

## **First Quarter 2022 Issues – KGFF-AM, Shawnee, OK**

1/3/2022

Charges against a former Shawnee High School teacher and coach were dismissed however prosecutors say they do intend to refile the charges this week. 51-year-old Ronald Arthur had been charged with three felony counts of first-degree rape, forcible sodomy, and soliciting sexual contact with a minor using technology. The charges were dropped after the prosecutor was unable to attend a recent hearing. Court records show the charges were dismissed without prejudice to refiling. District Attorney Allen Grubb said all three charges will be refiled.

1/11/2022

Oklahoma Baptist University is hosting the Lamppost Literary Conference on Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. The Conference will take place on the University's campus in Shawnee. The event promotes the teaching and reading of the great books. The conference is designed for students, parents, teachers, homeschool networks, and Christian and classical schools. For more information, visit [OKBU.edu](http://OKBU.edu).

1/18/2022

Oklahoma healthcare providers say they are in a dire situation due to a surge in the COVID-19 pandemic. SSM Health Saint Anthony Hospital is resuming limited visitation in their hospitals and are urging Oklahomans to practice proven mitigation efforts like getting vaccinated, washing your hands, wearing a mask, and keeping your distance. Last week, SSM Health Saint Anthony Hospital – Shawnee reported staff shortages due to the pandemic and also reported zero intensive care unit availability.

1/27/2022

The US Supreme Court denied a request from an Oklahoma inmate to stop his upcoming execution. The decision paves the way for Donald Grant to be executed by lethal injection. Grant was sentenced to death for the killing of two Del City hotel workers during a robbery in 2001.

2/2/2022

Shawnee Public Schools announced distance learning will continue on Thursday. Students should login to their online platforms to get credit for attendance. The district also announced that this Friday will be a snow day and no classes or distance learning will take place.

2/7/2022

Pottawatomie County voters will go to the polls tomorrow for elections in Bethel, Prague, and Konowa tomorrow. The election in Bethel will be a "yes" or "no" proposition regarding the town's charter. In Prague there will be an election for the Board of Education Office #2. There will also be an election for the Konawa Board of Education Office #1. Lastly, depending on their area of residence, some Pottawatomie County voters will be able to vote in the City of Oklahoma City Mayoral Election.

2/25/2022

The City of Shawnee warming station is up and running to help those in need escape the freezing temperatures. The station is at the C3 Cross Connection Church on Pesotum. The warming station will

be up and running through tomorrow. Pets are welcome in the shelter as well. The Salvation Army in Shawnee also has warming station set up as well.

3/2/2022

Shawnee Early Childhood Center educator Brandy Swinford was named the 2022 Teacher of the Year for Shawnee Public Schools during the district's annual banquet Monday night at the Shawnee High School Performing Arts and Athletic Center. According to SPS Public Information Officer Cherity Pennington, Swinford and seven other nominees were selected as the district's Teacher of the Year finalists at each of their individual school sites throughout the district. Pennington said the remaining Teacher of the Year finalists included Kacie Hair from Horace Mann Elementary School, Thresa Swadley from Jefferson Elementary School, Trina Waller from Sequoyah Elementary School, Chandra Swisher from Will Rogers Elementary School, Kayla Hutcheson from Shawnee Middle School, Dacia Jordan from Shawnee High School and Sara Branson from Jim Thorpe Academy.

3/10/2022

Construction on the new Upper Elementary School at Bethel Public Schools is well underway as workers poured concrete this week at the site. According to Superintendent Dr. Matt Posey, the new school will be 38,000 square feet and will house students in third through fifth grade. The new upper elementary school will allow students in third to fifth to have much needed classroom space as they are currently having classes in two metal buildings and a portable structure. The new school building is expected to be completed in May of 2023.

3/18/2022

Communities Foundation of Oklahoma announces the opening of two scholarships available to seniors in Shawnee. According to Director of Communications Rachael Hunter, the two scholarships are the J. Lloyd Ford Jr. Scholarship and Shawnee Fine Arts Scholarship. All CFO scholarships can be applied for using one application and for more information people can visit [www.cfok.org/apply](http://www.cfok.org/apply).

3/23/2022

During Monday's regular meeting, the Pottawatomie County Board of County Commissioners voted to remove both public comments and commissioners comments from future public meeting agendas. According to a brief letter from District Attorney Allan Grubb, he requested that county commissioners remove public comments and commissioners comments from future meetings. District 1 Commissioner Melissa Dennis said members of the public can still call, email and visit with commissioners individually regarding any issues or questions they may have.