

## **KHGG-FM 2Q Issues Report 2012**

Pursuant to the disclosure requirements in 47 C.F. R. 73.3526(11)(i), and during the quarter referenced above, this station provided information to its listeners regarding the following significant issues. Including:

Education  
Children/Youth  
Politics  
Health/Healthcare  
Legal Matters  
Government (National)  
Education  
Environment

Consumer Issues  
Economy  
Housing  
Transportation  
Business  
Cultural  
Government (local)  
Pet Issues

Religion  
Technology  
Minority Issues  
Women's Issues  
Employment  
Industry  
Elderly

**KHGG-FM 2012 2Q Issues Report**

**THE DECISION BY THE PENTAGON TO ELIMINATE THE A-10 MISSION OF THE 188TH ARKANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD**—Government leaders and local citizens continued their efforts to encourage the Pentagon to keep the A-10 Mission in Fort Smith. This was covered extensively on Arkklahoma Today, our morning news program weekdays from 7 to 9a. Our broadcasts included Congressman Steve Womack and Sen. Mark Pryor talking about these efforts. Listeners also called in to offer their thoughts. On April 27th, Sen. Pryor received a mobilization update and discussed the 188th. **KHGG** participated in a letter-writing campaign to state why the Fort Smith area is the ideal place for the A-10s.

**THE FIRING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS HEAD FOOTBALL COACH AND THE SEARCH FOR HIS SUCCESSOR**—

Normally, sports would not be a subject of intense discussion by listeners, but when the head football coach at Arkansas was caught telling a lie in the aftermath of a motorcycle accident that made national headlines, it led to the dismissal of the coach and shock in a state that prizes its football program. The locally-produced daily news programs Arkklahoma Today and The Hog Morning Show both covered the developments that led to the hiring of new head coach John L. Smith. Razorback recruiting guru Otis Kirk has daily reports on the case, as well as Marty Houston of Razorback Nation. Listeners also called in their views on the subject.

**PRIMARY ELECTIONS IN ARKANSAS**—Arkansas voters were introduced to many candidates on the **KHGG** airwaves and Arkklahoma Today conducted numerous interviews with Delores Chitwood, head of the League of Women Voters, keeping listeners updated on special meetings in which candidates explained their platforms.

For example, Ms. Chitwood appeared on the program between 7 and 8 a.m. Monday, April 21, to outline a meeting that day. House District 76 candidates Denny Altes and Matt Pitsch were the featured speakers (both of these candidates appeared on **KHGG-FM** | discuss their campaigns during the second quarter. In addition, other candidates were also featured and the station encouraged citizens to vote.

**THE OVERHAUL OF THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE AND ITS EFFECT ON OUR AREA**—With the proposed closing of numerous post offices and cutting the number of delivery days, many local citizens held meetings to urge the government to reconsider.

On Friday, April 20, 2012, Sen. Mark Pryor called in the Arkklahoma Today to tell about his plans for seeking the best alternative for Arkansas citizens. Sen. Pryor calls in live from time to time to discuss issues of concern to his constituents. Listeners also expressed their views during the period, and indeed, the Postal Service decided to delay the closings pending further investigation.

**SANITATION IN THE CITY OF FORT SMITH**---The City, in an effort to cut costs, has developed a plan of trash collection that utilizes automated trash collection with trucks that are manned by only the driver. Some residents of Fort Smith have objected to this and petitioned the city to continue collection with a driver and personnel to pick up the refuse. Our morning news show interviewed Bareedy Nokokalee, superintendent of sanitation several times for ten or more minutes each time during the second quarter to explain the advantages of the new system. The issue has not been completely decided. Some sections of the city have been granted their wish to have the trash manually collected. The matter is far from decided as their will be further discussions on the matter. Hosts told listeners of a number of "Neighborhood Meetings" held to explain the changes one on one. These were announced on the station from April 16 to April 26.

**A ONE-CENT SALES TAX FOR VAN BUREN**—Arkklahoma Today presented information about a one-cent sales tax proposal to build additional facilities for the police department and other agencies. Mayor Bob Freeman's plan was discussed on our broadcasts and the plan eventually was approved.

#### **TOUGH ECONOMY**

The Fort Smith Region, which includes Scott County, has been hard hit by the weakening economy in the region and it has forced the shutdown of several industries, reduced school enrollments due to parents moving away to find work elsewhere, and forced city government to retrench due to reduced tax income. **KHGG-FM** reached out in its interviews with newsmakers as well as publicized job fairs designed to find work for those on unemployment. Congressman Steve Womack has done lengthy phone interviews during this quarter focusing on the closing of the Whirlpool plant here and the delay of the Mitsubishi windmill plant. The Congressman is featured on the station the second or third Tuesday of each month. Sherry Scorby of the Fort Smith Conevtion and Visitors Bureau appeared on KHGG for as 4:29 minute interview to discuss the new "Grit Awards" which recognize accomplishments in Arkklahoma. The title refers to the movie and book, "True Grit," written Fort Smith in the days of Judge Isaac C. Parker.

#### **THURSDAYS ARE SPECIAL FORT SMITH INFORMATION DAYS**

Each Thursday, city officials come to the KHGG studios to talk about service to the community for approximately five to ten minutes. Included have been the mayor, fire chief, fire marshal, parks and recreation director, building inspector and city administrator. These visits on-air usually run ten to 15 minutes.

The first Thursday of each month Jayne Hughes, Director of Downtown Development, visits the studio to talk about the shopping until 8 p.m. in downtown. This has been a boon to the economy and also includes coverage of economic news. These visits run approximately ten to 15 minutes.

#### HELPING ATTRACT NEW INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS TO THE AREA

Each weekday at 7:40a, Bill Pharis interviews John Taylor, financial advisor from Sterne-Agee and Leach, for four minutes concerning the day's economic news. John brings to light the impact of the latest economic news on the River Valley economy. We also pass along questions from listeners for his response. His analysis of the local economy is very valuable to our listeners.

#### HELP WITH PERFORMING ARTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Area schools have built performing arts centers which also provide professional entertainment to the general public. **KHGG** has conducted a monthly, ten-minute interview with Rosilee Walker-Russell of the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith Academy of the Arts. Hundreds of students are enrolled in these classes, which feature art, singing, acting, etc. Included have been participation in The national touring company performance of The Wizard of Oz, as well as the musical Oklahoma and many more performances the station has helped publicize at no charge. The Fort Smith Young Actor's Guild was also featured in early May as they prepared for the presentation of "Les Miserables" June 14-17. Grant Harper was interviewed and also performed one of the songs from the show. Brenda Yelvington also appeared.

#### BASS REEVES STATUE CAMPAIGN

**KHGG** has been active in providing interviews and promotional announcements for the effort to build a statue to iconic deputy U.S. Marshal Bass Reeves, an African-American lawman who was one of Judge Isaac C. Parker's most dependable peacemakers. A trail ride along the river was conducted as well as other fund-raisers. Reeves may soon be the subject of a motion picture and Pharis Broadcasting, Inc., believes he is a positive role model for all races, but especially for people of color in the listening area. We had numerous local and national dignitaries record "Bass Reeves Minutes" that ran for several weeks before the dedication of the statue in downtown Fort Smith. President Obama was invited to the event, but schedule conflicts kept him from attending. Among those interviewed over several weeks, Craig Pair (2:27), Mike Oglesby, U.S. Marshal (3:49), and Jim Dunn, CEO of the Marshal's Museum (2:44). Harold Holden, creator of the statue, was also interviewed, as was Judge Paul Brady, relative of Bass Reeves.

#### FINDING MONEY FOR THE NEW MARSHAL'S MUSEUM

Relating to the U.S. Marshals, the Marshal's Service has authorized Fort Smith as the new home of the U.S. Marshal's Museum. The Van Buren/Fort Smith region is now in the process of raising money to build the \$50 million facility. During this period we reported that the U.S. Treasury will mint a gold coin in honor of the Marshals that can be sold to raise money for the new museum. We also conducted interviews on Arkklahoma Today discussing the utility improvements that are under way to build the facility.

#### RIVER VALLEY TEA PARTY

This new organization has gotten a lot of attention. **KHGG** interviewed Bob Newbold about the organization once each month to learn their plans.

approximately 8 minutes each. The group heard from many candidates seeking office as well as backed certain candidates which they favored.

THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF ART APPRECIATION IN ARKLAHOMA—Lee Ortega of the new Fort Smith Regional Art Museum was interviewed at length on KHGG on Tuesday, May 15. He stressed the advantages the new facility would bring once completed.

KEEPING LISTENERS AWARE OF IMPORTANT PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES—Abilities Unlimited officials were interviewed on May 11, to talk about fund raising and an all-u-can eat pancakes event. On April 10th, the Salvation Army visited with our staff on-air about “The Shower of Blessings” program to donate much needed items to the needy. Captain Carlyle Gargis is a frequent visitor to the program and three area trucking firms joined. The Fort Smith Trolley Museum’s Bradley Martin spoke with host Karen Pharis about the 27th annual open hour and national train day on May 10th. Tuesday, May 1, we conducted a 7:45 minute interview with Kathie Smith about the Gregory Kistler Center and its “Night in the Carribean.”

NATURE PRESERVATION AND EDUCATION—Chad Lowe and Karen Westcamp-Johnson appeared for 15 minute interviews three times during the second quarter on Arklahoma Today to discuss the varied programs at the Janet Huckabee Nature Center at Fort Chaffee.

THESE OTHER ISSUES RECEIVED OUT PROGRAMMING ATTENTION THIS QUARTER:

REMINDING CITIZENS OF THE HISTORY OF FORT SMITH—The annual “Tales of the Crypt” took center stage at Oak Cemetery the week of April 26th. Parks Director Mike Alsup appeared on Arklahoma Today to talk about it.

ARKANSAS SENIOR CARE IN SEARCH OF 65+ VOLUNTEERS—Jonathan Fry was interviewed about the need for senior volunteers. 6:20 This program covers Crawford, Sebastian and Franklin counties.

THE OLD FORT DAYS RODEO—This annual event continues to be popular, but increasing attendance was an important goal of its organizers. Arklahoma Today interviewed Sherry Shumate of the Rodeo/Fair Board and also had Miss Rodeo Arkansas, Jessica Chitwood, on the air. Rodeo Chairman Ron Scamardo and Jackie Haffert, co-chairperson, also were interviewed at length by Dennis McCaslin.

UA FORT SMITH---Chancellor Paul Beran has appeared on Arklahoma Today twice for lengthy interviews during the quarter. Included were discussions of enrollment increases, new facilities and plans for the future. Also discussed was the successful athletic program of the UA FS Lions. **KHGG** broadcasts selected Lions games