



3 lingering questions following loss at Texas Tech

SPORTS, 1B

Shawnee County to settle lawsuit

Keishera Lately
Topeka Capital-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Shawnee County commissioners Aaron Mays, Kevin Cook and Bill Riphahn Oct. 13 approved to pay \$500,000 to settle a lawsuit filed against them.

The litigation stems from the death of Matthew Oliva, who was incarcerated at the Shawnee County Jail.

Relatives of Matthew Oliva filed the suit against various defendants, primarily Shawnee County and Armor Health, the county’s contracted health provider. The plaintiffs allege inadequate medical care at the county corrections department resulted in Oliva’s death on Nov. 17, 2023, said a Shawnee County Counselor’s office memorandum document.

Oliva’s relatives allege he received ineffective medical and mental health

care at the jail, which helped bring about his death from complications of a left lower leg infection, The Capital-Journal previously reported.

Shawnee County commissioners didn’t discuss the lawsuit but approved it through the consent agenda.

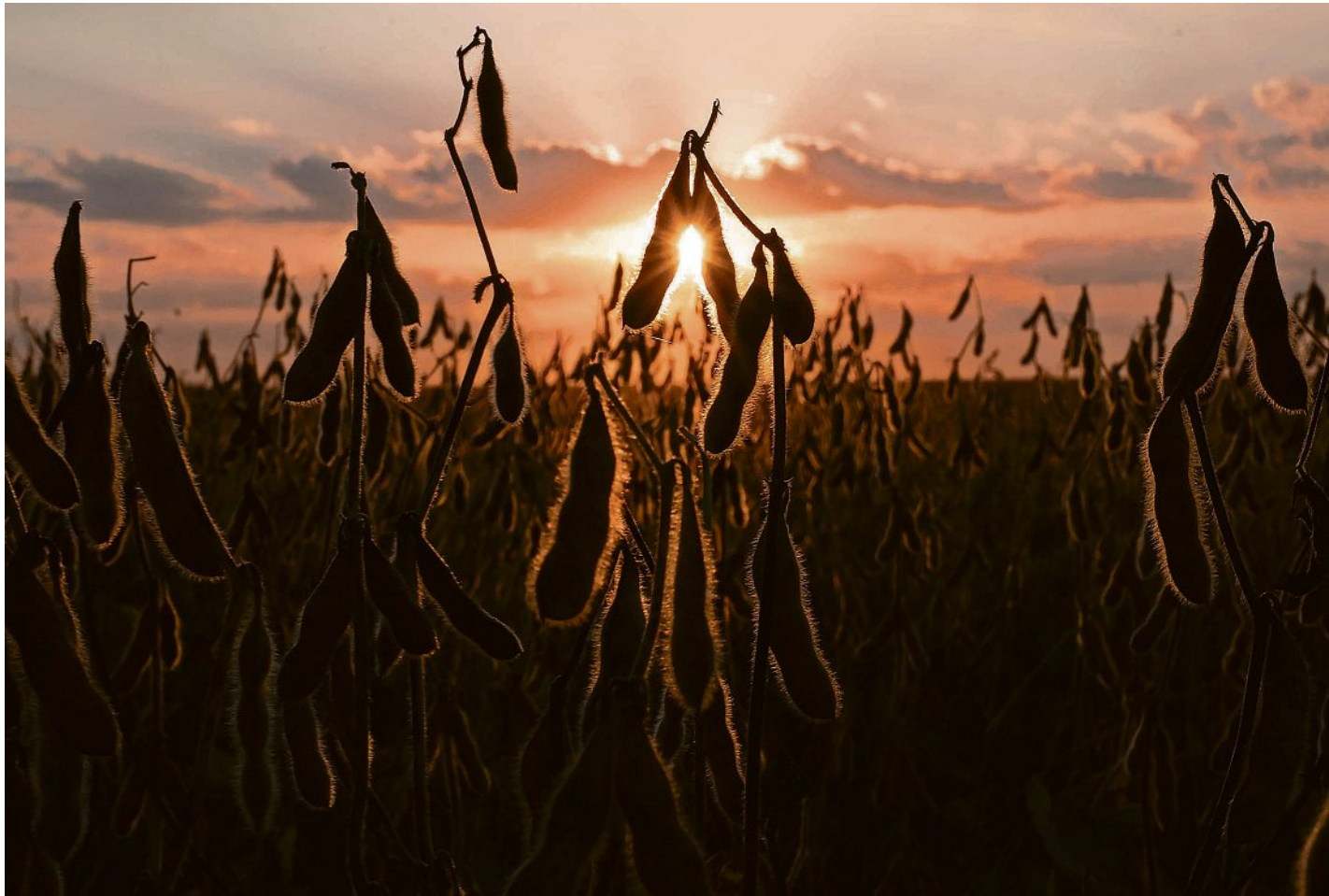
What did the suit allege?

The lawsuit alleges negligence and the violation of Oliva’s constitutional

rights.

It was filed by Jan Branson, his mother, surviving heir-at-law and special administrator of his estate, on behalf of herself; Oliva’s father, James Oliva; and Oliva’s brother, Bradford Oliva.

Oliva, 35, died Nov. 17, 2023, at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, Kansas, after being held in the Shawnee County Jail from Oct. 22 to Nov. 5, 2023, according to the lawsuit complaint.



Soybeans — glowing in the setting sun in a field off SE Paulen Road in Shawnee County on Oct. 9 — are the fourth most sold agricultural product from the state. EVERT NELSON/TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL

Soybean farmers are reeling

China stops buying Kansas staple crop during trade war

Jack Harvel
Topeka Capital-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Kansas soybean farmers are in the middle of harvest season, but with China boycotting American soybeans, farmers are struggling to find a market for their staple crop.

Soybeans are the fourth most sold agricultural product from the state, with

Kansas farmers producing \$1.4 billion worth of soybeans in 2024. The state produced the 11th highest amount of soybeans in the country, at 154.7 million bushels in the same year.

But with a major buyer out of the market, prices have dipped.

Kansas Soybean Association director of field services Dennis Hupe said for the past couple of years, about 60% of Kansas crops have been exported — and about half of that was to China.

“If you shut that market off, and there’s not enough market left in the rest of the world for the beans that the American farmers are producing,” Hupe

said.

Where is China buying from?

China turned to South American markets after pausing imports from the United States.

Brazil is expected to ship more soybeans this year than it did in total in 2024 and 2023, according to Reuters. On Sept. 23, China bought a quarter of Argentina’s soybean crop, after the nation suspended its export taxes on the purchase.

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College town named most peaceful

Site chosen was site of massacre in 1863

Tim Hrenchir
Topeka Capital-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

A city with a violent past is now considered the most peaceful place in Kansas by users of the travel website TripAdvisor.

The northeast Kansas community of Lawrence was the Sunflower State’s representative on a list the travel website thetravel.com published this past summer identifying the most peaceful sites in each state.

“Whether you fancy the midnight-lit stillness of a shimmering lake, the distant calls of wildlife in an untouched wilderness, or the calming experience of strolling through a beautiful downtown, these places transport you to a meditative state and offer more than just stunning scenery,” the article said. “According to travelers on TripAdvisor, these are the most peaceful places in every U.S. state.”

What makes Lawrence so peaceful?

Lawrence, which the U.S. census showed had a population of about 95,000 in 2020, “is a beautiful college town in Kansas, between the Kansas


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