



The University of Oklahoma Outreach

Norman, Oklahoma 73019

KGOU Radio (KGOU, KROU, KOUA, KWOU, KQOU & Related Translators) Issues/Programs List

Covering the Period: July 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023

KGOU Radio (including KGOU, KROU, KOUA, KWOU, KQOU and related translators) attempts to meet the needs and interests of its listeners through a variety of programming selections. Below are listed the problems identified by the station and only some of the specific program presentations aired in meetings its obligations to the listeners.

These needs were identified through a combination of efforts that ascertained the issues of concern to both community leaders and the general population of our service area. These efforts included management staff interaction with a variety of community leaders; input from the general population through conversation with station staff; the monitoring of other media news coverage, and judgments made by the KGOU news and management staff about the selection of both network, syndicated and local materials for broadcast.

Local Programming

These programs are regular presentations of KGOU Radio.

Oklahoma Update Newscasts: Weekdays at 6:19am, 6:49am, 7:19am, 7:49am, 8:19am, 8:49am, 12:19pm, 12:39pm, 1:19pm, 1:39pm, 3:32pm, 4:04pm, 4:32pm, 5:04pm, 5:32pm, and 6:04pm. These one minute to two minute local newscasts include local headlines in the public radio tradition, sports, weather and traffic reports. The newscasts run as local segments within Morning Edition, Here & Now, BBC Newshour, and All Things Considered.

Calendars: Hourly, daily. Each hour of local programming, and as often as possible during network programming, KGOU airs one minute local events calendars to promote items of civic and cultural interest.

Oklahoma News Feature/StateImpact Oklahoma/Oklahoma Engaged/Infrastructure/Long Story Short/AM & PM NewsBriefs/Capitol Insider & A&E Reports: These four + minute news/entertainment features are locally produced, as resources allow, and are usually broadcast twice in both Morning Edition, once during Here & Now, and once or twice during All Things Considered.

How Curious: These (mostly) 5-10 minute, sound/story-rich reports are locally produced and serve to answer listener-generated questions.

During this time period, the following local issues were presented:

Aging & Retirement

Wed., July 5, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Talihina veterans home closure on hold in Eastern Oklahoma

The Talihina veterans home was set to close by Oct. 1, however, plans to close the facility are on hold while the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs works with legislators to find another solution.

Fri., Aug. 25, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OK Watch: Oklahoma's pension system gets blacklist exemption to work with BlackRock, save \$10 million

Trustees of the Oklahoma Public Employee Retirement System voted Wednesday to take a financial exemption from a new law forbidding state pension systems from doing business with banks perceived to be hostile to oil and gas companies.

Arts & Entertainment

Sun., July 2, 2023 ~ Program, 58 minutes

(SRM Encore) KGOU Readers Club "Prize for the Fire"

KGOU Managing Editor Logan Layden sits down with Rilla Askew, author of *Prize for the Fire*.

Thurs., July 13, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma City Arts Council will draw New Year's Eve Opening Night to a close

The Oklahoma City Arts Council will end its Opening Night New Year's Eve celebration and shorten its spring Festival of the Arts as new events and programs lay ahead for the organization.

Fri., July 14, 2023 ~ Feature, 4 minutes

OPMX: Art show featuring works by prisoners makes history in Oklahoma, says nonprofit

Elizabeth Caldwell

A nonprofit says they've made history in Oklahoma by opening to current prisoners an art show featuring works by other prisoners. But the field trip for the current inmates wasn't just about art. It was about learning to live outside of prison, too.

Fri., July 14, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma City to open first recreation center in over 40 years

The Willa D. Johnson Recreation Center will debut to the public on Saturday in a grand opening event, making it the 10th recreation center in the city.

Sun., July 23, 2023 ~ Interview, 17 minutes

Hope Cory's 'Bohemian Serenade'

Jim Johnson

Excerpted interview from the July 23, 2023 broadcast of The Weekend Blues with Oklahoma-born singer, songwriter and accordionist, Hope Cory.

Sun., July 30, 2023 ~ Interview, 13 minutes

A 'Reflection' of Matthew Scott

Jim Johnson

Excerpted interview from the July 30, 2023 broadcast of The Weekend Blues, Matthew Scott discusses his musical upbringing and his forthcoming album debut.

Mon., July 31, 2023 ~ Program, 58 minutes

KGOU Readers Club: Going Back to T-Town: Ernie Fields Territory Big Band

KGOU managing editor Logan Layden sits down with Carmen Fields, author of Going Back to T-Town.

Sun., Aug. 6, 2023 ~ Program, 59 minutes

(SRM Encore) Readers Club: Going Back to T-Town: Ernie Fields Territory Big Band

KGOU managing editor Logan Layden sits down with Carmen Fields, author of Going Back to T-Town.

Fri., Aug. 18, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

New foods to try at the 2023 Oklahoma State Fair

Nyk Daniels

It's that time of the year again. The Oklahoma State Fair is back for 2023 and vendors are showcasing several new foods to try.

Mon., Sept. 25, 2023 ~ Program, 58 minutes

KGOU Readers Club: Behold The Walls

Logan Layden

KGOU managing editor Logan Layden sits down with Dr. Karlos Hill, one of the editors of the new edition of Clara Luper's memoir.

Business, Economics & Finance

Mon., July 24, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OK Watch: Oklahoma cities, counties navigate uncertainty of new oil and gas law

Oklahoma's new law targeting banks who boycott the energy industry is causing uncertainty for counties and cities that aren't sure if the Oklahoma Energy Discrimination Elimination Act applies to their pension systems, bond sales or bank loans.

Fri., Aug. 11, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma City tourism generated more than \$4 billion in 2022, according to report

A recent report finds Oklahoma City saw 23.2 million visitors in 2022, generating an estimated economic impact of \$4.3 billion.

Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum, center, speaks to Tulsa City Council at a committee meeting at City Hall.

Tue., Aug. 15, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma City's rental market cools in second quarter, according to report

Asking prices for apartments of all sizes fell during the past few months in Oklahoma City.

Tue., Aug. 15, 2023 ~ Feature, 4 minutes

OPMX: Staffing Oklahoma's fire departments is particularly challenging in rural areas

More than 80% of Oklahoma fire departments are staffed by volunteers. Rural firefighters are putting their lives on the line for no pay after a ton of training. That means it's hard to find enough people to do the job.

Wed., Aug. 16, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma treasurer whittles down financial institution blacklist as millions in state investments hang in the balance

Robby Korth

State Treasurer Todd Russ is paring down a so-called blacklist of financial companies the state is not supposed to do business with.

Thurs., Aug. 17, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma AG calls on Congress to pass the EATS Act in response to Prop 12

Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond is calling on the U.S. Congress to pass the Ending Agricultural Trade Suppression Act.

Thurs., Aug. 17, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Study finds more than half of Edmond residents can't afford average new home in the city

Kateleigh Mills

On Monday, Edmond City Council met with a full room of residents and representatives ready to speak on the housing assessment conducted by the company Development Strategies. Among other things, Proposition 12, requires at least 24 square feet of space per breeding pig in order for their pork meat to be sold in California.

Thurs., Aug. 17, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Bricktown development receiving \$200 million in support from Oklahoma City

Robby Korth

A Bricktown development recently given the greenlight by the Oklahoma City Council is receiving what The Oklahoman calls a record amount of tax increment financing.

Thurs., Aug. 24, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK: 'I'm talking about what's best for the Greenwood area': What the removal of a highway could do for Black Wall Street

Britny Cordera

StateImpact's Britny Cordera talked with State Rep. Regina Goodwin, who represents the area and attends the church, about its legacy and a planning grant to study the removal of the expressway.

Wed., Aug. 30, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: DOJ orders Oklahoma bank to invest in minority neighborhoods in wake of redlining accusations

Robby Korth

The U.S. Department of Justice is proposing a consent order on a Collinsville bank to resolve allegations of past lending discrimination.

Tue., Sept. 5, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: USDA awards \$4 million to rural Oklahoma businesses for renewable energy projects

More than three dozen rural Oklahoma businesses and agriculture producers will receive funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Thurs., Sept. 7, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

\$1 billion entertainment district unveiled for Norman

Hannah France

A coalition of Norman's economic leaders called "Team Norman" announced plans for a \$1 billion entertainment district on Wednesday.

Fri., Sept. 8, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: Slowing Oklahoma economy reflected in declining state revenue collections

State Treasurer Todd Russ reported Thursday that the state's total revenue collections for the month of August were down \$121.8 million, or 8.9%, compared to the same month one year ago. Gross production tax collections on oil and natural gas were responsible for the largest part of the decline.

Thurs., Sept. 14, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: Oklahoma Department of Education says 533 teachers recruited with new sign-on bonus program

Beth Wallis

Oklahoma's new teacher sign-on bonus program championed by State Superintendent Ryan Walters is poised to award 533 teachers with bonuses ranging from \$15,000-\$50,000 — despite initial concerns about its legality.

Mon., Sept. 18, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute
Oklahoma's poverty rate is among the highest in the country

Hannah France

New data from the U.S. Census Bureau shows Oklahoma is among the poorest states in the country.

Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute
SIOK: Blue Whale Materials commits to building a battery recycling facility in Bartlesville

Britny Cordera

A new economic development project is coming to Bartlesville. The battery recycling company Blue Whale Materials announced on Thursday it is committed to establishing a lithium battery recycling facility at Bartlesville Industrial Park.

Crime & Law Enforcement

Wed., July 5, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute
OPMX: Former parole board chairman speaks publicly for first time about service, resignation

Elizabeth Caldwell

Adam Luck said he's spent the last four years "desperately trying" to not speak in public about his time on Oklahoma's Pardon and Parole Board.

Thurs., July 6, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute
OK Watch: Man in mental health crisis killed by passing truck after OKC police abandoned him

Ernest Antwine was high and erratic when his mother called Oklahoma City police for help. There was a warrant out for his arrest. Instead of taking him to jail or to the hospital for evaluation, Sgt. Robert Burton abandoned him in "no man's land." And that's where he died.

Wed., July 12, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes
Long Story Short: Man killed by passing truck after OKC Police abandoned him

Oklahoma Watch's Whitney Bryen reports in this week's Long Story Short, Burton didn't take him to a hospital or to jail. Instead, Burton left him stranded on the side of Sooner Road surrounded by an overgrown field and abandoned buildings. Police usually took Ernest Antwine to the hospital for treatment before booking him into jail.

Thurs., July 13, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute
OK Watch: Most Oklahoma jails failed health department inspections in 2022

State jail inspectors found hundreds of violations in 2022, ranging from faulty smoke detection systems to raw sewage leaking into cells and common areas.

Tue., July 18, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute
OPMX: Oklahoma AG plans 'most significant lawsuit in state history' over 2021 winter storm natural gas prices

Graycen Wheeler

Two and a half years after Winter Storm Uri, Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond has announced he's pursuing legal action against natural gas sellers that tacked on billions of dollars to Oklahoma gas bills.

Wed., July 19, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes
Long Story Short: Most Oklahoma jails failed state health department inspections in 2022

State jail inspectors found hundreds of violations in 2022, ranging from faulty smoke detection systems to raw sewage leaking into cells and common areas. The Hughes County Jail was cited for 48 health code violations during a March 2022 inspection

Wed., July 26, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma historian Dr. Bob Blackburn addresses Human Rights Commission

Dr. Bob Blackburn has a simple message when talking about Oklahoma's history: Oklahoma has always been a state with injustice.

Thurs., July 27, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: U.S. Supreme Court stays Tulsa traffic ticket ruling for one week

Allison Herrera

The U.S. Supreme Court is staying a decision by the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in a Tulsa traffic ticket case that centers on tribal sovereignty. It's the latest twist in the Hooper v. City of Tulsa case.

Mon., July 31, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma County DA dismisses criminal charges of 7 police officers who shot and killed three people

Robby Korth

Oklahoma County District Attorney Vicki Behenna is dismissing an array of criminal charges against seven police officers who shot and killed three people, she announced on Friday.

Wed., Aug. 2, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Long Story Short: Oklahoma nonprofit dissolves after federal investigators froze funding

The Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's grant funds were frozen this month by federal auditors who uncovered misspending by the nonprofit's former director Candida Manion, leaving the nonprofit with \$125,000 — enough to make it through August.

Fri., Aug. 4, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Community-based gun violence prevention program launches in Northeast Oklahoma City

LiveFree OKC is Oklahoma's first community violence intervention program. OKC Council member Nikki Nice, Ward 7, speaks at the launch of LiveFreeOKC. Jabee Williams (left) and Pastor Michael McBride (right) are leaders with LiveFree.

Tue., Aug. 8, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Tulsa Race Massacre survivors appeal case to Oklahoma Supreme Court

Survivors of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre are hoping the Oklahoma Supreme Court will hear their case.

Wed., Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Bomb threats reported across Oklahoma

Three bomb threats, including a phone call to a banking chain and a suspicious package at Tinker Air Force Base, were investigated by police across Oklahoma Tuesday morning and afternoon.

Fri., Aug. 11, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma Gamefowl Commission member charged with illegal cockfighting

Several people, including a member of the Oklahoma Gamefowl Commission, are facing criminal charges relating to illegal cockfighting.

Mon., Aug. 14, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: 2 Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board members resign

Two members of the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board resigned earlier this summer, officially leaving the board following the August meeting last Tuesday.

Fri., Aug. 18, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma man get 6 years in federal prison for hate crime

Hannah France

The second of two Oklahoma men who pleaded guilty to a federal hate crime last year has been sentenced.

Tue., Aug. 22, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Man at center of landmark tribal sovereignty case to get another day in court

Robby Korth

Jimcy McGirt, the man at the center of the landmark Supreme Court ruling, will get a new trial beginning Sept. 11.

Mon., Aug. 28, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: What we know about a shooting at an Oklahoma high school football game

Ryan LaCroix

Authorities have not announced any arrests from the shooting that took place during Del City's football game at Choctaw on Friday night.

Tue., Aug. 29, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Local advocates call for DOJ to investigate dropped police shooting cases

Hannah France

A local coalition is asking the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate three fatal police shootings in Oklahoma County after the new district attorney dropped the criminal charges against the involved officers.

Wed., Aug. 30, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Long Story Short: Pottawatomie County jail deaths swept under the rug

In this week's Long Story Short episode, OK Watch's Whitney Bryen reports on seven deaths at the Pottawatomie County Jail, five of which were not reported to state officials as required.

Wed., Aug. 30, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

How Oklahoma high schools are responding after football game shooting

Logan Layden

Extra security is being put in place at high school athletic events around Oklahoma City following last week's shooting at a football game in Choctaw that left a 16-year-old dead and several injured.

Wed., Aug. 30, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Police arrest 15-year-old suspect in Choctaw football game shooting

Kateleigh Mills

A 15-year-old male is in police custody following a shooting at a Choctaw High School football game last week.

Fri., Sept. 1, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OK Watch: Oklahoma inches closer to eliminating private prisons

Change is coming to a southeast Oklahoma private prison plagued with violence and staffing shortages, but advocates for corrections staff and prisoners say further efforts are needed to improve conditions.

Wed., Sept. 6, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Long Story Short: Pottawatomie County jail deaths swept under the rug

In this week's Long Story Short episode, OK Watch's Whitney Bryen reports on seven deaths at the Pottawatomie County Jail, five of which were not reported to state officials as required.

Wed., Sept. 6, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute
Lawyer says man shot by off-duty Del City officer 'had his hands up'

Hannah France

The lawyer for the man who was shot by an off-duty Del City police officer at a high school football game says his client was only trying to help the victim.

Fri., Sept. 8, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute
Oklahoma City woman who claims police broke her arm awarded \$200,000 in settlement

Hannah France

An Oklahoma City woman who claims her arm was broken by police officers after entering her home without a warrant in 2020 will receive \$200,000 in a settlement.

Mon., Sept. 11, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute
OPMX: 6 Oklahomans accused of embezzling almost \$1 million in COVID relief funds

A half dozen Oklahoma residents are facing criminal charges for obtaining almost \$1 million in Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans.

Tues., Sept. 12, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute
Oklahoma County DA seeks to dismiss case against man who served nearly 50 years in prison

Hannah France

Oklahoma County District Attorney Vicki Behenna announced her office is seeking to dismiss their case against a man who, until recently, had been in prison for nearly fifty years.

Thurs., Sept. 14, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute
Spiritual advisor walks from McAlester to State Capitol in support of death row inmate

Hannah France

The spiritual advisor for an Oklahoma death row inmate scheduled for execution next week completed a more than 120 mile walk to deliver a letter to Gov. Kevin Stitt asking for a 60-day reprieve.

Tue., Sept. 19, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute
Former Tulsa Public Schools administrator charged with felony wire fraud conspiracy

Hannah France

The former Tulsa Public School's administrator at the center of an embezzlement case that surfaced last year was charged on Monday.

Thurs., Sept. 21, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute
Oklahoma County jail reports seventh inmate death of 2023

Hannah France

Another inmate at the Oklahoma County jail has died, bringing the total so far this year to seven.

Education

Tue., July 25, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute
SIOK: State charter school board votes to hire designated hate group as legal counsel to defend approval of taxpayer-funded Catholic school

Beth Wallis

Oklahoma's statewide virtual charter school board voted Monday to hire legal representation from an organization the Southern Poverty Law Center labels as a hate group.

Thurs., July 27, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: Oklahoma Secretary of Education resigns, citing 'political environment' of role

Beth Wallis

After just three months in office, Oklahoma Secretary of Education Katherine Curry is resigning from Gov. Kevin Stitt's cabinet and returning to her professor position at Oklahoma State University.

Thurs., July 27, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: USDA awards Langston University nearly \$1.5 million for School of Agriculture, Extension programs

Oklahoma's only historically Black university will receive funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to strengthen its agricultural sciences programs.

Fri., July 28, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OK Watch: State Education Board delays Tulsa's accreditation citing its DEI report

The state's largest public school district will have to wait until August for its annual accreditation review. The state Board of Education voted Thursday to delay a decision on the district's status after the state's schools chief raised concerns.

Fri., July 28, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: July State Board of Education meeting: Emotions run high on accreditation disputes, religion in schools

Beth Wallis

Though most schools' accreditation status was voted on at Thursday's State School Board meeting, two schools will have to wait until August for their fate to be decided.

Mon., July 31, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: Oklahoma Virtual Charter School Board sued for approval of nation's first publicly funded religious school

Beth Wallis

A lawsuit threatens to derail what would be the nation's first publicly funded religious school, St. Isidore of Seville Virtual Catholic Charter School.

Tue., Aug. 1, 2023 ~ Feature, 3 minutes

SIOK/NPR: ACLU files suit to block the country's first religious public charter school

Beth Wallis

The lawsuit, filed in Oklahoma, is meant to stop the country's first religious charter school from opening. This comes after state officials there approved the school in June.

Tue., Aug. 8, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma Superintendent Walters pushes Tulsa Schools on test scores, as fears of accreditation loss mount

He hasn't said what he plans to do with Tulsa Public Schools' accreditation yet, but State Superintendent Ryan Walters says the district's reading scores need to drastically improve for him to be satisfied.

Thurs., Aug. 10, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Tulsa leaders speak up about school district's accreditation fight with Oklahoma Superintendent Ryan Walters

Tulsa's city leaders are concerned about the situation between Tulsa Public Schools and Oklahoma Superintendent Ryan Walters.

Thurs., Aug. 17, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK: What you need to know as Oklahoma's state board of education weighs Tulsa Public Schools' accreditation

Beth Wallis

Next Thursday, the State Board of Education will consider changing the accreditation status of the state's largest school district, Tulsa Public Schools. This comes after over a year of remarks from State Superintendent Ryan Walters targeting the district.

Mon., Aug. 21, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma FFA membership reaches an all-time high this year

A record number of Oklahoma high schoolers this year are donning the blue corduroy FFA jacket.

Tue., Aug. 22, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: Tulsa superintendent to resign amid battle with Oklahoma State Superintendent Ryan Walters

Beth Wallis

The superintendent of Tulsa Public Schools is stepping down amid an accreditation battle between the district and State Superintendent Ryan Walters.

Wed., Aug. 23, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Long Story Short: Elite Oklahoma high school plagued by complaints of sexual harassment

Lynn Morgan, the vice president of administrative services, had sex with women in his office, according to public records and interviews with former employees.

Thurs., Aug. 24, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Tulsa school board accepts Gist's resignation, names Johnson interim superintendent

The Tulsa Public Schools' Board of Education formally accepted the resignation of Superintendent Dr. Deborah Gist during a special meeting Wednesday, a day before the State Board of Education will decide the fate of TPS's accreditation status.

Thurs., Aug. 24, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: Tulsa Public Schools to keep local control, accreditation after August State Board of Education meeting

Beth Wallis

Tulsa Public Schools will stay under local control after Thursday's State Board of Education meeting, despite predictions the district would be taken over by the state.

Wed., Sept. 6, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: Former Norman teacher targeted by Ryan Walters over QR code sues him for defamation, libel

Beth Wallis

A former Norman Public Schools teacher is suing State Superintendent Ryan Walters for defamation and other allegations.

Wed., Sept. 6, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma Department of Education announces partnership with conservative online media company PragerU

Graycen Wheeler

Oklahoma Superintendent of Public Instruction Ryan Walters announced the State Department of Education is partnering with PragerU Kids for the state's history curriculum.

Wed., Sept. 6, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK: Oklahoma schools adapt recreational activities to sweltering summer heat

Beth Wallis

Faced with the dangers of excessive heat, educators around the state are getting creative to keep kids safe and cool while still providing recreational opportunities.

Tues., Sept. 12, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Over 80 employees have left Oklahoma State Department of Education during Walters' tenure, records show

About 86 employees have left the Oklahoma State Department of Education since Ryan Walters took office as state superintendent in January, records show.

Tue., Sept. 19, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: Ryan Walters testifies to U.S. House on Chinese government's influence on American schools

Hannah France

Oklahoma State Superintendent of Public Instruction Ryan Walters testified Tuesday at a U.S. House Subcommittee Hearing about the influence of the Chinese government in American schools.

Wed., Sept. 20, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Long Story Short: State Superintendent Ryan Walters endorses PragerU teaching materials

The Oklahoma Department of Education on September 12th announced it has partnered with PragerU, a California-based nonprofit that publishes free online video lessons for students that its talk-radio host founder says indoctrinates children with conservative views.

Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK: What does it mean for Oklahoma to partner with PragerU?

Beth Wallis

Earlier this month, State Superintendent Ryan Walters announced a partnership with conservative nonprofit media group, PragerU. So what is PragerU? StateImpact spoke with parents, teachers, legislators and Walters to find out.

Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: State Department of Education was notified Tulsa ended Confucius Classroom before superintendent testified otherwise to Congress

Beth Wallis

State Superintendent Ryan Walters testified earlier this month to Congress on the issue of Tulsa Public Schools' contract with a Chinese language program. But according to the district, its contract was canceled nearly a month before Walters' testimony.

Friday, Sept. 29, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

OPMX: State Board of Education seeks less school funding for year ahead

The State Board of Education announces a new program focusing on four key areas of instruction as it submits budget request to the state legislature for fiscal year 2025.

Energy

Wed., July 5, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahomans can now apply for assistance with summer water, electric bills

Graycen Wheeler

The Oklahoma Department of Human Services is accepting applications for household utility assistance. Many Native American tribal nations also have assistance money to distribute. These programs are to make sure people maintain access to water and electricity during the summer heat.

Fri., Aug. 25, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma's regional power grid sees highest-ever demand as temperatures soar

Graycen Wheeler

As Oklahoma and surrounding states have sweltered this week, the regional power grid saw record-breaking usage.

Fri., Aug. 25, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: Nation's first cobalt and nickel refinery breaks ground in Lawton, Oklahoma

Britny Cordera

The metals refinery startup, Westwin Elements, is building the nation's first cobalt and nickel refinery in Lawton.

Fri., Sept. 8, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OG&E seeks approval for rate hike to fund Oklahoma County project

Nyk Daniels

Oklahoma Gas & Electric is seeking approval to replace two aging power generation units, and if approved customers would have to foot the bill.

Immigration

Wed., Sept. 27, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Without permanent legal status, Afghan refugees face losing employment

Hannah France

More than two years after the fall of Kabul, Afghan refugees who resettled in the United States are still waiting for permanent documentation.

Medicine & Health

Thurs., July 6, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Thousands of Oklahomans sought abortions across state lines in 2022

After Oklahoma banned abortions with few exceptions, thousands of women traveled to surrounding states to receive abortion care in 2022.

Tue., July 18, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Water troubles plague Southwest Oklahoma communities

Graycen Wheeler

Southwestern Oklahoma communities are facing water problems as they head into a week of high temperatures.

Tue., July 25, 2023 ~ Feature, 4 minutes

OPMX: Training to stay: Oklahoma's homegrown, educational approach to the rural physician shortage

There aren't enough doctors in rural Oklahoma to meet patients' needs. In fact, the majority of counties are designated as Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas by the Oklahoma State Department of Health. That's got a lot to do with how doctors are educated. And now medical schools and residency programs are addressing the shortage, head on.

Wed., July 26, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Long Story Short: The rural health care conundrum

In this week's Long Story Short, Lionel Ramos details some of the issues facing rural hospitals and the government program designed to help struggling health facilities.

Friday, Sept. 29, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: Superintendent budget proposal unveiled, Tulsa gives progress update at Oklahoma Board of Education meeting

State Superintendent Ryan Walters unveiled his upcoming budget proposal, emergency rule change and proposed accreditation standards change at Thursday's monthly State Board of Education meeting. Tulsa Public Schools also presented its plan of improvement to the board.

Thurs., July 27, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK/KGOU: Trans Oklahoma Starbucks workers concerned about changes to gender-affirming care coverage

Hannah France

Following multiple successful union elections last year, Oklahoma City Starbucks workers are still waiting on contracts. Access to gender-affirming care is one of their top priorities.

Fri., July 28, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OK Watch: Edibles are main cause of Oklahoma marijuana overdoses, accidental consumption, according to study

In 2022, 583 cases of accidental marijuana consumption were reported to the Oklahoma Poison Center. Almost half involved a child under 6 and most involved edibles.

Thurs., Aug. 3, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OK Watch: Experts say money alone can't solve mental health access issues in Oklahoma's rural jails

Seven years after voters approved a greater investment in mental health and substance abuse services for Oklahoma counties, the money finally is on the way. But advocates for criminal justice reform warn that wide swaths of the state are at a disadvantage, unable to provide proper mental health and substance abuse treatment.

Thurs., Aug. 3, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Muscogee Nation to develop 'produce prescription' program in Eastern Oklahoma

The Muscogee Nation will develop a "produce prescription" program with federal funding.

Fri., Aug. 4, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Nearly half of Oklahoma's rural hospitals are at risk of closing down

Almost half of Oklahoma's rural hospitals are at risk of shutting down, according to a new report from a national health policy group.

Tue., Aug. 29, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma to dole out \$23 million in first round of opioid lawsuit settlement funds

Kateleigh Mills

Attorney General Gentner Drummond announced the Oklahoma Opioid Abatement Board will begin awarding eligible groups money to counteract some impacts from the opioid epidemic.

Fri., Sept. 1, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: Oklahoma receives \$2.6 million in federal money for response to fentanyl, opioid crisis

Jillian Taylor

The U.S. Department of Health announced more than \$2.6 million in awards Thursday to support Oklahoma's response to fentanyl and other opioid overdose risks in rural communities.

Wed., Sept. 6, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: Local organizations to offer mental health aid training

Jillian Taylor

The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services announced Tuesday it is partnering with a local nonprofit to offer three free mental health first aid trainings to help Oklahomans respond to signs of mental health and substance abuse challenges.

Thurs., Sept. 7, 2023 ~ Feature, 4 minutes

SIOK/NPR: Extreme heat is cutting into recess for kids. Experts say that's a problem

Beth Wallace/Sequoia

A heat wave at the start of the school year has educators scrambling to keep kids cool and safe.

Fri., Sept. 8, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: Oklahoma Human Services announces grant to combat food insecurity

Jillian Taylor

Oklahoma Human Services announced a \$12.5 million grant this week to support the availability of affordable and nutritious foods after the COVID-19 pandemic impacted access.

Tues., Sept. 12, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: Oklahoma Christian University offers low-cost mental health care through new clinic

Jillian Taylor

Oklahoma Christian University is ushering in its first full school year with an on-campus mental health clinic providing low-cost services for Oklahomans and hands-on experience to marriage and family therapy masters students.

Wed., Sept. 13, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Long Story Short: Oklahoma kindergarten vaccination exemptions now highest in region

More than three years into the COVID-19 pandemic that scrambled perceptions of routine public health measures and attitudes toward vaccinations, Oklahoma now has the highest rate of exemptions from immunizations for kindergartners, according to state and federal data.

Wed., Sept. 13, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: 'Wait in the parking lot to die': Oklahoma woman files complaint against hospitals after abortion ordeal

Elizabeth Caldwell

Eight women, four doctors, and a medical organization spanning three states are challenging abortion bans they say have endangered lives.

Wed., Sept. 13, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Century old Norman hospital to move operations to Oklahoma City

The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) announced plans Tuesday to relocate the state's largest inpatient mental health treatment facility, Griffin Memorial Hospital, to Oklahoma State University's Oklahoma City campus near Interstate-44 and West Reno Ave.

Wed., Sept. 13, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: CDC recommends updated COVID-19 boosters as Oklahoma hospitalizations rise

Jillian Taylor

The CDC recommended Tuesday that everyone six months and older get a round of one of the newly FDA-approved COVID-19 boosters.

Thurs., Sept. 14, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: OU Board of Regents approve next steps for nursing college renovations

Jillian Taylor

The OU Board of Regents approved next steps for renovations to College of Nursing facilities and classrooms on Wednesday.

Mon., Sept. 25, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: New Oklahoma insurance plan will offer free, unlimited access to physicians

Jillian Taylor

Oklahoma, Cleveland and Canadian county residents will soon have access to a new insurance policy combining traditional health coverage and access to direct primary care.

Tue., Sept. 26, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: Oklahoma ranks third in adult obesity prevalence, per CDC

Jillian Taylor

Data from 2022 found that Oklahoma is among 22 states with a prevalence above 35%, trailing only Louisiana and West Virginia at 40.1 and 41%, respectively. Obesity prevalence refers to the proportion of adults with BMIs equal to or greater than 30 based on self-reported weight and height.

Wed., Sept. 27, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Long Story Short: Her pregnancy was non-viable and her life was at risk but Oklahoma law prevented an abortion

When she awoke on the couch in the early morning hours of Nov. 21, Magon Hoffman's pajama pants were soaked in blood. What began as light bleeding the night before had turned severe. Hoffman assumed she was miscarrying. But an ultrasound revealed it was Hoffman's life that was in danger.

Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma's anti-abortion laws spur greater demand for vasectomies

Hannah France

Oklahoma health care providers say there's been an increase in demand for vasectomies since the Supreme Court overturned long-standing abortion protections with its Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision last summer.

Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: Oklahoma State Department of Health receives grant for mothers during Medicaid unwinding

Jillian Taylor

Planned Parenthood's Oklahoma City clinic will begin offering vasectomies next month. Local health officials say there is an increase in demand for the procedure because of Oklahoma's strict anti-abortion laws.

Military, War & Veterans

Mon., July 31, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma sending 50 National Guard members to Texas-Mexico border, aiding Operation Lone Star

After a weekend farewell ceremony, Oklahoma is sending 50 National Guard members to the U.S.-Mexico border in Texas. Gov. Kevin Stitt ordered the deployment earlier this summer, following a request from Texas Gov. Greg Abbott.

Fri., Aug. 18, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Tinker Air Force Base officials tight-lipped on 17 deaths since January

Kateleigh Mills

There have been at least 17 deaths on Tinker Air Force Base this year, but officials have been tight-lipped as to why.

Mon., Aug. 21, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OK Watch: Oklahoma is shutting down a rural veterans' home. What does that mean for people who live there?

The Veterans home sits on a 600-acre lot, nestled atop a hill overlooking the Kiamichi River Valley in southeast Oklahoma. The state's decision to close the center with the aim of mitigating monthly half a million dollar losses, and the siphoning of funds from other veterans services provided to help cover it, means the veterans living in Talihina need to leave a place many thought would be the last stop in their life journeys of service and sacrifice.

Fri., Aug. 25, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute
Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs gets a new director

Hannah France

Months after the last executive director of the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs was fired, a new one has been appointed.

Natural Resources & Wildlife

Fri., July 7, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute
OPMX: Oklahoma wildlife department confirms second case of deer with Chronic Wasting Disease

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation confirmed a second white-tailed deer has tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease.

Tues., July 25, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute
OPMX: Southwestern Oklahoma dams receive funding for rehabilitation

Graycen Wheeler

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board approved federal pandemic relief funding for two dam rehabilitation projects in Southwestern Oklahoma last week. Lawton received nearly \$12 million for improvements to the dam at Lake Ellsworth.

Tue., Aug. 1, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute
SIOK: Congress votes to overturn federal protections of lesser prairie chicken

Britny Cordera

The U.S. House of Representatives last week voted on a bill that could overturn the Endangered Species Act listing of the lesser prairie chicken following the Senate's decision in May.

Thurs., Aug. 10, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes
SIOK: Private landowners in Oklahoma are stepping up to preserve habitat for prairie chickens

Britny Cordera

The Biden Administration's Endangered Species Act listing of some animals native to Oklahoma is being challenged by Congress. But there are landowners taking it upon themselves to volunteer their fields for prairie restoration.

Fri., Aug. 25, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute
SIOK: Brown tarantulas will soon make their seasonal scurry across Oklahoma

Britny Cordera

Tarantulas are making their move across Oklahoma just in time for fall and spooky season.

Fri., Aug. 25, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute
Extreme heat poses a danger for Oklahoma cattle

Nyk Daniels

As the extreme heat continues across Oklahoma, it not only poses a threat to humans, but also cattle.

Fri., Aug. 25, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes
Capitol Insider: State works to provide relief from heat

As temperatures continue to hover around the century mark, the stress is showing in various ways. Efforts are underway to help mitigate effects of the extreme heat.

Politics & Government

Wed., July 5, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Long Story Short: Oklahoma lobbyist spending rebounds from pandemic-era decline

Oklahoma lobbyists have spent nearly \$380,000 this year on gifts, meals and beverages for state legislators and other elected officials through May, a 42% increase over the same period two years ago.

Fri., July 7, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Former Canadian County elections chief sentenced for uncounted votes

Former Canadian County Elections Chief Wanda Arnold was given a deferred sentence for failing to perform a timely audit of the 2020 primary election, leading to 1,272 votes not being counted.

Fri., July 7, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: Stitt seeks tribal compact extensions

Governor Kevin Stitt is pushing for extensions on expiring tribal tobacco compacts.

Tue., July 11, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Voters in 7 Oklahoma counties have special elections July 11

Kateleigh Mills

There are elections in seven counties scattered around the state.

Wed., July 12, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Online voter registration launches in Oklahoma

Oklahomans can now register to vote online, after waiting eight years for the program to launch.

Wed., July 12, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma leaders advocate for open primaries at OKC panel discussion

In Oklahoma, primary elections are partially closed — voters unaffiliated with a political party are able to cast ballots in Democratic, but not Republican, primaries. There's a movement to change that.

Fri., July 14, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: Special session on hold as adjournment deadline approaches

Oklahoma legislators have until the end of July to act on gubernatorial vetoes and budget bills in a special session before the session adjourns.

Thurs., July 20, 2023 ~ Feature, 4 minutes

OPMX: Treat: Governor 'ineffective,' Oklahoma Senate must override his vetoes of compacts with tribes

Allison Herrera

Next week, the legislature will meet during an extended special session and decide whether they will override Gov. Kevin Stitt's veto of the tribal compacts involving vehicle registration tags and tobacco compacts.

Fri., July 21, 2023 ~ Feature, 15 minutes

Capitol Insider: New group seeks changes in Oklahoma closed primary system

In an effort to increase voter participation and lessen partisanship, an Oklahoma group is pushing for electoral reforms that would change Oklahoma primary elections. Margaret Kobos is founder and CEO of Oklahoma United.

Mon., July 24, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma Senate overrides Stitt's vetoes of tribal compact bills

Allison Herrera

The Oklahoma Senate is overriding Gov. Kevin Stitt's veto of two compacts with tribal nations.

Wed., July 26, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma AG Drummond steps in to take 'unlawful' gaming compacts lawsuit from Governor

Allison Herrera

Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond says he's taking over gaming compact negotiations with tribal nations from Gov. Kevin Stitt.

Thurs., July 27, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Trump leads Oklahoma campaign donations race by wide margin

The race for the Republican presidential nomination is on, and Oklahomans are throwing financial support behind former President Donald Trump.

Fri., July 28, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: State-tribal compacts spark legislative action and controversy

As the special session nears an end, conflict over state-tribal compacts arises, involving the legislature, governor, attorney general, and prominent tribal nations.

Mon., July 31, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Gov. Stitt sues GOP lawmakers after veto overrides

Robby Korth

Gov. Kevin Stitt's vetoes of a pair of compacts with the state's tribal nations by Oklahoma's legislature will not stand.

Wed., Aug. 2, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma City Council approves school resource officer contract agreement, two other law enforcement reforms

Oklahoma City Council grappled with plans for law enforcement reform, ultimately voting to advance three recommendations at its Aug. 1 meeting.

Thurs., Aug. 3, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Fact-checking Oklahoma Gov. Stitt's statements about tribal compact negotiations

Gov. Kevin Stitt is suing state legislative leaders over their handling of financial agreements with tribal governments. Oklahoma Public Media Exchange (OPMX) reporters took a deep dive into some of the statements Stitt made when he announced that lawsuit.

Fri., Aug. 4, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: Lawsuit filed in gubernatorial-legislative dispute over tribal compacts

After two vetoes are overridden, Governor Kevin Stitt asks the Oklahoma Supreme Court for ruling on whether the legislature has authority over state-tribal compacts.

Mon., Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Norman legislators react to the approval of ACCESS Oklahoma

After a year of opposition from community members and leaders, Norman legislators reacted to the approval of infrastructure project ACCESS Oklahoma, advocating for reform of the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority.

Tue., Aug. 8, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Tulsa voters approve \$814 million bond package, Chickasha will get new water plant

Robby Korth

Thousands of Oklahoma voters in 14 counties cast ballots in a number of elections to determine the future of school bonds, municipal propositions and more.

Fri., Aug. 11, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: Lawmakers begin work for 2024 legislative session

With the special session over, Oklahoma lawmakers are now turning their attention to matters that may make it into bills introduced during the 2024 legislative session.

Mon., Aug. 14, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: 3 Midwest City polling locations change ahead of September elections

Kateleigh Mills

Three Oklahoma County precincts will have a new polling location next month.

Fri., Aug. 18, 2023 ~ Feature, 7 minutes

Capitol Insider: Oklahoma Broadband Office seeks input and expansion of service

Reliable broadband service is essential in today's world, and we discuss Oklahoma's plan for improving access with the new executive director of the Oklahoma Broadband Office.

Mon., Aug. 21, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Edmond lawmaker resigns Oklahoma House seat following non-driving DUI, legal dispute

Robby Korth

Edmond Rep. Ryan Martinez will resign effective Sept. 1.

Wed., Aug. 30, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: Oklahoma State Superintendent Ryan Walters draws political heat, fines for recent actions

Beth Wallis

Oklahoma State Superintendent Ryan Walters is on the hook for nearly \$8,000 in fees related to 14 late campaign reports, and Democratic lawmakers are leading a charge to impeach him.

Fri., Sept. 1, 2023 ~ Feature, 6 minutes

Capitol Insider: House Democrats push for committee to explore Walters impeachment

The House Democratic Caucus is seeking formation of a committee to investigate State Superintendent Ryan Walters and consider whether impeachment is warranted.

Mon., Sept. 11, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt calls lawmakers back for another special session

Logan Layden

The Oklahoma Legislature is headed for another special session this fall, in which Gov. Kevin Stitt is asking for significant changes to the state's tax system.

Tues., Sept. 12, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: What's on the ballot for the September 12th special election in Oklahoma

Ryan LaCroix

Voters in 34 counties across Oklahoma are heading to the polls on Tuesday to determine the future of school bonds, municipal propositions, mayoral elections and more.

Tues., Sept. 12, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: Questions about member's eligibility in Oklahoma charter school board loom over officer election

Beth Wallis

Oklahoma's Statewide Virtual Charter School Board elected its last round of officers before the board dissolves next year at Monday's board meeting. Despite an open question about whether board member Brian Bobek can even begin his term on the board, he was elected to the vice chairperson position.

Wed., Sept. 13, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Sapulpa passes \$279 million bond package, while McCloud and Luther proposals fail

Ryan LaCroix

Voters in 34 Oklahoma counties made their voices heard at the ballot box Tuesday on school bonds and other issues.

Thurs., Sept. 14, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma Senate leader raises questions, wants Gov. Stitt to appear before committee

Allison Herrera

State Senate Pro Tem Greg Treat talked to members of the press on Wednesday about Gov. Kevin Stitt's request for yet another special session.

Fri., Sept. 15, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OK Watch: Oklahoma lawmakers weigh restrictions on ranked-choice voting

Advocates for ranked-choice voting say the system makes elections less negative and more issue-based. But questions linger over the logistics of adopting the system in Oklahoma's municipal and statewide elections.

Fri., Sept. 15, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: 'Long overdue': House speaker says Oklahoma can afford tax cuts

The head of the state Senate has urged caution on tax reform.

Fri., Sept. 15, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Edmond City Council approves water, sewer rate increases to fund infrastructure improvements

Graycen Wheeler

Edmond residents and business owners will see their water and sewer bills go up this fall after city council voted to approve a rate hike.

Fri., Sept. 15, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: Stitt calls legislature back for special session in October

Oklahoma legislators will be heading back to the state Capitol again this fall to consider three items on Governor Kevin Stitt's agenda.

Wed., Sept. 20, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: USFWS finds plains spotted skunk not at risk of extinction now or in the foreseeable future

Britny Cordera

The plains spotted skunk received good news from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service this week. The Service finds there is a viable population species in its range and that it is not at risk of extinction.

Fri., Sept. 22, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: Attorney General questions Ethics Commission open meeting law compliance

Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond tells the Ethics Commission it may have violated the state's Open Meeting Act during its search for a new executive director.

Tue., Sept. 26, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma City voters to decide on funding for new Thunder arena

Hannah France

Oklahoma City voters will decide whether taxpayer funds go toward a nearly one billion-dollar arena in December.

Friday, Sept. 29, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Ok Watch: Some state agencies cancel more public meetings than they hold

Oklahoma Watch used data from the secretary of state's office, which keeps track of statewide meeting notices, to determine the agencies, boards and commissions with the most canceled meetings in the past five years.

Race, Identity & Culture

Tue., July 11, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma asks courts to dismiss lawsuit opposing its gender-affirming care ban, ACLU responds

Oklahoma has filed a motion to dismiss a lawsuit challenging the state's ban on gender-affirming care, presenting stories from people who've "detransitioned" and citing a need to protect children.

Wed., Aug. 2, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Executive Order enacts 'Women's Bill of Rights,' critics call it 'transmisogyny'

Hannah France

Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt is the first governor in the country to issue an executive order defining people by their biological sex at birth as either "male" or "female."

Thurs., Aug. 3, 2023 ~ Feature, 4 minutes

SIOK/OPMX: 'You have a place here': Rural Oklahoma town hosts first Pride event

Most of Oklahoma's Pride events happen in the cities. This summer, that's changing. A growing number of small towns are hosting their own LGBTQ Pride gatherings to support communities where they are.

Wed., Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Long Story Short: Rural Oklahoma's homeless youth

According to the 2022 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report, Oklahoma experienced a 29% increase in unaccompanied youth from 2020 to 2022 – one of the largest increases in the nation. This is a problem that is particularly difficult to remediate and even assess in rural parts of the state.

Fri., Aug. 11, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: For hundreds of women, OKC Hot Girl Walks offer movement, togetherness

Last August, Kendra Haslam organized the first OKC Hot Girl Walk. Now, the Instagram page she runs for the community has more than 7,000 followers.

Wed., Aug. 23, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OK Watch: Afghan refugee resettlement highlights inequities for all vulnerable Oklahomans

A study revealed how existing inequities in Oklahoma related to housing, employment and means of accessing government assistance programs exacerbated the challenges of resettling Afghans when they began arriving in September 2021.

Friday, Sept. 29, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Tulsa's third excavation of Oaklawn concludes, over 50 unmarked graves found

Tulsa's third excavation at Oaklawn Cemetery for 1921 Race Massacre victims has wrapped up. State archeologist Dr. Kary Stackelbeck and forensic anthropologist Dr. Phoebe Stubblefield updated the media on Friday detailing what their teams have found.

Fri., July 14, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Tulsa completes preliminary search for more 1921 Race Massacre graves

The city of Tulsa has completed a preliminary search for more 1921 Race Massacre graves. Crews utilized heavy equipment to conduct a "test excavation" at Oaklawn Cemetery to search for possible grave sites of 1921 Race Massacre victims.

Wed., Aug. 23, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: 'We will bomb every school in the Union district': Tulsa school threatened for 'woke ideology'

Beth Wallis

Tulsa-area Union Public Schools faced its second consecutive day of bomb threats Wednesday in response to an elementary librarian's back-to-school TikTok video.

Wed., Sept. 6, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Tulsa begins new 1921 Race Massacre gravesite search

Tulsa is moving ahead with a third excavation of gravesites from the 1921 Race Massacre.

Wed., Sept. 6, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Wes Nofire tapped for Native American liaison role in Oklahoma governor's office

Allison Herrera

Gov. Kevin Stitt says former Cherokee Nation tribal council member Wes Nofire will be "a bridge" between his office and the state's tribal nations.

State Superintendent Ryan Walters presents his education budget proposal at his first meeting as superintendent, January 2023.

Thurs., Sept. 21, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK: Oklahoma trans youth, providers face uncertainty in gender-affirming care access

Jillian Taylor

A bill in Oklahoma banning all forms of gender-affirming care for trans youth was paused by Oklahoma's attorney general amid litigation from the ACLU of Oklahoma. Now, trans youth and providers are coping with all the uncertainty.

Science & Technology

Thurs., July 6, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Chickasha residents to vote on how to fund new water treatment plant

Nyk Daniels

The city of Chickasha says its aging water treatment facility needs to be replaced. Residents will head to the polls next month to decide how the new water treatment plant will be funded.

Fri., July 7, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma launches program to keep pets and first responders safe during emergencies

Graycen Wheeler

The Oklahoma Department of Human Services is working with a company called LifePet.Care to help first responders know how to deal with pets they encounter.

Thurs., July 13, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma Water Resources Board seeks public input as they develop a water strategy for the next 50 years

Graycen Wheeler

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board is developing a new Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan to ensure the state has enough good water over the next 50 years. The OWRB is hosting rounds of public input meetings across the state starting in August.

Tue., July 25, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahomans are asked to mail in dead butterflies, moths in the name of science

If you happen to come across a dead butterfly or moth these next few months, the U.S. Geological Survey wants it.

Fri., July 28, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: EPA smog reduction plan delayed as Oklahoma Attorney General pushes to limit federal regulations

Graycen Wheeler

Oklahoma's plan to meet federal smog regulations has been in limbo for months after a rejection from the Environmental Protection Agency and a lawsuit in response to that rejection. According to a new court ruling, the state will not have to implement a stricter federal smog plan while it waits on that lawsuit.

Supporters of State Superintendent of Public Education Ryan Walters lined up outside the Oliver Hodge Building before the State Board of Education meeting on Thursday in Oklahoma City.

Mon., Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma's investigation into food-borne parasite indicates romaine lettuce as possible culprit

Graycen Wheeler

The Oklahoma State Department of Health is investigating a food-borne parasite that's infecting more Oklahomans than usual this summer. It's part of a nationwide uptick in cyclospora-related illness.

OSDH is not recommending Oklahomans avoid a specific food right now but says romaine lettuce is a possible source for Oklahoma's cyclospora infections.

Fri., Aug. 11, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: West Nile-carrying mosquitoes found in Northern Oklahoma

Graycen Wheeler

The Oklahoma State Health Department's mosquito surveillance program has identified mosquitoes carrying the West Nile virus in Kay and Payne counties, according to reports from local news outlets.

Mon., Aug. 14, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Millions in Oklahoma broadband funding could be delayed over coverage concerns

Millions in broadband funding could be further delayed after some companies and board members raised concerns about duplicating efforts in areas of Oklahoma already served by internet service providers.

Thurs., Aug. 17, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: 5 Oklahoma colleges will get a cyberinfrastructure boost thanks to \$1.2 million grant

Beth Wallis

Some smaller higher education institutions in Oklahoma are going to see a boost in their cyberinfrastructure, thanks to a grant from the National Science Foundation.

Mon., Aug. 21, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK/OPMX: Searching for 'forever chemicals' in Oklahoma's drinking water

Graycen Wheeler

Before you take a sip of water from a public water supply, it runs a gauntlet of tests to make sure it's safe for you to drink.

Tue., Aug. 22, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Tulsa Ports Authority moves forward with new wastewater treatment plant for Inola

Graycen Wheeler

The Tulsa Ports Authority has approved a plan to construct a new wastewater treatment facility in Inola that can support both the town and its fledgling river port, according to reporting by The Tulsa World.

Wed., Aug. 23, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: USDA designates more than \$60 million to expand high speed internet access in rural areas of Oklahoma tribal nations

Robby Korth

An Oklahoma tribal nation and two telephone companies are receiving \$67.4 million to expand broadband access in rural Oklahoma.

Thurs., Aug. 24, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma State University festoons windows with dots to prevent bird collisions

Graycen Wheeler

Oklahoma State University has covered windows on two of its biggest buildings with polka dots.

Deborah Gist embraces a supporter following a Tulsa school board meeting. Gist submitted her official resignation Wednesday night to head off an accreditation threat from Oklahoma's State Board of Education.

Mon., Aug. 28, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma City begins search to root out lead water service lines

Graycen Wheeler

Oklahoma City has begun a survey to map out which neighborhoods are most at risk for having lead water service lines.

Science Technology and Environment

Thurs., Aug. 31, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Nationwide analysis of water wells shows groundwater decline in Oklahoma

Graycen Wheeler

A New York Times analysis of nearly 85,000 water wells across the United States shows underground aquifers are being depleted across much of the country, including in Oklahoma.

Thurs., Aug. 31, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: Oklahoma DEQ receives \$3 million grant to look into the state's air quality, workforce development

Britny Cordera

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality has received a \$3 million federal planning grant to develop a statewide greenhouse gas inventory and develop plans for reducing emissions. The funding comes from the Biden administration's Inflation Reduction Act.

Fri., Sept. 1, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: OKC Zoo leads conservation program to protect rare species of milkweed in southeast Oklahoma

Britny Cordera

The Oklahoma City Zoo has created a program to protect rare milkweed populations in Oklahoma, which are vital to monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Davis Correctional Facility in Holdenville is one of two private prisons in Oklahoma. Situated just west of town, the medium security men's prison can house up to 1,670 inmates.

Fri., Sept. 1, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Tulsa promises water quality monitoring in Zink Lake after completion of nearby construction project

Graycen Wheeler

As Tulsa nears the completion of a low-water dam, residents have voiced concern about water quality in the Arkansas River. In an update about the dam's construction, city officials said they'll be monitoring water quality in the new Zink Lake, but not until spring of next year.

Thurs., Sept. 14, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK: Volunteers come together to collect data on impact of urban heat islands in Oklahoma City

Britny Cordera

More than 250 volunteers collected temperature and air quality data around Oklahoma City through a community science project in August to study urban heat islands. The NOAA-funded project could help the city prepare for extreme heat.

Thurs., Sept. 14, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma Attorney General announces potential lawsuits over 'forever chemicals' pollution

Graycen Wheeler

As concerns mount about "forever chemicals" — also called PFAS — polluting the environment, Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond has announced potential litigation against companies that add them to the environment.

Fri., Sept. 15, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

OPMX: OSU Extension brings free well water testing to county fairs across Oklahoma

Graycen Wheeler

The OSU Extension is expanding its Rural Well Owners Network by testing water for free at county fairs across the state

Fri., Sept. 22, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: Oklahoma research could lead to new treatment for heart valve condition

Jillian Taylor

Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation scientist Sathish Srinivasan studies the lymphatic system, which transports tissue fluid through the body with the assistance of lymphatic valves. Srinivasan wondered if his research could apply to heart valves.

Mon., Sept. 25, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: Oklahoma City officials say clean up should be quick after oil spill

Britny Cordera

An oil geyser spouted in northwest Oklahoma City on Monday. The spill is contained and officials said clean up should be quick.

Tue., Sept. 26, 2023 ~ Feature, 14 minutes

How Curious: Is there an Oklahoma Octopus?

Does a massive man-hunting octopus inhabit Oklahoma's lakes? Rachel Hopkin looks into one of the Sooner State's unique legendary monsters, the Oklahoma Octopus.

Friday, Sept. 29, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Developers plan electric vehicle-ready subdivision in Northwest Oklahoma City

Graycen Wheeler

Developed in cooperation with the state Commissioners of Land Office, Village Verde is a 480-acre real estate project in northwest OKC near Piedmont. The development has implemented several eco-friendly amenities, and all of its buildings are required to meet stringent energy efficiency standards.

Sports

Wed., July 12, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Gaylord News: OU athlete wins spot on USA Under 23 rowing team

While many families spent the July 4 weekend grilling hamburgers, this Oklahoma native spent the weekend rowing up a storm on the Oklahoma River to secure a spot on the Under 23 US Rowing team.

Oklahoma Commissioner of Labor Leslie Osborn, (left to right) Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum and Open Primaries leader Jeremy Gruber attend an event advocating for open primaries at The Press in Oklahoma City.

Wed., Sept. 13, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma City announces plan to fund new arena, commitment to keep Thunder through 2050

Hannah France

Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt announced a plan to build a new arena in exchange for a renewed contract with the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Transportation

Wed., Aug. 16, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Could a new passenger train be chugging your way? Potential new Oklahoma routes identified

Graycen Wheeler

Oklahoma could be on track for more passenger trains after a federal study on how to expand America's passenger rail system identified several potential routes in the state.

Wed., Aug. 16, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma City wants your help in shaping biking, pedestrian plan

Kateleigh Mills

Oklahoma City is asking residents and trail users to provide feedback about a comprehensive bike and pedestrian plan called bikewalkokc.

Wed., Sept. 13, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Turnpike Authority's expansion plans to move forward

An oversight council gave the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority the green light Monday to seek millions in bonds for toll road projects despite criticism and an ongoing lawsuit.

Mon., Sept. 18, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Oklahoma weighing feasibility of taxing motorists per mile driven

A state transportation study is examining whether Oklahoma drivers should be taxed per mile instead of at the gas pump.

Weather and Climate

Thurs., July 6, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Heat island campaign seeks hundreds of Oklahoma City citizen scientist volunteers

The City of Oklahoma City is looking for volunteers to collect data as part of a national project studying heat in urban areas.

Fri., July 14, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Recent rains leave Oklahoma with its lowest drought in over a year

Graycen Wheeler

After most of the state received days of heavy rainfall, Oklahoma's drought report looks refreshing. Only a quarter of the state remains in moderate to exceptional drought, although another third is still classified as "abnormally dry."

Wed., July 19, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: High humidity and heat bursts are unusual for summer weather in Oklahoma

Britny Cordera

The National Weather Service in Norman is into its second consecutive week of issuing heat advisories for the state. High temperatures are made more intense by humidity and heat bursts that usually occur in the spring are persisting this month.

Mon., July 24, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Beat the heat at an Oklahoma cooling center near you

There are various places throughout Oklahoma offering residents a space to cool down for free and get some relief from the summer heat.

Wed., July 26, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: How Oklahoma farmers and landscapers adapt to extreme heat and severe weather

Britny Cordera

National Weather Service is issuing heat advisories for Oklahoma this week. Excessive heat and severe weather are changing crops for farmers and routines for landscapers.

Wed., Aug. 2, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: Heat mapping project to highlight Oklahoma City's hottest neighborhoods

Britny Cordera

A community science project in Oklahoma City is launching a campaign to measure the effects heat islands have on the city. The data collected could be used to cool off certain neighborhoods.

Wed., Aug. 23, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Triple-digit temperatures can be life-threatening. Here's how to keep yourself safe

Kateleigh Mills

As extreme heat grips Oklahoma, it's important to take steps to prevent heat exposure.

Fri., Sept. 8, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Newest Superfund site has radiation in its soil, ponds, and groundwater

Graycen Wheeler

The Environmental Protection Agency announced a new Superfund site at Oklahoma's Fansteel Metals, Inc. Covering 105 acres in Muskogee on Cherokee Nation land, the facility contains radioactive and toxic materials that could threaten the health and safety of people living nearby if not properly contained.

Thurs., Sept. 14, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK: Volunteers come together to collect data on impact of urban heat islands in Oklahoma City

Britny Cordera

More than 250 volunteers collected temperature and air quality data around Oklahoma City through a community science project in August to study urban heat islands. The NOAA-funded project could help the city prepare for extreme heat.

Wed., Sept. 27, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK: El Niño boosts quail populations across Oklahoma before hunting season

Britny Cordera

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is looking forward to fall for quail hunting season. Changing weather patterns have impacts on quail populations.

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Collaborations/Content Partnering Efforts

KGOU is an affiliated member of several collaborative/partnering reporting projects that add to and/or expand upon topics and areas of particular interest and concern to our audience. Among these content-generating projects that offer substantive news and issues-related reports (not necessarily prepared by KGOU staff/reporters) are: OPMX/ (The Oklahoma Public Media Exchange), Oklahoma Watch/Long Story Short, Capital Insider (KGOU & Quorum Call). These producers generate in-depth reports that are generally five minutes in length on a semi-regular basis. KGOU monitors and chooses particular reports by each of these producers that we believe resonates with the needs, interests, and concerns of our audience.

<https://www.nprstations.org/> offers similar lists of issues and news stories broadcast by National Public Radio during this period.

Morning Edition (ME): Monday through Friday, 5am to 9am. A two hour news and information program from National Public Radio, which is repeated once for the second two-hour period. KGOU inserts local news, sports and weather three times within this program, plus weather and traffic reports two additional times per hour.

Here and Now (HAN): Monday through Thursday, 12noon to 2pm, and Friday, 12noon to 1pm. A mid-day broadcast of news and information from WBUR, Boston and NPR. KGOU inserts two local newscasts plus weather in this program each hour.

All Things Considered (AT): Monday through Friday, 4pm to 7pm. A two-hour news and public affairs program from National Public Radio; KGOU airs the second hour twice and the first hour once. KGOU inserts two local news, reports each hour, plus weather and traffic reports two additional times per hour.

Weekend Edition (WE): Saturday from 7am to 9am and Sunday, 8am to 10am. A two hour news and information program from National Public Radio.

Weekend All Things Considered (AT): Saturday 7 Sunday, 5pm to 6pm. A one hour news and information program from National Public Radio.

1A (1A): Monday through Friday, 9am to 11am. A daily call in program featuring national guests on politics, literature, health and more topics.

Fresh Air (FA): Monday through Thursday at 2pm and 7pm / Friday at 7pm. A daily interview and review program focusing on the popular arts and culture but also including current public affairs.

Reveal (Rev): Mondays at 8pm. A weekly investigative news program produced by the Centers For Investigative Reporting.

Other programs carried by KGOU Radio that contribute to the presentation of news, information and a wide variety of views include:

Left, Right & Center (LRC): Saturdays from 6:00 to 7am. This ½ hour program from KCRW analyzes the week's political news and related issues, and from various differing viewpoints.

Zorba Paster on Your Health (Zorba): Thursdays at 11am. A call in program about health, nutrition and healthy lifestyles.

Science Friday (SciFri): Fridays from 1 to 3pm. This 2 hour program from Public Radio International analyzes the week's scientific, technological and ecological news and related discoveries.

BBC World News (BBC): Monday through Friday, 3 to 4pm and 1am to 5am; Saturday and Sunday from 1am to 7am. A live news and information magazine program with a world perspective.

National Native News Service (NNN): weekdays at 2 & 7pm. This is a five-minute newscast from Alaska Public Radio and features news about Native American populations.

Freakonomics (FR): Saturdays, 11am to noon; Tuesdays, 11am to noon. A weekly program focusing on business-related topics and personal and professional improvement.

Ted Radio Hour (TR): Sundays, 7 to 8am; Mondays, 11am to noon. A weekly program featuring personal anecdotes and storytelling on a range of topics from various professionals, experts and authorities.

Throughline (TL): Sundays, 10 to 11am. A weekly program exploring historical events that cover a range of topics.

Completed by: Jim Johnson
KGOU Program Director
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