

5,312 weeks, since the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre

JOE R. BURNS was 6 when he hid with his parents in a creek on East Apache Street to escape the white mob that destroyed his family's home at 517 Latimer Court.

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.

The KILLING OF TYRE NICHOLS

IS IT TIME TO REFORM THE CURRENT POLICE STATE SYSTEM?

By THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

TULSA – James Baldwin, American writer of profound insight, and sadly, a seer who appears to have precisely seen the current state of Black Americans and our relationship with law enforcement, warned us, almost 40 years ago. Baldwin, given his troubled experiences with law enforcement in the United States, was fully aware of the constant threat of being beaten and murdered, without provocation, by white authorities. He was also keenly aware of the threat posed by Black members of law enforcement who embraced a full disregard for the humanity of Black bodies.

TYRE NICHOLS On A2

THE POLICE STATE

Daunte Wright, Andre Hill, Manuel Ellis, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Atatiana Jefferson, Stephon Clark, Terence Crutcher, Aura Rosser & Tyre Nichols

ILLUSTRATION THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

The U.S. pandemic of police brutality is a lasting strain of white supremacy and state-sanctioned domestic terrorism by police.

STATE

OKLAHOMA'S TOP ED. BOARD SQUASHES \$310 M SET ASIDE FOR TEACHERS' PAY RAISES

By JOHN NEAL

A pay raise for nearly 60,000 Oklahoma teachers budgeted just last year by the state Legislature has been taken back. In a meeting on Monday, Jan. 23, the Oklahoma State Board of Education (OSBE) voted unanimously, 7-0, to rescind a proposed \$5,000

PAY RAISES On A3

STATE

OKCPD LAWSUIT: STOPPED 5 TIMES IN 2 MONTHS, SAADIQ LONG SEEKS ANSWERS

By MICHAEL McNUTT, NonDoc

An Oklahoma City Muslim man is reliving the fear of being stopped by law enforcement officers because he says his name has been on a federal terrorist watchlist since 2012 with no explanation.

OKCPD LAWSUIT On A3

STATE

OKLAHOMA AG: VENDOR NOT TO BLAME FOR MISSPENT EDUCATION RELIEF FUNDS

By JENNIFER PALMER, OKLAHOMA WATCH

Oklahoma's attorney general on Tuesday dismissed the state's lawsuit against a vendor hired to distribute federal education pandemic relief funds, finding the allegations made under his predecessor "almost wholly without merit."

OK AG EDUCATION On A6



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOANNUQUINONES.COM

ARTS & CULTURE

THE ART OF BLACK HAIR

During a virtual panel hosted by Saint Louis Art Museum, 'Hair Sculpting a Culture,' artists discuss how the history of African-American and Afro-Latina hair influences their sculptural work

By ST. LOUIS AMERICAN

When Min Jung Kim stood before the media, staff members and other invited guests for the first press breakfast of her tenure as the Barbara B. Taylor Director of the Saint Louis Art Museum last month, it was clear that representation and inclusion are top of mind as she settles into her role.

"There were several things that attracted me to Saint Louis and the Barbara B. Taylor Director position," Kim said in her opening remarks. "Of course the museum is held in

BLACK HAIR On B3

LOCAL

HOW OK LAWMAKERS SEEK TO CHANGE ELECTIONS AND BALLOT INITIATIVES

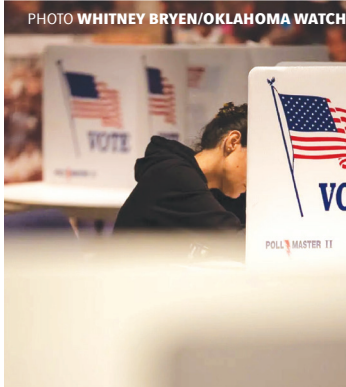


PHOTO WHITNEY BRYEN/OKLAHOMA WATCH

By KEATON ROSS, OKLAHOMA WATCH

With the 2024 presidential election cycle on the horizon, Oklahoma lawmakers have

ELECTION CHANGES On A7

OPINION

HBCUs Carry the Weight of History

HBCUs are having a moment right now. Parents and educators should consider the whole story as a new generation prepares to go off to college, writes Dr. Fedrick Ingram, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Teachers.

By FEDRICK C. INGRAM, WORD IN BLACK

In the city of Hampton, Virginia, there is an oak tree that has stood for over 200 years. It is known as Emancipation Oak. It gained its name because in 1863, that tree was the site where many enslaved people heard the reading of Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation — a reading that restored their humanity and cast off the chains of legalized slavery.

HBCUS On A5



PHOTOS FACEBOOK

TYRE NICHOLS *from AI*

Tyre Nichols, a 29-year-old Black man, father of a young son and amateur photographer, was approximately two minutes away from his home when he was stopped at 8:24 p.m. on Jan. 7, 2023, by Memphis police officers who were members of the anti-violence unit, Street Crimes Operation to Restore Peace In Our Neighborhoods (SCORPION). The gang-like violent beating, pepper spraying and dumping of his body upon the cold surface Raines Road by Black police officers that proceeded is not merely a direct reflection of Baldwin’s forewarning, but now serves as a stark that Black bodies are seldom the beneficiaries of the state’s mercy, consideration or basic human compassion.

Thirty-one years after the public witnessed the video depicting the brutal beating of Rodney King at the hands of four white Los Angeles police officers, African Americans continue to live with the threat and trauma of police brutality, primarily targeting young Black men and women.

The 1991 police assault of King may objectively be considered the advent of a forced transparency of law enforcement tactics, revealing a disproportionate application against Black Americans.

The U.S. pandemic of police brutality is a lasting strain of white supremacy and state-sanctioned domestic terrorism by police. Although half of the people shot and killed by police are White, Black Americans are shot at a disproportionate rate. They account for roughly 14 percent of the U.S. population but are killed by police at more than twice the rate of White Americans, according to investigative reporting by The Washington Post, which has compiled a database of every fatal shooting in the U.S. by a police officer in the line of duty since Jan. 1, 2015. Hispanic Americans are also killed by police at a disproportionate rate.

Nichols, the victim of the violent assault by the Memphis police, would sadly be added to the higher-trending list of Black men whose dying words and pleas were captured on closed circuit television.

Duante Wright (Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2021); Ma’Khia Bryant (Columbus, Ohio, 2021); Quadry Sanders (Lawton, Oklahoma, 2021); Andre Hill (Columbus, Ohio, 2020); Manuel Ellis (Tacoma, Washington, 2020); George Floyd (Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2020); Breonna Taylor (Louisville, Kentucky, 2020); Atatiana Jefferson (Fort Worth, Texas, 2019); Stephon Clark (Sacramento, California, 2018); Terence Crutcher (Tulsa, Oklahoma, 2016); and Aura Rosser (Ann Arbor, Michigan, 2014) are amongst the many Black bodies shamelessly disregarded by police departments across the country.

The Jan. 7 brutal beating and subsequent

Black policemen were another matter. We used to say, “If you must call a policeman”— for we hardly ever did — “for God’s sake, try to make sure it’s a White one.” A Black policeman could completely demolish you. He knew far more about you than a White policeman could and you were without defenses before this Black brother in uniform whose entire reason for breathing seemed to be his hope to offer proof that, though he was Black, he was not Black like you..

- THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN, JAMES BALDWIN, 1985

murder of Tyre Nichols at the hands of five Memphis police officers, who are Black, and a cadre of other first responders who stood silently offering now mercy to the bloodied body before them, has again sparked a discussion about the culture and structure of the police state.

The street-level video of Nichols’ guttural screams for rescue, his cries for the protection of his mother’s embrace, who lived only three houses from the corner where the brutal beating occurred, mark another city where the Black bodies may be destroyed at the hands of the state.

What is certain is that all Americans will be asked to draw a sharp distinction between the actions of “some” and “most.” The “bad apples” metaphor will be echoed, once again, to protect the institution of policing, insulating it from objective scrutiny, punitive actions and any necessary reform.

Black American communities, those most vulnerable to the murderous whims of police departments, will once again be challenged with connecting the dots, qualifying what has been consistently revealed with each funeral of the innocent, that the institutions charged with “serving and protecting” are neither objectively structured nor equally accountable for the “protection” of Black bodies.

Tulsa, Oklahoma is a vivid example of how historic and present-day atrocities by the police state, and the resulting protestations of Tulsans, have yielded few reforms, as evidenced by the city’s Tulsa Inequality Indicators, Annual Report 2021. As reported Black youth are arrested at a rate 5 times that of white youth and Black adults are arrested at a rate 3 times that of white adults.

The Daily News, in July 1922, published the violent account of John Smitherman, “a negro deputy sheriff,” who “was seized in his Tulsa hotel rooms [sic] at Tulsa (Oklahoma) on March 16, by a group of armed white men,

who took him to a remote spot, flogged him severely.” The excerpt, referenced within a weekly bulletin of the American Civil Liberties Union in New York, detailed that Smitherman’s attackers then “cut off an ear, which they forced him to eat.” Smitherman, while recuperating, remembered that two of the assailants “were wearing police badges.” (Alexandrov, 2020).

As what’s past is prologue for Tulsa’s African American communities, specifically applicable to the disregard of Black bodies by the police state. Terence Crutcher, Sr., an unarmed Black man, was shot and killed by then-Tulsa police officer Betty Jo Shelby who responded to a call about Crutcher’s disabled vehicle on 36th Street North just west of North Lewis Avenue on September 16, 2016. Shelby, in defense of her lethal action against Crutcher, would later blame her victim for his death during the manslaughter trial. When asked by Tulsa County Assistant District Attorney Kevin Gray Terence “Is Terence Crutcher’s death his fault?” Shelby responded “Yes.” Shelby, like the attackers of Smitherman, would not be fully held accountable for her actions, as she was acquitted in May 2017.

Tulsa police, like far too many local law enforcement agencies, have largely invested the untrustworthy currency of rhetoric, offering public pronouncements of planned oversight, training and workforce diversity, with few tangible outcomes. As reported by The Oklahoma Eagle, “multiple studies have shown that North Tulsa and other marginalized communities lack trust in the Tulsa Police Department. The department performs poorly on a wide array of police equality indicators. One significant contributing cause is a dramatic underrepresentation of minorities in the department. The department’s demographic statistics reflect Black and Hispanic employees are a small fraction of the Tulsa police workforce.” As reflected in the Tulsa

Inequality Indicators, Annual Report 2021, Tulsa Police Department employs 4 times more White Tulsans than Hispanic/Latinx Tulsans per capita.

Demands for comprehensive reform of the police state are further supported by eroding public trust. In January 2023, The Oklahoma Eagle revealed that both the 2020 and 2021 Tulsa Annual Report lack information previously provided as recently as 2019 in the TPD Internal Affairs Annual Report. Recent reporting withheld such facts as the demographic makeup of TPD and the increase/decrease of citizen complaints.

To be clear, African American communities do not perceive diversity and oversight as a panacea for racial inequality and unjust treatment. Our communities are fully aware of the broader threat from police state officials, well beyond concerns of representation. What persists, nationally, is the full-throated defense of institutions without regard for the public that they are committed to serve. Rev. Dr. Marlin Lavanhar, All Souls Unitarian Church (Tulsa), perhaps framed our concerns best during the Tyre Nichols vigil in Tulsa on Jan. 29, “This isn’t about bad apples. It’s about poison apples. If we keep focusing on bad apples, we will miss the poison of racism.”

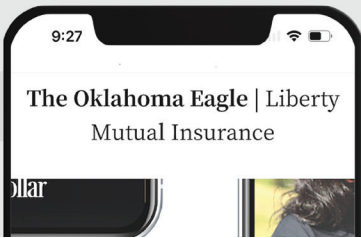
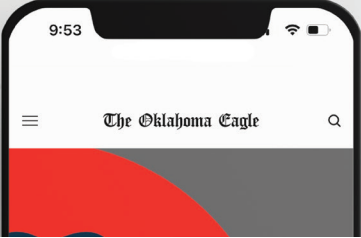
DR. MAURICE O'BRIAN FRANKLIN is a professor of Public Policy and Public Administration at California State University, Northridge. He is Creek and Chickasaw Freedman. He attributes his activism and social justice commitment to the influences of mom, James Baldwin, Marcus Garvey, and his 4th great grandfather Buck Colbert Franklin, Bartlett Franklin and his cousin Dr. John Hope Franklin. Dr. Franklin lives in New York City, is a Navy veteran and is a native of Pauls Valley and Ardmore, Oklahoma.

ROSS D. JOHNSON is a principal of The Oklahoma Eagle and editorial contributor.

The Oklahoma Eagle

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





The National Education Association (NEA) Ranked OK 39th in first-year teacher’s salaries

PAY RAISES from AI

per year salary increase for teachers. Newly elected State Superintendent Ryan Walters used the meeting to tell the new OSBE members that he wasn’t going to “toss more money” at the problems in education. Instead, he and the board unanimously agreed to revise the budget, deleting the \$310 million set aside for the across-the-board increases for teachers. Oklahoma teachers, including over 2,000 in Tulsa Public Schools (TPS), last saw a state-funded increase of \$1,200 in 2019 following a statewide teacher’s strike. In its 2021 analysis of teacher pay across the country, the National Education Association (NEA) ranked Oklahoma 39th in average first-year teachers’ salaries (\$36,601), 34th in average salary (\$54,762), and 45th on per-pupil expenditures (\$10,553) among the 50 states. The OSBE’s revised budget will leave the minimum pay for teachers at \$36,601 annually and cut the previously submitted school funding to the legislature by \$59 million. Underfunding of teachers’ pay has

created statewide teacher shortages. For example, when TPS opened in August, the district was short 100 teachers and relied on “emergency certifications” for another 200 instructors to operate its schools. In an interview with The Oklahoma Eagle, Tulsa Superintendent Deborah Gist said these problems were due to inadequate funding by the state. **Walter’s Position** Walters was elected on Nov. 8 with a pledge to bring his conservative agenda to education in Oklahoma, including a repeated campaign mantra to “combat woke ideology in the classroom.” He now holds the two highest positions in education statewide together making over \$200,000 annually. Gov. Kevin Stitt recently reappointed Walters as Oklahoma’s Secretary of Education, which the governor’s office told NewsChannel 8 “is mainly an advisory role to the governor.” In Monday’s meeting, Walters told the OSBE, “There is a loud and vocal crowd, a minority for sure, that says all that is needed to fix the problems in education is to toss more money and

Avg. Salaries of Regional Public School Teachers ‘20- ‘21 (w/nat’l ranking)	
26. Colorado	\$58,183
28. Texas	\$57,641
32. New Mexico	\$54,923
34. Oklahoma	\$54,762
37. Kansas	\$53,619
46. Arkansas	\$51,668
47. Missouri	\$51,557
Regional Average - \$54,622	
National Average - \$65,293	
SOURCE: National Education Association	

leave everything else alone.” Walters added, he wanted to eliminate “indoctrination and CRT [critical race theory]” in schools and “focus on education, not diversity, equity and inclusion... . We must implement the most expansive school choice program in the country.” The school choice view is shared by Stitt. Both Stitt and Walters advocate for school vouchers in lieu of attending public schools. However, opponents of the school voucher system note such a program would divert and dilute funding from public education. Last session, the Oklahoma Legislature rejected this initiative. **Other Proposals** Walters proposed, and the OSBE unanimously agreed to divert some of the funding previously budgeted for teachers’ pay increases to other programs. These programs included \$100 million in a “student proficiency” reading program and \$150 million in district discretionary “teacher incentive pay,” when teachers put out additional hours of effort. While Walters made the budget presentation, the professional staff at the Oklahoma State Department of

Education remained silent. This staff had told the OSBE only a few months earlier that the \$5,000 in teachers’ salaries was necessary to stem teacher shortages and move Oklahoma into competition with teachers’ wages in the region. The regional average for teachers’ salaries is \$54,622 and the national average is \$65,293. In an apparent reference to the professional staff’s previous recommendation, Walters merely said, “There are many problems at the agency.” The reconstituted OSBE that adopted Walter’s proposals included two current board members Trent Smith and Sarah Lepak, who were retained by Stitt, and four new members Donald Burdick of Tulsa; Marla Hill of Edmond; Suzanne Reynolds of Nichols Hills; and Kendra Wesson of Norman. None of the board members explained their reversal of teacher-pay funding. Burdick was appointed by Stitt to replace Carlisha Williams Bradley, who had been the only African American and educator to serve on the State Board of Education. Walters also vowed to the board that, “there will be no boys in the girls’ bathrooms and no pornography in the schools.”

A Muslim man and native of McAlester, Long has been on the federal terrorist watch list since 2012 with no explanation.

OKCPD LAWSUIT from AI

Saadiq Long, 52, said he has been subject to traffic stops five times since late November — once at gunpoint — by Oklahoma City Police Department officers, one of whom told him his status on the federal terrorist watchlist was part of the reason for the stops. Long filed a federal lawsuit Wednesday seeking an injunction and compensation. In an interview with NonDoc ahead of a press conference this morning, Long said his vehicle has been searched and that he has been interrogated, handcuffed twice and arrested at gunpoint in the last two months. Long said none of the OKCPD officers have seemed to be aware of the prior stops, but each incident became more intense. The most recent traffic stop, which occurred Jan. 12 on Interstate 40, resulted in eight OKCPD cruisers pulling him over and ordering him at gunpoint to get out of the car, where he was handcuffed and put in a cruiser while officers looked inside his vehicle. “I thought they were going to shoot me as I was approaching them,” Long said. “I thought they were going to

make my wife a widow.” Adam Soltani, executive director of the Oklahoma chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said his organization sent a cease-and-desist order to the OKCPD on Jan. 13. Long has not been stopped since. “I was shocked that this is happening to not just a citizen of our state and our country, but an American Muslim who has faced years of civil rights violations and challenges, and not to mention a Black American Muslim who had survived the legacy of his ancestors being enslaved in this country,” Soltani said. “At a time when we’re trying to highlight those wrongs that were done, he’s facing continued injustice at the hands of our law enforcement system.” Long, through his attorneys, CAIR Oklahoma and the CAIR Legal Defense Fund, filed a lawsuit Wednesday in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma. His petition (embedded below) seeks an injunction against OKCPD to prohibit the department’s officers from initiating traffic stops, making arrests or conducting searches that require reasonable suspicion or more based on an individual’s inclusion on the federal terrorist watchlist.

Named in the lawsuit are OKCPD Chief Wade Gourley and 17 police officers, most of whose names are unknown. The lawsuit also seeks compensatory and punitive damages and attorneys’ fees. OKCPD Msgr. Gary Knight said it would be “inappropriate” for the department to comment on the lawsuit. NonDoc also requested copies of the police reports for Long’s traffic stops, but none were provided prior to publication. Long said he believes OKCPD officers are aware of his whereabouts through automated license plate readers, high-speed and computer-controlled camera systems installed throughout the city. The cameras track certain categories of a license plate number. Long said he believes the system informs police officers that he is on the federal terrorist watch list, which officers consider a reasonable suspicion to make a traffic stop. The traffic stops have occurred after he drove by one of the cameras, usually on his drive to work, Long said. He has driven the same car with the same license plate for several years, and, while he said he has been followed by police occasionally, he was never pulled over until late November.

Long said he is a law-abiding citizen and has never been arrested, indicted, tried or convicted of a violent offense. Soltani questioned the timing of the traffic stops. “He’s an active member of the Muslim community, attending Friday prayers at the mosque every week,” Soltani said. “He’s a normal American citizen doing normal American things, so where did this come from? Why is it happening now?” **Saadiq Long placed on federal no-fly list around 2012** It was 10 years ago when Long, a McAlester native and an Air Force veteran, experienced a myriad of problems trying to fly home from the Middle East to visit his ailing mother in Oklahoma. At the time, he lived in Qatar and taught English. When he attempted to board his flight, he was told the U.S. Department of Homeland Security had placed him on its no-fly list, which barred him from flying into his own country. After several delays, he was able to board a flight in November 2012, but he was interrogated at length by federal agents at stops in Amsterdam and in Detroit on his way to Oklahoma.

Ralph Waldo Ellison

Novelist and Essayist

By GORDON O. TAYLOR, OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Born to Lewis Alfred and Ida Millsap Ellison on March 1, 1913, in Oklahoma City, then along with Kansas City a hotbed of musical creativity.

PHOTO OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



RALPH WALDO ELLISON, (23157.82, Jimmy Stewart Collection, OHS.

Ralph Ellison showed at an early age the interest in jazz and other modern art forms that would be reflected throughout his life in literature. He attended the Frederick Douglass School in Oklahoma City, going on to the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama in 1933, pursuing studies in music but also encountering the work of T. S. Eliot and other Modernist writers.

Chafed by racial conditions in the Deep South, and by what he found to be the conservatism of Tuskegee, Ellison left in 1936, without a degree, for New York City. He was drawn there by cultural legacies of the Harlem Renaissance and by opportunities to meet such authors as Langston Hughes and Richard Wright. After an interval in Ohio due to the death of his mother in 1937 (a period during which he read widely and intensively), he returned to New York in 1938 with renewed determination to pursue a literary career. He obtained employment with the Federal Writers’ Project, which sustained him from 1938 to 1942 as he worked to establish himself as a writer. Having sailed in the Merchant Marine from 1943 to 1945, an alternative to service in the segregated U.S. military, Ellison married Fanny McConnell in 1946 (his second wife, an earlier marriage having ended unhappily), and resettled in New York.

His stories, essays, and articles from the

later 1930s and early 1940s were partially rooted in materials stemming from his interviews with people in Harlem for the Writers’ Project. So too was his work toward a novel, *Invisible Man* (1952), which announced him as a major figure in American letters and won the National Book Award for 1953. This book also took shape, however, in counterpoint to Wright’s earlier *Native Son* (1940), which seemed to Ellison too fatalistically absolute in its determinism, and insufficiently representative of African American experience.

Response to *Invisible Man* was mixed; some black critics found the novel lacking in radical political perspectives on problems of race in America. But the book continues to be considered by many the first great novel by an African American writer that both fulfills and transcends its racial theme. It remains a landmark achievement in American, as well as African American, literary tradition, and in the broad movement of modernism. It may also be seen as a precursor to the postmodern, and it remains a highly “contemporary” text.

Ellison went on to publish *Shadow and Act* (1964) and *Going to the Territory* (1986), two influential volumes of essays on literature, music, and American culture. For years there were rumors of another novel in progress, about which little was publicly revealed. Upon his death in New York on April 16,

1994, an unfinished manuscript was found and, with collaborative assistance, published in 1999 as *Juneteenth*. Its appearance was an important literary event, even if the first-person narrative of the unnamed protagonist in *Invisible Man* will always be the touchstone and cornerstone to his life’s work.

Named for Ralph Waldo Emerson, Ellison reflects throughout his work a lifelong engagement with Emersonian issues of personal and cultural autonomy and self-reliance, and with the problems and prospects of American—and African American—consciousness and identity. Such engagement could be argumentative, even adversarial, with respect to the unfulfillment or betrayal of American ideals (witness the destructive role of a character called “Emerson” in *Invisible Man*). The “double consciousness” famously posited by W. E. B. DuBois in *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903) is both amplified and intensified, rather than resolved, in Ellison’s writing. But like the narrator of *Invisible Man*—particularly as epilogue reconnects with prologue “underground,” launching anew the cycle of retelling and rereading a classic American tale of self-discovery—Ellison’s example, now as always nourished by his Oklahoma roots, promises powerfully to “emerge.”

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.

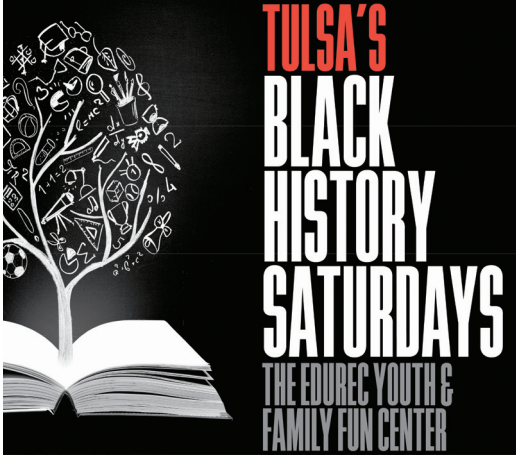
Featured Last Week



TPS Board Moves To Fill North Tulsa Dist. 2 Seat



A Formerly Homeless Man’s Journey from Shelters, Hotels and Cars to Housing



A New Class Will Focus On Oklahoma’s Black History

The Oklahoma Eagle

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HBCUS from AI

That story is good enough on its own, but it’s not the story that intrigues me most.

Two years earlier, under that same tree, a Black woman named Mary Smith Peake — the first teacher hired by the American Missionary Association — committed the near-treasonous act of educating the daughters and sons of Black people who had found refuge in Fort Monroe.

That tree is not only a national landmark, but it now lives on the campus of Hampton University, a historically Black university established just three years after the end of the bloody Civil War.

I share this story for two reasons.

First, I cannot escape the historical poetry of Black women, like the Emancipation Oak itself, spreading their arms to both shade children from a harmful world and educate the next generations to create a better one.

Second, the story of the Emancipation Oak underlines the popular conversation we often have about HBCUs and, more specifically, the ones we DON’T have about HBCUs.

Since the 1980s, historically Black colleges and universities have been making headlines.

Whether thanks to shows like “A Different World” (which helped foster a 24% attendance increase) or movies like Spike Lee’s “School Daze,” Beyoncé’s use of HBCU bands at Coachella, or Chadwick Boseman’s proud Howard University legacy — the network of 100-plus schools is never far from the headlines, especially when tied to megastar graduates like Oprah Winfrey and Erykah Badu.

These names are like the leaves of the Emancipation Oak — they are bright and beautiful and convert centuries of pain into life-affirming fuel.

But what of the roots?

The roots of HBCUs lie deep in our country’s blood-soaked soil, filled by hands that studied our nation’s immoral laws so as to better fight them. People like Mary Smith Peake, Booker T. Washington, and Mary McLeod Bethune are not often in the headlines but are no less foundational to the success of these schools.

I say this because HBCUs are having a moment right now, and I want parents and educators to consider the whole story as a new generation prepares to go off to college.

Since December, when news broke that Deion Sanders was leaving his job coaching football at Jackson State University for the predominantly white University of Colorado, HBCUs and their significance have been grabbing headlines.

As a former HBCU marching band leader, I know the history and importance of Black excellence in sports. If you don’t know, at a Black school, the band and the team are one. We practice on the same field, often use the same locker rooms, and train for every game day.

Raising the profile of Black athletes at Black schools is no small matter, and I understand why some were hurt by Sanders’ decision.

The uproar wasn’t just about football — it was about the respect accorded to institutions that provide respite from racial anxiety in an age of countless hashtag deaths and dangerous misinformation. HBCUs have a deep, rich history of activism and political excellence.

It’s near impossible to walk the halls of an HBCU and not feel the weight of history.

From the horrible necessity that birthed these schools to the faces and names that fought and died for you to be there, attending an HBCU can be a gracious burden — one that continues to inspire new generations to pursue political science, law, engineering, sociology, computer science, and journalism in some of the nation’s top-rated programs.

This is not to say that Black students can’t pursue their dreams at predominately white institutions, but I can personally attest that learning about what Black people have achieved in science and politics and business from a Black teacher, in a room full of Black students, is a unique and powerful thing.

To know you are sitting in the same classroom as Stokely Carmichael, W. E. B. Du Bois, or Alex Haley is a reminder that we have an obligation to bend the moral arc of this country toward justice.

HBCUs have sown the seeds, and with the help of parents, caregivers, and educators, it’s your turn to bloom.

The roots of HBCUs lie deep in our country’s blood-soaked soil, tilled by hands that studied our nation’s immoral laws so as to better fight them.

DAVID CARR has been in public education for 29 years. He is currently a Professional Services Manager at Achieve 3000/McGraw Hill. Before landing at McGraw Hill, he was the principal of LA’s Promise Charter Middle School #1. He started his career as a Teach for America corps member teaching English Language Development at Compton High School, where he taught for five years.



PHOTOS FACEBOOK, POARCH BAND CREEK INDIANS

THE INSTITUTE FOR COLORED YOUTH
BUILDING HISTORICAL MARKER, 915 Bainbridge
St. Philadelphia PA 19147.

It’s near impossible to walk the halls of an HBCU and not feel the weight of history.

EMANCIPATION OAK, a historically significant Southern Live Oak on the campus of Hampton University.

PHOTO WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



PHOTO MICHAEL MCNUTT



SAADIQ LONG, 52, was stopped by Oklahoma City police officers five times between November 2022 and January 2023, prompting a federal lawsuit filed Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023.

Long’s Petition Claims The FBI Accepts Almost Every Single Person Nominated To It’s List

OKCPD LAWSUIT from AI

Once Long arrived in McAlester, he said he and his sister were followed by the FBI and had several unexpected and unwanted encounters with agents. FBI agents came to his mother’s home, and his family also noticed they were being followed on more than one occasion.

Ten weeks later, in February 2013, Long tried to fly back to Qatar but was told he couldn’t board the airliner. He tried twice to board a flight out of OKC’s Will Rogers World Airport and was turned away at the gate. He again had been placed on the no-fly list. He eventually made it to Qatar, but he had to take a bus from Oklahoma City to Mexico and then board flights in three different countries.

Long sued the federal government, saying his unexplained placement on the no-fly list and the federal terrorist watchlist violated his constitutional and statutory rights. In response, the federal government removed him from the no-fly list in 2020, which ended his no-fly list-related claims. While he is no longer on the no-fly list, Long said he remains on the federal terrorist watchlist.

Long, who returned with his family to Oklahoma in 2015, said he has no idea why he was placed on the no-fly list and the terrorist watchlist. The federal government, he said, never provided him with any explanation for its actions.

His new lawsuit states the FBI develops and maintains the federal government’s consolidated Terrorism Screening Database. Long’s petition claims the FBI accepts almost every

single person nominated to its list — submitted by anyone — because the FBI uses a standard so low that any person can be made to qualify based on a string of speculative inferences.

The terrorism list includes more than 1 million names, almost all of them Muslim, and is based in broad profiles that cast suspicion on entire categories of people without any reasonable suspicions for why a person should be stopped, according to the lawsuit. Individuals may be added for a variety of reasons that fall short of establishing reasonable suspicion of criminal activity, such as being an immediate relative, friend, colleague or fellow community member of an individual on the list.

“Terrorist watchlist status does not create reasonable suspicion of ongoing criminal activity because placement on the watchlist does not require reasonable suspicion of any crime,” the lawsuit states.

The FBI, according to the lawsuit, shares records from the terrorist watchlist to the National Crime Information Center database, which allows law enforcement agencies with access to the NCIC database to see that Long is on the FBI’s list, but none of the underlying information for that placement.

Kayla McCleery, a spokeswoman for the FBI Oklahoma City office, provided a statement regarding Long’s situation.

“The FBI is aware of the allegations, however we cannot confirm or deny the potential existence of a federal investigation,” McCleery said. “As a general rule, the FBI has the authority to conduct an investigation when it has reasonable grounds to believe that

an individual has engaged in criminal activity or is planning to do so. This authority is based solely on the illegal activity, not on any constitutionally protected activity, and we take great care in distinguishing between the two.”

Cascade of traffic stops

In the past two months, Long said he has been pulled over by OKCPD officers five times. In addition to considering the stops to be harassment, Long said the incidents occurred on the sides of busy roads and were dangerous.

According to Long, the five stops have taken place:

Nov. 23, just north of Northwest 39th Street at sunset. An OKCPD officer informed Long that he exceeded the 40-mph speed limit by driving 46 mph. While he waited in his car for 45 minutes after handing over his driver’s license and insurance information, Long said the officer contacted the FBI. The officer returned and issued him a speeding ticket.

Dec. 19, on Portland Avenue just north of Reno Avenue at about 6 p.m. An OKCPD officer informed Long that he had taken his left turn too widely and had crossed into the right lane without signaling. The officer gave him a warning.

Dec. 30, on Lake Hefner Parkway just south of the Hefner Road on-ramp about midnight. Two OKCPD officers told him he was being pulled over because Long’s car was listed under the name of a gang member. Long said he was told to remain in his vehicle and when the officers returned 20 minutes later, one of them told him that his

license plate check alerted them that his vehicle was under suspicion of being on a terrorist watchlist. Long’s documents were returned and he was told he was free to go.

Jan. 4, on Lake Hefner Parkway just south of the Hefner on-ramp about midnight. Two OKCPD officers told him he was being stopped for going past the stop line, which is considered blocking an intersection. Long said he had been stopped recently several times and had provided information, such as his telephone number and where he worked, and he said he didn’t want to give the information again. As a result, Long was told to get out of his vehicle and was handcuffed and searched. Officers issued him a ticket for blocking an intersection.

Jan. 12 on Interstate 40 eastbound just past Sooner Road about 1 p.m. At least eight OKCPD police vehicles followed him for about 10 miles before he was pulled over and ordered to get out of his vehicle with his hands up. Several officers had their guns drawn and aimed at Long. He walked backwards toward the officers as instructed and then was told to kneel down and place his hands behind his back. He was handcuffed and placed in the back of a police vehicle. He was told he had been pulled over because he was driving a vehicle that had been reported stolen. Long said he has owned the same vehicle with the same license plate for several years. While he was in the police vehicle, five officers with their guns drawn went to his vehicle, opened its doors and looked inside. He was released from the handcuffs, let out of the police vehicle a few minutes later and told he was free to go.

Long said he believes all the traffic stops were made because his name was on the federal terrorist watchlist. He said that, in the most recent stop, officers lacked the authority to search his vehicle because they lacked probable cause that it contained contraband or any criminal evidence.

“It was a waste of everyone’s time and resources,” he said.

Soltani, the CAIR Oklahoma director, said OKCPD’s treatment of Saadiq Long has deteriorated confidence in the department among Muslims in the area.

“This is to the detriment of relations between Oklahoma City police and the Muslim community and, generally speaking, law enforcement in Oklahoma and the Muslim community,” Soltani said. “We understand as a minority group the importance of having positive relationships with local law enforcement because there have been attacks on Muslims, hate crimes against mosques and things of that nature.”

“This makes me concerned all the progress that we’ve made in trying to build lines of communication and good working relationships will be soured because of this.”

MICHAEL MCNUTT became NonDoc’s managing editor in January 2023. He has been a journalist for nearly 40 years, working at The Oklahoman for 30 years, heading up its Enid bureau and serving as night city editor, assistant news editor and State Capitol reporter. He is an inductee of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame. Most recently, he served as communications director for former Gov. Mary Fallin and then for the Office of Juvenile Affairs.

“It is clear that a number of state actors and other individuals are ultimately responsible for millions in misspent federal relief dollars”

GENTNER DRUMMOND, Attorney General of Oklahoma

OKAGE EDUCATION from AI

Former Attorney General John O’Connor filed the lawsuit in August, alleging Florida-based Kleo, the parent company of ClassWallet, failed to properly monitor the funds.

Gentner Drummond, who defeated O’Connor in the GOP primary and took office Jan. 9, said he will now focus on whether any individuals or state officials should be held accountable for the role in what he called an “egregious misuse of tax dollars.”

“It is clear that a number of state actors and other individuals are ultimately responsible for millions in misspent federal relief dollars,” Drummond said in a written statement announcing the dismissal.

The dismissal marks a change of course in the state’s investigation into misspending under the federal COVID-19 relief program. More than half a million in aid dollars meant for children’s education was spent on TVs, grills, furniture, Christmas trees and hundreds of other non-educational items, an investigation by Oklahoma Watch and The Frontier

revealed.

State officials hired ClassWallet in 2020 to distribute \$17.3 million in federal Governor’s Emergency Educational Relief funds, a program also known as GEER. ClassWallet provided services for two programs: Stay in School, which offered up to \$6,500 in tuition assistance to private school families, and Bridge the Gap Digital Wallet, which provided \$1,500 grants to low-income families to buy educational materials.

Oklahoma paid ClassWallet \$650,000 from its GEER allotment.

After misspent funds came to light, the state blamed ClassWallet for allowing parents to use their platform to buy items “not directly tied to education.” Records show the state could have limited what parents could buy, and instead gave “blanket approval” to all items from approved vendors, such as Office Depot and Staples.

Oklahoma’s attorneys never served ClassWallet, which means the company didn’t have an opportunity to respond in court — leading some

critics to question whether the lawsuit was an honest attempt to recoup the funds.

A spokeswoman for Gov. Kevin Stitt responded to the lawsuit’s dismissal with this emailed statement:

“The governor’s office strongly disagrees with the decision to dismiss the state’s legitimate effort to recover federal taxpayer dollars from a bad out-of-state vendor,” said Kate Vesper, a spokeswoman for Stitt.

ClassWallet, through a spokesman, said it was gratified the state dismissed the lawsuit.

Before he was elected state superintendent of public instruction, Ryan Walters helped ClassWallet secure the contract and made key decisions about the programs as secretary of education and as executive director of Every Kid Counts Oklahoma, according to an investigation by Oklahoma Watch and The Frontier published in May. Every Kid Counts Oklahoma was the public face of the Bridge the Gap program.

Former secretary of education Michael Rogers

OKAGE EDUCATION continues on A7

Oklahoma returned \$2.9 million in unspent GEER dollars

OKAG EDUCATION from A6

and Brent Bushey, executive director of the Oklahoma Public School Resource Center, an Oklahoma City not for profit, were also key to setting up the programs.

A watchdog agency in July recommended the U.S. Department of Education claw back at least \$650,000 in misspent funds and require the state to review an additional \$5.5 million in purchases, according to a federal audit.

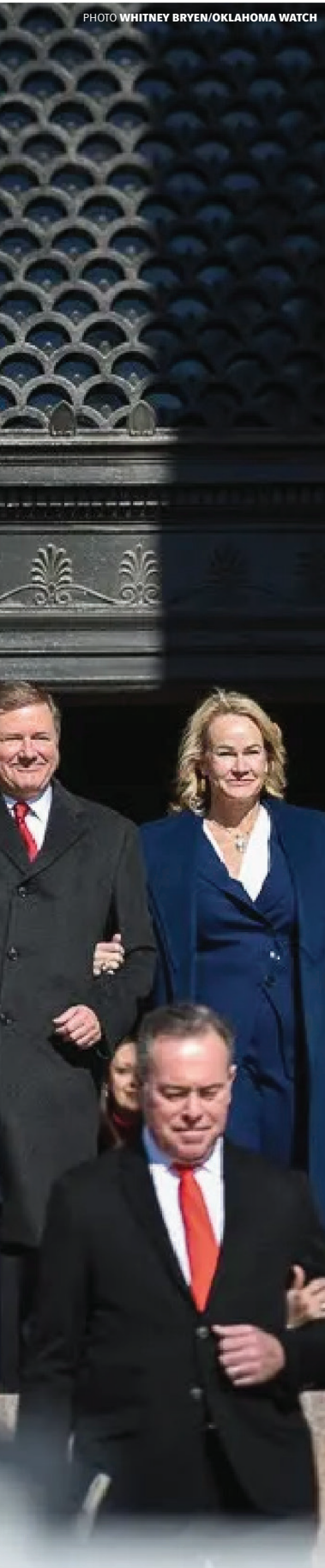
Oklahoma returned \$2.9 million in unspent GEER dollars to the federal government, at least some of which was reallocated to the state Education Department.

The U.S. Department of Education is working with Oklahoma officials to resolve the findings from the audit and strengthen its oversight of federal grants, said Roy Loewenstein, press secretary for oversight at the U.S. Department of Education. Few details have been provided, but Oklahoma Watch has learned the state followed up with GEER recipients.

Last week, the Office of Management and Enterprise Services emailed families about purchases they made with GEER funding. The email, provided to Oklahoma Watch, asks: “What was the particular purpose surrounding your purchases during the pandemic?” And “were you homeschooling your children, or were they still in school?”

Additional detail about the state’s handling of GEER funds is expected in an annual review of all federal funds by the state auditor and inspector. That report is expected to be released between March and July.

JENNIFER PALMER has been a reporter with Oklahoma Watch since 2016 and covers education. Contact her at (405) 761-0093 or jpalmer@oklahomawatch.org. Follow her on Twitter @jpalmerOKC.



ARCADIA RESIDENT CURTIS ROBERTS, 88, oversees the polling station at St. James AME Church on June 28, 2022. Senate Bill 481 by Dave Rader, R-Tulsa, would classify threatening or intimidating a poll worker as a felony offense.

Approximately a dozen measures propose additional requirements and restrictions

ELECTION CHANGES from A1

introduced more than 90 election and voting bills ahead of the upcoming legislative session.

About one-fifth of these proposals are shell bills titled “Oklahoma Elections Reform Act of 2023.” Lawmakers will be tasked with adding more substantive language before the bills are considered.

Legislative committees will begin taking up bills after Feb. 6, when the session begins. Bills face a March 2 deadline to advance out committee in their chamber of origin.

Here are some questions and answers regarding the election bills and how similar proposals fared in recent legislative sessions.

What Election-Related Bills Have Republicans Filed?

Republicans, who hold a supermajority in both the House and Senate, have introduced at least 80 election-related bills.

Approximately a dozen measures propose additional requirements or restrictions, including eliminating no-excuse absentee voting and forbidding the State Election Board from joining multistate voter-list maintenance organizations.

Another category of proposals seeks to exempt the state from following federal election laws in non-federal elections and mandate state officials to report any election or voting-related contact from the U.S. Department of Justice.

What about Democrats?

House and Senate Democrats have proposed eliminating the state’s straight-party voting option, expanding early voting hours and setting an end-of-year deadline for the state to launch online voter registration fully.

The proposals face steep odds in the Republican-controlled Legislature. Just a dozen bills with Democrats as the original lead author were signed into law last year. None were related to elections or voting.

Rep. Andy Fugate, D-Oklahoma City, introduced five election bills before the Jan. 19 filing deadline. Among them are measures requiring political parties who hold closed primaries to reimburse the state for election costs and subject unopposed

state lawmakers to a retention election, similar to what state Supreme Court justices face every six years, with a yes-no vote. Nearly 70% of state House and Senate races up for re-election in 2022 were decided ahead of the November midterm election.

Fugate, who himself ran unopposed for House District 94 last year, said he hopes to spark a conversation on democracy issues.

“I continue to see people, not just in my district but in other places where I talk about these challenges, who are nodding their heads,” said Fugate, who serves as House Democratic Floor Leader. “I’m convinced whether it’s this year or next year or 10 years from now long after I’m out of the Legislature, people will see the light and think differently.”

How Could Oklahoma’s Initiative Petition Process Change?

At least five Republican-led joint resolutions propose adding additional restrictions or requirements for citizen initiative petitions to reach the ballot or increasing the margin necessary for an initiative to pass. Examples include:

- Raising the threshold for state questions to pass from a simple majority to 66%, and limiting state questions to odd-numbered years. (Senate Joint Resolution 5 by Sen. Warren Hamilton, R-McCurtain)
- Requiring initiative petitions to receive a percentage of signatures from citizens in every county in the state. (House Joint Resolution 1027 by Rep. David Hardin, R-Stilwell)
- Requiring state questions that propose an increase in state government expenditures to receive at least 60% of votes to pass. (House Joint Resolution 1031 by Rep. Chad Caldwell, R-Enid)

Because these measures seek to modify the state Constitution, they would require a majority approval from voters upon clearing the Legislature to take effect.

Initiative petition organizers have opposed similar efforts in recent years, saying the state’s signature

collection requirement is already among the nation’s most stringent and additional restrictions would stop all but the most well-funded groups from getting a question on the ballot.

Caldwell, who introduced similar legislation in 2021, said the narrow passage of the Medicaid expansion question in 2020 and constituent concerns prompted him to file HJR 1031. He said the proposal would align state questions with school bond proposals, which require at least 60% approval from voters to pass.

“Just a few votes, relatively speaking, here or there can totally and drastically change the direction of the state’s budget,” said Caldwell, who was first elected in 2014 and received 70.8% of votes in 2022. “I think that should be left up to the people to get to decide that this is so much of a priority that we want to redirect resources from pot A to pot B or understand an outcome might be an increase in taxes. But that message becomes a lot clearer when you increase that threshold.”

Caldwell said he could be open to changing parts of the bill, such as including a minimum dollar threshold or modifying the 60% vote requirement.

Hardin, whose district covers a stretch of far northeast Oklahoma along the Arkansas border, said he introduced HJR 1031 to give rural Oklahomans a better understanding and greater input on what reaches the ballot. He said petition organizers have approached him outside of retailers in Oklahoma City but never in his hometown of Stilwell.

“It would put a lot more effort into a state question, but it’s something I think rural people would definitely benefit from,” said Hardin, who was elected to House District 86 in 2018 and ran uncontested in 2022. “And hopefully it could get people more interested in what’s going on with their local state government.”

What Election Laws Have Oklahoma Lawmakers Passed in Recent Years?

Unlike Republican-led states such as Texas, Georgia and Iowa, Oklahoma lawmakers have not enacted sweeping voting restrictions in recent years.

The Legislature in 2021 passed a bipartisan bill adding an additional

early in-person voting day on the Wednesday preceding a general election. Last year, 14 election-related bills, including measures restricting the use of private funds in elections and authorizing criminal investigations of residences where 10 or more registered voters reside, were signed into law.

The Voting Rights Lab, a nonprofit organization that tracks election legislation nationwide, rated Oklahoma’s actions on voter access bills in 2022 as mixed.

Stephanie Henson, vice president of the League of Women Voters of Oklahoma, said the organization is working to engage with lawmakers about the benefits and importance of expanding voting accessibility. She said the organization hopes the Legislature will expedite the launch of online voter registration and lawmakers and strike down proposals to restrict the citizen initiative process.

“More restrictive stuff can only hurt our voter engagement,” Henson said. “And if you look at the 2020 election, we were already ranked 50th.”

What are Election Security Measures Currently in Place?

The Oklahoma State Election Board points to numerous safeguards, including a uniform paper-based voting system and a secure network for transmitting results, as beneficial in maintaining a secure election system.

State election officials completed their first post-election audit last summer following the June 28 primary election. The audit found no discrepancy between the certified election results. A review of the November general election results found only two instances where the audit totals slightly differed from the certified results.

“Oklahoma has one of the most accurate and secure voting systems in the entire world,” State Election Board Secretary Paul Zirix said in a press conference last November.

KEATON ROSS is a Report for America corps member who covers democracy for Oklahoma Watch. Contact him at (405) 831-9753 or Kross@Oklahomawatch.org. Follow him on Twitter at @KeatonRoss..

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!!!

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GTOMi

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

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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.

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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

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1301 S. Boston
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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.
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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.

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Wednesday Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

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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



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"Come And Experience The Spirit"

1020 South Garnett
Tulsa, Okla., 74128
Phone: (918) 836-6823
Fax: (918) 836-6833



Rev. Sharyn Cosby-Willis,

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.

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NOTICE

Published in The Oklahoma Eagle:
January 27 and February 3, 2023

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
SEALED BIDS FOR
TULSA METROPOLITAN UTILITY
AUTHORITY
PROJECT NO. TMUA-W 22-89,
153120-C2-TO5A

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

PROJECT NO. TMUA-W 22-89,
153120-C2-TO5A DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS BIRD CREEK

The entire cost of the improvement shall be paid from Account No. 2131W0006Z.WaterSupp.Water.7400.74003122-541101 2331W00007.WaterSupp.Water.7400.74003122-541101

A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for Tuesday February 7, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. and will be held through video conferencing with Microsoft Teams, invitation presented on the City of Tulsa's website at this link: <https://www.cityoftulsa.org/government/departments/engineering-services/construction-bids/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Authority, acting on behalf of the City of Tulsa, 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 Authority 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 Tulsa Metropolitan Utility Authority. See Contract Article IIB.

A Certified or Cashier's Check or Bidder's 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 Authority, 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, 175 E. 2nd Street, in said City at 9:00 a.m. on the 10th day of March 2023.

Dated at Tulsa, Oklahoma, this 27th day of January 2023.

(SEAL)
Rick Hudson, Chairperson
Tulsa Metropolitan Utility Authority

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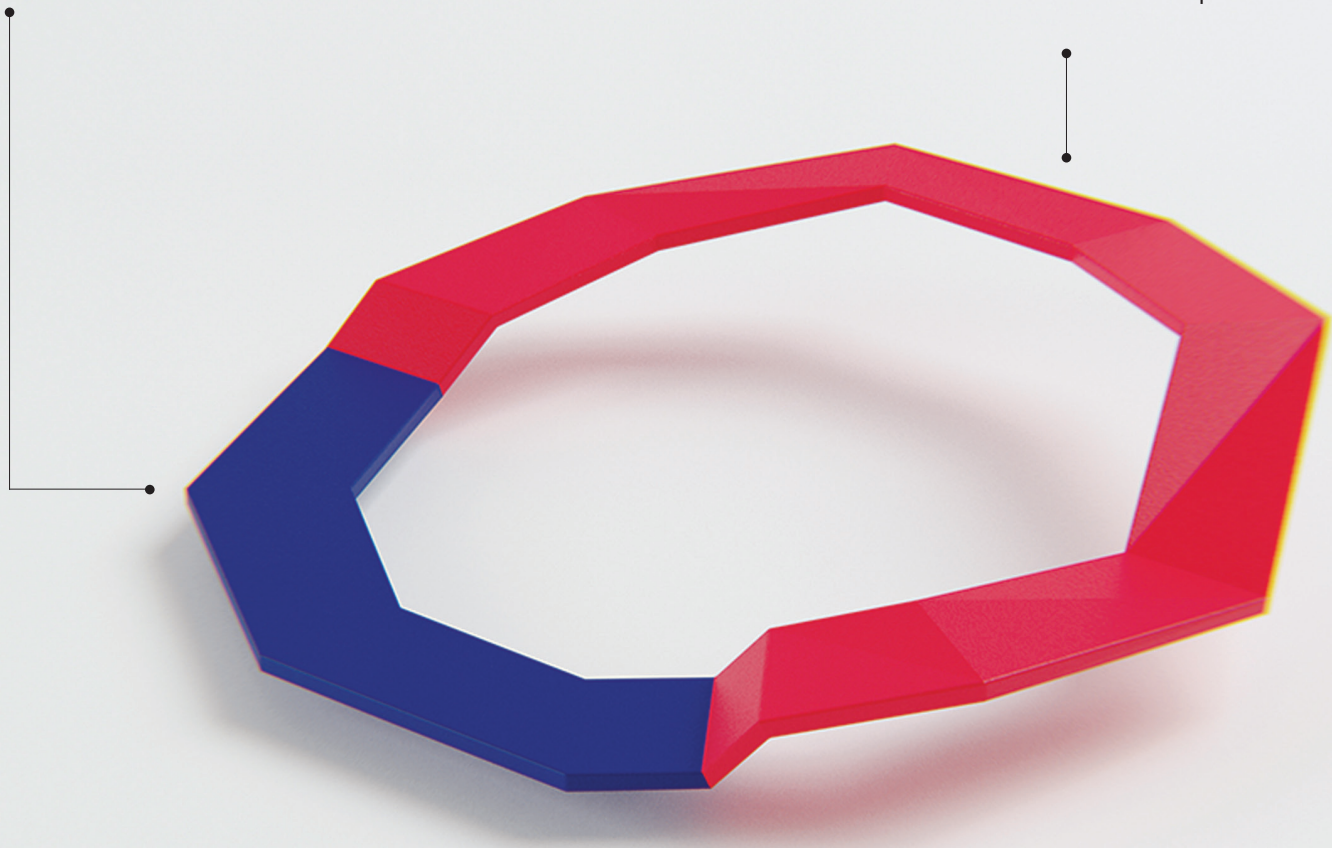
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What Can Teachers Do About Colorism?
Skin color privilege, at the forefront of social media debates **B2**



B4 Justices Nix 2nd Mostly Black District

SCOTUS put on hold a lower court ruling that Louisiana must draw new congressional districts before the 2022 elections.

After-School Youth Business Program TEACHES FINANCIAL LITERACY

The program offers education resources for young people ages 12-24 to start a small business and help them earn money for college while learning financial literacy and leadership skills

By LAURA ONYENHO, WORD IN BLACK

For kids who plan to be business owners in the future, developing a business mindset while they are young will help teach them the importance of managing finances, cash flow, critical thinking skills, and other necessary life skills.

That is the goal of Crystal Victoria, the founder and executive director of the non-profit organization Target Evolution, which she describes as the No. 1 after-school summer youth entrepreneurship program in Texas. They provide education resources for young people ages 12-24 to start a small business to help them earn money to pay for college while learning financial literacy and leadership skills.

They host the Teen Biz Camp, an eight-week program helping students build a business and product from scratch. Their signature Trail Blaze store located in the Galleria in Houston and Dallas is where the students sell their products to customers. Victoria spoke with the Defender about the program's impact on Houston youth.

Defender: Tell us about yourself.

Crystal Victoria: I'm an entrepreneur, a published author of four books and a college textbook, and I'm originally from Dallas. I lived here in Houston for five years. I moved with the entire goal of expanding my organization here and to have the same programming that the Dallas kids have. We primarily focus on African American youth, but our program is for kids of all races and backgrounds.

DEFENDER: As the founder of Teen Biz Camp what sets you apart from other after-school programs?

VICTORIA: What sets us apart is that we help our kids make money. The students who either work in our stores as staff employees make about \$12 to \$15 an hour. The

young entrepreneurs who have their products featured in our stores keep a percentage of their income from their sales. On average our kids make anywhere from \$400 to \$700 a month.

DEFENDER: How does the Teen Biz Camp operate?
VICTORIA: It's an eight-week program. Kids receive a laptop to create a product that they want to sell in our Trail Blaze store. We have experts as well as our management team to teach and guide the youth during the camp. This summer we anticipate 50 kids and 100 in total for this year. You can get into Trail Blaze in one of two ways. You can either go through teen boot camp and put a product together to sell in the store, or if you have a product already, you can put your products on the shelf as well. You can rent shelf space for \$150 a month. This helps the teens better interact with customers and develop their creative and critical thinking skills.

DEFENDER: Trail Blaze store is located at the Galleria. What products by the teens are sold in stores?

VICTORIA: We sell jewelry, cosmetics, custom shoes, makeup, hair oil and much more.

DEFENDER: What are some core skills that children are taught that they may be lacking in schools?

VICTORIA: Communication, networking skills and the ability to sell. These days kids are so attached to social media that they find it difficult to hold a conversation face to face. Everyone they talk to could be a potential customer. It's as simple as saying hello to everybody that comes into the store and knowing that everyone that walks in might not be in my target audience but they know someone who might be.

The most important core skill is the social emotional element. It's great when you have a peer support group. I'm fascinated about their ability to go to school and participate in all the activities they do. They learn about time management. As a business person you'll naturally

run into problems on a daily basis and you'll have to think critically about finding solutions.

They also learn how to manage money because they have to pay rent to sell their products on the shelves. We allow a portion of their sales to cover rent. They have to make a minimum of \$200 a month to stay in the store. I make sure they paid rent and have money in their pocket. They learn how save money to get their inventory. Statistically, only 25% of out kids in the program actually decide to continue beyond a year. Kids see the value in their business and look forward to going to college to expand their skills to improve their business knowledge. These businesses also help bring the extra income they need to save for college instead of taking out loans.

DEFENDER: The pandemic caused a major scare for businesses everywhere. Did it impact the teen businesses in any way?

VICTORIA: Our stores closed for a couple of months during the height of the pandemic. The kids already had online stores so they had to learn how to drive traffic to their stores. The teen boot camp transitioned online but the results didn't translate well from our data because it's a popular onsite program. These kids were no more happy about transitioning online than the staff.

DEFENDER: Any updates?

VICTORIA: I tell people we manage funding by way of workforce contracts, currently about 15 counties and the Fort Worth Metro. We are currently working to get those same contracts [in Houston]. People love to see their tax dollars at work and that's exactly what you will see here. We just entered into a major partnership with a property group that will be covering the cost of the building out our stores for the next five years. They were excited about creating a real pipeline for the kids. Working in the Trail Blaze store puts you in the position to leave the store and apply to the next retail store.



RIBBON CUTTING at Trail Blaze store.



RIBBON CUTTING at Trail Blaze store.

WHAT CAN TEACHERS DO ABOUT COLORISM?

Skin color privilege is yet again at the forefront of social media debates, but what role should educators play in ending the toxicity?



By AZIAH SHID, WORD IN BLACK

If you asked a child to give an example of a time they witnessed or experienced colorism, you’d probably get drastically different answers. Some might speak about a fellow classmate calling them names for being too dark, while others wouldn’t be able to respond because they simply don’t know what colorism is.

Merriam-Webster tells us that colorism is “prejudice or discrimination, especially within a racial or ethnic group favoring people with lighter skin over those with darker skin.”

But we don’t need a dictionary to tell us it exists in our communities and negatively affects our children, both in school and out.

“Telling you your skin is too dark, or you’re pretty for a dark skin girl is something that happens a lot in the Black community,” says Los Angeles-based entrepreneur Kheris Rogers. “Some people try to normalize, or people try to act like doesn’t exist when it simply does.”

Rogers, 16, knew from an early age exactly what colorism is — and what being bullied at school because of it feels like.

When she was just 10-years-old, her peers at her LA elementary school began telling her that because of her dark skin, she looked like a burned biscuit or a dead roach.

“They’d do the light skin versus dark skin girl, and growing up, we all pretty much experienced that the light skin girl pretty much always wins,” Rogers tells Word in Black. “Then I always thought to myself, why can’t we all just be beautiful?”

As a result, Rogers launched Flexin’ in My Complexion, a clothing brand focused on empowerment, anti-colorism, and anti-bullying. “When I look at myself in the mirror, I say nice things like, ‘I am smart. I am kind. I am confident,’” Rogers wrote on the Flexin’ in My Complexion site.

Plenty of research has shown that lighter-skinned Black people are perceived as more beautiful, are more likely to get a job, and are given more lenient prison sentences than darker-skinned Black people.

Bias in favor of light skin shows up in the nation’s schools, too.

One recent study found that in schools, “the odds of suspension were about 3 times greater for young African American women with the darkest skin tone compared to those with the lightest skin.”

Another study found that “skin tone is strongly associated with black Americans’ educational attainment,” with “a gap of six months of schooling between the lightest- and darkest-skinned black Americans.”

“As you move along the color

As you move along the color spectrum, the darker you are, the less important, beautiful, viable, or all of those things that society has imposed upon based on that notion of supremacy”

- DR. JOY DEGRUY, AUTHOR OF “POST TRAUMATIC SLAVE SYNDROME”

spectrum, the darker you are, the less important, beautiful, viable, or all of those things that society has imposed upon based on that notion of supremacy,” Dr. Joy DeGruy, author of “Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome” explained to Good Morning America in 2020.

Watching her sister experience the academic consequences of colorism is a vivid memory Dr. Camika Royal, the author of “Not Paved for Us: Black Educators and Public School Reform in Philadelphia,” has of life during elementary school.

“She was treated like she was troubled the entire time she was in school,” Royal, an associate professor of urban education at Loyola University Maryland, tells Word in Black.

“She struggled in school. It was easier to ignore her needs, and amplify her issues because she was dark-skinned and because she was overweight.”

Royal says years later, people are surprised by the level of success her sister has achieved.

“I think a lot of people are shocked that she now has a doctorate — a Ph.D. in education — and is an administrator at Michigan State University.”

Even if they’re not perpetuating colorism, many educators aren’t prepared to deal with it in the classroom.

“Almost daily, I witnessed high school students identify, categorize and stereotype their peers based on skin tone,” David Knight, a former teacher at Boston Arts Academy, wrote for Learning For Justice in 2015.

Growing up in Louisiana, he was well aware of colorism and its roots in white supremacy. But, Knight explained, “I did not expect that so many young people of diverse ethnicities—including Dominicans, Puerto Ricans, and Cape Verdeans—would actively engage in everyday forms of skin-color bias. As one teacher in one classroom, what was I

to do?”

Bring ‘Black is Beautiful’ Back

Knight also wrote that “Staying current on the research related to colorism and implicit bias is an important first step” for educators to take.

Indeed, to stamp out colorism, experts say establishing a culture of inclusivity and encouragement amongst students is crucial.

“Schools absolutely have a responsibility, but the schools don’t have the only responsibility,” Royal says. “The adults who work in schools have to start with examining their own biases and preferences.”

But simply being anti-colorism and anti-bullying isn’t enough. Impressionable students need to have the concept that “Black is Beautiful” explicitly taught to them.

“I think it’s important to go to school or system where the curriculum is focused and shaped by Blackness,” says diversity, equity, and inclusion expert Chinedu Nwokefor.

Nwokefor has spent years galvanizing people to fight for inequities impacting the Black community — including the HBCU Equity Case that brought \$577 million to the four HBCU institutions in Maryland.

“I think it’s important to go to places where the importance of skin color is even talked about,” he says.

In Nwokefor’s case, his experience as a Black Albino makes his perspective on colorism dramatically unique.

“Sometimes I wonder if my activist spirit is because I’m so in love with my Black people, or is there a hidden sign of me trying to prove how Black I am? That’s why I think it’s very dangerous — what we do,” Nwokefor says.

For those unsure how to start teaching about colorism, a toolkit by Learning For Justice suggests ways educators can incorporate candid, student-centered conversations about

these issues into the classroom.

The toolkit features an opportunity for self-reflection that educators, parents, or caregivers could use: “How do colorism and color privilege affect my students’ perceptions of themselves and others?”

Pay Attention to What Kids See in Pop Culture

Parents and teachers might not know the names of the latest rappers and influencers, but their kids do — and talking about colorism in hip-hop or pop culture can open the door to conversations about how light-skin privilege affects Black children and youth.

For example, a recent interview with Houston recording artist Monaleo, who is darker-skinned, and influencer Meghan James, who is lighter-skinned, ignited a heated discussion across social media platforms on how colorism shows up when Black people interact with one another.

However, James inaccurately defined it as including discrimination happening to people with lighter complexions. She subsequently shared examples of people being mean to her due to her skin tone.

“I stand by what I said about colorism still being a very real and prevalent issue. And there is no such thing as “reverse colorism,” Monaleo tweeted after the interview aired.

Many Twitter users showed their support for Monaleo’s attempt to explain that although lighter-toned people from the community go through their own struggles, it does not equate to the experience of their darker-skinned counterparts.

But young fans who aren’t on Twitter might not have the opportunity to see that online discussion and so run the risk of being confused about colorism if they don’t have a trusted adult to talk to about it.

“It starts in the media,” Royal says about print, television, and social media as a collective.

Being aware of and teaching students to analyze pop culture can ensure they’re clear about what colorism is and isn’t.

Ensure Students Know What Colorism Is

A big part of dispelling colorism is ensuring students — pre-K through 12th grade — understand what it is and know it is the result of white supremacy.

“It’s just very damaging to our community simply because of what it does,” Nwokefor says. “It’s also very important to understand — no matter what it’s doing in our community — it’s doing something that has emanated from an enemy, who set it up to do just that.”

Old rhymes like, “If you’re Black,

stay back; If you’re brown, stick around; If you’re yellow, you’re mellow; If you’re white, you’re all right” are prime examples of the traumatic mental effects of slavery in the United States. It’s well-documented that lighter-skinned enslaved people were often assigned domestic chores, while darker individuals worked outside.

This system of division and skin color privilege took root and recreated itself over generations — molded into intraracial judgment within the Black community.

“I was struck by how often students of color referred to each other as “light-skinned” or “dark-skinned,” Knight wrote.

Too often, colorism in the Black community leaves students questioning their identity, and even, as Kheris Rogers experienced, starting down a path toward self-esteem issues.

Create Spaces for Black-on-Black Love

Implementing lessons into the curriculum and helping kids understand racism as the root of colorism is only part of the journey toward fostering healthy interactions among students.

Creating what many call spaces of ‘Black love’ in the home, workforce, the media, and other places also plays a role in how kids interact with students who share their genetic makeup, but may not look like them.

“A lot of people think teasing someone or making fun of someone is a regular thing, but these things start at home. They’re not picking this up out of nowhere,” Rogers says.

And it’s true. As children grow, they absorb what they hear and see. Something as seemingly simple as rap lyrics encouraging lighter skin as the best skin can do harm. On the other hand, a popular movie with glamorous, powerful darker-skinned actors — like “Black Panther” or “The Woman King” — can influence a child’s perception of what they believe to be “beautiful.”

“I think it matters that we remember Black comes in all types of shades, and every single one of them is beautiful,” Royal says.

Meanwhile, Rogers has become an inspiration to her 306,000 followers on Instagram, and she continues to amplify a message she hopes people of all shades in the Black community can embody.

“Every day, I do affirmations, and I feel like that’s what everyone should be doing,” Rogers says. “No matter how confident you claim that you are, you still have to remind yourself who you are every single day. I try to sustain that.”

FOR MUCH OF MY LIFE THE THE BATTLES OVER RACE, SEX AND GENDER IDENTITY TOOK PLACE ON MY HAIR

BLACK HAIR *from AI*

high esteem – and of course the collection is superb. But I was also impressed by the board leadership’s commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.”

She praised a diversity study group report and the work being done to implement the actions and policies that it suggested – specifically the institution’s newly formed office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the expansion of the Romare Bearden fellowship to include a two-year fellow. The new DEI office is led by Renee Franklin in the newly created role of chief diversity officer.

Two weeks after the press breakfast, Shaka Myrick – the inaugural two-year Romare Bearden fellow – facilitated a virtual lecture as part of the Women’s History Month programming that explored the dominating impact of Black hair within Black culture entitled, “If It Wasn’t for the Women: Hair Sculpting a Culture.”

“This year’s theme ‘Hair Sculpting a Culture’ was inspired by my personal interest,” Myrick said. “While sorting through my old undergrad work at University of Missouri- Columbia, I noticed a common thread – realizing that most of my work: ceramic, painted, drawn collage, wood block and screen prints were all centered around Black hair and its evolving history. It became pretty obvious to me that Black hair has impacted cultures all over the world.”

Myrick used examples of African art from the Saint Louis Art Museum’s permanent collection to illustrate her point before opening the discussion to the panelists. Two Black women visual artists of varying practices and a third who identifies as non-binary spoke in great detail about how European beauty standards and systemic racism are at the root of the love/hate relationship Black women often have with their hair. They displayed their own work to guide them through talking points.

“For much of my life the battles over race, sex and gender identity took place on my hair and this has had a profound on my work,” said Joann Quiñones. “In my family, a racial hierarchy existed where whiteness and near white features were praised and Black features were at best a source of shame and a problem that could be resolved through hair straightening, skin bleaching cream or staying out of the sun altogether.”

A breast cancer diagnosis as the age of 36 gave Quiñones new perspective – and a new appreciation for her curls.

“Losing my hair – all of it – conveyed to me how much hair played a role in my life, both as battleground and marker of identity,” said Quiñones. “How much of our hair rituals have only to do with others’ expectations of what we should look like and be like. When in all of my life had I ever been happy with my hair? Watching it grow back I felt a great tenderness for it. I didn’t want to take it for granted.”

Summer Brooks provided additional context while discussing the inspiration behind her piece entitled “Crown,” a spray foam figure that uses Black hair and Black culture to represent royalty.

“There are still so many conversations about Black hair politics and whether our [natural] hair is deemed appropriate for workplace and professional settings,” Brooks said. “As Black women and Black culture, we often struggle with self-worth. We see ourselves as less-than sometimes because we are constantly being told that our skin is too dark and that we should straighten our hair. But ‘Crown’ is basking in our beauty. It represents the magical sensation of what taking down your braids or wearing your afro feels like.”

“Hair is a form of adornment I tend to focus on a lot as it has been important to me ever since I can remember,” said artist Jada Patterson. “It is something that has taken up a lot of my time and energy – whether I was sitting between someone’s legs for hours getting my hair done or dreaming up and/or researching the next style that I wanted.”

She shared the experience of getting her first silk press for her fifth-grade graduation and her friend telling her that she should get a relaxer.

“I remember going home to my Italian mother and begged her to let me relax my hair and how she let me do it before sixth grade – not knowing better,” Patterson said.

After deciding to grow her hair back to its natural state, she was teased by cousins for wearing a chemically damaged afro.

“I started flat ironing my hair to get rid of the kinks that I was trying to love,” Patterson said. “Eventually I threw all of that thinking away, thank God. I started to fall in love with my coils – tangled and all.”



TOUSSAINT OF WARD AVENUE, 84" x 40" x 40"
Osnaburg, linen, coffee stained muslin, Dutch-wax prints, digitally printed organza, ruff, indigo, porcelain, terra cotta, gilding, pearls.



A WOMAN presents her identification to vote through a plexiglass barrier, to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, on election day at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School, in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans on Nov. 3, 2020. Louisiana's secretary of state and attorney general asked the U.S. Supreme Court on Friday, June 17, 2022, to put a hold on a federal judge's order for the state to create a second majority Black congressional district by Monday.

JUSTICES NIX 2ND *MOSTLY BLACK* DISTRICT In Louisiana for 2022.

By SARA CLINE AND MARK SHERMAN,
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BATON ROUGE (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday put on hold a lower court ruling that Louisiana must draw new congressional districts before the 2022 elections to increase Black voting power.

As a result, Louisiana's November congressional elections will be held using a Republican-drawn map with white majorities in five of six districts. The high court's ruling paused an earlier decision by a federal judge concerned the map violates the Voting Rights Act and dilutes Black voter clout.

Gov. John Bel Edwards, a Democrat, expressed disappointment with the development and reiterated his stance that creating a second African-American majority district was "about simple math, basic fairness, and the rule of law."

"Black Louisianans make up one third of our population, and one third of our districts should be majority Black when such a map can be drawn, and, as has been clearly demonstrated, that map is more compact, better adheres to the legal principles governing redistricting, and will perform," he said.

With the three liberal justices dissenting, the high court short-circuited the earlier order from U.S. District Judge Shelly Dick to create a second majority Black congressional district in Louisiana. As the map stands, five of Louisiana's six seats appear likely to remain in Republican hands.

State Rep. Vincent Pierre, chairman of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, said he was "disheartened" by the Supreme Court's decision and added that "hopes for change in the short term have been dashed." The Democrat described the map approved by the legislature as an "obvious violation" of the Voting Rights Act.

Democrats and the Black Caucus argue that by the numbers at least two of the six districts should have Black majorities.

The court's action is similar to an order issued in February in Alabama that allowed the state to hold elections in 2022 under a map drawn by Alabama's GOP-controlled legislature that contains one majority-Black district. Alabama has seven seats in the House of Representatives.

The justices are hearing arguments in the Alabama case in October. The Louisiana case will remain on hold under the court renders a decision on the Alabama case, the justices said.

Every 10 years, state lawmakers — armed with new U.S. Census Bureau information — redraw political boundaries for seats in the U.S. House, state Senate, state House, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Public Service Commission. The process ultimately affects which political parties, viewpoints and people control the government bodies that write laws, set utility rates and create public school policies.

This year's redistricting process in Louisiana has been a tense political tug-of-war, with the Republican-dominated legislature and Edwards fighting over the boundaries since February, when lawmakers approved a congressional map with white majorities in five of six districts. The governor vetoed the map. However the legislature overrode the veto — marking the first time in nearly three decades that lawmakers refused to accept a governor's refusal of a bill they had passed.

Sen. Sharon Hewitt, a Slidell Republican and a leader in the remapping effort, has insisted that trying to include the state's widely dispersed Black population in two separate congressional districts would result in two districts with very narrow Black majorities that could actually diminish Black voter power.

Hewitt tweeted on Tuesday that she was "very pleased" by the Supreme Court's decision and maintains that the map has always been constitutional.

Along with tense debate on Louisiana's House and Senate floor, the legal battle to determine the state's congressional boundaries has played out, simultaneously, at all three levels of the federal judiciary.

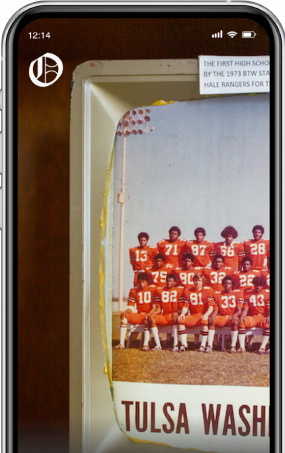
In early June, the federal judge Dick struck down the map for violating the Voting Rights Act, citing that the "evidence of Louisiana's long and ongoing history of voting-related discrimination weighs heavily in favor of Plaintiffs." Dick, who was appointed by then-President Barack Obama, ordered lawmakers to redesign the map and this time include a second majority Black district by June 20.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeal briefly put a hold on Dick's deadline, but later removed the hold and scheduled to hear arguments in July.

With little willingness to compromise from the GOP and a tight deadline that was not extended, the session ended with no new map and as a result the task was passed to Dick. The judge scheduled a hearing on the issue for Wednesday, but it has been canceled following the Supreme Court's decision.

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