

Bringing the Thunder



Stillwater Public Education Foundation Executive Director Emily Lewis gives children their passes Tuesday to the Rolling Thunder Book Bus at Block 34.

Rolling Thunder Book Bus stops in Stillwater

By Beau Simmons
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The Rolling Thunder Book Bus stopped Tuesday in Stillwater, handing out free books to children courtesy of American Fidelity and the NBA champions. The bus made stops at the Stillwater Public Library in the morning and Block 34 in the afternoon. MacQuade Parker, one of the Thunder’s Book Bus hosts, said it had more than 2,000 books aboard with some of the most popular titles being “Dog Man” (when it doesn’t run out), and the classic “Old Yeller.”



MacQuade Parker talks about the most popular book selections in the Rolling Thunder Book Bus, which include “Dog Man” the “Wings of Fire,” “I Survived” and “Old Yeller.”

See Thunder, Page 2

Redistricting escalates as both parties commit to gerrymander voter maps

By Carson Gerber
CNHI News

Maria Garcia, founder of the Hispanic Republican Club of North Texas, admits her party’s attempt to redraw congressional district maps is a straightforward political tactic to gain up to five Republican seats in the U.S. House of Representatives in the 2026 election. It’s a tactic she fully supports. Democrats have gerrymandered other states to their advantage, argued Garcia, a former school crossing guard and healthcare worker. Now, it’s Republicans’ turn in Texas. “It’s just trying to pick better seats so we can continue to have control,” she said. “I mean, why wouldn’t you want that as a Republican?” The push to redraw congressional districts continued to escalate over the weekend as legislators in at least 12 states indicated they could initiate redistricting before the midterm election, which will determine whether Republicans maintain their slim House majority. A win by Democrats would present the first real challenge to President Donald Trump’s second-term America-first agenda, which has so far moved forward with little push-back from Republican lawmakers. The moves come after Texas Republicans, at the request of Trump, agreed to consider redrawing the state’s map during a special session called by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott to wrap up unfinished

business on flood relief and public education. In response, Democrats left the state Aug. 3 to deny Republicans the quorum required to vote on the redistricting plan, calling the effort a blatant attempt to stack the deck ahead of the 2026 election. Democrats said they plan to stay away until the end of the special session Aug. 19, but Abbott threatened Sunday to continue to call special sessions indefinitely until they return to the statehouse. “This could literally last years,” Abbott said on “Fox News Sunday.” “As soon as this one is over, I’m going to call another one, then another one, then another one, then another one.” Now, legislators in blue states like California, New York, Illinois, New Jersey and Maryland have all indicated they might redraw their congressional districts in favor of Democrats if Texas moves forward with its plan. Republican leaders in Indiana, Ohio, Missouri and Florida said they are also discussing new maps after Trump made clear his desire to win House seats through redistricting efforts. States are required to redraw congressional districts every 10 years following the U.S. Census, but numerous states have also had to redistrict following judicial rulings that find the maps unconstitutional. Some states also allow redistricting between censuses, such as Texas, but midterm redistricting rarely happens.

See Gerrymander, Page 2

Washington takeover begins as National Guard troops arrive

By Ashraf Khalil
Associated Press

WASHINGTON – Some of the 800 National Guard members deployed by President Donald Trump began arriving in the nation’s capital on Tuesday, ramping up after the White House ordered federal forces to take over the city’s police department and reduce crime in what the president called – without substantiation – a lawless city. The influx came the morning after Trump announced he would be activating the guard members and taking over the department. He cited a crime emergency – but referred to the same crime that city officials stress is already falling noticeably. The president holds the legal right to make such moves – to a point. The law lets Trump control the police department for a month, but how aggressive the federal presence will be and how it could play out remained open questions as the city’s mayor and police chief went to the Justice Department to

meet with the attorney general. The meeting comes a day after Mayor Muriel Bowser said Trump’s freshly announced plan to take over the Metropolitan Police Department and call in the National Guard was not a productive step. She calmly laid out the city’s case that crime has been dropping steadily and said Trump’s perceived state of emergency simply doesn’t match the numbers. She also flatly stated that the capital city’s hands are tied and that her administration has little choice but to comply. “We could contest that,” she said of Trump’s definition of a crime emergency, “but his authority is pretty broad.” Bowser made a reference to Trump’s “so-called emergency” and concluded: “I’m going to work every day to make sure it’s not a complete disaster.”

The city and Trump have had a bumpy relationship

While Trump invokes his



National Guard troops arrive at the District of Columbia National Guard Headquarters Tuesday in Washington.

plan by saying that “we’re going to take our capital back,” Bowser and the MPD

maintain that violent crime overall in Washington has decreased to a 30-year low

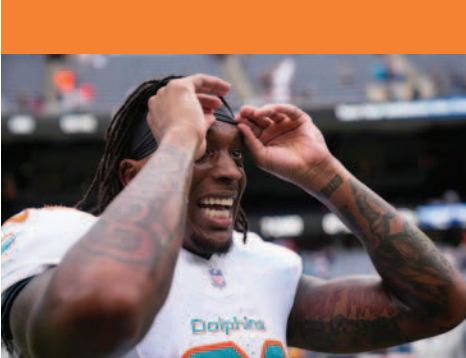
after a sharp rise in 2023.

See Takeover, Page 2

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SPORTS

Several former Oklahoma State football players made their NFL debuts this past weekend in pre-season games.

WEATHER

Hi: 92
Low: 71

Partly sunny



Page 6

– More on 3