

The Oklahoma Eagle

GO DIGITAL

MAY 05, 2023 - MAY 11, 2023

\$1.00

THE OK EAGLE.COM

"WE MAKE AMERICA GREAT, WHEN WE AID OUR PEOPLE"

SERVING GREATER TULSA SINCE 1921

WEEK
5,326
SINCE THE
1921
TULSA
RACE
MASSACRE

It's long overdue for the criminals who destroyed the Greenwood community in 1921 to be held accountable. Each week we remember a departed member of our community.

LOCAL & STATE

SCHOOL CHOICE TAX BILL

DEMOCRATS OPPOSE OKLAHOMA HOUSE GOP MOVE, STITT CELEBRATES. **A10**

NATION

BLACK ENTREPRENEUR

NINE-YEAR PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE CREATES FOOTWEAR BRAND AND SHARES HOW HE DID IT. **A13**

ANOTHER RELIEF PROGRAM'S END RETURNS SOME OKLAHOMANS TO FOOD INSECURITY

IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS since Melissa Moore turned to food pantries to keep meals on the table. When her food stamp benefits increased to \$500 a month during the pandemic, she could feed her family of three without tapping her disability check.

By **ARI FIFE**, OKLAHOMA WATCH

FOOD INSECURITY *On A2*



LOCAL & STATE

OKLAHOMA GOVERNOR SIGNS GENDER-AFFIRMATION CARE BAN FOR KIDS

By **SEAN MURPHY**, ASSOCIATED PRESS

GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE *On*

A3

LOCAL & STATE

After Contentious Deadline Week Questions Over Edu. & Tax Policy Linger

By **KEATON ROSS**, OKLAHOMA WATCH

EDUCATION & TAX POLICY *On*

A5

LOCAL & STATE

A Legislative Plan To Revamp Charter School Oversight

By **JENNIFER PALMER**, OKLAHOMA WATCH

CHARTER SCHOOL OVERSIGHT *On*

A5

LOCAL & STATE

RYAN WALTERS ROILS HOUSE COMMITTEE, SAYS UNIONS ARE "TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS"

By **BENNETT BRINKMAN**, NONDOC

"TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS" *On*

A6

PHOTO ADOBE IMAGES

VOL. 102 NO. 18

THE OK EAGLE.COM

#THE OK EAGLE

#OKEAGLEPAPER

PUBLISHER'S PAGE

Hannah Diggs Atkins

A librarian, legislator, and ambassador was born November 1, 1923. **A4**

AD SERVICES

Jobs & Classifieds

Discover career opportunities, classifieds and time-sensitive notifications. **A9**

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Faith In Tulsa

The Eagle Church Directory is your source for finding a place to worship. **A12**





GENDER-AFFIRMATION CARE BAN

Rep. Gov. Kevin Stitt signs bill that makes it a felony for health care workers to provide children with related treatment. **A3**

QUESTIONS OVER EDU. & TAX POLICY

Gov. Stitt and House Republicans aligned, Senate has refused to follow suit. **A3**



EASTERN OKLAHOMA

RANKED THE MOST FOOD INSECURE

Congressional District For Children In The Country, 2021

PHOTO ADOBE IMAGES



By **ARI FIFE**, OKLAHOMA WATCH

FOOD INSECURITY

Congress halted those emergency pandemic benefits at the end of February, three months ahead of schedule. As a result, Moore found herself in a drive-thru line of 50 cars again last month outside the Urban Mission, an Oklahoma City food and resource center.

Moore, 53, is among the 557,000 Oklahomans whose incomes and assets fall within limits that qualify them for food stamps, also called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. One in four SNAP recipients report not having enough food at least sometimes, according to U.S. Census data collected after extra SNAP benefits ended.

Many are turning to food banks. One pantry in Muskogee reports the number of customers served last month nearly doubled over pandemic averages. In the most food-insecure portions of Oklahoma, relief organizations are trying to keep up with demand by deploying mobile pantries in communities where 20% of residents live below the poverty line.

Elected leaders in counties where federal pandemic relief funds are still being allocated say they are considering investing some of those funds in food banks, though several are prioritizing long-term projects unlikely to address the immediate need.

"Families were already facing stubbornly high food prices and those prices are going to continue to rise," said Calvin Moore, CEO of the Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. "And not only food prices are rising, but other needs are going unmet because people are (struggling) to find ways to feed themselves."

Melissa Moore, her husband and her adult son are coping with a food stamp benefit decrease of about \$200 that forced her to start using her disability check for groceries instead of utilities. She's also started turning to food pantries about once a week as her husband waits for approval to receive disability checks for several health conditions, including diabetes.

"Without food pantries, I would really be in a big world of hurt," said Moore, whose battle with throat cancer left her unable to work.

When Moore arrived at the front of the car line outside Urban Mission, the bags of produce, bread, meat, and canned goods that workers brought out to her car felt lighter than usual. Urban Mission executive director German Garcia said the non-profit organization's staff has doubled the number of stores they receive donations in the last year, but they've still had to improvise to preserve their supply. Garcia said some weeks, the pantry runs out of rice and limits customers to one loaf of bread.



PHOTO ADOBE IMAGES

"Without food pantries, I would really be in a big world of hurt."

MELISSA MOORE
whose family relies upon Oklahoma's Urban Mission food pantry for assistance, after an almost \$200 decrease of food stamp benefits.

Impacts in Oklahoma's Rural Communities

Feeding America projected that eastern Oklahoma was the most food-insecure congressional district for children in the country in 2021. Many eastern ZIP codes have significant numbers of residents who receive SNAP, according to state data.

The region's food insecurity stems from weak education and transportation infrastructures, not a lack of food, said Calvin Moore, whose bank supplies several pantries experiencing an increase in customers.

Catholic Charities of Eastern Oklahoma has expanded its mobile pantry program in the region since 2021 and now includes 10 pantries in southeastern Oklahoma communities like Poteau, where one in five residents live in poverty. Several of these communities have one grocery store and no other food resources beyond mobile pantries, said Phillip Griffith, who coordinates those pantries.

In Muskogee, where about 25% of residents live in poverty, Deborah Carment runs the Community Food Pantry out of the First United Methodist Church. Carment said her staff saw about 250 people a month during the pandemic. That average grew to about 430 in March and 480 in April.

Carment and a team of four volunteers work out of the church's gym and foyer, where they meet cars as they pull up. As customers fill out a check-in sheet identifying themselves, staff members organize a small batch of groceries to wheel out in grocery carts.

FOOD INSECURITY cont. **A3**



PHOTO ADOBE IMAGES

TULSA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS *have about \$3.5 million in ARPA funds left to spend*

FOOD INSECURITY from A2

The increase in customers has pushed pantry staff to try to stretch its stock, which is sourced from the Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, local grocery stores and donations. Instead of the 21 items offered to each customer during the pandemic, Carment said they've dropped to 12 items rotated depending on availability.

What Local Leaders Are Considering To Fill Resource Gaps

Three county governments in Oklahoma are still dispersing money they received through the American Rescue Plan Act, which could allow for more support to food banks. They have until 2026 to spend the money, which some officials say gives them more time to weigh the long-term impacts.

In Colorado, Jefferson County commissioners recently approved an additional \$350,000 in ARPA funding for food support, anticipating the impacts of SNAP decreases. In Ohio, Portage County commissioners granted \$1 million to local food pantries in a similar effort.

Counties that still have ARPA money could consider investing in food access projects, said Chris

Three county governments in Oklahoma are still dispersing money they received through the American Rescue Plan Act.

Bernard, executive director of Hunger Free Oklahoma. But Bernard acknowledged the challenge of deciding which needs to address, as food insecurity, housing and employment issues can converge.

Tulsa County commissioners granted extra funding for food banks early in the pandemic using Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act money, said Terry Simonson, the county's director of grants and government relations.

When American Rescue Plan Act funding later became available, Simonson said requests from food banks were usually for long-term projects, not immediate need. He said he believes early action the county took to support community organizations helped them avoid an increase in applications for food

funding when food stamp benefits decreased.

Simonson said county commissioners have about \$3.5 million in ARPA funds left to spend, and they've taken a break to consider the 25 pending applications.

Gina Rogers, a deputy in the LeFlore County Clerk's office, said the eastern Oklahoma county has about \$4 million in unspent pandemic relief money and commissioners are working through requests. They haven't gotten requests from local food pantries, she said.

Oklahoma County Commissioner Brian Maughan said commissioners prioritized improvements to the county jail using ARPA money because they saw it as one of the most viable forms of funding. Among the state's 77 counties, only Oklahoma receives no county-level sales tax,

meaning the county gets no revenue outside of property taxes.

The county recently started the first round and has about \$4.9 million to give out, Maughan said. Commissioners are working through about 130 applications, including one from the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma.

Maughan said his top priority is creating permanent change rather than delaying negative consequences.

"It may not just be about buying another crate of fruits or vegetables," Maughan said. "That's what I'm talking about with a long-term impact is that it's something that will help them be more efficient and expand their impact beyond just this one-time donation."

ARI FIFE is a Report for America corps member who covers race and equity issues for Oklahoma Watch. Contact her at (405) 517-2847 or afife@oklahomawatch.org. Follow her on Twitter at @arriifife.

GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE from A1

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Oklahoma on Monday became the latest state to ban gender-affirming medical care for minors as Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt signed a bill that makes it a felony for health care workers to provide children with treatments that can include puberty-blocking drugs and hormones.

Oklahoma joins at least 15 other states with laws banning such care, as conservatives across the country have targeted transgender rights. Stitt, who was reelected in November, made the ban a priority of this year's legislative session, saying he wanted to protect children. Transgender advocates and parents of transgender children say such care is essential. Stitt signed bills last year that prohibit transgender girls and women from playing on female sports teams and prevent transgender children from using school bathrooms that correspond to their gender identity.



TRANS-RIGHTS ACTIVISTS protest outside the House chamber at the Oklahoma Capitol before the State of the State address, Feb. 6, 2023, in Oklahoma City. PHOTO AP PHOTO/SUE OGRICKI, FILE

"Last year, I called for a statewide ban on all irreversible gender transition surgeries and hormone therapies on minors so I am thrilled to sign this into law today and protect our kids," Stitt said in a statement released after the signing. "We cannot turn a blind eye to what's happening across our nation, and as governor I am proud to stand up for what's right and ban life-altering transition surgeries on

children in the state of Oklahoma." The bill Stitt signed on Monday makes it illegal to provide gender-transition medical care for anyone under the age of 18. Such treatment can include surgery as well as hormones and drugs that suppress or delay normal puberty. Transgender advocates and parents of transgender children say such care is essential. Several civil liberty organizations,

including the American Civil Liberties Union of Oklahoma, has promised to "take any necessary legal action" to prevent the law from taking effect. "Gender-affirming care is a critical part of helping transgender adolescents succeed, establish healthy relationships with their friends and family, live authentically as themselves, and dream about their futures,"

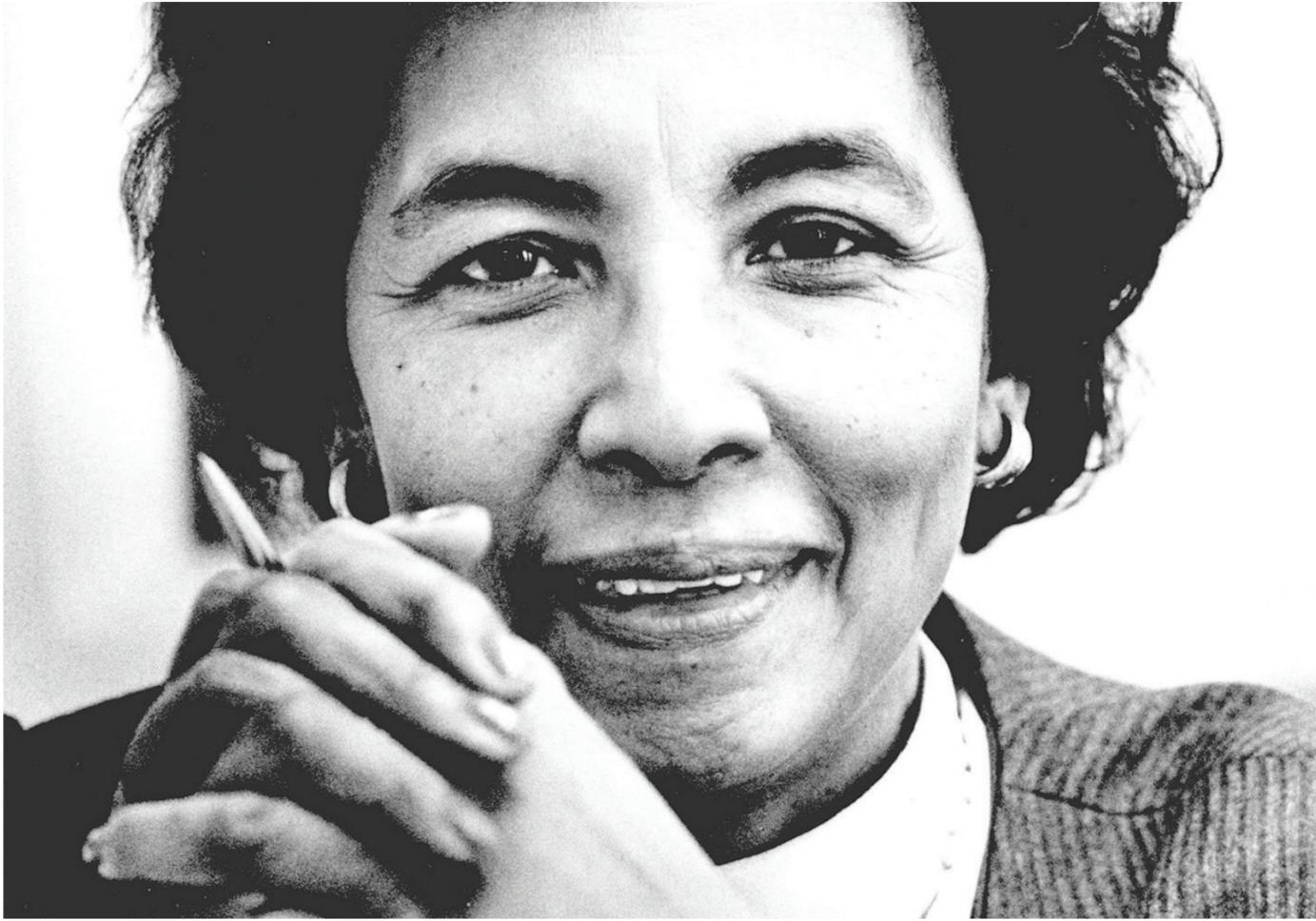
Lambda Legal, the ACLU and the ACLU said in a joint statement. At least 16 states have now enacted laws restricting or banning gender-affirming care for minors: Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Utah, South Dakota and West Virginia. Federal judges have blocked enforcement of laws in Alabama and Arkansas, and nearly two dozen states are considering bills this year to restrict or ban care.

Three states — Florida, Missouri and Texas — have banned or restricted the care via regulations or administrative orders and Missouri's is the only one that also limits the treatments for adults. A judge has blocked Missouri's restrictions. Texas' governor has ordered child welfare officials to investigate reports of children receiving such care as child abuse, though a judge has blocked those investigations.

Hannah Diggs Atkins: Librarian & Legislator

By STEFANIE LEE DECKER, THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF OKLAHOMA HISTORY AND CULTURE

A librarian, a legislator, and an ambassador, Hannah Diggs Atkins was born November 1, 1923, the daughter of James and Mabel Diggs in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.



Hannah married Charles Nathaniel Atkins and had three children, Edmund Earl, Charles Nathaniel, and Valerie Ann. In 1943 Atkins received a Bachelor of Science degree from Saint Augustine's College and later obtained a Bachelor of Library Science from the University of Chicago in 1949. She held a number of positions as a law and reference librarian before moving to Oklahoma in 1952. She worked as the branch librarian for the Oklahoma City Public Libraries (1953–56) and at the Oklahoma State Library, first in the position of reference librarian, then as the chief of the General Reference Division and acting law librarian (1962–68). She also taught both law and library science courses at the University of Oklahoma.

In 1968 Hannah Atkins was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives, and she served as the first African American woman to be a legislator

until 1980. During her term as representative she fought for child welfare, health care, tax and mental health reforms, and civil rights. In 1980 she was appointed by Pres. Jimmy Carter as a United States delegate to the Thirty-fifth Assembly of United Nations, an honor she considered the highlight of her career.

After her term as state representative ended, Atkins was appointed assistant director of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (1983–87) and later to the dual post of secretary of the state and cabinet secretary of social services (1987–91). She held positions and memberships in the American Civil Liberties Union, NAACP, National Association of Black Women Legislators, Oklahoma Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Oklahoma Chapter of the National Women's Political Caucus (co-founder), and Oklahoma Black Political Caucus (founder). She also served in different

capacities in the Democratic National Committee.

Throughout her career Hannah Atkins acquired numerous awards and honors, including Theta Sigma Pi Woman of the Year (1968), National Public Citizen of the Year (1975), Hannah Atkins Day, University of Oklahoma (1978), and Oklahoma ACLU Angie Debo Award (1980). She was inducted into the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame in 1982. She was also honored with an endowed professorship in the political science department at Oklahoma State University. In 1998 she received an honorary doctorate from the University of Oklahoma and in 2000 an honorary doctorate from Oklahoma State University. Into the twenty-first century Atkins continued to serve her community as a member of the Oklahoma Task Force for the Bombing Memorial. Hannah Atkins died on June 17, 2010.

THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY is an agency of the government of Oklahoma dedicated to promotion and preservation of Oklahoma's history and its people by collecting, interpreting, and disseminating knowledge and artifacts of Oklahoma.

HANNAH DIGGS ATKINS, 1983
(2012.201.B0044.0887, Oklahoma Publishing Company Photography Collection, OHS).

Featured Last Week



OK Lawmakers Try For Second Year To Expand Pregnancy Help



Walter Announces Teacher Pay Recruitment Incentives, Bonuses



Black Children Experiencing Brunt of Child Abuse Crisis

The Oklahoma Eagle

Founded in 1921

- James O. Goodwin**
Publisher 1980-Present
- Robert K. Goodwin**
Publisher 1972-1980
- Edward L. Goodwin, Jr.**
Co-Publisher 1980-2014
- Edward L. Goodwin, Sr.**
Publisher 1936-1972
- Theodore B. Baughman**
Publisher 1921-1936

Business

- M. David Goodwin**
Principal
- Ross D. Johnson**
Principal
- David W. Cole**
General Council
- Marsh Media**
Advertising

News

- Gary Lee**
Managing Editor
- Ray Pearcey**
Sr. Contributor
- Nkem Ike**
Contributor
- Russell LaCour**
Contributor
- Victor Luckerson**
Contributor
- John Neal**
Contributor

Photography

- Cory Young**
Photographer

Print

- Sam Levrault**
Production Director

Circulation

- Kirstein Lynn**
Subscription Manager

Digital

- Web**
TheOKEagle.com
- Facebook**
TheOKEagle
- Twitter**
OKEaglePaper

Contact

- Letters to the Editor**
editor@theokeagle.com

- Advertise**
advertise@theokeagle.com

- Circulation**
publishers@theokeagle.com

- Subscribe**
theokeagle.com/subscribe

The Oklahoma Eagle
Enjoy articles, events and featured content online



Online

WEB: www.theokeagle.com
FACEBOOK: #TheOKEagle
TWITTER: #OKEaglePaper

Delivery

For questions about deliver, billing and our membership program, please contact us at +1 (918) 582-7124, ext. 241.

Submissions

Submitted content may be edited for space, clarity and for considerations of liability. All submissions become the sole property of The Oklahoma Eagle, which reserves the right to run all or part of any submissions due to timeliness or newsworthiness.

Letters to the Editor

Want to write a letter to be published in the paper and online? Email us online to submit.

Advertising

For print and online advertising information, go to theokeagle.com/media-kit/ or call . +1 (918) 582-7124.

The Newsroom

Know something important we should cover? Send an inquiry to theokeagle.com/subscribe.

The Oklahoma Eagle | Founded in 1921 | Vol. CII No. 18

THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE is published weekly on Fridays by The Oklahoma Eagle, LLC, P.O. Box 3267, Tulsa, OK 74101. General office is 624 E. Archer St., Tulsa, OK 74120. Periodical Postage (WSPS 406-580) is paid at Tulsa, OK. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the above address. Delivery subscription rates (Continental United States, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands). All subscriptions may include Premium Edition issues throughout the year.

Mail Subscriber Rates: Single copy \$1 | Yearly \$52 | 2 Years \$100

©2023 The Oklahoma Eagle, LLC. All rights reserved. No portions of this periodical may be reproduced with expressed written consent.



LEGISLATORS on the House floor applaud during Gov. Stitt's fifth State of the State speech at the Capitol on Feb. 6, 2023. PHOTO WHITNEY BRYEN/OKLAHOMA WATCH

Tensions Are Rising

As House Republicans have aligned with Gov. Kevin Stitt's \$800 million education funding package, which includes teacher pay raises between \$2,000 and \$5,000 and tax credits for private school tuition and homeschool expenses. The Senate has refused to follow suit. Senate Pro Tem Greg Treat said last week that his caucus wants fewer funds allocated to the Oklahoma Student Fund, which would allocate up to \$2 million per school district for improvements.

By KEATON ROSS, OKLAHOMA WATCH
EDUCATION & TAX POLICY

HOUSE BILL 2285

An Act relating to revenue and taxation; amending 68 O.S. 2021, Section 2355, as amended by Section 45, Chapter 228, O.S.L. 2022, (68 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section 2355), which relates to income tax rates; modifying income tax rate for individuals; providing for certain determination related to total collections for the General Revenue Fund of the State Treasury; prescribing method for computations; providing for reduction of individual income tax rates; imposing duties on State Board of Equalization; imposing limit on reductions based on revenue determinations; providing for individual income tax rate after successive rate reductions; amending 68 O.S. 2021, Section 2358, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 341, O.S.L. 2022 (68 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section 2358), which relates to computation of Oklahoma adjusted gross income; modifying standard deduction amounts; and providing an effective date.

The Senate on Thursday afternoon advanced a series of education-related bills to give teacher pay raises, establish a tax credit system for parents of private and homeschooled students and provide eight weeks of maternity leave for teachers. Unlike the House's education plan, each of the five bills passed are standalone items and not tied to each other.

Meanwhile, Stitt has vowed to veto any Senate legislation whose author is unsupportive of his plan. Among the more than 20 bills Stitt vetoed last week include measures to loosen requirements for college athletes to sign NIL deals and extend funding for the Oklahoma Education Television Authority through the middle of 2026.

Pushing back against the vetoes in a late Thursday hearing, the Senate refused to confirm two Stitt nominees for cabinet positions. In his weekly press availability Friday morning, Stitt said he's optimistic a deal will get done soon but the vetoes will continue until that happens.

"Until we get tax cuts and parent choice done, we're not going to do all this other stuff for lobbyists and special interest groups," Stitt said.

Lawmakers can override a gubernatorial veto with a two-thirds majority in both chambers or a three-quarters majority for bills with an emergency clause. While the Senate voted to override the rejection of a healthcare appropriations bill on April 19, the House has yet to seek a reversal of a gubernatorial veto.

The House and Senate have also yet to agree on proposed tax cuts, which Stitt has listed as a priority of the legislative session. House Bill 2285, which would lower the state's personal income tax rate from 4.75% to 4.5% and raise the standard deduction for single and married filers, failed to clear the Senate by last Thursday's deadline for bills to pass out of their opposing chamber.

Legislative leaders could seek to revive income tax cuts through a process called shucking. That played out last week in the House when Speaker Charles McCall gutted the contents of a bill dealing with mental health counseling and replaced it with language tying teacher pay raises to the passage of tax credits for parents of private and homeschool students.

As the deadlock over education policy drags on, budget negotiations have stalled. The clock is ticking on that front. To avoid a special session, the Legislature and the governor's office need to reach an agreement by Friday, May 26.

I'd appreciate your feedback as we enter the final stretch of the legislative session. Are you frustrated by the stalemate? What kind of coverage would you like to see from Oklahoma Watch in the coming weeks? Let me know at Kross@Oklahomawatch.org.

SENATE BILL PROPOSES NEW Charter School Board

CHARTER SCHOOL OVERSIGHT from AI

A bill moving through the Legislature would revamp the way charter schools are approved and supervised in Oklahoma.

Senate Bill 516 would dissolve the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board and replace it with the Statewide Charter School Board. The new board would take over sponsorship of all the virtual schools and charter schools authorized by the state Board of Education. It could sponsor other brick-and-mortar charter schools, too.

The new board would consist of nine members: three appointed by the governor, two each chosen by the House and Senate leader, and the state superintendent of public instruction and state auditor and inspector filling the remaining two seats.

That would give the governor more influence on charter school decisions; currently, the governor gets one appointment to the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board.

And instead of being funded through a percentage of the schools' state aid, like the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board, the new board would be an appropriated agency.

The bill, by Sen. Adam Pugh, R-Edmond, also includes changes to improve state oversight of charter schools, including governance and finance.

The Statewide Virtual Charter School Board instituted reforms at Epic Charter Schools in the fallout of a damning investigative audit and is now wrestling with a Catholic charter school application meant to test the courts' willingness to allow public funding of religious schooling.

Another change to note: the proposal would also allow private Oklahoma colleges and universities to sponsor brick-and-mortar charters, which currently they can't do. CareerTechs would no longer be able to act as sponsors.

The Senate approved Pugh's bill 40 - 7 and this week, a House committee moved it forward. It can now be heard by the full House of Representatives.



RYAN WALTERS
OKLAHOMA
SUPERINTENDENT
OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET
COMMITTEE HEARING, MAY 1, 2023

RYAN WALTERS, Oklahoma State Secretary of Public Instruction. The quote illustrated above is one of many controversial statements made by Walters since assuming office. ILLUSTRATION THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

WALTERS, "I DON'T NEGOTIATE WITH THE TEACHERS UNION, *They're A Terrorist Organization.*"

By BENNETT BRINKMAN, NonDoc

'TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS' from AI

In a conference room packed with legislators, journalists, school district administrators, top aides of the State Department of Education and members of the public both supportive and critical of him, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Ryan Walters fired missives at Democrats and teacher unions while testifying before the House Appropriations and Budget Committee weeks after representatives first asked him to do so.

With chief political advisor Matt Langston standing near the room's doorway and tweeting in response to committee members during the meeting, Walters answered questions from representatives for more than two hours until a final dust up with Democrats caused Appropriations and Budget Committee Vice Chairman Ryan Martinez (R-Edmond) to end the protracted meeting abruptly.

Lawmakers, including Martinez and House Speaker Charles McCall (R-Atoka), expressed great concern with the Oklahoma State Department of Education's process for pursuing federal grants. The two House leaders asked Walters to provide a written description of the agency's decision-making process for federal grants by Monday, May 8. Similarly, House members also asked for other materials, including the status of current applications for federal grants, information on the state's Redbud district funding program and information on how "indoctrination" is occurring in classrooms.

By May 15, Walters was asked to compile a list of emails he has received in his capacity as chairman of the board of commissioners for the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability.

Additionally, Walters seemed to support the House's position in the Legislature's ongoing education funding package stalemate. In response to questions from House Majority Floor Leader Jon Echols (R-OKC), Walters said his agency estimated that the Senate's new version of the education plan contains some unfunded mandates for which individual districts would have to foot the bill.

Walters on teacher unions: 'They're a terrorist organization'

Monday's meeting saw representatives on both sides of the aisle ask numerous questions, and some of Walters' responses drew strong reactions from members.

Walters came out of the gate swinging. In responding to McCall's opening questions regarding federal grants, the superintendent fired shots in all directions.

"I'm going to be real direct. It was an absolute dumpster fire when we got to this

"I'm really curious as to why you would make that connection between the two. Terrorists blow up buildings — kill innocent people, they usually don't show up in classrooms across the state of Oklahoma to educate kids." - REP. MONROE NICHOLS (D-TULSA)



PHOTO ADOBE IMAGES

agency," Walters said. "Joy Hofmeister had ran this administration — this agency — into the ground, and what we started doing very quickly was ensuring there would be accountability for every dollar spent."

Walters continued his answer to McCall by attacking teachers unions.

"And again, we have organizations like the teachers union that have gone out there and spread all kinds of lies about what's going on in the agency," Walters said. "The teachers union — I don't negotiate with the teachers union, they're a terrorist organization —"

Democrats and public school employees in the room groaned and grumbled, prompting Walters to look in the direction of the dismayed and smile before continuing.

"— that has continued to spread misinformation around the state and lie about our administration," Walters continued. "So, speaker, my goal has always been to provide transparency, truth and be very, very open and honest with every single program and everything that we're doing."

Subsequent questioning from Rep. Mike

Osburn (R-Edmond) pressed Walters to describe the Oklahoma State Department of Education personnel changes that have drawn media attention since he took office.

Walters said 37 agency employees resigned with the administrative change and seven were fired. Walters also said 17 positions have been eliminated since he took control. Currently, he said OSDE has nine vacant positions.

Osburn asked Walters about some lawmakers' perception that his administration has lacked professionalism and proper communication with the Legislature.

"That's completely wrong," Walters responded. "What we've done is been more transparent and communicated better than the previous administration ever has. You know, some folks don't like accountability and oversight, and that's what I promise to bring to state government — that every employee would be held accountable for their job performance. We are 49th in education outcomes — 49th. I'm going to tell you, that

meant some folks need to go." Nearly 15 minutes later, Walters doubled down on his "dumpster fire" assessment of OSDE in response to a question from Martinez that asked him to provide details about federal grants for which the agency has applied.

"When we came on board, there was no process in place on applying for these grants," Walters said. "There were grants that would come and go. There were decisions made around whether to apply for one or not apply for one, but again, there was no description of how decisions were made. We are creating a process through which you can see — this is how we evaluate grants. This is the criteria we use."

Walters emphasized that his administration has "not missed a single deadline" when applying for grants.

After a couple more exchanges with other committee members, Rep. Marcus McEntire (R-Duncan) brought the conversation to one of Walters' favorite buzzwords: indoctrination.

"So you're saying you're not sure if this (liberal indoctrination) isn't in other schools or is in other schools?" McEntire asked.

Walters gave one of his trademark answers, referencing the multitudes of communications he has with parents across the state.

"Oh, it's in other schools," Walters said. "Yes, sir. We are getting complaints and issues about this every day. As a matter of fact, I would welcome anyone from the legislative body to travel with me as I meet with parents across the state every day. It's a concern we hear."

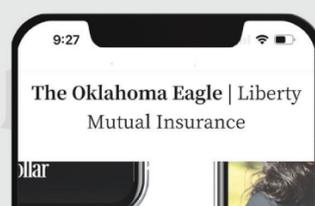
A few minutes later, Walters doubled down on his assessment of teachers unions as "terrorist organizations" during an exchange with Rep. Monroe Nichols (D-Tulsa).

"I'm really curious as to why you would make that connection between the two. Terrorists blow up buildings — kill innocent people, they usually don't show up in classrooms across the state of Oklahoma to educate kids," Nichols said. "How do you believe you're going to be able to pull off all these big, grand plans if you're having such a difficult time engaging the folks that you're going to have to partner with to make sure

'TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS' cont. A7

Our Mission

To amplify our core value of equity, through journalism and editorial" is the cornerstone of our continued success.





“ THIS IS AN AGENCY WHERE WOKE WILL GO TO DIE. ”

RYAN WALTERS OKLAHOMA SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

THURSDAY, FEB. 23, 2023, OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING.

RYAN WALTERS, Oklahoma State Secretary of Public Instruction. The quote illustrated above is one of many controversial statements made by Walters since assuming office. ILLUSTRATION THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

‘TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS’ from A6

that those plans come to their full fruition down the road?”

Walters answered by implying that unions held schools hostage during COVID-19 lockdowns.

“We had kids struggling tremendously at home. We had suicide rates going through the roof,” Walters said. “And we had a group of individuals say, ‘You know, if you pay us enough money here from federal dollars, we’ll open them back up.’ I don’t negotiate with folks that are going to intentionally sabotage our kids. (...) You are hurting kids intentionally to shake down the federal government for money — that’s a terrorist organization in my book.”

Nichols responded by articulating a desire for understanding between teachers and the superintendent.

“There’s a hope that our campaigning is different than how we might lead,” Nichols said. “One thing I’ll agree with you on is outcomes for kids are not where they should be. One thing I will challenge you on is I don’t think calling teachers terrorists and going around and talking about indoctrination and all that kind of stuff is going to change that.”

Walters appeared frustrated. After saying he appreciated Nichols’ comments, he said that they might have to “respectfully disagree.”

“When I hear folks say, ‘Why are you talking about stuff you said on the campaign trail?’ I want you to hear — what does that mean?” Walters said. “So was the expectation that I lied to voters when I told them I’m going to get indoctrination out of schools? (...) I am going to do what I said I’m going to do. (...) Guys, I meant it.”

After Monday’s meeting, some committee members expressed frustration with the proceedings, particularly Walters’ repeated allegation of Democrats “lying,” his statements about unions and his claims regarding pornographic material in school libraries.

“It was embarrassing. Just his lack of actual knowledge is embarrassing,” said Rep. Melissa Provenzano (D-Tulsa). “Fighting imaginary demons is a waste of time.”

The Oklahoma Education Association, one of the state’s three main teacher unions, released a statement on Twitter.

“In less radical times, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction calling the educators who serve in our public school classrooms ‘terrorists’ would be shocking,” read the statement posted by the organization, which is led by OEA president Katherine Bishop. “However, this inflammatory and demonizing rhetoric continues to escalate in ways that endanger our educators and undermine public education.”

After the meeting, Walters seemed unfazed when asked for his reaction to the hearing.

“One thing I will challenge you on is I don’t think calling teachers terrorists and going around and talking about indoctrination... is going to change that..”

- REP. MONROE NICHOLS, (D-Tulsa)

“I think it was great,” Walters said. “I love being able to have these kinds of discussions and air this out.”

Walters defended his remarks about teacher unions when asked how the educators he claims he wants to recruit might interpret his words.

“I know how they’re going to react. They are going to ask questions of their union bosses that are not in line with most of their teachers and most of their members,” Walters said. “They’re going to go, ‘Wait, were we really closing down schools and negotiating billions of dollars in a government buyout? Were we really trying to mandate vaccines?’ I’m going to tell you, there is a difference between union leadership and most of their members. So I’m bringing up these points so that teachers know and see, ‘Wait, those aren’t my values.’ I have teachers tell me all the time, ‘I didn’t know that. I didn’t know that was a position.’ They need to be up front with what their positions are.”

‘Beating the drum and scaring grandma’

During the meeting, Walters had a pair of fiery exchanges with Rep. Regina Goodwin (D-Tulsa).

“You continue to spew your opinions. You continue to tell us what President Biden thinks,” Goodwin said. “We’re really more concerned about what you think, but you are readily and anxiously and eagerly letting us know everyday who you are and what you represent — which, quite frankly, does not represent all children.”

Goodwin then asked how Walters represents Oklahoma.

“Yeah, I mean, everything you said there was wrong, respectfully, representative,” Walters said.

Goodwin interrupted him, saying that all she heard was rhetoric.

After the pair completed their exchange, House Appropriations and Budget Education Subcommittee Chairman Mark McBride, who originally requested that Walters meet with lawmakers, asked Walters if he believes obscene books in libraries pose a problem prevalent enough to demand as much attention as Walters has devoted.

“So we’ve got over 540 school districts in the state,” McBride said. “I agree that we do not want this on the shelves and we want that taken off, but is it something to go around beating the drum scaring grandma about?”

‘TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS’ cont. A8

**Our mission,
“To amplify our core value of
Equity...”**

- Fairness
- Justice
- Honesty
- Integrity
- Righteousness
- Decency
- Objectivity
- Impartiality
- Honor
- Fair-mindedness
- Truth

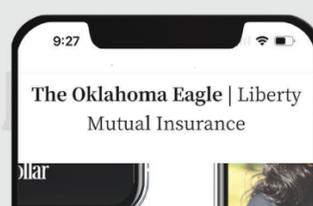
Subscribe today
[@ theoklahomaeagle.net](https://theoklahomaeagle.net)

The Oklahoma Eagle

The Oklahoma Eagle

Our Mission

To amplify our core value of equity, through journalism and editorial” is the cornerstone of our continued success.



RYAN WALTERS, Oklahoma State Secretary of Public Instruction. The quote illustrated is one of many controversial statements made by Walters since assuming office. ILLUSTRATION THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE



RYAN WALTERS OKLAHOMA SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

CAMPAIGN WEBSITE, RYAN WALTERS FOR OKLAHOMA.COM

‘CRT IS A DANGEROUS AND RACIST PHILOSOPHY

WALTERS, “WHO YOU ARE... DOES NOT REPRESENT ALL CHILDREN.”

REP. REGINA GOODWIN (D-TULSA)

‘TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS’ from A7

Walters insisted the issue is common, even referencing Owasso Public Schools by name.

“It’s one of the number one things I’m asked about. It’s one of the number one requests that we get is these issues in schools,” Walters said. “And so, again, I’m always going to listen to parents. I’m always going to say, ‘Look, one piece of pornography is too much.’”

After the meeting, Owasso Public Schools Superintendent Margaret Coates stood in the hall and watched Walters speak with Rep. Mark Vancuren (R-Owasso).

“It was frustrating because he is using Owasso as an example when this book was removed Aug. 24 from our shelf, and we went through the self-audit doing the right thing — per our policy — doing the right thing for our community and our students,” Coates said. “To continue to be used as an example does not seem fair when he has not reached out directly to our district to even confer or find details out about the situation — to verify facts.”

Although Coates said one graphic novel had been removed in August and 6,000 other comic books have been reviewed by an independent committee, Walters referenced a report by Nuria Martinez-Keel of The Oklahoman that said Owasso



PHOTO ADOBE IMAGES

Public Schools had decided to keep a book called Flamer on its shelves after the review. Walters said he wanted to know more about the novel.

In the end, Monday’s meeting concluded with a chaotic uproar from the Democrats’ side of the table after Walters accused them of wanting to erase the Bible from history. Moments before, Goodwin had lambasted the superintendent for his “racist-tinged comments” and “divisiveness.”

“Help me with your plan (to improve student outcomes),” Goodwin said. “Don’t do any more flame-throwing. Just talk about, really, how you are committed to that, and if you’re not committed to that, what kind of talk with Jesus do you have to have tonight to get on track?”

Walters replied by saying he does not care “if people are triggered by what I say.”

Martinez said he would allow one question from Rep. Forrest Bennett (D-OKC) and one question from Rep. Dick Lowe (R-Amber), after which he would end the meeting and give

participation medals to everyone who stayed for its entirety.

But Lowe never got to ask his question after Bennett asked Walters about a video supporting more Bibles in schools.

“Democrats want to strike out any mentions of the Bible from our history,” Walters said.

When Democrats protested that Walters’ assertion was not true, Martinez banged his gavel and adjourned the meeting.

Bennett Brinkman became NonDoc’s education reporter in August 2022 after completing a reporting internship. He holds a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Oklahoma and is originally from Edmond.

BENNETT BRINKMAN became NonDoc’s education reporter in August 2022 after completing a reporting internship. He holds a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Oklahoma and is originally from Edmond.

The Oklahoma Eagle

Arts
Culture
History
Education
Business
Faith



NOTICE

803885
Published in The Oklahoma Eagle: Tulsa County, Oklahoma, April 28 and May 5, 2023

NOTICE TO BIDDERS SEALED BIDS FOR PROJECT NO. 144003-B

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to an order by the Mayor of the City of Tulsa, Oklahoma, sealed bids will be received in Room 260 of the Office of the City Clerk, City of Tulsa, 175 E. 2nd Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103 until 8:30 a.m. the 26th day of May, 2023 for furnishing all tools, materials and labor and performing the work necessary to be done in the construction of the following:

PROJECT NO. 144003-B CITYWIDE GUARDRAIL REPLACEMENT

The entire cost of the improvement shall be paid from Account No. 144003. Street 32.5453104.4053257-541106
2036X001 OZ.Streets. Traf
Eng.4281.42813257-541106
2036X001 OZ.Streets. Traf
Eng.4282.42823257-541106

A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. and will be held through video conferencing with Microsoft Teams, invitation presented on the City of Tulsa's website at this link: <https://www.cityoftulsa.org/government/departments/engineering-services/construction-bids/>

Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference is MANDATORY. Bids will not be received from contractors who did not attend the Pre-Bid Conference.

Bids will be accepted by the City Clerk from the holders of valid pre-qualifications certificates from the City of Tulsa in one or more of the following classifications: A or D

Drawings, specifications and contract documents for construction of said public improvements of the said project have been adopted by the Mayor of said City. Copies of same may be obtained at the Office of the Director of Engineering Services at the City of Tulsa Engineering Services, 2317 South Jackson, Room 103, North Building, for a non-refundable fee in the amount of \$50.00 made payable to the City of Tulsa by check or money order.

Contract requirements shall include compliance as required by law pertaining to the practice of non-discrimination in employment.

The overall aspirational Small Business Enterprise utilization goal for this project is ten (10) percent.

Attention is called to Resolution No. 18145 of August 23, 1988, requiring bidders to commit to the goal of employing on the project at least fifty percent bona fide residents of the City of Tulsa and/or MSA in each employment classification.

Attention is called to Resolution 7404 of November 8, 2006, requiring bidders, their subcontractors and their lower-tier subcontractors to hire only citizens of the United States.

The City of Tulsa itself is exempt from the payment of any sales or use taxes, and pursuant to Title 68 O.S. Section 1356(10), direct vendors to the City are also exempt from those taxes. A bidder may exclude from his bid appropriate sales taxes, which he will not have to pay while acting for and on behalf of the City of Tulsa.

A Certified or Cashier's Check or Bidders Surety Bond, in the sum of 5% of the amount of the bid will be required from each bidder to be retained as liquidated damages in the event the successful bidder fails, neglects or refuses to enter into said contract for the construction of said public improvements for said project and furnish the necessary bonds within thirty days from and after the date the award is made.

The bidder to whom a contract is awarded will be required to furnish public liability and workmen's compensation insurance; Performance, Statutory, and Maintenance bonds acceptable to the City of Tulsa, in conformity with the requirements of the proposed contract documents. The Performance, Statutory, and Maintenance bonds shall be for one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price.

All bids will be opened and considered by the Bid Committee of said City at a meeting of said Committee to be held in the City Council Room of City Hall in said City at 9:00 a.m. on the 26th day of May 2023.

Dated at Tulsa, Oklahoma, this 28th day of April 2023.

(SEAL)
Christina Chappell
City Clerk

NOTICE

Published in The Oklahoma Eagle: May 5 and 12, 2023.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS SEALED BIDS FOR PROJECT NO. 2036N6142Z

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to an order by the Mayor of the City of Tulsa, Oklahoma, sealed bids will be received in Room 260 of the Office of the City Clerk, City of Tulsa, 175 E. 2nd Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103 until 8:30 a.m. the 2nd day of June, 2023 for furnishing all tools, materials and labor and performing the work necessary to be done in the construction of the following:

PROJECT NO. 2036N6142Z NON-ARTERIAL STREET REHABILITATION EAST TULSA

The entire cost of the improvement shall be paid from Account No. 2036N6142Z. Streets. NArRh.4282.42823122-541106
2036N6142Z. Streets. NArRh.4283.42833122-541106

A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for Monday, May 16, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. and will be held through video conferencing with Microsoft Teams, invitation presented on the City of Tulsa's website at this link: <https://www.cityoftulsa.org/government/departments/engineering-services/construction-bids/>

Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference is MANDATORY. Bids will not be received from contractors who did not attend the Pre-Bid Conference.

Bids will be accepted by the City Clerk from the holders of valid pre-qualifications certificates from the City of Tulsa in one or more of the following classifications: A or C

Drawings, specifications and contract documents for construction of said public improvements of the said project have been adopted by the Mayor of said City. Copies of same may be obtained at the Office of the Director of Engineering Services at the City of Tulsa Engineering Services, 2317 South Jackson, Room 103, North Building, for a non-refundable fee in the amount of \$50.00 made payable to the City of Tulsa by check or money order.

Contract requirements shall include compliance as required by law pertaining to the practice of non-discrimination in employment.

The overall aspirational Small Business Enterprise utilization goal for this project is ten (10) percent.

Attention is called to Resolution No. 18145 of August 23, 1988, requiring bidders to commit to the goal of employing on the project at least fifty percent bona fide residents of the City of Tulsa and/or MSA in each employment classification.

Attention is called to Resolution 7404 of November 8, 2006, requiring bidders, their subcontractors and their lower-tier subcontractors to hire only citizens of the United States.

The City of Tulsa itself is exempt from the payment of any sales or use taxes, and pursuant to Title 68 O.S. Section 1356(10), direct vendors to the City are also exempt from those taxes. A bidder may exclude from his bid appropriate sales taxes, which he will not have to pay while acting for and on behalf of the City of Tulsa.

A Certified or Cashier's Check or Bidders Surety Bond, in the sum of 5% of the amount of the bid will be required from each bidder to be retained as liquidated damages in the event the successful bidder fails, neglects or refuses to enter into said contract for the construction of said public improvements for said project and furnish the necessary bonds within thirty days from and after the date the award is made.

The bidder to whom a contract is awarded will be required to furnish public liability and workmen's compensation insurance; Performance, Statutory, and Maintenance bonds acceptable to the City of Tulsa, in conformity with the requirements of the proposed contract documents. The Performance, Statutory, and Maintenance bonds shall be for one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price.

All bids will be opened and considered by the Bid Committee of said City at a meeting of said Committee to be held in the City Council Room of City Hall in said City at 9:00 a.m. on the 2nd day of June 2023.

Dated at Tulsa, Oklahoma, this 5th day of May 2023.

(SEAL)
Christina Chappell
City Clerk

CLASSIFIEDS

OKLAHOMA CLASSIFIED AD NETWORK

FOR MORE INFO CALL
1-888-815-2672
REAL ESTATE AUCTION

REAL ESTATE AUCTION, RV SALES AND SERVICE BUSINESS, MAY 5, 3 PM, GROVE OK. 5 acres on US59 with metal building and 2 bedroom home. www.hendrenauction.com 918-695-0808. Oklahoma Land and Auction

WANT TO BUY

OLD GUITARS WANTED! LARRY BRINGS CASH for vintage USA guitars, tube amps, banjos, mandolins, etc. Fender, Gibson, Martin, Gretsch, others. Call or text 918-288-2222. www.stringswest.com

AUCTION MAY 10th

AUCTION MAY 10th 2757 US Hwy 81, Hennessey, OK 73742 (N. of Hennessey on Hwy 81) 5+/- ac. Commercial Property w/ offices/ Large shop/ Sep. Wash Bay w/ over 11,800 Total Sq Ft. | WigginsAuctioneers.com 580-233-3066

STORM DAMAGE?

STORM DAMAGE? We have the perfect replacement options for you! Steel Buildings are great for Homes, Storage, and Shelters. CALL PENELOPE TODAY! 800-991-9251

ADVERTISE STATEWIDE

Put your message where it matters most - IN OKLAHOMA NEWSPAPERS. We can place your ad in 146 newspapers. For more information or to place an ad, contact Landon Cobb at (405) 499-0022 or toll-free in OK at 1-888-815-2672.

CLASSIFIEDS

METAL ROOFS

\$3995*

LIMITED TIME

SIDING/WINDOWS 40% OFF
Factory warranty • Free Estimates

TM CONSTRUCTION
CALL NOW! 800-664-4856



Sr/Military Discounts *1500 SQ



EARN UP TO \$50

Help Oklahoma find a sustainable funding solution for our roads and bridges while earning \$50 as a participant in our state-wide research project.

For information and to register visit www.fairmilesok.com

LARGE ABSOLUTE AUCTION

MEUBLERIA LA POPULAR FURNITURE
SAT. MAY 20TH AT 9:00 AM

ITEMS LOCATED AT: 216 SW 29TH ST, OKLA. CITY

INSPECTION: WED. MAY 17TH, THURS. MAY 18TH & FRI. MAY 19TH FROM 9:30 AM TO 6:00 PM

AND STARTING AT 8:00 AM DAY OF AUCTION

AUCTION HELD AT:
DAKIL AUCTIONEERS, INC.
200 NW 114TH ST, OKLA. CITY, OKLA.

(W. Side Service Rd of the Bdwy Ext. between 122nd & Hefner)

CAN'T MAKE IT TO THE AUCTION, BID LIVE ON-LINE AT WWW.DAKIL.COM

OVER \$500,000 IN RETAIL COST!

OVER 1,000 LOTS OF BRAND NEW HIGH QUALITY FURNITURE, ART & ACCESSORIES FROM SIGNATURE DESIGN BY ASHLEY, GE APPLIANCES & OTHERS.

Buyers premium will apply.

SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILED LISTING & PICTURES

Dakil

AUCTIONEERS 405-751-6179
www.dakil.com

ABSOLUTE AUCTION

NORMCO PUMP & POWER

THURS. MAY 11TH AT 10:00 AM

ITEMS LOCATED AT: 38894 LAKE RD, SHAWNEE, OKLA.

INSPECTION; MON. MAY 8TH, TUES. MAY 9TH, & WED. MAY 10TH FROM 8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

AND STARTING AT 8:00 AM DAY OF AUCTION

AUCTION HELD AT:
DAKIL AUCTIONEERS, INC.
200 NW 114TH ST, OKLA. CITY, OKLA.

(W. Side Service Rd of the Bdwy Ext. between 122nd & Hefner)

CAN'T MAKE IT TO THE AUCTION, BID LIVE ON-LINE AT WWW.DAKIL.COM

One Unit Rig, U-15 Oil and Gas Drilling Rig w/Associated Equipment And Components.

OILFIELD EQUIPMENT: Several Wilson Duplex Pumps, Oilfield Substructures, Mud Pit, U34 Draw Works, Hydril Pulsation Dampener, U34 Skidded Draw Works, Rotary Tables, McKissick 48x30 Block, 63' Double Deck w/Legs, 28' Skidded Twin Engine Compound, 36" Crown Block

FARM EQUIPMENT: John Deere 20' Hydraulic Fold-up Disc, John Deere 1219 Hay Cutter, (3) Brush Hogs (12', 5' & 4'), Freckling 435 Grain Wagon, John Deere 8820 Combine w/Header,

John Deere 70 Tractor w/Dozer Blade, 86 joints Aluminum Irrigation Pipe, John Deere 32' Spring Harrow, Freightliner Grain Truck w/Aluminum Bed, 40+ Antique Tractors, GMC Grain Truck, John Deere 455 Folding Drill, International 510 Drill.

PLEASE SEE WEB SITE FOR DETAILED LISTING & PICTURES

Dakil

AUCTIONEERS 405-751-6179
www.dakil.com

Goin' To Worship: Sunday Is A Lifeline Of Greenwood's Legacy & Future

Carrying On Legacy Of Black Physicians

On Greenwood: The North Tulsa Sports Machine

Our mission, "To amplify our core value of Equity..."

Fairness
Justice
Honesty
Integrity
Righteousness
Decency
Objectivity
Impartiality
Honor
Fair-mindedness
Truth

Subscribe today
@theoklahomaeagle.net

The Oklahoma Eagle



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
considering the career paths
available after graduation.

Oklahoma legislators are
currently engaged in contentious
negotiations regarding school
choice tax credits.
PHOTO ADOBE IMAGES

As originally proposed by the House, the refundable school choice tax credit bill had been tied legislatively to a proposal for more than \$500 million of new appropriations for public school districts aimed at funding teacher pay raises and other school needs. But after a colossal kerfuffle between the chambers and the governor to conclude April, the Senate decoupled the proposals and sent new versions of each to the House in HB 1934 and a series of other bills.

Tuesday, the House advanced HB 1934, which would cap the school choice tax credit program at \$150 million for Fiscal Year 2024. The cap would grow to \$250 million over the subsequent two years.

But the House also rejected the Senate's amendment to HB 2672, which proposed the Senate's education funding package and teacher pay raise.

"It just throws rural Oklahoma smooth under the bus, and this House just isn't willing to do that," House Majority Floor Leader Jon Echols (R-OKC) said of HB 2672's parameters.

Senate President Pro Tempore Greg Treat (R-OKC) released a statement criticizing the House's decisions as "beyond disappointing."

"The unprecedented move to hold the school choice legislation hostage until the Senate agrees to pass the constitutionally questionable Oklahoma Student Fund and other pet projects is also a non-starter for the Senate Republican caucus," Treat said. "The plan we sent them treats every student the same no matter what their ZIP code is. Their plan with the Oklahoma Student Fund is to disproportionately give kids in certain areas (for instance, Atoka Public Schools) more money than all others. Their plan is a ridiculous and shameful notion that segregates children. The Senate is simply saying — treat every kid the same."

Dems oppose House GOP move, Stitt celebrates

House Republicans caucused for more than an hour Monday and another several hours Tuesday to discuss various matters, including the education negotiations and a proposal for criminal justice sentencing reclassification.

At 4 p.m. Tuesday, the House returned to the floor and accepted the Senate's amendment to HB 1934. (House members suspended internal rule 9.10 to grant McCall the authority to hold onto HB 1934 until a deal is struck with the Senate on education funding.)

House Democrats opposed the private school and homeschool tax credit bill, arguing that private schools do not meet the same requirements as public schools and that they disproportionately serve wealthier families.

"These monies are going to go primarily to the students that are already enrolled in the private schools, that are already engaged," said Rep. Regina Goodwin (D-Tulsa). "This is a gift that has never ever been afforded to students in public schools. So that's why it's not equitable. (...) We know this is a gift for the rich."

Rep. Andy Fugate (D-Del City) opened machinations on the measure by calling for a public vote on the refundable school choice tax credit proposal.

"If this body truly believes that the people of Oklahoma truly want vouchers, why don't we let them decide?" suggested Fugate, who later noted it was National Teacher Appreciation Day.

House Republicans, however, pitched the proposal as a step forward for families seeking other options for students who are struggling in their local public school. Echols, who represents an urban area of southwest Oklahoma City, said House Republicans "are standing up for rural Oklahoma" by advancing HB 1934 but not sending it to Gov. Kevin Stitt until a final education funding agreement is struck. To do that, he implored the Senate GOP Caucus to "couple this thing with something for rural Oklahoma."

"After today's vote, there is one single, solitary issue left to negotiate in this building (on education), and there is one body saying, 'Something has to be in this for rural Oklahoma,'" Echols said. "We are taking a step in good faith for the folks across the rotunda. If you want your version of the tax credit, you can have your version of the tax credit. (...) But you've got to couple it with something for rural Oklahoma."

Gov. Kevin Stitt's chief of staff and deputy chief of staff watched Tuesday's House activities from the chamber's gallery. After the vote on HB 1934, Stitt released a statement that implied the tax credits would soon become law, save for a final line that noted the House is still in possession of the bill.

SCHOOL CHOICE TAX CREDIT BILL cont. A11

HOUSE PASSES SCHOOL CHOICE TAX CREDIT BILL, HOLDS IT FROM GOVERNOR FOR LEVERAGE

By Tres Savage, NonDoc

In their first chess move since the Oklahoma State Senate decoupled the Legislature's education funding package from its proposed private school and homeschool tax credit program, the House of Representatives approved the school choice tax credit bill today but stopped short of sending it to Gov. Kevin Stitt in an effort to create leverage in negotiations over the funding measure.

House Republicans have insisted that rural Oklahoma must receive additional support "in exchange" for creating the new tax credits, which are expected to be used heavily in urban areas with more private school options.

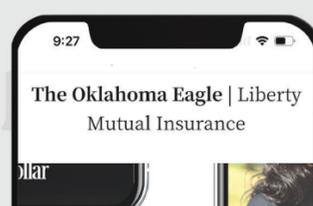
"The House supports parental choice in education, and as I have said repeatedly over the past year, we are committed to making sure any education plan that is passed doesn't hurt our public schools," House Speaker Charles McCall (R-Atoka) said in a statement. "Today, the House passed the Senate's tax credit plan, but I am holding the bill from going to the governor's desk until we get agreement on a public education funding plan."

As advanced by the Senate and passed 61-31 by the House today, HB 1934 would create a new, refundable tax credit program for families whose children attend private schools and who are homeschooled. The bill would create a \$1,000-per-student credit for homeschool families and a tiered tax credit — between \$7,500-per-student for families earning \$75,000 or less and \$5,000-per-student for families earning more than \$250,000 — for private school families.

The Oklahoma Eagle

Our Mission

To amplify our core value of equity, through journalism and editorial" is the cornerstone of our continued success.





A “DOUBLE WHAMMY”

WHEN YOU SEND A PAY RAISE FOR TEACHERS MANDATE AND DON'T GIVE ANY FUNDING FOR A RURAL SCHOOL ALSO (THAT'S OFF THE FUNDING FORMULA).

SCHOOL CHOICE TAX CREDIT BILL, from AIO

“Today is a major victory for parents and students across the state,” Stitt said. “With the House’s action today, we have made transformative change to improve education outcomes for Oklahoma students. I am grateful to all members of the Legislature who have stood with parents and gotten school choice across the finish line.”

Baker on HB 2672: ‘There’s some unfunded mandates in there’

With HB 1934 advanced – but held from the governor’s desk – lawmakers’ education attention will turn to ongoing negotiations over the other half of the education apple cart: the proposal for pumping hundreds of millions of dollars in new money into (and potentially around part of) the state funding formula.

Although the Senate’s new proposal, unveiled Thursday, appeared to reignite chamber-to-chamber negotiations, leading House Republicans on the Common Education Committee said they have concerns about how money would reach rural districts and whether it proposes “unfunded mandates.”

“In their (the Senate’s) public school piece, there was a whole lot of parts in there that we can’t necessarily get behind. For me, the piece that I disliked was taking away the advanced, master and lead teachers – that was a bill that I worked on. Actually, our Senate counterparts were on board with that. Now, all of a sudden they want to take all that away and start a new program. That program has barely even had the opportunity to get started in the districts. So I don’t want to eliminate something that we worked so hard (on) and had so much support,” said House Common Education Chairwoman Rhonda Baker (R-Yukon). “There’s some unfunded mandates in there. When you start looking at the price tag for the stipends and the price tag for the pay raises, and then you add that up – but they’re only giving \$500 million for the funding – there’s some problems with that. But we are really hoping that the negotiators will get to work and something good will come from it, and I think that it will eventually.”

Rep. Dick Lowe (R-Amber) offered similar concerns Monday after an initial review of the Senate’s education funding proposal.

“We’re still talking and trying to work out a plan that’s a benefit to everybody in Oklahoma, whether it’s urban, suburban or rural. Not sure we’ve got to that point yet – would love to get there soon – all of us would. But we’ve seen some things that are very disturbing no matter who you represent in what we’ve seen in there,” Lowe said. “In all versions. I don’t think anybody’s in love with any of them, but it’s what we call compromise here. And with that, I think we’ve still got some compromising to do.”

That compromise largely rests on whether the House will move off of its stated requirement that new education dollars include their proposed “Oklahoma Student Fund,” which would provide additional support for all school districts but cap that support for urban districts, functionally fracturing the per-pupil funding formula.

Senate leaders have insisted that the House’s capped “Student Fund” cannot pass their chamber. On Tuesday, Senate Appropriations and Budget Chairman Roger Thompson (R-Okemah) reiterated that the Senate does not like the House’s proposal.

“That is correct,” he said. “We do not.”

Still, Thompson said Tuesday that he and House Appropriations and Budget Chairman Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) have resumed broader budget discussions in the wake of education negotiations moving forward slightly.

“What we have is we’re at the first of May, education discussions are still ongoing. I’ve got the Senate numbers plugged in, he’s got some House numbers plugged in,” Thompson said. “As we work through that process, we will tweak those numbers, but we are moving on forward with other elements of our state budget.”

Lowe, a former educator in southwest Oklahoma who serves on the House Common Education Committee, pushed back on the Senate’s assertion that creating a private school tax credit and breaking the funding formula with the House’s Oklahoma Student Fund would be “a double whammy” for urban and suburban school districts.

“It’s a double whammy when you send a pay raise for teachers mandate and don’t give any funding for a rural school also (that’s off the funding formula),” Lowe said, referencing the dozens of smaller school districts who receive so much property tax funding from wind or petroleum projects that they do not receive formula-funded state dollars.

Lowe said Monday that the Senate’s most recent proposal does not take those school districts into account even though it would mandate teacher pay raises of \$4,000 to \$8,000, based on longevity.

“I represent several of those school that are in my district that are off the formula. What we read at this point – they say we want we want to be able to do that, but there’s no mechanism for doing that right now. (...) We have to have a mechanism,” Lowe said. “I spoke with several of my superintendents on Friday, and they’re quite concerned about that issue.”

William W. Savage III (Tres) has served as the editor in chief of NonDoc since the publication launched in September 2015. He holds a journalism degree from the University of Oklahoma and covered two sessions of the Oklahoma Legislature for eCapitol.net before working in health care for six years. He is a nationally certified Mental Health First Aid instructor.

WILLIAM W. SAVAGE III (TRES) has served as the editor in chief of NonDoc since the publication launched in September 2015. He holds a journalism degree from the University of Oklahoma and covered two sessions of the Oklahoma Legislature for eCapitol.net before working in health care for six years. He is a nationally certified Mental Health First Aid instructor.

The Oklahoma Eagle

Our Mission

To amplify our core value of equity, through journalism and editorial” is the cornerstone of our continued success.



THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE CHURCH DIRECTORY



The Oklahoma Eagle publishes news and announcements for churches currently listed in The Oklahoma Eagle's Church Directory. For information, please call our office at (918) 582-7124

Place your church directory with us today! Advertising your church in *The Oklahoma Eagle* will get you results! Call (918) 582-7124

The Oklahoma Eagle Church Directory
Participation in the Directory allows free church announcements and church news. Post events and celebrations. Priority over non-listed churches for news.

BOSTON AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1301 S. Boston (918) 583-5181
Rev. David Wiggs Senior Minister
Sunday Worship 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:40 a.m.
Sunday TV Worship 11:00 a.m.
KTUL Channel 8

TIMOTHY BAPTIST CHURCH
821 E. 46th St. N. • 425-8021
REV. TWAN T. JONES
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
"We've come this far by faith"

NORTH PEORIA CHURCH OF CHRIST
2247 N. Peoria Tulsa, Okla. 74106 (918) 425-1071
Warren Blakney, Minister
Sunday Bible School.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.
There's no place, like this place, anywhere near this place.

Pettie Chapel CME

19364 S. S. Mingo Road. Bixby, 74008
Phone: (918) 366-8870
Rev. Robert Givens
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
"Where Peaceful Waters Flow"

Zoe' Life Church of Tulsa
Rudisill Regional Library 1520 N Hartford Ave. Tulsa OK 74106 (918) 409-4899
Pastor Richard and Cher Lyons
Sunday Worship: 1pm
Wed- Healing School: 6:30p - 8p
"The Righteous Are As Bold As A Lion." - Prov.28:1a

SOLID ROCK 7th DAY BAPTIST CHURCH
123 E. 59th St. North Ph: (918) 425-2077
Pastor Rick Bruner
Sabbath School (Saturday) 9:30-10:45 a.m.
Praise & Worship 11:00 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal Wednesday 6:00 p.m.
"The Seventh Day Is Still God's Sabbath"

Northside Christ Gospel Church

3101 N. M.L King Jr. Blvd. Tulsa OK (918) 625-2374
Sunday School - 10 am
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:45
Sunday Evening Prayer - 7 pm
Sunday Worship - 7:30 pm
Wednesday Prayer - 7:30 pm
Wednesday worship - 8pm
Rev. John W. Anderson

VERNON AME CHURCH
307-311 N. Greenwood Ave. P: 918-587-1428 F: 918-587-0642
vernonamechurch@sbcglobal.net

Sunday Church School 8:30 am
Worship Service 10:00 am
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 pm
Rev. Dr. Robert R. Allen Turner

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH NORTH TULSA
THE CHURCH WHERE THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS US

Pastor Anthony L. & Mrs. Kelly Scott
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting - 6:30 p.m. Bible Study - Noon & 7:00 p.m.
1414 N. Greenwood Ave. Tulsa, OK 74103 918-582-5129
www.fbcnt.org
"Teaching Minds Changing Hearts Touching the World"

Church In Power

732 E. 31st North
Tulsa, OK 74106 - (918) 835-1525
Service times: 9am Sundays, 7pm Wed, and Special Supernatural Breakthrough Services every last Friday and Saturday of every month at 7pm and Sunday at 9am
Wednesday Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.
Church Ministries: Children's Church, CIP Praise Dancers, and CIP Praise Tem.



Pastor Bukky and Wunmi Alabi

For Further Information call (918) 835-1525.
"Have Faith In God." Mark 11:22

List Your Church Today!

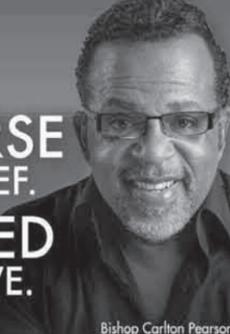
The Oklahoma Eagle Church Directory

Participate in *The Oklahoma Eagle's* weekly church directory. List in one of the largest church directories in Oklahoma.
• Participation in the Church Directory allows free Church announcements and Church news. Post your church events and celebrations.
• Priority over non-listed churches for news.

Worship with us in our **CONTEMPORARY SERVICE** Every Sunday at 11:30 a.m.
Livestream | allsoulschurch.org



DIVERSE IN BELIEF. UNITED BY LOVE.

Rev. Dr. Marlin Lavanhar

Bishop Carlton Pearson
2952 S. Peoria Ave. | Tulsa, OK 74114

Church Of The Living God
1559 E Reading St. Tulsa OK (918) 584-3206
Minister RJ Smith
Sunday school - 9:30am
Sunday Worship - 10:45am
Monday Worship - 6:00pm
Wednesday Bible Study - 5:00pm

CAPERNAUM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
1962 N. Sheridan Rd. (918) 834-4747

Pastor Ruthie I. Howard
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Bible Study & Prayer Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
For Transportation (918) 402-6027

Words of Wisdom Ministries FC
Temporarily meeting at the Courtyard Marriot 3340 S 79th E Ave Tulsa OK (918) 230-3022

Pastors Wesley & Alfie Gray would like to invite you to come and experience the Word of God in action this Sunday! God has a word for you, He Guarantee's it! You'll be glad you did!!!

The Oklahoma Eagle Church Directory
List your church in one of the largest church directories in Oklahoma.
Participation in the directory allows free church announcements/ church news.
Post events and celebrations. Priority over non-listed churches for news.

GTOMi
Gospel Tabernacle Outreach Ministries, Inc. Traveling Outreach Ministries
609 E. Zion Street Tulsa, Oklahoma
Elder Julius W. Bland Sr., Pastor 918-810-3882
ALL ARE WELCOME

MOHAWK FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
3329 E. 30th St. North • 834-0391
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Bible Study Wednesday 7 p.m.

Rev. Emanuel L. Collier, Sr. Pastor

Gethsemane Baptist Church
727 East 56th St. North (918) 425-6613
Dr. W. T. Lauderdale
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Church Services 11:00 a.m.

The Oklahoma Eagle Church Directory
Participation in the Directory allows free church announcements and church news. Post events and celebrations. Priority over non-listed churches for news.

List Your Church Today!

The Oklahoma Eagle Church Directory

Participate in *The Oklahoma Eagle's* weekly church directory. List in one of the largest church directories in Oklahoma.
• Participation in the Church Directory allows free Church announcements and Church news. Post your church events and celebrations.
• Priority over non-listed churches for news.

In The Spirit Christian Church

"Come And Experience The Spirit"

Rev. Sharyn Cosby-Willis
1020 South Garnett Tulsa, Okla., 74128
Phone: (918) 836-6823
Fax: (918) 836-6833
Eclectic Praise, Extraordinary Worship, And Spirited Preaching.
Wednesday Services 10:00 a.m. Spirit Seniors 5:30 p.m. Support Groups 6:30 p.m. Community Dinner 7:00 p.m. Bible Study
Sunday Worship Church School 9:45 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m.
Ministries: Administration, Children's Church, Childen's Choir, Spirited Kids, Guest Services, Intercessors, Men's Fellowship, Outreach and much more...



SMILING HEARTS

The NICK BLAKELY Foundation

Our vision is to turn every potential tragedy of Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) into a story of survival.

www.nickblakelyfoundation.org

BLACK ENTREPRENEUR SHARES HOW HE MADE SOMETHING OUT OF NOTHING

By The Atlanta Voice

THROUGH INGENUITY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP, NBA AND G LEAGUE GUARD LANGSTON GALLOWAY SAYS BLACK FOLKS CAN CREATE THE THINGS THEY NEED.

College Park Skyhawks guard Langston Galloway has flat feet. The nine-year pro and former All Atlantic-10 guard while at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia always worried about how the shoes he played in were going to fit and feel while he was on court.

So Galloway and his wife Sabrina, the couple who have been married for seven years, decided to start Ethics, their own footwear brand, in January 2022. A little over a year later the company also sells sweats, socks and hats.

The name for the brand comes from his work ethic and road to this point in his career.

Galloway, an admitted sneakerhead, said Ethics sneakers are for "The underdogs. If you are an underdog then this brand is for you."

Undrafted following a stellar career at St. Joe's, Galloway fought his way to the NBA and has played for seven teams during his career, along with spending time in the G League. During his career he was able to afford any sneakers he wanted, but always wanted to have his own sneaker. Then he thought, "Why not just start our own company?"

"It took about three years, but when we first got the sample shoe it was mind-blowing," he said.

New Pair About to Drop

The College park Skyhawks are currently 15-14 and 6-4 in their last 10 games. In their most

recent game a lot of the team wore the new black Ethics LG Twos. Galloway gifted pairs to his teammates. "I wanted to build something for people like me, and though the sneakers are being worn by players, they are also for people in the community," Galloway said.

A gray and white pair of Ethics LG Twos were also recently worn by Dallas Mavericks guard Kyrie Irving. Galloway had sent Irving a pair and was surprised when he saw on Twitter that Irving was wearing them.

"I was shocked," he told The Atlanta Voice during a recent interview. "For him to rock them like that was cool to see."

The Ethics LG Twos will be available for purchase in April, according to Galloway.

Affordable and Fresh

Growing up in Baton Rouge Galloway's family didn't always have the money to buy new sneakers so he wanted his sneaker brand to be as close to affordable as possible. He also wanted to create a basketball show that would last and be able to be cool on and off the court.

Ethics are \$120 per pair and are available via the company's website. There are various color ways, such as the 1gOne Homecoming that come in Galloway's hometown Southern University's team colors. There is also the all-white 1gOne Launch Edition, 1gOne Super Gumbo (\$150), which comes in a rainbow color way and the 1gOne Frozen Coral which comes in a combination of Black and coral with a white base.



ETHICS FOOTWEAR co-owners, NBA and G League guard Langston Galloway and his wife Sabrina Galloway. PHOTO COURTESY OF ETHICS

"I wanted to build something that was reliable and that was built to last for people that grew up like me"

- LANGSTON GALLOWAY, founder, Ethics footwear brand

"I wanted to build something that was reliable and that was built to last for people that grew up like me," Galloway said. He mentioned the moms and dads that wanted to be able to buy their kids new shoes but had to be selective because of the prices.

"I remember growing up and not being able to get new sneakers," he said.

Now he has his own sneaker brand.

The Oklahoma Eagle

Arts
Culture
History
Education
Business
Faith



Offering the community more ways to go

We're always looking for ways to support people's choices in the communities we serve. That's why Bank of America is adding charging stations for electric vehicles (EVs) to over 90 financial centers nationwide. We're also supporting the choices our teammates make with employee rebates on EVs.



I am proud of the steps we're taking in the Tulsa community to help people pursue what matters to them. The same goes for my teammates, as many have chosen to participate in My Environment,[®] one of our employee engagement initiatives.

Bill Lissau
President, Bank of America Tulsa

See all we're doing at bankofamerica.com/tulsa

BANK OF AMERICA

What would you like the power to do?[®]