

Fourth Quarter 2022 Issues – KGFF-AM, Shawnee, OK

10/4/22

With ongoing dry conditions, drought and an increase in area grass fires, Pottawatomie County commissioners on Monday enacted a 14-day county burn ban for all of Pottawatomie County. A burn ban is also in effect in Lincoln County and Seminole County. With the county having both extreme and exceptional drought areas and no rain in the forecast, Emergency Management Director Chad Larman said a majority of the county's fire chiefs, when polled, were in favor of a burn ban at this time. The ban can be evaluated every seven days.

10/15/22

With the Nov. 8 general election just a few short weeks away, a candidate forum has been scheduled to help Pottawatomie County voters decide how to mark their ballots. The Pottawatomie County Advocates for Voter Education (PAVE) has scheduled a forum for Thursday, Oct. 27, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Shawnee City Hall commission chambers. It will feature Democrat Gregory Hardin and Republican incumbent Dell Kerbs for the Dist. 26 seat in the Oklahoma House of Representatives as well as the Dist. 3 county commissioner post, where Republican Abbigale Thompson is challenging incumbent Democrat Eddie Stackhouse. Stackhouse has accepted, but Thompson declined, citing other commitments.

10/25/22

Blue Zones Project Pottawatomie County has just announced a new brand identity. The well-being improvement initiative will now be known locally as Pottawatomie Go, or "Pogo." With its emphasis on well-being and community collaboration, Blue Zones Project was identified by Avedis Foundation in 2017 as a natural fit for investment, expanding the Foundation's ongoing support of a healthier environment. Last spring, Avedis and Blue Zones Project Pottawatomie County began engaging key stakeholders to create a sustainability plan to ensure this critical work could continue. These engaged leaders share a commitment to improving Shawnee's well-being and quality of life. In recent months, those stakeholders have served as advisors to explore Blue Zone Project Pottawatomie County's desire to operate more locally and provide greater sustainability.

11/10/22

On Tuesday, voters headed to the polls to make their choices in the Midterm Election. Ballot decisions included posts like governor, superintendent of public instruction, state Rep. District 26 and Pottawatomie County Commissioner Seat 3, among others. Locally, incumbent Dell Kerbs, a Republican, held onto his State House District 26 seat for a fourth term. Republican Grant Green won his race to represent parts of Lincoln, Pottawatomie and Seminole Counties in the District 28 seat of the State Senate. Republican Abbigale Thompson defeated longtime incumbent Eddie Stackhouse for the office of District 3 Pottawatomie County commissioner. Finally, in the race for District 23 judge, which includes jurisdiction in both Lincoln and Pottawatomie Counties, voters on Tuesday elected Traci Soderstrom to serve in the Office 1 seat.

11/16/22

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center received a prestigious grant that will further enhance its award-winning exhibits with new interactive features. The Institute of Museum and Library Services recently awarded the Cultural Heritage Center nearly \$100,000. The funds will support the CHC's efforts to modernize and enhance technology to improve the visitor experience. The funds, totaling \$99,974, will be used to update dedicated touch screens, add direct and ambient surround sound speakers and upgrade computers.

11/24/22

A couple maintenance agreements were up for consideration Monday as the Kickapoo South project edges forward. First, the Shawnee City Commission approved an agreement between the City of Shawnee and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) for installation of highway lighting along US-270B (Kickapoo), as part of the Kickapoo South Widening project. Separated out as another agenda item was the approved resolution and agreement with ODOT for the installation of multiple traffic signals along US-270B (Kickapoo).

12/4/22

The Salvation Army of Shawnee is on the verge of ringing their bells double-time. The nonprofit has announced its participation in an ambitious challenge from the head of the organization in the USA, Commissioner Kenneth Hodder, to raise more money than him in an effort to bring in \$1.5 million – nationwide -- over the course of just four hours. The challenge is set to happen Dec. 9. The local Salvation Army has chosen 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. as its window of focus for the challenge. Residents will see bell-ringers next to their kettles at Shawnee's Walmart West Door to compete while raising funds for services in Shawnee and the surrounding counties amid the holidays and into the new year.

12/15/22

The Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art announces it has received an endowment gift of \$500,000 from the estate of Carl Tufts. Carl Tufts and his family moved to Shawnee in 1982. He helped the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art through volunteer work and served on the museum's first Board of Trustees when the non-profit corporation was established. He served on the Board for many years including as Board Chair. Established funds in the endowment for the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art include The Alice Leonard Fund, The St. Gregory's Abbey Fund, The Mr. and Mrs. R.J. Wissinger Fund, and the Carl Tufts Fund.

12/21/22

According to the U.S. National Weather Service in Norman, at weather.gov, very cold temperatures and dangerous wind chills are expected Thursday and Friday. Wind gusts of 40 to 55 miles per hour and wind chill values between -10 Fahrenheit and -25 are expected, the weather service stated Tuesday. To accomplish that task, volunteers are needed to man the winter warming stations. The city has partnered again this year with C3 Church and over 30 organizations to provide Emergency Warming Stations to keep the homeless population warm this winter. The Winter Warming Station provides safe and warm indoor refuge for those who are homeless.