

QUARTERLY ISSUES/PROGRAMS LIST

KELN-FM
KRNP-FM
KZTL-FM
KNPQ-FM
KOOQ-AM

1st Quarter 2021
January-March

The following air during our “What’s Your Issue Segment,” as well as during newscasts and within the morning drive.

Newscasts: KOOQ-6a, 7a, 8a
KRNP-6a, 7a, 8a (x2), 5p
KZTL-6a, 7a, 8a (x2), 5p
KELN-6a, 7a, 8a (x2), 5p
KNPQ-6a, 7a, 8a (x2), 5p

Description of Programming

“What’s Your Issue” is an on-air/podcast dedicated to local and state events and issues. These interviews air during the morning show on KOOQ-AM and are segmented into newscasts on all stations.

INTERVIEWS

January 7-

Monthly interview with the Nebraska Alzheimer’s Association on their Walk to End Alzheimer’s, resource awareness and other information on the battle against Alzheimer’s.

January 13-

Update from the North Platte Public Schools Foundation on financial needs of the North Platte Public Schools.

January 29-

Interview with members of North Platte Noon Rotary on their upcoming food distribution event.

February 1-

Update from the North Platte Public Library on changes at the library due to COVID-19.

February 10-

Interview with North Platte Community Playhouse board members on upcoming virtual events and ways to support the playhouse.

February 24-

Interview with the Rape and Domestic Abuse Program servicing all of Southwest Nebraska on upcoming events and resources for victims.

March 1-

Interview with Great Plains Health executive on COVID-19 treatment being used by Great Plains Health throughout Southwest Nebraska.

March 18-

Interview with local child advocacy group the Guardians of the Children on upcoming family events.

March 24-

Interview with North Platte High School journalism students on new offering from the Bulldogger school newspaper and protections being debated in the legislature for student journalist.

NEWS STORIES

January 1

The North Platte Public Library is currently closed and will remain closed through January 10, 2021. The closure is due to library staff having close contact with an asymptomatic COVID positive staff member during the week of December 28-30 2020. Library staff are in quarantine until January 10, 2021.

It is unlikely that library patrons were exposed to the asymptomatic COVID positive staff member as all library staff members wear a facemask when in a public area, keep socially distant, and interactions are typically less than 5 minutes.

The Library plans to reopen at 9:00 AM on Monday, January 11, 2021.

Any items due from December 21, 2020, through January 11, 2021, will now be due on January 18, 2021. Fines do not accrue while the Library is closed. The book drop will remain open for those patrons who wish to return items.

January 2-

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - Although some teachers in Nebraska got the COVID-19 vaccine this week, state health officials said people 75 and older will get priority ahead of teachers and others in the next phase of vaccinations.

Once the state finishes vaccinating health care workers and residents and staff of long-term care homes, the elderly will be next in line for the vaccine, said Angela Ling, incident commander with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

The state updated its vaccination plan after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention revised its recommendations to add people 75 and older to the next priority group, The Lincoln Journal-Star reported.

About 100 staff members in the Scottsbluff Public Schools were vaccinated this week. Kim Engel, director of the Panhandle Public Health District, said the Scottsbluff clinic was scheduled before the state revised its vaccination plan.

The state reported 166,798 confirmed COVID-19 cases Friday, an increase of 1,501 from the previous day.

The fire last Friday started in the laundry room of Michelle Tynan's house in Chappell, about 370 miles (600 kilometers) west of Omaha.

Tynan, who co-founded the Nebraska Loves Cats nonprofit, said she discovered the dryer was on fire when she awoke to the smell of smoke shortly after midnight.

Tynan said she called 911, grabbed as many cats as she could and broke some windows so other cats could escape as she ran outside. Tynan said first responders wouldn't let her re-enter the house to rescue more animals.

"I could hear the cats crying and I was begging for somebody to please let me go back in and get the animals out," Tynan said to the North Platte Telegraph. "I was just beside myself in grief, screaming."

Tynan said several cats that initially escaped the fire ran back inside as the house burned. The Nebraska Loves Cats group said 48 cats died in the fire.

After the fire, nine cats were staying with Tynan at her mother's ranch outside of Chappell. The Nebraska Loves Cats group said two cats that were injured during the fire are being cared for by a veterinarian and four other cats have been relocated to North Platte.

Several other cats that escaped the fire remain on the loose.

Tynan said Nebraska Loves Cats has been licensed as an animal shelter since 2018, but in December Tynan was found guilty of violating a city ordinance by keeping more than five cats in a residential area. Tynan is appealing that conviction and the case is pending.

The group is seeking donations to help care for the cats following the fire.

February 15-

WALLACE, Neb.-The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) is investigating a stabbing in Wallace. One man has been arrested, and another sustained potentially life-threatening injuries.

According to LCSO, on February 21, at 12:54 p.m., the Lincoln County 911 Center received a report of a disturbance in Wallace. LCSO says it was reported a male subject was stabbed by another male in the Village of Wallace.

According to LCSO, deputies on and off-duty responded to the scene and quickly apprehended the suspect at his residence, 34-year-old Wallace resident Daniel Swanson.

Deputies say the victim, a 36-year-old Wallace man, had fled to a neighbor's house to call for help.

LCSO says deputies located the victim and began to give first aid for multiple stab wounds. Wallace Fire and Rescue responded and the victim was flown to Great Plains Health via helicopter.

It was reported that the victim was later flown to a Lincoln hospital for further treatment. The victim's status was rated as serious and their injuries considered potentially life-threatening, according to LCSO.

LCSO says the victim reported Swanson was the aggressor and stabbed him during an altercation.

Deputies arrested Swanson on suspicion of first-degree assault and use of a weapon to commit a felony.

Health department data shows 1,651 people have died from COVID-19 in the state, an increase of 40 from data reported Thursday. About 64% of the deaths were people 75 or older, health officials said.

January 11-

LINCOLN, Neb.-The application window to receive support from the Nebraska Public Service Commission (PSC), Nebraska Telehealth program is now open.

The Commission approved an Order (NUSF-57) detailing the program and application process in early January.

“Our ongoing global health crisis has amplified the need for telemedicine and virtual medical services,” said commission chair Mary Ridder. “By supplementing federal dollars, we hope to provide additional resources for telehealth services here in Nebraska.”

The Commission allocated \$1.5 million from the Nebraska Universal Services Fund (NUSF) for the Nebraska Telehealth program for fiscal year 2021. Applicants will be required to demonstrate participation in the federal Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) in order to be eligible for state NUSF Telehealth program support.

The application window runs through April 15. An application form along with Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) can be found on the NUSF page of the PSC website.

“We encourage rural health entities that meet the requirements to apply for this additional support,” Ridder said.

February 1-

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) - The economy is continuing to show signs of improvement in nine Midwest and Plains states, according to a new monthly survey, but business leaders say the coronavirus pandemic is taking a bite out of their business.

January's overall index of the Creighton University Mid-America Business Conditions suggests improved growth, coming in at a strong 67.3 from December's 64.1.

Any score above 50 on the survey's indexes suggests growth, while a score below 50 suggests recession.

The region lost 1.5 million, or 10.9%, of nonfarm jobs through April following the onset of the pandemic, said Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the survey. The region has since regained 841,000 of the jobs lost, Goss said, and the latest survey numbers "indicate that the region is adding jobs and economic activity at a healthy pace, and that growth will remain healthy well into 2021."

The survey's confidence index, which looks ahead six months, jumped to 53.6 in January from December's weak 45.8.

February 2-

CHAPPELL, Neb. (AP) - At least 48 cats were killed in a fire at a western Nebraska house that doubled as an animal shelter.

Swanson was incarcerated in the Lincoln County Detention Center.

LCSO says deputies continued the investigation by executing a search warrant of the residence. The investigation into this matter is ongoing.

March 23-

MCCOOK, Neb.-Weather permitting, a crack seal project will begin March 29 on US-6, according to the Nebraska Department of Transportation. Crack sealing is a process of cleaning and filling open joints and cracks in the surface with sealant to prevent entry of moisture and debris.

State maintenance forces will be performing a crack seal from Reference Post 24 to Reference Post 34, near Imperial. The work is anticipated to take 12 days. Traffic will be maintained with a pilot car and flaggers.

Motorists are reminded to drive cautiously in and near work zones, to buckle up, and put phones down.

CRIMESTOPPERS

The Crimestoppers Crime of the Week runs six times per week on all five stations.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

On-air personalities promote events from our Community Calendar daily during on-air shifts.