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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.

PEREZ RESIGNS TPS Board Seeks Applicants for North Tulsa Seat

By JOHN NEAL

The Tulsa Public School Board is gearing up to select a North Tulsa representative to replace Board member Judith Barba Perez. The Representative of District 2 on the TPS Board since 2021, Perez abruptly resigned last Monday, effective after the next meeting of the TPS Board, scheduled for January 23. Perez's resigned because she is moving out of Tulsa. Her husband has accepted a new job out of state. PEREZ On A2



ILUSTRATION THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

STATE

STITT REPLACES BRADLEY, ONLY AFRICAN AMERICAN ON STATE **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

By JOHN NEAL

OKLAHOMA — Governor Kevin Stitt this week removed Tulsan Carlisha Williams Bradley as the only African American member and educator from the seven-member Oklahoma State Board of Education (OSBE).

LAWMAKER PROPOSES END-OF-YEAR DEADLINE FOR OK ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION

STATE

By Keaton Ross, Oklahoma Watch

After another general election cycle came and went without the state's long-awaited online voter registration system, one

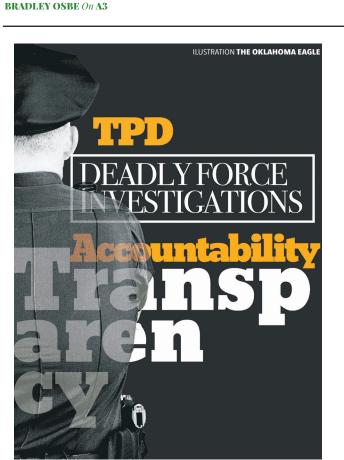
lawmaker hopes to set a firm deadline. Senate Bill 90 by Julia Kirt, D-Oklahoma City, would require **VOTER REGISTRATION** On A2

STATE

NEW OKLAHOMA AG SEEKS TO SLOW PACE OF LETHAL **INJECTIONS**

By SEAN MURPHY, ASSOCIATED PRESS

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Oklahoma's current schedule of executing a death row inmate roughly every 30 days is placing too much of a burden on prison staff and should be slowed down, the state's new attorney general wrote in a motion filed Wednesday LETHAL INJECTIONS On A6



LOCAL

TPD MUZZLES CITIZEN COMPLAINT INFORMATION

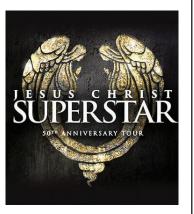
By JOHN NEAL

TULSA — The Tulsa Police Department (TPD) has quietly curtailed providing a trove of information to the public concerning citizens' complaints and use of force incidents by the department. Both the 2020 and 2021 TPD Annual Report lack information previously provided as recently as 2019 in the TPD Internal Affairs Annual Report. In an email to the Eagle, the department's Public Information Officer, Captain Richard Meulenberg, said, "We started to incorporate that data into the TPD annual report by combining the IA report with the TPD Annual Report." The "IA" or Internal Affairs report ceased publication in 2019. But a careful inspection by this Eagle reporter revealed that almost all of the data was missing when the "combining" took place. TPD COMPLAINTS On A6

AD SERVICES

ARTS & CULTURE

JESUS CHRIST AGAIN, WITH FEELING AND GOSPEL SPIRIT



By GARY LEE

So, you thought you knew all you needed to know about Jesus Christ Superstar, the Seventies rock JESUS CHRIST On A7

CHURCH DIRECTORY

COMMENTARY

THE DESTRUCTION **OF DEMOCRACY:** The Oklahoma **GOP's Scheme To** Nullify The Votes of Legislators

By Ross D. Johnson

OKLAHOMA — In the remaining days of 2022, Oklahomans welcomed the rapid transition of temperatures from a low of 1.9 degrees Fahrenheit to a high just below 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Icy roads, light snow and chilling winds soon gave way to the warmth of sunny December afternoons and a more promising forecast to support new year's celebrations. GOP SCHEME On A5

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PUBLISHER'S PAGE

Charles Henry Christian His distinctive stylistic innovations had

Discover career opportunities, classifieds and time-sensitive an undeniable influence on generations of jazz guitarists. A4 notifications. All

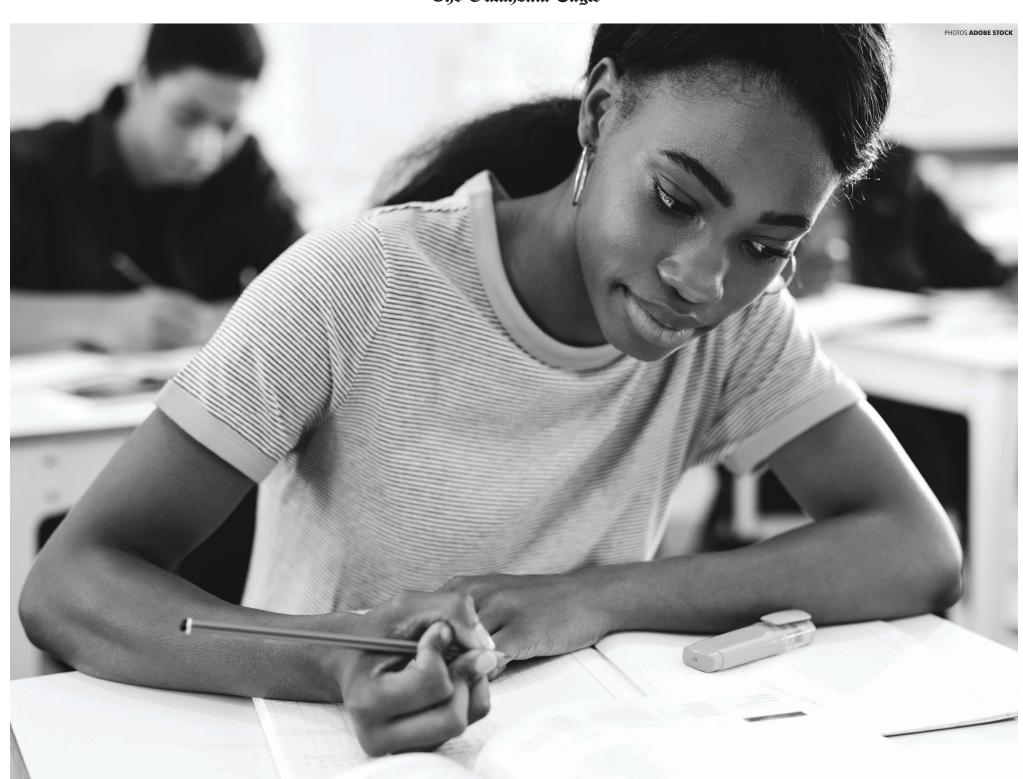
Jobs & Classifieds

Faith In Tulsa

The Eagle Church Directory is your source for finding a place to worship. A10



The Oklahoma Eagle



Tulsa Public Schools Board MAY APPOINT A REPLACEMENT

PEREZ from A1

The position of District 2 representative on the Board is crucial to North Tulsa students, teachers, and parents. Districts 2 and 3 cover most of the Northside schools.

Applications for the appointment to fill the position on an interim basis must be made by January 20th. They can be made at any District 2 school, the website www.tulsaschools.org/board or the TPS Education Service Center.

At Monday's TPS Board meeting, Board members differed in their opinions on how to fill the newly opened seat. Board member Jerry Griffin advocated a special election instead of a board appointment. He was rebuffed by other members who cited their responsibility as proscribed by state law.

According to Oklahoma statute, the TPS Board shall appoint a replacement to fill Perez's position until the next election. The replacement will fill the seat until the election scheduled for the Spring of 2024. At that point, voters will select someone to finish the remaining year left on Perez's term. Perez was elected to serve a four year term from 2021 to 2025.

The borders of District 2 are roughly North Greenwood, North Memorial, 11th Street, and North Pine. The seat represents eleven schools in North Tulsa, including elementary schools Emerson, Kendall-Whittier, McKinley, Mitchell, Owen, Sequoyah, and Springdale and Carver Middle School, Unity Learning Academy, Will Rogers College Middle and High School, and Booker T. Washington High School. Applicants must be registered voters residing at an address within the geographical boundaries of District 2 for the last six months and have a high school diploma or equivalent.

Following a discussion of the application deadline and other selection process issues, the Board set a deadline at 5:00 PM on January 20th to receive all applications for the seat. Interviews with applicants are expected to be conducted during the following week. Woolley added that the Board would "minimize the amount of time constituents are without representation."

Dr. Jennettie Marshall, who represents District 3 and is one of two African Americans serving on the Board, said she was pleased with the Jan. 20 filing date. This allows sufficient time for prospective candidates to file an application for consideration by the board, she explained in an interview with the Oklahoma Fagle

"The extension of time will provide those interested in serving with the opportunity to research the scope of responsibilities related to the position," Marshall added. "Candidates should learn the district, understanding that the district is very diverse and deserves full representation," she said.

Marshall said that candidates would be vetted by the board, whose members are sure to inquire about their related professional experience and opinions regarding matters recently considered by the committee. Considering the climate of spirited debate throughout the current term, she added, "I hope and pray that we don't simply consider individuals because of ties to interest groups... that we listen to candidates' commitment to working with all board members fully representing the district."

A person of African American descent has often filled the District 2 board seat. Perez is a first-generation immigrant from Mexico.

rst-generation immigrant from Mexico.

She was elected to the Board in February

of 2021 for a four year term. Born and raised in Zapotlan Del Rey, Jalisco, Mexico, Perez emigrated to the United States in 2014. She first arrived in California, then moved to Tulsa in 2015.

In the resignation letter Perez sent to the Board, she stated, "I will miss being strong and unapologetic for our immigrant and refugee communities at the table where decisions are made." She urged other immigrants to "keep fighting to create safe spaces for your community-nobody else will do it for you." At Monday's Board meeting, Perez appealed to other Spanish-speaking persons potential applicants saying, "Two years ago, I was still learning English. I hope a strong advocate [for immigrants] will step in my place. They need vou here." Board President Stacey Woolley, in announcing the resignation, said that interviews to fill the vacancy could commence immediately following the application deadline. But she gave no date on when the Board will make a replacement selection. In the past, Perez's frequent absence from the TPS Board meetings has divided the Board into 3-3 votes thwarting Board action.

Oklahoma is one of 10 states that accept only physical voter registration forms

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

VOTER REGISTRATION from A1

the State Election Board to accept voter registration applications online no later than Dec. 31. While the Legislature authorized state election officials to create the system in 2015, technical problems cross-referencing information from voters' state-issued identification with the Department of Public Safety has delayed the project for years.

Prospective voters may fill out a registration form online, a

service offered since 2018, but they must print out the form, sign it and deliver it to their county election board in person or via mail. Oklahoma is one of 10 states that accept only physical voter registration forms, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

In July, State Election Board Secretary Paul Ziriax said the agency was hopeful to fully launch the system ahead of the Nov.



8 general election but added that technical issues outside of the agency's control could cause further delays.

Kirt said she's concerned the project will be set aside without a required completion date. Launching at the end of the year would allow the state to issues ahead of the 2024 presidential primary and general election, she said.

"I'm worried we're going to go through another general election without it," she said in an interview. "So I wanted to remind my colleagues that this is necessary and absolutely crucial for the modern era."

Voter advocacy groups say online voter registration is an effective tool to boost youth voter turnout and civic engagement, which has historically lagged in Oklahoma. More than three-quarters of the state's registered voters 30 and under did not participate in the November midterm election, the Tulsa World reported last month. Statewide voter participation dipped by about 5% compared to the 2018 midterm contest.

Ziriax said testing of the final phase of the project is ongoing, but added that placing a firm deadline on the project could jeopardize security and overall functionality.

"No one wants to launch online voter registration more than me," Ziriax said in a statement. "However, it would be irresponsible for the Secretary of the State Election Board to prematurely launch an online voter registration system before it is ready for use and fully secure."

It will be an uphill battle for the bill to advance in the Republicancontrolled legislature, where just a dozen bills with Democrats as the original lead sponsor were signed into law last year. Kirt authored a similar bill in 2020, which proposed a March 2021 deadline for the system to fully launch. That measure narrowly cleared the Senate Rules Committee and was never introduced in the full Senate.

the full Senate.

The legislative session convenes on Feb. 6. In order to reach the governor's desk, bills must clear House and Senate committees

and receive a majority of votes in both chambers.

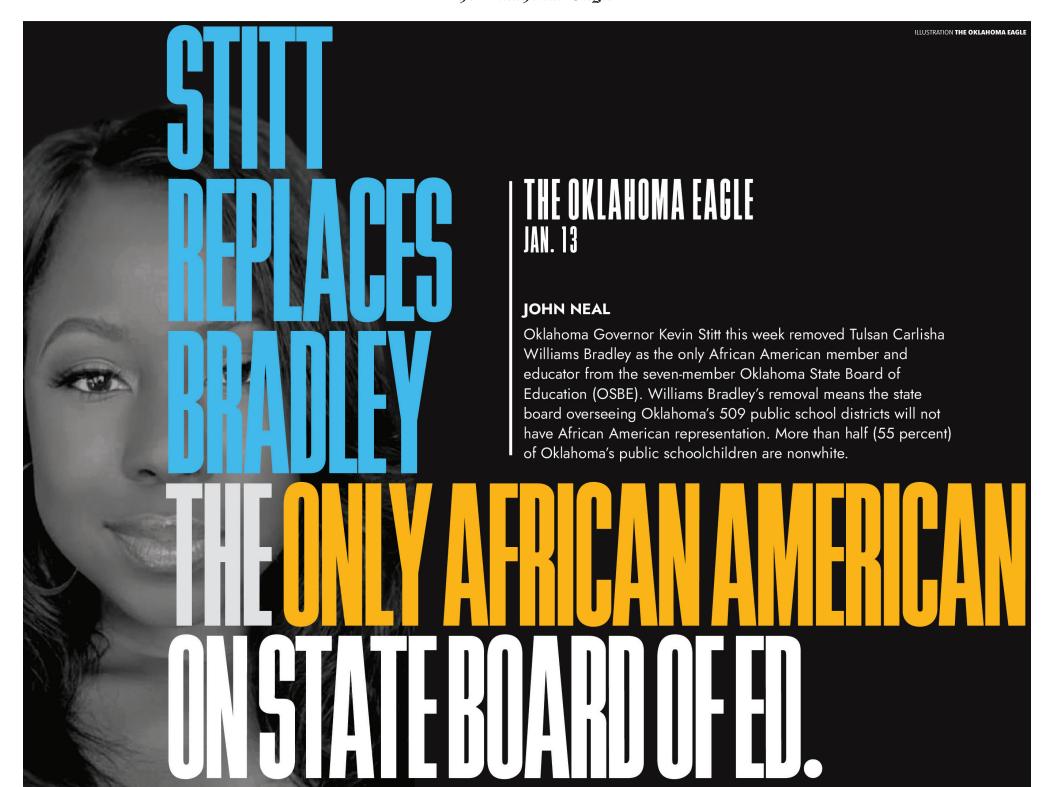
Kirt said she would prefer the system launch in the coming

months with no legislative action required.

"It's just not been a priority," she said. "One of my hopes is that the secretary (Ziriax) has been working with the Office of Management and Enterprise Services on the process, and I just hope it moves up the list in terms of things that they're working

 $\mathbf{A3}$

The Oklahoma Eagle



While the journey was far from easy, I am proud of charting a path that was value aligned."

BRADLEY OSBE from A1

Williams Bradley's removal means the state board overseeing Oklahoma's 509 public school districts will not have African American representation. More than half (55 percent) of Oklahoma's public schoolchildren are nonwhite.

Williams Bradley, a Tulsa native, a longtime educator and executive director of ImpactTulsa, had openly criticized the harsh treatment of Oklahoma school districts cited for violating the highly controversial, Republican-driven House Bill 1775, legislation that restricts Oklahoma's public school educators from teaching on the topics of ethnicity and gender issues that "one race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex."

Williams Bradley responds

After Stitt's announcement, Williams Bradley tweeted a statement on Jan. 10. She had represented Congressional District 1 since April 2019.

"It was such an honor to serve on the State Board," said Williams Bradley, whose term was to expire on April 2. "While the journey was far from easy, I am proud of charting a path that was value aligned and kept students & educators at the center of decision making. I will continue to advocate for public education in Oklahoma."

When Stitt appointed Williams Bradley in 2019, he touted her background to help the move Oklahoma as one of the country's "Top Ten in education." In November, a 2021 EdWeek report shows the state ranks 49th in education and 47th in spending per student.

Williams Bradley had previously worked as the executive director for Tulsa Legacy Charter Schools and the Schools Systems Leader Fellow and Senior Consultant at Tulsa Public Schools. She also served as the regional vice president at Lighthouse Academics and worked as an 8th grade math teacher and KIPP Through College Director at KIPP Reach College Preparatory.

"She is a driven and successful

individual who has been a strong leader for education in Oklahoma and a dedicated champion for our students in the state," Stitt said at the time of Williams Bradley's appointment in 2019. "She will be a wonderful representative for all of Oklahoma while serving on the board..."

On July 28, Williams Bradley was one of two members who said there was insufficient evidence to support downgrading Tulsa Public Schools for violating H.B. 1775 and to issue it an "Accreditation with Warning." Williams Bradley was joined by Joy Hofmeister, then-Oklahoma Superintendent of Public Instruction and OSBE's president, to oppose the downgrade. The OSBE voted 4-2 to sanction TPS based solely on a single accusation by a white Memorial High School biology teacher that Oklahoma's largest school district had violated H.B. 1775.

Williams Bradley tried to get OSBE to reconsider their decision, which failed. Hofmeister launched a vigorous campaign to replace Stitt as governor in the 2022 election but lost her bid in November.

Williams Bradley replaced by climate change critic

Stitt has appointed Donald Burdick to replace Williams Bradley. Burdick is an entrepreneur, co-founder of four oil and gas companies and the CEO of the Tulsa-based Olifant Energy II. He is also president and co-founder of the Tulsa IrishFest. He received his undergraduate degree from Duke University and a master's in geology from the University of Oklahoma.

As NonDoc.com reports, Burdick's recent LinkedIn posts include comments and articles downplaying the causes and impacts of climate change.

"Wind and solar can't be turned on when you need it, and it breaks the economics of reliable power sources. Time to fight this crap at every level," Burdick wrote in one post before calling green energy "useless."

In another post, Burdick linked

to an article about climate epochs throughout Earth's history.

"All societies should stop wasting money pursuing 'net-zero', reject the fear tactics of climate change propagandists and try behaving rationally in regards to energy," Burdick wrote.

Stitt appoints Tulsa Public Schools

Another appointee by Stitt was Suzanne Reynolds, a Nichols Hills pharmacist who replaces Estela Hernandez as the at-large member of the board

Reynolds first surfaced statewide when she spoke at the July 28 OSBE meeting and urged sanctioning Tulsa Public Schools for violating H.B. 1775 with "the strongest possible penalty."

"I found this to be a direct assault on my civil rights, my freedom of religion, speech and thought," Reynolds said. "These so-called DEI professional instructors are used to censor those that dissent to their belief system or have perspectives that do not align with their ideology."

Stitt said Reynolds has served in higher education at different universities, including at the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy, where she also received her bachelor's and doctorate degrees. Her mother was a public school art teacher for Oklahoma City Public Schools, and her father served as a professor at Oklahoma Christian University.

Stitt and Ryan Walters, the new State Superintendent of Education and now OSBE's president, have publicly voiced their intentions to push through other radical reforms in public education.

Two GOP donors appointed

Stitt also replaced two other OSBE members.

Marla Hill replaces Trent Smith in Congressional District 3. Hill, who lives in Edmond, is a home education teacher of her five children at Hill Academy High. She graduated with her bachelor's degree from Oklahoma City University and her juris doctorate from the University of Oklahoma.

Hill and her husband, Brian, are major GOP-donors and each donated \$8,700 to Ryan Walters' 2022 State Superintendent of Education campaign, according to NonDoc.

The Hills own Works24, a digital media company for phone hold music and lobby messaging, and The Cedar Gate publishing company.

Kendra Wesson replaces Brian Bobeck in Congressional District 4. Wesson, a native of Lawton, is the current owner of Operation Accounting, Inc. in Norman. She received her bachelor's degree with a Certified Public Accountant emphasis and a minor in ethics from Mid-America Christian University. She received her associate of science in business enterprise and associate of applied science in accounting from Oklahoma State University. She is a member of the Caddo Nation and serves on the board for Le Monde International School in Norman, a French and Spanish immersion charter school. In November, Wesson lost in the general election to replace State Rep. Jacob Rosecrants, D-Norman.

Last year, the OSBE proposed \$5,000 annual teacher pay increases. The raises are scheduled to be confirmed during the upcoming legislative session.

Walters, a close ally of Stitt, has been outspoken in his criticism of the OSBE, which he now leads.

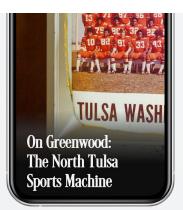
At the Jan. 9 inauguration ceremony, Walters threatened the nearly 400 employees at OSBE for pushing what he called "liberal indoctrination."

"We are going to make sure we hold folks accountable that have been pushing that," Walter said.

He echoes what has been a consistent

He echoes what has been a consistent position reported in The Oklahoma Eagle, including "demanding" of the OSBE should strip teachers of their teaching certificates and that Tulsa Public Schools should have had its accreditation status downgraded to a greater extent than recommended by OSBE attorneys.

Both Stitt and Walters have advocated for school voucher programs that would reduce funding for Oklahoma's public school districts.



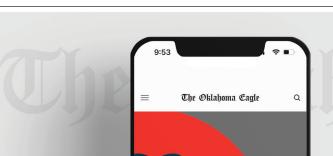


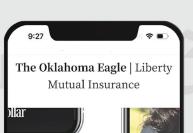


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The Oklahoma Eagle

Publisher's Page

Charles Henry Christian

Influential Jazz Musician

By BOB BURKE, OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In a short life of just twenty-five years, Charlie Christian forever impacted the world of music.



TOP. CHARLIE CHRISTIAN (center) at Ruby's Grill, Oklahoma City. (20699.84.92.16, State Museum Collection, Frank Driggs Collection, OHS).

orn July 29, 1916, in Bonham, Texas, to Clarence and Willie Christian, Charlie Christian moved with the family to Oklahoma City in 1918. He followed the musical tradition of his older brothers and father and learned to play the trumpet before he was ten. By age twelve he switched to the guitar, making his own crude instrument from cigar boxes in manual training class, as novelist and family friend Ralph Ellison recalled.

Christian attended Douglass High School in Oklahoma City and learned his music on Deep Deuce, or Northeast Second Street, an incubator for many of the nation's jazz greats. In the 1930s he played string bass

with Alphonso Trent's band. Then in 1937 he discovered the instrument with which he would be forever associated—the electric guitar. Taught by Eddie Durham, of the Count Basie band, and Jim Daddy Walker, of the Jap Allen group, Christian took his lessons to a higher level, changing the electric guitar from a rhythm instrument to an important solo presence in the orchestra. His distinctive stylistic innovations had an undeniable influence on generations of jazz and popular music guitarists.

Christian was "discovered" by music promoter John Hammond. In 1939 Hammond's brother-in-law, Benny Goodman, leader of one of the famous big bands of the

swing era, introduced Christian to America. The young guitarist played primarily with the Goodman Sextet and, less often, with the full orchestra.

While touring the Midwest in the summer of 1941, he began showing severe signs of tuberculosis, a malady blamed on years spent in an Oklahoma City slum apartment house. He entered the Seaview Sanatarium at Staten Island, New York, and he died there on March 2, 1942, at the age of twenty-five. Even though he recorded for only three years, his influence has been felt by generations of musicians. Since 1985 the Charlie Christian Jazz Festival has been an annual event in Oklahoma City.

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Featured Last Week



BLACK STUDENTS Are Still Experiencing Pandamic Trauma



Oklahoma AG Announces 4 New Opioid Settlements **Worth \$226M**



We Said Goodbye to Young And Old in 2022 While Violence, Pandemic Continue

The Oklahoma Eagle

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COMMENTARY

Questions regarding

theconstitutionality

of nullifying a state

minor violations of

House Rules were

met with scorn.

officer's vote for

Opinion The Oklahoma Eagle

GOP SCHEME from A1

The tensions of Oklahoma politics also appeared to calm, although not settled, during the general election in the prior month. The Republicandominated Legislature was again given license to craft laws targeting apocryphal threats of the indoctrination of Oklahoman school children by teaching a full and accurate history of African Americans, book bans and measures to counter the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

Politics, nationally, at year's end, was no less contentious. The broadly touted Red Wave of republican party voters, Americans who would affect an historic ousting of incumbent Democrat legislators, replaced by right-leaning republican patriots who would shepherd a new era of America first policies, would soon be followed by familiar unsubstantiated claims of election theft and fraud.

Oklahoma Republican legislators - still reeling from the national party's lacking performance at the ballot in November 2022 - soon began to craft legislation and resolutions that could counter their opponents' duly elected authority. Their efforts – arguably viewed as

Oklahoma House House Rules while the vote is open.

subjective nature determining such breaches of House Rules, available punitive action authorized by House Resolution 1001 and the absence of an appeal process, have raised bright red flags amongst democrat legislators, who may likely fall victim to Republican whim and

unconstitutional - would be justified by perceived violations of house rules, order and decorum.

Representatives first session of the 59th Oklahoma Legislature yielded a product, 2023 House Resolution 1001, that now empowers a presiding officer to "remove" the vote of legislators who are determined to be in breach of

caprice.

The potential impact of the now legal authority to nullify legislators' votes is the denial of representation for Tulsans, their interests and constitutionally protected civic rights.

In an era of hyper-nationalism, threats of insurrection, plots to kidnap and kill elected officials, stolen state secrets, dog whistle racism and "America First" slogans, the hypocrisy of moralists would soon follow. Elected officials, in both state and federal offices, have cast their lot with those who are committed to either preserving the core tenets of democracy, or destroying it.

Oklahoma politics is not immune to the destructive force of such hypocrisy, and the state's republican-led legislature, is sadly fertile ground for the next round of political shenanigans.

Today's political red herring is "House Rules," and the objective, a denial of our right to be represented by duly elected officials.

State Republicans have determined that simply legislating the protection of their feelings against Oklahoma's dark history isn't enough (House Bill 1775, April 2021). Party leaders have now turned their sights towards nullifying the recorded votes of colleagues, should presiding members determine real-time that a House Rule has been violated.

Impugn the motive of any member (H.R. 1001, Rule 9.2.a); refuse to sit when called to order (H.R. 1001, Rule 9.2.c); or while a question is pending, reference a visitor in the House Gallery (H.R. 1001, Rule 9.2.j), "the presiding officer may direct a Member's vote to be removed from the electronic voting machine if the Member is in breach of House Rules while the vote is open" (H.R. 1001, Rule 9.2.k).

Such minor infractions may now be met by a lawful punitive response that possesses the effect of nullifying a legislator's highest duty...

Ouestions regarding the constitutionality of nullifying a state officer's vote for minor violations of House Rules were met with scorn by State Rep. Jon Echols, R-Oklahoma City, House majority floor leader, who stood in support of the rule change

State Rep. Regina Goodwin, D-Tulsa-, offered an accurate assessment of the house resolution, characterizing it as "voter suppression, voter elimination on steroids.

Echols, objectively observed, singularly targeted Goodwin's concerns by employing a strawman argument, misrepresenting her inquiry to avoid a more substantive discussion. "What I hear you telling me is that you don't feel like people should be required to abide by the rules that they agree to," the Republican noted, making no explicit reference to Goodwin's opposition.

Echols' framing of a genuine concern regarding the constitutionality of the proposed rule was reminiscent of a high school student shouting, "So we can't eat during daylight hours!" in response to an instructor's demand to stop chewing gum in the classroom.

State Rep. Mikey Dollens, D-Oklahoma City, was equally impassioned in his opposition to the rules changes in H.R. 1001, noting thata violation of established law should be the only grounds upon which a state officer is stripped of their authority to vote. Dollens further characterized the resolution as "arbitrary" and lacking "due process".

The hours-long legislative session was objectively a platform for Echols' glid responses to scenarios presented by legislators, testing the application of the new rules.

As is the case with all acts of profound moral hypocrisy, examples of its occurrence are easy to discover.

Were state republicans a long-standing vanguard against House Rule infractions, and proponents of such harsh punishment, H.R. 1001 could be viewed as a reflection of their demonstrated values. History, however reveals a party that has gone to great lengths to protect the authority of state officers, even beneath the light of a scrutiny that reveals vile acts against children, prostitution, sex trafficking and threats to the wellbeing of Oklahoma communities.

In October 2022, State Rep. Ryan Martinez, 37, R-Edmond-District 39, was approached by Edmond police officers while sitting in the driver's seat of his running vehicle in the Patriarch bar parking lot, according to court records.

Martinez, who was earlier seen stumbling while getting into his vehicle, initially admitted that he consumed "a couple of beers in the Patriarch." After further questioning, Martinez stated that he had about three to four drinks. The Oklahoma County District Attorney's Office has now charged Martinez with "Actual Physical Control Of Vehicle While Intoxicated" and recommended that a warrant be issued for his The October incident was Martinez's second arrest for driving under

the influence. In 2014, Martinez was charged with a misdemeanor in Oklahoma County District Court for driving under the influence, he received probation and the offense was later expunged from his record, according to The Oklahoman. Since 2014, Martinez personally advanced more than 60 legislative

efforts from 2017-22, according to the Oklahoma State Legislature website, with no restriction to the authority to represent congressional

Echols, certainly aware of the felony filing against Martinez, does not appear to be as concerned about the rule of law versus the house rules of decorum. The Oklahoma State Legislature website notes only two measures authored by Echols for consideration during the first session of the 59th Oklahoma legislature, H.B. 1012 and H.B. 1013, neither related the reckless behavior of his Republican colleague.

If Echols' - and Republican legislators' - highest priority was the sanctity of "rules," then Oklahomans should have reasonably anticipated that the first official act of the chamber included some punitive action against Martinez, vet nothing exists.

The Oklahoma Senate has also demonstrated its reluctance to advance similar measures to deny constituents just representation.

Ralph Shortey, a former Republican state senator, who also served as Donald Trump's 2016 campaign chair in the state, may be viewed as the poster boy for Oklahoma Republicans' high regard for protecting the interests of constituents via duly elected state officers.

In March 2017, Shortey, the professed social conservative legislator, was arrested and charged by the Cleveland County District Attorney with three felony counts — soliciting a minor for prostitution, prostitution within 1,000 feet of a church and transporting someone for prostitution - after he was caught with a 17-year-old boy in a motel room in Moore, Oklahoma. A federal grand jury later indicted Shortey on four federal sex trafficking and child pornography charges, involving both the 2017 incident and videos that Shortey was accused of distributing from his smartphone.

The "family values" legislator would later accept a plea agreement and sentence of 15 years in prison and 10 years of supervised release.

Prior to his indictment, in the wake of more sordid details being released, the Oklahoma Senate unanimously voted to strip Shortey of privileges, including his parking space, office and positions on committees, although he retained his seat, ability to vote and salary.

Both Martinez and Shortey are clear examples of the Oklahoma Legislature's past reluctance to disenfranchise state Republican officers. So the obvious question is "Why Now?" If given numerous opportunities to flex their political muscle against party colleagues, but declining to strip away their authority to vote, why would Republicans opt to broaden an authority seldom leveraged?

"What's past is prologue" - Shakespeare, W., & Ltd, K. B. (2022). The Tempest.

Could Republican leaders subjectively and disproportionately apply the newly codified rules in a manner that further disenfranchises Black communities?... Yes.

The concerns of Goodwin, Dollens and other Democrat legislators are well-founded, given the state's history of institutional oppression and recent attempts to weaken representation in some of Tulsa's predominantly Black voting districts.

Should Democrat legislators garner the support of Republicans sufficient to pass a bill that provides relief for 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre survivors, the effort could be quickly derailed by the nullification of votes by the chamber presiding officer.

An act as innocent as a refusal to remain seated, silent or appropriately attired now justifies the stripping away of representation from communities that have been historically underserved, disregarded

Echols and Republican legislators are well-aware of the potential threat to certain Tulsa communities. GOP lawmakers are also equally aware of the constitutional challenges reflected in H.R. 1001; however, no relief is on the horizon unless all Oklahomans voice their opposition to this attempt to circumvent the constitution.



PUBLIC SUPPORT AND USE OF *The Death Penalty* Continued Its More Than Two-Decade Decline In The U.S.



OKLAHOMA ATTORNEY GENERAL GENTNER DRUMMOND speaks arrives for inauguration ceremonies in Oklahoma City. Drummond is seeking to slow the state's pace of carrying out an execution roughly every 30 days, citing the burden the pace is having on Oklahoma's prison personnel

LETHAL INJECTIONS from A1

with the Oklahoma Court of Criminal

Appeals. Attorney General Drummond, who witnessed last week's execution of Scott Eizember, asked the court to set the executions 60 days apart, rather than the current pace of 30 days apart.

"One aspect that has become clear over time is that the current pace of executions is unsustainable in the long run, as it is unduly burdening the (Department of Corrections) and its personnel," Drummond wrote in the motion. "This is especially true given the extensive and intensive nature of the training DOC personnel undergo to prepare for each execution."

Drummond said he made the request after meeting with DOC leaders and staff both before and after Eizember's execution, which was the eighth the state has carried out since

OKLAHOMA CURRENTLY HAS 20 EXECUTIONS SCHEDULED ROUGHLY 30 DAYS APART THROUGH 2024.

DEATH PENALTY INFORMATION CENTER

resuming lethal injections in October 2021. Oklahoma's former Attorney General John O'Connor, who was appointed by former Gov. Kevin Stitt and defeated by Drummond in the Republican primary, had asked the court last year to set more than 25 executions at four-week intervals.

The DOC said in a statement it appreciates Drummond's request and his support for the agency.

"The corrections professionals of this agency invest a significant amount of time in preparation to ensure these sentences are carried out with the utmost professionalism," the statement said. "As always, ODOC will abide by the schedule set by the Court of Criminal Appeals.'

Public support and use of the

death penalty in 2022 continued its more than two-decade decline in the U.S., but support remains high in Oklahoma. A state question in 2016 on whether to enshrine the death penalty in the Oklahoma Constitution received more 65% of the vote.

Oklahoma currently has 20 executions scheduled roughly 30 days apart through 2024. Since the reinstatement of the death penalty in 1976, Oklahoma has executed more inmates per capita than any other state in the nation, according to the Death Penalty Information Center.

continued That until problems in 2014 and 2015 led to a de facto moratorium that lasted until 2021. Richard Glossip was just hours away from being executed in September 2015 when prison officials realized they had received the wrong lethal drug. It was later learned the same wrong drug had been used to execute an inmate in January 2015.

The drug mix-ups followed a botched execution in April 2014 in which inmate Clayton Lockett struggled on a gurney before dying 43 minutes into his lethal injection — and after the state's prisons chief ordered executioners to stop. It was later learned members of the execution team had improperly inserted an IV into a vein in Lockett's groin.

Many of the executions carried out across the U.S. in 2022 also were "botched" or highly problematic, and seven of the 20 execution attempts were either visibly problematic or took an inordinate amount of time, according to a report by the Death Penalty Information Center. Many of the problems centered around difficulties that execution team members had finding suitable veins for IV lines to deliver the lethal injection.

CITY OF Tulsa's LIAISON OFFICE, OF **Dubious** BENEFIT

TPD Internal Affairs Annual Report, 2019

Complaints

- Complaint Process
- By Calls for Service, Arrests
- Case Dispositions
- Criminal and Administrative **Allegations**
- Disciplinary Actions

Use of Force

- Use of Force Continuum
- By Patrol Division
- By Officer, Citizen Race
- Types of Force Used By Service and Injury

Deadly Force Investigations

- Weapons discharge
- Force Adjudication
- Injury Types



TPD COMPLAINTS from A1

This change comes as TCD Chief of Police Wendell Franklin and the department face mounting criticism from North Tulsans for their approach to community policing, particularly in the city's Black neighborhoods. Last month a number of North Tulsan used a public forum to critique Franklin and others in the department for failing to work to build trust with Black Tulsans. In addition to public criticisms, members of the Tulsa City Council are pushing for greater accountability and oversight of the TPD.

Comparing reports, twenty pages of important information in 2019 has been reduced to four sentences in the 2021 report. The 2019 report found here https://www.tulsapolice.org/ media/167252/TPD_2019_Annual_Report.pdf compared a wealth of data on complaints and their disposition over five-years.

The twenty-page report included 16 graphs or charts and a comparison of totals for categories and subcategories for the years of 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019.

In contrast, this is the entire statement for 2021 that includes one table.

"The Internal Affairs Section conducted the following activity in 2021:

- 292 complaints, including 263 citizen complaints and 29 administrative complaints
- 25 of the complaints came from citizens involved in calls for service
- Of the 292 complaints, a total of 46 disciplinary actions were taken against
- In 2021, there were 724 Use of Force Reports and 9 Use of Deadly Force Incidents"

Useful Information Lost

This summary glosses over important information. For example, here are a few sets of data or information not included in the contemporary TPD Annual Report but were included in previous reports:

What is the demographic makeup of Tulsa's police department?

- · Are citizen complaints increasing or decreasing?
- What is injury rate from use of force incidents?
- Calls for service resulting in arrests? • Rates of use of force by citizens race?
- · Number of disciplinary actions resulting in discharge or suspension?
- · District Attorney's rulings on deadly force incidents?

This lack of transparency occurs while the City of Tulsa recently confirmed it is planning a liaison office for complaint handling but would provide no further information to the Eagle. Without the release of meaningful and comprehensive information on citizen complaints, use of force incidents, and deadly force investigations establishing a liaison office is of dubious benefit.

First National Production to Feature a Woman of Color in the High Profile Role

JESUS CHRIST from A1

Musical? Think again!

A new stage production of the smash hit production, inspired by the 50th anniversary of the play, has some key new elements. The traveling show, which is opening at Tulsa's Performing Arts Theater on January 24, includes changes which are sure to resonate among locals including Black Tulsans.

For sure, the basics of the new production remain true to the original script, written by the world renown writer Andrew Lloyd Webber and first staged in London in 1971. In fact, the story, which narrates the last seven days of Jesus's life through the eyes of one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, is time-honored. The musical was turned into a feature film in 1973. Some of the actors were nominated for Golden Globe Awards.

"In many ways, the show sticks close to the movie," said Hosea Mundi, an actor in the show, in an interview with the Oklahoma Eagle. Mundi plays Judas and Simon in the play. "But there are some new focuses."

One element of the show that will likely resonate among people of color in the show is the singing, Mundi feels.

"We really let it all out in the songs we sing," explained Mundi. "Myself and some of the other actors were raised in the church. The show has a lot of gospel in it. And so, we really get into the songs in a gospel way. The audience will be able to feel that."

The production stars Faith Jones, who is African American, in the role of Mary. It's a first national production to feature a woman of color in that high profile part, Mundi said. Jones is a singer songwriter soon to release her first album. "I think people of color will really relate to her," Mundi said.

Another striking aspect of the show are the strong dance performances. "We all put full energy into the dance acts,"

Mundi sai

For Mundi performing in the show is a dream come true. It's the first professional production for the 22-year-old African American actor. Originally from Maryland, Mundi said he's been performing since he was a kid, mostly in school productions.

Judas said he has aspired to play Judas ever since he was an adolescent. "I've been singing Heaven On My Mind – one of his main songs in the show – since I was a kid"

"I think Judas is a very misunderstood character," Mundi explained. "What the part brings out is how much I as Judas oved and admired Jesus," Mundi explained.

"I don't see myself as betraying him but truing to save him. I'm confused about why he sacrifices all he had." Mundi sees Simon, the other role he plays as "a very

Mundi sees Simon, the other role he plays as "a very gospel character."

Did you see the show before? I did, back in the late 70s. Whether you did or not, the production is must-see. It is guaranteed to exhilarate, motivate and uplift you.

In a city that is, in many ways, strongly centered around the Church, Jesus Christ Superstar has natural appeal.

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR - Tulsa

Purchase Tickets

Date: January 24-29, 2023

Location: Tulsa Performing Arts Center

Address: 101 East 3rd St., Tulsa, OK 74103

Phone: (918) 596-7111



When I Think of Home' Art Exhibit Celebrates Black Women

The Community Artists' Collective in Houston is opening "When I Think of Home," a solo exhibition by Howard University graduate and artist Morgan Newton.

By **Aswad Walker**, Word In Black

The Community Artists' Collective opens the new year on Saturday, Jan. 7, with "When I Think of Home," a solo exhibition by artist Morgan Newton, a Howard University alumna from Houston.

"My recent subjects consist of Black women in various scenes coming into their own identity and authentic self," said Newton. "This practice aids in my intention to inspire and the importance of Black women being able to look within themselves and find peace."

Newton's former art instructor at Howard, Melanee C. Harvey, PhD, defines home in the exhibition as the feeling of sanctuary, love and joy shared across family and community.

Harvey writes, "The paintings included in this exhibition mark a distinct stylistic shift that conveys the aesthetic and spiritual blossoming of Newton's pursuit to internalize familial notions of home and cultivate home within herself. Newton centers Black female figures as

symbols for her life experiences, in idealized, chromatic and in some cases, fantastically celestial environments to suggest the infinite potential of the nurtured self."

And with Black women saving democracy during every election cycle, it is past time for Black women to be centered and celebrated. Moreover, Newton does so while lifting up themes that have shown up throughout her works over the years.

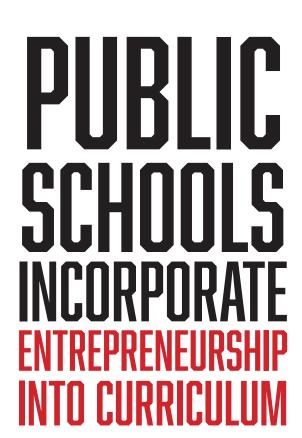
"The recurring themes in my work are self-love, self-actualization and growth," Newton explains.

An opening reception will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 7, at The Collective, 4101 San Jacinto, Suite 116, for the exhibition which continues through February 4. The Collective is open Friday through Saturday from 12 noon until 5 p.m. and by appointment.

For more information about the exhibit contact The Collective at 713-523-1616 or visit www.thecollective.org.



The Oklahoma Eagle



In 2021, Baltimore City Public Schools' Office of College and Career Readiness released its latest strategic plan, which emphasized the importance of students having access to work-based learning and exposure to avenues for in-demand jobs that yield a living wage.

The plan was forged from 120 stakeholders meetings that included teachers, students, parents, business leaders, nonprofit organizations and politicians. One of the key takeaways: Students want to learn more about entrepreneurship.

"One of the biggest things we got back, especially from the students, was a desire to be entrepreneurs and to learn how to do that," said Kumasi Vines, director of career readiness at City Schools. "Looking forward, we know there's an appetite for learning about entrepreneurship from our students, so we're looking to integrate that direct instruction in entrepreneurship across more of our programming and then also increase access for other students for more direct entrepreneurship training into the future."

As director of career readiness, Vines goal is to prepare City Schools students for securing high-wage, in-demand jobs. He helps students choose which path to take after high school, whether attending a four-year college, going straight to the workforce or entering an apprenticeship program.

Through City Schools' work-based learning activities, students have the opportunity to engage in job shadowing and hear from career advocates, many of whom are business owners. Aside from discussing their experiences as entrepreneurs, they walk the audience through the skills, training and schooling needed to start and scale their businesses, according to Vines.

City Schools choose guest speakers who come from a variety of backgrounds, so students have the ability to see themselves in the individuals and forge stronger connections.

A number of public high schools and middle schools in Baltimore City also partner with the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), a national educational nonprofit, to provide students with the expertise that's needed to devise and launch a start-up, according to

In addition to direct entrepreneurial instruction, students also participate in activities designed to hone public speaking, organizational and presentation-building skills and boost their confidence.

"With any of these businesses, you have to build out a pathway for how your business is going to grow and thrive, and the thought is that the students will also make a connection to themselves in how they can build their pathway to thrive as they become adults and understand what it takes in order to get there," said Vines.

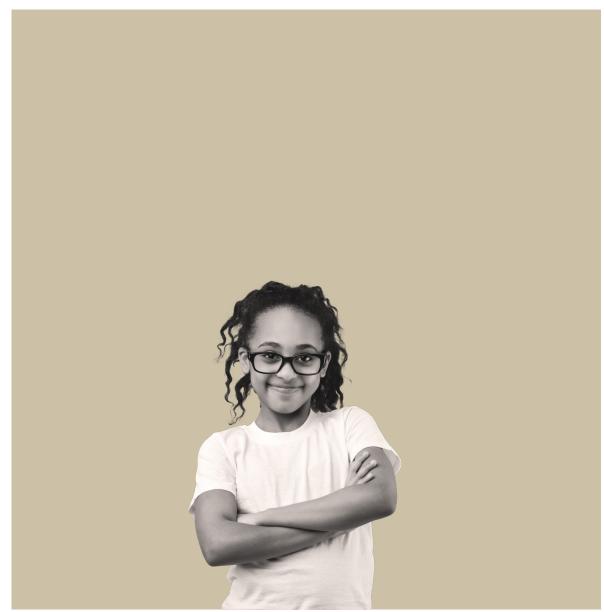
City Schools' Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways offer instruction in disciplines that include, business management, finance, human resources, cosmetology, computer science and technology manufacturing.

According to Vines, mastering a trade can provide the foundation for students who want to launch their own business ventures.

"I think the idea of an entrepreneur just waking up one day and saying, 'I'm going to start a business,' is not reality. I think it begins with having a certain skill set and then having that ability, access to opportunity and motivation to start your own business," said Vines. "We just want to make sure our students understand that, yes, we talk about careers, or college, or pre-apprenticeship, but entrepreneurship is also an option and just help them understand a pathway toward that."

Megan Sayles is a Report for America corps member.







Nation The Oklahoma Eagle



Bayard Rustin at news briefing on the Civil Rights March on Washington in the Statler Hotel, half-length portrait, seated at table. Rustin, a gay man, was a leading organizer of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in August 1963. Although an iconic and significantfigureofAmericanHistory, Rustin was the target of institutional racism and attacks by members of the **U.S. Senate, notably South Carolina** Sen. Strom Thurmond Republican. The proposed Florida AP African American Studies course examines the scope and impact of policies that targeted African Americans based upon sexual identity, "Queer Theory". Gov. Ron DeSantis, Florida, characterized the subject, "Queer Theory," as indoctrination.

FLORIDA TEACHERS MOVE TO BLOCK QUESTIONS ON

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — A group of Florida college professors on Wednesday asked a federal judge to block Gov. Ron DeSantis from requesting spending data on diversity, equity and inclusion and critical race theory programs in state universities.

The filing comes as part of a lawsuit against the so-called "Stop WOKE" Act, which restricts certain race-based conversations and analysis in colleges. Tallahassee U.S. District Judge Mark Walker has blocked the law, though DeSantis' office is appealing the decision.

The Republican governor in late December requested that state colleges submit spending data and other information on programs related to diversity, equity and inclusion and critical race theory, which examines systemic racism. The schools were asked to submit the data by Friday.

The college educators, who are represented by the American Civil Liberties Union and Legal Defense Fund, argue the governor's request violates the court order blocking the "Stop WOKE" Act.

'This is just another step towards enforcing this unconstitutional law and is clearly intended to continue to chill the speech of instructors and students in Florida. We cannot allow these threats against free speech to continue," Jerry Edwards, staff attorney of the ACLU of Florida, said in a statement. DeSantis' office did not immediately return an email seeking comment.

The law prohibits teaching or business practices that contend members of one ethnic group are inherently racist and should feel guilt for past actions committed by others. It also bars the notion that a person's status as privileged or oppressed is necessarily determined by their race or gender, or that discrimination is acceptable to achieve diversity.

The governor began pushing for the law late last year and the Republicancontrolled Legislature passed it during the 2022 legislative session.

Critical race theory was developed during the 1970s and 1980s in response to what scholars viewed as a lack of racial progress following the civil rights legislation of the 1960s. It centers on the idea that racism is systemic in the nation's institutions and that they function to maintain the dominance of white people in society.

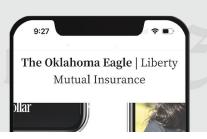
Conservatives have rejected critical race theory, arguing the philosophy racially divides American society and aims to rewrite history to make white people believe they are inherently racist.

The Oklahoma Eagle

Our Mission

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







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Church Of The Living God

1559 E Reading St. Tulsa OK (918) 584-3206

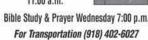
Minister RJ Smith

Sunday school - 9:30am Sunday Worship - 10:45am Monday Worship - 6:00pm Wednesday Bible Study - 5:00pm

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Rev. Emanuel L. Collier, Sr.

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.

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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

123 E. 59th St. North Ph: (918) 425-2077 **Pastor Rick Bruner**

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Northside Christ Gospel Church

3101 N. M.L King Tulsa OK (918) 625-2374

Sunday School -

Sunday Morning



Rev. John W. Anderson

VERNON AME CHURCH

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

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Rev. Dr. Robert R. Allen Turner

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Sunday School

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Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

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2247 N. Peoria Tulsa, Okla, 74106 (918) 425-1071 Warren Blakney, Minister

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Fax:

918-584-0510

918-584-1958 **Prayer Line:**

918-584-PRAY

Sunday School

Worship 10:45

Noon and 7:00

Wednesday

Bible Study

9:30 a.m.

Morning

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.

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Pastor Anthony L. & Mrs. Kelly Scott Wednesday

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship - 11:00 a.m.

Prayer Meeting - 6:30 p.m. Bible Study - Noon & 7:00 p.m. 1414 N. Greenwood Ave.

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Tulsa, OK 74103 918-582-5129 www.fbcnt.org **Changing Hearts**



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Pastor Bukky and Wunmi Alabi Dancers, and CIP Praise Tem.

For Further Information call (918) 835-1525.

"Have Faith In God." Mark 11:22

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Classifieds

The Oklahoma Eagle

NOTICE

Published in The Oklahoma Eagle: January 13 and 20, 2023.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS SEALED BIDS FOR PROJECT NO. 2023- MPO (C2)

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to an order by the Mayor of the City of Tulsa, Oklahoma, séaled bids will be received in Room 260 of the Office of the City Clerk, City of Tulsa, 175 E. 2nd Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103 until 8:30 a.m. the 10th day of February, 2023 for furnishing all tools, materials and labor and performing the work necessary to be done in the construction of the following:

PROJECT NO. 2023-MPO (C2) NON-ARTERIAL MILL, PATCH & OVER-LAY

The entire cost of the improvement shall be paid from Ac-No. 2036N0001Z.Streets. CWNARP.4283.42833243-541106

A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. and will be held through video conferencing with Microsoft Teams, invitation presented on the City of Tulsa's website at this https://www.cityoftulsa.org/ government/departments/engineering-services/construction-bids/

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All bids will be opened and considered by the Bid Committee of said City at a meeting of said Committee to be held in the City Council Room of City Hall in said City at 9:00 a.m. on the 10th day of February 2023.

Dated at Tulsa, Oklahoma, this 13th day of January 2023.

> (SEAL) Christina Chappell City Clerk

NOTICE "A GORGEOUS, THRILLING, HEAVENLY MUSICAL."

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THE NEW YORK TIMES

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