

Stitt issues rare clemency to death row inmate

Taylor Ann Barnes
Gaylord News

Oklahoma death row inmate Tremane Wood had already eaten his last meal of fried catfish, chocolate ice cream, and a Dr. Pepper when he was told Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt had intervened.

Stitt, who supports the death penalty, granted clemency changing the death sentence Wood had received to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

“This action reflects the same punishment his brother received for their murder of an innocent young man and ensures a severe punishment that keeps a violent offender off the streets forever,” said Gov. Stitt. “In Oklahoma, we will continue to hold accountable those who commit violent crimes, delivering justice, safeguarding our communities, and respecting the rule of law.”

“Oklahoma has the nation’s highest per capita rate for executions, according to the Oklahoma Policy Institute. Wood is the second person in the United States to have a death sentence commuted by a state governor in 2025, in a rare reprieve.

Wood was sentenced to death in 2004, for his involvement in a 2002 botched robbery that left 19-year-old Ronnie Wipf dead in an Oklahoma City motel. Wood’s defense does not deny his involvement in the theft; however, the defense maintains that it was Wood’s older brother and partner in the robbery, Zjaiton Wood, who killed Wipf.

Zjaiton Wood was convicted of first-degree murder without the possibility of parole, while his brother was sentenced to death for the same crime.

Following the 2004 decision, there

has been significant controversy surrounding the case. His legal team filed post-conviction petitions to both the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court, both of which were denied.

The brothers were convicted for the 2002 murder of 19-year-old Ronnie Wipf outside an Oklahoma City Ramada Inn.

Tremane Wood’s attorney, Amanda Bass Castro Alves, also petitioned the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board to consider changing the sentence from death to life without parole, which resulted in a formal hearing on Nov. 6, 2025.

During the hearing, Castro Alves argued that Tremane Wood had an incompetent trial attorney who was drinking heavily and was overburdened with other cases. Two other defendants have previously been granted relief from their sentences due to the trial attorneys’ ineffectiveness.

She also alleged that Zjaiton Wood admitted to being the one who actually murdered Wipf, before taking his own life in prison in 2019. Her final central argument was that trial prosecutors unfairly concealed from jurors the benefits that witnesses received by giving their testimony.

In a 3-2 vote, the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board recommended clemency for Tremane Wood despite opposition from Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond, arguing that he remained a threat to others.

State Senator Nikki Nice (D-Oklahoma City) said clemency was justified.

“We know there are deep inequalities in how the death penalty is applied in Oklahoma. Race and lack of

resources are major factors in who lives and who dies,” Nice said. “There were troubling circumstances in this case, and I’m grateful the governor accepted the recommendation of the Pardon and Parole Board to grant clemency. Advocacy works, and the prayers of Tremane’s family have been answered.”

Before this, Gov. Stitt has granted clemency only once during his time in office. In 2021, he granted clemency to Julius Jones; however, this is rare. 16 men have been executed, with four having had clemency cases denied during Stitt’s time as Governor.

“I...thank Governor Stitt for saving the life of Tremane Wood by accepting the recommendation of the Pardon and Parole Board to grant clemency,” said State Sen. Regina Goodwin (D-Tulsa), adding that the mother of victim Ronnie Wipf also asked for Tremane’s life to be spared.

“I pray for the family of Ronnie Wipf and for the surviving victim, Arnie; they are models of Christian forgiveness and love,” Stitt said in his statement.

Medical episode involving Tremane Wood promptly addressed by staff

Staff Reports

news@reidnewspapers.com

After being granted clemency, Wood met with his attorneys for several hours, then began the process of moving off death row. During a routine check, Wood was found unresponsive in his cell by a correctional officer. While settling into his new cell, Wood experienced a medical event that

resulted in injuries. Out of extreme caution, ODOC transported Wood to a nearby hospital for further examination. It was determined that Wood’s medical event occurred due to dehydration and stress.

During a phone call with Chief of Public Relations Kay Thompson, Wood confirmed that he “[felt] fine now” and that he “can’t really explain what happened.” He stated that he laid down to sleep and “must have rolled off his bunk.” The next thing he remembers is waking “up in the infirmary with [his] head busted and [his] lip busted.”

Wood said that the last time he ate or drank anything was during his “last meal” at 5:22 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 12. He also confirmed that no one else was in his cell at the time of the medical event and that he did not do anything intentionally to cause it. After returning from the hospital, Wood spoke with his family.

“I’m extremely proud of my team today,” stated ODOC Executive Director Justin Farris. “It is our statutory duty to carry out court-ordered sentences, and our staff always perform their duties with extreme professionalism and with the utmost respect and compassion. Today’s events highlight the tremendous job they do day in and day out, especially during high-profile events.

“I’m especially proud of the Oklahoma State Penitentiary staff for responding to this critical incident in a timely manner and ensuring Mr. Wood received the best medical care possible. Our boots-on-the-ground staff are the backbone of this agency and I am truly grateful for their dedication to the agency, to each other, to those in our care and to the state of Oklahoma.”

LIEN SALE
1955 CHEVROLET 3100
VIN 255K005443
CONTACT CHRISTOPHER
918-330-7723

(Published in the Grove Sun
November 18, 25, and December
2, 2025)
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Anyone interested in a
1972 Dodge
vin# WH23G2G185919
call Tommy at 417-365-1143

(Published in the Grove Sun
November 11, 18, and 25, 2025)
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**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
Oaks – Rural Water District
#11
Delaware and Cherokee
Counties, Oklahoma
Water System Improvements**

Delaware County RWD #11
(Owner) is requesting Bids for
the construction of the following
Project:

**Delaware RWD #11, Oaks -
Water System Improvements**

Bid Opening:

Bids shall be hand delivered
and opened at the Leach Fire
Department located at 5791
US HWY 412, Rose Ok. 74364
on Tuesday, December 2nd at
10:00am central time.

Early submissions or mailed bids
shall be delivered or addressed
to LeBlanc Engineering at 115
W. Shawnee St. Tahlequah, Ok.
74464. Mailed bids shall be mailed
in a timely manner to ensure
arrival prior to the bid opening
date.

All bids, whether mailed or hand
delivered shall be in a sealed
envelope and shall have the title
“BID – OAKS WATER SYSTEM
IMPROVEMENTS” on the lower-
center of the envelope and have
the bidders name and address
listed on the upper left-hand
corner.

Scope of Work:

The project consists of over 7000
feet of new 6” waterline and
7800 feet of 4” water line with all
associated bores, valves, hydrants
and other appurtenances. The
Delaware County RWD is seeking
one prime contractor to bid,
perform and deliver all items in the
contract documents. The project
will be awarded to the lowest
responsive/responsible bidder. All
bid costs are to be valid for sixty
(60) days after the bid closing time
and date.

Owner anticipates that the
Project's total bid price will be
approximately \$1,750,000. The
Project has a substantial
completion date of August 31st,
2026. Bidders shall, within their

bids, have all necessary costs and
provisions necessary to meet the
stated completion deadline.

Pre-bid Conference: (MANDATORY)

A mandatory pre-bid conference
and site visit for the project will
be held on Thursday, November
20th at 10:00am at Oaks Town
Office at 128 Sequoyah Dr. Oaks,
Oklahoma 74359. Attendance
of the pre-bid conference is
mandatory for all bidders to be
considered eligible for bidding.
Please ensure the bidder or
bidder's representative signs the
attendance sheet indicating
attendance.

Bidding documents may be
obtained by written request
to Henley Consulting at
zachhenley1@gmail.com

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**IN THE DISTRICT COURT
IN AND FOR
DELAWARE COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

2812 INVESTMENTS, LLC
Plaintiff,

v.

CHARLES W. WICKHAM,
C. FRANCES WICKHAM,
JOHNATHON RAY MAYES,
BRUCE A. WOOD, ROBIN T.
WOOD AND RAYMOND SCOTT
STEPHENSON IF LIVING
AND, IF DECEASED, THEIR
KNOWN AND UNKNOWN
HEIRS, EXECUTORS,
ADMINISTRATORS, DEVISEES,
TRUSTEES AND ASSIGNS,
IMMEDIATE AND REMOTE;

AND

THE CAP FAMILY TRUST,
IF IN EXISTENCE, AND IF
NON-EXISTENT, KNOW AND
UNKNOWN EXECUTORS,
ADMINISTRATORS, DEVISEES,
BENEFICIARIES, TRUSTEES
AND ASSIGNS, IMMEDIATE
AND REMOTE; Defendants.

**CASE NO. CV-2025-122
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION**

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA
TO: Charles W. Wickham, C.
Frances Wickham, Johnathon
Ray Mayes, Bruce A. Wood,
Robin T. Wood and Raymond
Scott Stephenson, if living,
and if, deceased, their known
and unknown heirs, executors,
administrators, devisees,
trustees, successors and assigns,
immediate and remote.

YOU AND EACH OF YOU ARE
HEREBY NOTIFIED that you have
been sued in the above-named
Court and Case No. by 2812
Investments, LLC and you must
answer the Petition of Plaintiff filed
herein on or before December

29, 2025 or a decree quieting title
to the following described real
property will be entered:

See Exhibit “A”

forever barring and enjoining you,
and each of you from hereafter
asserting any right, title or interest
in said real estate, and for such
other relief the Court deems
proper.

Defendants must file an answer
with the Delaware County Court
Clerk within the time period stated
above. Failure to file an answer
within this time period will result
in the Petition being taken as
true and judgment determining
the ownership interests of said
property shall be entered as set
forth in the Petition.

Issued this 7th day of November,
2025.

**Delaware County Court Clerk
By: Deputy Court Clerk**

**Attorney for Plaintiff:
Rylee S. Simon, OBA 35933
Daniel W. Walker, OBA 21055
Walker Law Office, PLLC
201 S. Wheeler Ave.
Sallisaw, OK 74955
Telephone: 918/775-1805**

Exhibit “A”
Tract 1:
Lot 8, Lakewood Addition,
Delaware County, Oklahoma.

AND
Tract 2:
Lot 56, Block 2, The Coves at Bird
Island, a subdivision, Delaware
County, Oklahoma.

AND
Tract 3:
Lot 48, Block 6, Highland Area,
Flint Ridge No. 1, a subdivision
located in Delaware County,
Oklahoma.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please take notice that The
Grand River Dam Authority has
received an application for a
private dock requiring directional
bearing. Such directional bearing
relates to a dock application for
a private dock which if approved
shall extend 94 feet across a cove,
which measures 248 feet across
from 745 feet mean sea level to
745 feet mean sea level on the
nearest opposite shoreline.

Applicant: Bobby Darby & Bob
Darby
Lake Address: 463 Blue Bonner
Ave, Disney, Ok 74340
Legal Description: Township
23N, Range 21E, Section 12
Project: Private Dock

If you would like to request

additional information, please
address your request to the Grand
River Dam Authority, P. O. Box 70,
Langley, Ok. 74350 or call (918)
610-9688.

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**IN THE DISTRICT COURT
IN AND FOR
DELAWARE COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

In the Matter of the Estate of
MYRNA JOAN KERSCHNER,
Deceased.

**Case No. PB-2024-162
Judge David Crutchfield
NOTICE OF HEARING
FINAL ACCOUNT AND
REPORT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE,
DETERMINATION OF HEIRS,
LEGATEES AND DEVISEES,
DECREE OF DISTRIBUTION
AND DISCHARGE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that
the duly appointed and qualified
Personal Representative of the
above-captioned estate has filed
in this Court a Final Account of the
administration of said estate and a
Petition for Determination of Heirs,
Legatees and Devisees, Decree
of Distribution of said estate and
Discharge; hearing of the same
has been fixed by the Judge of
the District Court for the 2nd day
of December, 2025, at the hour of
1:30 p.m. at the Courtroom of said
Court, in the County Courthouse at
Jay, Delaware County, Oklahoma,
and all persons interested in said
estate are notified then and there
to appear and show cause, if
any they have, why said Final
Account should not be settled
and allowed, Heirs, Legatees and
Devisees determined, said Estate
distributed and the Personal
Representative discharged.

**/s/ David Crutchfield
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT
COURT**

**Tommy R. Dyer, Jr.,
O.B.A. #13594
DAVIS & THOMPSON, PLLC
P.O. Box 487
Jay, Oklahoma 74346
Telephone: (918) 253-4220
(918) 801-4454
Fax: (918) 801-4493
tommy@davisanthompson.
net
Attorney for Personal
Representative**

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**IN THE DISTRICT COURT
IN AND FOR
DELAWARE COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

In the Matter of the Estate of
KARON JACOBS

**NO. PB-2024-18
Hon. D. CRUTCHFIELD
NOTICE AND ORDER FOR
HEARING FIRST AND
FINAL ACCOUNT, PETITION
FOR ORDER ALLOWING
FINAL REPORT AND FINAL
ACCOUNT, AND PETITION
FOR FINAL DECREE
OF DISTRIBUTION AND
DISCHARGE**

Notice is hereby given
that Etta Kingfisher, Personal
Representative of the Estate
of Karon Jacobs, Deceased,
having filed in this Court First and
Final Account, Petition for Order
Allowing Final Report and Final
Account, Petition for Decree of
Distribution, Approval of Attorney
's Fees, Costs, and Expenses,
and Discharge of Personal
Representative, the hearing of
the same has been fixed by the
Judge of said Court for the 2nd
day of December, 2025; at 1:30
p.m. at Courtroom No. 2 of said
Court in the County Courthouse
of Delaware County, Oklahoma,
and all persons interested in said
estate are notified to then and
there appear and show cause, if
any they have, why the said First
and Final Account should not be
granted, the account should not
be settled and allowed, said estate
distributed, and the Personal
Representative discharged. IT IS
SO ORDERED.

Dated this 4th day of November,
2025.

**By /s/ David Crutchfield
DEPUTY OR JUDGE OF THE
DISTRICT COURT**

**June A. Stanley, OBA#22310
Stanley Law Firm, PLLC
PO Box 1527
Broken Arrow, OK 74013
918.644.3449 - voice
918.251.6587 - fax
junestanleylaw@gmail.com
Attorney for Estate of Karon
Jacobs and for Etta Kingfisher,
Personal Representative**

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**IN THE DISTRICT COURT
IN AND FOR
DELAWARE COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

In the Matter of the Estate of
JIMMY RAY EARP, deceased.

**Case No. PB-2024-199
NOTICE OF HEARING FINAL
ACCOUNT, PETITION FOR
DETERMINATION OF HEIRS,
DECREE OF DISTRIBUTION
AND DISCHARGE**

Notice is hereby given that
the duly appointed and qualified
Co-Personal Representatives of
the above-captioned estate have
filed in this Court a Final Account
of the administration of said estate
and a Petition for Determination of

Heirs, Distribution of said estate,
and Discharge; hearing of the
same has been fixed by the Judge
of the District Court for the 16th
day of December, 2025, at the
hour of 1:30 o'clock, p.m., at the
Courtroom of said Court, in the
County Courthouse at the City of
Jay, Delaware County, Oklahoma,
and all persons interested in said
estate are notified then and there
to appear and show cause, if any
they have, why said Final Account
should not be settled and allowed,
heirs determined, said estate
distributed and the Personal
Representative discharged.

**/s/ David Crutchfield
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT
COURT**

**Todd E. Kolczun, OBA #16252
LOGAN & LOWRY, LLP
101 South Wilson Street
P.O. Box 558
Vinita, Oklahoma 74301
(918) 256-7511**

**Attorneys for Kent E. Vice and
Johnnie R. Earp Co-Personal
Representatives of the Estate
of Jimmy Ray Earp, deceased**

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November 18 and 25, 2025)
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www.stringswest.com**

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| 580-233-3066**

NEWSPAPER FOR SALE

**AWARD-WINNING WEEKLY community
newspaper in Stephens County for sale.
Contact Todd at 580-641-6356.**

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1-888-815-2672.**