

No. 8 OU to host No. 9 Alabama  
in first round of College  
Football Playoff **SPORTS, PAGE B1**

Education notebook: \$17 million  
donation, enrollment assistance  
and pitch nights **NEWS, PAGE A4**



Berry Tramel: Sooners should  
embrace rematch with Bama, for  
more than just playoff **SPORTS, PAGE B1**

Tips for ensuring your canine  
companions stay cozy and safe during  
cold days this winter **ADVICE, PAGE A3**

Monday, December 8, 2025

WHERE **YOUR STORY** LIVES

tulsaworld.com

MONDAY MORNING REWIND

# FUTURE EDUCATORS



STEPHEN PINGRY, TULSA WORLD

Liam Hart leads the start of Danny Cole's band class at the Union 6th and 7th Grade Center. Hart is a participant in Union High School's Future Educators program.

## Former National Teacher of the Year growing next generation of teachers

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Liam Hart stands before 38 beginning trombone players, fielding requests for trips to the bathroom amid incessant talking and the shuffle of a few students not yet seated and looking at sheet music like they should be.

"Concert B-flat mini scale. Don't play the arpeggio — just the mini scale," says Hart, as on-task students begin buzzing into their brass mouthpieces. "Shhhh! Too much chatter!"

The challenge for anyone in Hart's position would be wrangling 38 sixth- and seventh-graders.

But the greater challenge for Hart is that he has just begun learning the difference between classroom management as a concept in Union High School's Future

Educators program and applying those strategies in a band class where he was a student a mere five years ago.

With Oklahoma public schools consistently operating short of at least 5,000 certified teachers, one leader at the Tulsa-based school district is spearheading a new grow-your-own effort, and nearly 40 high school seniors are already enrolled.

"When I was a new teacher, one of my mentors told me: 'You don't sit at your desk waiting for kids to come to you. You have to go to them.' This is just like that — with the teacher shortage," said Union Public Schools Teacher Leadership Specialist and 2023 National Teacher of the Year Rebecka Peterson. "The idea is to grow Union teachers from students who already know and love our culture."

— Andrea Eger

### Jenks star running back KD Jones flips from Kansas to OSU

KD Jones always knew where he was headed to play college football.

Multiple high-level schools reached out to the Jenks running back when he decommitted from Oklahoma State following Mike Gundy's termination. There were many scholarship offers and his journey could have gone in many different directions.

But, on Dec. 3, his recruitment completed a full circle when he signed with OSU.

Please see **REWIND**, Page A4

### 5 THINGS TO KNOW

## State takes swing at McGirt again

ANNA CODUTTI  
Tulsa World

1. The state of Oklahoma is pushing back against a Muscogee Nation citizen's legal fight to be considered exempt from state income tax under the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark McGirt v. Oklahoma decision. Alicia Strobble's request was initially rejected by the Oklahoma Tax Commission. A state administrative law judge overturned the denial, only to be overturned again by the Oklahoma Tax Commission. The Oklahoma Supreme Court then ruled against Strobble's appeal, prompting her to request the U.S. Supreme Court review the ruling. The state says the McGirt ruling should be revisited if the U.S. Supreme Court agrees to review Strobble's case.

2. The state, in its argument to the U.S. Supreme Court filed last week, warned that the loss of millions in revenue — if tribal citizens were exempt from state income tax — could result in the state denying services to tribal citizens. The state estimated that a refund order of state income taxes would cost at least \$200 million. The Oklahoma Tax Commission anticipated such a reality in a report issued just three months after the McGirt ruling, when the agency noted one solution would be for the state negotiate and enter into "compacts with the tribes for collection and apportionment of various tax types."

3. Strobble — who works for the Muscogee Nation and lives on unrestricted, non-trust, private fee land within the reservation — argues the McGirt ruling extends beyond jurisdiction on major crimes within tribal reservations. Long-standing case law holds that income earned by tribal citizens from tribal sources while living on tribal land is exempt from state taxes. At issue in the Strobble case was whether the Muscogee Reservation, as defined in McGirt, constitutes tribal land. As an attorney for the Muscogee Nation argued before the Oklahoma Supreme Court: "Once you have a reservation, various principles flow from that," and Strobble's residence falls within the historical boundaries of the reservation recognized by McGirt.

Please see **MCGIRT**, Page A4

# Netanyahu: Ceasefire's second phase near

MELANIE LIDMAN AND KIRSTEN GRIESHABER  
Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that Israel and Hamas are "very shortly expected to move into the second phase of the ceasefire," after Hamas returns the remains of the last hostage held in Gaza.

Netanyahu spoke during a news conference with visiting German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and stressed that the second phase, the disarming of Hamas and the demilitarization of Gaza, could begin as soon as the end of the month.

Hamas has yet to hand over the remains of Ran Gvili, a 24-year-old police officer who was killed in the Hamas-led Oct. 7, 2023, attack that sparked the war. His body was taken to Gaza.

The ceasefire's second stage also includes the deployment of an international force to secure Gaza and the formation a

temporary Palestinian government to run day-to-day affairs under the supervision of an international board led by U.S. President Donald Trump.

The return of Gvili's remains — and Israel's return of 15 bodies of Palestinians in exchange — would complete the first phase of Trump's 20-point ceasefire plan.

Hamas says it has not been able to reach all remains because they are buried under rubble left by Israel's two-year offensive in Gaza. Israel accused the militants of stalling and threatened to resume military operations or withhold humanitarian aid if all remains are not returned.

A group of families of hostages said in a statement that "we cannot advance to the next phase before Ran Gvili returns home."

Netanyahu said few people believed the ceasefire's first stage could be achieved,

Please see **MIDEAST**, Page A2



ARIEL SCHALIT, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks to the media during a joint press conference with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz on Sunday in Jerusalem.



### Lottery

For the latest lottery numbers, point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link.

### Weather

Mostly cloudy. Clear tonight  
**High 47 • Low 35**  
**FORECAST • A2**

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