

Berry Tramel: Thunder seems incapable of anger, but can OKC get even vs. Spurs? **SPORTS, PAGE B1**

Bill Haisten: For TU men’s basketball, an impactful crowd and a nine-game win streak **SPORTS, PAGE B1**



Atypical special teams struggles played a key role in OU’s collapse vs. Alabama **SPORTS, PAGE B1**

Poll: Americans more likely to prioritize health care than they were last year. **NEWS, PAGE A3**

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POULTRY POLLUTION LAWSUIT

Stitt criticizes judgment, seeks stay

CURTIS KILLMAN
Tulsa World

Gov. Kevin Stitt on Monday criticized a judgment issued in the state’s long-running fight against poultry waste pollution in the Illinois River watershed and called on the attorney general to seek a stay in the lawsuit. Stitt claimed the judgment, which requires cleanup of the watershed by companies like Tyson Foods and others, plus 30 years of monitoring by a special master, will cause “severe consequences,”

if not paused. “These families did everything the right way,” Stitt said in a news release. “They got the permit, followed the rules and they’re still getting sued.” But the federal judge who authored the judgment disputed the impact his ruling would have on the small farms in the watershed, whose owners grow the birds for the poultry companies and were not parties to the lawsuit brought by the Oklahoma Attorney General’s Office.

“Enforcement of the claims on which the State has prevailed ... strikes a balance between the business interests of the poultry industry, but also the interests of the public in enforcement of the laws protective of the environment, specifically: statutory public nuisance, federal common law nuisance, trespass” and state anti-pollution laws. U.S. District Judge Gregory Frizzell on Friday issued a judgment finalizing a decades-old lawsuit brought originally by

former Attorney Gen. Drew Edmondson against poultry companies operating in the Illinois River’s 1 million-acre watershed. The judgment reiterated a report Frizzell issued in 2023 that laid blame for pollution in the watershed largely on the poultry industry through the use of poultry waste as crop fertilizer, which over the years has caused a buildup of phosphorus in the waters of the drainage basin.

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SHE BREWS COFFEE ROASTERS

FULL OF LOVE AND KINDNESS



MIKE SIMONS, TULSA WORLD

Michael R. Thomas paints on Monday at She Brews Coffee Roasters. Through Wednesday, proceeds from the sales of his artwork will go to the shop that employs formerly incarcerated women.

Tulsan using art to give back to nonprofit coffeehouse where he found belonging

ANDREA EGER
Tulsa World

As its name implies, She Brews Coffee Roasters is a nonprofit dedicated to helping women. But one local man who found so much more than coffee in She Brews’ welcoming community decided to do something to give back this holiday season. Through noon on Wednesday, when the shop shuts down early for the Christmas holiday, Michael R. Thomas and two tables covered with his brightly colored canvases are the first things you’ll see when you walk into the Tulsa location at 1 N. Lewis Ave. All the proceeds from his sales go directly to She Brews. “There are no prices. They cost whatever people want to pay,” said Thomas. “The idea is based on the biblical principle of the poor widow who gave her

last two coins. It’s not about the money — it’s about someone getting art that inspires them in order to help these women and their children.” She Brews provides transitional housing, job training and support for women emerging from incarceration or rehab, helping them reunite with their children and rebuild their lives. Founder Rhonda Bear came to know Thomas when he became a mainstay of the Kendall-Whittier neighborhood coffeehouse over the last few years. “There is rarely a day that we’re open when Michael isn’t there,” Bear said. “Some people just need a place to belong. The coffee shop would not be the same without Michael there.” The navy veteran is in recovery himself, and he began making the trek to She Brews from his home near downtown

every day because “it gets me out of the house so I don’t get depressed.” He doesn’t have much to give, but he does have some basic art skills he said he picked up from a teacher when he was 14 years old in an Indian boarding school in Tahlequah. Thomas painted Bear, and then started offering to paint portraits of some of the She Brews baristas and their children. “They’ve been through a lot,” said Thomas. “And I’m still learning how to do art. I’m always trying to improve my skills.” He should know. Thomas readily shares that he has been homeless six times in his 57 years, and by some good fortune has never been incarcerated — only in jail.

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IMMIGRATION

Garcia free for now, says federal judge

GARY FIELDS AND TRAVIS LOLLER
Associated Press

GREENBELT, Md. — A federal judge on Monday questioned whether government officials could be trusted to follow orders barring them from taking Kilmar Abrego Garcia into immigration custody or deporting him. U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis noted that Abrego Garcia was already deported without legal authority once and said she was “growing beyond impatient” with government misrepresentations in her court. “Why should I give the respondents the benefit of the doubt?” she asked, referring to the government attorneys. Abrego Garcia’s wrongful deportation and imprisonment in El Salvador in March has galvanized both sides of the immigration debate. The Trump administration initially fought efforts to bring him back to the U.S. but eventually complied after the U.S. Supreme Court weighed in. He returned to the U.S. in June, only to face an arrest warrant on human smuggling charges in Tennessee.

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Lawmakers propose end to diaper tax

STEVE METZER
Tulsa World

OKLAHOMA CITY — The state may be due for a change in its tax policy on diapers. At least two lawmakers have shown interest in relieving Oklahomans of the responsibility of paying sales taxes on diaper purchases, which, according to the National Diaper Bank Network, can set parents back anywhere from \$80 to more than \$100 a month on average. About half of parents of babies report that they struggle to cover the costs of diapers. “Families are telling us they’re being squeezed by rising costs, and diapers are one expense parents cannot avoid,” said Rep. Emily Gise, R-Oklahoma City, who authored House Bill 2935 proposing to dump the diaper tax.

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

Weather
Sunshine, partly cloudy
High 74 • Low 62
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