

## **Third Quarter 2020 Issues – KGFF-AM, Shawnee, OK**

7/1/2020

Current Ward 1 City Commissioner Ed Bolt won his race against three opponents for Shawnee mayor. Also, hopeful Bob Weaver will step into his new role as Ward 2 City Commissioner; while longtime Ward 3 City Commissioner James Harrod lost his seat to newcomer Travis Flood; and incumbent Darren Rutherford kept his seat. Bolt said he is thankful for the vote of confidence offered by residents, after securing a clear win against three opponents.

7/10/2020

The 2020 Frontier Days event, hosted by Tecumseh Together, has been canceled this year due to COVID-19 concerns. According to Tecumseh Together Secretary Beth Lyle, while the event has been canceled, the organization was still able to award its \$500 Tecumseh Together scholarship to Tecumseh High School senior Bethany Randall. Lyle also said Tecumseh Together plans to hold the event in 2021 and appreciates the understanding of the community.

7/15/2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Shawnee Public Schools canceled an election April 7 for bond propositions totaling \$18.125 million, but that election has been rescheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 25. Most of the funds being proposed are for school site improvements and new equipment. School bond issues must pass by a 60 percent supermajority.

7/24/2020

Since Ed Bolt had only served halfway through his city commissioner post when he took on the job as Shawnee's new mayor, the Ward 1 seat now sits vacant with two years of the term left. According to Part 1, Article 3, Section 8 of the City Code, the commission, by a majority vote, can appoint a qualified person to the seat, to serve until the next upcoming municipal election, which is in two years. Shawnee City Manager Chance Allison said the board has 60 days to place someone in the role and that clock started ticking July 6 when Bolt officially left the seat.

8/5/2020

Shawnee Public Schools Superintendent Dr. April Grace revealed at the monthly Shawnee Board of Education meeting Monday, Aug. 3, that student enrollment for the district's virtual option continues to increase. Currently, Grace said students and teachers are scheduled to return to school Aug. 13 and she continues to meet with local decide if any changes need to be made to the plan.

8/13/2020

Tecumseh Public Schools has released the COVID-19 operational plans the district has for each individual school site and the dates students can check out their Chromebooks for virtual learning. According to Assistant Superintendent Robert Board of Education approved the district's operational plans and their day of school to Aug. 20. The THS operational plan includes safety measures such as mask requirements, hand sanitizer stations, deep cleaning of buildings, seating charts in classes and on buses, health screenings and other such items.

8/19/2020

On Monday the Shawnee City Commission revisited vacancy on the board; the empty spot was created when former Ward 1 City Commissioner Ed Bolt was elected in June to become mayor. In a unanimous vote, commissioners chose Daniel Matthews, executive director of Community Market of Pottawatomie County, to take on the role of representing Ward 1 until the term ends in 2022. Matthews was sworn in immediately after the decision.

8/27/2020

After an unusually controversial campaign for both candidates, on Tuesday Oklahoma voters narrowed down which state Senate District 17 Republican candidate they want to represent them in the General Election in a couple months. The race between Shane Jett and Incumbent Ron Sharp has continued to be a tight one for the pair despite each being battered by a number of campaign nightmares. In the end, only one Republican is proceeding to the next round. Jett made the cut. Jett now faces one last hurdle to secure the seat, competing against Libertarian Greg Sadler Nov. 3.

9/1/2020

High school football returned over the weekend. Shawnee fell to Guthrie 34-16. North Rock Creek's first varsity football game was spoiled by Heavener, 22-6, Friday night. The Meeker Bulldogs opened up the 2020 football campaign with a week zero beatdown of the visiting Stroud Tigers, 45-7, Friday night.

9/10/2020

A Wauwette man that deputies say has confessed to shooting and killing his father in a hay field and then setting a fire is jailed in Pottawatomie County on a murder complaint. According to Pottawatomie County Public Safety Center records, Jake Ryan Nelson, 28, is out bond on complaints of first-degree murder. Investigators still don't have a motive for the homicide, but the suspect has had previous issues with drugs. Case reports from the investigation will be turned over to District Attorney Allan Grubb's office for consideration of formal charges.

9/19/2020

A passenger critically injured in a Sept. 14 collision in Shawnee died on Sept. 17, according to a delayed fatality report from the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. Kirk Halbert Sr., 58, of Moore, Oklahoma, was the passenger in a pickup driven by Kirk Halbert Jr., 41, of Moore, the OHP said. The vehicle was struck by a car driven by Melody Hanson, 27, of Shawnee, after Hanson allegedly failed to stop at a stop sign at Acme and Wolverine roads, according to an OHP report from Sept. 14. Halbert Sr. was transported to OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City in critical condition with trunk internal injuries. The updated report said he died from his injuries three days later on Sept. 17.

9/25/2020

Downtown Shawnee landmark, the Hornbeck Theatre will cease operation at the close of business Tuesday, Sept. 29. The announcement was made by owner/operators Jones Theatres, Inc. and AMC Theatres. Jones Theatre owner Ronny Jones cited the long six-month shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as availability of appropriate programming titles due to Hollywood's shutdown in production, as reasons for the permanent closure. The Hornbeck Theatre opened in downtown Shawnee on July 10, 1947.