



OU football offensive line coach Bedenbaugh is a changed man

SPORTS, 1B

THE OKLAHOMAN

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2025 | OKLAHOMAN.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Another attorney vacates board job

Board of Education power struggle cited

Murray Evans
The Oklahoman
USA TODAY NETWORK

For the second time in less than a year, the Oklahoma State Board of Education chaired by state schools Superintendent Ryan Walters needs a new attorney.

A Tulsa-based law firm withdrew from serving as the board's general counsel on Tuesday, Aug. 12, citing ongoing conflict between four new members of the board and Walters over who has the ultimate decision-making power on major education issues.

The law firm, Norman Wohlgemuth, had represented the board since October, after Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond withdrew his approval of Cara Nicklas of Edmond, the board's previous attorney. Such approval is necessary for private attorney to represent a public agency.

One of Norman Wohlgemuth's attorneys, Chad Kutmas, had primarily served in the role since that time. But it became clear during public meetings that Kutmas and four new board members appointed by Gov. Kevin Stitt did

See ATTORNEY, Page 2A

Dogs cause 'ongoing problem'

Courthouse lawns suffer from canine nature's call

Richard Mize
The Oklahoman
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Oklahoma County Courthouse has a wee problem.

It's a case of lawn and order.

So many people let their dogs answer nature's call in the courthouse courtyards that it makes it hard to maintain the grass. The main lawn, at the northwest corner of Park and Harvey avenues, is directly across from pet-friendly Park Harvey Apartments, on the northeast corner at 200 N. Harvey.

It fell to the county Public Improvements and Infrastructure Committee to deal with it.

"This has been an ongoing problem. They come across the street because that's the closest real grass. It kills our grass," Chris Ponder, deputy director of facilities management, told the committee at its meeting Monday, Aug. 11.

Ponder said his department was looking for guidelines "because it's been back and forth between the sheriff, the deputies, and the occupants."

He wasn't suggesting the county use a particularly heavy hand on the offending pets and their owners.

See COUNTY DOGS, Page 3A



A WELCOME SIGHT



Top: Students are greeted Aug. 13 as they arrive for the first day of school at Thelma Parks Elementary School in the Oklahoma City district. PHOTOS BY DOUG HOKE/THE OKLAHOMAN

Above: Students wait on a bench for school to start at Thelma Parks Elementary School.

Census data: Immigrant population drops by 2M

Lauren Villagran
USA TODAY

The country's immigrant population may have dropped by roughly 2 million people in the first six months of the year, according to new government data.

The data offer an early – if imperfect – signal that President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown may already be showing an impact.

Steven Camarota, director of re-

search at the right-leaning Center for Immigration Studies said the estimated decline of 2.2 million foreign-born people in the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey was the largest such drop in a single year in three decades.

Either "something has fundamentally changed in America, or the response rate has dramatically changed," he said.

Demographers say it might be both – but either way, the new data has significant limits.

The census surveys 60,000 house-

holds every month for the Current Population Survey, which tracks fluctuations in population. That compares to the less frequent, but more reliable, American Community Survey, which is underpinned by interviews with 2 million households.

Because it's smaller, the population survey may occasionally overstate, or understate, population shifts, and demographers say it could be years before

See IMMIGRANTS, Page 3A

