VOL. I · NO. 66 GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA · WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2026 THE LOCAL EDITION

TODAY'S WEATHER
67° / 43°
Sunny · 5% rain

The Oklahoma State Capital

Reporting from Oklahoma's First and Finest Capital City

YESTERDAY
0.00″
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

"I Thought We Were a Red Brick Community" ↗

Guthrie City Council unanimously grants business owner Jennifer Bozarth's appeal, clearing the way for her to restore the McNulty Building's brick facade.

By OSC Staff

GUTHRIE, Okla. — Guthrie business owner Jennifer Bozarth found a much friendlier audience at City Hall on Tuesday night as she brought her appeal to the Guthrie City Council. The outcome never appeared in doubt as Bozarth asked the council to overturn the Historic Preservation Commission's 4–3 decision blocking her ↗ from restoring the brick facade of the McNulty Building at 220 E. Harrison Ave.

Bozarth had been before the commission repeatedly since June, after removing the building's Vitrolite glass tiles over safety concerns. The commission had approved an Art Deco-style stucco finish and rejected her request to leave the brick exposed.

Continued on page 2 →

INSIDE

Lemon Law: After the "Don Lemon" Dark...	2
"I Thought We Were a Red Brick..."	1
The Morning Report	2
First Capital Forecast	1
Your Morning Commute	1
Logan County Public Safety Radio	1
The Wire	2
Your Government Meets Today	2
Community Calendar	2

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 ↗

First Capital Forecast ↗

Wednesday: Sunny, high 67, low 43. No rain expected. Wind S 16 mph, gusts to 23. Sunrise 7:09 a.m., sunset 5:20 p.m.

Mesonet Yesterday at the Guthrie Mesonet: high 61, low 38, no rain. mesonet.org ↗

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
68° / 47°	68° / 53°	66° / 44°	54° / 31°	53° / 31°
sunny	*sunny*	*30% rain*	*partly sunny*	*sunny*

Weather data from Google.

Your Morning Commute

Slowdown on southbound Broadway Extension, Edmond to downtown Oklahoma City: 22 minutes at 7:52 a.m., about 2 minutes more than on an open road. Slowest near the I-44 junction. What we know: a road closure reported near downtown Oklahoma City; a road closure reported near the I-44 junction.

Southbound I-35, Guthrie (Exit 157) to the I-40 junction: 36 minutes at 7:52 a.m. No slowdown.

Southbound SH-74, Crescent to Lake Hefner Parkway: 45 minutes at 7:52 a.m. No slowdown.

Southbound Broadway, SH-33 west of Guthrie to 2nd Street in Edmond: 26 minutes at 7:52 a.m. No slowdown.

Eastbound Waterloo Road, Broadway to I-35: 6 minutes at 7:52 a.m. No slowdown.

Westbound Waterloo Road, Douglas Boulevard to I-35: 4 minutes at 7:52 a.m. No slowdown.

Logan County Public Safety Radio ↗

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

TUE 7:58 P.M. **Vehicle burns after injury crash on Highway 105 east of Choctaw** ↗

Logan County Sheriff; Guthrie Fire/EMS; Meridian Fire

Guthrie medics, Meridian Fire and a deputy responded at 7:58 p.m. to an injury crash on Highway 105 east of Choctaw, near Indian Meridian, where a vehicle was in a ditch and on fire; dispatchers said it was unoccupied at the time. A deputy also reported a tree on fire and damage to a ballpark fence. Crews put out the fire, medics transported one patient to Integris Baptist and traffic was let through slowly; a deputy said the highway was expected to reopen soon once the vehicle was recovered.

7 more calls continued on page 2

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I Thought We Were a Red Brick Community"

"I thought we were a red brick community," said Ward 2 Councilman Brian Bothroyd, who had reviewed footage of the commission's meetings. Bothroyd said it was the second time a matter of this kind had come before the council. He asked City Manager Eddie Faulkner to put an item on the next meeting's agenda so the council could consider changing the historic preservation ordinance to bring all major facade requests before the council.

Ward 1 Councilwoman Deanna Duehning appeared perplexed by the commission's insistence on an Art Deco-style stucco finish.

"Why are we pulling the stucco card?" she asked.

Mayor Adam Ropp said he believed at least two commissioners would have voted differently had they had all the information before them. He said the commission had done the best it could with the information it had and suggested that researching the building's history in depth was outside its role. Ropp has previously served on the Commission.

Bozarth expressed frustration, saying the commission had been dismissive of the information she had provided and described being told that the brick wasn't suitable for an exterior facade. Bozarth would later learn, after contacting industry experts, that it was.

No commissioner appeared to speak in defense of the decision leaving just Bozarth and Erin Brown, curator of collections at the Oklahoma Territorial Museum, who spoke about the building's history before the council voted unanimously to grant the appeal.

Ward 3 Councilman Grant Aguirre and Ward 1 Councilwoman Menecca Gibbs, the council's ex officio representative on the commission, were absent.

The appeal took up much of the council's 41-minute meeting. The council also took up proposed agreements with Myers Engineering and Poe & Associates to provide on-call engineering services. The agreements were subject to the city attorney's approval.

The council's next regular meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1, at City Hall.

STATE REPORT

Lemon Law: After the "Don Lemon" Dark Money Mailers, Ethics Commission Weighs a Longer Electioneering Window

Mailings involved a Lawton group directed by Dustin Hilliary, Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt's senior adviser and chief negotiator with state lawmakers.

By OSC Staff

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma Ethics Commission is weighing a rule that would require political groups to disclose who paid for certain ads earlier in the campaign. The proposal follows a wave of anonymous mailers attacking some of the Legislature's most conservative members over votes against a bill that critics said could restrict sidewalk protests and the distribution of religious tracts.

Oklahoma Ethics Commission Executive Director Lee Anne Bruce Boone presented the proposal to commissioners at their Nov. 12 meeting. If adopted, it would extend the period before a primary in which groups must identify themselves on qualifying electioneering ads and report spending that meets the filing threshold. The window would widen from 30 days to 60 days.

The potential for abuse was highlighted by what became known as the *"Lemon"* attacks. The mailers, featuring former television host Don Lemon, began arriving with just 14 weeks remaining before the primary election and primed voters in key districts across the state, including districts where conservative incumbents faced challengers.

The mailers arrived in three flavors, all built around the same legislative vote:

- **Praise for incumbent senators.** These mailers backed members of Senate President Pro Tem Lonnie Paxton's ruling coalition who faced conservative challengers. The postcards urged recipients to call and thank the senators for their votes and bore a Lawton, Oklahoma, mailing permit.
- **A sarcastic thank-you.** These mailers targeted conservative incumbents, purporting to praise their votes in a way that could make recipients think the cards came from

a left-wing group. The postcards carried ordinary stamps and had no permit number.

- **An attack from *"Citizens for Freedom."*** This version criticized conservatives who voted no. It bore a Denver, Colorado, bulk-mail permit and used the name Citizens for Freedom, for which no registration with the Oklahoma Ethics Commission has surfaced.

Journalist Katy Smith, writing for the V1SUT Substack, obtained postal records that identified the holder of the Lawton permit on a postcard praising Senate District 28 Sen. Grant Green. Green, a Paxton ally, went on to win the Republican primary by a narrow margin. The records identified the permit holder as Oklahoma Conservative Coalition, which used the Lawton address of Hilliary Communications. The coalition lists *Gov. Kevin Stitt's senior adviser and chief negotiator with state lawmakers, Dustin Hilliary,* as one of its directors. The sponsors of the other two versions remain publicly unidentified.

The Oklahoma Ethics Commission discussed the cards at its April 9 meeting without taking a formal vote. Staff received guidance to continue examining the issue and possible changes to disclosure rules. Staff discussed whether the pieces fell outside the rules that require senders of *"electioneering"* ads to disclose who paid for them.

Electioneering ads are ads that promote or criticize a candidate without expressly calling for the candidate's election or defeat. A mailer might ask recipients to call and thank a lawmaker for a vote, without saying *"vote for the candidate."*

The current narrow window gives dark money groups plenty of time to spot developing races and intervene before the electioneering rules can require disclosure of who paid for the ads, how much the group spent or which vendors it used.

By June, disclosures showed the Lawton coalition spending large amount of money in some of the same races the earlier mailers had primed. Members of the Hilliary family also gave thousands of dollars directly to their preferred candidates.

The ethics commission will next review the proposal at 10 a.m. Dec. 3 in Room G-3 at the State Capitol.

THE MORNING REPORT

GUTHRIE, Okla. — Good morning, First Capital. This morning we bring you "I Thought We Were a Red Brick Community," plus a look at how the Ethics Commission is weighing a longer electioneering window after the "Don Lemon" dark money mailers. Tuesday evening, crews were sent to an injury crash on Highway 105 east of Choctaw where a vehicle burned, and Tuesday morning a Deer Creek crew secured a cow reported beside the road. Chamber Coffee with Integris and Kiwanis is at 9:30 a.m. in Guthrie, and Edmond Inbox reports Edmond has extended its data center moratorium through June 2027. Enjoy a sunny Wednesday.

YOUR GOVERNMENT MEETS TODAY ↗

City of Edmond: KickingBird Golf Advisory Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m. ↗
The board will discuss and make a recommendation on green fee increases for 2027 and on changes to the conditions of the Super Twilight and 9-hole fees.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR ↗

Chamber Coffee - Integris & Kiwanis ↗
9:30 a.m. · Guthrie

98th Annual '89er Days Celebration Committee ↗ noon · Guthrie

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

TUE 11:55 A.M. **Reported gunshot west of Fogarty building checked, source not found** ↗
Guthrie Police
A student and a teacher reported hearing a gunshot west of the Fogarty building. The responding officer said the sound came from off school property and that all was in order at the school. Another person thought the shot came from the north, and the officer checked Beamer Road but was unable to locate a source.

TUE 9:49 A.M. **Man jailed after Crescent traffic stop at Sanderson and Walnut** ↗
Crescent Police
Crescent police took a man into custody after stopping a black 2008 Nissan Pathfinder at Sanderson and Walnut, and a tow operator took the vehicle. The officer later took the man to the Logan County Detention Center, according to radio traffic. No charge was reported.

— OTHER TRAFFIC —

TUE 11:26 A.M. Harassment complaint after reported road rage on East Oklahoma Avenue ↗
Guthrie Police

TUE 12:48 P.M. Deputy asked to check on woman walking near Highway 77 and Wildcat Curves ↗
Logan County Sheriff

TUE 2:28 P.M. Driver arrested after erratic-driving stop on Highway 74 north of Highway 51 ↗
Logan County Sheriff

TUE 5:08 P.M. Former tenants reported refusing to leave property on East Vilas ↗
Guthrie Police

WED 1:52 A.M. Police check report of three people trying doors at Boomerang ↗
Guthrie Police

AROUND THE STATE AND BEYOND

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

— LOCAL —

Edmond marketing expert urges businesses to plan before buying ads ↗
JOURNAL RECORD

Edmond extends data center moratorium through June 2027 ↗ EDMOND INBOX

— STATE —

Water main break floods NE Oklahoma City street ↗ KFOR

Mullin heads to Congress to face questions over flight disruptions, football trip and immigration ↗ KRMG

ICE's Expansion Is Straining the Federal Prisoner Airlift Centered in Oklahoma City ↗ OKLAHOMA WATCH

New recess law has Oklahoma teachers wondering 'What's the point?' ↗
OKLAHOMA VOICE

Senate expected to vote on permitting bill tribal leaders in Oklahoma, beyond oppose ↗ KOSU

— NATIONAL —

China's Xi surprises Trump at tarmac, reciprocating gesture shown months ago ↗ FOX NEWS

Trump's meeting with Xi and Putin could shape trade, global security ↗ NEWSNATION

Republicans fret Anthropic IPO will enrich 'evil' far-left donors: '200 George Soroses' ↗ NEW YORK POST

'A savagely brutal map': Senate GOP braces for 2028 ↗ POLITICO

A Federal Judge Seals Most of the Ilhan Omar Affidavit, but It's Not a Judicial Coup Move ↗ TOWNHALL

— INTERNATIONAL —

Bennett meets Netanyahu for 'security briefing' amid Eisenkot-led bloc talks on unity gov't ↗ JERUSALEM POST

Xi greets Trump at Shenzhen at airport in rare move ↗ JAPAN TIMES

A flawed test for African banks ↗ SEMAFOR

AT THE AIRPORT ↗

Guthrie-Edmond Regional, 6:50 a.m. Tuesday to 6:50 a.m. Wednesday: 6 takeoffs, 6 landings and 1 touch-and-go, by 6 aircraft.

A 1968 Piper PA-28-140 (N5991W), owned by Chickasha Wings Inc of Chickasha, Oklahoma, took off at 10:18 a.m. Tuesday.

The Morning Capital comes every morning from The Oklahoma State Capital · Reporting from Oklahoma's First and Finest Capital City · oklahomastatecapital.com ↗ ·
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