT," said Cross.

To view the meeting live streaming on the internet visit: [TxDOT Commission Streamed media](#)

The Texas Workforce Commission is warning job seekers of scammers.

Some job seekers have been receiving unsolicited online or telephone communications from someone posing as a potential employer.

They claim to be from a job matching website, such as www.workintexas.com

After an interview they request a cash or money order advance in order to buy equipment or training.

They say legitimate employers never ask for money as a condition for starting work.

Trent Morris, the Director of Texas Workforce Panhandle says, "there's rarely a legitimate reason for asking for money. If you encounter an employer asking for such personal information before a face-to-face meeting, you should just walk away."

AMARILLO, TEXAS -- Paul Evans, Regional Vice President for United says nothing will change after Albertson's announced they've bought the Lubbock based chain.

"It's going to be United Supermarkets. We will operate as a United Supermarket. Our CEO will report to Albertsons...Everyone's safe from the top to the bottom. No job losses, reductions in pay. Everything stays the same."

They say they have no intention to raise prices.

Greg Ammon, Regional Vice President for United says "I think they like the way we do business. They know we're self-sufficient. I see our growth opportunities being faster."

Evans says the Snell and Bumstead families, who have operated the United stores for 97 years, says, "the family felt as if this acquisition will help grow us more than what the family could do."

DUMAS, TEXAS -- Dumas native Carolyn Stallwitz is part of the second generation of notable Dumas artists, with Don Ray.

She credits her mentor, Mil Boyd, with teaching her technique and inspiring her to open The Art Center, next to the Window On The High Plains museum.

Stallwitz was instrumental in creating both those institutions.

Stallwitz's protégé, M.S. Franco, is also represented in the museum.

She paints nature in watercolors and has done so for seventy years.

Her work is featured in many homes in Dumas and at the Moore County Courthouse.

Moore County Judge Rowdy Rhoades says "she's mothered the whole county."

She says she's a realist painter for a very specific reason, "God's hard to improve upon."

The Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and the Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument would close Tuesday if no budget deal is reached in Congress.

Up to 94% of National Park Service Employees would be furloughed.

There would be no hunting allowed and Flintfest 2013 could be cancelled.

The Superintendent of Lake Meredith, Robert Maguire, says, "We want to protect the resources for future generations. In order to do that we've been ordered to shut everything down. Keep a skeleton staff to prevent vandalism. We'll start shutting our doors unless Congress gives us appropriations."

CANYON, TEXAS -- Canyon High School students are working together in the Panhandle Spirit to make their school campus an community a better place. They're doing that by volunteering their time. Pronews 7 is featuring their good deeds in this week's Region 16 Spotlight on Education.

At Canyon High School around 50 students participate in Key Club.

"Key Club is an international organization affiliated with Kiwanis international. Key Club is one of the few organizations where you can start at a young age when you're in high school and when you go to college you can start Circle-K and when you're an adult you can continue to serve as a Kiwanis," said Faculty Advisor, Lance Culbert.

"Key Club is a community service organization. We do community service projects in and around the area," said Key Club President, Josh Collins.

Some of the projects they participate in is cooking for families at the Ronald McDonald House in Amarillo, cleaning up and recycling around the Canyon High School campus, and helping with community projects like the Cancer Relay for Life.

"I remember we had a social where we had made a fleece blankets for the rainbow room. And I remember that social a lot of fun, we watched movies and we all made blankets together and the blankets are so comfortable it was nice to know that these kids are able to enjoy this blankets like we did," said Key Club Editor, Abby Caviness.

"It's a lot of fun to work with people my age and just work toward making the community better," said Membership Liaison, Olivia Hartman.

Kiwanis International even gives out scholarships to students every year. It's a school working together to make an impact in others lives.

CANYON, TEXAS -- Canyon High School students are learning more than just about farming in their Future Farmers of America class. It's also instilling in them leadership and life skills. Pronews 7 is featuring the program in this week's Region 16 Spotlight on Education.

FFA is not just about farming, it's actually integrating leadership, study and interviewing skills with competitions. Preparing students for the real world and life after high school.

"FFA stands for Future Farmers of America. But it's a lot more than plants and cattle. We have speaking competitions, we have chapter conducting, when is parliamentary procedure. And that's how government bodies, congress, big corporations, that's how they'll make their decisions," said FFA Chapter Reporter, Georgia Hansen.

Many students even winning scholarships. "I won a \$3,000 scholarship, a belt buckle, certificate saying I won. I want to go to Texas Tech University because of their agriculture and ASL program because I'm into both," said FFA Chapter President, Tanner Bolton.

"I've learned how to be a leader and be more confident in myself because I didn't use to be an it's gotten better," said Hansen.

"Before I joined FFA I had no, no, no career ideas. I wanted to be a video game designer. I had no real direction at all when I joined FFA and I got thrown into these contests, by Mr. Bolton. Closely it really forced me to learn things and it opened up this whole new world that I'd never been introduced to," said Bolton.

Hansen wants to combine her passion of agriculture with giving back.

"My goal is to own something called the Grace Project and it will be an operational ranch that's also a refuge for battered women and children. I can blend my passion for psychology and my passion for plants together."

She said she's hoping to see her products to be able to produce funds for the project.

AMARILLO, TEXAS -- A whooping cough epidemic, that's what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are calling it. In Texas alone, close to 2,000 cases have been reported, 11 locally.

That horrible sound that no parent wants to hear. An infant with a seal like cough, an infant gasping for air.

"With babies there's no whoop of cough, it's like a common cold/cough. So if we see an infant especially below the age of one year old and the cough is lasting to many days without a rhyme or reason," said Texas Tech Physicians Department of Pediatrics, Vinod K. Sethi, M.D., F.A.A.P.

In the Texas Panhandle, nine cases were reported last year. This year, 11 cases with two deaths statewide. So why the spike? Officials say parents are choosing not to vaccinate their children against it over fears that vaccine causes autism.

"I wish that this concept for the fear of getting autism if you get the vaccine would go away because we have been seeing how this is a problem with the epidemic. And I'm afraid if our population doesn't get properly immunized both children and adults will face many more of these infectious diseases," said Dr. Sethi.

Vaccinations for infants start at two months and continue through six years of age. For medical officials they're stressing the importance of anyone around small children getting vaccinated.

"Right now, we request all pregnant women who are in their last trimester please go get yourself immunized because if you get immunized as a pregnant lady your chances of your baby having the whooping cough are going to be really small," said Dr. Sethi.

For daycares, a health scare is something they take notice of. At Amarillo College's Child Development Lab School they say they take extra precautions by hand washing constantly and cleaning.

"What we do is we do a lot of hand washing. We wash before we eat, we wash after we eat, we wash when we come in from the playground. We wash a lot. We clean our center with bleach. Well we clean it with three different articles. We use a soapy water solution, then we clean it with clear water, and then we use a bleach solution," said Acting Director of Lab School, Wanda Young.

Young also says if a child does become ill, they require a doctor's note releasing the child from care. The lab school also keeps the child's vaccination records on file.

Medical officials are hoping we all take precautions to protecting our families against this deadly outbreak.

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AMARILLO, TEXAS -- NCW Insurance is hosting two Affordable Care Act Seminars Thursday, September 26th.

Misty Baker, director of Life and Health Insurance Information for Independent Insurance Agents of Texas will be speaking about the impacts the ACA will have on businesses.

This seminar is free and open to the public.

The Affordable Care Act: What Employers Need to Know

Thursday, September 26th

Amarillo College Downtown Campus - 1314 S. Polk Street - Amarillo, TX 79101

Small Group: (fewer than 50 employees)

9:30 am - 11:30 am

Large Group: (50+ employees)

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

RSVP to Elizabeth Carter, NCW Insurance Stewardship Manager

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