

TODAY'S  
WEATHER

72° / 49°

Partly sunny · 10% rain

# The Oklahoma State Capital

Reporting from Oklahoma's First and Best Capital City

YESTERDAY

0.00"

of rain at the Guthrie  
MesonetAn interactive edition: every headline marked [↗](#) is a link. Tap it to read the whole story at [oklahomastatecapital.com](http://oklahomastatecapital.com).

## THE MORNING REPORT

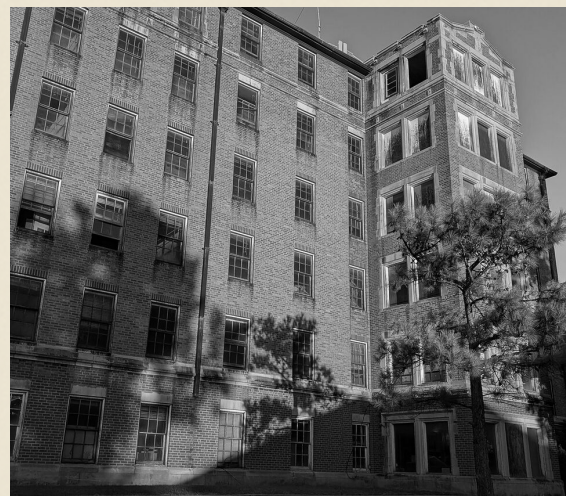
## Partly sunny and 72 Degrees in the First Capital

The morning's news from Guthrie, Logan County and Edmond, gathered for Monday by The Morning Capital

By THE MORNING CAPITAL STAFF

**G**UTHRIE, Okla. — Good morning, First Capital, and happy Monday. This morning we report that Robert Franklin's teaching role at OU is raising questions about the university's political-candidacy policy. Crews from several departments were called to a house fire in the 11600 block of South Coyle Road, and

responders were sent to a crash on southbound I-35 near mile marker 154 that damaged a guardrail and blocked a lane. Satellites detected heat at three spots in Logan County over the weekend, near Orlando, Arcadia and Guthrie, and Coyle's Board of Trustees holds a special meeting at 7 p.m.



THE OKLAHOMA STATE CAPITAL

PHOTO OF THE DAY. GUTHRIE, Okla. — (October 18, 2026) The Sunday morning sunrise highlights broken and open windows in the county's six-story annex building. During the preceding night Guthrie police and Logan County sheriff's deputies detained four individuals who had entered the structure. The iconic county building is used to store government records and other materials. [More photographs ↗](#)

## INSIDE

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Robert Franklin's OU Teaching Role... | 2 |
| First Capital Forecast                | 1 |
| Your Morning Commute                  | 1 |
| Logan County Public Safety Radio      | 1 |
| Your Government Meets Today           | 2 |
| On This Day                           | 2 |

FIRST CAPITAL FORECAST [↗](#)

Monday: Partly sunny, high 72, low 49. No rain expected. Sunrise 7:40 a.m., sunset 6:48 p.m.

*"A textbook October Monday in the First Capital: right on normal, partly sunny and easy on everybody. Good day to take lunch outside, Guthrie."*

📶 **Mesonet** Over the weekend at the Guthrie Mesonet, Saturday to Sunday: highs 61 to 67, lows 39 to 42, no rain. [mesonet.org](http://mesonet.org) [↗](#)

Weather data from Google.

## YOUR MORNING COMMUTE

Southbound I-35, Guthrie (Exit 157) to the I-40 junction: 33 minutes at 7 a.m. No slowdown.

Southbound SH-74, Crescent to Lake Hefner Parkway: 43 minutes at 7 a.m. No slowdown.

Southbound Broadway Extension, Edmond to downtown Oklahoma City: 18 minutes at 7 a.m. No slowdown.

Southbound Broadway, SH-33 west of Guthrie to 2nd Street in Edmond: 24 minutes at 7 a.m. No slowdown.

Eastbound Waterloo Road, Broadway to I-35: 5 minutes at 7 a.m. No slowdown.

Westbound Waterloo Road, Douglas Boulevard to I-35: 3 minutes at 7 a.m. No slowdown.

Traffic data from TomTom.

LOGAN COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO [↗](#)

These are over-the-air radio reports, not confirmed facts.

**SAT 3:37 P.M.** [Man found unresponsive with gunshot wound dies in 4900 block of Big Oak Circle](#) [↗](#)

Logan County Sheriff

**SAT 5:15 P.M.** [Man reported hurt in fall into open manhole near Langston homecoming tailgate area](#) [↗](#)

Langston Fire

**SAT 6:03 P.M.** [Crash on southbound I-35 near mile marker 154 damages guardrail, blocks lane](#) [↗](#)

Guthrie Fire

**SAT 10:03 P.M.** [Three fights break up outside TLC at Langston University](#) [↗](#)

Langston University Police

6 more calls continued on page 2

## BREAKING NEWS

# Robert Franklin's OU Teaching Role Raises Questions About University's Political-Candidacy Policy ↗



THE OKLAHOMA STATE CAPITAL

*State payroll records show the Republican nominee receiving OU salary payments during his campaign, raising questions about a longstanding policy requiring employees seeking state office to resign or take approved unpaid leave.*

By JASON W. MURPHEY

TULSA, Okla. — (October 6, 2026) A sign identifies the Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education at OU—Tulsa's Schusterman Center, where Robert Franklin has taught in the Educational Administration, Curriculum and Supervision program. Franklin's continued teaching during his campaign for state superintendent has raised questions about the university's policy requiring employees seeking state office to resign or obtain approved unpaid leave.

**M**ore than six decades after University of Oklahoma President George Cross told legendary football coach Bud Wilkinson that he could not run for Oklahoma's governor's seat while remaining a university employee, OU's longstanding restriction is potentially facing another test.

Robert Franklin, the Republican nominee for state superintendent of education, announced his campaign in March while working as a part-time adjunct faculty member at OU, continued in that role into May and reappeared on the university's September course schedule—raising questions about how OU applies its political-candidacy policy to part-time faculty and, in particular, to Franklin, whose first-place Republican primary finish in June elevated him to statewide prominence.

At issue is a university policy dating back to 1943 requiring of the university to either resign or receive approval from a to take an unpaid leave of absence

upon becoming a candidate for state office.

Franklin, in a Friday email to *The Capital*, stated that he notified university officials prior to campaigning for office, acknowledged working for the university as a contracted part-time lecturer in April and part of May, and indicated that, if elected, he would resign from his part-time position at the university.

Also corresponding with *The Capital*, university officials confirmed that but did not elaborate on the specifics of Franklin's case.

State payroll records list payments from OU to Franklin through May and again in September, with payment dates as recent as September 18. OU's fall course schedule lists Franklin as the instructor for with nine students enrolled in a class with a capacity of 20.

The university reports Franklin's compensation as through the state's payroll datasets, described by the Office of Management and Enterprise Services as representing

If elected state superintendent of public instruction, Franklin will lead the agency responsible for administering state and federal education funding and implementing an extensive framework of laws, policies, administrative rules and federal grant requirements affecting nearly 700,000 Oklahoma public school students.

The university's prohibition has a storied history in Oklahoma politics, effectively preventing university employees from running for office since 1943, including an iconic figure of Oklahoma political lore: Coach Bud Wilkinson. As described by former University of Oklahoma President George Cross in his book, *Presidents Can't Punt*, Wilkinson was approached by a university regent close to then-Gov. Howard Edmondson and asked to run for governor. Wilkinson consulted Cross, who reportedly told Wilkinson that it would be impossible to run because of the policy. Cross said Wilkinson agreed and believed that it for him to run.

President John F. Kennedy, left, meets with University of Oklahoma football coach Bud Wilkinson in the Oval Office on March 23, 1961. Ahead of Oklahoma's 1962 governor's race, Gov. J. Howard Edmondson, one of Kennedy's few prominent allies among Oklahoma's Democratic leadership, backed efforts to recruit Wilkinson as a candidate. OU President George Cross maintained that university policy would require Wilkinson to resign if he sought major public office.

In 1950, Cross had asked the Regents to approve the dismissal of the longtime dean of the Pharmacy College, who had failed to resign when running for the

state senate. The Regents subsequently accepted Cross's recommendation.

The University of Oklahoma Board of Regents amended the policy in 2018, after 10-year employee Brea Clark was forced to choose between campaigning for State House District 45 and giving up her university employment. The Regents relaxed the provision, allowing employees to take an approved unpaid leave of absence during their candidacy rather than requiring outright resignation. The amendment also established a Candidacy Review Committee to evaluate the leave requests.

Franklin entered the crowded Republican field of candidates in March 2026. At the time, Franklin described his role with OU as that of an in an interview with Tulsa's Fox 23. He was considered largely unknown to the wider public, challenging a group of established politicians and previous candidates for office. He ultimately emerged with the nomination after defeating James Taylor in the August Republican primary.

Voters will decide between Franklin and Democratic nominee Jennettie Marshall in November's general election.



THE OKLAHOMA STATE CAPITAL

FROM THE PHOTO DESK. GUTHRIE, Okla. — (October 17, 2026) The Twin Lakes, Crescent and Marshall fire departments conduct pump tests at Mineral Wells Park on a chilly Saturday morning.



THE OKLAHOMA STATE CAPITAL

FROM THE PHOTO DESK. GUTHRIE, Okla. — (October 18, 2026) The rising sun highlights steam drifting from the warm waters of Guthrie Lake into the chilly Sunday morning air.



THE OKLAHOMA STATE CAPITAL

FROM THE PHOTO DESK. GUTHRIE, Okla. — (October 18, 2026) Sooner Sentinel editor Marvin Goodman delivers a Sunday Morning presentation to God's House Ministries titled "Two Visions, One Choice," examining the incompatibility of communism with Christianity.

## YOUR GOVERNMENT MEETS TODAY

**City of Edmond: Stormwater Drainage Advisory Board Meeting, 4 p.m.** The board will consider Amendment No. 1 to a professional services agreement with Surveying and Mapping, LLC (SAM) for Phase 2 of the Stormwater Infrastructure Survey, listed at \$1,329,700.00.

**Town of Coyle: Board of Trustees Special Meeting, 7 p.m.** The trustees may go into a closed executive session to review the job performance of the Town Clerk-Treasurer and may take action when they return to open session.

## LOGAN COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO

continued from page 1

**SUN 12:28 A.M. Four people found inside courthouse annex warned against trespassing**

Logan County Sheriff

**SUN 3:29 A.M. Scholars disturbance leads to foot pursuit and search near Turner and Lincoln**

Langston University Police

**SUN 4:20 P.M. Langston University police disperse campus crowd, one person reported detained**

Langston University Police

**SUN 7:34 P.M. Reported gunshot checked in the 400 block of East Jefferson in Crescent**

Crescent Police

**SUN 8:30 P.M. Langston University police investigate another reported altercation at Centennial**

Langston University Police

**SUN 10:41 P.M. Crews from several departments fight house fire in 11600 block of South Coyle Road**

Coyle Fire

ON THIS DAY · 1894

### Boy killed when temporary county bridge collapses under a hay wagon

A Guthrie boy died on Thursday evening when a temporary county bridge over a creek 16 miles northwest of town gave way under a loaded hay wagon coming from Crescent City. Driver Levi McVay pulled himself free from the overturned hay, but the boy was smothered and drowned and was taken from the water after an hour's work.

NOW OPEN · DAY AND NIGHT

## The OSC Wire Room

*Watch what we're watching.*

Newsrooms across Oklahoma, and the wires from Washington and the world, as they file — on one live page.

[oklahomastatecapital.com/wire-room](https://oklahomastatecapital.com/wire-room)

### AROUND THE STATE AND BEYOND

*From other newsrooms, each credited to its own; every headline opens the story where it was published.*

— STATE —

New details following a fatal crash in Norman

KFOR

Why some officials are asking Oklahoma County to say 'yes' to new jail funding sales tax

KOSU

Some Oklahoma lawmakers want more scrutiny of campaign loans

KOSU

Oklahoma Governor campaign trail is coming to an end as general election nears

NEWS 9

— NATIONAL —

Before, during, after: Outside groups race to counter any election interference by Trump

THE HILL

Epstein-linked billionaire pours \$500K into super PAC backing Kentucky Democrat: 'Dirty Epstein-class money'

FOX NEWS

Libertarians may tip the balance in key Senate races. Here's why.

THE HILL

Booker rival who 'shoots from the hip' hopes viral debate moment can break GOP's Senate drought

FOX NEWS

Hegseth's future as Pentagon chief at center of lame-duck defense battle

THE HILL

— INTERNATIONAL —

US lawmakers sound alarm as violence grips NATO ally Albania amid anti-government protests

FOX NEWS

Deadly fire at Canada military base moved a kilometre 'in 30 to 60 seconds'

BBC NEWS

Iran warns US against renewed attack, says it has 'unfinished jobs' too

THE HILL

### AT THE AIRPORT

Guthrie-Edmond Regional, 6:50 a.m. Sunday to 6:50 a.m. Monday: 12 takeoffs, 14 landings and 9 touch-and-goes, by 13 aircraft.

A 2023 Embraer Executive Aircraft Inc EMB-505 (N394FX), privately owned, from Cleveland, Ohio, landed at 11:16 a.m. Sunday and took off at 1:05 p.m.