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THE OKLAHOMAN

MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2026 | OKLAHOMAN.COM

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Agency: OKC must act to stem congestion

ONE Transit working on plan to present to voters

Jeff Elkins
The Oklahoman
USA TODAY NETWORK

Central Oklahoma has a limited window to get ahead of the region’s growth before congestion becomes significantly more pronounced and expensive to solve, according to ONE Transit leadership.

The agency supports that statement with data from the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments’ Encompass 2045 long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan, which projects that daily vehicle miles traveled in the region will increase from 34.2 million to 46.5 million by 2045.

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ONE Transit Board Chairman Brad Henry speaks during an agency meeting Aug. 19.
JEFF ELKINS/THE OKLAHOMAN

ANALYSIS

Trump short on foreign policy wins

Heads into midterms as Iran, more unresolved

Humeyra Pamuk, Andrea Shalal and Steve Holland
REUTERS

WASHINGTON — With the Iran war now at a costly standoff and crises from Ukraine to Gaza still unresolved, President Donald Trump’s ambitious foreign policy agenda appears stuck as he heads into November’s midterm elections.

The setbacks are striking for a president who returned to office last year promising to be a “peacemaker” and made resolving international conflicts a centerpiece of his second-term agenda.

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NO CLEAR-CUT FUTURE

Rising beef prices force local butcher to pause

Steve Lackmeyer
The Oklahoman | USA TODAY NETWORK

Cusack Meats, one of Oklahoma City’s oldest butcher shops, joins a growing list of businesses hit by rising beef prices and shrinking cattle herds.

The family-owned business, which provided meat packing and custom cuts of beef, was started 93 years ago by Bill Cusack and has operated at 301 SW 12 since 1948.

Al Cusack, who runs the shop with his family, told The Oklahoman the business is just on “pause” — something not mentioned in his Facebook post that reported the operation was concluded Aug. 13. Whether that pause is just that, or ends up being permanent, could significantly alter a neighborhood already vastly different than it was when Cusack Meats first opened.

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Cusack Meats is pictured near Scissortail Park in Oklahoma City on Aug. 18. PHOTOS BY NATHAN J. FISH/THE OKLAHOMAN

TOP: Al Cusack and brother Donnie Cusack stand in front of the Cusack Meats butcher shop building in Oklahoma City on Aug. 21.

Homeowner awaits OG&E response on wildfire damage as deadline looms



Thousands of trees were destroyed by a 2024 wildfire that damaged more than 18 acres of Robert Beckham’s land in Chandler. PROVIDED BY ROBERT BECKHAM

Jeff Elkins
The Oklahoman
USA TODAY NETWORK

Nearly 11 months after filing a damage claim with Oklahoma Gas & Electric for a wildfire that destroyed more than 2,200 trees on his property, Chandler area resident Robert Beckham still doesn’t know if the utility company accepts responsibility or what damage it’s willing to pay for.

As of Aug. 13, OG&E has neither denied the claim nor made a settlement offer after Beckham said the utility con-

ducted its own on-site inspection in June and has received documentation from Beckham’s independent arborist.

OG&E declined to provide specifics about the claim to The Oklahoman because it said the claim is ongoing and unresolved, but did say these claims can often take years to resolve, depending on the complexity of the situation.

Beckham’s situation brings forth questions about what happens when a wildfire is allegedly started by power lines, and what the practices are for

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