

Second Quarter 2020 Issues – KGFF-AM, Shawnee, OK

4/1/2020

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to increase, Shawnee Mayor Richard Finley added a shelter in place order to his emergency proclamation. This essentially urges all residents to refrain from any unnecessary travel from home. The proclamation also says all essential grocery and retail establishments are required to provide at least one hour of controlled access to patrons age 55 and over.

4/3/2020

Following Shawnee and many other cities and counties throughout Oklahoma, Pottawatomie County Commissioners on Thursday declared a shelter-in-place order for all of Pottawatomie County because of COVID-19 concerns. According to District 2 Commissioner Randy Thomas, people throughout Pottawatomie County are encouraged to avoid unnecessary travel from their home and practice social distancing methods. Thomas said the county order is in effect until April 30, and if it needs to be extended, the commissioners will make that decision.

4/7/2020

Pottawatomie County sheriff's deputies are investigating an attempted abduction after suspects allegedly tried to kidnap a teenager while he was skateboarding in a rural McLoud area. Undersheriff Travis Palmer said the incident occurred before 7 p.m. Saturday evening in the area of Memorial Road and Fishmarket Road. No arrests have been made.

4/21/2020

The Oklahoma State Department of Health on Saturday reported that another Pottawatomie County resident has died from COVID-19, bringing the number of deaths in the county to four. The woman who died was reported to be in the 65 and older age group. In Pottawatomie County, there have been 36 confirmed cases and four deaths. Of those, 24 have been residents of Shawnee.

5/1/2020

The Pioneer Library System will reopen its libraries in multiple phases during May. Limited in-building services will resume on Monday, May 18, library leadership has announced. Following recommendations from city leaders on social distancing and safe practices, only limited, essential library services will be offered. Included are essential computer access (limited to two 30-minute sessions daily), curbside pickup of materials, copying, faxing and scanning. Staff will advise and pull items for customers hoping to browse materials. These limited services will resume in an environment that caps the number of people in the building based on limited capacity. Use of facial coverings will be encouraged. Hours of operation still are being determined and will be subject to adjustment.

5/14/2020

Shawnee Public Schools Superintendent Dr. April Grace released a statement video Monday informing students, parents and the community of the district's current plan for next school year. According to Grace, Shawnee Public Schools is looking at a variety of options pertaining to next school year and the possibility of students returning to school. Grace explained Shawnee will continue to work with state health officials and other school districts to determine the best plan of action going forward. The superintendent said the district will offer online schooling to students who may not want to return to physical classes due to COVID-19 concerns.

5/22/2020

The Heart of Oklahoma Exposition Center recently announced its all-inclusive reopening plan, which is a blueprint of best practices, policies, and procedures the venue has put in place prior to welcoming back crowds in May. The "Together AGAIN!" custom reopening strategy was created using industry standards and recommendations; directives from local, state, and federal governments; guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and health departments; and Spectra's leaders and subject matter experts. In accordance with Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt's "Open Up and Recover Safely" Plan, the Expo's first scheduled event to return will be during Phase 2.

5/27/2020

An Oklahoma City-based hospital system on Tuesday began allowing limited visitation to most patients, including those with the coronavirus, as the state continues to reopen. Integris Health said some patients can designate one person as a "patient representative" who can visit between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily. Patients in obstetrics, pediatrics and neonatal intensive care may have two representatives, but no visitors will be allowed for patients in isolation except for those near death. The representative must be 18 or older and follow hospital health safety rules that include hand washing and wearing masks.

6/2/2020

As cities across the U.S. are reporting daily protests — and, in certain areas, riots, looting and property damage — this weekend locals in Shawnee joined the outcry for justice over the recent killing of 46-year-old George Floyd. Donning walking shoes, dozens of residents gathered signs Saturday and marched along a stretch of Harrison Street between Walls Discount and Sonic. Ward 4 Shawnee City Commissioner Darren Rutherford said Monday that the conduct of Saturday's event made him proud to be from Shawnee.

6/11/2020

The Shawnee Board of Education voted to enter the district into a mass action litigation case with Frantz Law Groups against Juul Labs, Inc. According to Superintendent Dr. April Grace, Shawnee Public Schools is joining the lawsuit to show the community the district is doing what it needs to do to protect

students from the harms of the vaping epidemic. In addition, Grace said moving forward and entering the litigation will have no out-of-pocket cost to the district.

6/17/2020

Mayor Richard Finley met opposition when he appointed two new Planning Commissioners at this week's Shawnee City Commission meeting. Terms were up for two of the planning committee's commissioners, which left those seats empty; one of the mayor's duties is to name new designees to the positions. When the consent agenda came up for acceptance, Ward 3 Shawnee City Commissioner James Harrod pulled the item for discussion. "I have a couple objections," Harrod said. "One of them is that their terms are until 2024, which is the same length as the mayor's term; we're about two weeks from the election, so I'd like to see that deferred until the mayor's election is settled and a new mayor can have an input on the Planning Commission."

6/19/2020

Shawnee Public Schools Director of Athletics Todd Boyer has announced that Ron Arthur has stepped down as boys' head basketball coach, it was announced Friday. Arthur will remain as assistant athletic director, a position he has held for the last five years. Shawnee Public Schools has already posted the boys' head basketball coaching position and some candidates have been contacted, according to Boyer. Arthur guided the Wolves to the 2020 Class 5A State Tournament, which wasn't played due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

6/26/2020

A Shawnee Public School assistant coach has tested positive for COVID-19 and the district has alerted students and the community and has ensured the necessary safety measures have been put in place. In a statement released Thursday, Superintendent Dr. April Grace said the coach was last on campus June 18 and interacted with three student athletes outside on the tennis courts. In her statement, Grace said the district is also researching any other interactions the coach and student athletes may have had with people in the community.