TODAY'S WEATHER
59° / 36°
Mostly sunny · 10% rain

The Capital Weekend

From The Oklahoma State Capital · Reporting from Oklahoma's First and Finest Capital City

YESTERDAY
0.01″
of rain at the Guthrie Mesonet

An interactive edition: every headline marked ↗ is a link. Tap it to read the whole story at oklahomastatecapital.com.

LOCAL REPORT

Guthrie Head Coach Earns 100th Win as Bluejays Beat Duncan 27–14, Enter Playoffs With Five Straight Wins ↗

Guthrie closes the regular season at 7–3 and will host Lawton MacArthur in the opening round of the Class 5A playoffs.

By OSC Staff

GUTHRIE — It was a brisk fall night at The Rock on Friday as the Guthrie Bluejays celebrated Senior Night with another victory, defeating Duncan 27–14 at Jelsma Stadium to close the regular season with five consecutive wins.

It was a nail-biter well into the fourth quarter, when with the teams deadlocked at 14, Guthrie capped a six-play, 35-yard drive with an eye-catching touchdown pass from quarterback Daelon Rice to junior wide receiver Gus Brewer on a third and goal play, as Brewer stretched to catch Rice's pass at the back of the north end zone, keeping his feet inbounds to give the Bluejays the lead with just over 11 minutes remaining.

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THE OKLAHOMA STATE CAPITAL

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First Capital Forecast ↗

Saturday: Mostly sunny, high 59, low 36. Patchy fog until about 9 a.m. No rain expected. Sunrise 6:58 a.m., sunset 5:28 p.m.

"Patchy fog lingers in the First Capital until about 9, so slow down and use your low beams. After that, a mostly sunny Saturday, just cooler than usual."

Mesonet Yesterday at the Guthrie Mesonet: high 55, low 40, 0.01 inches of rain. mesonet.org ↗

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
71° / 38°	74° / 44°	75° / 54°	73° / 47°	67° / 37°
sunny	*sunny*	*sunny*	*sunny*	*sunny*

Weather data from Google.

Logan County Public Safety Radio ↗

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

FRI 10:25 A.M. **I-35 shut down south of Waterloo Road, deputy reports** ↗
Logan County Sheriff

A deputy reported at 10:25 a.m. that I-35 was shut down south of Waterloo Road and traffic was stopped. The deputy said the cause was unknown.

FRI 8:56 P.M. **Sedan reported blocking I-35 off-ramp at Waterloo moved to shoulder, tow called** ↗
Logan County Sheriff

A deputy was sent at 8:56 p.m. to a dark green sedan reported blocking the roadway at the I-35 off-ramp at Waterloo Road, dispatchers said. The vehicle was later reported off the roadway on the shoulder, and the deputy met with it at the northbound on-ramp and reported a tow was on the way.

1 more call continued on page 2

BREAKING NEWS

Embattled Danny Williams Wins Decisively Even as House Leader Who Moved to Censure Him Loses Her Seat ↗



THE OKLAHOMA STATE CAPITAL

Seminole Republican wins nearly 63% of the vote after election-season disciplinary action and the release of an unfinished ethics investigation; Majority Whip Tammy West falls to a Democratic challenger.

By OSC Staff

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — (September 24, 2026) State Rep. Danny Williams addresses the House Rules Committee before the panel issues punitive recommendations against him without publicly releasing the specific allegations underlying its action.

OKLAHOMA CITY — Embattled state Rep. Danny Williams passed his electoral test with flying colors Tuesday, winning re-election by nearly 25 percentage points while the House majority whip who moved to recommend his censure went down to defeat.

The contrasting outcomes followed an unusual election-season intervention by the House Rules Committee of The Oklahoma House of Representatives, which publicly censured Williams and urged him to abandon his campaign less than six weeks before voters went to the polls.

Instead, voters returned the Seminole Republican to House District 28 with 6,153 votes, or 62.5%, to Democrat Blake Cummings' 3,695 votes, or 37.5% — a margin of 2,458 votes.

Before the election, Oklahoma House Speaker Kyle Hilbert himself had placed the question of Williams' continued service before the district's voters.

Speaking after the Sept. 24 committee meeting, the speaker said *"the decision of whether or not he should be a member is in the hands of the voters of that district."*

An OSC analysis ofarchived election returns ↗ also places Williams' performance alongside that of Republican Gov.-elect Mike Mazzei. In the same 20 precincts comprising House District 28, Mazzei received 6,307 votes, or 63.1% of all votes cast in the five-candidate governor's race, compared with Williams' 62.5% in the two-candidate House contest.

In House District 84, Majority Whip Tammy West, a high-ranking member of Speaker Kyle Hilbert's leadership team, lost to Democrat Jeffrey Perez. Perez received 5,097 votes, or 51.8%, to West's 4,734 votes, or 48.2%, a difference of 363 votes.

Two years earlier, West had won re-election with 58.2% of the vote. Her share fell approximately 10 percentage points this year, turning a comfortable victory in 2024 into a narrow defeat in 2026. The election totals remain unofficial pending certification.

Williams' victory came amid a national Democratic wave that also produced Democrat gains in Oklahoma's House races. Democrats defeated five Republican incumbents and captured an additional open Republican seat, expanding their caucus to 26 members while leaving Republicans with 75. West was among the incumbents swept out.

Williams faced an additional set of headwinds from his own Capitol colleagues.



OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — (September 24, 2026) A solemn-faced state Rep. Tammy West makes what appears to be a pre-scripted motion recommending the censure of fellow state Rep. Danny Williams. On November 3, voters re-elected Williams by a wide margin while defeating West in her bid for another term.

On Sept. 24, 40 days before the general election, the House Rules Committee, acting on West's motion, voted unanimously to recommend that the full House formally censure Williams for disorderly behavior.

The committee separately voted 8-1 to censure Williams itself and recommend that he resign, withdraw from the election and not seek the office again. Another 8-1 vote recommended restrictions on his access to staff, committee assignments and other resources used by legislators to represent their districts.

Those recommendations included denying Williams a legislative assistant, barring one-on-one contact with House employees, excluding him from committees and committee leadership, and requiring 80 hours of workplace-behavior training and counseling at his own expense.

The public announcement of punishment came without release of the underlying investigative reports, leaving voters without access to the full findings and evidence supporting the sanctions.

Hilbert said the House investigation had substantiated allegations of sexual harassment involving multiple female employees and included information from 11 witnesses and electronic evidence. He said detailed allegations were being withheld to protect the identities of employees who came forward.

Williams denied wrongdoing and challenged the fairness of the process.

"I have not broken any rule or any law," he said after the committee meeting. He also said he had been unable to confront his accusers or challenge statements he considered false.

The House proceedings were followed by another public announcement, this time from the Oklahoma Ethics Commission.

On Oct. 8, just 26 days before the election, the commission unanimously voted to release a notice detailing 11 allegations from its ongoing investigation into whether Williams had misused his office and authority to advance private interests. That inquiry was separate from the House's workplace-conduct investigation.

The commission said it had identified substantial evidence supporting its concerns, but its investigation remained unfinished. Its notice gave Williams an opportunity to respond and stated that supporting information could lead to allegations being modified or removed.

Executive Director Lee Anne Bruce Boone explicitly connected the timing of the public release to the approaching election.

She told Oklahoma Voice that *"we can't possibly finish that process before the election"* and said releasing the information was in the public interest.

Williams' attorney, David Herber, disputed suggestions that his client had financially benefited from nonprofit service or interactions with state agencies and said Williams would continue cooperating.

The public record of that proceeding remains incomplete. Bruce Boone told OK Politics Today on Thursday that Williams had submitted his response by the deadline, but the response was not public. The commission's allegations were therefore available for public examination, while Williams' formal answer remained unavailable.

Bruce Boone anticipated commission consideration of the matter Nov. 12.

The election has not ended the controversy. House Democratic leaders renewed their call for Williams' resignation Thursday and called for restrictions to continue into his next term if he remains in office.

Rep. Andy Fugate, D-Del City, a Rules Committee member, called on the incoming Legislature to retain Hilbert's sanctions and adopt the committee's additional recommendations. That leaves the extent of Williams' access to staff, including the attorney assistance needed to draft legislation as an issue for the new Legislature, even after voters returned him to office.

But Tuesday appears to have settled who would return with a fresh mandate from voters: Williams will be back. West, who moved to recommend his censure by the full House, will not.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Guthrie Head Coach Earns 100th Win as Bluejays Beat Duncan 27–14, Enter Playoffs With Five Straight Wins ↗

A minute later, Guthrie forced and recovered a Duncan fumble at the Demons' 24-yard line and made quick work of the ensuing drive. Rice carried three times inside the Duncan 10, reaching the end zone on the third attempt to give the Bluejays some breathing room.

The win was Guthrie coach Kelly Beeby's 100th. Beeby's history with the Bluejays stretches back to 2004, when he joined Rafe Watkins' staff as defensive coordinator after serving as head coach at Chisholm. He spent a decade directing Guthrie's defense before succeeding Watkins in February 2014. This fall marks his 13th season as head coach and his 23rd with the program.

Guthrie finished the regular season 7–3 overall and 5–1 in Class 5A District 1, taking second place in the district and earning another Friday night in front of its home crowd. The Bluejays will host Lawton MacArthur on November 13 in the first round of the playoffs.

The victory completed a substantial turnaround for a team that opened the season with consecutive losses to Tuttle and Elgin. Guthrie has since won seven of eight games, with its only setback during that stretch coming in a 17–16 road loss to Carl Albert.

Since that September defeat, the Bluejays have put together an uninterrupted run through the remainder of their district schedule, beating Midwest City, Lawton, Noble, Durant and Duncan. Guthrie outscored those five opponents 179–68, averaging nearly 36 points while allowing fewer than 14 per game.

Friday's result also extended Guthrie's home winning streak to four games. After dropping the home opener to Elgin, the Bluejays defeated Blanchard, Midwest City, Noble and Duncan at Jelsma Stadium, finishing the regular season 4–1 on their home field.

The postseason now brings Lawton MacArthur to Guthrie, giving the Bluejays an opportunity to extend both winning streaks with a place in the next round on the line.

LOCAL REPORT

One arrested after overnight fight call at Guthrie's Noble Heights apartments ↗

911 called described Noble Heights resident being attacked by two young male subjects

By OSC Staff

GUTHRIE, OKLA -- Guthrie police responded to Noble Heights Apartments early Saturday after a caller reported two young men attacking a resident outside an apartment. The initial dispatch came around 1:18 a.m. An officer arrived several minutes later but reported that he did not see anyone outside. At approximately 2:18 a.m., the original caller contacted police again, reporting that the two young men had returned.

During the second response, an officer reported taking one person into custody. Around 2:35 a.m., the officer reported transporting the man to Mercy Hospital Logan County for a blood draw and medical paperwork. A subsequent update said the man had declined the blood test, but the hospital trip continued.

Logan County jail booking records show Taylor Smith, 18, of Guthrie, was booked at 4:26 a.m. on a DUI complaint.

Noble Heights is a 32-unit development placed in service in 2010, following a 2008 housing-tax-credit allocation. The inventory lists 31 income-restricted units.

Housing tax credits on Guthrie's west side had drawn opposition in Guthrie years before Noble Heights was built. In a separate dispute involving a 1999 award to Guthrie Housing Associates, L.P., local rental-property owners challenged the financing, arguing that competition from tax-credit-supported housing would increase vacancies and reduce their rental income and property values.

The Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals upheld dismissal of that challenge in December 2000, finding that the landlords lacked standing to contest the award based on competitive harm. The court did not decide the merits of their objections to the allocation.

Smith is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

LOCAL REPORT

New Hotel Breaks Ground at Covell and I-35 Despite Councilman's Traffic Concern ↗



THE OKLAHOMA STATE CAPITAL

Nine years after Edmond rejected Tru by Hilton, it's finally set to make its local debut

By OSC Staff

A splash of color is coming to I-35 and Covell Road, where officials broke ground Wednesday on Edmond's first new hotel development since 2018.

The four-story, 98-room Tru by Hilton hotel—Edmond's 14th hotel—is expected to open in early 2028.

The $17 million project, developed by Winedown LLC with financing from Arvest Bank, will occupy approximately two acres on the west side of Progressive Drive, a few hundred feet north of Covell Road. City officials estimate the hotel will create 25 to 30 jobs.

Tru by Hilton is Hilton's midscale hotel brand, offering affordable accommodations for business and leisure travelers. Known for its colorful, contemporary design, the brand features compact guest rooms, communal lobbies with areas for working and relaxing, and complimentary hot breakfast and Wi-Fi.



EDMOND, Okla. — (November 4, 2026) Officials break ground on a new Tru by Hilton near Covell Road and Interstate 35, marking the brand's Edmond debut nine years after an earlier proposal was rejected. Ward 2 City Councilman Barry Moore, who opposed the original project and raised traffic concerns about the new location, attended and spoke at the ceremony. (Photo, City of Edmond)

Plans for the Edmond location, filed with the city, show a 500-square-foot pool and parking that will wrap around the building. The building will run east to west on the currently vacant two-acre lot, east of the interstate and immediately north of the existing SSM Health urgent care facility.

The project drew questions about traffic from Ward 2 City Councilman Barry Moore during the council's June 8 meeting. Jason Spencer, of engineering firm Blew & Associates, represented the hotel project and told Moore that hotel traffic would not typically coincide with peak rush-hour traffic.

Moore questioned that assessment and suggested further discussion of possible traffic-control measures.

His concerns followed an earlier debate over bringing the brand to Edmond. In 2018, Moore, then chairman of the Planning Commission, opposed a proposal by Tapp Development for a Tru by Hilton and a Residence Inn totaling 169 rooms. That project would have occupied a site west of I-35, north of East 15th Street and immediately north of Fox Lake Lane.

"It's just so intrusive on that neighborhood," Moore said at the time. Residents raised concerns about the hotels' scale, requested variances and effects on nearby homes. The Planning Commission's motion to approve the rezoning failed 1–3, and the City Council subsequently rejected it unanimously on March 26, 2018.

The current project involves a different site and developer. Its approval also included an exception to Edmond's requirement that two proposed driveways be separated by at least 150 feet. The hotel's engineers sought the exception for its two entrances on Progressive Drive, explaining to planning commissioners that relocating the driveways would require costly and difficult utility relocations. City staff supported the request.

Despite his traffic concerns this time, Moore joined his colleagues in approving the hotel's site plan and driveway-spacing variance in separate 5–0 votes. He also attended and spoke

at Wednesday's groundbreaking ceremony.

Hotel development at the Covell and I-35 intersection has previously brought Edmond into a courtroom. For the nearby Hilton Garden Inn and Edmond Conference Center project, the city purchased land for $2.2 million and committed another $4.8 million in repayable construction assistance. A 2014 city manager's memo said the land purchase was intended to allow the developer to benefit from a property-tax exemption.

But when the county assessor taxed the privately owned hotel-conference center improvements, the developer and Edmond Public Works Authority challenged the assessment. In 2020, the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals upheld the assessment, finding that the privately owned improvements did not qualify for the public trust's exemption.

Now, nearly nine years after Edmond rejected an earlier Tru proposal, the brand is moving forward at a different site, with a different developer and Moore's support.

THE MORNING REPORT

GUTHRIE, Okla. — Good morning, First Capital, and happy Saturday. Guthrie's head coach earned a 100th win Friday as the Bluejays beat Duncan 27–14, and they enter the playoffs with five straight wins. Overnight, one person was arrested after a fight call at Guthrie's Noble Heights apartments. We also have a new hotel breaking ground at Covell and I-35 despite a councilman's traffic concern, and embattled Danny Williams winning decisively even as the House leader who moved to censure him lost her seat. The Guthrie Flea Market opens at 8 a.m.; mind the morning fog.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR ↗

GUTHRIE FLEA MARKET ↗ 8 a.m. · Guthrie

The ins & outs of canva ↗ 9 a.m. · Guthrie

LOGAN COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO ↗ *continued from page 1*

FRI 9:16 P.M. **Horse reported in road west of Seward and Sooner; deputy identifies owner** ↗

Logan County Sheriff

Dispatchers reported a horse in the road west of Seward and Sooner on Friday night. A deputy later reported being on scene in the Sooner and Seward area, identified the horse's owner and said an updated phone number would be relayed to dispatchers.

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 ↗

AROUND THE STATE AND BEYOND

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

— LOCAL —

Broken Arrow defeats Edmond North 56-39 in regular-season finale ↗ NEWS ON 6

Gateway First Bank opens Edmond banking center ↗ JOURNAL RECORD

EPS shifts insurance costs, cutting projected general fund deficit by $3.7M ↗ EDMOND INBOX

— STATE —

Oklahoma City takes home win streak into matchup with Washington ↗ KRMG

Young Thunder fans share unforgettable courtside moment with Shai Gilgeous-Alexander ↗ NEWS 9

Ajay Mitchell scores a career-high 35 points as Thunder rout Grizzlies 128-97 ↗ KOCO

— NATIONAL —

California prosecutors slam Newsom's death row commutations, accuse governor of putting 'politics over people' ↗ FOX NEWS

Michigan Sen.-elect Abdul El-Sayed's Wikipedia page was whitewashed of controversies by mystery editor before election: sources ↗ NEW YORK POST

Fetterman to get rare filibuster backup with new crop of Senate Democrats ↗ WASHINGTON EXAMINER

A Slippery Slope to Criminalizing Politics ↗ DAILY SIGNAL

— INTERNATIONAL —

Four things we learned this week about 2028 White House race ↗ BBC NEWS

Merz: Muslim immigrants who reject Germany's blame for Holocaust 'must leave our country' ↗ TIMES OF ISRAEL

AT THE AIRPORT ↗

Guthrie-Edmond Regional, 6:50 a.m. Friday to 6:50 a.m. Saturday: 27 takeoffs, 29 landings and 15 touch-and-goes, by 23 aircraft.

Aerial patrol: 1999 Cessna 182S (N2366Y), owned by Avco Patrol LLC of Lyndon, Kansas, took off at 11:16 a.m. Friday and landed at 3:04 p.m.

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