

## **First Quarter 2021 Issues – KGFF-AM, Shawnee, OK**

1/5/2021

The Shawnee Forward Inc, Small Business Relief Fund Grant Program application deadline has passed and the organization received 71 applications. According to Shawnee Forward CEO Rachel Melot, the organization is still waiting to receive funds from its partners and will have a meeting with the Task Force Committee next week to determine the next steps. All three partners, Pottawatomie County, the City of Shawnee, and the City of Tecumseh contributed funds totaling \$155,000 to help meet the urgent needs of small businesses in the county impacted by the COVID-19 virus.

1/14/2021

Despite an underwhelming turnout, an overwhelming majority of Shawnee residents voted in favor of a proposition in Tuesday's special election to decide whether to accept the renewal of a 25-year franchise agreement with Oklahoma Natural Gas (ONG). There was a total of 186 votes recorded with almost 84 percent in favor of the proposal and just over 16 percent against. Shawnee City Manager Chance Allison said ONG's previous agreement expired in October.

1/28/2021

It looks like the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art in Shawnee has classrooms buzzing in Wisconsin and Illinois because of its virtual art tours. The MGMoA was excited to see virtual art tour requests from two schools that were from beyond Oklahoma. The first request came from the state of Wisconsin from the Milwaukee Scholars Charter School requesting a virtual art tour over the MGMoA's Native American collection. The Federico Garcia Lorca Elementary School in Chicago also requested a virtual art tour over the Egyptian Collection. Even though the MGMoA is not hosting any in-person school or group tours at this time, they are working to impact students in positive, fun, and educational ways with these virtual tours, bringing the world to their virtual classrooms.

2/3/2021

Shawnee Forward announced Monday in the regular Pottawatomie County Commission meeting that it has awarded grants to 33 out of 64 eligible businesses that applied to its Small Business Relief Fund Program. According to Shawnee Forward CEO Rachel Melot, grants totaling \$105,000 were awarded to 33 businesses that were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and then applied for funding in December. In addition, Melot said the task force also found that they needed \$78,000 in additional funding to award grants to the remaining eligible businesses.

2/11/2021

Voters in the Grove School District overwhelmingly approved an \$8.1 million bond issue Tuesday night, which will fund a variety of projects. According to the Oklahoma State Election Board, roughly 79 percent voted yes on the \$8,145,000 bond issue, while roughly 21 percent voted no. School bond issues require a 60 percent supermajority vote to pass. According to Superintendent Mark Bowlan, construction for the projects funded by the bond will begin in the Fall of 2021 and are expected to be completed in Fall of 2022.

2/16/2021

A winter storm impacted Shawnee and the entire state Sunday and into Monday, with even more snow still expected to fall in the area overnight and into Tuesday, as bitterly cold temperatures will continue for days. With this bitter cold, city utility crews were busy over the weekend repairing several water main breaks across Shawnee, according to the city's Facebook page, with little to no water pressure in some areas while those repairs were made. Pottawatomie County Emergency Manager Chad Larman said the county received five to six inches of snow Sunday.

2/24/2021

Around 300 Shawnee Public Schools educators and staff will receive the first shot of the COVID-19 vaccine on Friday, Feb. 26. According to Superintendent Dr. April Grace, due to the high volume of employees getting the vaccine, students will attend school virtually on Friday. The superintendent explained though students have recently missed several days of in-person school, this opportunity is extremely critical for the educators.

3/3/2021

The Avedis Foundation has awarded a \$500,000 grant to Gateway to Prevention and Recovery, Inc., a local nonprofit that serves the community and families affected by substance abuse and mental health disorders. The grant award is intended to be a lead gift in Gateway's \$5.8 million Expect Hope campaign. Expect Hope is the first comprehensive fundraising campaign in the history of the organization and its focus is not only on capital expansion, but programmatic support, as well.

3/11/2021

A Pottawatomie County jury has recommended a Shawnee man convicted in a lewd acts case following a trial last week should serve 130 years in prison; a formal sentencing date has been scheduled May 3. 50 year old Aaron Buck was originally charged in 2019 and stood trial last week on four felony counts of lewd or indecent acts to a child under age 16. The trial ended with the jury deciding guilty verdicts on Counts 1, 2 and 4, and an acquittal in Count 3. As a result of the trial, the jury has recommended Buck should serve a total of 130 years in prison.

3/13/2021

Shawnee Wolves and Lady Wolves each fell in the first round of the State Tournament. The Lady Wolves could not overcome the size of Sapulpa as the Lady Chieftains rolled to a 53-36 victory over Shawnee. The Lady Wolves ended the season with a record of 12-10. The Wolves could not overcome the hot shooting of Lawton MacArthur as the Highlanders downed the Wolves 88-73 in the State Quarterfinals. The Shawnee boys end the year with a record of 16-7.