

SECOND QUARTER 2015

May 6-15, 2015

Storm causes flooding in Shawnee; roadways closed

A heavy storm with torrential rains has caused flooding in many areas of Shawnee and Pottawatomie County. Rail Service shut down. Bridges closed. Shawnee Twin Lakes spillway overflows. Widespread damage.

May 22, 2015

911 Trust, CPN ink dispatch agreement

The Pottawatomie County Enhanced 911 System Trust Authority and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation inked a formal dispatch agreement Thursday. After several months of discussions and negotiations, J.R. Kidney, chairman of the Trust, and CPN Chairman John A. “Rocky” Barrett, signed the agreement that outlines a partnership between the two entities on a 5-year contract. With the agreement, the County 911 Trust remains intact and is contracting with CPN for dispatch services. The tribe will provide a Public Service Answering Point to answer, process and dispatch 911 and other emergency calls received.

June 5, 2015

West Nile Virus in state prompts mosquito precautions

With all the rainfall and flooding this past month, it’s no wonder Oklahoma has a bumper crop of mosquitoes. And while state health officials said the floodwater populations of mosquitoes do not increase the risk of West Nile Virus (WNV), concerns about WNV were amplified Thursday as the Oklahoma State Department of Health confirmed the state’s first two cases of the year in Okfuskee and McIntosh counties. State health officials are encouraging residents to take precautions to reduce the risk of contracting WNV, which is spread through the bite of the Culex mosquito. OSDH spokeswoman Jamie Dukes said the Culex mosquito feeds on infected birds and transmits the virus when biting humans. This type of mosquito increases in numbers during mid to late summer when temperatures climb and the weather pattern is drier.

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June 11, 2015

Flooding brings disaster declaration for Pottawatomie County

With May's record-setting rainfall and flooding causing damage to many local roadways, repairs are needed and now Pottawatomie County's government entities should receive some federal dollars to help thanks to an amended disaster declaration. Don Lynch, Shawnee/Pottawatomie County Emergency Management Director, said damage to roads was "catastrophic" in this area. In addition to public assistance for repairs to government-owned roadways, individual assistance also will be available for Pottawatomie County residents affected by flooding.

June 24, 2015

A break-in and fire caused damage at Pottawatomie County courthouse

Sheriff Mike Booth said a suspect broke into the front doors of the courthouse and tried to set the courthouse on fire just inside the lobby area. Booth said the fire was put out but there but there was smoke throughout the building. Deputies and fire marshals are investigating, Booth said. They have been collecting evidence at the scene, including containers with a flammable liquid. This same incident occurred Tuesday morning at the juvenile services building in Shawnee.