



OSU researchers develop robot for elderly **A6**



Frontier High girls rally to beat Pawnee **A8**

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INSIDE TODAY



Oklahoma State University men's basketball prepares for Texas. **A8**

WEATHER



Hi: 38 Low 27
Temperature's climbing
— More on A12

SMILE OF THE DAY



Heather Kline is smiling because she is the newest employee in the News Press' classified/circulation departments.

Nominate a smile: Send photos for our Smile of the Day. Include their name and why they are smiling. Send to readers@stwnewspress.com

TODAY'S POLL

What is your favorite cold weather drink?

- Hot chocolate 35%
- Coffee 44%
- Hot tea 13%
- Hot Toddy 8%

Next up

Do you prefer traditional pizza crust, stuffed crust or whole wheat crust?

Vote: stwnewspress.com

MORE ONLINE

www.stwnewspress.com

Yale business destroyed by Thursday night fire.

Daily News Press



Vol. 107 No. 9

Group files animal welfare complaint

USDA looks into way OSU euthanized sick rabbit

By Chris Day
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The Department of Agriculture is looking

into the use of a .22-caliber rifle to euthanize a sick rabbit at Oklahoma State University, and the death of a dog that was run over during a military training exercise out of state.

An animal-rights group filed an Animal Welfare Act violation complaint in December. U.S. Department of Agriculture spokeswoman Tanya Espinosa

confirmed Friday the agency was determining if an investigation would be warranted.

The agency's first step, she said, will be to determine what actions, if any, are required. If an investigation is launched and action is needed, OSU could receive anything from a warning letter and increased inspections to fines, she said.

Ohio-based Stop Animal Exploitation Now Executive Director Michael A. Budkie said the organization filed its complaint against OSU after it learned of the dog and rabbit deaths.

"Negligence at Oklahoma State University has allowed animals to suffer and die horribly," Budkie said. "Evidence now clearly demonstrates a long-term pat-

tern of serious Animal Welfare Act violations. This lab deserves the maximum penalty from the USDA."

The rabbit incident

Oklahoma State University had taken two ill rabbits from a breeder in early August to determine the type of illness and a recovery plan.

See ► **USDA**, page A2



PHOTOS BY MICHELLE CHARLES/STILLWATER NEWS PRESS

Daddy O's music owner Mike Shannon, Stillwater Ukulele Association organizer Kami Koontz and Will Rogers Elementary Principal Susan Popplewell told the students about their new Ukuleles in the Schools program during a Friday morning assembly.

Ukes tune up in schools

Stillwater group, music store donate instruments to elementary schools

By Michelle Charles
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Ukulele fans says its an easy instrument to love and Stillwater students are about to find out if that's true.

The musical evangelists of the Stillwater Ukulele Association are partnering with Mike Shannon, owner of Daddy O's music, to donate 13 student ukuleles and instruction books each to Will Rogers, Richmond, Skyline and Westwood elementary schools.

Association organizer Kami Koontz said the group wants to share how easy and fun playing the ukulele is and a program for children is a great way to do that.

Association members also have formed a performance group to play in the area in addition to hosting twice-month-



Okwamifesi Ibukun picked a ukulele in what seems to be a favorite color when Will Rogers students were given a chance to try them Friday.

ly meetings and jam sessions.

A recent jam session and fundraiser for the school program was al-

most at capacity, Koontz said.

The plan for Ukuleles in the Schools came together when Koontz

and Shannon, who was about to celebrate Daddy O's anniversary, began talking.

Shannon had donated guitars to two schools last year to celebrate his 25th anniversary and he liked the idea of continuing in that vein instead of just holding the classic "sale-a-bration".

"I want to give back to the community," he said. "I wanted to do something that means a little more."

The ukulele association met its fundraising goal in just four weeks and Shannon found a company that gave them such a good deal on student ukuleles that they were able to buy twice as many instruments and throw in instruction books.

Stillwater Ukulele Association members See ► **Ukes**, page A2

Shooting of dog upsets neighbors

Case information turned over to DA

By Megan Sando
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A family is seeking justice for its dog Jade, who died the afternoon of Jan. 3 from a gunshot wound in a neighborhood east of Stillwater.

Brittney Bay lives on Shiloh Street on 3 acres with her husband Kyle and children.

Her dog, Jade, a 9-year-old female boxer, was shot and killed by a neighbor three houses away.

Bay said her husband and daughter were outside playing with a Christmas gift when they heard a shot.

The family began yelling and whistling for their dog, which was missing. They had let out Jade to use the bathroom not long before the shot was fired.

The family found Jade's body north of a neighbor's house.

According to a report from the Payne County Sheriff's Office, the family confronted Brooke Goley, who lives three houses away.

Goley told them she shot the dog, according to the report.

Goley, a lab manager at Oklahoma State University's Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, told police she shot the dog, she was sorry and that she owns dogs herself.

Bay said she confronted Goley, who showed no remorse.

At least one neighbor across the street was

See ► **Dog**, page A2

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

Teeman: The more we come together the better we are as people



MERRICK EAGLETON/NEWS PRESS

Liz Teeman, 18, volunteers at the Stillwater Public Library.

NAME: Liz Teeman
AGE: 18
DAY JOB: Stillwater High School senior
VOLUNTEERS: Stillwater Public Library

WHAT SHE DOES: Every week Teeman can be found volunteering her time at the library. She helps sort and move books and documents, finds books for read-

ers and shelves the books.

She started volunteering in seventh grade during the summer reading programs.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT: Teeman said it is important for everyone to give back to the community in some capacity.

"I think the more the community comes together the better we are as people," Teeman said.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: When it comes to helping out the library, one doesn't necessarily have to volunteer their time. Books and donations are also appreciated.

Teeman said it is important to help out the community by doing something you enjoy.

"Just participate, find something you like," Teeman said.

—Merrick Eagleton

► Dog

Continued from page A1

outside when the shot was fired.

Virginia Wyckoff told police she heard Golay yelling, a loud smacking sound and turned to see Golay chasing dogs off her property, according to the report. She stated that she did not see a shot fired at any dog.

Wyckoff told police she has lived in the area for a long time, that dogs, including hers, run loose and that the boxer which was shot was a friendly dog.

Wyckoff said she often petted and fed the dog when it came by.

Golay told police she tried to scare the dog away, and it continued to advance. She stated the dog chased her. When she tried to kick at the dog it kept coming forward. That was when she used a .380 caliber handgun, fired a shot and the dog ran off.

The dog was shot in the shoulder and later died.

Bay believes the dog's wound would have to be on its chest or face if it had tried to attack Golay.

"We are shocked," Bay said.

Bay said of all the dogs, Jade, was the sweetest and never growled at anyone or had a history of violence. She trusted the dog to be near her babies, who would get close enough to pull on her ears.

"I think she was trying to prove a point and took it out on our dog," she said. "I want

her to get charged with animal cruelty."

The family was even more bothered by the fact that Golay works with animals, and her first course of action was to shoot.

"Our dog was the only one who didn't run," Bay said. "She probably wanted to be petted."

The Payne County Sheriff's Office presented charges to the district attorney Friday.

Payne County Sheriff's Capt. Kevin Woodward said it's likely the case will be difficult to prosecute because of the lack of evidence.

Woodward said Golay has the right to defend herself against dogs that attack, in this case, with a gun on her own property.

Because the only witness didn't see the dog advance, prosecutor's must rely on Golay's statements to police.

Woodward said it's best to keep pets on one's property to prevent incidents.

According to police, Golay reported she had been threatened by neighbors following the incident.

She also told them she had proof from the postal service, stating it couldn't deliver her mail because of the aggressive dogs.

Police advised her to put up no trespassing signs.

Golay could not be reached for comment.

Twitter: @megansandop

► Ukes

Continued from page A1

held "tuning parties" for several weeks to get all the instruments ready before delivering them.

Ukuleles in the Schools was able to expand to four locations and ensure every Stillwater elementary school will have the ability to offer a stringed instrument program.

The students at Will Rogers received their set Friday along with a ukulele performance from the association.

"They're easy, accessible and fun to play," Koontz told the stu-

dents. "So start playing it and we'll come back and listen to you."

Will Rogers principal Susan Popplewell said the school will offer a free after school program for students in grades 3-5 and will also incorporate ukuleles into the music program for younger students.

She said she's excited about the program and she welcomes community support to add enrichment activities for her students.

Twitter: @mcharlesNP

► USDA

Continued from page A1

OSU veterinarians determined the animals had coccidiosis, a highly contagious infection caused by one-cell organisms and provided a treatment plan.

One of the rabbits was found unresponsive and barely breathing about a week later. An OSU employee didn't inform the attending veterinarian or any licensed veterinarian the animal was in distress, and used a .22-caliber rifle to kill it.

Oklahoma State reported the incident to the USDA and its Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. On Nov. 19, an inspection report revealed additional problems. It noted using a .22-caliber rifle for euthanasia is not approved in the American Veterinary Medicine Association guidelines.

It also showed the rabbits were moved into the main rabbit holding room while still undergoing treatment, which increased the risk of contamination or infection to healthy animals.

It ordered OSU to keep sick animals isolated in the future.

In its 2013 annual report, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service indicated OSU had 406 rabbits used for animal research.

Oklahoma State University spokesman Gary Shutt said the agencies were satisfied with the university's corrections and determine no further action was needed.

"OSU regrets its error in protocol and has addressed the seriousness of the incident with the employee involved. It also conducted re-training with the employee and other staff members."

Firing a gun on university property violated OSU's policies. The incident, which occurred in a remote area outside the city limits, was reported to university police, Shutt said.

"The employee was advised that use of the gun was a violation of university policy. No other action was taken," he said.

The dog incident

The dog was owned by a private company that trained animals for military and security roles. The dog was unrestrained when it was hit by a company truck during a company-conducted training exercise out of state.

An Oklahoma State University investigator was using approved protocols to investigate the dog's physiological responses to heat and exercises as part of an endurance study.

The company determined the vehicle's driver hadn't followed its protocol for driving a truck near unrestrained animals. The company fired the employee and conducted refresher courses for vehicle operators and handlers.

Past problems

The university was cited in September 2013 for the dehydration deaths of 15 voles after OSU's Animal Resources Unit failed to provide adequate water

for the animals. Twelve voles died and three euthanized after a communication failure between employees caring for the animals. OSU took corrective action.

The university conducts agricultural, biomedical, veterinary and scientific research using animals.

The 2013 Animal Care and Plant Health Inspection Service annual report shows Oklahoma State University had more than 2,400 animals used for research. The animals ranged from dogs, cats and rabbits to mice, bats, deer and cattle.

Oklahoma State University supports the use of animals for research, testing and teaching, Shutt said.

"All research, teaching and testing activities involving live, vertebrate animals at OSU are in accordance with internationally accepted guidelines for animal care. In addition, OSU is fully compliant with federal and state laws and regulations," he said.

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