



The University of Oklahoma Outreach

Norman, Oklahoma 73019

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

Covering the Period: October 1, 2023 to December 31, 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., Oct. 18, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: Experts examine elderly care in Oklahoma, ranked 46th in long-term services, support

The committee heard presentations covering staffing shortages, care complaints and service connection issues to identify ways Oklahoma can improve the quality of life for its aging population.

Arts & Entertainment

Tue., Oct. 3, 2023 ~ Feature, 12 minutes

How Curious: How did Oklahoma help create the Chicken Dance craze?

Did you know that the Tulsa Oktoberfest played an important role in fueling the craze for the Chicken Dance? Find out how in this episode of How Curious.

Thu., Oct. 19, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Allison Herrera: 'Killers of the Flower Moon' is starting conversations about history, mental health and more in Indian Country

The highly anticipated film adaptation of Killers of the Flower Moon comes out this week. In advance, tribal nation leaders, federal law enforcement, and the book's author David Grann got together to discuss it at an Oklahoma Christian University panel in Edmond.

Thu., Oct. 19, 2023 ~ Feature, 13 minutes

KGOU/Jim Johnson: Additional reflections from Matthew Scott's 'Mirrors'

Oklahoma blues-rock musician Matthew Scott discusses the making of his debut album, "Mirrors".

Thu., Oct. 26, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK/Britny Cordera: An Oklahoma non-profit uses Hip-Hop to increase mental health awareness

A local non-profit is hosting rap battles and other events to advocate for mental health awareness in Oklahoma. The organization called SoulBody Cyphers is working to destigmatize conversations around mental health and cultivate a community of MC's.

Mon., Oct. 30, 2023 ~ Program, 53 minutes

KGOU Readers Club: Killing the Negative

KGOU managing editor Logan Layden sits down with Quraysh Ali Lansana to discuss the new book *Killing the Negative*.

Tue., Nov. 7, 2023 ~ Feature, 13 minutes

How Curious: Which Oklahoman Got a Hippopotamus for Christmas?

Which Oklahoman Got a Hippopotamus for Christmas? Today's story features a local girl with a belter of a voice, several hippopotamuses, some zoo history, and a hit song.

Sun., Nov. 26, 2023 ~ Program, 53 minutes

KGOU Readers Club: Rare Encounter

KGOU's Logan Layden discusses the book *Rare Encounter* with its author.

Business, Economics & Finance

Tue., Oct. 10, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: Inflation, federal funding drop off worries Oklahoma child care center owners

In Oklahoma, slightly more than 44% of counties are classified as child care deserts. An estimated 55% of Oklahomans currently live in a location where there's more demand for care than providers.

Thu., Oct. 12, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: Oklahoma state agencies consider pay hikes as report finds many workers are underpaid

Agency officials are examining and, in some cases, increasing staff pay after a report released this year found that the majority of state employees are underpaid compared to their private-sector counterparts.

Fri., Oct. 13, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Anna Pope: How are Oklahoma farmers impacted by Farm Bill uncertainty?

Despite lawmakers missing the Farm Bill's deadline at the end of September, Oklahoma farmers are not seeing many changes to major agriculture programs yet.

Mon., Oct. 16, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Anna Pope: Northeast Oklahoma butterfly farm receives grant to support underserved producers

Euchee Butterfly Farm is receiving almost \$750,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide Indigenous producers access to departmental resources.

Tue., Oct. 17, 2023 ~ Feature, 14 minutes

How Curious: Which Oklahoma community was 'America's Model City' in 1951 and how did the Shetland pony help it grow?

Which of Oklahoma's cities was designated "America's Model City" in 1951? And how did the diminutive Shetland pony help that city to grow?

Tue., Oct. 17, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: Oklahoma's hydrogen hub bid rejected. Federal funding opportunity slips through consortium's hands

Oklahoma officials remain optimistic about the state's potential to become a leader in the hydrogen industry despite a revelation that President Joe Biden had rejected a regional bid to become a hydrogen hub.

Wed., Oct. 18, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Robby Korth: Poll shows Oklahoma City arena proponents have work cut out for them, Gov. Stitt with lukewarm approval rating

A poll from Emerson College shows proponents for a new NBA Arena in downtown Oklahoma City have their work cut out for them when it comes to public opinion.

Thu., Oct. 26, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Robby Korth: Ardmore Michelin plant to wind down tire production operations

Michelin announced it will be "winding down" its operations at the South Central Oklahoma plant by the end of 2025.

Fri., Oct. 27, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Anna Pope: AG Drummond signs onto legal action in support of Oklahoma pork producers

Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond is taking action against a new pig welfare law in Massachusetts.

Mon., Oct. 30, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Robby Korth: Moody's gives Oklahoma improved credit rating in wake of rainy day fund growth

Moody's Investor Service says Oklahoma's credit rating is looking better.

Tue., Oct. 31, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

KGOU/Nyk Daniels: State, Ardmore leaders grapple with news of Michelin winding down operations in Oklahoma

Following the news that Michelin plans to wind down operations at its Ardmore plant, city leaders are going before the Oklahoma Senate.

Tue., Nov. 7, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Anna Pope: Lawmakers stress need for extension of Farm Bill during Oklahoma City forum

While hearing questions on the Farm Bill in Oklahoma, congressional members said the bill will need an extension.

Wed., Nov. 8, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Beth Wallis: Oklahoma to shoulder nearly \$4 million price tag for Parental Choice Tax Credit

When the Parental Choice Tax Credit program was passed this spring, the tax commission estimated it would cost \$1 million this fiscal year to set it up. As it turns out, it's going to cost nearly four times that.

Thu., Nov. 9, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Graycen Wheeler: AG Gentner Drummond subpoenas Oklahoma Corporation Commission over 2021 winter storm

As Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond investigates natural gas prices during 2021 Winter Storm Uri, he's putting a magnifying glass on the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.

Wed., Nov. 15, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

KGOU/Hannah France: Midwest City Starbucks votes to unionize

The Starbucks located at 29th St. and Air Depot in Midwest City voted 13-3 in favor of joining the Starbucks Workers Union.

Wed., Nov. 15, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: Oklahoma senator challenges Teamsters president to fight at U.S. Senate hearing

Oklahoma Sen. Markwayne Mullin challenged the head of the Teamsters union to a physical fight at a U.S. Senate hearing Tuesday intended to showcase how labor unions are making families' lives better.

Thu., Nov. 16, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: Oklahoma City Starbucks workers join nationwide strike effort

Hundreds of Starbucks workers across the country are using the company's lucrative holiday season to bring attention to labor violations.

Mon., Nov. 27, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: Oklahoma State Chamber, Farm Bureau challenge effort to raise minimum wage to \$15

A proposed state question to raise Oklahoma's hourly minimum wage to \$15 faces its first legal challenge.

Tue., Nov. 28, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

KGOU/Hannah France: Motel near Bricktown to be converted into affordable housing

The Oklahoma City Housing Authority is set to purchase an old Motel 6 to convert into affordable housing.

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

OPMX/Anna Pope: Poultry processor closes Oklahoma facilities

Cooks Venture is shutting down its operations and facilities in eastern Oklahoma and northwest Arkansas.

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

OPMX/Allison Herrera: Oklahoma tribal nations receive roughly \$8 million to bolster recycling efforts

The Environmental Protection Agency is granting more than \$8 million dollars to bolster Oklahoma tribal nations' recycling efforts.

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

Oklahoma Watch/Long Story Short: Initiative petition to raise Oklahoma's minimum wage faces legal challenge

Last week the groups petitioned the Oklahoma Supreme Court to reject Initiative Petition 446, which would require most Oklahoma employers to pay their workers at least \$15 per hour by 2029. Kelsey Cobbs, the pastor of The Federated Church of Weatherford, and Dustin Phelan, business manager for the Tulsa-based IBEW Local 584 union, filed the petition with the Oklahoma Secretary of State's office on Oct. 26.

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

Oklahoma Voice: Panasonic rebuffs Oklahoma again, won't build EV battery plant in Pryor

A global company has once again decided against building an electric vehicle battery plant near Tulsa despite lawmakers offering a \$698 million incentive package and funding millions of dollars in site improvements at the company's request.

Thu., Dec. 21, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Anna Pope: Oklahoma Tribal Nations awarded \$24 million in USDA grants for internet access, education

The Choctaw Nation, College of the Muscogee Nation and the Cherokee Nation are receiving grants for internet connectivity, education access and tribal language preservation.

Crime & Law Enforcement

Tue., Oct. 3, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

KGOU/Logan Layden: Commissioners select potential location for new Oklahoma County jail

Oklahoma County commissioners Monday approved a site just north of Will Rogers World Airport for the new Oklahoma County Jail.

Tue., Oct. 3, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: What resources are there for Oklahomans experiencing domestic violence?

Ally Stephens experienced domestic abuse about three years ago, and her then-boyfriend, Gage Ford, was found guilty of two felony counts and one misdemeanor after beating her while she was pregnant. Three years later during Domestic Violence Awareness month, Stephens and local agencies want Oklahomans to know more about available services for victims.

Mon., Oct. 9, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Watch: Inmate deaths raise questions about temperatures in Oklahoma prisons

Prisoner advocates argue the deaths highlight a need for universal air conditioning within Oklahoma's correctional system.

Wed., Oct. 11, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: Oklahoma high court weighs in on state's \$27 inmate reimbursement rate

County jail officials can charge above the state minimum for housing Department of Corrections inmates, but any costs must be directly related to incarcerating the prisoners, the state Supreme Court ruled Tuesday.

Tue., Oct. 17, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

KGOU/Hannah France: An Oklahoma man will serve a year and a day in prison for threats made to Gov. Stitt, other GOP politicians

Tyler Jay Marshall, 36, was charged with one count of threatening to murder a United States official and another count of interstate transmission of threatening communications for posts he made on Twitter.

Tue., Oct. 17, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Allison Herrera: Modoc Nation says Northeast Oklahoma reservation never disestablished in wake of McGirt

Attorneys for the Modoc Nation say the State of Oklahoma is improperly prosecuting Indigenous people on their reservation.

Wed., Oct. 18, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Oklahoma Watch/Long Story Short: Oklahoma prison held inmates in shower stalls for days

State personnel at Great Plains confined several prisoners in two-by-two-foot shower stalls for days with limited access to basic necessities, two correctional officers allege in an incident report obtained by Oklahoma Watch. An internal agency investigation confirmed that prisoners were in fact held in the shower stalls for several hours but ruled some of the officers' claims as inclusive.

Fri., Oct. 20, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

KGOU/Hannah France: Oklahoma lawmakers push for clemency for death row inmate Phillip Hancock

The clemency application for a death row inmate set to be executed next month includes new evidence that supports his claim he acted in self-defense.

Wed., Oct. 25, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Oklahoma Watch/Long Story Short: Inmate deaths raise questions about temperatures in Oklahoma prisons

During the early morning count on Saturday, Aug. 26, state corrections officers found Vincent Willis dead in his cell at the Dick Conner Correctional Center in Hominy.

Wed., Oct. 25, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Elizabeth Caldwell: Oklahoma sues social media giant Meta for fueling anxiety, depression among kids

Oklahoma has filed a lawsuit against Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram.

Tue., Oct. 31, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Elizabeth Caldwell: Former Tulsa school official pleads guilty to wire fraud

A former public school official accused of embezzlement has pled guilty in federal court.

Wed., Nov. 8, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Oklahoma Watch/Long Story Short: Pottawatomie County jail investigator promoted amid cover-up allegations

A Pottawatomie County public safety board recently promoted a jail investigator, despite cover-up allegations in the deaths of multiple county jail detainees.

Thu., Nov. 9, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

KGOU/Hannah France: Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board recommends clemency for Phillip Hancock

The Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board Wednesday recommended clemency for death row inmate Phillip Hancock. Hancock was convicted for the 2001 murders of Robert Jett and James Lynch.

Fri., Nov. 10, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Robby Korth: Oklahoma Highway Patrol gives ticket over tribal plate, potentially changing decades of policing precedent

The Otoe-Missouria Tribe announced one of its citizens was given a \$249 ticket for failure to pay state taxes on their motor vehicle.

Mon., Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Allison Herrera: Tribal leaders, experts respond to Oklahoma's new policy on ticketing tribal tags

A traffic ticket has sent shockwaves throughout Indian Country. Tribal citizens have routinely driven cars with their nation's tags without penalty for years in Oklahoma. But, the Otoe-Missouria Tribe recently announced one of its citizens was given a \$249 ticket for failure to pay state taxes on their motor vehicle.

Mon., Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Anna Pope: Oklahoma begins process of shutting down 165 medical marijuana grow facilities

The Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority is seeking to revoke the licenses of 165 grow facilities in the state for failing to post signage on their property.

Mon., Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

KGOU/Hannah France: Mother of mentally ill man who died in private Lawton prison files civil rights lawsuit

The mother of a mentally ill man who died in a Lawton correctional facility is filing a civil rights lawsuit.

Wed., Nov. 15, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: Oklahoma Supreme Court maintains temporary ban on anti-abortion laws pending lawsuit

A 5-4 majority ruling from the Oklahoma Supreme Court said three laws related to abortion should be put on hold pending legal challenges.

Fri., Nov. 17, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Watch: Lawmaker seeks outside investigation, legislation after Hinton shower stalls confinement

Conditions are improving at a state prison where staff locked inmates in two-by-two-foot shower stalls for days in mid-August, but one lawmaker who specializes in criminal justice issues said the incident warrants further accountability efforts.

Tue., Nov. 21, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

KGOU/Hannah France: Kingfisher Public Schools settles hazing lawsuit with former football player

Kingfisher Public Schools settles hazing lawsuit with former football player for \$5 million.

Wed., Nov. 22, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Oklahoma Watch/Long Story Short: Lawton inmate dies after private prison staff refused care, lawsuit claims

After an X-ray revealed a life-threatening injury, nurses, a doctor and prison guards locked Justin Barrientos in a cell where he suffered for hours without care and lay dead for more than 90 minutes before anyone noticed.

Wed., Nov. 29, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: Ransomware attacks force Oklahoma hospitals to divert emergency room patients

Oklahoma is among six states experiencing a temporary disruption to some hospital services after a ransomware attack against Ardent Health Services, a health care company based in Nashville.

Thu., Nov. 30, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

KGOU/Hannah France: Oklahoma death row inmate Phillip Hancock to be executed Thursday

Oklahoma is set to execute its fourth death row inmate of the year on Thursday morning.

Thu., Nov. 30, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: Efforts to criminalize homelessness growing in Oklahoma

A national push to criminalize homelessness is impacting the state as cities and lawmakers introduce policies aimed at regulating encampments and other support for unhoused Oklahomans, legal experts say.

Thu., Nov. 30, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

KGOU/Hannah France: Oklahoma executes death row inmate despite clemency recommendation

Despite a recommendation of clemency from the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board, the state executed its fourth and final death row inmate of 2023 on Thursday morning.

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

KGOU/Nyk Daniels: Oklahoma County commissioners continue location search for new jail, confirm Stockyards City won't be impacted

Oklahoma County commissioners said Monday that a livestock market is not in danger of being shut down to make room for the new county jail.

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

SIOK/Beth Wallis: Kingfisher residents may see 12% tax hike to settle hazing lawsuit

Kingfisher Public Schools' board of education voted Monday to accept a settlement in a lawsuit over student hazing allegations, leaving residents facing up to 12% more in property taxes to foot the bill.

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

Oklahoma Watch: Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board seeks stiffer commutation requirements

The Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board is considering an administrative rule change that would place several restrictions on when Oklahoma prisoners may seek commutation.

Thu., Dec. 14, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

KGOU/Hannah France: Proposed Oklahoma County jail site near Will Rogers Airport is out

The Oklahoma Conservation Commission is working to improve soil The Federal Aviation Administration has denied a request from Oklahoma County to build a new jail on land near Will Rogers World Airport.

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

KGOU/Hannah France: Advocacy group says pregnant women shouldn't be prosecuted for medical marijuana

Medical marijuana has been legal in Oklahoma since the passage of State Question 788 in 2018, but multiple women in the state have been prosecuted for using it since then — because they were pregnant.

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

KGOU/Hannah France: Shawnee commissioners to vote on ordinance banning sitting, lying down in downtown area

The City Commissioners of Shawnee will vote Monday on whether to prohibit sitting and lying down in the city's downtown area.

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

OPMX: Federal judge dismisses Tulsa challenge to enforce Indigenous driver's speeding ticket

The federal courts have once again sided with tribes over whether Tulsa can prosecute Native drivers for traffic violations.

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

OPMX/Graycen Wheeler: Oklahoma Rural Water Association PAC turns itself in for ethics violations

The Oklahoma Rural Water Association's political action committee has agreed to pay fines to the state and shut down after self-reported financial misconduct.

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

Oklahoma Watch/Long Story Short: Parole board seeks stiffer commutation requirements

The Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board is considering an administrative rule change that would place several restrictions on when Oklahoma prisoners may seek commutation.

Thu., Dec. 21, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

KGOU/Hannah France: Oklahoma man declared innocent after serving nearly 50 years in prison

After his case was dismissed in September, Glynn Simmons has now been formally exonerated. He is the longest-serving exonerated man in United States history.

Education

Mon., Oct. 3, 2023 ~ Newscast, 11 minute

Oklahoma Voice: Public access remains limited at Oklahoma State Board of Education meetings

Dozens of Oklahomans found themselves barred from Thursday's State Board of Education's meeting room after the state superintendent decided not to move the meeting to a larger venue.

Wed., Oct. 4, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Oklahoma Watch/Long Story Short: Lack of rules let elite school ignore sexual harassment and bullying of students

As a student at the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics, Lawton Blanchard, who is Black and queer, said she was belittled, called stupid and mocked by physics professor Kurt Bachmann. When Blanchard reported the professor's behavior to a counselor, the student was told there wasn't anything they could do.

Thu., Oct. 5, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Beth Wallis: Tax Commission releases Parental Choice Tax Credit rules for public comment

The Oklahoma Tax Commission proposed its rules for the new Parental Choice Tax Credit program and opened public comment.

Fri., Oct. 6, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: USDA expands universal school meal program for Oklahoma districts

The Oklahoma State Department of Education said it's still unclear how many districts in the state will newly qualify. The advocacy organization Hunger Free Oklahoma estimated 530 schools in 390 districts will now be eligible.

Mon., Oct. 9, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Beth Wallis: Experts to lawmakers: Corporal punishment not effective long-term, has detrimental consequences

This spring, despite national outrage, lawmakers failed to pass a bill prohibiting corporal punishment on students with disabilities. At a legislative interim study Thursday, lawmakers questioned experts on the impacts of corporal punishment.

Mon., Oct. 9, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Beth Wallis: State board approves proposed contract for nation's first publicly funded religious school

The nation's first publicly funded religious school got one step closer to becoming a reality Monday after the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board approved its contract Monday for the St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual Charter School.

Thu., Oct. 12, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Beth Wallis: Oklahoma Board of Education member resigns, leaving two vacant seats

A state board of education member is stepping down, leaving the embattled board with two vacancies. Gov. Kevin Stitt's office announced Wednesday Suzanne Reynolds was resigning, effective immediately.

Thu., Oct. 12, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Beth Wallis: Ninety percent of Oklahoma ACT test-takers do not meet readiness benchmarks in all subjects

The ACT exam is taken by high schoolers, often with the aim of scoring high enough to get into a college or university. But according to new data, ACT scores in Oklahoma have dropped to their lowest in the past 20 years.

Tue., Oct. 17, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Tulsa school board halts charter school's renewal; district literacy scores improve

The renewal of Tulsa Honor Academy's contract with Tulsa Public Schools was postponed again Monday after accusations of racist behavior was voiced by a TPS board member earlier this month.

Thu., Oct. 19, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK/Beth Wallis: What Oklahomans need to know about student loan repayment

This month, millions of Americans will have to make student loan payments after a three-year pandemic-era pause. But since 2020, there have been some big changes made to the repayment system.

Fri., Oct. 20, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: Oklahoma lawmakers review possible bans on college diversity, inclusion programs

Legislation to prohibit diversity, equity and inclusion efforts at Oklahoma colleges could return to the state Capitol next year, despite these initiatives being mandatory for public universities.

Mon., Oct. 23, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: Absenteeism a chronic issue in Oklahoma and U.S. schools

The rate of chronic absenteeism, reflecting the number of students who miss 10% or more of the school year, has grown both in Oklahoma and nationwide since the dawn of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to data from the U.S. Department of Education.

Mon., Oct. 23, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Beth Wallis: Oklahoma attorney general files lawsuit against state board over Catholic charter school

Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond filed a lawsuit Friday against the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board for its decision to approve what would be the nation's first publicly funded religious school, the St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual Charter School.

Wed., Oct. 25, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Beth Wallis: Oklahoma Tax Commission advances rules for Parental Choice Tax Credit program

The Oklahoma Tax Commission's rules for the state's new Parental Choice Tax Credit advanced to the governor's desk Tuesday after the required public comment period ended.

Thu., Oct. 26, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Beth Wallis: Walters demands more from Tulsa Schools, condemns Stillwater Schools' 'attempt to circumvent' new rules

Thursday's State Board of Education meeting highlights include more progress reports from Tulsa Public Schools, State Superintendent Ryan Walters condemning a guidance letter from Stillwater Public Schools on new administrative rules and denying student requests to change gender markers.

Wed., Nov. 1, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Oklahoma Watch/Long Story Short: AG Drummond sues over state sponsored religious charter school

Oklahoma Attorney General Genter Drummond on Friday, October 20th sued to stop the nation's first publicly-funded religious charter school.

Thu., Nov. 9, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Beth Wallis: Oklahoma Department of Education rolls out new tutoring initiatives

The State Department of Education announced three new initiatives to get tutoring to Oklahoma students: community volunteer tutoring, online tutoring through a third-party vendor and an incentive program for teachers to tutor.

Fri., Nov. 10, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Beth Wallis: State Department of Education seeks to be party in lawsuit over St. Isidore contract

State Superintendent Ryan Walters is aiming to get the Department of Education involved in a lawsuit filed by Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond over what would be the nation's first publicly funded religious school.

Mon., Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Beth Wallis: Proposed rule 'detrimental' to state's all-virtual alternative education school

The State Board of Education is weighing a proposed administrative rule that would require in-person attendance for alternative education schools. And for Insight School of Oklahoma — the state's only all-virtual, alternative education charter school — that could spell disaster.

Thu., Nov. 16, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK/Beth Wallis: Oklahoma schools turning to the new, old way of teaching students to read

The science of reading is returning to the limelight, and Oklahoma schools and universities are using those techniques to teach literacy to the next generation.

Thu., Nov. 16, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: Oklahoma public schools show continued academic struggle in state report cards

Oklahoma's public school system showed consistent levels of academic results but weakening growth in the 2022-23 school year compared to the year before.

Wed., Nov. 22, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OK Watch: Fewer than 1 in 4 Oklahoma high schools are on track to meet new state law requiring A.P. courses

Opportunities for A.P. classes, which give students a leg up in college admissions, are lacking in rural high schools. A new law aims to address the divide.

Wed., Nov. 29, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Oklahoma Watch/Long Story Short: What the new report card data says about student achievement

In Oklahoma public schools, academic achievement declined slightly in English and science but improved slightly in math in 2023, compared to 2022.

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

KGOU/Nyk Daniels: Yukon Public Schools to renovate home into a learning space for students with special needs

Yukon Public Schools aims to give special needs students the skills they need to live independently once they graduate.

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

SIOK/Beth Wallis: State Board urges Tulsa to close low performing schools, alleges “excuses” from school financial team

The State Board of Education called for Tulsa Public Schools to identify low-performing school sites to close at Thursday’s State Board of Education meeting.

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

SIOK/Beth Wallis: Tax commission delays rollout of Parental Choice Tax Credit Program

Oklahoma parents have been anticipating the rollout of the new Parental Choice Tax Credit program, which was supposed to happen Friday. But the Oklahoma Tax Commission says parents will need to wait a little longer.

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

SIOK/Beth Wallis: State Superintendent Ryan Walters proposes rules tying accreditation to academics, department looking to intervene in St. Isidore case

State Superintendent Ryan Walters is proposing new administrative rules that would tie academic outcomes to school districts’ accreditation status.

Fri., Dec. 1, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: Application period pushed back for new private school tax credits

The Oklahoma Tax Commission has delayed for a few days the application period for parents to apply for income tax credits to send their children to private schools.

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

OPMX: The future of an Oklahoma college is unclear as its campus goes up for auction

The oldest college in Oklahoma is facing a murky future as its property is scheduled for auction.

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

Oklahoma Watch/Long Story Short: State monitoring of Tulsa schools ratcheted up with new expectations

The state Board of Education on placed a new set of expectations on Tulsa Public Schools as part of its heightened monitoring of the district. Superintendent of Public Instruction Ryan Walters laid out the expectations for improvement in student test scores, teacher training and overall school performance, and the board approved his proposal.

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

OPMX/Anna Pope: OSU launches new Polytech project to improve STEM education, workforce development

OSU Polytech is an initiative to improve STEM education access and workforce development in Tulsa.

Thu., Dec. 14, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: How Oklahomans are navigating the ‘chaos’ of SoonerCare unwinding

As Oklahoma nears the end of its unwinding process, providers, community partners and patients are reflecting on the collaboration and confusion that occurred.

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

SIOK/Beth Wallis: State Superintendent Ryan Walters proposes rules to ban DEI, educators who perform in drag from Oklahoma K-12 schools

State Superintendent Ryan Walters announced new administrative rules targeting DEI in K-12 schools at Thursday's December Board of Education meeting.

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

Oklahoma Voice: Former Norman High School teacher's revocation case still unresolved

Six months after state officials put their case before a judge to revoke her teaching license, a former Norman teacher who shared access to a catalog of banned books is still fully certified in Oklahoma.

Energy

Tue., Nov. 14, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

KGOU/Nyk Daniels: Oklahoma ranks among highest for power disruption this winter, report says

A new report says a number of states, including Oklahoma, are among those at higher risk for power disruption in the event of a major winter storm.

Mon., Nov. 20, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Britny Cordera: Amazon to develop first solar farm in Oklahoma

The company announced last week that it's developing its first solar farm in Oklahoma, and plans to power local grids and its operations.

Wed., Nov. 29, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Graycen Wheeler: Federal judges say no take backs on Wynnewood Refinery's exemption from renewable fuel requirements

A federal court has sided with a refinery in Southern Oklahoma over the Environmental Protection Agency, saying the EPA couldn't go back on an exemption it had issued for renewable fuel requirements.

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

OPMX/Graycen Wheeler: Oklahoma AG's Office launches tip line for info on natural gas prices during Winter Storm Uri

The Oklahoma Attorney General's Office is seeking people with inside knowledge about how natural gas marketers handled Winter Storm Uri in February 2021.

Thu., Dec. 28, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

KGOU/Nyk Daniels: Tulsa federal judge orders removal of wind farm from Osage Nation

A Tulsa federal judge has ordered the removal of wind turbines on Osage Nation land following a years-long battle between the tribal nation and green-energy company, Enel.

Immigration

Tue., Oct. 10, 2023 ~ Feature, 14 minutes

How Curious: Who are the Germans from Russia in Oklahoma?

Many settlers in Oklahoma are of German descent but had ancestors who lived as Germans in Russia for a century or more. Who are these "other Germans?"

Wed., Nov. 1, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

KGOU/Hannah France: Oklahoma support organizations work to provide Afghan refugees with halal food

There are several organizations in Oklahoma working to serve the new Afghan refugee population that arrived two years ago. One of the largest struggles they face is to provide one of the most basic resources—food.

Fri., Nov. 10, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Immigration advocacy group certifies Tulsa a 'Welcoming City'

An immigration advocacy group has given Tulsa the organization's first "Welcoming City" designation in Oklahoma.

Medicine & Health

Mon., Oct. 9, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: Oklahoma Health Care Authority faces suit over its information exchange

The Oklahoma Fraternal Order of the Police is suing the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, claiming its Health Information Exchange is unconstitutional because it requires providers serving Medicaid patients to report patient information into the exchange.

Mon., Oct. 9, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: Oklahoma judge upholds gender-affirming ban on minors, ACLU to appeal

Oklahoma's ban on gender-affirming care will be allowed to go into effect after a Tulsa federal judge ruled the ACLU's challenge to SB 613 would likely fail. The ACLU of Oklahoma is planning to appeal.

Thu., Oct. 12, 2023 ~ Feature, 4 minutes

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: How is the first commercial rollout of COVID-19 vaccines going in Oklahoma?

Norman is working to map out which neighborhoods are most at risk for having lead water service lines.

Thu., Oct. 12, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Graycen Wheeler: Norman will begin surveying pre-1950s homes for lead service lines

Norman is working to map out which neighborhoods are most at risk for having lead water service lines.

Thu., Oct. 12, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: Oklahoma smoking prevalence is declining, but still exceeds national average

The percentage of adults who smoke in Oklahoma is declining, but the state is still above the national average.

Mon., Oct. 16, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: Oklahoma City selects health care nonprofit to operate new senior health, wellness center

The City of Oklahoma City selected a private health nonprofit to operate a new senior health and wellness center in northeast Oklahoma City.

Mon., Oct. 16, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: Oklahoma agency on track to end 13-year waitlist for disability services

Oklahoma Human Services is on track to end its 13-year Developmental Disability Services waitlist as it works to connect a third group of 914 people to services.

Thu., Oct. 19, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK/Beth Wallis: Second round of federal COVID-era education dollars to be handled with more oversight

After the first round of certain federal COVID-era education funds for Oklahoma ended in chaos, the second round is being handled with significantly more oversight. StateImpact's Beth Wallis sat down with Oklahoma Watch education reporter Jennifer Palmer to talk through what this new money is being used for, who's managing it — and who's not.

Fri., Oct. 20, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: What Oklahomans should know as Health Insurance Marketplace open enrollment begins

Oklahomans can choose from seven health insurance plans for 2024 coverage as open enrollment begins for the Health Insurance Marketplace on Nov. 1.

Tue., Oct. 24, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: OU receives \$16 million to recruit, retain medical students from underserved communities

The University of Oklahoma will receive \$16 million over four years to help recruit and retain medical students from Tribal, rural and medically underserved communities.

Wed., Oct. 25, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: Deadline extended to get opioid abatement grants

Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond extended the deadline for local entities to send letters of intent for grants meant to counteract impacts from the opioid epidemic to 5 p.m. Nov. 8.

Mon., Oct. 30, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Anna Pope: USDA finds almost 250,000 Oklahoma households face food insecurity

A new United States Department of Agriculture report found food insecurity rates have increased since 2021 and Oklahoma is one of the top six states in the metric.

Mon., Nov. 6, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: Oklahoma behavioral care access is expanding with new laws in effect

Four laws related to improving access to behavioral health care in Oklahoma are now in effect after Healthy Minds Policy Initiative's work with lawmakers during this legislative session.

Wed., Nov. 8, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: Oklahoma behavioral health experts say 'bold steps' needed to invest in future workforce

A bicameral, bipartisan study was held Tuesday to examine challenges and opportunities in Oklahoma's behavioral mental health workforce.

Wed., Nov. 8, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Watch: Pandemic protections ending for Oklahomans covered by SoonerCare

After a summer pause to expand outreach efforts to SoonerCare members, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority has resumed an unwinding process to pare an estimated 270,000 low-income Oklahomans who kept Medicaid coverage during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thu., Nov. 9, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: Oklahoma is still combating youth e-cigarette usage as CDC reports national decline

Nationwide, 4% fewer high school students are using e-cigarettes compared to last year, according to new CDC data, and Oklahoma is implementing measures to further reduce its use among youths.

Mon., Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: Oklahoma representative joins health caucus across six states to improve access, affordability

Oklahoma City Democrat Ellyn Hefner is joining a nonpartisan health caucus spanning six states.

Tue., Nov. 14, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: New technology helps Oklahoma officers, clinicians provide mental health care

Experts say iPads distributed by the state are improving access to care.

Fri., Nov. 17, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: Oklahoma sees third-highest increase in kindergarten vaccine exemptions

Oklahoma had the third-highest increase in vaccine exemption rates among kindergartners in the nation, according to the CDC.

Mon., Nov. 20, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: Oklahoma TSET awards nearly \$4.6 million to health improvement projects

The Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust awarded nearly \$4.6 million to fund 11 community projects aiming to better health outcomes in Oklahoma through enhanced infrastructure.

Tue., Nov. 21, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: How to avoid foodborne illness during the holiday season

The Oklahoma State Department of Health recommends washing your hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds before cooking and using separate cutting boards to keep raw meats away from fruits and vegetables.

Wed., Nov. 29, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Britny Cordera: Norman Central Public Library closed due to mold damage

The Central Public Library in Norman is closed for repairs due to mold damage.

Thu., Nov. 30, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: OU researches PTSD drug to treat connected conditions like anxiety, alcohol use disorder

University of Oklahoma researchers are taking part in trials for a drug that could help treat PTSD symptoms, and they say current findings are promising.

Mon., Dec. 4, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: Oklahoma Health Care Authority opens SoonerSelect dental plan enrollment

Select SoonerCare members can now choose between two dental plans that will begin coverage on Feb. 1.

Thu., Dec. 7, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: Oklahoma Opioid Abatement Board receives over 250 letters for opioid settlement grants

The Oklahoma Opioid Abatement Board has received over 250 letters from local groups for \$23 million in grants meant to counteract the impacts of the opioid epidemic.

Thu., Dec. 7, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: Ascension St. John gets first mobile PET/CT scan unit in Oklahoma

Ascension St. John is getting the first mobile PET/CT scan unit in Oklahoma, which will use advanced technology to serve patients in northeast Oklahoma.

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

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: OU Health researchers receive millions in grants to study endometrial cancer

The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center is receiving millions in grant funding alongside Washington University in St. Louis and the University of New Mexico to fund research on endometrial cancer.

Thu., Dec. 21, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: OU Health receives federal grant to support telemedicine for rural stroke patients

OU Health received \$861,190 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to support telemedicine for stroke care in rural communities.

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

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: Oklahoma nonprofit becomes first group outside OSDH to provide Children First services

Oklahoma nonprofit Parent Promise has become the first group outside the State Department of Health to provide Children First Program services.

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

Oklahoma Watch/Long Story Short: After slow start, opioid settlement money expected to flow to cities and counties

Money from legal settlements against opioid manufacturers, distributors and retailers will finally start to trickle out to Oklahoma cities and counties in 2024, almost four years after lawmakers set up a board to administer the funds.

Fri., Dec. 29, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: More than 300,000 Oklahomans disenrolled from Medicaid as unwinding nears end

The state agency that oversees Oklahoma's Medicaid program, known as SoonerCare, will complete its Medicaid unwinding process by Dec. 31.

Military, War & Veterans

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

KGOU/Nyk Daniels: Oklahoma military bases to receive \$275 million in federal funding

Oklahoma's military bases are set to receive \$275 million as part of a new Defense Department bill.

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

Oklahoma Watch: Oklahoma National Guard deployment to Texas-Mexico border paid for by disaster response funds

Oklahoma used state disaster response funds to pay for a 30-day deployment of National Guard troops to help with border security as part of Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's Operation Lone Star.

Natural Resources & Wildlife

Tue., Oct. 10, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Graycen Wheeler: Edmond's Pelican Bay 'hemorrhaging' thousands of gallons a day this summer

Edmond's Pelican Bay Aquatics Center lost about 20,000 gallons of water a day throughout the summer of 2022, and it's leaking even faster this year.

Wed., Oct. 11, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Graycen Wheeler: 4 Oklahomans incur heavy penalties for killing protected whooping cranes

Four Oklahoma men have been sentenced for killing four whooping cranes, which are federally protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Fri., Oct. 20, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Britny Cordera: Avian influenza confirmed in south central Oklahoma

Highly pathogenic avian influenza was confirmed in a poultry flock in Carter County Oklahoma earlier this week. Fall bird migration can spread the disease rapidly as wild birds fly south for the winter.

Fri., Oct. 20, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Anna Pope: Osage County bison herd thrives on one of the last remaining tallgrass prairies in the world

The nearly 39,000 acres of land dotted with oilwell jacks in chest high grass is the world's largest protected area of tallgrass prairie and is the home of hundreds of native species, including 1,800 bison.

Tue., Oct. 24, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: Lawmakers explore decline of Oklahoma wild turkey population

Predators, weather extremes, disease and habitat changes are threatening the survival of the state's wild turkey population, experts told lawmakers during an interim study Monday.

Wed., Oct. 25, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Graycen Wheeler: Oklahoma lawmakers discuss aquifer management solutions

Oklahoma lawmakers met this week to discuss groundwater levels, which are declining in many parts of the state, and explore possible solutions.

Tue., Oct. 31, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Britny Cordera: Oklahoma researchers focus on Mexican free-tailed bat

Oklahoma's state flying mammal the Mexican free-tailed bat is receiving attention this spooky season from the University of Oklahoma.

Wed., Nov. 1, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Graycen Wheeler: Poultry companies ask judge to throw out ruling in decades-old case over polluted Oklahoma river

Tyson Foods and other Arkansas poultry companies have filed a motion to dismiss a court ruling that says they're responsible for cleaning up pollution in Oklahoma's Illinois River Watershed.

Fri., Nov. 3, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Anna Pope: Can bats keep pecan pests under control? Oklahoma researchers are finding out

Researchers installed nine bat houses in pecan orchards on the institute's Red River Ranch and Conrad-McMillan Pecan Farm to find if bats can reduce the need for pesticides.

Tue., Nov. 7, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Britny Cordera: Oklahoma City Zoo provides update on baby giraffe

The Oklahoma City Zoo is providing an update on a giraffe calf. The calf is the third generation of giraffes recently born at the zoo.

Wed., Nov. 8, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Graycen Wheeler: Hunting, fishing rules could change under Oklahoma Wildlife Department proposal

Every year, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation revises the rules that govern hunting and fishing across the state.

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

SIOK/Britny Cordera: Annual national holiday bird count underway in Oklahoma

The annual national holiday bird count got underway in Oklahoma last weekend. It is the longest running community science program in the world and organized by the National Audubon Society.

Politics & Government

Tue., Oct. 3, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: Stitt seeks tax cuts in special Oklahoma legislative session starting Tuesday

The Oklahoma Legislature will begin on Tuesday a special legislative session on tax cuts and budget transparency as Gov. Kevin Stitt ramps up pressure on lawmakers to decrease state income taxes.

Tue., Oct. 3, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: After Gov. Stitt declines to testify, Oklahoma Senate adjourns special session on same day it started

It costs taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars a day to operate a special session, including the one that began Tuesday morning. The special session was called by Gov. Kevin Stitt to cut taxes.

Wed., Oct. 4, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Watch: Study examines ways to improve Oklahoma's ballot initiative process

Arguing that urban voters and wealthy out-of-state groups have too much power over initiative petitions, several Republican lawmakers have filed bills seeking to add new signature collection requirements or increase the vote threshold needed for an initiative to pass.

Thu., Oct. 5, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: Oklahoma House speaker disappointed in Senate's inaction on tax cuts

House Republicans will continue to push for tax cuts even though the Senate adjourned a special legislative session without taking action on the issue, Oklahoma's House speaker said Wednesday.

Fri., Oct. 6, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: Special session in limbo after Senate adjourns Sine die

As the House and Senate returned for a special session, Governor Kevin Stitt pushed for tax cuts. But, the special session abruptly paused when the Senate adjourned.

Mon., Oct. 9, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Ryan LaCroix: What's on the ballot for the October 10th special election in Oklahoma

Voters in 22 counties across Oklahoma are heading to the polls on Tuesday to consider school bonds, municipal propositions, and party representatives for Senate District 32 in Southwestern Oklahoma.

Wed., Oct. 11, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Ryan LaCroix: Mid-Del Schools voters approve \$492 million bond package, while Norman and Bartlesville pass infrastructure bonds

Voters in 22 Oklahoma counties made their voices heard at the ballot box Tuesday on school bonds and other issues.

Fri., Oct. 13, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: Just what is an interim study...and why should we care?

As legislators consider issues and possible legislation during interim studies, we thought it would be a good idea to discuss what they are and what to watch for.

Mon., Oct. 16, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: Ethics Commission reopens executive director search after Oklahoma AG's criticism

The Oklahoma Ethics Commission voted Friday to extend the search for its next executive director through the end of the month just weeks after the state's attorney general claimed the search "process has been irreparably flawed and must be started anew."

Thu., Oct. 19, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Watch: Trump dominates early presidential fundraising in Oklahoma

With less than five months until Oklahoma's presidential primary elections, former President Donald Trump has built a significant fundraising advantage among Republican candidates.

Fri., Oct. 20, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: Supreme Court to hear tax case that prompted special session

A key element of Governor Kevin Stitt's call for a special session is going before the Oklahoma Supreme Court and the decision could have a dramatic impact on taxes.

Mon., Oct. 23, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Beth Wallis: Governor Kevin Stitt appoints new State Board of Education members

Gov. Kevin Stitt appointed two new members to the State Board of Education, filling the remaining vacancies on the board left by former members Suzanne Reynolds and Trent Smith.

Fri., Oct. 27, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: Lawmakers reject gaming compacts for two small Oklahoma tribes

Saying there were "significant fatal flaws," Oklahoma lawmakers on Wednesday unanimously rejected a pair of compacts that would have allowed two tribes to offer gaming outside of their traditional boundaries.

Wed., Nov. 1, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: New law blocks local school board members from joining Oklahoma's top education board

A new state law prohibits members of local school boards from being appointed to the Oklahoma State Board of Education. The bill passed with overwhelming support from the Legislature.

Thu., Nov. 2, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: More than 215 new Oklahoma laws went into effect Nov. 1

More than 215 new state laws went into effect Wednesday that impact everything from state employee benefits and jury pay to oversight of medical marijuana grows and missing persons.

Thu., Nov. 2, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: Ryan Walters endorses Donald Trump, plans to join his reelection team

Oklahoma's top education official has endorsed former President Donald Trump for reelection, a split from Gov. Kevin Stitt's choice for the Republican nominee.

Fri., Nov. 3, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: New laws hit the books as calendar turns to November

On November 1st, more than 200 bills became law in Oklahoma. We talk about a few of them this week on Capitol Insider.

Mon., Nov. 6, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: Stitt's sports betting plan takes many tribal officials, Oklahoma lawmakers by surprise

Tribal officials and state lawmakers say they weren't consulted on Gov. Kevin Stitt's new plan to implement sports betting.

Fri., Nov. 10, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: Legislators study state-tribal compacts

Lawmakers heard from tribal leaders during a two-day interim study looking at compacts between the State of Oklahoma and sovereign Native American nations.

Sun., Nov. 12, 2023 ~ Program, 59 minutes

KGOU: Lessons From The Mansion – 'If I Were Governor Today'

Hear a recent, wide-ranging discussion featuring reflections from several former Oklahoma Governors.

Mon., Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Anna Pope: Kirkpatrick Policy Group questions Oklahoma's lawsuit over Massachusetts animal law

The Kirkpatrick Policy Group is panning an Oklahoma effort to overturn a Massachusetts animal welfare law.

Tue., Nov. 14, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Ryan LaCroix: What's on the ballot for the November 14th special election in Oklahoma

Voters in 24 counties across Oklahoma are heading to the polls on Tuesday to consider school bonds, municipal propositions and more.

Wed., Nov. 15, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Oklahoma Watch/Long Story Short: Walters administration wants to hire someone to get more national media exposure

The state Education Department is looking to hire someone to manage national media appearances, raising concerns the agency would be boosting Superintendent Ryan Walters' national profile at taxpayer expense.

Wed., Nov. 15, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Robby Korth: Broken Arrow voters pass \$52 million school bond package, while Minco soundly rejects athletic complex

Voters in 24 counties across Oklahoma went to the polls on Tuesday to consider school bonds, municipal propositions and more.

Wed., Nov. 15, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Beth Wallis: Oklahoma Department of Education denied motion to intervene in St. Isidore lawsuit

The State Supreme Court denied a motion Tuesday from Oklahoma's Department of Education to intervene in a lawsuit brought by the state attorney general against the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board.

Fri., Nov. 17, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: New Oklahoma anti-abortion laws on hold

The Oklahoma Supreme Court has enjoined implementation of three Oklahoma anti-abortion laws from 2021 following a legal challenge.

Tue., Nov. 21, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: Oklahoma attorney general sues HHS over loss of federal family planning funding

Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond filed a suit against the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) after it suspended funding for family planning services the Oklahoma State Department of Health has received for over 40 years.

Fri., Nov. 24, 2023 ~ Feature, 8 minutes

Capitol Insider: Looking ahead to the 2024 elections

Less than a year remains before the 2024 general election. We talk to Oklahoma Election Board Secretary Paul Zirix about preparations for statewide voting next year.

Mon., Dec. 4, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Beth Wallis: After two years, federal judge hears opening statements for lawsuit against House Bill 1775

A federal judge is weighing opening statements in a lawsuit against House Bill 1775 filed two years ago.

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

Oklahoma Voice: Oklahoma governor's monopoly on turnpike board to end but changes may take time

A new law takes away the governor's ability to appoint all members of the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority board, but many of the appointees likely won't change until after Gov. Kevin Stitt is out of office.

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

Oklahoma Voice: Oklahoma Senate leader details plans to make state budget process more transparent

Oklahoma senators next year will not get their first glimpse of the proposed state budget mere hours or days before they're expected to vote on the multibillion-dollar spending plan.

Thu., Dec. 7, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Beth Wallis: Walters calls for eliminating 'woke' library standards from Oklahoma schools

State Superintendent Ryan Walters proposed new rules Wednesday to eliminate all references to long-held American Library Association guidelines in Oklahoma's Information Literacy Standards.

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

OPMX: Tulsa looks to combat homelessness with priority housing program

The city of Tulsa wants to get a priority housing program for unhoused people up and running.

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

Oklahoma Voice: Stitt, top lawmakers face off in court over legality of Oklahoma's tribal compact extensions

Attorneys for Gov. Kevin Stitt and legislative leaders on Thursday argued before the state's high court about who has the power to compact with tribal nations.

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

OPMX/Elizabeth Caldwell: After objections from Oklahoma governor, U.S. Senate panel approves Sara Hill for federal judgeship

Sara Hill, former attorney general for the Cherokee Nation, was approved by a U.S. Senate panel on Thursday as a nominee to serve as a federal judge in the Northern District of Oklahoma. Hill was selected by President Joe Biden.

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

Capitol Insider: Senate leader attempts to make state budget process more transparent

Senate President Pro Tempore Greg Treat has announced a plan to make the state's budget and appropriations process more transparent during the 2024 legislative session.

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

SIOK/Beth Wallis: Lawmaker accuses State Department of Education of immaturity, lack of transparency for refusing to release information

Rep. Mark McBride (R-Moore) claimed in a press release Friday numerous requests for information from state legislators have been ignored by the Oklahoma Department of Education.

Tue., Dec. 12, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: Tulsa school board selects Ebony Johnson as district's permanent superintendent

In a decision made under a microscope, the Tulsa Board of Education chose to keep its interim superintendent as a permanent hire, despite the state's top schools official calling for a national search.

Tue., Dec. 12, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: 16 candidates file to appear on Oklahoma's presidential primary ballot

Oklahoma will host its first Libertarian presidential primary election since the party was formally recognized in 2016.

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

Oklahoma Voice: Oklahoma Senate Democrats elect Julia Kirt to be next minority leader

Democrats in the state Senate have elected new leadership.

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

Capitol Insider: Stitt takes aim at DEI programs through executive order

Governor Kevin Stitt has signed a new executive order to limit diversity, equity and inclusion practices and programs at state agencies and higher education institutions.

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

OPMX/Graycen Wheeler: OKC arena vote receives strong support compared to past sales tax propositions

Nearly 58,000 people cast ballots in Oklahoma City's local election last week, and 71% of them voted for a penny sales tax to fund a new Thunder arena.

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

Oklahoma Watch: Outside groups spent \$2.3 million on Oklahoma elections in 2023

Politically involved nonprofits and committees without contribution limits spent \$2.3 million to influence Oklahoma voters in 2023, rivaling the \$2.95 million candidates put toward campaign expenses.

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

Oklahoma Voice: Oklahoma school districts report unusual delay in receiving federal money

Millions in federal funds are yet to be paid to Oklahoma school districts, who complained the state Department of Education has had significant delays in processing their claims.

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

SIOK/Beth Wallis: Lawmakers subpoena State Superintendent Ryan Walters after repeated information requests ignored
Oklahoma House Members issued a subpoena to State Superintendent Ryan Walters Tuesday after several requests for information and documents went ignored.

Thu., Dec. 21, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK: StateImpact Oklahoma reporters reflect on 2023 — from school choice to abortion

2023 is coming to a close, and it's been an eventful year for StateImpact Oklahoma's reporters. Managing editor Logan Layden talks with the team about highlights of this year and what to expect in 2024.

Fri., Dec. 22, 2023 ~ Feature, 6 minutes

Capitol Insider: Top Ten Oklahoma stories of 2023, Part 1

We close the year with the top ten Oklahoma stories of 2023, as reported and discussed each week on Capitol Insider. This segment, Part 1, looks at stories ten through six.

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

OPMX: State Superintendent Ryan Walters complies with legislative subpoena asking for documents

Oklahoma State Superintendent Ryan Walters responded to a subpoena from the state legislature on Tuesday.

Thu., Dec. 28, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt mulling new special session on tax cuts

Gov. Kevin Stitt says he is considering calling lawmakers into another special session on tax cuts early next year.

Fri., Dec. 29, 2023 ~ Feature, 6 minutes

Capitol Insider: Top Ten Oklahoma Stories of 2023, Pt. 2

We close out 2023 with our Capitol Insider Top Ten Oklahoma Stories of the year. This segment, Part 2, highlights stories five through one.

Race, Identity & Culture

Wed., Oct. 4, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: OSU Center for Health Sciences receives \$10 million to research Indigenous health disparities

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded \$10 million over five years to OSU's Center for Health Sciences to address Indigenous health disparities and advance equity.

Fri., Oct. 6, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Allison Herrera: Famed Oklahoma ballerina sisters are being memorialized in metal

The famed Tallchief ballerina sisters — Maria and Marjorie — are having a moment this month in Tulsa.

Wed., Oct. 11, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Oklahoma Watch/Long Story Short: Native American, Black and disabled students overrepresented in statistics for those receiving corporal punishment in OK schools

Oklahoma is one of 17 states that allows public school educators to hit their students. According to a new report by the Tulsa-based nonprofit Oklahoma Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, Native American, Black and disabled students are overrepresented in the number of children subjected to corporal punishment in Oklahoma's public schools

Tue., Oct. 24, 2023 ~ Feature, 13 minutes

How Curious: Why is OKC central to the Morgan horse world?

The Morgan Horse is the earliest surviving breed of American horse. But it's from Vermont. So why is it so important to Oklahoma?

Thu., Oct. 26, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

OPMX/Anna Pope: This Osage family's story has long been in the public eye. Here's how they're handling it being portrayed on the silver screen

Killers of the Flower Moon is already generating Oscar buzz. But in Oklahoma, the story behind it is deeply personal. Jim Gray, the former principal chief of the Osage Nation, and his family met with OPMX's Anna Pope to watch the film at the Circle Cinema in Tulsa for its public debut.

Fri., Oct. 27, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

Capitol Insider: Schools stymied in effort to change sex and gender records of students

The State Board of Education has ruled against two school districts complying with a court order to change sex and gender designation on records of certain students.

Tue., Nov. 7, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Tulsa Race Massacre survivors make final plea to Oklahoma Supreme Court

Attorneys representing the two remaining survivors of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre filed a final brief in their reparations case with the Oklahoma Supreme Court on Monday.

Thu., Nov. 16, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Allison Herrera: Muscogee Nation sues City of Tulsa, accusing it of violating McGirt precedent

The Muscogee Nation is suing the City of Tulsa, accusing the city of unlawfully prosecuting tribal citizens despite the McGirt v. Oklahoma ruling.

Thu., Nov. 30, 2023 ~ Feature, 9 minutes

SIOK/Beth Wallis: 'This is their story': Why a teacher in Osage County wants to teach Killers of the Flower Moon

The new Killers of the Flower Moon movie is sparking a conversation about Oklahoma's difficult history. But those conversations in schools are complicated by Oklahoma's law limiting lessons that make students feel uncomfortable about their race or sex.

Thu., Nov. 30, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: First Americans Museum will host a Winter Holiday Art Market in Oklahoma City

The holiday season is starting early at the First Americans Museum of Oklahoma with the annual Winter Holiday Art Market this weekend.

Thu., Dec. 7, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Robby Korth: Jimcy McGirt pleads guilty ahead of his second retrial

The man at the center of a U.S. Supreme Court decision that reshaped tribal sovereignty in Oklahoma has pleaded guilty to the crimes he was challenging and will soon be free.

Tue., Dec. 12, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

OPMX/Allison Herrera: Justin Hooper says all he wanted was to be tried in the proper court. Will Tulsa agree?

A Tulsa man finds himself at the center of a fight over tribal sovereignty in Oklahoma and beyond. Justin Hooper shares how his 2018 speeding ticket is continuing to impact law across Indian Country.

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

SIOK/Beth Wallis: Oklahoma governor targets DEI programs in 'anti-discrimination' executive order

Gov. Kevin Stitt signed an executive order Wednesday targeting diversity, equity and inclusion programs at state agencies and institutions of higher education.

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

Oklahoma Voice: Oklahoma's James Lankford seeks national designation for site of Tulsa Race Massacre

U.S. Sen. James Lankford on Thursday introduced bipartisan legislation to establish Tulsa's historic Greenwood District as a national monument.

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

SIOK/Beth Wallis: Oklahoma ACLU, partners say University of Oklahoma misinterpreted new DEI policy

The ACLU's Oklahoma chapter and other partners say the response from the University of Oklahoma to a recent executive order regarding diversity, equity and inclusion programs is overblown.

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

OPMX/Robby Korth: U.S. Senate approves Sara Hill as first Indigenous woman to serve on federal bench in Oklahoma

Cherokee Nation's former Attorney General Sara Hill will be the first Native American woman to serve as a federal judge in Oklahoma.

Fri., Dec. 29, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX: Protesters call on Tulsa congressman to support Gaza ceasefire

A group of protesters gathered outside the home of U.S. Representative Kevin Hern on Thursday to demand that Tulsa's congressman support a ceasefire in Gaza.

Religion

Thu., Nov. 2, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Jillian Taylor: Oklahoma doesn't mandate sex ed. Some churches are trying to fill the gaps

Some Oklahoma churches are providing comprehensive sex ed to fill gaps in a state that doesn't require it in schools.

Science & Technology

Thu., Oct. 5, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK/Beth Wallis: Butterflies are on the move, and Oklahomans are keeping track of them in monarch conservation effort

It is peak migration season for Monarch butterflies in Oklahoma. Scientists and citizens are getting involved in monarch butterfly conservation.

Wed., Oct. 18, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Anna Pope: Public comment for EPA's herbicide strategy is ending

Oklahoma producers have until Sunday to submit comments on the Environmental Protection Agency's Draft Herbicide Strategy.

Tue., Oct. 31, 2023 ~ Feature, 13 minutes

How Curious: What ghostly goings-on take place at Kendall's Restaurant? (Encore)

Kendall's Restaurant in downtown Noble, Okla., is famous for chicken-fried steaks, cinnamon rolls, and GHOSTS. Rachel Hopkin explores some strange goings-on under its roof.

Thu., Nov. 9, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Britny Cordera: Choctaw Nation receives \$2 million in federal grants for climate pollution reduction

The Choctaw Nation will soon start climate pollution reduction projects with grants from the EPA. The nation wants to focus on sustainability and stewarding a healthier environment in Southeast Oklahoma.

Thu., Nov. 16, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Anna Pope: Avian influenza is on the rise. Here's what Oklahoma State University researchers advise

Deadly avian influenza in backyard flocks is being reported across Oklahoma, and researchers say flock owners should remain on high alert.

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

SIOK/Britny Cordera: Climate scientists need collaboration with tribal communities for solutions, OU study shows

A new study led by researchers at the University of Oklahoma shows that Native Americans face flooding risks more than the general population in the state. Collaboration between Indigenous peoples and scientists could help protect frontline communities.

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

OPMX/Graycen Wheeler: Why Oklahoma City's drinking water may smell, taste different

Oklahoma City's Hefner Water Treatment Plant uses ozone to disinfect drinking water. Ozone is a chemical made of three oxygen atoms. It kills bacteria and viruses, and it makes metal contaminants easier to remove.

Thu., Dec. 14, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Anna Pope: Oklahoma Conservation Commission starts new soil health program

The Oklahoma Conservation Commission is working to improve soil health around the state.

Sports

Thu., Dec. 7, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Robby Korth: Oklahoma City voters set to decide fate of new NBA arena

Voting continues Tuesday in an election to determine the fate of Oklahoma City's NBA arena, as well as a pair of legislative seats up for election in Lawton and Edmond.

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

KGOU/Logan Layden: Oklahoma City voters resoundingly approve new \$900M NBA arena

OKC voters overwhelmingly threw their support behind the new facility and approved a new home for the Oklahoma City Thunder in the coming years. The margin of victory was wide, with 71% of voters throwing their support behind the proposition.

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

OPMX/Robby Korth: Oklahoma City's minor league baseball team is re-branding

Goodbye Dodgers, hello Oklahoma City Baseball Club.

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

Oklahoma Voice: New Oklahoma sports betting bill faces pushback over lack of exclusive tribal gaming rights

A state senator has filed legislation to legalize sports betting in a way that closely aligns with the governor's vision for expanding gaming across the state.

Tourism

Tue., Oct. 31, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Britny Cordera: Oklahoma state parks need nearly \$350 million in maintenance and repairs, according to study

The Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department predicts \$350 million is needed to repair capital infrastructure to state parks, according to a recent study.

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

SIOK/Britny Cordera: Development company updates Norman on proposed \$1 billion entertainment district

Development company University North Park LLC seeks to build a \$1 billion entertainment district in Norman.

Transportation

Tue., Oct. 3, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Graycen Wheeler: ODOT approves plans for \$9 billion in road and bridge improvements by 2031

The Oklahoma Transportation Commission approved both a four-year asset protection plan and an eight-year construction plan to maintain and improve the state's roads and bridges.

Tue., Nov. 7, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: Officials seek feedback on plan to make Oklahoma streets more friendly for cyclists, walkers

State officials are finalizing transportation plans aimed at making communities more friendly to cyclists and pedestrians.

Fri., Nov. 10, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Graycen Wheeler: Officials say they're optimistic Kansas-Oklahoma rail route is on track for federal funding

Kansas and Oklahoma are eyeing an extension of the Heartland Flyer rail route that would connect Oklahoma City to Newton, Kansas.

Thu., Nov. 16, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

KGOU/Nyk Daniels: Iconic Oklahoma Route 66 landmark to receive upgrades

An Oklahoma Route 66 landmark is about to undergo a renovation thanks to a grant from the National Park Service's Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program.

Tue., Nov. 21, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority goes back to drawing board as work resumes on \$5B ACCESS plan

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority is rethinking its \$5 billion turnpike expansion and improvement plans now that two lawsuits have been settled.

Wed., Nov. 22, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Britny Cordera: Oklahoma City's first parking-protected bike lanes under construction

Construction has started on Oklahoma City's first parking-protected bike lane. The lane will be built in northeast Oklahoma City on Lottie Avenue from NE 13th Street to NE 23rd Street.

Tue., Nov. 28, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: Unpaid tolls prevent thousands of Oklahomans from renewing vehicle registrations

State lawmakers have long allowed the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority to place a hold on vehicle registrations in an effort to help collect unpaid tolls, but the number of holds could increase as the agency continues to transition to a cashless tolling system on all turnpikes.

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

KGOU/Hannah France: Going back to its routes: Oklahoma City revitalizes public transportation with new bus line

Reliable public transportation is a key feature of many major American cities. As Oklahoma City continues to grow, its public transit is working to keep pace.

Tue., Dec. 12, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Graycen Wheeler: Proposed Amtrak route between Oklahoma City and central Kansas selected for federal funding

All aboard the gravy train. A proposed Amtrak route connecting Oklahoma City to central Kansas by train has been selected to receive federal funding.

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

SIOK/Britny Cordera: Federal grant awarded to Oklahoma for accessible rural transportation

The Biden-Harris administration is awarding a grant to rural and tribal communities in Oklahoma for transportation needs. The money could help people with disabilities and seniors get to where they need to be.

Thu., Dec. 14, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Graycen Wheeler: Oklahoma awards American Airlines \$22 million to expand operations in Tulsa

The state of Oklahoma is giving American Airlines \$22 million dollars to expand its operations in Tulsa.

Thu., Dec. 14, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

Oklahoma Voice: Oklahoma turnpike board greenlights first ACCESS turnpike expansion project

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority's oversight board gave the green light to the first project that will be built as part of the agency's planned 15-year, \$5 billion toll road expansion and improvement effort, earlier this week.

Fri., Dec. 29, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

KGOU: EMBARK announces New Year's public transit, parking options in downtown Oklahoma City

EMBARK is reminding residents and visitors of special extended hours for public transit services, as well as downtown public parking options for the New Year's holiday.

Weather and Climate

Thu., Nov. 2, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Anna Pope: Extreme weather spurred high insurance payments for Oklahoma farmers

In the past 21 years, about \$2.1 billion in drought insurance payments went to Oklahoma farmers, according to a new study from the Environmental Working Group.

Wed., Nov. 15, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

OPMX/Graycen Wheeler: What the new National Climate Assessment says is in store for Oklahoma

Every four years, the U.S. Global Change Research Program must deliver a report to Congress summarizing what scientific data are saying about climate change.

Tue., Nov. 28, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

SIOK/Britny Cordera: Oklahoma City conducting survey on heat perception

The office of sustainability for the City of Oklahoma City is conducting a short survey on heat perception. The survey is continuing research for OKC's urban heat island campaign.

Thu., Dec. 7, 2023 ~ Feature, 5 minutes

SIOK/Britny Cordera: Tulsans regrow urban tree canopy after summer's severe weather

Severe weather damaged thousands of trees in the Tulsa area earlier this year. A million cubic yards of green waste was collected, and many trees were bent or broken. The community in Tulsa is coming together to regrow the city's urban tree canopy.

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

OPMX/Anna Pope: Unpredictable weather made 2023 tough for farmers as they look toward a wetter 2024

Oklahoma farmers are looking forward to a new year after much weather variability, and many in the agriculture industry are hoping for the wetter conditions El Niño typically brings.

Fri., Dec. 29, 2023 ~ Newscast, 1 minute

KGOU/Nyk Daniels: Oklahoma sees continued drought improvement as 2023 comes to a close

The final drought map of 2023 has been released and Oklahoma is wrapping up the year on a positive note.

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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, Oklahoma Voice, & 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
Jan. 9, 2024