

## PROGRAM LISTS AND REPORTS 4<sup>th</sup> QUARTER 2014

KQSS continues to air ten local newscasts each weekday, six in the morning (6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30), four in the afternoon (3:30, 4:00, 4:30, 5:00) for a total of 650 regularly scheduled live newscasts this Quarter. It is KQSS policy to handle breaking news of major importance with immediacy, breaking into programming as needed. Often this is weather, road or utility related. The biggest such item this quarter was a New Year's Eve power outage affecting the town of Miami, which lasted from approximately 11 pm until after midnight.

News emphasis remained on local issues and items of interest to the community. Featured daily were job openings, police reports, lunch menus for schools and senior centers, weather forecasts and public service announcements.

Public Service Announcements were aired both within newscasts and as stand-alone features. This past quarter, KQSS aired more than 1470 individual public service announcements. The station policy is to accept and air all public service announcements from any community-oriented entity, be it a non-profit organization, or a commercial business that is engaging in a charitable event.

KQSS covers local government meetings including the Gila County Board of Supervisors; the Globe City Council and the Miami Town Council; the Globe Unified School District and the Miami Unified School District; as well as other community committees formed locally, either by citizens or local government. Reviews of material presented at the meetings are aired during newscasts.

The continuing news story with the greatest impact to the community was congressional approval of the Resolution Mine land swap agreement. Resolution Copper has invested over a billion dollar in the proposed mine to date. Some employees have already been hired, with the promise of thousands upon the mine's opening. The area's US Representative, Ann Kirkpatrick, has gone far to support the project for its potential to revitalize the economic community here. The president signed the bill containing the land swap, but almost immediately thereafter, some of his cabinet members vowed to stop it from going through. The local debate is whether the San

Carlos Apache Tribe is accurate in its assessment that some of the area involved contains ancestral lands of significance.

Multiple explosions at Freeport McMoran, a local copper mine, due to a problem with their smelter brought quite a bit of coverage in November. While residents could hear the explosions throughout the area, no deaths or serious injuries occurred.

The November midterm elections garnered quite a bit of attention, but less than in other areas, due to several races having candidates of only one party. Overall, the closest and most contentious races this year were decided in the August primaries. They included the Superior Court Judge position replacing retiring Judge Robert Duber, and the closest contest of the year, between incumbent Globe Regional Justice of the Peace Gary Goetteman and long time local lawman, Jesse Bolinger. Bolinger won by less than 20 votes.

In Miami, Councilmember Darryl Dalley was voted Mayor, replacing Rosemary Castaneda and Councilmember Sammy Gonzales was elected vice mayor, replacing Susan Hanson. Both Castaneda and Hanson remain on the town council.

The biggest problem the town of Miami now faces is the possible loss of the USDA support of the wastewater project. The issue is pivotal for the town to the point that it could send it into insolvency. The USDA has revised its requirements for participation in the project to give the town the ability to meet them. Among the conditions are audits from 2012 to the present, to be completed no later than March 31<sup>st</sup>, and a 30% rate increase for sewer charges. Unlike other rate increase discussions, this one was not met with opposition, as it is vital to the continuation of the wastewater project that the rate-hike go through.

November also saw new security measures at the Gila County Courthouse. While the convenience of some entryways is gone, the metal detector has been overall well received.

A lengthy appeals hearing took place at the Gila County Public Works building in December to determine the fate of Gila County Jail Sergeant, Keith Johnson this quarter. Ultimately the Gila County Personnel Commission voted to rescind the disciplinary demotion he received in 2013. Johnson was instead given a 40 hour suspension and is required to attend anger management classes.

For the first time in several years, property tax bills were sent out without major glitches. However, a letter that went out to landowners with

agricultural exemptions practically caused a revolt. The motivation behind the letter from the assessor's office was to correct the county's lack of any reliable data on agricultural use. But the letters were written in such a way that landowners saw the requirements as offensive and tremendously invasive. In a public meeting, both sides came together to work out a solution appropriate to both property owners and the county.

The problem with the lack of reliable, fast broadband in the county was discussed in a forum hosted by the Southern Gila County Economic Development Corporation at Bullion Plaza. While some providers dissented, all businesses agreed that broadband here is insufficient. The hospital, for instance, is unable to do telemedicine as speeds are either not available or at a cost that would be impossible to pay. CableOne limits upload speeds to 5 mb for businesses, which is virtually useless to many users. And DSL is incapable of providing more than a fraction of that. Hope was expressed that the fiber that runs through the area owned by the San Carlos Apache Telecommunications Utility might be a solution, but upon examination, the total amount available is not enough to solve the problem. That talks are ongoing at all is seen as a positive, since it is only recently that many business people realized the need for faster, more reliable broadband connectivity.

The community was saddened by the death of Bill Taylor on December 10th. Taylor, the owner of KQSS and KJAA was a major force in the area both from his tireless coverage of local issues, to his private, unpublicized support of organizations and citizens.

Musically KQSS added numerous Christmas favorites, which rotated throughout the month of December.

Placed in the Public File on Friday, January 2, 2015.