

5,309 weeks, since the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre

LEE ELLA STROZIER BROWN was 2 when a white mob destroyed her family's home. She and her husband, Theodore Roosevelt Brown, later relocated their family to Lancaster, California.

It's long overdue for the criminals who destroyed the Historic Greenwood District in 1921 to be held accountable. Each week we remember survivors or descendants.

BLACK STUDENTS
Are Still Experiencing
PANDEMIC TRAUMA

By MARY POTTIGER
WORD IN BLACK

People aren't rubber bands. Even as kids attend school in-person full-time again and life slowly returns to normal, they aren't going to snap back to who they were and how they felt before the COVID-19 pandemic. It had a deep and lasting impact on everyone, especially Black families and Black children, that we are still learning about, says Dr. Terence Fitzgerald, an internal

BLACK STUDENTS On A2



PHOTO ADOBE STOCK

STATE

OKLAHOMA AG ANNOUNCES
4 NEW OPIOID SETTLEMENTS
WORTH \$226M

By SEAN MURPHY, ASSOCIATED PRESS

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Oklahoma entered settlement agreements with three major pharmacy chains and an opioid manufacturer totaling more than \$226 million, Attorney General John O'Connor announced Wednesday.

OPIOID On A6

NATION

SURVIVORS OF GANGS AND GUN
VIOLENCE, THESE WOMEN NOW
HELP OTHERS NAVIGATE GRIEF

By CARA ANTHONY, WORD IN BLACK

When April Roby-Bell joined the Gangster Disciples in middle school, the street gang treated her like family when she felt abandoned by her own. She was looking for love, acceptance, and stability.

NAVIGATING GRIEF On A7

NATION

COUNCIL VOTES TO STUDY
REPARATIONS FOR BLACK
BOSTONIANS

By MICHAEL CASEY, ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston City Council voted Wednesday to form a task force to study how it can provide reparations for and other forms of atonement to Black Bostonians for the city's role in slavery and its legacy of inequality.

REPARATIONS On A6

NATION

WE SAID GOODBYE TO
YOUNG AND OLD IN
2022 WHILE VIOLENCE,
PANDEMIC CONTINUE

By GEONA BARROW, WORD IN BLACK

If the past two years have taught us anything, it's that time really isn't forever. From a pandemic that continues to impact the community to an epidemic of gun violence that has done its own damage, this year has left us reeling and feeling a collective sense of loss.

As a rough year ends, The OBSERVER takes a minute to reflect and acknowledge a few of those who went on to glory in 2022. They are gone, but not forgotten.

JANUARY

Iconic actor and screenwriter Max Julien died Jan. 1, his 88th birthday, in Los Angeles.

GOODBYE 2022 On A11

STATE

GOVERNOR'S
\$18 MILLION FOR
STUDENTS UNSPENT IN
2022



By JENNIFER PALMER, OKLAHOMA WATCH

After spending a significant portion of 2022 reporting on the

UNSPENT 2022 On A3

NATION

Slavery's Ghost
Haunts Cotton
Gin Factory's
Transformation

By JAY REEVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PRATTVILLE, Ala. (AP) — There's no painless way to explain the history of a massive brick structure being renovated into apartments in this central Alabama city — a factory that played a key role in the expansion of slavery before the Civil War.

Dating back to the 1830s, the labor of enslaved Black people helped make it the world's largest manufacturer of cotton gins, an innovation that boosted demand for many more enslaved people to pick cotton that could be quickly processed in much higher quantities than ever before, historians say.

The project to transform the factory's five historic buildings into 127 upscale

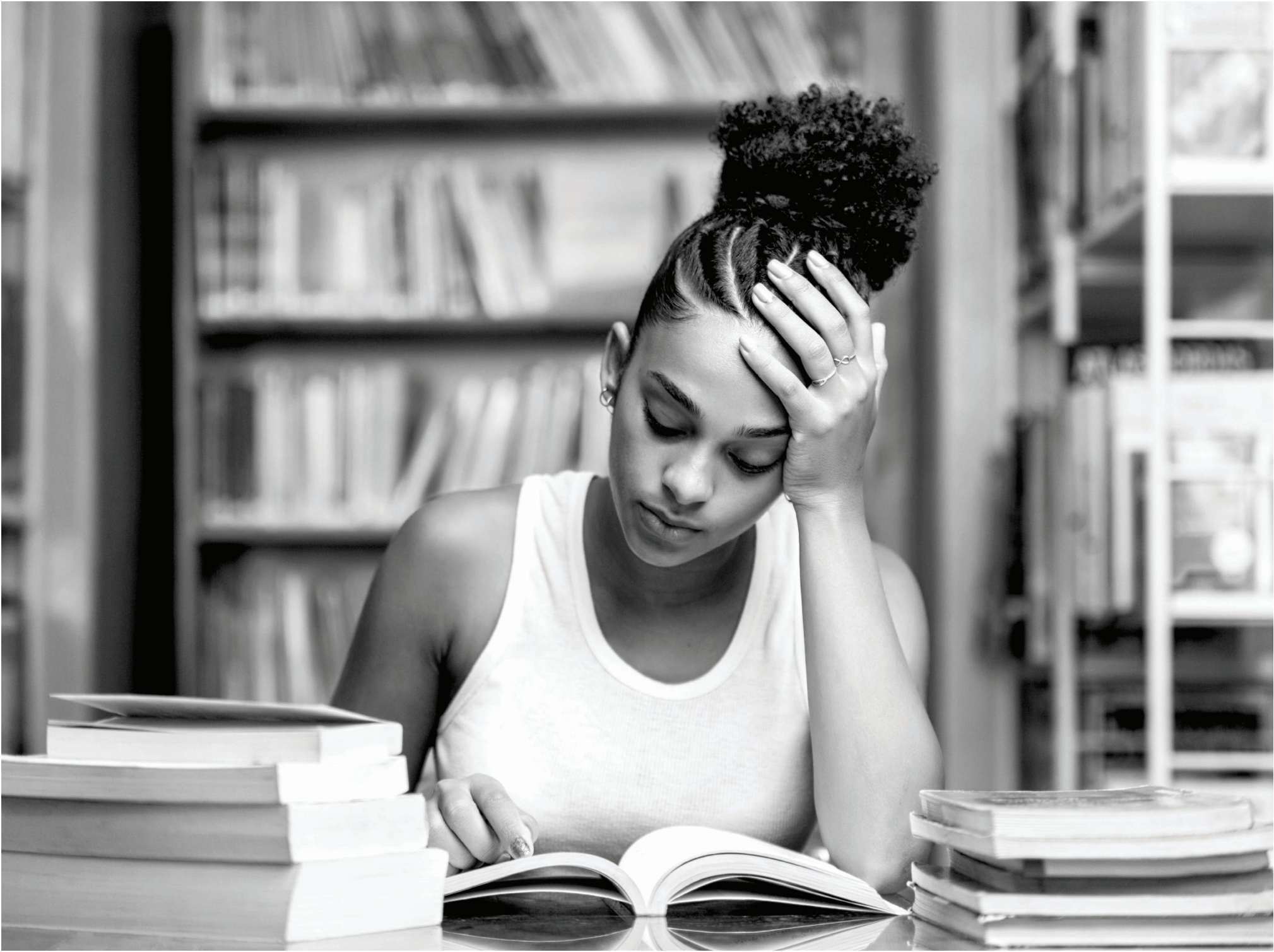
SLAVERY'S GHOST On A9



PHOTO WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



PHOTOS ADOBE STOCK



‘We have to be able to
TAKE RACE INTO CONSIDERATION
More Often As We Think About **SOLUTIONS**

DR. TERENCE FITZGERALD, AN INTERNAL CONSULTANT WITH THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL WELLBEING

BLACK STUDENTS *from AI*

consultant with the National Council for Mental Wellbeing.
And one of the keys to understanding these impacts and finding solutions is acknowledging the important variables that we like to ignore, Fitzgerald says, like race, gender, and class, which all play a role in a person’s identity.

“We have to be able to take race into consideration more often as we think about solutions versus these universal solutions that we think apply to every child,” Fitzgerald says. “That does a disservice to children, and it also ignores their pain.”

Parents of K-12 students overwhelmingly agreed that the pandemic had a somewhat to very negative impact on both their children’s education (61%) and emotional well-being (48%), according to an October 2022 study by Pew Research Center.

However, while Black parents were the least likely to say the pandemic had a negative impact on their children’s emotional well-being (39%), they were the most likely to say the emotional impact hasn’t gotten better (30%).

How can both be true? In an interview with Word In Black, Fitzgerald spoke about Black folks’ history with trauma and mental health, and how we move forward from here.

Word In Black: When we’re talking about this lingering negative impact on emotional well-being, what does that look like, especially in Black students in the K-12 age range?

Terence Fitzgerald: When we think about children specifically, trauma can play out in attention span. It can play out in behaviors where you’re already within a system where you’re already being scrutinized differently. So not paying attention, maybe displaying unwanted academic behaviors.

The majority of teachers, specifically non-teachers of color, will see that behavior as, “Oh, that’s how they are. This is how they act,” and it feeds into the stereotype about people of color, especially kids of color. And when it comes to the parents’ response, it’s like, “oh, they don’t care about their kids’ education. Look how they’re responding.”

Well, they’re responding in an adaptive way due to the trauma that they’re already undergoing. So it plays out much differently. Our schools, our doctors, our institutions — any institution that deals with children already has issues with understanding trauma, so the fact that people of color, and others who don’t fit into the stereotype, display trauma differently.

WIB: Many have argued that we’ve returned to normal: kids are in school, masks have been optional for a long time. Can you explain why these negative impacts are sticking around?

Fitzgerald: Because that’s trauma. Trauma doesn’t end just because the event is no longer occurring. For example, we can think about 9/11. Yes, this city is clean, the debris is removed, we have all of these other safety protocols put into place. That doesn’t stop the trauma that initially occurred. It’s like throwing a 50-ton boulder in a lake. Those ripples that are created continue on and on, even though where that initial boulder landed is far away. That’s trauma.

Trauma continues on, so we’re going to see the effects until someone is able to put into place measures where we’re able to say, this is what trauma is, this is how we deal with it, this is how we can help those who have these concerns. But by putting it in the rearview mirror and going, “it’s in

the past” does a disservice to children because they’re still dealing with those repercussions. We know on a cellular level that trauma can change and can have an effect on one’s DNA. That’s how powerful trauma is.

WIB: Why do you think Black parents were the least likely to say the pandemic impacted their kids’ emotional well-being?



Fitzgerald: It’s important, when we look at this, to take into consideration the history of Black people, and the history of Black people and its relation to environmental stress, as we think about trauma and this prolonged trauma. So having experience with prolonged trauma as it relates to being a person of color in a system, which is rooted in oppression and marginalization, and subjugation, you become accustomed to what that looks like. It becomes nothing new to you.

If you know that racism and the fact that your life is considered less than in comparison to people who are non-people of color, specifically, white, you live with this. You grew up in this environment, what that trauma brings, and you’re reminded daily that your value is less than. Even though it doesn’t look the same as it did in the 1960s or 50s, people of color, specifically, Black and Native Americans, are consistently reminded — through policies and procedures, institutions, the media, movies, the way stories are covered, music, and daily interactions — that your value is less than, so that set of circumstances has created historical trauma, intergenerational trauma, so this is not new to people of color. It isn’t new.

Black parents fell below the national average in saying that the pandemic impacted their children’s education and emotional well-being.

WIB: The other piece of the research is that Black parents were the most likely to say emotional well-being hasn’t improved. Why is that?

Fitzgerald: If there is strife, or feelings of unsurmountable social economic changes that have created this set of circumstances for people to live in, and the emotions that people undergo with these traumatic events, it’s a harsher pain for those who are oppressed — historically oppressed.

So what white people feel as we think about COVID, and what they saw in relation to schooling, how a majority of schools were inadequate in preparation for a national pandemic, we saw how schools were ineffective in putting into place a plan. We saw the effects on the kids, to children in their learning. We still don’t know the full extent of the effect of COVID on the social and emotional well-being of children.

Now, put that into context. This is what white people are feeling: “Oh, my gosh, this is traumatic.” This is not new for people of color, to be left out, for people not to have a plan, for systems to be inadequate in addressing

the needs and concerns. This isn’t new.

Maybe what the data is showing is that people of color are like, “no, this is par for the course.” And the fact that we don’t historically take in consideration mental health, and that’s a historical thing, that’s a historical fact. We think about historical research around psychology, psychiatry: people of color were left out.

If we think about the institutions that were then put into place to deal with those concerns, they didn’t offer the same services or offer any services, at times, to people of color. So if you grew up in a society where you’re seeing mental health discussed over here, but your mental health isn’t seen

BLACK STUDENTS *on A3*

PHOTO ADOBE STOCK



‘This is what trauma is, this is what it looks like,’ and Black parents are going, “Oh, my kid isn’t doing this.” But they are displaying it — it’s just different.’

BLACK STUDENTS *from A2*

as a concern, people then adapt. They create their own strategies for dealing with it.

Now we’re dealing with the fact that people of color are — even more so now than I ever heard growing up — hearing these conversations about mental health and Black communities. White communities have been having this much longer. Now we’re also doing this sort of catch-up. So Black parents may not be able to recognize how that trauma may be playing out in their lives.

It’s different. Trauma plays out differently, gender-wise, cultural, ethnic, religious, or racial.

It plays out differently. So when the majority of the news is covering “this is what trauma is, this is what it looks like,” and Black parents are going, “Oh, my kid isn’t doing this.” But they are displaying it — it’s just different. And we don’t talk about those differences enough, how trauma looks along racial lines.

Black parents were the least likely to say their children’s emotional well-being has improved since taking a hit during the pandemic.

WIB: What are some ways that parents can support their children who are still experiencing this negative impact from the pandemic?

Fitzgerald: One is to have a sense of understanding and forgiveness. Forgiveness for the fact that their children are still displaying the ramifications of undergoing trauma, as we think about COVID. To have some forgiveness in our hearts that these children are, in a sense, suffering, and it is our responsibility, then, to understand trauma. What does trauma look like? How can it affect us? How can I advocate for my child as they are displaying these particular traits of trauma? How can I support my child? How can I educate those within their lives that what you’re seeing is not what you think it is?

This isn’t a child being defiant for defiance sake. This isn’t a child who fits into your false

narrative of people of color: “That’s how Black kids work or how Black kids act in schools,” but to say, wait a minute, I have to educate them to let them know this is what this is. And because of that, it will hopefully force people to confront what trauma is. It also ties into building resiliency within these children. Since I know what trauma looks like now, I’m advocating for my child.

How can I then set up my child to be more resilient? How can I build off of this strength for them to meet these challenges of what COVID had? What COVID presented? What COVID did?



PHOTO ADOBE STOCK

Oversight issues plague funding effort

UNSPENT *from A1*

Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund, or GEER, there are still unanswered questions. Mainly, I have been trying to find out what is happening with GEER 2, which is nearly \$18 million for Oklahoma students to recover from the pandemic.

Gov. Kevin Stitt received those funds in January 2021 as part of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act. (The first allocation of GEER funds, \$40 million, was spent on five programs, and one of those has faced scrutiny because lax oversight allowed families to buy items unrelated to students’ education.)

Very little has been said publicly about GEER 2. We reported how the state solicited ideas for the funds back in December 2021, but

ultimately held off as the first GEER programs were audited by the U.S. Department of Education.

The deadline to use GEER funds approaches. States have until the end of this month to fully spend the first round of GEER and until the end of January 2024 to spend the second, a U.S. Department of Education official said last week.

Programs have yet to be announced or awarded and the funds have to be distributed and spent in one year.

But one reason for the delay is the state is trying to rectify the oversight issues found from the first round. Roy Loewenstein, press secretary for oversight at the U.S. Department of Education, told me the department is working with Oklahoma officials to resolve the findings from a federal audit released this

summer.

“In the interim,” Loewenstein said, “the state has been working to implement improved internal controls as required by the department’s monitoring of the state’s implementation of the program.”

One way state officials intend to recover misspent funds is through a lawsuit filed in August against the vendor, Florida-based ClassWallet. But Attorney General John O’Connor still hasn’t served the company with the lawsuit, which means ClassWallet has not been able to file its response to the allegations.

And the next attorney general, Gentner Drummond, told The Oklahoman he’ll consider dropping that lawsuit if he believes state officials were at fault.

Inman Edward Page

First President of the Colored Agricultural and Normal University (CANU. Later Langston University)

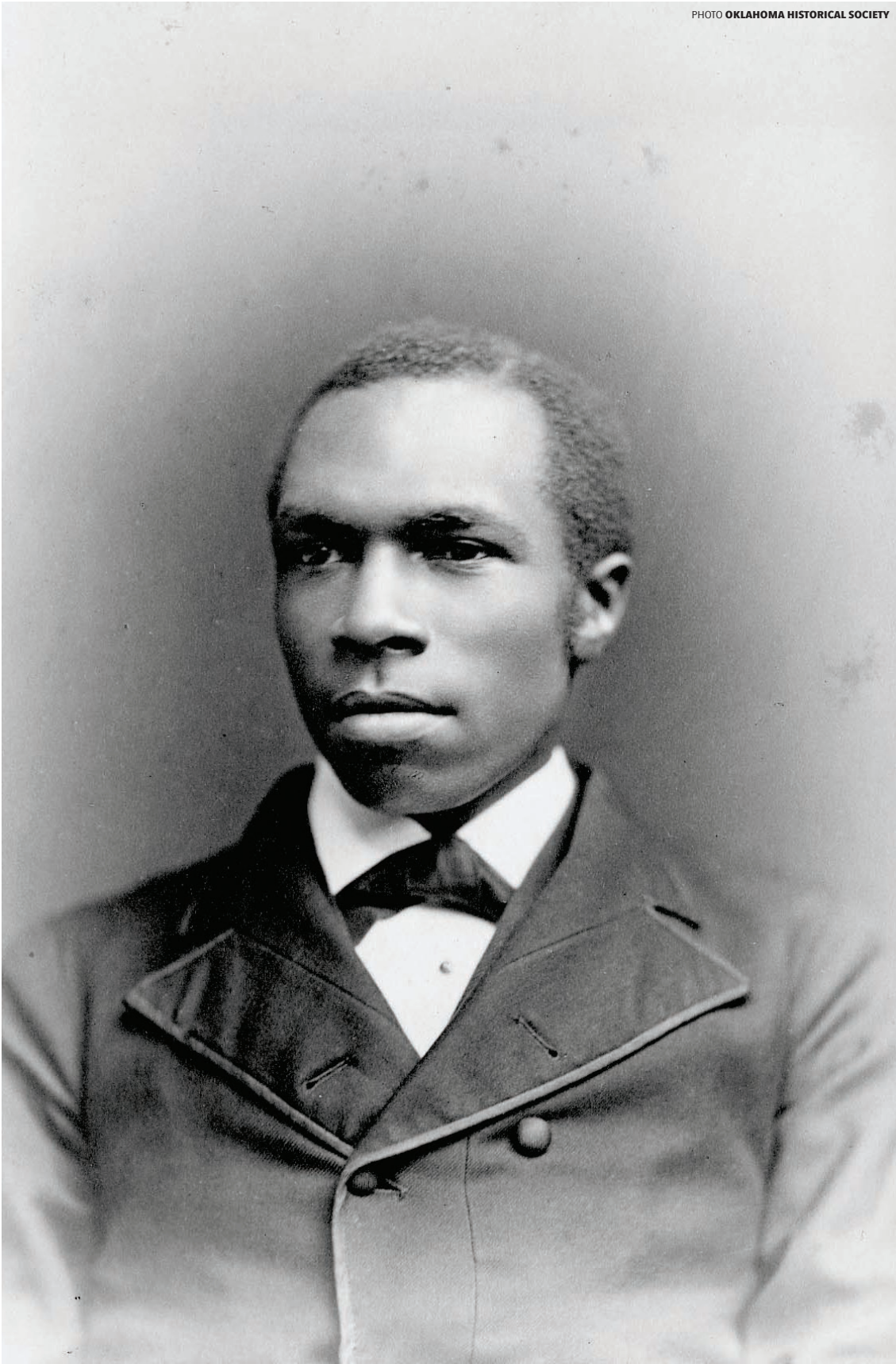
By CURRIE BALLARD, OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The influential Oklahoma educator, Inman Page was born into slavery on December 29, 1853, in Warrenton, Virginia. During the Civil War his family fled Virginia and later moved to Washington, D.C.

Page attended Howard University for two years and then enrolled at Brown University. He was among the first African Americans to be admitted to the prestigious Providence, Rhode Island, college. In 1877 Page and George Washington Milford became the first blacks to graduate from Brown, with Page selected as class orator for the commencement. He took a teaching position at Natchez Seminary in Mississippi. In 1878 he married Zelia R. Ball, and the couple had two children, Zelia N. and Mary. After one year he left Natchez for Lincoln Institute in Jefferson City, Missouri, and he became the school’s president in 1888.

In 1898 the Colored Agricultural and Normal University at the All-Black town of Langston chose Page to be its first president. In his seventeen-year tenure at CANU he increased the school’s enrollment from an initial forty to more than six hundred, and its faculty from four to thirty-five. He traveled the state recruiting students, expanded the agricultural and industrial courses, established the college department, and supervised the construction of numerous university buildings. Within a few years partisan politics emerged. By 1915 controversy swirled around the direction of the college’s mission from industrial and agricultural education to liberal arts. After scandalous allegations were reported in the Oklahoma Tribune, an Oklahoma City African American newspaper, Page resigned his position and sued. A Logan County jury found the Tribune editor, Melvin Chisum, guilty of libel and one of his employees guilty of extortion against Page. Although the educator was vindicated, the change in administration sent the university into chaos. Enrollment dropped from 639 to 184 for the summer semester and to 322 in the regular term.

Page left the state for a time. He moved back to Missouri as the president of Western College and Industrial Institute at Macon and by 1918 was president of Roger Williams University in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1920 he returned to Oklahoma due to ill health. When recuperated, in 1922 he accepted a position as principal at Oklahoma City’s Douglass High School. He soon became the supervising principal of the city’s separate school system. Inman Page died on December 21, 1935, at the home of his daughter, Zelia Breaux, in Oklahoma City.



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.

INMAN E. PAGE Brown University class of 1877. The first African-American graduate of Brown and President of four colleges: Lincoln University (Jefferson, MO), Agricultural & Normal University (Langston, OK), Western Baptist College (Macon, MO) and Roger Williams University (Nashville, TN).

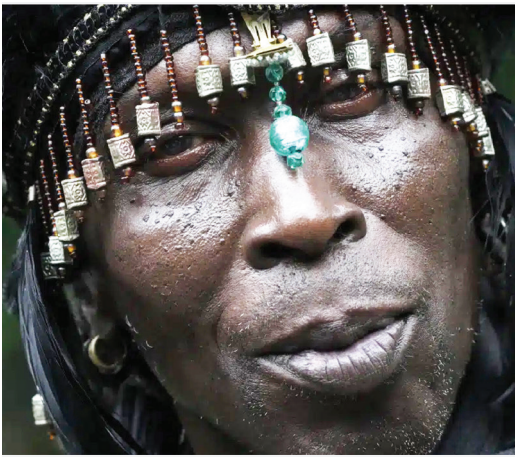
Featured Last Week



Can the COVID-19 era LEARNING GAP in Tulsa’s Northside schools be closed?



Oklahomans Share Their Struggle for Mental Healthcare as Feds Investigate Statewide Treatment



Caribbean Divided as Netherlands Mulls Slavery Apology

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

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 | Founded in 1921 | Vol. CII No. 01

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.

Dear Black People:

In the wake of the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, it’s clear the United States needs Africa economically, but Africa needs Black Americans who want to go home.

By PATRICK WASHINGTON, WORD IN BLACK

In the last month of 2022, The United States hosted the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit. The goal of this summit was to expand relations between the U.S. and the continent of Africa.

Well, really, it’s because China is kicking ass in diplomatic, economic, and virtually every other major area in Africa’s ascension, and the U.S. is woefully underprepared for a world where the world’s largest resources center and the world’s largest manufacturer get along — and the world’s most powerful nation isn’t invited to the cookout.

If you’ve been alive for, let’s say, the past 500 years, you’ve probably noticed a bit of a rift between Africans and “westerners.”

Africa, for the modern era, has been the symbol of European colonialist legacy, systematic oppression, and virtually every other atrocity human beings can commit against other human beings.

However, in recent decades, and building from the first liberated African nation Ghana in 1957, Africa has emerged as an economic hotspot. It’s full of potential and opportunities for the future development of global trade. Africa is on the rise.

In tandem with that, Africans are much more vocal on a global stage about Europe’s colonial legacy, the political and economic interference from the U.S., and purposeful partnerships with China. Africans across the continent are also demanding the respect and dignity so long denied to them by global powers.

So here’s the rub...the U.S. needs Africa.

Crazy, right? Because the United States is the bastion of racism and white supremacy. How is this ever going to work?

The only thing the United States has going for it in these negotiations is that the U.S. is still the best global trading partner. But as the rise of the digital age has taught us, number-one spots can be knocked off much more easily than in the past, and with the globalization of nations, equity in exchange has become the new currency of diplomacy. America is lacking.

So, there is a protocol for these things, and it exists in two parts. The first is the typical nation-to-nation communication — standard “talks” we see highlighted on C-SPAN (mostly when it’s a European nation, of course). Then there are the people-to-nation relationships, and that’s where we get to unpack that Africans are pretty fed up with this mess.

Ghanaian president, Nana Akufo-Addo, has been on a world tour of diplomatic middle fingers to the West, and honestly, it’s been a joy to watch.

One of, if not his first public acknowledgment of the shift in the African paradigm, happened in Switzerland in 2020. He eloquently and politely told the Swiss they will no longer be getting Ghanaian cocoa raw, so that they may process it themselves and create the world-famous Swiss chocolate.

With the Year of Return and the subsequent tourism that followed, Akufo-Addo has shifted his focus to speaking directly with the Diaspora about coming home. He is addressing the stereotypes and internal feuds the global African family has endured and wiping that slate clean, inviting all descendants of Africans to return to the motherland.

The shocker is, he’s not asking for anything but that the skills acquired in these foreign lands be applied to our collective homeland. And, honestly, he’s right.

The U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit brings to light the obvious but often ignored fact about U.S. society — the same fact that has been churning in the social media spaces, family gatherings, and pop culture references since the killing of George Floyd:

America Don’t Like Black People. And now the world REALLY knows it.

Africans saw it. The problem is, it’s very obvious which type of person, excuse me, nation the U.S. wants to be an ally for. Ukraine comes to mind. Russian invasion, war crimes, it’s horrible.

But when the Central African Republic is brought up, a nation where Russian mercenaries are committing heinous acts of violence, not even a mention in the State Department briefs, mainstream international news, nada. But Russia is the lead supplier of military equipment to

the continent of Africa, so one might think that it would be prudent to take that supply chain, but I digress.

According to former African Union representative to the U.S., Arikana Chihombori-Quao, this whole summit was a sham to clumsily try and make up for decades of neglect.

In an interview prior to the summit on Al-Jazeera’s Bottom Line, she spoke candidly with host Steve Clemmons about the summit and relations between the U.S. and Africa.

“The U.S. needs to call a timeout and treat Africans with respect,” Chihombori-Quao said, adding that the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit would “fail unless Americans see Africans as equals.”

She also spoke about the visible shortcomings of the U.S. in its attempts to host this summit.

“Engaging Africa at this time, it’s a new game, calling for new rules of engagement,” Chihombori-Quao said. What’s “behind the failure of effective engagement of Africa is the disrespect of Africans. That’s where the problem begins.”

She continued, “Let’s look at this summit. There was no defined agenda. There has never been defined agendas whenever they meet with African nations. It’s always the U.S. setting the agenda, the U.S. setting the policies, and the U.S. telling the African about the policies. That is no way to have any meaningful engagement.”

Chihombori-Quao compared it to meetings held between China and the African heads of state.

She said in those meetings, the issues are clearly defined, the heads of state are involved in planning, and the outcomes and follow-up are clear.

“The U.S. must understand that Africans are not going to take it anymore,” Chihombori-Quao said. “If you don’t treat the Africans fairly, the U.S. is going to see itself slowly losing ground to China, Russia, and all other nations.

So, why should Black people care?

That’s pretty simple to me, but I’ll lay it out. That oppressive state that we all live in — that we spent the last three years online sharing and posting about the things we’ve known to be the yolk on our neck... it’s trying to go back across the Atlantic. And the nations across the ocean are asking you, Black people, to beat them to it.

Africa will negotiate with the U.S., and now that the U.S. is at least quasi-interested in increased connection, you need to hurry.

You see, this is something you shouldn’t predict will turn out well, but it can be mitigated with Black American engagement.

Right now, we, as a collective, have some leverage. Black America — the largest spending group, the foundational cultural community, and the driving force in social media — can pick up right now and leave, and have a home to go to. It’s legit and eager to have you.

But your landlord is scoping your new property and has the money, power, and resources to claim it all, and sell it to you for the low price of a safari or Airbnb.

My prediction is that some of us will be engaged with Africa, and some of us won’t. Yes, very middle ground, but those that see the potential will always be able to seize the moment.

The summit is over, but the future is just beginning, and it’s ours for the taking. For business owners, non-profits, and skill-having Black people, I would urge you to find the embassies of African nations in your city, or, hopefully, an African chamber of commerce. Offer up your skills, or your business as a franchise or investment opportunity in an African nation — anything will do.

Claim that which was taken from your ancestors, and don’t look back. My only advice is to listen to the people. Respect the land, the culture, the history, and the heritage. DO NOT be an American during this journey. Be an African who wants to go home. Read up, research, and realize this is real.

Sankofa.

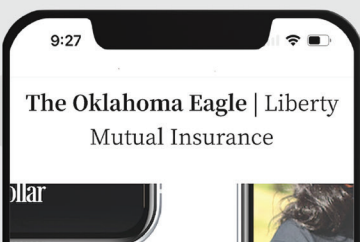
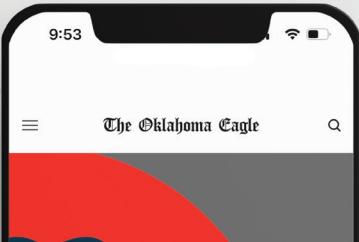
PATRICK WASHINGTON is the second-generation CEO and publisher of The Dallas Weekly, which has been serving the Black community of the 4th largest metroplex in the nation since 1954.



The Oklahoma Eagle

Our Mission

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



NEARLY ALL THE SETTLEMENT FUNDS *Must Be Used* to Remediate the Affects of the Opioid Crisis

PHOTO AP PHOTO/SUE OGROCKI, FILE



OKLAHOMA ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN O'CONNOR speaks to reporters following a campaign event on May 31, 2022, in Oklahoma City. O'Connor announced Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023, that Oklahoma entered settlement agreements with three major pharmacy chains and an opioid manufacturer totaling more than \$226 million.

OPIOID *from AI*

Including the new settlements with drugmaker Allergan and pharmacy chains CVS, Walgreens and Walmart, Oklahoma has received more than \$900 million from opioid makers and distributors to help address the state's opioid crisis, O'Connor said.

"The opioid crisis has inflicted unspeakable pain on Oklahoma families and caused the deaths of thousands of Oklahomans," O'Connor said in a statement. "Between 2016 and 2020, more than 3,000 Oklahomans died from opioid overdoses."

Nearly all the settlement funds must be used to help remediate the affects of the opioid crisis in Oklahoma, including prevention and treatment

'THE OPIOID CRISIS HAS INFLECTED UNSPEAKABLE PAIN ON OKLAHOMA FAMILIES AND CAUSED THE DEATHS OF THOUSANDS OF OKLAHOMANS.'

JOHN O'CONNOR, Oklahoma Attorney General

services.

In November, three of the largest U.S. pharmacy chains reached settlements with states over the toll of opioids worth a total of about \$13

billion. Under the separate deals, CVS Health and Walgreen Co. are each paying about \$5 billion and Walmart is paying more than \$3 billion. None has admitted wrongdoing.

Allergan didn't immediately respond to a message seeking comment about the Oklahoma settlement.

The settlements are the latest in a wave of deals that state and local governments have struck with companies, including drugmakers, distribution companies and even a consulting firm, even as some lawsuits over how the drugs are marketed and sold continue. The total of proposed and finalized settlements is now more than \$50 billion. Unlike with tobacco company settlements in the 1990s, the bulk of the money is required to be used to address the opioid crisis, which has been linked to well over 500,000 U.S. deaths since 2000.

In 2019, Oklahoma, under then-Attorney General Mike Hunter, was the first state to reach a settlement with

Purdue Pharma, the maker of OxyContin, for \$270 million. Most of that money was used to establish a National Center for Addiction Studies and Treatment at Oklahoma State University in Tulsa.

Oklahoma was also the first state to go to trial in a lawsuit against the makers of opioids blamed for contributing to the nation's opioid crisis. A district court judge in 2019 found that New Jersey-based drugmaker Johnson & Johnson and its Belgium-based subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceuticals violated the state's public nuisance statute and ultimately ordered the company to pay the state \$465 million to help address the state's opioid crisis. However that decision was later overturned by the state's Supreme Court, which determined the trial court judge wrongly interpreted the state's public nuisance law.

Evanston, IL Became the first U.S. city to make reparations available to Black residents

REPARATIONS *from AI*

The unanimous vote means Boston now joins a conversation about reparations that is happening across the country from Providence, Rhode Island to California.

Boston will be closely watched given its troubled racial history, including its role in supporting and financing slavery even after Massachusetts abolished the practice in 1783. Supporters of reparations cited its history of segregated housing as well as a political economy after Emancipation that reduced opportunities for Black Bostonians. The result of that, they said, is a wide wealth gap between white and Black families that remains today.

"This ordinance is only the start of a long awaited yet necessary conversation," City Councilor Julia Mejia said. "The City of Boston, like many areas around the United States, has profited from the labor of enslaved African Americans and has further disadvantaged them by barring them from participating in the same economic mobility opportunities as their white counterparts."

Tanisha Sullivan, the president of the NAACP's Boston branch, called the vote a "historic and important step forward on what will be a deliberative, robust and inclusive process to help our city better understand the role it played in supporting the enslavement

PHOTO AP PHOTO/STEVEN SENNE



THE BOSTON CITY COUNCIL convenes, Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2022, in the Council Chamber, at Boston City Hall, in Boston. The Boston City Council voted Wednesday to form a task force to study how it can provide reparations and other forms of atonement to Black Bostonians for the city's role in slavery and its legacy of inequality

of Black people in the United States."

Lawmakers across the country have pushed their states and cities to study reparations. Evanston, Illinois became the first U.S. city last year to make reparations available for Black residents, and public officials in New York will try anew to create a reparations commission in the state. California has formed a commission to study the issue and is meeting Wednesday to consider what form reparations could take and eligibility requirements to receive possible payments.

In Providence, Rhode Island, the mayor earlier this year proposed spending \$10 million of federal coronavirus funding on reparation efforts. The money would be spent on financial literacy and homeownership, workforce training, small business development and other programs recently recommended by the city's reparations commission.

In Boston, activists have been calling for years for the city to atone for its role in slavery. The idea of reparations was first proposed in the 1980s by Bill Owens, the first Black state senator in Massachusetts. He died earlier this year.

Rev. Kevin Peterson, founder of the New Democracy Coalition which has advocated for reparations for several years, acknowledged the ordinance wasn't perfect but that it "moves our city forward."

"This reparations ordinance moves us closer to justice for the living legacy of those who were once enslaved in Boston," he said. "We can only look forward to a productive reparations process and changing the perception of Boston."

The task force in Boston will examine reparation models and study the disparities that have existed in the city as it relates to the African-American community. It will also collect data on "historic harms" to Black Bostonians and hold hearings where it will gather testimony from the community on problems they have faced.

The panel will make recommendations for reparations as well as ways to eliminate policies and laws that continue to cause harm to Black Bostonians. It will also recommend how the city will issue a formal apology to the "people of Boston for the perpetration of gross human rights violations and crimes against humanity on African slaves and their descendants."

"The time is right for us to begin a process of exploring the mechanisms by which a robust policy of reparations can manifest for Boston's Black community," Councilwoman Tania Fernandes Anderson said in a statement. "After centuries of entrenched and embedded structures of institutional racism, as emblemized by chattel slavery, legalized segregation, redlining, lynching, racist reality practices, and inequities in education, health care, and policing, amongst other categories, it is clear that a debt is owed to the people who have faced these matters."

PHOTOS WHITNEY CURTIS FOR KHN



TOP LEFT. **TERRA JENKINS** still feels connected to the gang she joined as a teenager in the late 1980s. She has experienced a metamorphosis in recent years, though, calling herself a problem solver who wants to see the community thrive again.

TOP RIGHT. **LARITA RICE-BARNES (LEFT), TERRA JENKINS (CENTER) AND APRIL ROBY-BELL (RIGHT)** work behind the scenes in East St. Louis, Illinois, and its surrounding communities to help grieving families after tragedies. The three women grew up around street gangs and now fill in the gaps for a community overwhelmed by gun violence.

BOTTOM LEFT. **LARITA RICE-BARNES**, a native of East St. Louis, Illinois, recalls the day she feared for her life in an open field near the city's main thoroughfare. She ran through the grass before dropping to the ground, where she played dead until the shooting stopped.

BOTTOM RIGHT. **APRIL ROBY-BELL** wants her community restored after decades of dealing with a lack of resources, gun violence, and economic inequality. Two years ago, she opened Restoration Outreach Center, a church in Washington Park, a community that borders East St. Louis, Illinois.



Living Amid Street Gangs

As teens, these three women lived amid street gangs around East St Louis, Illinois.

NAVIGATING GRIEF *from AI*

“They trained us as little kids. How to own your ’hood, own your street: ‘This is my territory,’” Roby-Bell said.

The experience also taught her tough lessons about life and death at an early age. At least half of the friends she grew up with are now dead. “At times, it became hard because you just get tired of fighting,” she said. “I probably should have been dead a long time ago.”

At 42, Roby-Bell isn’t defending territory for a gang anymore. Instead, she is standing up for the families in the southern Illinois communities of East St. Louis and neighboring Washington Park who want their children to be able to go outside to play without fearing for their lives. As a survivor of the violence, Roby-Bell serves as a source of strength for others. Those traumatized by gun violence call her for counseling. She has planned funerals for victims. And, for years, she has presided over burials of both strangers and friends. She sleeps with her phone by her side, so she doesn’t miss a cry for help.

Nearby, Larita Rice-Barnes, 47, also carries a phone that doubles as a lifeline for grieving families. And Terra Jenkins, 50, receives similar calls. She typically checks her phone throughout the day, replying to messages from locals and nearby funeral homes.

As young women, all three ran with street gangs around East St. Louis and its surrounding communities. Today, Roby-Bell works for a school district mentoring high school students. Jenkins is an outreach leader for a local clinic, and Rice-Barnes is a published author who spends countless hours volunteering and running two nonprofits.

Still, their battle scars and faded tattoos recall their past. Because of those experiences on the front lines, some people trust them more than they do the police. The women fill in the gaps for a community fighting economic inequality, homelessness, health disparities, and gun violence.

“In East St. Louis, you’re into it with death,” Jenkins said. “Nine times out of 10, the position that I’m in, I just be involved with a whole lot of death because I’m at the morgue.”

Jenkins, who goes by “T-baby Ooh-Wee,” said she stumbled into the work of helping people. In the late 1980s as a teenager, she joined the Gangster Disciples, commonly referred to as “GD.” As time went on, she became a leader in the organization, a queen who called the shots.

She turned her grandmother’s basement in neighboring Washington Park into a barbershop. Her business became a therapeutic space for clients who confided in Jenkins while she trimmed their hair.

“Just like the beauty shop, the guys want

‘THEY
TRAINED US
AS LITTLE
KIDS. HOW
TO OWN YOUR
’HOOD, OWN
YOUR STREET:
‘THIS IS MY
TERRITORY’

APRIL ROBY-BELL, former
Gangster Disciples member,
community activist.

to talk,” Jenkins said. “They couldn’t talk to their homeboys, so when they sat in my chair they started talking to T-baby. They started talking about their problems. I mean the big gangsters, they’re crying. They’re just spilling their guts to me.”

As time went on, she became a trusted friend and activist whom many in the city could call on in their times of need. While she still is considered an “OG,” or original gangster, she said, somewhere along the way the gang life she knew changed. Rival gangs started to talk less and shoot more.

“These kids act like their hands don’t work,” Jenkins said. “And they never had a fistfight in their life.”

They use guns instead, she added. “Then you ask them: What y’all mad for? And they don’t even know what they arguing each other for. It couldn’t be money because lately here, lately here, the killing, ain’t nobody getting robbed. A lot of these kids still got the money in their pocket, their jewelry on them,” she said. “It’s, like, over Facebook.”

Jenkins blames herself and her generation. “We dropped the ball,” she said. Now, she is trying to pick up the pieces.

Every case is different, Jenkins said, but most grieving families need empathy, money for the funeral, and practical help, such as a haircut for their deceased loved one or a space to hold a memorial service. Jenkins said she is an introvert but rises to the occasion when alerted to a need in the community. She gathers clothing, food, and basic essentials. She sits with families after the funeral is over — when the families are left alone to deal with the grief.

In Roby-Bell’s case, her life changed in 2009. That’s when her cousin Keyatia Gibson was gunned down in front of a liquor store in the city.

“It took a while for them to come cover her up,” Roby-Bell said. She added that her cousin’s two young children stood over her body. “And they saw that. And I watched the pain.”

A mother of three herself, Roby-Bell decided to change her life. She started going to church and turned her focus toward helping those in need. Two years ago, Roby-Bell opened Restoration Outreach Center, a church in Washington Park, where she often shares her story.

As a member of a gang “I hustled,” Roby-Bell said. “But I survived the worst season of my life. And I didn’t just survive for me. I survived for my three daughters.”

At her church, she often prays for the youngest members of her congregation. “We always cover them in prayer. We pray for their safety, for their life span,” Roby-Bell said. “I work in the schools, so I’m always praying for their future.”

But religion cannot always be their salve.

When a child is caught in the crossfire, Rice-Barnes said, she chooses her words carefully when meeting with the grieving family. She doesn’t tell parents that their deceased child turned into an angel. That kind of rhetoric isn’t in her playbook.

“People need the ministry of presence,” Rice-Barnes said. “In most cases, they don’t need you to say anything. They just need to know that you’re there.” Earlier this year, Rice-Barnes wrapped her arms around the family of 3-year-old Joseph Michael Lowe, who was killed by gunfire while in a car with his older brother. But as she deals with each family’s pain, she must grapple with her painful past, too.

During Rice-Barnes’ adolescent years, she had friends who were Gangster Disciples, but she spent most of her time with a rival gang, the Vice Lords. She lost two close friends to gun violence and had her own close calls. She feared for her life when a man held a gun to her head. And a few years later, she ended up flat on the ground in a field after someone in a nearby car started shooting.

“In the midst of running, I fell,” Rice-Barnes said. “I didn’t know what to do. I didn’t know if someone was standing over me.”

She walked away that day but carries the memory as she helps those who experience loss. “I’m still dealing with the devastation of what happened,” Rice-Barnes said. “In more recent years, I find myself telling those stories, but they were just packed down and suppressed.”

Rice-Barnes hosts rallies in East St. Louis to remember victims of gun violence, survivors, and their families. Her nonprofit Metro East Organizing Coalition brings residents together for conversations about solutions. Dozens of people showed up to a June event where Rice-Barnes reminded city leaders of the need for policy changes and programs that could potentially save lives.

Rice-Barnes’ nonprofit teams up with other crime reduction organizations to analyze data, so she believes her efforts have helped reduce crime in the past 18 months. Still, she knows the city has a long way to go. Yet the idea of giving up on this city isn’t an option for Rice-Barnes — or for Jenkins and Roby-Bell. The trio believe their community will thrive again, so they focus on the future.

“It doesn’t matter how you start, but it matters how you finish,” Roby-Bell said.

KAISER HEALTH NEWS (KHN) is a national newsroom that produces in-depth journalism about health issues. Together with Policy Analysis and Polling, KHN is one of the three major operating programs at KFF (Kaiser Family Foundation). KFF is an endowed nonprofit organization providing information on health issues to the nation. .

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

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 Marriott 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.

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
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

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"

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.

For Further Information call (918) 835-1525.

"Have Faith In God." Mark 11:22



Pastor Bukky and Wunmi Alabi

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

ALL SOULS
Love beyond belief



2952 S. Peoria Ave. | Tulsa, OK 74114



Mount Zion Baptist Church
419 N Elgin Tulsa, Oklahoma

Office:

918-584-0510

Fax:

918-584-1958

Prayer Line:

918-584-PRAY

Sunday School

9:30 a.m.

Morning

Worship 10:45

Wednesday

Bible Study

Noon and 7:00



In The Spirit Christian Church

"Come And Experience The Spirit"

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, Children's Choir, Spirited Kids, Guest Services, Intercessors, Men's Fellowship, Outreach and much more...



Rev. Sharyn
Cosby-Willis,

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.



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

SLAVERY'S GHOST 2022 from AI

homes has many in the city of nearly 40,000 excited that a local landmark will be saved from demolition. New residents moving in early next year will only help Main Street’s shops and restaurants.

But with the nation debating how to teach history, the multimillion-dollar project also demonstrates the difficulty of telling the complicated story of a place in a way that both honors the past and doesn’t raise hackles over “wokeness” in a deeply conservative community.

The transatlantic slave trade was outlawed in 1808 and slavery was in decline before Eli Whitney invented the labor-saving gin to separate white cotton fibers from seeds. The demand for unpaid labor skyrocketed and thousands of people were sold onto plantations, where the gins made cotton farming more profitable than ever.

Prattville’s namesake, Daniel Pratt, became Alabama’s first major industrialist against this backdrop, moving South from New Hampshire and starting a business to produce gins several years later.

Pratt designed his company town about 15 miles (24 kilometers) northwest of the state’s Capitol to resemble the New England communities of his past. With a physical layout matching an ethos built on labor, education and faith, he had workers build a church, schools and stores near the factory. His grave rests atop a hill overlooking the city, where he’s celebrated as a paragon of virtue.

Slavery was always part of the operation, according to “Daniel Pratt of Prattville: A Northern Industrialist and a Southern Town,” a definitive history written by Curt John Evans.

Pratt used four enslaved mechanics in 1837 as collateral for a \$2,000 bank loan to buy 2,000 acres along Autauga Creek for what would become Prattville, and then used more slave labor to clear the swampy land, according to the book.

Pratt aimed to teach poor, white Southerners the value of manual labor, which generally was considered the job of enslaved Black people before the South industrialized, and most of the factory’s workforce was white by

the 1850s. But when production lagged, Pratt changed supervisors and purchased skilled slaves to do the vital work whites wouldn’t do. Evans wrote that by 1860, Pratt owned 107 enslaved people. During the Civil War, he outfitted an entire Confederate cavalry unit and was elected to Alabama’s secessionist legislature.

Much of that history was included in the documentation that resulted in the Daniel Pratt Historic District being listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

Yet only snippets of the story — and nothing about slavery — are mentioned on the new development’s website, and the factory’s ties to slavery are rarely discussed in the city, which is about 75% white and tends to vote Republican.

Some people in Prattville have complained about its name — The Mill at Prattville — saying it was a factory, not a mill. Others contend that turning it into apartments is almost demeaning to its history as the leading maker of cotton gins.

Its history of racial oppression is tougher to address than either of those other things.

Bill Gillespie Jr., 64, is both a lifelong resident of Prattville and the mayor, but it took a Discovery Television show that aired a few years ago called “Mysteries of the Abandoned” for him to grasp the link between the gin factory and slavery, which the show laid out using video of the abandoned plant.

“Until I saw that, I had not even made that connection,” said Gillespie, who is white.

Deborah Taylor Robinson, who is Black and had a father and other relatives who worked at the plant, said many in the Black community know about the factory’s ties to slavery, even if the topic wasn’t openly discussed much through the years.

“I think people just still aren’t comfortable talking about it,” she said. “People get tense and uptight talking about it.”

Across a bridge from the buildings where workers are now installing walls and plumbing, the Prattaugan Museum — named for a combination of “Prattville” and the county name, Autauga — contains lots of information about Pratt, the buildings and gin manufacturing. But it has less of a focus on the common people, both Black and white, who worked in the factory.

Betty Sharon Reed, who is Black and taught history in town for years before retiring in 2005, said Daniel Pratt deserves accolades, but credit also is due to the enslaved people and other workers who formed the

backbone of his business empire, and the importance of the factory to America’s bloody fracture during the Civil War should be more widely known.

“More than one historian has stated that if it weren’t for the creation of the cotton gin, slavery would have died out. As it happened, they needed more people to work the cotton. So what did they do? They got more slaves,” she said. “A lot of people (today) say, ‘It wasn’t me, it was my ancestors.’ But that is what happened.”

Campaigning for reelection in a nine-candidate Republican primary that forced her to the right this year, Gov. Kay Ivey made plain where she stands on the subject of adding fresh context about race and history to education.

“We do not teach hate to our kids,” Ivey said in a television spot calling her “Trump-tough.”

Ivey’s reelection with almost 67% of the vote suggests how tough it might be to incorporate enslavement into a fuller telling of the history of buildings where a three-bedroom unit will rent for \$2,140 a month. Residents likely will include state and federal workers from Montgomery, and if the area’s demographics are any guide, most will be white.

Despite a tortured history that includes being the birthplace of the Confederacy, white supremacist rule, Ku Klux Klan bombings and the election of segregationist Gov. George C. Wallace to four terms in office, Alabama is considered a leader in the field of promoting Black history and civil rights tourism, according to historian Brent Leggs.

Nationally, few if any commercial sites with ties to the institution of slavery memorialize that aspect of history, said Leggs, a senior vice president with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and executive director of its African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund. Some old plantations are open for tours and events, yet do little to acknowledge the enslaved people who live and worked there.

Combined with Alabama’s civil rights sites and the national lynching memorial in nearby Montgomery, this project could achieve something unique by embracing a broader view, Leggs said: “This development team and community has an opportunity to innovate and set new examples for the rest of the nation.”

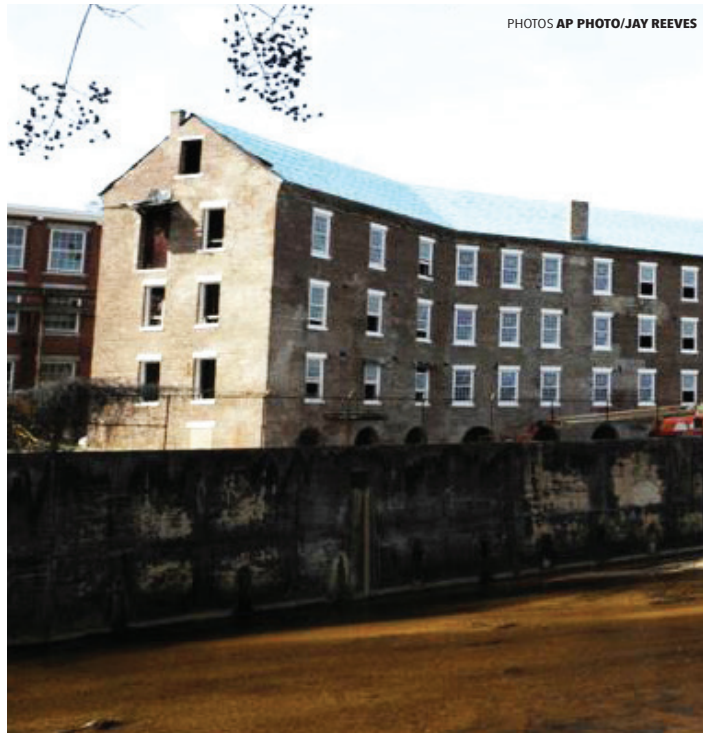
The Prattville mayor is among those who believe the story of the factory needs to be told, even if it’s tricky politically. Race always is a touchy subject, and some locals complained about the tenor of the TV show that Gillespie said opened his eyes. “I don’t think we can judge the past on the present,” he said.

The project’s developers at Envolve Communities LLC intend to display some historic documents, photos and perhaps furnishings from the factory’s past, but it’s unclear whether they’ll address slavery or race, said Ashley Stoddart, community manager for The Mill at Prattville.

Stoddart, a Prattville native whose grandmother once worked at the factory, said the focus so far has been on saving the structure, which closed for good in 2012 after the last owner outsourced the work to India. “Animals were living in it and trees were growing out of the roof,” she said.

Deborah Robinson’s husband Robert Lee Robinson, who is Black and once worked in the factory, hopes residents will have a chance to learn about more than the man who founded the town and owned the slaves who worked there.

“They always talk about Daniel Pratt and what he accomplished, but how did he accomplish that? Whose back did he accomplish that on? Whose shoulders was he standing on?” said Robinson.



PHOTOS AP PHOTO/JAY REEVES

RIGHT **A ONCE-ABANDONED COTTON GIN FACTORY** that is being renovated into apartments stands beside Autauga Creek in Prattville, Ala., on Thursday, Nov. 10, 2022. The factory’s history is tied up in slavery, and the project demonstrates the difficulty of telling complicated U.S. history.

BOTTOM **DEBORAH TAYLOR ROBINSON** is shown during an interview at her home in Prattville, Ala., on Thursday, May 19, 2022. An antebellum abandoned cotton gin factory is being renovated into apartments in the city, and Robinson would like to have greater recognition for the enslaved people who helped make it into what was once the world’s largest gin factory.





When *you* graduate,
She graduates.

*Finish your high school diploma,
for you and for them.
Find free, flexible and supportive
adult education centers near you at
FinishYourDiploma.org.*



DOLLAR GENERAL
LITERACY
FOUNDATION

Gone, BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN

GOODBYE 2022 from AI

Julien starred in the 1973 cult classic blaxploitation film “The Mack” and wrote another, “Cleopatra Jones.”

Clifton Ryan, a calypso singer from Trinidad and Tobago known as the Mighty Bomber, died Jan. 1. Ryan was 93.

Nigerian bishop Paul Adegboyega Olawoore died Jan. 1. He was 60.

Sultan Banks, a San Jose hip-hop producer and innovator known as Traxamillion, died of rare cancer Jan. 2. Banks, 42, worked with fellow Bay Area artists such as E-40, Keak da Sneak and Drew Deezy.

Trinidad and Tobago calypso singer Kenrick Joseph died Jan. 2. Joseph, 69, performed as Kenny J and also served as his nation’s assistant superintendent of police.

Former Denver Broncos wide receiver Odell Carl Barry died of heart disease Jan. 3 at age 80. Barry played with the Broncos in 1964-1965. After leaving the NFL, Barry served as the mayor of Northglenn, Colorado, and as a delegate to the 1980 Democratic National Convention.

Ross Dean Browner, a college football hall of famer who spent 10 years in the NFL, including time with the Cincinnati Bengals, died Jan. 4. Browner was 67.

Jessie Lee Daniels, a founding member of the R&B group the Force MDs, died Jan. 4. The group had hits with such songs as “Tender Love,” “Love Is a House” and “Touch and Go.” Daniels was 58.

Darryl T. Owens, a former Democratic member of the Kentucky House of Representatives, died Jan. 4. Owens was 84.

Tonayja Coker, a local 23-year-old mother, was killed Jan. 4 by a hit-and-run driver near Garden Highway and Northgate Boulevard.

Prior to his death Jan. 5, Lawrence Brooks, 112, had the distinction of being known as the oldest living man in the United States. An army veteran, the New Orleans supercentenarian also was the longest-living known American World War II veteran.

Legendary actor Sidney Poitier, 94, took his final bow Jan. 6. In 1964, Poitier, a native of the Bahamas, was the first Black actor to win an Oscar. He was known for breaking barriers in Hollywood and his lengthy credits included classic performances in such films as “A Raisin in the Sun,” “Porgy and Bess,” “To Sir, with Love,” “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner,” and “In the Heat of the Night.”

Longtime local broadcast photojournalist Shawki Moore died Jan. 6; he had been recovering from a major stroke. Moore also was an ordained minister and was known to put down his camera and compassionately pray with people who were experiencing the tragedies he was covering.

Calvin Eugene Simon, an original member of the iconic bands Parliament and Funkadelic died Jan. 6. Simon, 79, sang on hits like “Tear the Roof Off the Sucka” and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame with other P-Funk members in 1997. He went on to perform gospel music before retiring in 2019.

Clive Alexander, a pioneer Trinidad and Tobago extempo and kaiso jazz musician known as Clive Zanda, died Jan. 6. He was 82.

Barbara J. Jacket, a former women’s track and field head coach for Prairie View A&M, died Jan. 6 at age 87. Jacket won 10 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics titles at the HBCU and later served as its athletic director. In 1992 she became the second African American to serve as an Olympic head coach for the U.S. team. Jacket was inducted into the International Women’s Sports Hall of Fame in 1995.

Legal scholar and voting rights champion Lani Guinier died of Alzheimer’s disease Jan. 7. Guinier was 71.

Jazz and R&B musician James Forman, better known as James Mtume, died Jan. 9, just days after his 75th birthday. Mtume was a songwriter, producer and activist who worked with Miles Davis in the 1970s. His hit song “Juicy Fruit” has been widely sampled by artists such as Chris Brown, Tamar Braxton, Warren G, and Keyshia Cole.

Ronettes singer Ronnie Spector died Jan. 12 at the age of 78. Spector

had hits in the 1960s with songs like “Be My Baby” and “Baby I Love You.” The Ronettes were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2007.

Local 10-year-old Onaiya Mei Lee passed away Jan. 12 after being diagnosed with an aggressive rare form of pancreatitis.

Local teen Alynia “Lena” Lawrence was fatally shot Jan. 13 while sitting in a car parked near Stockton Boulevard. Local activists joined Lawrence’s family in demanding answers and calling for an end to violence against area young women.

Wilfred Cyprian Harvey, the first African American to serve as a chief equipment manager for PG&E, died Jan. 14. Harvey, 88, was the utility company’s first African American Affirmative Action manager, creating opportunities for other minority employees. The Oakland activist was the father of local spiritual leader Minister Imhotep Alkebulan.

Carol Speed, who was known for roles in such blaxploitation-era movies as “Abby” and “The Mack,” died Jan. 14. Speed, 76, also starred in “Dynamite Brothers” “Black Samson” and TV shows like “Julia,” and “Sanford and Son.”

Tiana Huddleston, an 8-year-old old Wisconsin girl, was shot and killed Jan. 15. The autistic child’s father, Michael Anthony Huddleston, originally told police he was demonstrating gun safety when the weapon went off. He later said he was intoxicated when his daughter got a hold of the gun and accidentally shot herself. He was sentenced to 20 years for reckless homicide.

Brig. Gen. Charles McGee, who fought and defied racism as a pilot in four wars, died in Maryland on Jan. 16. McGee, 102, was one of the last living Tuskegee Airmen. He was the recipient of many honors including the Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak leaf clusters, the Bronze Star and a Congressional Gold Medal.

Fashion icon Andre Leon Talley died of COVID-19 in a White Plains, New York, hospital Jan. 18. Talley, 73, served as creative director for Vogue magazine and counted among his friends and confidantes notable designers such as Yves Saint Laurent, Diane von Furstenberg, Bethann Hardison and Manolo Blahnik.

Lusia Harris, the first and only woman to be drafted into the NBA, died Jan. 18 in her native Mississippi. Harris, 66, was the first woman to score in an Olympic game and the first Black woman inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

Ian Alexander Jr. the son of award-winning actress/director Regina King, died by an apparent suicide Jan. 21. Alexander was a DJ and singer-songwriter who performed under the name Desduné. He was 26.

Bill Owens, the first African American in the Massachusetts Senate, died Jan. 22. Owens was 84.

Kevin Ward, the mayor of Hyattsville, Maryland, an urban area near Washington, D.C, was found dead Jan. 25 of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound. Ward was 44.

Moses J. Moseley, a young actor who appeared in “The Hunger Games: Catching Fire” and TV’s “Queen of the South” and “The Walking Dead” died Jan. 26. Moseley was 31.

Miss USA 2019 Cheslie Kryst jumped from the 29th floor balcony of her New York City apartment Jan. 30. A correspondent for the long-running TV show “Extra,” Kryst, 30, was described as “gorgeous and gifted” with the “world at her feet.” Sadly, she also battled with depression.

Mississippi soul musicians and brothers Syl and Jimmy Johnson died a week apart. Jimmy, 93, passed away Jan. 31 and Syl, 89, passed away Feb. 6.

FEBRUARY

Tahjay Dobson, 22, an up-and-coming rapper who went by the name Tdott Woo, was shot and killed outside his Brooklyn home Feb. 1.

Shakira Gatlin, a 19-year-old who performed with the Dancing Dolls from the TV show “Bring It” was killed in Jackson, Mississippi, on Feb. 2 by an underage male who was “mishandling a gun.” Gatlin’s death came just months before another DD4L performer, Dyseha Upshaw, also died.



SIDNEY POITIER, at Washington D.C. book signing, May 23, 2000 Photo, John Mathew Smith 2001.

Theodora “Teddie” Carter-Brazelton, a beloved music leader at Sacramento’s Capitol City Seventh-day Adventist Church, passed away Feb. 3. Carter-Brazelton, 67, grew up singing in family gospel groups, later led several choirs at the local church and lent her voice to a number of mass choirs and convocations. She was called the “choir mother of Sacramento.”

Alphonse Williams, nephew of tennis greats Venus and Serena Williams, died by an apparent suicide Feb. 3. Williams, 21, reportedly suffered from a number of mental and physical health issues.

California Golden Bears basketball legend Gene Ransom was killed in a shooting on an Oakland freeway Feb. 4. Ransom was 65.

Funk and soul songstress Betty Davis died of natural causes Feb. 9. Davis, 77, once was married to jazz legend Miles Davis.

Carol Wright, daughter of Sacramento’s first Black fire chief, died Feb. 17. Wright, 65, was a mediator and consultant who co-led a “Can We Chat” series on race and racial tension.

Priscilla Murray, the mother of

singer-actor Tyrese Gibson, died from complications of COVID-19 and pneumonia Feb. 17.

Tracy Gaeta, 54, was shot and killed by a Stockton K-9 police officer Feb. 22 after she reportedly backed her car into a police vehicle at a red light. Bodycam footage showed the officer firing more than 30 shots into her car.

MARCH

Thought-provoking Los Angeles mural artist Noni Olabisi died March 1. Olabisi, 67, used her art to bring awareness to issues impacting the Black community, particularly police violence.

Johnny Brown, best known for his role as Bookman on the classic show “Good Times,” died March 2. Brown was 84.

Education champion and civil servant Brenda Harris, 71, died March 5 after a brief illness. Harris influenced state policy as a consultant with the California Department of Education and an advisor to the California State Board of Education. She was a former professor at Sacramento State and also taught

elementary, middle and high school.

Elder Leon T. Jones of Sacramento’s Progressive Church of God in Christ died March 8. Jones, 90, was a veteran who enlisted in the U.S. Army at age 14. He served on the front line in World War II and Korea, and earned a Purple Heart and three Bronze Stars for heroic actions.

Singer and reality TV personality Traci Braxton lost her battle with cancer March 12. Braxton, 50, gained fans performing with and appearing alongside sisters Toni, Trina and Tamar on the show “Braxton Family Values.”

San Jose police officer DeJon Packer was found dead in his Milpitas home from a fentanyl overdose March 13. Packer, 24, played football for San Jose State and had only graduated from the San Jose police academy in 2021, having become an officer “to make a difference” as a Black man within the force.

Los Angeles jazz performer and icon Barbara Morrison, 72, died March 16. Morrison was a champion for the preservation of jazz music and the contribution of African Americans to the genre. She founded a performing

GOODBYE 2022 on AI2

The Oklahoma Eagle

Our Mission

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

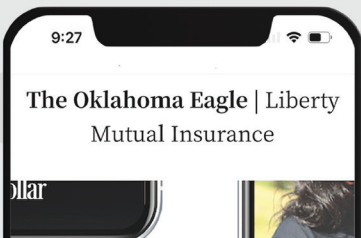
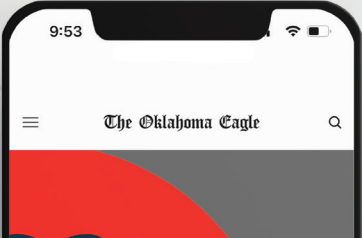


PHOTO WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



SAMELLA LEWIS at Scripps College in 1995 (Robert Hale)

GOODBYE 2022 from AH

arts center in Leimert Park.

Inderkum High School basketball player Anthony Williams was hit and killed in Rocklin March 19 by former Placer County Executive Todd Leopold, who would not face criminal charges. The decision to not charge Leopold came after the county district attorney’s office said there was “insufficient evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that a crime occurred.”

Renowned gospel singer and songwriter LaShun Pace died of kidney failure March 21. Pace, 60, enjoyed a solo career and also performed with her siblings as The Anointed Pace Sisters. She gave powerhouse performances of songs such as “I Know I’ve Been Changed,” and “There’s a Leak in This Old Building.”

Former Sacramento teacher Hester Snider died March 25 at the age of 90. Snider taught many students who went on to become community mentors. In recent years she was a romance novelist.

APRIL

Gun violence hit home early the morning of April 3 with a mass shooting in downtown Sacramento. The “K Street shooting” claimed the lives of six individuals: Johntaya Alexander, 21; Melinda Davis, 57; Joshua Hoye-Lucchesi, 32; Sergio Harris, 38; Yamile Martinez-Andrade, 21; and De’Vazia Turner, 29.

NFL quarterback Dwayne Haskins died in a hit-and-run in South Florida on April 9. Haskins, just 24 years old, played for the Washington Redskins and the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Champion bodybuilder Cedric McMillan, 44, died April 12 of COVID-19 complications after being in a car accident.

Clark-Atlanta University’s founding president emeritus, Dr. Thomas W. Cole Jr., died April 14. Dr. Cole, 81, was a former chemistry professor and research scientist.

New York hip-hop pioneer DJ Kay Slay died of COVID-19 April 17. He was 55.

Roderick “Pooh” Clark, who performed with the 1990s group Hi-Five, died in Waco, Texas, on April 18. Clark, 49, had been paralyzed since a 1993 car accident.

Former NFL player and Sacramento native Ralph Deloach died April 21 at age 65. After a brief NFL career, Deloach became a probation officer.

Former Sacramento pastor

LEWIS WAS THE FOUNDER OF THE INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF AFRICAN AMERICAN ART IN 1975. IN 1976, SHE FOUNDED THE MUSEUM OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN ART WITH A GROUP OF ARTISTIC, ACADEMIC, BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

Bishop Michael Davis died April 22.

Popular Sacramento cosmetologist Michael David Burnett, 67, passed away April 30. Burnett, an award-winning hair stylist, and his sister launched Premier International Salon in South Sacramento in 1994 where they created the popular hair and fashion show known locally as “The Show.”

MAY

Controversial relationship commentator and podcaster Kevin Samuels collapsed suddenly and passed away in Atlanta on May 5. According to a coroner, Samuels, 53, died of hypertension.

Jewell Caples, a singer known as “the First Lady of Death Row Records” died May 6 at age 53. Caples also authored a memoir titled, “My Blood My Sweat My Tears,” which chronicled her career, including providing vocals for artists like Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg and Tupac Shakur.

Adreian Payne, a former professional basketball player for the Atlanta Hawks, Minnesota Timberwolves and Orlando Magic, was shot and killed in Orlando on May 9. Payne was 31.

Basketball Hall of Famer Bob Lanier died May 10. The eight-time NBA All-Star was 73. Lanier played for the Detroit Pistons and the Milwaukee Bucks and later coached the Golden State Warriors.

South Carolina social justice activist Dr. Sonya Lewis was killed in a hit-and-run May 7. Dr. Lewis advocated for education and affordable housing and helped survivors of domestic violence and sexual trauma.

In an act of hatred and domestic terror, 18-year-old White supremacist Peyton Gendron opened fire outside a grocery store in Buffalo, New York, on May 14. The victims – all Black – were Celestine Chaney, 65; Roberta Drury, 32; Andre Mackniel, 53; Katherine Massey, 72; Margus Morrison, 52; Heyward Patterson, 67; Geraldine Talley, 62; security guard Aaron Salter, 55; Ruth Whitfield, 86; and Pearl Young, 77. The gunman wrote racial slurs on his rifle and taunts such as “Here is your reparations.”

Jazz and funk musician Bernard Wright was struck by a vehicle and killed May 19 in Dallas. Wright, 58, was known for his 1983 hit song “Who Do You Love,” which has been sampled by rappers such as Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg and fellow New York native LL Cool J.

Tytyana Miller, the 25-year-old daughter of rapper-entrepreneur Master P, died of accidental fentanyl

intoxication May 27, according to the Los Angeles County medical examiner.

Dr. Samella Lewis, the “godmother of Black art” died May 27 at age 99. The pioneering visual artist’s work and activism was influenced by the civil rights and Black liberation movements. She was the founder of Los Angeles’ Museum of African American Art. Shonna McDaniels, founder of Sacramento’s Sojourner Truth African Heritage Museum, named a gallery in Dr. Lewis’ honor in 2021 and has vowed to keep her legacy alive.

JUNE

Former Dallas Cowboys and Chicago Bears running back Marion Barber III was found dead of heatstroke in his Frisco, Texas, apartment June 1. Barber, 38, was known to exercise in sauna-like conditions.

Two young brothers, Zy’Aire Mitchell, 12, and LaMar Mitchell, 9, died in Flint, Michigan, June 1 and June 3 after a White firefighter failed to clear their house in late May. The children were asleep and initially missed by the responder who was later found to have knowingly made false reports about checking all the rooms in the house.

Caltrans maintenance worker Quanda McGadney was struck and killed by a vehicle June 3 while working along I-80 near Vacaville. McGadney was 51.

Former Oakland Unified School District superintendent Dr. Ruth Love died June 6 at age 90. Love also was the first Black superintendent for the Chicago Public Schools system.

Thomas McLiechey, a fifth-generation grandson of famed Black abolitionist Sojourner Truth, died June 6 in Battle Creek, Michigan. McLiechey was 82 years old.

Former Sacramento Kings forward Caleb Swanigan, 25, died June 20 in a Fort Wayne, Indiana, hospital. Swanigan was a former Big Ten Player of the Year and an NCAA All-American.

Eric M. Rigard, a Republican candidate for the state assembly died, June 21. Rigard, 65, was vying for the District 10 seat at the time of his death. He also was active in ministry at Calvary Christian Center.

Alexander Jefferson, a member of the celebrated Tuskegee Airmen during World War II, died in Detroit on June 22. Jefferson was 100. The city plans to honor the centenarian hero with the Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson Plaza at a park where he flew model airplanes as a child. Jefferson flew 18 missions before he was shot down

and held as a prisoner of war for eight months in 1944-45. After his valiant service, Jefferson became a teacher and school principal.

Black inventor Dr. Willie Morrow died June 22 in San Diego. Dr. Morrow, 82, is credited with creating the Afro-pick, a blow-out comb that attaches to a blow dryer to straighten African American hair and the California curl, a precursor to the popular Jheri curl style. He also published the San Diego Monitor newspaper and ran the city’s 92.5 FM radio station.

JULY

Gregory “Najee” Grimes became a victim of Sacramento’s deadly summer when he was shot and killed early July 4 while leaving an L Street nightclub. Grimes, 31, was a local high school and college football phenom who returned home to touch the lives of youth and other athletes, working with the Roberts Family Development Center and his alma mater, Inderkum High School.

Atlanta artist, educator and author Michael D. Harris died of cancer July 11. Harris, 73, was a founding member of the artist collective AfriCOBRA. He researched art of the African diaspora and taught at Emory University, University of North Carolina, Duke University, Wellesley College, Spelman College and Morehouse College.

William Hart, lead singer and songwriter for the classic group the Delfonics died July 14 in Philadelphia. Hart was 77. The group had hits such as “La-La (Means I Love You)” and “Didn’t I (Blow Your Mind This Time).” Their classic sound has been sampled by hip-hop era artists such as Fugees and Missy Elliot.

Stand-up comic and writer Jak Knight was found dead July 14 in Los Angeles. Knight, 28, appeared in Netflix’s animated sitcom “Big Mouth” and Peacock’s comedy series “Bust Down.” Authorities ruled his death a suicide by gunshot.

Vincent Parks, a Jonesboro, Arkansas, police officer died July 17 after becoming ill during training exercises. Parks was 38. A criminal investigation was launched in the Black officer’s death based on “statements contrary to the initial facts reported.”

Bass player and vocalist Michael Henderson died July 19, two weeks after his 71st birthday. The musician was known for collaborations with Miles Davis, Stevie Wonder and the Dramatics.

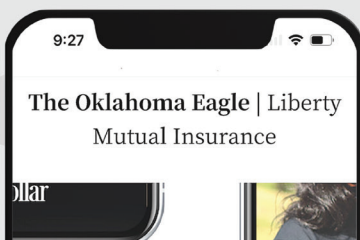
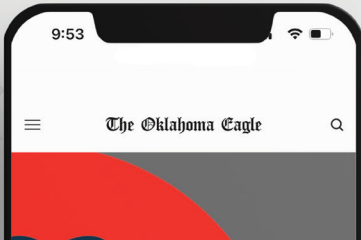
Shonka Dukureh, who played the pioneering musician Big Mama Thornton in the 2022 movie “Elvis,”

GOODBYE 2022 on A13

The Oklahoma Eagle

Our Mission

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



LEGENDS OF FILM, THEATER, ACTIVISM, EDUCATION, SPORTS, COMMUNITY *and more*

GOODBYE 2022 *from* A12

died of heart disease July 21 in her Nashville, Tennessee, apartment. Dukureh was 44.

AfriCOBRA artist Nelson Stevens died July 22 at age 84. Stevens was a veteran activist and teacher who served as a professor of art at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst for more than 30 years. His death came just 11 days after that of fellow AfriCOBRA artist Michael D. Harris.

Award-winning actress Mary Alice, best known for her roles on “A Different World” and “Sparkle,” passed away July 27. She was 85. Alice is best known for portraying Leticia “Lettie” Bostic on NBC’s “A Different World” and Effie Williams in the 1976 original version of “Sparkle,” which told the story of how the Supremes achieved fame. She also played the Oracle in “The Matrix Revolutions” and Marguerite Peck in “I’ll Fly Away,” for which she received the Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series. In 1987, she won a Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in a Play for her role in August Wilson’s “Fences.”

Groundbreaking actress Nichelle Nichols, who starred as communications officer Lt. Nyota Uhura on the original “Star Trek” television series from 1966-1969, passed away July 30. She was 89. The role broke barriers as the beautiful Nichols shared an on-screen kiss with co-star William Shatner – delivering the first interracial kiss on prime-time television. The show brought people of all backgrounds to their TV screens to watch the popular series. Nichols’ portrayal of Lt. Uhura inspired a generation of Blacks such as NASA astronaut Mae Jemison to get interested in space travel.

Area senior Carol Williams died July 30. A ballerina who danced with Judith Jamison in her younger years, Williams supported the efforts of former prima ballerina, NaTalia Johnson to bring classical dance to Black and brown children in Sacramento before she died suddenly in 2021. Williams, 78, was also a devoted member of Unity of Sacramento church where she served on the church’s welcoming committee and as a prayer chaplain. Her pastor, Rev. Kevin Ross called her a “beloved matriarch and community pillar.”

Heather Gray, an executive producer for the daytime CBS show “The Talk,” died July 31 in Los Angeles of plasma cell leukemia, an aggressive form of multiple myeloma cancer. Gray, 50, also worked on “The Tyra Banks Show.”

Basketball legend Bill Russell died July 31 at age 88. A graduate of Oakland’s McClymonds High School, Russell is considered one of the best players in NBA history and arguably the greatest winner in any sport. He attended the University of San Francisco, where the Dons won the NCAA championship in 1955 and 1956, including a string of 55 consecutive wins. He won a gold medal for the U.S. in basketball in the 1956 Olympics. Known for his teamwork, basketball IQ and revolutionary defense and rebounding, he played center for the Boston Celtics, leading them to 11 championships in his 13-year career. As a player-coach for the team, he also became the NBA’s first African American coach, including a stint with the Sacramento Kings in 1987-88. Off the court, Russell was greatly admired for his vocal and constant stance against racism, primarily in his playing city of Boston. For many, his stellar playing career could be topped only by his off-the-court support of social equality. The NBA Finals MVP award bears the Hall of Famer’s name and after his death, his jersey number No. 6 was retired league-wide, a first.

AUGUST

Former Black Panther Albert Woodfox, who survived decades of solitary confinement at Louisiana’s infamous Angola prison, died of COVID-19 on Aug. 4. Woodfox was one of three men accused of killing a White prison guard in 1972; the men became known as the Angola Three. He maintained his innocence and was released from prison in 2016. Woodfox visited Sacramento after his release

and spoke on his experiences and his book, “Solitary,” which was nominated for both a Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award.

Doris Thompson, 92, died Aug. 5. Thompson served in the Women in the Air Force (WAF) for four years and was later employed at Travis Air Force Base

and retired as a logistics manager at Mare Island Naval Shipyard. Thompson later worked as a teacher assistant herself to various community services in Vallejo. She was interred with full honors at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon.

Actor Roger Earl Mosley, best

known for portraying helicopter pilot Theodore “T.C.” Calvin in the 1980s television series “Magnum, P.I.” died Aug. 7. Mosley was 83.

Songwriter and producer Lamont Dozier, the middle name of the celebrated Motown Holland-Dozier-Holland team, died Aug. 8. The trio wrote and produced “You

Can’t Hurry Love,” “Heat Wave” and dozens of other hits that helped make Motown an essential record company of the 1960s and beyond. He was 81.

Mike Hickmon, a beloved Little League coach in Lancaster, Texas, was killed Aug. 13 after a fight broke out at a youth football game. The opposing team’s coach, Yaqub Talib, has been charged with first-degree murder. Talib was a sports commentator and is the brother of former NFL cornerback Aqib Talib.

Marvin Webb, a Contra Costa College baseball coach who helped countless student athletes excel on and off the field, died Aug. 20 at age 70. Before working at the Richmond community college, Webb played with the Los Angeles Dodgers’ triple-A team and the Oakland A’s. Webb also was a minister.

Ava Muhammad, the national spokesperson for Nation of Islam leader Minister Louis Farrakhan, died Aug. 26. Muhammad, 71, was a lawyer and in 1998 became the first woman to lead a mosque and region within the Nation.

SEPTEMBER

Hula Mae McClendon, the mother of KDEE radio personality Thaxter Arterberry, died Sept. 4 at age 90.

Broadcast news icon Bernard Shaw died Sept. 7. The former CNN news anchor was 82. Shaw, a Chicago native, was inducted into the Broadcasting and Cable Hall of Fame in 1999 and presented the Chuck Stone Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of Black Journalists in 2007.

Comic, writer, producer and Nickelodeon showrunner David A. Arnold died Sept. 7. Arnold, 54, was working on the show “That Girl Lay Lay” and earned fans with several Netflix comedy specials.

Valencia Prime, a Philadelphia drag queen, died Sept. 12 in the middle of a performance. Prime, 25, described herself as a “plus-size dancing diva.”

Rapper PnBRock was shot dead Sept. 12 at a Los Angeles eatery, the victim of an apparent robbery attempt. A social media post may have informed his assailant of his whereabouts. The rapper, born Rakim Hasheem Allen, was 30.

Jazz great Ramsey Lewis died Sept. 12 in his native Chicago. Lewis, 87, was a critically acclaimed pianist, composer, and radio personality who recorded more than 80 albums and earned five gold records and three Grammy Awards.

R&B singer Jesse Powell died of a heart attack Sept. 13, a day after his 51st birthday. Powell had hits with such songs as, “You,” “All I Need” and “By The Way.”

Joyce Chiles, the pioneering Mississippi prosecutor who helped reignite the investigation into the 1955 lynching of Emmet Till, died Sept. 22. Chiles was 67.

Vallejo gospel artist Eugene Dwayne Cole passed away Sept. 23. Cole recorded albums such as “He Will Work It Out” and “Jesus Is the Balm” as Eugene Cole and Persuaded.

Music legend Pharoah Sanders died Sept. 24 in Los Angeles. The famed saxophonist helped John Coltrane explore and expand the jazz genre. Sanders was 81.

Rapper Coolio died Sept. 28 in Los Angeles. Coolio, 59, was best known for such songs as “Gangsta’s Paradise” and “Fantastic Voyage” and his outlandish braided hairstyle.

OCTOBER

Veteran film and TV actor Austin Stoker, who appeared in “Battle for the Planet of the Apes” and “Sheba, Baby,” died Oct. 7. Stoker was 92.

Willie Spence, a popular contestant and runner-up on season 19 of the singing competition “American Idol” died Oct. 12 after a car accident in Tennessee. Before appearing on the show in 2021, Spence, 23, earned fans with a viral video of his rendition of Rihanna’s hit song, “Diamonds.”

“Come Into My Life” singer Joyce Sims died Oct. 15 in Los Angeles. Sims was 63.

TOP ROW
LANI GUINIER, from 30th anniversary of the March on Washington. Photo, John Mathew Smith.

SECOND ROW
LEFT **RAMSEY LEWIS**, performs live in the KPLU studio on October 16, 2009. Photo, Justin Steyer / KPLU.

SECOND ROW RIGHT
ANDRE LEON TALLEY at the Vanity Fair kickoff party for the 2009 Tribeca Film Festival.

THIRD ROW
LEFT **BILL RUSSELL** wearing a Boston Celtics jacket in 1957. Photo, John G. Zimmerman for Sports Illustrated.

FOURTH ROW
LEFT **LUSIA HARRIS**, American basketball player, as a senior at Delta State in the 1976-77 season. 1977 Delta State University “The Broom” student yearbook.

FOURTH ROW RIGHT
ALEXANDER JEFFERSON, USAF Lt. Col., at the Imperial War Museum. 17 January 2012. US Embassy London



PHOTOS WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



PHOTOS WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Pharoah Sanders...

died Sept. 24 in Los Angeles. The famed saxophonist helped John Coltrane explore and expand the jazz genre. Sanders was 81.



Rev. Dr. Calvin Butts,...

who pastored Harlem’s famed Abyssinian Baptist Church for decades, died Oct. 28. Rev. Butts, 73, was a champion for social and racial justice and Black participation in politics.



GOODBYE 2022 from A13

Daniel Smith, one of the last children of enslaved Blacks in America, died Oct. 19 in Washington. Smith, 90, was born when his father, who was enslaved during the Civil War, was 70. He was a civil rights activist who marched in Washington and Selma. At the time of his passing he was set to publish his memoir, “Son of a Slave: A Black Man’s Journey in White America.”

Josephine Melville, a Black British actress who appeared in soap opera “EastEnders” and “Prime Suspect 2” died backstage Oct. 20 after performing in the play “Nine Night.” Melville was 61.

Twenty-year-old Princeton

Raymond Green Vance...

was one of five people killed Nov. 20 when a gunman opened fire in a gay nightclub in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Vance, 23, identified as an ally to the LGBTQ community and was at the club with his girlfriend dancing and having a good time. He is described as a “gentle giant.”

University student Misrach Ewunetie was found dead near a campus tennis court on Oct. 20

after being missing for a week. Ewunetie, 20, a native of Ohio and of Ethiopian descent, was a junior with a full-ride scholarship. Her death was officially ruled a suicide this week, but her family and others had called for an independent investigation and autopsy.

Alfred Ayodele Myah, 24, was fatally shot Oct. 21 in the parking lot of Grant Union High School during a football game against Elk Grove’s Monterey Trail High School. A 15-year-old suspect was arrested in the case earlier this month.

Zuri Craig, a 2015 finalist on “America’s Got Talent,” died Oct. 21. The 44-year-old singer also collaborated with Tyler Perry, appearing in such films as “Madea’s Big Happy Family,” “Madea Gets a Job” and “A Madea Christmas.”

Former Penn State linebacker Bani Gbadyu died Oct. 22 after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer. The Liberia native was 34.

D.H. Peligro, a longtime drummer for the band Dead Kennedys, died Oct. 28 in Los Angeles Oct. 28, he was 63.

Shanquella Brenada Robinson, a North Carolina hairstylist, entrepreneur and social media personality, was killed Oct. 29 while on vacation in Los Cabos, Mexico. Robinson’s death sparked online outrage and demands for answers. Her travel mates are persons of interest in her death.

“Can’t Fake the Feeling” singer Geraldine Hunt died Oct. 29. She was 77.

Jordan Marshall, 28, Kandace Florence, 28, and Courtnez Hall, 33, were found dead Oct. 30 inside a Mexico City Airbnb. Authorities say the friends died of carbon monoxide poisoning that resulted from an improperly installed water heater. They were in Mexico celebrating Dia de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead.

NOVEMBER

Takeoff, a member of rap trio **Migos**, was fatally shot Nov. 1 outside of a Houston bowling alley. Takeoff, whose real name was Kirsnick Khari Ball, performed with the platinum-selling group that included his uncle Quavo and cousin Offset, who were known for such songs as “Bad and Boujee” and “MotorSport.” Police say the 28-year-old recording artist was an innocent bystander who was shot in the head and torso when someone in a crowd of people opened fire following a dice game.

Tyrone Downie, a Jamaican-born keyboard player who added to the sound of Bob Marley and the Wailers, died on Nov. 5. Downie was 66.

Isaac Carter Jr., the first Black police officer in Dallas, North Carolina, died Nov. 8 at age 86.

University of Virginia football players Devin Chandler, Lavel Davis and D’Sean Perry were shot dead Nov. 13 aboard a charter bus returning from a school field trip. The alleged killer is a fellow Black student.

Roslyn Singleton, whose husband, Ray, appeared on “America’s Got Talent” in 2021, died of brain cancer Nov. 15. The couple chronicled her courageous battle with the illness on social media. The couple also appeared on “The Ellen DeGeneres Show” after a video of him serenading her before a surgery went viral.

Florida-based recording artist and TikTok personality B. Smyth died Nov. 17 following a battle with pulmonary fibrosis. He was 30.

Cecilia Marshall, the Filipino widow of the first Black U.S. Supreme Court justice, Thurgood Marshall, died Nov. 22 in Falls Church, Virginia. She was 94.

Former Sacramento resident Deidra Thorpe-Jones, 61, passed away Nov. 20 after a courageous

Franco Harris...

72, Pittsburgh Steelers legend, died Dec. 20, just days before he was to have his number, 32, retired by the organization. The honor, bestowed upon only two other Steelers, was to take place as the team celebrated the 50th anniversary of the “Immaculate Reception” play that Harris was a part of, which helped propel the team to its first Super Bowl in 1972.

battle with Leukemia. Thorpe-Jones was a trailblazer in information technology sales, including an award-winning 10-plus-year run with Microsoft and Amazon Web Services.

Joyce Bryant, a 1940s and 1950s cabaret performer and activist, died Nov. 20. The Oakland native broke barriers at a time when Black performers faced racism and violence in segregated clubs nationwide. She was 75.

A Walmart manager in Chesapeake, Virginia, walked into a breakroom Nov. 22 and killed employees Lorenzo Gamble, Tyneka Johnson and Brian Pendleton, who were Black. The gunman also killed Randy Belvins, Kellie Pyle and 16-year-old Fernando Chavez-Barron before killing himself.

Iconic actress-singer Irene Cara died Nov. 25 at her Florida home. Cara, 63, starred in the original classic films “Sparkle” and “Fame.” She also won an Oscar for singing the theme song

for the equally popular movie “Flashdance.”

Musician, composer and producer Don Newkirk died Nov. 25. Newkirk, 56, collaborated with hip-hop groups such as De La Soul and 3rd Bass.

Brooklyn hip-hop manager Jonathan “Hovain” Hylton died Nov. 25. Hylton, 56, worked with such artists as Cam’Ron, Jim Jones, Styles P, Lloyd Banks and T Pain.

Gloria P. Ransom, the wife of local Superior Court Judge Gary E. Ransom passed away Nov. 27 in Carmichael, four days after her 79th birthday. Ransom was an entrepreneur and served on a number of boards, including that of UC Davis Medical Center and the Sacramento chapter of the Links Inc.

Talaia Newman, a young Sacramento woman, died Nov. 28 of an accidental fentanyl overdose. Newman, 20, had been on life support for a week. Her family wants to find who sold her the drugs and help bring awareness, and an end, to the fentanyl epidemic.

Actor Clarence Gilyard Jr. died Nov. 28 in Las Vegas. Gilyard’s credits include roles in the TV shows “Matlock” and “Walker, Texas Ranger” and movies such as “Top Gun” and “Die Hard.” He recently taught stage and screen acting at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Yakira Chambers, a story editor for the CBS drama series “NCIS: Hawaii” died Nov. 30, after collapsing outside a mall in Newport Beach. As an actress, Chambers, 42, appeared in Issa Rae’s award-winning HBO comedy-drama “Insecure” and the 2020 film “John Henry.”

DECEMBER

Local educator and youth mentor Azikiwe C. Ayo died Dec. 1. Ayo, 75, was a special education teacher,

GOODBYE 2022 on A15

GOODBYE 2022 from A14

Pelé, ...

Brazilian soccer legend, died on Dec. 29 at the age of 82. Born Edson Arantes do Nascimento, Pele rose from poverty to become one of the most popular, and highest paid, athletes of the 20th century. He won three World Cups with the Brazilian team and also served tirelessly as a global sports and goodwill ambassador, who often spoke out against racism in soccer.

literacy advocate and a champion for applying Afro-centered academic principles for the benefit of his students and the wider community.

Charismatic 4-year-old Kaari Thompson was shot and killed Dec. 1 at a grocery store in the Lincoln-Lemington-Belmar neighborhood of Pittsburgh. Thompson's mother **Temani Lewis**, 21, also was shot and succumbed to her wounds five days after her daughter's passing.

Flynn Brown, a 22-year-old student athlete at Jackson State University, was found dead Dec. 2 inside an SUV parked on campus. A 20-year-old fellow student has been arrested as a suspect in Brown's shooting death.

Janis Hunter Gaye, the second wife of the iconic Motown singer Marvin Gaye, died Dec. 3 at her home in Rhode Island. Hunter Gaye, 66, sang background vocals on Gaye's song "Got to Give It Up" and inspired other music he recorded.

A Louisville, Kentucky, mother, Mary Njoki Muchemi Stanton, 49, and her daughters Andrianna, 17, and Brianna, 11, died Dec. 3 in a suspected murder-suicide. Gary Stanton, 60, is believed to have shot his family before turning the gun on himself.

Edna Peete, the mother of former NFL player Rodney Peete, died Dec. 6. She appeared briefly on the family's Hallmark reality series,



EDSON ARANTES DO NASCIMENTO, BETTER KNOWN BY HIS NICKNAME PELÉ, at Schiphol Airport, 19 Oct. 1962. Photo, Joop van Bilsen (ANEFO).

"For Peete's Sake."

Ronnie Turner, the son of music icons Ike and Tina Turner, died of complications from colon cancer Dec. 8 in Los Angeles. He was 62.

Three Southern University students – Brody Moore, 19, Tyran Williams, 19, and Dylan Young, 21 – were killed Dec. 7 in a car crash. The three young men, members of the school's Human Jukebox marching band, were traveling from the Louisiana campus home to Texas for the Christmas break.

NBA Hall of Famer Paul Silas passed away Dec. 10. Silas, 79, played on championship teams with the Boston Celtics and the Seattle Supersonics. His storied career included coaching stints with the New Jersey Nets, Charlotte Hornets and Cleveland Cavaliers.

Longtime Sacramento arts educator Isac "Ike" Paggett

passed away Dec. 10 in his Atlanta home. Paggett was a preeminent musician who for many years served as a band director and led the arts department at Sacramento High School.

Hip-hop dancer and choreographer Stephen "tWitch" Boss was found dead Dec. 13 in a Los Angeles hotel room, having apparently shot himself. The charismatic Boss danced his way into the spotlight on the TV competition show "So You Think You Can Dance" and went on to act as a DJ on a popular talk show hosted by Ellen DeGeneres.

Local man Sherrano Stingley, 48, died Dec. 16 after an altercation with Sacramento County sheriff's deputies left him comatose. The Dec. 6 incident, recorded on bodycams, is furthering a call from local and national activists for law enforcement to rethink its responses

during calls that may involve mental health crises.

Christopher Williams, a 62-year-old North Philadelphia man who got out of prison less than two years after being wrongly convicted and spending 25 years behind bars, was shot in the head and killed during a funeral procession on Dec. 17.

Sonya Eddy, who played nurse Epiphany Johnson on the long-running soap opera "General Hospital," died Dec. 19. Johnson was 55.

Thom Bell, the Grammy-winning producer, writer and arranger who helped perfect the "Sound of Philadelphia" of the 1970s, passed away Dec. 22. He was 79. Bell was the visionary behind such hits as the Spinners' "I'll Be Around" and the Stylistics' "Betcha by Golly, Wow."

Retired South Los Angeles pastor Trina Newman-Townsend

was killed by a hit-and-run driver after delivering gifts to an area shelter on Dec. 24. Family members say Newman-Townsend, 62, was a community activist and foster parent to 10 children.

Tizita "Destiny" Abdrazach, 22, died a hero on Dec. 25, saving five members of her fiancé's family after an artificial Christmas tree caught fire inside their North Highlands home. Abdrazach, who is of Ethiopian descent, is described as being compassionate and possessing a "beautiful soul."

Joseph Mersa Marley, a grandson of late reggae legend Bob Marley was found dead in a vehicle in Florida on Dec. 27. Marley, 31, is the son of Stephan Marley and was an artist in his own right who performed under the name Jo Mersa. He may have had a fatal asthma attack.

31-Day Quit Tobacco Calendar: New Year, New You

Day 1: Am I really doing this? ??	Day 2: Apparently, I'M DOING THIS.	Day 3: HARDEST DAY. The struggle is REAL.	Day 4: The nicotine is out of my body. Go, me! ❤️
Days 11-13: Am I sleepy? Or in a trance? Zzz	Days 8-10: Keeping my 🧠 out for triggers.	Day 7: BOOM! A whole week! 🌟	Days 5-6: Nicotine withdrawals... Feeling moody.
Day 14: TWO. WHOLE. WEEKS! 🌟	Day 15: Deep breaths and long walks.	Days 16-17: Meditating and winning.	Day 18: Switching up my routine.
Day 24: Craving alert! Calling my friend! 📱	Days 22-23: Rewarding myself with some guilt-free TV.	Day 21: WOOT! THREE WEEKS! 🌟	Days 19-20: MORE long walks.
Days 25-27: Where did my cough go? 🌟	Day 28: FOUR WEEKS. TOUCHDOWN DANCE! 🌟	Days 29-30: De-stressing hot showers. 🚿	Day 31: I did it! 🌟 100

A tobacco-free future is just around the corner. Make this year one you will never forget. For FREE patches, gum or lozenges, nonjudgmental support and more, visit **OKhelpline.com** or call **1-800-QUIT NOW** to start your journey.

Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline

1 800 QUIT NOW

1-800-784-8669 **OKhelpline.com**

A Program of

 **TSET**

Take it from Boomer and Pete: the better you eat, the better you feel!

Fill half your plate with
FRUITS AND VEGGIES!



 **ShapeYourFutureOK.com**

A Program of

 **TSET**

NOTICE

**METAL ROOFS
SIDING OR WINDOWS**
40-50 % OFF NOW!!
SAVE HUNDREDS
PAYMENTS \$59/MO *
LIMITED TIME
NO MONEY DOWN RATE 6.8 % *
NO PAYMENTS UNTIL APRIL 2023
SR/ MILITARY DISCOUNTS • MOBILE HOMES WELCOME *OAC
CALL NOW! 800-664-4856

NOTICE

**OKLAHOMA
CLASSIFIED
AD NETWORK**
FOR MORE INFO CALL
1-888-815-2672
HUNTING LEASES WANTED
OWN RURAL LAND? Earn \$5,000+ Every Year from Hunting Leases. Upfront payments from our hunters. Reduce risk with FREE \$5m liability insurance. Call for a free quote. (888) 871-1982 – Base Camp Leasing.
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
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.

The Oklahoma Eagle



Arts
Culture
History
Education
Business
Sports
Faith



The Rich Legacy
of Tulsa's Black
Entrepreneurship



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



“A GORGEOUS, THRILLING,
HEAVENLY MUSICAL.”
-THE GUARDIAN

“AN ADRENALINE-PUMPING
PRODUCTION.”
-THE NEW YORK TIMES

JESUS CHRIST
SUPERSTAR
50TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

LYRICS BY TIM RICE
MUSIC BY ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

GET TICKETS!

JANUARY 24-29
TULSA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
918.596.7111 · CELEBRITYATTRACTIONS.COM
JESUSCHRISTSUPERSTAR.COM

6 NewsOK.com CelebrityAttractions f b t w Tulsa TULSA WORLD MEDIA COMPANY

The Oklahoma Eagle

MOST
PEOPLE
DON'T
GET IT,
BUT
YOU
CAN.

Please subscribe to The Oklahoma Eagle
and find more great stories online @
TheOKEagle.com