

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

7/1/23

McCloud's annual Blackberry Festival is coming. The event begins Friday, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., and starts up again Saturday morning at 9 a.m. and will be in full swing until 11 p.m. The festival is located at McCloud Veterans Memorial Park on the corner of 6th St. and Park St. in McCloud. The theme for this year's festival is "McCloud Proud."

7/11/23

The 2023 International Finals Youth Rodeo is underway in Shawnee with nearly 1,000 entries for contestants from 35 different states. Set through July 14 at the Expo Center, the event is one of the richest youth rodeos in the sport, paying upwards of \$250,000. Athletes in 10 disciplines—bareback riding, cow-girls breakaway roping, saddle bronc riding, steer wrestling, tiedown roping, pole bending, goat tying, barrel racing, bull riding, and team roping—are competing for their piece of the \$250,000 purse. The event features 11 total performances, consisting of two long-go's and a short-go, comprising the top 15 contestants in each event.

7/27/23

Several community organizations and businesses have joined together this month to gather funds and school supplies as area students gear up for class again. The collaborative fundraising effort is called Pack the School. Typically, teachers often spend their own money to buy supplies for their classrooms, but recent storms in the area impacted many teachers and students. Classrooms across Pottawatomie County need everything from pencils to paper to staples to art supplies and beyond. On Tuesday, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Pack the School will open to Pottawatomie County educators in the Community Room at First United Bank, 2675 N. Harrison. Also, First United Bank and Community Renewal of Pottawatomie County are partnering to provide lunch to the first 250 educators who come to shop.

7/29/23

The cleanup effort by all those big, black double grapple trucks scouring town for storm damage is almost done. Fourteen weeks into storm-debris removal, DRC Emergency Services (DRC), of Galveston, Texas, estimated collection of final loads of debris was expected to wrap up this week. With all the curbside pickup finished, all that was left to collect was the last of the damaged tree limbs deemed a public threat to residents. On Wednesday DRC Program Manager Keith Frierson said it would likely only take a few more days to finish taking down damaged tree limbs in the public right-of-way.

8/3/23

Crystal Romanyszyn, IOM, currently the senior vice president at the Norman Economic Development Coalition, will take the reins of Shawnee Forward as the new president and CEO effective Sept. 5. During Romanyszyn's time in Norman, she established strong connections throughout the state and coordinated a community-wide visioning process to establish the foundation for a comprehensive economic development plan for the City of Norman. With experience in economic development, business expansion and retention, chamber leadership and small business development and ownership, Romanyszyn's skill set will be an asset to the Shawnee community.

8/8/23

Students attending Shawnee Public Schools will return for a new school year on Thursday, Aug. 10, and this school year, the district will provide free meals - both breakfast and lunch - to every student from Pre-K through 12th grade. Students are returning to new leadership and a lot of adjustments needed because of the April 19 tornado damage in the district, with administrators striving for minimal interruptions despite impacts to some school facilities. With buildings in the district, especially Shawnee High School, sustaining tornado damage April 19, the return school may not be quite the same for a new school year, but all schools are safe, secure and open, he said, and are already looking much different than they did on April 20.

8/15/23

The United Way of Pottawatomie County (UWPC) announces a total of \$248,750 has been granted to 23 local area partner agencies. The six-figure allocated amount was raised during the 2023 UWPC annual fundraising campaign through community fundraising events, individual donations, and through dozens of local business employee campaigns, where companies invite employees to donate to UWPC through payroll deductions. Agencies who qualify for UWPC funding must provide services to residents residing in Pottawatomie, Lincoln and/or Seminole Counties.

8/19/23

Shawnee Public Schools wants to hear from the community. Dr. Aaron Espolt, superintendent of Shawnee Public Schools, will lead a series of listening forums to gather feedback from the Shawnee community about their aspirations and goals for our school district. Espolt and other SPS administrators and staff will be on hand to listen to community input, answer questions, and explain the current status of the district's storm recovery. More community forums will be announced throughout the school year.

8/29/23

The Shawnee Police Department is excited to introduce its newest officer, Locke, a new K9 member of the department. Back in January, the Shawnee Police Foundation purchased a bomb dog for the department. Locke joins the department after six weeks of training with his K-9 handler, Cpl. Daniel Crisp. Together they trained in a variety of areas, including building and vehicle searches, and different smells. Cpl. Crisp and Locke passed their certification test last week and are now ready to work together.

9/2/23

It's September so that means it's time for the annual Pottawatomie County Free Fair. The fair begins Wednesday, Sept. 6 at the Heart of Oklahoma Exposition Center, 1700 W. Independence, Shawnee. As always, countless displays and exhibits, contests and activities will be featured at the fair, such as antique tractor pulls, the Firefighter Olympics, livestock shows, hobbies, arts and crafts, the Big Bass fishing contest and much more. For more information about the events and schedules for each day, go to www.freefair.org.

9/12/23

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, September 12, for the McCloud School Propositions Special Election. McCloud Public Schools is seeking passage of a \$18 million bond issue for a Capital Improvement Plan to update school facilities, including construction of new classrooms, science labs, computer labs and much more. Another proposition for \$1.1 million deals with school transportation. According to the district's website, passage of the bond issues would result in a property tax increase. Those with homes

having an assessed value of \$100,000 would see an estimated increase in taxes of about \$9.23 per month, the MPS graphic shows.

9/23/23

An investigation was ongoing Thursday by the Pottawatomie County Sheriff's Office after a body was discovered Wednesday night in a rural area west of Tribbey and Macomb. Sheriff Mike Booth, who confirms the decedent is a female, said the body was wrapped up in carpet that was found in a concrete culvert near Hamilton Road and south of Prospect Road. It will be up to the state medical examiner to make a positive identification of the deceased, he said. The discovery comes amid an ongoing search for a woman missing from the Macomb area since last week.

9/28/23

Shawnee City Commission is set to gather for a Special Call meeting Friday – minus Ward 3 City Commissioner Travis Flood. Item One on the agenda issued Wednesday is acknowledgement of Flood's tendered resignation, which was one- sentence long, dated Sept. 26 and worded, "effective immediately." He said in light of recent events and conversations with loved ones, he realized he needed to focus on the love and support of his family. In other business, a resolution will be considered to authorize the city to apply for an Oklahoma Dam Rehabilitation grant from the OWRB (Oklahoma Water Resources Board); and consideration of approval for the city to purchase two vehicles under state contract pricing for a total of \$63,414.01.