

The Norman Transcript

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Execution stay extended

OKLAHOMA CITY — Gov. Brad Henry has extended a stay of execution for an Oklahoma death row inmate so authorities can continue to review evidence in the case.

Jeffrey David Matthews was scheduled to die by lethal injection next Tuesday. But Henry agreed to a defense request to extend the stay. A new execution date has been set for Aug. 17.

Matthews, 38, of Purcell, was sentenced to die for the Jan. 27, 1994, murder of Otis Earl Short during a robbery of Short's McClain County home.

Matthews earlier had an execution set for June. But a stay of execution was granted after defense attorneys asked for time to review fingerprint evidence.

They now say more time is needed to review fingerprint impressions of individuals they believe are potential suspects in the case.



The Norman Conquest

Hundreds of cyclists will suffer through heat and hills Saturday in the Norman Bicycle League's 15th annual Norman Conquest bicycle tour. Riders are scheduled to depart the J.D. McCarty Center, 2002 E. Robinson, at 7:30 a.m. Saturday.

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Survivor dances at Auschwitz

JERUSALEM — He's a Holocaust survivor dancing with his family on what easily could have been his own grave. A video clip of Adolek Kohn awkwardly shuffling and shimmying with his daughter and grandchildren to the sound of "I Will Survive" has become an Internet sensation.

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Buried ship at WTC site

NEW YORK — Workers at the World Trade Center site are excavating a 32-foot-long ship hull that apparently was used in the 18th century as part of the fill that extended lower Manhattan into the Hudson River.

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Two dead at Norman motel

By Andrew Knittle
Transcript Staff Writer

A unidentified man apparently shot himself to death Thursday evening at an east Norman motel after brief negotiations with authorities, a Norman police spokesman said.

The body of a 38-year-old woman, whom authorities have yet to identify, was found in a white sedan in the parking lot of the Best

Western on Classen Boulevard.

NPD spokesman Tom Easley said he believes the deaths are connected and described the deceased as "ex-boyfriend and girlfriend."

Easley said the man, whom he described as a black man in his late 20s or early 30s, shot himself at about 7:15 p.m. He said SWAT officers near the first-floor motel

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Norman police surround the window of a motel room at the Best Western on Classen Boulevard during a standoff Thursday.

Transcript Photo by Kyle Phillips

HealthPlex checkup

► Hospital looking healthy after a year

By Meghan McCormick
Transcript Staff Writer

The Norman Regional HealthPlex has received a good report at its nine month checkup, according to Daryle Voss, Norman Regional Health System vice president and chief administrative officer.

"We feel pretty good about it," Voss said.

Norman Regional Health System's newest hospital opened to patients in October 2009. It's situated on the west side of Interstate 35 at the Tecumseh Road exit.

Voss said for the most part, he hears positive feedback from the public. Doctors and patients like the new venue.

"It's met all our of expectations," he said. "Constantly, wherever I go, they tell me they had a good stay and enjoyed the newness."

HealthPlex physicians treat patients in cardiovascular, neurology, orthopedics and spine and women's and children's health departments.

Voss said the HealthPlex has undergone a few modifications since it welcomed patients almost a year ago.

"All in all, we're pleased with the overall design and layout of the building," he said.

Last year, Voss said administrators took approaches from the book "If Disney Ran Your Hospital: 9 1/2 Things You Would Do Differently" by Fred Lee when deciding how to design and run the HealthPlex.

The philosophy is working, Voss said. Patients support the hotel atmosphere.

"People like that the rooms are spacious. Everybody loves being in a new building," he said.

At the HealthPlex, patients and



Transcript Photo by Kyle Phillips

Norman Regional's new specialty hospital, the HealthPlex, at I-35 and Tecumseh Road has been open nine months.

visitors don't share elevator rides. Also, visitors must check in at a security entrance before they're allowed to visit patients in their rooms.

Patients also are treated to room service.

Voss said that idea has been

well received. The staff continues to update the menu and tweak the ordering process.

"It's a pretty sophisticated program," he said. "We're not where we want to be yet."

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Jimmie Adair dies at 90

► Services for Norman Realtor set Monday

Transcript Staff

Longtime Norman businessman Jimmie Adair died Wednesday after a brief illness at age 90.

Services are scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Monday at the First Baptist Church.



Adair

Memorial gifts may be made to the First Baptist Memorial Trust.

He began working in Norman as a carpenter for \$17 per week. Adair and his wife, Obreeta Von Adair, later formed Adair & Associates Real Estate in Norman in 1940. They recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary.

Adair, a developer and longtime Realtor, served as president of the Norman Chamber of Commerce in 1973-74. He was honored with a Legend of Business Award from the Norman Business Association.

His entire working career was spent in Norman. He was one of the first to begin redeveloping downtown Main Street.

"Dad came to work every day up until about three years ago," said his son, Jim. "And loved what he did."

Even with split, it's still going to be Truman

► Trailblazers divide and conquer with new primary school

By Nanette Light
Transcript Staff Writer

In August, the Truman Elementary School split will be official.

School officials, however, assured the break-up — come Aug. 19 — of Truman Elementary into Truman Primary for pre-kindergarten through second grade is only physical.

"Yes, we're two buildings ... but we're going to work to keep the unity of the staff, students and families to keep that sense of collaboration," said Kristie Eselin, principal last year at Truman Elementary and the new principal at Truman Primary. A former first grade teacher for 20 years, Eselin said she volunteered to move to the early childhood center.

The schools still will be united under one Parent Teachers Association.

They still will be the Trailblazers colored in red and blue.



Transcript Photo by Kyle Phillips

The new Truman Primary School is scheduled to open Aug. 19.

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WEATHER

Isolated storms, high of 94,
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INSIDE

Paul, the World Cup-predicting octopus, could be headed for Spain.



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