

KHGG-AM Third Quarter 2020 Issues Report

KHGG-AM simulcasts the hour-long weekday news and information program called “Arklahoma Today” 7am-8am. It features local news interviews, weather, traffic, sports information and public service announcements. It originates on KFPW-AM, The following are topics of discussion from third quarter, 2020.

Wednesday, July 1 – Third District Congressman Steve Womack calls in at 7:40am and visits with Bill and Karen Pharis about the latest in stimulus aid for Americans and covid-19 update.

Thursday, July 2 – Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge calls Bill and Karen Pharis at 7:40. She discusses covid-19 scams her department is investigating and the breach in the state emergency unemployment aid website.

Friday, July 3 – Fort Smith Mayor George McGill reviews plans for the city’s “neighborhood celebrations” for the Fourth of July at 7:40am. A panel truck with a video fireworks display will visit six Fort Smith neighborhoods and parks. Masks will be distributed to those who need them. Dave Kennedy with the U.S. Marshal Museum in Fort Smith talks with Karen at 7:50 about the upcoming Facebook Live presentation at two that afternoon.

Monday, July 6 – Tammie Kuhns with the Community Services Clearinghouse talks at 7:40 with Karen Pharis how the cancellation of the True Grit Bike Ride has affected funding at the Clearinghouse for the Kids backpack program.

Tuesday, July 7 – Executive Director of the Community School of the Arts, Dr. Rosilee Russell visits with Karen Pharis at 7:40 about the effect covid-19 has had on the school. The CSA has hired a music therapist to help children cope with the isolation and uncertainty that they are feeling during the pandemic.

Wednesday, July 8 – Chad Lowe with the Huckabee River Valley Nature Center talks about some renovation work able to be started since the indoor facility is closed to the public. The nature trails are still open to the public.

Thursday, July 9 – Congressman Steve Womack gives an update at 7:40am to listeners on progress with stimulus help for businesses and covid update.

Friday, July 10 – Communications Director for the the Mayor of Fort Smith, Jurena Storm recaps the city’s Fourth of July celebration at 7:40. Curator of the U.S. Marshal Museum, Dave Kennedy visits with Karen Pharis about the upcoming facebook live event later Friday afternoon at 7:50am.

Monday, July 13 – Caroline Spier, Executive Director of the Fort Smith Museum of history talks with Karen Pharis at 7:40am about the challenges the museum is facing with no visitors allowed.

Tuesday, July 14 – Alice Alt, President of the U.S. Marshal Museum announces a \$500,000 matching donation and asks listeners at 7:40am to meet the challenge. She also talks about the lecture series which went virtual this year because of the pandemic.

Wednesday, July 15 - Congressman Steve Womack calls in at 7:40am to discuss the latest events in Washington which affect constituents in the third Congressional District.

Thursday, July 16 – Eddie Lee Herndon, Executive Director of the Greater United Way of Fort Smith talked with Karen and Bill at 7:40am . A number of fundraisers usually held by the non-profit agency have been cancelled this summer due to the covid virus and agencies are feeling the financial pinch as they continue to provide services to clients. Eddie Lee announced some micro grants available to help some of the aagencies.

Friday, July 17 – Fort Smith Mayor George McGill talk with Bill and Karen at 7:40am about the possibility of a Singapore air guard training unit being placed at the National Guard Air Base in Fort Smith. Dave Kennedy at 7:50am discusses the U.S. Marshal Museum’s Facebook Live event.

Monday, July 20 – Terry Ridenour with the Blood Institute talks with Karen at 7:40 about the need for blood donations. This week, the blood institute will provide donors with information on any “Covid antibodies” in a donor’s blood.

Tuesday, July 21 - Ashley Forsgren with the Children’s Emergency shelter explains at 7:40 that the Shelter’s “Havana Nights” fundraiser scheduled for September has been cancelled and asked listeners to consider giving since the children still have expenses. Caroline Spier with the Fort Smith Museum of

History says they will be open on Saturday with plenty of hand sanitizer and requiring mask wearing by guests.

Wednesday, July 22 – Congressman Steve Womack calls in at 7:40am and talks with Bill and Karen about actions in Washington affecting constituents in the third congressional district. Eddie Lee Herndon with the United Way talks about the Fill the Bus promotion collecting school supplies for children in the seven county service area at 7:50am

Thursday, July 23 – Chris Myer with Myer Hotels in Branson talks with Karen Pharis at 7:40 am on how the corona virus pandemic is affecting tourism in Branson this summer, and the steps taken at the Myer hotel chain to keep their facilities extra clean. Travel tips, shows available, variety of outdoor activities in Missouri.

Friday, July 24 – Fort Smith Mayor George McGill talks about measures to continue to stay safe during the covid crisis at 7:40am. Dave Kennedy reviews the afternoon’s U.S. Marshal Museum’s Facebook Live program.

Monday, July 27 – Fort Smith Mayor George McGill is chair of the Arkansas “Be Counted” effort for the U.S. Census. At 7:40am, he outlined the various events that have gone virtual because of the pandemic, and discussed the importance of responding to the 2020 census.

Tuesday, July 28 - Johnny Key, Secretary of Education in Arkansas reviews the state’s plan to be ready to learn in class beginning in August. The Ready to Learn outline gives guidance to individual school districts to adapt to the style of learning which is best suited to its students. 7:40am-7:55am.

Wednesday, July 29 - Third District Congressman Steve Womack calls-in at 7:40am to talk with Bill and Karen about actions in Washington affecting the third district in Arkansas.

Thursday, July 30 – Eddie Lee Herndon with the Greater Fort Smith United Way talks about ways listeners can get involved in helping school kids prepare for the new school year, and how the United Way is helping school districts identify new needs as they prepare for the unknown 7:40am-7:50am.

Friday, July 31 – Dave Kennedy with the U.S. Marshal’s museum talks about Facebook Live at 7:40am. 7:45-7:55am Pat Porta Day greetings from the archives of KFPW-AM celebrating long-time radio and television announcer Pat Porta.

Monday, August 3 – Governor Asa Hutchinson outlines additional guidelines for on site classes for the 2020 school year; from his Friday, 7/31/20 press conference. Aired 7:40am-7:50am.

Tuesday, August 4 – Secretary of Education Johnny Key discusses how school districts will be able to reference State Health Department information for use in making decisions regarding their schools, in addition to a help telephone line available to schools, teachers, and parents. Pre-recorded aired 7:40am-7:50am.

Wednesday, August 5 – Chad Lowe with the Huckabee Nature Center talks about virtual programs available at the nature center that are free on their website 7:40am.

Thursday, August 6 – Eddie Lee Herndon with the United Way promotes results of Fill the Bus and the United Way capital campaign. 7:40am

Friday, August 7 - Dave Kennedy with the U.S. Marshal Museum talks about his Facebook Live topic for 2:00 . 7:15am-7:20am. Fort Smith Mayor George McGill discusses covid-19 testing in Fort Smith and the importance of wearing a mask and social distancing 7:40am.

Monday, August 10 – Chancellor of the University of Arkansas Fort Smith, Dr. Teresa Riley discusses the extension of the .25 sales tax Sebastian County voters will see on the November election ballot. 7:40am.

Tuesday, August 11 – Dr. Rosilee Russell, Executive Director of the community School of the Arts talks about the reluctance of parents to send their students into groups of children; dance, art, theater, and how they are still offering virtual lessons, including piano, violin, cello, virtually. 7:40am

Wednesday, August 12 – Governor Asa Hutchinson reviews guidelines for high school sporting events for the upcoming school year. Health Department protocols which must be met by coaches and players, and in the stadiums by parents and fans. Arkansas Activities Director Lance Taylor also issued a

challenge to players and coaches to continue to wear their masks and manage the risk they are all exposed to during the health crisis, saying “it’s up to the players whether or not we have a successful football and school year.”

Prerecorded, 7:40am-7:50am

Thursday, August 13 - Eddie Lee Herndon tells listeners \$500,000. In lost fundraising events is being felt by area United Way agencies. All agencies continue to serve the public, but resources are strained. Herndon talked about the payroll giving opportunity available to businesses. 7:40am.

Friday, August 14 – Fort Smith Mayor George McGill talked about new testing sites within the city, and area school preparing for on-site learning in Fort Smith and the River Valley. 7:40am. Dave Kennedy with the U.S. Marshal Museum gave a preview of his Facebook Live presentation . 7:45am

Monday, August 17 – Charles Fuchiello is president of the Alzheimer’s Support Association. He spoke by phone with Karen Pharis about the September first caregivers seminar available online for Arkansans 7:40am-7:45. Mayor George McGill talked with Bill on how Fort Smith residents can do all they can to put the city’s best foot forward while officials are courting Singapore for a new mission at the 188th air guard in Fort Smith. 7:45am-7:50am.

Tuesday, August 18 – Phillip Merry, founder of the Christmas Honors program at the National Cemetery says the covid crisis will prevent the usual remembrance of veterans. The large group of people required to prepare and place wreaths at grave sites will not be allowed this year. The Christmas Honors committee is considering an alternate way to celebrate the service, with the mention of the names of the 20,000 buried there and ringing of bells. 7:40am

Wednesday, August 19 - Tami Kuhns with the Community Services Clearinghouse visits with Karen about the kids backpack program getting ready to gear up again with school starting next week. 7:40am.

Thursday, August 20 – Eddie Lee Herndon with the United Way talks about the various agencies which cater to children and to be mindful of them when school starts back. He promoted again the United Way campaign. 7:40am

Friday, August 21 – Dr. Steve Carney with Baptist Health in Fort Smith talked with Karen about the importance of getting the flu shot this year. 7:35-7:42am. Mayor George McGill also talked about flu shots available at the county health department in September. 7:45am Dave Kennedy with the US Marshal Museum talked about his Facebook Live event at 2:00 . 7:50am

Monday, August 24 – Superintendent of Fort Smith schools, Dr. Doug Brubaker talked with Karen about preparations for the school year, and preparing virtual learning for 25% of the students throughout the school system who plan to learn online. 7:40am.

Tuesday, August 25 – Dr. Teresa Riley is Chancellor at the University of Arkansas Fort Smith. She talked about the challenges of teaching online for professors, and learning online for students. 7:40am

Wednesday, August 26 – Dr. Lee Johnson , State Representative talked about the importance of getting a flu shot in the midst of a covid-19 pandemic, as well as the importance of physically being in a classroom and the benefits of in-person socialization.

Thursday, August 27 - Eddie Lee Herndon with the United Way talked about the success of the “100 Families” initiative which works to return children in Foster Care to their families; getting parents the counseling, and training they need to be successful employees and parents. 7:40am

Friday, August 28 – Fort Smith Mayor George McGill talks about steps individual residents can take to insure this school year is a successful one for Fort Smith and area schools. 7:40am Dave Kennedy discusses the U.S. Marshal Museum’s Facebook Live event.

Monday, August 31 - Charles Fuchiello reminds listeners of the free Alzheimer’s caregiver seminar September first that is free to attend for Arkansas residents 7:35am Dr. Justin Boyd, Pharmacist and State Representative talked about the availability of flu shots, doses, and when to get one 7:45am

Tuesday, September 1 – Jeff Amerine talked with Karen at 7:40am about his role as a judge in the “Congressional App Challenge” sponsored by Congressman Steve Womack. The contest is open to students in Middle School through High School and Amerine explained that many times students get internships at

major tech companies because of their skills. Last year's winners were from northwest Arkansas.

Wednesday, September 2 – Chad Lowe with the Huckabee Nature Center spoke with Karen and Bill at 7:40 and reviewed some of the protocols for visitors who wish to come inside the Nature Center at Chaffee Crossing. Many classes are still virtual but a limited number of guests are allowed at a time.

Thursday, September 3 - Eddie Lee Herndon with the Greater Fort Smith United Way visits at 7:40am with Bill and Karen encouraging listeners to join in the capital campaign so United Way Agencies are better to cope with the extra expenses because of covid-19.

Friday, September 4 - Dave Kennedy with the U.S. Marshal Museum talks about Facebook Live coming up at 2, 7:15am-7:20am, and Fort Smith mayor George McGill visits with Bill and Karen at 7:40 about labor day and the Fort Smith economy.

Tuesday, September 8, - Dr. Rosilee Russell, Executive Director of the Community School of the Arts talks about social distancing and the wearing of masks in group classes such as dance, art, and theater, and even individual classes for instruments and voice. 7:40am

Wednesday, September 9 – John Pope with the Van Buren Lion's club talks about the club turning 100 next year, the services it provides to the blind and sight impaired in our area, and the group's October golf tournament. 7:40am

Thursday, September 10 – Eddie Lee Herndon with the United Way talks about the 100 families groundbreaking for their new office in Crawford County and the hiring of former State Representative Charlotte Douglas to work as a case manager. 7:40am

Friday, September 11 – Fort Smith Mayor George McGill talks about the prospect of Fort Smith housing a new mission at the 188th air base with officials from Singapore. 7:40am Dave Kennedy with the U.S. Marshal Museum says today's focus of Facebook Live will be on the marshals who served following the attack on the world trade center. 7:50am.

Monday, September 14 – Brian Wells with “Communitites Unlimited” talks with Karen at 7:40am about the “Pitch Contest” for businesses or individuals in a four state area to “pitch” their business ideas virtually. Everyone can log on to watch the two minute presentations and then vote for their favorite to win \$1,000. A panel of CU judges will select first and second place winners with cash prizes too.

Tuesday, September 15 – Crawford county Judge Dennis Gillstrap talks with Karen on his way to the state quarterly meeting of County Judges. Gillstrap says the item he is most concerned with is the extension of the state road tax which will be on the November election ballot. Also discussed how a grant will be used at the county softball fields and a survey to get input from county residents. 7:40am

Wednesday, September 16 – Congressman Steve Womack talks about the civil unrest in Washington State and the stalemate in Congress regarding help for the unemployed 7:40am Terri Burt with the Center for art and Education in Van Buren discusses the Adult Art Competition winners and exhibit currently on display at the Van Buren studio. 7:50am

Thursday, September 17 - Eddie Lee Herndon with the United Way talks about the growth of the “100 Families” initiative to help incarcerated parents receive job training, drug abuse counseling, and parenting guidance in an effort to reunite them with their children. Sebastian county leads the state in the number of children placed in foster care and this program is designed to lessen the time the children are away from their homes. 7:40am.

Friday, September 18 – Fort Smith Mayor George McGill talks about covid numbers in Sebastian county going up, and the need to continue to support local businesses. 7:40am

Monday, September 21 – Dennis Petersen with the Spiro, OK Archeological Center talks with Karen at 7:40am about the Autumnal Equinox and the special walks planned at the historical site to mark the changing of the seasons. Recorded interview with Congressman Womack regarding the potential new mission at the 188th air base in Fort Smith.

Tuesday, September 22 – Caroline Spier with the Fort Smith Museum of History talks about the upcoming fundraiser entitled: “Unmasked- a non-event-event!” The museum has had to furlough all its employees and even the volunteers during the covid-19 pandemic and Executive Director Spier continues to cut expenses. The fundraiser hopes to raise funds to keep the doors open. Many of the donations will include membership 7:40am.

Wednesday, September 23 – Eddie Lee Herndon with the United Way talks about the United Way agencies that deal with children and the need to support them this school year 7:40am

Thursday, September 24 – Congressman Steve Womack calls in at 7:40 and talks about the difficulty in reaching an agreement for a stimulus package in Congress. He says he will not approve another \$600./week stipend for Americans to not work.

Friday, September 25 – Fort Smith Mayor George McGill calls in at 7:40 and talks about the economic impact of the University of Arkansas Fort Smith on western Arkansas.

Monday, September 28 – Dr. Brian Kim, President of the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education talks about the acquisition of the Golden Living headquarters building to become the ACHE Research Institute Health and Wellness Center.— what it means to the school of Osteopathic medicine, and the Fort Smith and surrounding communities. 7:40am

Tuesday, September 29 – Sharon Brooks, Sebastian county clerk talks with Karen Pharis at 7:40am about the deadlines for registering to vote, how to apply for an absentee ballot, and voting districts in the county.

Wednesday, September 30 – Congressman Steve Womack joins Bill and Karen at 7:40 to discuss local high school graduates attending Service Academies.