Fact vs. fiction

Ardmore police dispel COVID-19 rumors circulating across southern Oklahoma

By Sierra Rains
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Rumors about essential paperwork to allow travel outside the home have been spreading fast across southern Oklahoma. However, authorities want the public to know these statements are false.

Ardmore Police Department Cpt. Claude Henry said the City of Ardmore is not issuing permits for individuals to be outside of their homes and the police department will not be pulling people over to ask for permits.

“We just want to dispel the rumor that essential paperwork is needed to commute during the stay in place resolution,” Henry said. “The Ardmore Police Department is not going to be stopping citizens and requesting any type of essential paperwork.”

See RUMORS, A3

First-time jobless claims top 51K last week

Oklahoma Employment Security Commission phone systems overwhelmed by call volume

By Michael Smith
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Initial unemployment claims last week again broke a record in Oklahoma, prompting state officials to hold a virtual town hall event on Friday afternoon.

First-time unemployment benefit requests in the state reached 11,994 for the week ending April 4, according to unadjusted numbers from the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission on Thursday.

The total is 4,400 more claims than the previous record of 7,594 set the week before and follows an historic nationwide trend over the past three weeks. The OKC virtual town hall scheduled for 1 p.m. today is expected to help about 50,000 Oklahoma claimants with the filing process.

“Oklahomans are seeking relief for their families in the wake of the direct and indirect effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. On top of fear of the virus, they may be worried about their financial security. This stress can then be easily intensified by the social distancing measures requiring people to stay in their homes,” Cpt. Claude Henry, Ardmore Police Department Cpt.

Counselor Kristi Crutchfield-Cox, MED, MS, LPC said one of the most important things families can do is to help deal with the stress of the situation combined with the home, Crutchfield-Cox said. “Consulting their feelings in a safe environment, being open to how to apply the guidance amongst themselves and all household members on what everyone can feel they have a voice in discussing their feelings in the home,” Crutchfield-Cox said. “We also have to accept that the time-line of when we get to get out and see other people is not going to be within the next few months — and we’ve got to get real with that,” she said.

She said one of the other major problems people are facing is the lack of clear information about the situation combined with social media rumors and the over consumption of media.

“I’ve been hearing that people are confused by the information they’ve been given, and they don’t completely understand how to apply the guidance,” Crutchfield-Cox said.

See REALITY, A5

Accepting a new reality

Coping with social distancing and staying at home

By Drew Butler
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