Friday, April 17, 2020 Local Briefing Notes

Locally

Cherokee County continues to have only one active case at this time.

Cherokee County Director of Economic Development provided information regarding the "Save Small Business Fund," an initiative of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, this morning. She said $5,000.00 grants are available to businesses who employ 3 to 20 people in an economically vulnerable community (and Cherokee County towns qualify), who have been impacted financially by the COVID-19 pandemic. Information regarding the grants can be found at https://savesmallbusiness.com

Cherokee County Health Department Administrator Betha Elliott and other health department administrators from the region have formed a Tri-State COVID-19 Coalition, consisting of administrators from Southeast Kansas, Southwest Missouri and Northeast Oklahoma. The group is able to communicate about strategies for keeping those in our communities safe. Some issues already discussed include PPE, long-term care facilities and proper sanitization of critical infrastructure facilities.

In addition, Betha has been in regular contact with our local health care and long-term providers.

Statewide

Yesterday, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment reported 1,588 positive cases, 359 hospitalizations, 80 deaths and 14,534 negative tests. Today they are reporting 1,705 positive cases, 375 hospitalizations, 84 deaths and 15,196 negative tests.

During our 1:00 p.m. conference   all, the Department of Labor reported they will begin the gating system for unemployment applicants. I will attach a copy of the gating schedule to this email. Also, they continue to hire additional call takers to help with the influx of phone calls.

We plan another statewide call tomorrow at 1:00, but they do not intend on having one Sunday unless a need arises.

Below is our local daily update.

I hope you all have a safe and uneventful weekend.

As always, if there is anything I can do, please let me know.

Thanks,
Sheriff David Groves