

Second Quarter 2023 Issues – KGFF-AM, Shawnee, OK

4/1/23

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation (CPN) is expanding affordable housing available in Shawnee with its plans to build 66 new homes. The two-, three- and four-bed- room duplexes will be in Citizen's Place, a development at N. 13th Street and Benson Park Road. The development provides rent-controlled housing for Native American families through the Tribe's Affordable Rental Program. Each duplex includes a two-car garage. The project will also add a community playground and storm shelter to Citizen's Place.

4/15/23

A California man has been formally charged in connection with an accident last month that resulted in the death of a tow truck driver on Interstate 40 east of Shawnee. 42-year-old Shengjie Li of Rancho Cucamonga, California, is formally charged in Pottawatomie County District Court with one felony count of leaving the scene of a fatality accident. The charge alleges he was driving a vehicle involved in an accident that resulted in the death of 27-year-old Kyle McCullough and that he failed to remain at the scene as required by state statute. The Oklahoma Highway Patrol said the incident occurred about 9:26 p.m. March 28, 2023, on westbound I-40 at mile marker 190 in Pottawatomie County.

4/22/23

Secondary searches were ongoing Thursday around areas of Shawnee and Pottawatomie County after tornadoes left a path of destruction Wednesday night, damaging homes, businesses and schools, especially along Kickapoo Street. Deputy Pottawatomie County Emergency Management Director Shane Colley said along with Shawnee, there is tornado damage in rural areas of Pink, Tribbey and Bethel Acres. Preliminary estimates being given so far for the entire area, including Shawnee, is that 1,800 structures have been impacted in some way, he said, with 190 structures sustaining major damage and 26 being completely destroyed.

4/27/23

Shawnee Public Schools is actively nailing down a plan to get youth back into a structured class/instruction setting after last week's tornado disrupted the routine of its 3,300 students. The event caused dayslong issues with the availability of electricity, internet, buses, as well as damaging several of the schools' sites themselves – especially the high school. SPS Superintendent Dr. April Grace said initial damage reports across the district are already estimated at well over \$20 million. Grace reminded residents that the emergency situation is still somewhat fluid, so many changes and updates are expected daily for a while. The secondary schools are set for remote learning starting today, but the district is getting elementary students back in class today, as the four elementary school sites have been OK'd by structural engineers.

5/4/23

FEMA and the State of Oklahoma opened two joint Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) in McClain and Pottawatomie counties on Tuesday, May 2 to help survivors affected by the severe storms, straight-line winds and tornadoes that occurred April 19-20. Survivors can meet face to face with specialists from FEMA, the Small Business Administration (SBA) and state and local agencies to have their questions about disaster assistance answered. They may also upload any documents needed for their applications at the centers. The DRC in Pottawatomie County will open at 8 a.m. at 130 N Louisa Ave. in Shawnee. The DRC is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week.

5/13/23

A ceremony was held recently to unveil a bronze plaque honoring a Shawnee native who was a Prisoner of War during the Vietnam War. The dedication ceremony was held at the Pottawatomie County Historical Museum for Dan Glenn. Glenn, a 1957 Shawnee High School graduate, served in the Navy and was a Prisoner of War for more than six years. The plaque is now on permanent display outside the museum in downtown Shawnee.

5/23/23

The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation late Friday released the name of the man shot and killed by Shawnee police on May 17. OSBI Spokesman Gerald Davidson said the decedent was positively identified by the medical examiner as 30-year-old Dakota Novotny. Other than releasing the man's identity, Geraldson said no other information about this case or investigation would be released by the OSBI. Novotny was shot and killed last Wednesday afternoon near downtown Shawnee.

5/30/23

Several community organizations throughout Shawnee are presenting Health Week 2023 with events through June 3. Health Week features events throughout Shawnee for all age groups. Activities are designed to promote healthy habits and active lifestyles, keys to positive outcomes for individuals of all ages. Events are free and open to the public. Additional details and updates for all 2023 Health Week events may be found online.

6/3/23

The United Way of Pottawatomie County's Shawnee Recovery Fund has received a \$300,000 donation from Avedis Foundation, which will fund the cost of necessary repairs and rebuilding efforts for citizens' homes and other unmet community needs of those affected by the April 19 Shawnee Tornado. To double the impact of donations, \$200,000 of the contribution is a challenge gift from Avedis Foundation. For every gift received, another gift will be made of the same amount until the \$200,000 total gift match is raised.

6/13/23

Voters go to the polls today to decide several City of Shawnee charter questions. A special election is also being held to fill the Pottawatomie County District No. 2 County Commissioner seat. Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voters in the Shawnee city limits also will decide several charter questions. Pottawatomie County voters registered as Republicans who live in District 2 will vote in the special election for County Commissioner which is needed to fill the seat through 2024 because of the early retirement of longtime District 2 Commissioner Randy Thomas.

6/29/23

The Potawatomi Fire, the first tribal-owned professional basketball team in Oklahoma, established another historical mark Tuesday night by defeating the St. Louis Griffins 98-89 to capture the national championship and 'The Lillie' trophy of The Basketball League at FireLake Arena. The team is owned by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. It was the Fire's first title in only its second year of operation. It was announced after the game that Fire star point guards Chuck Guy and Deshawn Munson were selected as Co-Most Valuable Players of TBL playoffs. The Potawatomi squad won the best-of-three series by a 2-1 count.