

FOCUS ON KANSAS PROGRAMS 4TH QUARTER 2017

- 10-1 Monica Kurz with the Kansas Suicide Prevention Center visited with us about issues that can contribute to suicide including mental health, bullying, and substance abuse. Kurz gave a detailed presentation on the topic in late September at a program in Lyons organized by the Rice County Coalition. (A new name for the Rice County Coalition for Children and Families it adopted during the summer.)
- 10-8 Roger Fritschenmeyer from Prairie Independent Living Resource Center gave an overview of their annual Disability Mentoring Day held October 19th. Disability Mentoring Day provides high school students with disabilities an opportunity to shadow local businesses to learn what goes into a particular vocation. Ad Astra Radio has for several years participated in this event, and during the 2017 disability mentoring day students from Buhler and Nickerson High Schools spent the day with the station's news and public affairs director going through his daily routine. Donna Davis from the Sexual Assault Domestic Violence Center also gave an update on their activities including a new abuse awareness and information program involving local cosmetologists.
- 10-15 Don Wilkins from Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in South Hutchinson talked about a Women's Holiday Gift Fair, which is a fundraiser for St. Rose of Lima, a group organized about a dozen years ago that assists people in need in the community and also operates a food bank. Katie Broker from the Reno County Museum was also on the program, and she discussed several upcoming events themed around hallowed including an annual event centered around Hutchinson's Eastside Cemetery where stories are shared about the people buried there.
- 10-22 This week's program featured a discussion with Kansas State University Research and Extension Youth Development Specialist Elaine Johannes, who talked about a grant they received to engage impoverished families in community conversation to learn more about the role of social capital in Kansas families living in poverty. The project comes as the number of Kansas children living in poverty increases while funding for safety net programs declines.
- 10-29 The program featured an update on the process of development of new flood plain maps for Rice County. Dane Bailey from the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources gave an overview of work that has been done since the project began including revisions to initial drafts of flood maps in Lyons that placed multiple homes not now in the flood plain into it. Bailey and Sterling City Manager Taggart Wall also discussed specific studies that will be done in the Sterling area due to the particular (very flat even by Kansas standards) topography there.
- 11-5 Hutchinson City Manager John Deardoff discussed a sales tax renewal to be voted on at the November election. The half percent sales tax, which has been in place in some form or another since 1994 and renewed three times since, is a major source of funding for street projects in Hutchinson. The tax also provides funds for property tax relief, the Cosmosphere and Strataca.
- 11-12 Tony Railsback of the Reno County Toy Run Association was our guest and he talked about the 34th annual event that is a major source of toys the Salvation Army distributes locally during the Christmas Season. The event includes a motorcycle run that makes a loop around the city of Hutchinson ending at the Moose Lodge where representatives of the US Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program collect the gifts and several other events take place. Toys for the event were also collected during an event the day before at Wal-Mart following Ad Astra Radio's Christmas Parade during which organizers for many years have entered a trailer with the bicycles donated to the event.
- 11-19 Carol Bingle, long time coordinator of the Sterling Community Thanksgiving Dinner, discussed preparations for and the history of the dinner which began in 1978 as a way for Sterling College Students unable to go home for Thanksgiving to have someplace to go and has grown through the years into an event that serves between 600-800 each year. Bingle outlined the many things that have to be done to get ready for the dinner.
- 11-26 Reno County Sheriff Randy Henderson and Sgt. Justin Van Scoyc discussed a chase training program at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center deputies in the department took part in during October. Sgt. Van Scoyc developed the program in the wake of an accident during a chase in eastern Reno County where he rolled his vehicle several times. The training is also being provided to detectives in the department and members of the STAT team, which is responsible for transport of inmates at the Reno County Correctional Facility. David Austin from the Kansas Children's Service League also was on the program to discuss their Red Stocking Breakfast in December which raises funds for family support programs in Reno County.
- 12-3 Rachel Manley of the Rice County Coalition discussed a Holiday Health Fair held December 9th at Lyons City Hall and the Lyons Public Library. The event featured multiple health related booths along with information on financial and mental health that often come up during the holidays. The Health Fair was tied into a "Small Town Christmas" event held that day in Lyons which included a community breakfast and evening Christmas Parade and a Santa's Workshop which was held in conjunction with the Health Fair.