

Selmon to join state's greats in sports hall

University of Oklahoma football great Dewey Selmon will be inducted into the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame.

PAGE 1C



All-around gold

Sixteen-year-old Gabby Douglas won gold in the women's individual all-around.

Also: Phelps defeated Lochte in race; U.S. men's basketball team beat Nigeria, 156-73.

COVERAGE STARTS ON PAGE 1C



THE OKLAHOMAN



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INSIDE

SHOOTING

NAMES RELEASED

Okmulgee County officials released the names of two deputies involved in a fatal shooting.

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WEATHER

VERY HOT



High: 111
Low: 79

PAGE 6B

COBURN REQUESTED STUDY THAT FOUND PROVIDERS IN 3 STATES OWE NEARLY \$800M TO THE GOVERNMENT

New report finds tax cheats still received Medicaid funds

BY CHRIS CASTEEL

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WASHINGTON — About 7,000 doctors, dentists and other recipients of Medicaid money in three

states had nearly \$800 million in unpaid federal taxes, according to a congressional report requested by Sen. Tom Coburn.

The Medicaid providers with back taxes in Texas, New York and Florida received \$6.6 billion from

the health care program in 2009 while they or their companies owed \$791 million to the federal government.

Coburn, R-Muskogee, said Thursday the Government Accountability Office report raises

“serious questions about steps that need to be taken to improve the integrity of the Medicaid program.”

“People who cheat on their taxes

SEE MEDICAID, PAGE 3A

Extreme heat threatens outdoor animals

SAFETY | OKLAHOMA CITY OFFICIALS REPORT 'DRAMATIC' INCREASE IN CALLS ABOUT PETS LEFT WITHOUT ENOUGH WATER, SHADE

BY LEIGHANNE MANWARREN

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Oklahoma City officials ask pet owners to remember their animals as temperatures continue to match and break heat records.

Thursday's high temperature of 112 set a record for Aug. 2 in Oklahoma City. The previous maximum temperature on Aug. 2 was 110 degrees in 1980.

That also put Thursday in a three-way tie with Wednesday and Aug. 10, 1936, for the city's second-highest temperature on any date. Records date to 1891.

The record high temperature is 113 degrees, set Aug. 11, 1936.

Oklahoma City Animal Welfare workers have seen a “dramatic” increase in cruelty calls, which include heat-related incidents, from June to July, Superintendent Catherine English said.

Animal Welfare's two cruelty investigators responded to about 41 calls each day in June compared to 99 calls each day in July, English said.

She has added eight hours in overtime to each investigator's week to keep up with the volume of calls.

“A lot of times, it is just a matter of educating the owner on how they can provide a better water source for the animal or a sturdier one,” English said.

Just putting a bowl of water out isn't sufficient

SEE PETS, PAGE 4A



Jered Lawrenson and Kongo play fetch Thursday in the pond at the Edmond Dog Park. Officials are asking pet owners to keep in mind their animals' safety when outside.

PHOTO BY SARAH PHIPPS, THE OKLAHOMAN

Severe drought affects 99 percent of state

INSIDE

- U.S. House approves drought aid for ranchers.
- Which parts of state are most affected? See a map.

PAGE 4A

BY BRYAN PAINTER

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Tyler McDowell, pastor of Cowboy Cross Brand Church in Stillwater,

knows the situation many members of his congregation are up against.

The hay, if they have some, is dwindling and the ponds are drying up if they haven't already taken on

the look of a shed snake-skin.

Many who attend his church on Sunday mornings at the Payne County

SEE DROUGHT, PAGE 4A

IN BRIEF

OSU TOUTS SAVINGS

Oklahoma State University has saved \$20 million with an energy program, officials said.

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ONLINE

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NOLAN CLAY, STAFF WRITER

EL RENO MURDER DEFENDANT REMAINS ELIGIBLE FOR DEATH PENALTY

Judge rejects claim of mental retardation

[PAGE 13A] A man accused of killing his girlfriend and her four young children inside an El Reno apartment in 2009 is not mentally retarded, a judge has ruled. The decision means Joshua Ste-

ven Durcho, 29, remains eligible for the death penalty. His trial is set to begin in September. The judge ruled that Durcho only meets one of three criteria for “mental retardation,” as the

term is used in Oklahoma law. If Durcho is convicted, attorneys can raise their claim again that he is mentally retarded for jurors to consider.



Joshua Steven Durcho

TODAY'S PRAYER

Dear Lord, help us make time to be with friends and our family members. Amen.

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Five sections
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NBA IN OKC

Thunder Girls team auditions draw dancers to metro area

Final auditions for the Thunder Girls dance team were held Thursday at Riverwind Casino in Norman. At right, Whitney, of Kansas City, Mo., reacts after being named to the 2012-13 squad. See more photos from the auditions on **Page 16A**.



PHOTO BY NATE BILLINGS, THE OKLAHOMAN