



The University of Oklahoma Outreach

Norman, Oklahoma 73019

KGOU Radio (KGOU, KROU, KOUA, KWOU, KQOU & Related Translators) Issues/Programs List

Covering the Period: July 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021

KGOU Radio (including KGOU, KROU, KOUA, KWOU, KQOU and related translators) attempts to meet the needs and interests of its listeners through a variety of programming selections. Below are listed the problems identified by the station and only some of the specific program presentations aired in meetings its obligations to the listeners.

These needs were identified through a combination of efforts that ascertained the issues of concern to both community leaders and the general population of our service area. These efforts included management staff interaction with a variety of community leaders; input from the general population through conversation with station staff; the monitoring of other media news coverage, and judgments made by the KGOU news and management staff about the selection of both network, syndicated and local materials for broadcast.

Local Programming

These programs are regular presentations of KGOU Radio.

Oklahoma Update Newscasts: Weekdays at 6:19am, 6:49am, 7:19am, 7:49am, 8:19am, 8:49am, 12:19pm, 12:39pm, 1:19pm, 1:39pm, 3:32pm, 4:04pm, 4:32pm, 5:04pm, 5:32pm, and 6:04pm. These one minute to two minute local newscasts include local headlines in the public radio tradition, sports, weather and traffic reports. The newscasts run as local segments within Morning Edition, Here & Now, BBC Newshour, and All Things Considered.

Calendars: Hourly, daily. Each hour of local programming, and as often as possible during network programming, KGOU airs one minute local events calendars to promote items of civic and cultural interest.

Oklahoma News In-Depth/SIOK (StateImpact Oklahoma)/Oklahoma Engaged/Infra (infrastructure)/Capitol Insider & A&E Reports: These four + minute news/entertainment features are locally produced, as resources allow, and are usually broadcast twice in both Morning Edition, once during Here & Now, and once or twice during All Things Considered.

How Curious: These 5-10 minute, sound/story-rich reports are locally produced and serve to answer listener-generated questions.

During this time period, the following local issues were presented:

Aging & Retirement

Tuesday, July 20, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Flying Aggie Wally Funk Finally Goes To Space

At the age of 82, aviation trailblazer and Oklahoma State University alum Wally Funk became the oldest person to fly in space on Tuesday.

Agriculture & Environment

Thursday, July 8, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Oklahoma's Floodwater Mosquito Population Increasing From Recent Heavy Rainfall

The recent heavy rainfall has caused an increase of floodwater mosquitoes. Justin Talley, an entomologist at Oklahoma State University, says the recent rain created the ideal conditions for floodwater mosquitoes to breed. While many mosquito species tend to only feed during the night, floodwater mosquitoes are aggressive biters that are active both in the daytime and evening.

Thursday, July 15, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

USDA's Voluntary Conservation Program Opens Enrollment For Farmers and Ranchers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency Tuesday opened enrollment for the Conservation Reserve Program. The [Conservation Reserve Program](#), or CRP, is a voluntary conservation program that helps farmers and ranchers protect grasslands while using the land for grazing purposes.

Friday, Sept. 24, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Drought Conditions Increasing According To Latest Drought Monitor Report

Drought had been spotty in Oklahoma through most of the year so far, but this is on track to be one of the driest Septembers on record, and drought is rushing back into the state. Just one month ago, only about 12% percent of Oklahoma was experiencing any kind of drought. Now that number is at 80%.

Arts & Entertainment

Tuesday, July 13, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Legendary Oklahoma Fiddle Player Byron Berline Dies At 77

Oklahoma fiddle player Byron Berline [died on Saturday](#) following complications from a stroke. He was 77.

Friday, Aug. 20, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Several Live Music Venues In Oklahoma Will Require Vaccination Or Negative COVID Test

Several live music venues in Oklahoma are requiring proof of vaccination or negative COVID tests in order to attend concerts. Beginning September 8th, all guests at Tower Theatre and Ponyboy in Oklahoma City [will be required to show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test within 72 hours of the event](#). "It is our hope that our state and city officials, as well as other organizations responsible for large gatherings of people, will join us in encouraging safe practices for our community with the goal of a post-COVID reality," said Chad Whitehead, Operating Partner of Tower Theatre, in a statement.

Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma Country Singer Jude Northcutt of Jude 'n' Jody Dies At 89

Oklahoma country music and television legend Jude Northcutt has died following a stroke. He was 89. Northcutt was born on May 14, 1932, and raised on a cotton farm in Slaughterville. He later attended high school in Noble before being drafted into the Korean War and serving in the Air Force. Shortly after leaving the Air Force, Northcutt and Jody Taylor started playing together at pie suppers and cake walks, before auditioning for TV shows. Together, they formed the country and western music group Jude 'n' Jody.

Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Reba McEntire Rescued From Historic Building In Oklahoma Following A Stairway Collapse

Country music star Reba McEntire was rescued Tuesday from a building in Atoka following a stairwell collapse. According to TV station KXII, McEntire was touring a historic building in downtown Atoka for a future project when the stairwell between the second and third floors collapsed, trapping her and six other people on separate floors of the more than 100-year-old building. The fire department evacuated the building by helping people climb out of a second-story window and down a ladder.

Business, Economics & Finance

Wednesday, July 28, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt Travels To Azerbaijan To 'Strengthen Strategic Partnerships'

Governor Kevin Stitt and a small delegation are in Azerbaijan this week, a small country east of Turkey and north of Iran, where Eastern Europe meets Western Asia. Stitt's office said the trip, at the invitation of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, is intended to strengthen strategic partnerships between Oklahoma and the nation. That partnership first began in 2002, when Oklahoma's National Guard participated in a Department of Defense program linking the Guard with Azerbaijan's military. This trip marks the start of a new agreement between Oklahoma State University and Azerbaijan state Agricultural University to develop joint academic and exchange programs.

Thursday, Aug. 19, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Seaboard Foods Union in Guymon Files Complaint As Company Requests Temporary Workers

Recently, Seaboard Foods filed a request for H-2B workers — a request to bring foreign nationals to the U.S. to fill temporary nonagricultural jobs. In an email on June 1, the Seaboard human resources director requested UCFW to provide a letter supporting its wages. The union refused. "We cannot in good conscience support your claim that Seaboard pays a prevailing rate or that its labor shortage is not due to the wages it pays when we do not believe that to be true and the record shows otherwise," Martin Rosas, president of the local UCFW said in a reply email on June 2.

Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma State Fair Won't Enforce Masks, But Will Have Vaccination Booth

The Oklahoma State Fair is back this year, but mask wearing will not be enforced. Instead, it will be promoting vaccinations. The state fair, which runs Sept. 16-26, will offer vaccinations through Passport Health in the Bennet Event Center during five days of the fair. Attendees can [sign up online](#). The state fair will be taking some new COVID-19 precautions like optional contactless entry, electric midway coupons and hand sanitizing stations. Scott Munz, a fair spokesman, says it would be too difficult to enforce a mask requirement.

Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

City Of Shawnee Gives Land Back To The Citizen Potawatomi Nation; Announces Joint Initiative To Promote Economic Development And Improve City Services

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation and City of Shawnee ended a decades long legal battle over land along the North Canadian River in Potawattamie County. On Monday night, the city of Shawnee voted unanimously to detach land along the North Canadian River, ending a legal battle that stretched back to 1961. This basically gives the land back to the tribal nation. Both the City of Shawnee and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation will now work on a venture known as "Shawnee Aligned" - something the two governments hope will bring economic development and better city services.

Crime & Law Enforcement

Tuesday, July 13, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma County Jail Loses Certification To House Juvenile Offenders After Health Department Inspection

The Oklahoma County Detention Center will lose its state certification to detain minors on Friday after health department inspections found the jail didn't meet state standards. The State Department of Health previously found in a February inspection that the jail failed to conduct hourly sight checks on children under 18 held in its custody.

Wednesday, July 14, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Pardon And Parole Board Votes To Hold Enhanced Second Commutation Hearing In Julius Jones Case

The Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board voted Monday to give death row prisoner Julius Jones a longer second stage commutation hearing to better understand the details of his case.

Monday, July 19, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

New Requirements Compounding Oklahoma's Sexual Assault Kit Backlog

The backlog was years in the making. Law enforcement agencies for various reasons didn't always submit kits to the state crime lab for testing. The state Legislature tried to fix that problem in 2019. Lawmakers approved a group of bills which included a requirement that, if victims' didn't object, police must submit kits for testing within 20 days of receiving them.

Monday, July 19, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma Steps Up Enforcement As State Grapples With Influx Of Illegal Marijuana Grows

Spokesman Mark Woodward says the bureau currently has 300-500 active investigations into suspicious grows, with more than three dozen facilities already shut down. "We just cannot keep up with it," Woodward said. Many of these organizations are transnational and are operating out of countries in Asia and the Middle East.

Thursday, July 22, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Architectural-engineering Firm Aims To Fix Oklahoma County's Constitutionally Challenged Jail

Frankfurt Short & Bruza was hired by the Oklahoma County Criminal Justice Advisory Council or CJAC. Their research will focus on improving the Oklahoma County Detention Center's capacity to provide medical care, education and addiction treatment.

Thursday, July 29, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Federal Judges Orders Forfeiture Of Hobby Lobby's Gilgamesh Tablet

A federal judge on Monday ordered the forfeiture of a roughly 3,500-year-old cuneiform tablet purchased by Hobby Lobby. The Gilgamesh Dream Tablet features the inscription of a Sumerian poem, and is considered one of the world's oldest works of literature. Federal prosecutors say the historical item was brought illegally into the U.S. in 2003 and again in 2014, after Hobby Lobby purchased it from an international auction house. It was allegedly sold using a false provenance letter, obscuring its real history of ownership.

Monday, Sept. 13, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Pardon And Parole Board Votes To Commute The Death Sentence Of Julius Jones

After a first ever enhanced commutation hearing, the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole board has voted to commute the death sentence of Julius Jones to life in prison. Jones was convicted of the 1999 murder of Edmond man Paul Howell.

Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

FBI Probe Of Romance Scam Involving Oklahoma Money Launderers Comes To A Close

A Norman man [was sentenced Friday](#) in the Northern District of Oklahoma for leading a ring of online money launderers. After pleading guilty in November to conspiracy to commit money laundering, Afeez Adebara was sentenced to four years in prison for his role in heading an online Nigerian romance scam that defrauded victims of at least \$2.5 million. The sentencing closes an FBI probe that included the sentencing of six others — four of which were also Norman residents.

Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Gov. Kevin Stitt delays decision on Julius Jones execution until after clemency hearing

In a news release, Stitt announced Tuesday he will not make a final decision regarding Jones' case until after his clemency hearing before the Pardon and Parole Board. "I am not accepting the Pardon and Parole Board's recommendation to commute the sentence of Julius Jones because a clemency hearing, not a commutation hearing, is the appropriate venue for our state to consider death row cases," said Stitt. A clemency hearing for Jones is set for Oct. 26.

Education

Thursday, July 8, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK: What Oklahoma Teachers Need To Know About The State's So-Called Critical Race Theory Ban

Few laws took up more debate time this year than [House Bill 1775](#). The measure, which went into effect last week after it was signed by Gov. Kevin Stitt during the spring, received intense backlash and criticism from [school boards](#), [activists](#) and in [editorials](#).

Tuesday, July 13, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Critical Race Theory Debate, School District Takeover Dominate Oklahoma State Board of Education Meeting

On Monday morning and into the afternoon, Oklahoma's State Board of Education weighed a number of big topics in one of its last meetings before the start of the school year in August. The board approved new rules around House Bill 1775, which dictates that students should not be made to feel uncomfortable based on their identity. The board also took over the administration of Western Heights Public Schools.

Wednesday, July 21, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

With 'Normal' School Year Looking Less Likely, Educators and Health Pros Brace for Return to Class

Statewide, only 13% of eligible people in the 12-17 age group have gotten vaccinated. And with the Delta variant of the disease raging, it's important to get the shot to limit its spread.

Thursday, July 22, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

School District-wide Mask Mandates Are Unlikely This Fall In Oklahoma. But What About In Individual Classrooms?

Senate Bill 658 does not specifically address teachers, instead saying a mask mandate can only be implemented during a Governor-declared state of emergency by boards governing an educational institution in the state. So it might seem like a teacher *could* require students to wear a mask in their individual classroom. But it's not that simple, according to Oklahoma's State Department of Education.

Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma City Public Schools Gears Up For Another School Year Impacted By The Coronavirus

More than 30,000 Oklahoma City Public Schools students will file back into classrooms across the district Monday. And even though there won't be a mask mandate, district leaders are doing everything they can to limit the spread of COVID-19. OKCPS will prioritize five-day a week schooling for its students. And the district is implementing a lengthy [COVID-19 plan](#) to do so.

Monday, Aug. 9, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma To Pay Student-Teachers In Effort To Combat Teacher Shortage

An estimated 1,300 Oklahoma college students working as student teachers will be paid for their work. Historically, student-teachers have gone unpaid for their work in public school classrooms. But for the next three school years, students enrolled in Oklahoma's teachers colleges will receive a stipend worth \$3,250 while student teaching. Oklahoma's State Department of Education is using \$12.75 million in federal relief funds to pay for the project for the next three years.

Thursday, Aug. 12, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Charter School Enacts Mask Mandate, Defying State Law

Santa Fe South Public Charter School in Oklahoma City is implementing a mask mandate for all students and staff as of Thursday. The move is in direct violation of state law. [Senate Bill 658](#) prohibits school districts from requiring masks without an emergency order from Gov. Kevin Stitt. He hasn't issued one yet, and isn't expected to. Despite that, Santa Fe South's superintendent Chris Brewster is putting a mask mandate in place. The move appears to be the first such mask mandate in the state following the ban.

Friday, Aug. 13, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Masks Will Be Required At Oklahoma City Public Schools Starting Monday

Oklahoma's largest traditional public school district is implementing a mask mandate, despite a state law prohibiting them. Oklahoma City Public Schools students and staff will have to mask up, starting Monday. OKCPS believes it found a loophole in [Senate Bill 658](#), which says *school boards* can't require masks. Instead, superintendent Sean McDaniel is taking it upon himself to implement one.

Thursday, Aug. 19, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK: As A New School Year Starts, StateImpact Is Tracking COVID-19's Impact

School is in session across Oklahoma, even as the pandemic continues to rage and the Delta variant impacts more and more children. Managing editor Logan Layden sat down with StateImpact reporters Robby Korth and Catherine Sweeney for a discussion on the disruptions already occurring.

Friday, Aug. 20, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK: Hofmeister: School Boards 'Best Suited To Address' Masking In Schools

Following [a memorandum from President Joe Biden](#) on Wednesday, U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona sent a letter admonishing Oklahoma for its efforts to limit universal masking in schools. StateImpact's Robby Korth sat down with Hofmeister to discuss its contents and Oklahoma City Public Schools' masking requirement rules.

Thursday, Aug. 26, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Despite High Community Spread, COVID Quarantine Rules Loosen This School Year In Oklahoma

One of the biggest barriers to learning last school year in Oklahoma was time missed in the classroom because of quarantine, after students were exposed to the coronavirus. Those quarantine rules are being implemented a little differently this year. The Oklahoma State Department of Health is recommending students and school staff quarantine if they're exposed to the coronavirus. That means districts across the state are making quarantines optional.

Thursday, Aug. 26, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK: Oklahoma Adds Basic Dental Coverage To Medicaid Amid A Dire Lack Of Care

Dr. David Jones said that working on a MobileSmiles unit, he's seen it all. "Most of these people haven't seen a dentist in years," he said. For so many Oklahomans, these MobileSmiles trucks are the only way to get dental care. The Oklahoma Dental Foundation runs the program, as well as an annual massive dental event called Mission of Mercy. The foundation's executive director, John Wilguss, said that nonprofits like this one have their work cut out for them.

Thursday, Aug. 26, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Officials: Oklahoma City 8th-Grader Dead From COVID-19

An Oklahoma City Public Schools middle school student has died of COVID-19, officials announced Thursday. "OKCPS is saddened to learn of the passing of Clarence Johnson, III, who was enrolled to begin 8th grade at Mary Golda Ross Middle School after attending Roosevelt Middle School last year," the district said in a statement. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Joy Hofmeister referenced Johnson's death without naming him during a regular meeting of the state board of education Thursday morning.

Thursday, Sept. 2, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK: An Oklahoma Teacher Shares Her Battle With The Coronavirus

StateImpact's Robby Korth and OPMX's Kateleigh Mills spoke with an Oklahoma City metro teacher named Anna about her experience catching the coronavirus and missing more than a week of classes. Anna struggled with the disease, but credits her vaccination with keeping her from getting more sick.

Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

School Districts Report Few Students Are Opting Out Of Mask Requirements

Schools around Oklahoma City have implemented mask mandates in the last several weeks that include an option for parents to request their child doesn't need to wear a mask. StateImpact reached out to a half dozen school

districts where masks were required, but opt outs were given. Of those who responded, it appears opt outs are rare.

Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK: Coronavirus Pandemic Causes Lagging Kindergarten And Pre-K Enrollments

Last school year, for the first time in two decades, Oklahoma lost public school enrollment. And most of that came from hemorrhaging pre-K and kindergarten students. The state saw a decrease of 7,000 of those students. "It's incredibly concerning because we know how important that time in school is for students," said Lauren Jenks-Jones, Executive Director of Early Childhood Curriculum and Instruction for Oklahoma's State Department of Education."

Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

See Which Oklahoma Schools Are Requiring Masks With Opt Out Provisions, Now That It's Officially Allowed Under State Law

A judge's injunction suspending part of the law that effectively bans mask mandates in Oklahoma Public Schools officially went into effect late Wednesday. The order signed by Oklahoma County District Court Judge Natalie Mai allows schools to continue requiring masks. A Statelmpact tally shows about 20 public school districts – and about two dozen private and tribal schools to which the statute doesn't apply – have some form of mask mandate in place. The vast majority offer opt out provisions.

Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK: Santa Fe South Was The First District To Implement A Mask Mandate In Oklahoma This Fall. Here's How It's Going:

A Statelmpact database shows a growing number of schools around Oklahoma are starting to mandate masks in their hallways, with opt out provisions. At least two dozen traditional public school districts, eight charters and 25 private schools have instituted mask mandates. But it's a complicated decision to make. Senate Bill 658 – a law that seemed low on consequences at the time – was signed by Gov. Kevin Stitt in the spring as COVID-19 case counts fell. It went into effect July 1. The law does a lot of things, but the most controversial piece is that it bans mask mandates unless a governor-declared state of emergency is in effect. Stitt has refused to declare one in the latest surge.

Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

A \$119 Million Grant Will Amp Up Testing In Oklahoma Schools

In a call with superintendents across Oklahoma Wednesday, State Superintendent for Public Instruction Joy Hofmeister announced a \$119 million grant to pay for surveillance testing for COVID-19 in schools. Officially called the Oklahoma Schools COVID-19 Prevention Program Grant (Project 723), the grant program will be available to districts to conduct free-to-students testing. A requirement of the grant is that districts must test at least 10% of students each month they participate.

Medicine & Health

Wednesday, July 7, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Health Officials Warn Delta Coronavirus Variant Poses Several Risks To Oklahomans

The [highly contagious delta coronavirus variant](#) poses several risks to Oklahomans, and doctors are seeing some differences between it and old strains of the virus. The variant spreads more easily, taking only seconds of exposure. It can also fly under the radar at first, since initial symptoms look different from what we're used to.

Wednesday, July 7, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Concern Grows As Oklahoma's Coronavirus Test Positivity Rates Rise

"We're back to levels we've not seen since mid-February, as we were coming off that major peak we had," said Dr. David Kendrick, Department Chair of Medical Informatics at the OU School of Community Medicine.

Thursday, July 8, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Mercy To Require COVID-19 Vaccines For All Employees

Mercy Hospitals announced Wednesday beginning Sept. 30 all employees must be vaccinated for the coronavirus. The hospital says the requirement comes as COVID-19 cases are increasing in communities in northeast Oklahoma and Arkansas, along with rapid increases in the Delta variant of COVID-19 in Missouri.

Monday, July 12, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma's Vaccination Rate Remains Low Among Those Under 34

Oklahoma's overall vaccination rate ranks [among the worst in the nation](#), but some age groups are worse than others. During a press briefing on Friday, Oklahoma State Department of Health officials raised concerns about rates among those under 34, especially teenagers.

Tuesday, July 13, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Many Oklahomans Overdue For Their Second COVID-19 Shot, Experts Say Seek Out The Second Dose For Full Protection

As the Delta variant of the coronavirus continues to spread across the state and nation, health officials say the best protection is to be fully vaccinated, but a significant number of Oklahomans have missed their second dose.

Wednesday, July 14, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

As Coronavirus Variant Spreads, Medical Experts Urge Oklahoma To Plan For Another Surge

As coronavirus cases continue to climb, Oklahoma's medical community is urging the state to consider planning for another surge. After [a stark rise in Missouri and Arkansas](#), northeast Oklahoma has been seeing positivity rates rise. Dr. David Kendrick, the department chair of medical informatics at the OU School of Community Medicine, says that trend has now made its way to Tulsa.

Friday, July 16, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma's COVID-19 Case Counts Increase As Vaccinations Level Off

Oklahoma's coronavirus case counts are increasing as its vaccinations level off. As the surge in Delta variant cases makes its way into Oklahoma, the state's active cases have risen by more than 30 percent over last week — up to nearly 3500. Oklahoma saw its highest daily new case count in months on Wednesday, nearly 1,000.

Tuesday, July 20, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

As New School Year Approaches, Delta Variant Causing COVID-19 Concerns To Rise In Oklahoma

Dr. Hal Scofield with the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation says the Delta variant of the virus is more transmissible among children. He says younger individuals were not the main concern with the original strain of the virus, but now that's changing with the Delta variant.

Thursday, July 29, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK: How One Oklahoma School District Is Using The State's Counselor Corps To Improve Mental Health Accessibility

Oklahoma is making a big bet on helping students in the wake of a year interrupted by the coronavirus with mental health supports. Poteau Public Schools was a big recipient of the state's \$35 million Counselor Corps initiative. Brenda Dalton knows the ideal way to get kids in Poteau back into the swing of things for learning is to give them mental health support. "We feel like the best thing for our students is for someone to be here on staff who knows our teachers and knows our kids, every day," she said. That's why the Poteau Public Schools Student Services Director made a big bet on asking for help via Oklahoma's Counselor Corps, a \$35 million program to hire hundreds of counselors in schools across the state.

Thursday, July 29, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma's Medical Community Concerned About Hospital Capacity As Coronavirus Hospitalizations Rise

Oklahoma's coronavirus hospitalizations have again surpassed 600 daily. The state's medical community is again sounding concern for hospital capacity. Throughout the spring and early summer, Oklahoma's daily coronavirus hospitalizations lingered around 200. After increasing rapidly through July, they've now [tripled](#). Dr. Mary Clarke,

the president of the Oklahoma State Medical Association, noted that non-COVID demand for hospital space is already high.

Friday, July 30, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma State University Offers Incentives For Students To Get COVID-19 Vaccine

OSU wants students to vaccinate. The university is offering raffle prizes like scholarships, iPads and parking passes to students as part of what officials call 'Poke-a-thon.'

Friday, July 30, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: Delta Variant Spike Concerns Medical Professionals

With cases surging, medical professionals in Oklahoma have heightened concern about the Delta variant of coronavirus.

Monday, Aug. 2, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Mercy Hospitals And Clinics Tighten Visitor Restrictions As Coronavirus Cases Increase

Starting Monday, patients will only be allowed one designated visitor during their inpatient stay or outpatient visit at all Mercy campuses in Oklahoma. No visitors are allowed for patients who have tested positive for COVID-19, as well as those with pending test results. The hospital says it's changing its visitor policy following an increase in the number of COVID-19 inpatients and the highly contagious Delta variant.

Monday, Aug. 2, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality Issues Air Quality Alert

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality issued an air quality warning Monday. Fires in the western U.S. and Canada have filled the air with smoke, raising the risk level to orange, or "unhealthy for sensitive groups" across most of the state. That includes central Oklahoma. Tulsa and Washington Counties are in the red, which states that active children and adults or people with respiratory diseases such as asthma should stay inside.

Thursday, Aug. 12, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Internal Documents Reveal Health Officials' Bleak Outlook On Oklahoma's COVID Hospitalizations

As coronavirus hospitalizations surge past 1,000 daily, Oklahoma health officials are raising concerns that the state's hospital services are strained with no solution in sight. In a [weekly update to state agencies](#), the Oklahoma State Department of Health classified the state's hospital system as "unstable," stating that, "Services (are) disrupted and no solution (is) identified or in progress."

Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

'Slow-Rolling Mass Casualty Event': Oklahoma Hospital Officials Sound Alarm As COVID Hospitalizations Approach Pandemic's Peak

Saint Francis Health System announced in a press conference Monday it created [its own data dashboard](#). It will detail the number of COVID-19 patients hospitalized in their system, as well as a few other figures, such as the average age of those patients and hospitalizations in Saint Francis over time. Officials said the average age of COVID patients at Saint Francis is 56, about ten years younger than the average patient during the last hospital surge in the winter.

Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

'A Dire Situation': Oklahoma Medical Community Urges Vaccine Uptake As COVID-19 Again Ravages Hospitals

Four major hospital systems [held a joint press conference Tuesday](#), detailing how dire the resource shortage is in their facilities. Saint Francis Health System [gave a similar update on Monday](#). "We do not have the staffing levels available to care for patients that we had a year ago," said Dr. Kersey Winfree, Regional Vice President of Medical Affairs at SSM St. Anthony. "Sustained risk, fatigue and trauma have contributed to an existing medical staffing crisis statewide."

Monday, Aug. 30, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Hospitals Announce Full ICUs As Health Officials Keep Quiet On Bed Capacity

Oklahoma health officials are choosing to keep hospital capacity data under wraps as some of the state's major health systems announce they have zero ICU beds open. The Oklahoma State Department of Health held a COVID-19 briefing Thursday, where officials provided figures on current COVID-19 hospitalizations and ICU admissions, but didn't disclose any data showing the number of open beds statewide.

Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Medical Officials: Flu Season Could Be Worse Than Last

Dr. Dale Bratzler, OU's Chief COVID-19 officer, says flu season could be worse this year because many people haven't been exposed to the most recent variant of the influenza virus. "One of the big concerns that most of us have is, if we go back to not wearing masks and not doing good hand hygiene and social distancing, and we have a flu outbreak then it will spread just like we saw with Delta," said Bratzler. He says this could be a big concern as hospitals are already at full capacity dealing with the coronavirus pandemic. He advises to keep wearing masks during the holiday season and to get a flu shot as well.

Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK: Oklahoma Medical Groups Expand Free Therapy Program For Doctors Amid COVID-19 Fallout

The physician wellness program offers free, confidential psychological counseling to any M.D. or D.O. in Oklahoma. The eight free sessions come at no cost to the patient, and don't have to be registered with health insurance. Doctors can simply register on the OSMA website. Dr. Paul Tobin, a long time psychologist with decades of experience in employee assistance programs, is a provider for the service. He says the doctors needing sessions because of the pandemic so far have run the gamut — from seeing harsh financial hindrances to being completely overwhelmed with patients.

Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma State Department Of Health Announces Plan To Ramp Up COVID-19 Testing

The department is renewing its contract with IMMY labs for testing sites across the state. Deputy Commissioner of Health Keith Reed says the program isn't up and running quite yet, but residents can keep an eye on the lab's scheduling portal online. They'll also be moving more toward rapid tests and away from once-standard PCR tests. The Biden Administration announced earlier this month its own testing investments. That includes a partnership with major retailers Walmart and Amazon for discounted at-home tests, and a program to send rapid tests to food banks and community health centers.

Friday, Sept. 24, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Surpasses 10,000 Deaths From COVID-19

Oklahoma has reached a grim milestone regarding deaths in the coronavirus pandemic. As of September 23, 10,025 Oklahomans have died from COVID-19 complications. That figure reflects the provisional death count provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Those deaths contribute to more than 672,000 that have taken place in the U.S. throughout the pandemic. Oklahoma Commissioner of Health Lance Frye issued a statement on Thursday, recognizing the milestone and urging Oklahomans to get their vaccines. The state's total vaccination rate has yet to hit 50 percent.

Thursday, Sept. 30, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK: White House COVID-19 response adviser talks COVID boosters with StateImpact Oklahoma

Last week, StateImpact's Catherine Sweeney talked with Dr. Cameron Webb. He's the senior policy adviser on COVID-19 equity on the White House's response team. It was the day the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention gave the Pfizer vaccine booster its stamp of approval, just as the Oklahoma State Department of Health issued its release announcing booster availability statewide.

Politics & Government

Friday, July 2, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: Medicaid Expansion Proves Popular

A year ago, Oklahoma voters approved expansion of Medicaid to provide greater access. Now, the process has begun.

Wednesday, July 7, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Shawnee Superintendent Announces Plan To Run For State Post

The Republican superintendent of Shawnee Public Schools says she plans to run for state superintendent in 2022. April Grace announced Tuesday her plans to run for the GOP nomination.

Friday, July 9, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Leaders Announce Major Federal Funding Request For Rural Highway Projects

Improvements to Oklahoma's rural highways could become immediate priorities with \$65 million in additional federal funding. State leaders and Sen. Jim Inhofe requested the federal funding to help improve safety and travel times along Oklahoma's rural highways.

Friday, July 9, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: New Laws Benefit State Employees

Among the bills going into effect July 1 are two intended to help state employees. KGOU's Dick Pryor and eCapitol's Shawn discuss the new laws and how another law is affecting state schools, colleges and universities in Capitol Insider.

Thursday, July 15, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK: A Decade In The Making, Medicaid Expansion Takes Effect In Oklahoma

After more than a decade of advocacy and resistance, Oklahoma's Medicaid expansion is now in effect. Enrollment opened in June, and more than 100,000 Oklahomans successfully entered the program. Their benefits became available June 1. That date drew national attention. U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra came to Tulsa that day to commemorate it.

Friday, July 16, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: Group Of Lawmakers Requests Changes In Oklahoma Vaccination Requirements

As the state of Oklahoma is seeing a surge in COVID-19 cases, a small group of state lawmakers is urging the governor to change the rules regarding vaccinations for health care providers. Details in this week's Capitol Insider.

Friday, July 23, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: State Leaders Watch As Coronavirus Spikes In Oklahoma

Governor Kevin Stitt has announced he will not issue an emergency order as coronavirus cases in Oklahoma tick upward. KGOU's Dick Pryor and eCapitol's Shawn Ashley discuss that story and the appointment of a new attorney general in Capitol Insider.

Wednesday, July 28, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

U.S. Rep. Frank Lucas Urging More Oklahomans To Get Vaccinated

U.S. Rep. Frank Lucas has been on a media tour this week promoting the coronavirus vaccine. The Oklahoma congressman is urging Oklahomans to trust science and get the coronavirus vaccine. Lucas is the top Republican on the House Science, Space and Technology Committee, which oversees most of the country's major scientific research institutions.

Monday, Aug. 2, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma GOP Chairman Doubles Down On Comparing Vaccine Mandates To The Holocaust

Oklahoma Republicans are talking about the removal of the head of the state party. A member of the state GOP [tells *The Norman Transcript*](#) they are unhappy with Chairman John Bennett's leadership [after he equated the](#)

[treatment of unvaccinated people to that of Jews in the Holocaust](#). Governor Kevin Stitt, Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell and the leaders of the House and Senate blasted Bennett on Saturday for the Facebook post, but Bennett doubled down [with a video released on Sunday](#).

Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Oklahoma House Democrats Call For Special Session To Reverse Ban On School Mask Mandates

House Democrats in Oklahoma are calling for a special session to repeal a bill regarding face mask usage. [Senate Bill 658](#) bans Oklahoma school districts from requiring face masks unless the government issues a state of emergency. Gov. Kevin Stitt says he will not issue a COVID-19 state of emergency, calling on Oklahomans to use "personal responsibility." The governor can call a special session or the Legislature can convene its own session with the support of two-thirds of lawmakers in each chamber.

Friday, Aug. 6, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: Calls For Special Session Go Unheeded

Legislators from both major parties in Oklahoma are pushing for a special session to address coronavirus policies in the state.

Monday, Aug. 9, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma AG Asks Supreme Court To Overturn 'McGirt v. Oklahoma.' Tribes Say Move Is 'Anti-Indian'

New Oklahoma Attorney General John O'Connor filed [a petition](#) Friday with the United States Supreme Court asking the body to overturn or limit the scope of last year's landmark *McGirt v. Oklahoma* decision. The filing comes a day after a federal court in Muskogee convicted Patrick Murphy of 2nd degree murder. A statement from the Cherokee Nation in response to the filing said the state of Oklahoma has made clear this was never about protecting victims or stopping crime, but simply advancing an anti-Indian political agenda.

Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

UPDATE: Will Any Oklahoma School Districts Defy State Law By Requiring Masks?

Santa Fe South Public Charter School in Oklahoma City is implementing a mask mandate for all students and staff as of Thursday. The move is in direct violation of state law. Senate Bill 658 - passed earlier this year - prohibits school districts from requiring masks without an emergency order from Gov. Kevin Stitt. He hasn't issued one yet, and isn't expected to. Despite that, Santa Fe South's superintendent Chris Brewster is putting a mask mandate in place. This comes as Tulsa Public Schools holds a meeting late this afternoon to discuss possible litigation over the new law.

Friday, Aug. 13, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Exclusive: Oklahoma Senator James Lankford On Infrastructure

The \$1 trillion dollar infrastructure bill passed the U.S. Senate August 10 in an usually bipartisan manner given the state of the country's current politics. The vote was 69-30. The legislation has a long way to go before becoming law, including making its way through the House, which could take months. Among the 30 'no' votes was Republican Oklahoma U.S. Senator James Lankford.

Friday, Aug. 13, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: Oklahoma Schools, Parents, Medical Professionals Defy State COVID-19 Law

As schools open and the coronavirus Delta variant surges across the United States, educators, parents and doctors are fighting back against state laws restricting health and safety requirements in schools.

Friday, Aug. 20, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: Mask Mandates And SB 658 Dominate Back To School Planning

As classes begin across the state, the impact of the law created by Senate Bill 658 is forcing increased pressure on the governor and Oklahoma legislature

Friday, Aug. 20, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: New Alcohol Law Provides For Drinks "To-Go"

New laws change the way some state agencies spend their money and how people can order alcoholic drinks. KGOU's Dick Pryor and eCapitol's Shawn Ashley discuss new laws in this Capitol Insider.

Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Judge Issues Temporary Injunction Halting Mask Mandate Ban In Schools

In a courtroom where guests were required to wear masks, Judge Natalie Mai ruled public school districts should be able to require students and teachers to do the same - at least temporarily. The Oklahoma State Medical Association applauded the injunction. The doctors' member organization is one of the lead plaintiffs in a suit filed against the state of Oklahoma over the ban on mask mandates in schools.

Friday, Sept. 3, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Lawsuit Filed Challenges Oklahoma Abortion Restrictions

Oklahoma Call for Reproductive Justice and Planned Parenthood of Arkansas & Eastern Oklahoma are two of five plaintiffs listed in the lawsuit against Oklahoma officials, which was filed Thursday in Oklahoma County District Court. The suit challenges 5 bills passed by this year's state legislature which, among other restrictions, would prevent pregnant people from getting an abortion if what the legislature calls a "fetal heartbeat" is detected.

Friday, Sept. 3, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: Court Limits Implementation Of Law Limiting Mask Mandates In Schools

The law created by Senate Bill 658 has hit a temporary roadblock as Oklahoma County District Court judge Natalie Mai orders a temporary injunction against the provision that prohibited mask mandates in schools.

Friday, Sept. 10, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OK Gov. Stitt: 'No Government Vaccine Mandates In Oklahoma'

On Thursday, the White House announced upcoming regulations from the Department of Labor requiring businesses with more than 100 employees to make sure all of their workers are vaccinated, or tested weekly. In a statement, Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt said there would be no government vaccine mandates in the state.

Friday, Sept. 10, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: State Enacts Process To Decide How To Allocate Massive Influx Of Federal Funding

The process will begin soon for legislators to recommend to the governor how they believe the state of Oklahoma should spend nearly two billion dollars in new federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act.

Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Gov. Kevin Stitt Requests Audit Of Oklahoma State Department Of Education

Gov. Kevin Stitt is calling on the State Auditor to investigate Oklahoma's State Department of Education. Stitt wants State Auditor Cindy Byrd's office to account for every penny flowing in and out of the Oklahoma State Department of Education. In a news release, he says he has concerns about accountability systems within Oklahoma's State Department of Education, specifically issues identified by Byrd in her audit of Epic Charter Schools released almost a year ago. That audit found millions of dollars of financial mismanagement by Oklahoma's largest public school district. Byrd found that the state department has "no process in place to evaluate actual compliance with the written policies and procedures," in her report.

Friday, Sept. 10, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: Governor Requests Investigative Audit Of State Department Of Education

Almost one year after an audit showed financial concerns involving Epic Charter Schools, Governor Kevin Stitt has requested a much larger investigative audit of the State Department of Education

Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OU Rally Urges University Leaders To Mandate Masks And Vaccines, Push Against Governor Stitt

About 100 people gathered for the rally, calling for the university to revise its stance on several policies, including mandating masks indoors, requiring the COVID-19 vaccination and publicizing a rebuttal or challenging in court the state and governor's rules against mask mandates. The protest was part of OU Days of Action, a 2-day event meant to put pressure on the administration to change its policies. Faculty, staff and students were asked to walk out on all OU activities, including classes, on Monday and Tuesday. Monday, demonstrators attended an OU Board of Regents meeting holding signs saying, 'Our leadership fails us on workplace safety.' Toward the end of the meeting, Julie Ward requested to read a letter to the regents signed by several hundred OU community members.

Friday, Sept. 27, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: Changes Coming To Oklahoma Legislative, Congressional Districts

Governor Kevin Stitt has set November 15th as the date for legislators to begin a special session to complete their work on apportioning Oklahoma's legislative and Congressional districts. Due to unexpected figures from the U.S. Census Bureau each district is likely to be affected.

Thursday, Sept. 30, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

As masking in schools went up, COVID cases in children went down

At the beginning of the month, Oklahoma schools were allowed to implement mask mandates because of an injunction filed against Senate Bill 658. Since then, dozens of public schools have implemented mask requirements containing opt out provisions. At least 34 of the state's public school districts have implemented masking mandates. Opt out rates vary by district, mostly they've been low in Oklahoma City, but have been as high as 28 percent in Claremore. Still, superintendents who've implemented mask mandates say they make mask wearing more common.

Race, Identity & Culture

Wednesday, July 14, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

OPMX: Panel on McGirt Ends Early In Frustration, Anger Over Lack of Tribal Input

The McGirt v. Oklahoma Community Impact Forum took place Tuesday evening in Tulsa. The panel included Gov. Kevin Stitt and district attorneys from across the state. No tribal leader spoke at the forum, which quickly became contentious.

Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

U.S. Department of Education Investigating Oklahoma For Civil Rights Violations Related To Masking Protocols

In a four page letter to Oklahoma officials, federal investigators put the state on notice. They said the state's ban on mask mandates is making school exceedingly dangerous. And that move could prevent students with disabilities from safely attending school in person. The vast majority of Oklahoma schools are in person so far this year. But [a StateImpact database](#) shows that more than 30 have had to close their doors or pivot to distance learning because of the coronavirus. Mask mandates in schools are banned in Senate Bill 658 without a state of emergency declared by the governor.

Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Tulsa's Union Public Schools Considers Two Mascot Options

Redhawks or Bison? Those are the two options a committee of Tulsa's Union Public Schools stakeholders is considering following an almost yearlong search, which narrowed down a list of more than 320 potential mascots to two. A Mascot Advisory Committee considered hundreds of names, but felt these two were the best.

Friday, Sept. 17, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Celebrating Our Survival: First Americans Museum Tells The Story Of Indigenous 'Okla Homma'

[First Americans Museum](#) is a different kind of museum, says curatorial specialist Leslie Halfmoon. "Generally, people have a collection of objects, and then they go from there to tell the stories," she explains. "We did not have a collection, any objects, but we were like, 'we have a lot of stories.'" And tell the collective story of Oklahoma's 39 Tribes is exactly what she and the other staff at the First Americans Museum did — from their cosmological origins to the present day.

Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: The First Afghan Refugees Arrive In Oklahoma

The family of seven touched down Wednesday night in Oklahoma City, where they were greeted by an interfaith welcoming committee who provided them with bags containing things like clothes, hygiene products and copies of the Quran. Oklahoma is expecting around 1,800 Afghan refugees in total, split roughly evenly between Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: The Cherokee Nation Of Oklahoma Settles Opioid Case

The Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma has accepted a \$75 million settlement with opioid manufacturers McKesson, Amerisourcebergen and Cardinal Health. The case filed in federal court in 2017 alleged that opioid related overdoses more than doubled in the Cherokee Nation over an eleven year period. Cherokee health officials say the huge quantities of opioids distributed during that same time period led to a significant burden on the tribe's healthcare system. Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. says the money will be invested in mental health and substance abuse programs

Thursday, Sept. 30, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

OPMX: Oklahoma welcomes hundreds of Afghan refugees — despite the state GOP's objections

In a cavernous warehouse in Tulsa, Okla., Kathy Clarke is digging through a big produce crate filled with bedsheets, keeping a tally on a clipboard. "They're bringing in a bunch of stuff and then we're sorting through it," Clarke says. Oklahoma is welcoming more Afghan refugees than any state besides California and Texas. The state Republican party opposes it, but elected GOP leaders are defying it and eager to help new arrivals.

Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021 ~ Feature, 13 minutes

How Curious: Was An Oklahoma Lawman The Inspiration Behind The Lone Ranger?

Bass Reeves, one of the first Black deputy U.S. marshals west of the Mississippi River, is considered among the most prolific law enforcement officers in American history. But was the character The Lone Ranger based on Reeves?

Science & Technology

Thursday, July 15, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Noble Research Institute Implements Severance For Nearly Half Of Its Research Staff Amid Change Of Focus

The Noble Research Institute is [shifting its focus from plant science to regenerative agriculture](#). For many research staff, that means taking buyouts. For the past 75 years, the institute studied plants to help support farmers and ranchers. In January, the research organization had 340 employees with a budget of about \$60 million.

Thursday, July 29, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Southwest Power Pool Addresses Problems From February Winter Storm

The Southwest Power Pool, responsible for the electrical grid in Oklahoma and several other states, released a [report](#) addressing the power problems it had during February's winter storms and how to avoid it next time. SPP executives said fuel shortages, especially in natural gas, caused the rolling blackouts in Oklahoma and a few other states during the February winter storms. The report recommended policy changes and assessments focused on fuel assurance and communication.

Thursday, Aug. 5, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Statelmpact: 'Unheard of:' Rare Summer RSV Surge Fills Oklahoma Children's Hospitals

Dr. Steven Nye, the pediatrics department chair at Integris said RSV infects people of all ages, but it's worse in children. Smaller airways in children mean the issue can become severe much more quickly. Hospital administrators across the state, including in the Oklahoma City and Tulsa metro areas, say RSV is filling children's hospitals. There's not a definitive answer yet as to why the unseasonable surge is happening, but Nye has a theory.

Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Infra: First Electricity, Now Internet: How Rural Areas Struggle To Gain Infrastructure

Rural areas are often the last to receive broadband. The lack of broadband is similar to another issue that rural communities faced decades ago — rural electrification. About 22 percent of Americans who live in rural areas that lack broadband, compared to 1.5% of those in cities, according to the [Federal Communications Commission](#).

Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Infra: Oklahoma's Conservation Dams Don't Stick Out, But Save Lives and Tens of Millions Of Dollars

Oklahoma's more than 2,000 conservation dams don't stick out. They're mostly on private land, out of sight and out of mind. But the flood control they provide saves the state tens of millions of dollars each year. Maintaining them takes hard, dirty work by salt-of-the-earth people fighting a constant uphill battle.

Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Slips To Third Place For Most Wind-Generated Power

Oklahoma still ranks as one of the top states in the nation for wind-generated electricity, but the state recently slipped from being second in the U.S. for wind-turbine produced power. [Data](#) from the U.S. Energy Information Administration last year showed our state produced over 29,000 megawatts of electricity from wind turbines.

Monday, Aug. 30, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OG&E Sends Crew Members To Louisiana Following Destruction From Hurricane Ida

Oklahoma Gas & Electric on Sunday deployed hundreds of crew members and several power trucks to aid in restoring electricity in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida. Andrea Dennis is the Vice President of Transmission & Distribution Operations and says the linemen will perform a variety of tasks. "They will be doing everything from trimming trees and rebuilding power lines and resetting polls, replacing transformers - anything it takes to get customers' power restored," she said.

Thursday, Sept. 2, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OU Meteorologists Collect Unique Data From Hurricane Ida

Michael Biggerstaff is a professor of meteorology at the College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences at OU. He and his team made the trip to Louisiana to deploy two Shared Mobile Atmospheric Research and Teaching, or SMART, weather radars. The researchers collected data for more than 24 hours and also deployed other small weather instruments to capture atmospheric conditions.

Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Infra: Fifty Years In, Oklahoma-Based River Corridor Faces Millions In Backlogged Repairs

Farmers in states like Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas and Colorado rely on a 445-mile water highway called the McClellan-Kerr Navigation System to ship their crops like soybeans and grain across the world. The system is now 50 years old and has a growing backlog of critical infrastructure maintenance and repairs. If something breaks and interrupts the flow of barge traffic, many farmers could be left to find pricier ways to ship their crops and buy essential supplies like fertilizer.

Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Department of Environmental Quality Updates Mercury In Fish List

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality has updated its consumption advisory directory [of lakes with fish that have mercury](#). Five lakes have been added to the list: Chandler Lake, Lake Hefner, Shawnee Twin Lakes, Sooner Lake, Lake Tenkiller, Lake Texoma and Lake Thunderbird.

Monday, Sept. 13, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OG&E Crews On Track To Return To Oklahoma Following Hurricane Ida

OG&E's 270 line workers and other support staff are wrapping things up in Jackson Parish, Louisiana. The utility company says significant progress has been made and the crew members are on track to return to Oklahoma on schedule. The OG&E team will head back to Oklahoma on Tuesday.

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Infrastructure Bill In Congress Looks To Modernize The Electric Grid

The infrastructure bill moving through Congress includes billions of dollars to modernize the electric grid. One of the goals is to make the system less vulnerable during severe weather. The bill includes \$73 billion dollars to modernize the electric grid. U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm says the money could be used to move power lines underground, so they would be less susceptible to severe weather.

Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

TikTok Challenge Has Students Damaging School Property

The Devious Licks challenge has grabbed the attention of school districts across the country and Oklahoma. Students steal something from their school. In a Tulsa school, students were temporarily unable to use restrooms because of stolen soap dispensers. In Mooreland, participants in the trend were threatened with criminal charges. Woodward Public schools superintendent Kyle Reynolds said in a video to parents, the trend hurts school workers.

Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2021 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Infra: Climate Change Expected To Continue Stressing Oklahoma's Electric Grid To The Brink

New Year's Day 2021, sixteen miles above the arctic, temperatures were unusually warm. Soon, major air currents began to break down, freeing cold air to wander. It would be several weeks before Oklahoma knew what was coming. Oklahoma's electrical grid was in crisis. Natural gas power plants couldn't get enough fuel to burn, which made up most of the shortage. Coal froze in outdoor storage sheds. Windmills were disabled by a thin layer of ice, and then by a shortage of transmission capacity. Some power plants had to shut down simply because they weren't designed to function in that kind of cold. The same record lows that hobbled generation led Oklahomans to turn up the heat, creating record winter demand for power.

Sports

Wednesday, July 28, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Sooners, Texas Longhorns Formally Request Invitation to SEC

The University of Oklahoma and The University of Texas [formally requested an invitation to the SEC](#) Tuesday morning. By the end of the week, OU could officially be heading to the SEC. [ESPN reports](#) SEC campus leaders will meet about possibly extending that invite Thursday. Conference bylaws require a vote of three-fourth of the SEC's 14 members to extend an invitation for membership. The vote is largely considered a formality. In order for OU and Texas to leave the conference earlier than 2025, they would either have to pay a penalty of \$75 million to \$80 million or hope the Big 12 dissolves before the expiration of the grants of rights contract.

Friday, July 30, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OSU's Cunningham Chosen First Overall In NBA Draft; Thunder Come Away With Four Picks

As expected, Oklahoma State University guard Cade Cunningham was taken by the Detroit Pistons with the top pick of Thursday's NBA Draft. The 6-foot-8 guard is the school's tenth first round choice, and its highest draft pick since Bob Harris was taken third overall by the Fort Wayne Pistons in 1949. Cunningham was the Big 12 Player of the Year last season and averaged 20 points and six rebounds per game for the Cowboys.

Monday, Aug. 9, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

2020 Tokyo Olympics: How Athletes With Oklahoma Ties Fared

McAlester native Micha Hancock was part of the U.S. women's indoor volleyball team, which took gold in Tokyo. Tulsa-born Kenny Bednarek won silver in the men's 200 meter race. Former OSU goalkeeper Adrianna Franch was part of the bronze medal winning U.S. team in women's soccer...

Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OU Gymnast Maggie Nichols Testifies In FBI-Nassar Investigation

An all American OU gymnast testified before Congress Wednesday about the FBI's failure to fully investigate Larry Nassar, the disgraced USA Gymnastics team doctor who was convicted for sexually assaulting female athletes.

Maggie Nichols was blunt in her testimony before Congress. "This conduct by these FBI agents, including the special agent in charge, is unacceptable, disgusting and shameful," said Nichols.

Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma City Thunder Will Require Vaccination Proof Or Negative COVID Test To Attend Home Games

All fans entering Paycom Arena for an Oklahoma City Thunder game this season will be required to show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test within 72 hours of the game. The policy, announced by the team Tuesday, will initially be in effect between October 4th and Nov. 26, and will also apply to the team's preseason game at BOK Center in Tulsa on Oct. 14. The Thunder say they will constantly review the policy based on Oklahoma's COVID case situation.

Monday, Sept. 27, 2021 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Lawmaker Wants To Explore An All-Oklahoma Division II League

In a legislative interim study last week, Rep. Mark Vancuren, R-Owasso brought together lawmakers and university leaders to talk about a potential Oklahoma Athletic Conference, which would unite the state's 11 Division II members in one athletic conference. "Whether or not this ever comes about I have no idea," Vancuren said. The idea was first reported by CNHI's Janelle Stecklein in July. The all-Oklahoma league could cut travel time, lowering costs for games and invigorate in-state rivalries that foster school pride, he said.

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Collaborations/Content Partnering Efforts

KGOU is an affiliated member of several collaborative/partnering reporting projects that add to and/or expand upon topics and areas of particular interest and concern to our audience. Among these content-generating projects that offer substantive news and issues-related reports (not necessarily prepared by KGOU staff/reporters) are: OPMX/OK Engaged (The Oklahoma Public Media Exchange), Oklahoma Watch, & Capital Insider. These producers generate in-depth reports that are roughly four minutes in length on a semi-regular basis. KGOU monitors and chooses particular reports by each of these producers that we believe resonates with the needs, interests, and concerns of our audience.

<https://www.nprstations.org/> offers similar lists of issues and news stories broadcast by National Public Radio during this period.

Morning Edition (ME): Monday through Friday, 5am to 9am. A two hour news and information program from National Public Radio, which is repeated once for the second two-hour period. KGOU inserts local news, sports and weather three times within this program, plus weather and traffic reports two additional times per hour.

Here and Now (HAN): Monday through Thursday, 12noon to 2pm, and Friday, 12noon to 1pm. A mid-day broadcast of news and information from WBUR, Boston and NPR. KGOU inserts two local newscasts plus weather in this program each hour.

All Things Considered (AT): Monday through Friday, 4pm to 7pm. A two-hour news and public affairs program from National Public Radio; KGOU airs the second hour twice and the first hour once. KGOU inserts two local news, reports each hour, plus weather and traffic reports two additional times per hour.

Weekend Edition (WE): Saturday from 7am to 9am and Sunday, 8am to 10am. A two hour news and information program from National Public Radio.

Weekend All Things Considered (AT): Saturday 7 Sunday, 5pm to 6pm. A one hour news and information program from National Public Radio.

1A (1A): Monday through Friday, 9am to 11am. A daily call in program featuring national guests on politics, literature, health and more topics.

Fresh Air (FA): Monday through Thursday at 2pm and 7pm / Friday at 7pm. A daily interview and review program focusing on the popular arts and culture but also including current public affairs.

Reveal (Rev): Mondays at 8pm. A weekly investigative news program produced by the Centers For Investigative Reporting.

Other programs carried by KGOU Radio that contribute to the presentation of news, information and a wide variety of views include:

Left, Right & Center (LRC): Saturdays from 6:00 to 7am. This ½ hour program from KCRW analyzes the week's political news and related issues, and from various differing viewpoints.

Zorba Paster on Your Health (Zorba): Thursdays at 11am. A call in program about health, nutrition and healthy lifestyles.

Science Friday (SciFri): Fridays from 1 to 3pm. This 2 hour program from Public Radio International analyzes the week's scientific, technological and ecological news and related discoveries.

BBC World News (BBC): Monday through Friday, 3 to 4pm and 1am to 5am; Saturday and Sunday from 1am to 7am. A live news and information magazine program with a world perspective.

National Native News Service (NNN): weekdays at 2 & 7pm. This is a five-minute newscast from Alaska Public Radio and features news about Native American populations.

Freakonomics (FR): Saturdays, 12 to 1pm; Tuesdays, 11am to noon. A weekly program focusing on business-related topics and personal and professional improvement.

Ted Radio Hour (TR): Sundays, 7 to 8am; Mondays, 11am to noon. A weekly program featuring personal anecdotes and storytelling on a range of topics from various professionals, experts and authorities.

Completed by: Jim Johnson
 KGOU Program Director
 October 8, 2021