

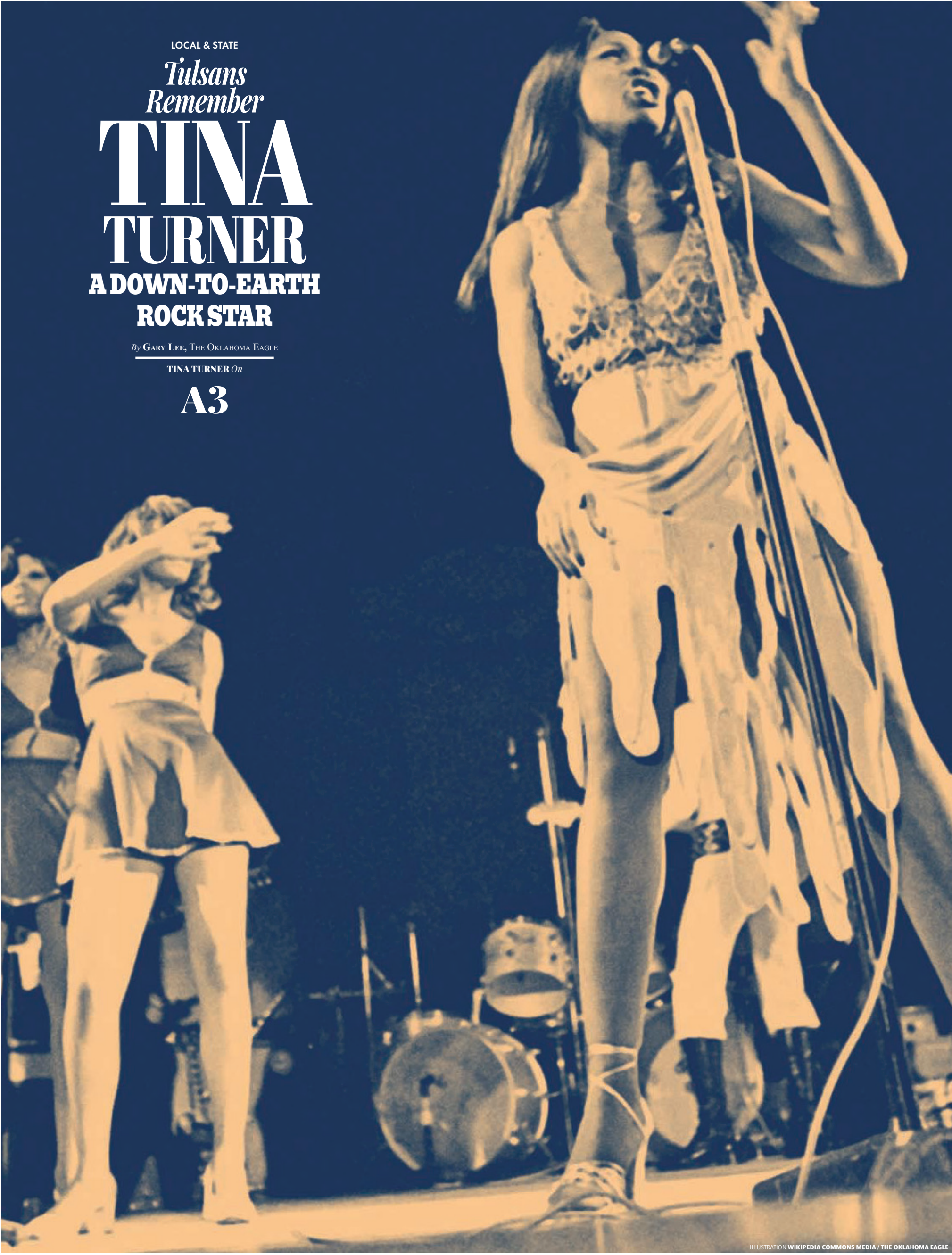
WEEK
5,329

SINCE THE
1921
TULSA
RACE
MASSACRE

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

LOCAL & STATE
SCOTUS DECISION
THREATENS TO ERODE
TRIBAL PROTECTIONS A2
By LIONEL RAMOS, OKLAHOMA WATCH
SCOTUS TRIBAL PROTECTIONS

LOCAL & STATE
WHAT LAWMAKERS DID AND
DIDN'T DO FOR VOTERS AND
ELECTION OFFICIALS A12
By KEATON ROSS, OKLAHOMA WATCH
OK ACCOUNTABILITY.VOTING



LOCAL & STATE

Tulsans
Remember
TINA
TURNER
A DOWN-TO-EARTH
ROCK STAR

By GARY LEE, THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

TINA TURNER On

A3

ILLUSTRATION WIKIPEDIA COMMONS MEDIA / THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

STATE

'TANTRUM': LEGISLATURE
OVERRIDES 19 STITT VETOES, BUT
SOME BUDGET BILLS HIT SNAG

By TRES SAVAGE, NONDOC

With multiple members criticizing Gov. Kevin Stitt for throwing a "tantrum" in late April when he vetoed 20 "unrelated" bills in an effort to cajole the State Senate into supporting his proposed education compromise.

OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE 'TANTRUM' cont. A7

STATE

USPS HONORS CIVIL RIGHTS
LEADER, PONCA TRIBE CHIEF
STANDING BEAR, WITH STAMP

By SCOTT McFETRIDGE, ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Ponca tribe chief whose landmark lawsuit in 1879 established that a Native American is a person under the law was honored Friday with the unveiling of a U.S. Postal Service stamp that features his portrait.

HONORING PONCA TRIBE CHIEF cont. A11

NATION

ONLY 1% OF SCHOOL SUPT. ARE
BLACK WOMEN. BUT THEY LEAD
WITH EXCELLENCE

By MAYA POTTIGER, WORD IN BLACK

Nationwide, Black women only make up 1.4% of people leading school districts. "We know that there aren't as many of us as there should be, that the ranks of superintendents across our country

BLACK SCHOOL SUPT. cont. A1



**OK LEGISLATURE
‘TANTRUM’**

OK Gov. Kevin Stitt accused of throwing a “tantrum” in late April vetoes of 20 “unrelated” bills. **A7**

TINA TURNER

Tulsans remember Tina Turner, a down-to-earth rock star. A home crowd in Tulsa, knew her as unpretentious and approachable. **A3**

SCOTUS & TRIBAL PROTECTIONS

SCOTUS could soon decide a federal law meant to keep Indian children with their families and tribes is racist. **A2**



SUPREME COURT DECISION THREATENS To Erode Longstanding Tribal Protections

By **LIONEL RAMOS**, OKLAHOMA WATCH
TRIBAL PROTECTIONS *from A1*



MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT rallied on Nov. 9, 2022 on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. during oral arguments for Brackeen v. Haaland. PHOTO COURTESY OF DARREN THOMPSON/ NATIVE NEWS ONLINE

The nation’s highest court could soon decide a federal law meant to keep Indian children with their families and tribes is racist.

The Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, known as ICWA, was passed by Congress as a response to nationwide Indian child removal policies which saw more than one-third of native children being systematically taken from their homes by state social-service workers and delivered to non-native families and institutions. They were stripped of their identities and assimilated into America’s predominantly white society. Remnants of such policies are still scattered throughout Oklahoma today, mostly in the form of federally funded religious boarding schools and their survivors.

The ICWA prioritizes family and tribal placements for Indian children in child custody cases and requires states to notify tribes when those proceedings occur.

A white family from Texas said that should change. Plaintiffs in Brackeen v. Haaland argue the law violates the Constitution by discriminating against non-native families who want to adopt Indian children.

If the U.S. Supreme Court agrees, Native children will be subject to removal from their tribes for the first time in four decades. Other federal Indian laws could be challenged on the same grounds, putting those longstanding protections in peril.

“If we were to lose on an equal protection challenge, there is no aspect of tribal sovereignty that isn’t at risk,” said Chrissi Ross Nimmo, the Cherokee Nation’s deputy attorney general and expert on Indian child welfare law.

Being a tribal citizen is a political distinction, not a racial one, Nimmo said. Tribes are sovereign nations in relationship with the U.S. government via treaties, some of which were established in the earliest years of American independence.

The agreements were between nations, outside the structure that dictates the relationship between states and the federal government. The deals, often forced upon Natives and then violated by the U.S., were largely an exchange of peace and preservation for aid in warfare — and later land, as colonists pushed west.

Mike McBride III, a federal Indian law attorney in Tulsa with the Crowe and Dunlevy law firm, said that relationship sets the foundation for the ICWA and laws governing gambling, trade and environmental protection in tribal territories.

Challenges to Indian laws on the basis of race discrimination are not new. McBride referred to a pending federal court case out of Washington state in which casino company Maverick Gaming argued that tribes having the exclusive rights to certain kinds of



PHOTO ADOBE IMAGES

“If we were to lose on an equal protection challenge, there is no aspect of tribal sovereignty that isn’t at risk.”

CHRISSI ROSS NIMMO, the Cherokee Nation’s deputy attorney general and expert on Indian child welfare law.

gambling under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act created a discriminatory monopoly.

The cases have much in common. Both plaintiffs are represented by the Washington D.C. law firm Gibson Dunn. Both make the case that a federal Indian law discriminates based on race, and both pose a threat to the legal right of self-determination of tribes as their own governments.

The question of tribal sovereignty has been debated since Chief Justice John Marshall issued an opinion in the 1831 case Cherokee Nation v. Georgia, in which Marshall called tribes domestic dependent nations, said Gary Allison, a constitutional law professor at the University of Tulsa’s College of Law.

“By dependent, he meant that though they still have governmental existence, that existence is dependent upon a broader country allowing it,” Allison said, “That’s the whole basis for the sovereignty movement among Indian nations.”

The equal protection clause should not apply to tribes because they are recognized as sovereign nations in the constitution, Allison said, pointing out that Native people weren’t considered U.S. citizens until 1924.

Some States Plan For The Worst

Some state legislatures are trying to codify the language of the Indian Child Welfare Act to get ahead of the potential federal-level overturn.

Oklahoma is among 12 states with a form of the Indian Child Welfare Act in place, according to Turtle

TRIBAL PROTECTIONS *cont. A8*

TULSA'S BIG TEN BALLROOM HOSTED

TINA TURNER

IN FEBRUARY 1968

TINA TURNER *from AI*



TINA TURNER AND THE IKETTES (ESTHER JONES, GAIL STEVENS AND EDNA LEJEUNE RICHARDSON) performing in Hamburg in 1972. PHOTO WIKIWAND, CREATIVE COMMONS

In February of 1968, The Ike and Tina Turner Revue came to Tulsa to entertain the home crowd. Even back then, fans recall, at all of 29, Tina showed up at the North Tulsa-based Big Ten Ballroom with her self-styled diva glamour: killing it in a black miniskirt and white knee-high boots, prancing across from one corner of the stage to another, belting out A Fool in Love and other signature songs, all the while sweating up a river.

But that classic image is not the memory native Tulsan Maxayn Lewis recalls best about the performer that winter day. After the show, Tina and Ike pulled up in their limousine at Lewis’ parents’ house near Cheyenne Park in North Tulsa. Their tour bus followed and parked out front. Earlier that day, after an audition at the downtown Tulsa Mayo hotel, Tina and Ike had tapped Lewis - a recent college dropout known as Paulette Parker, as an Ikette, a backup singer for the Revue. But before she could join the crew, Lewis insisted that her parents had to sign off on the deal. Ike went into a corner room of the family house to talk to Lewis’ father, Emzie Parker.

Tina, exhausted, asked Lewis’ mom, Lorene Parker, “Do you mind if I take a shower?” After a long bubble bath, Tina tucked into a dinner of salmon croquettes, cole slaw, and potatoes that Lewis’ mom had prepared.

“That’s one of the best meals I’ve had in a long time,” Turner told Lorene. Tina then repaired to the bedroom for a nap.

A home girl at heart

Long before Tina Turner died on May 24, she had become a symbol of jet-set glamour. She amassed an estimated net worth of over \$200 million; together with her husband Erwin Bach, she owned a \$76.6 million chateau in the town of Küsnacht, Switzerland, on the edge of Zurich, and a villa in the French Riviera. When she traveled, she took her high style with her. Her lodging places of choice were The Ritz Carlton in Paris, the Adlon in Berlin, and other European luxury hotels. And no other room would do but the Presidential Suite.

But to the home crowd in Tulsa, particularly in the Black community, fans and those who worked with Tina knew her as unpretentious and approachable. Many said she reminded them of that sister or cousin who was always available to chat and could gab about anything.

“She was down to earth,” Lewis recalls. “She didn’t drink, smoke, or do drugs. Her idea of a party was to sit down to a good meal and have a good conversation.”

It’s the locals in communities across North Tulsa who would be Tina’s first and most loyal fan base. It was in clubs and performance halls in places like Memphis, Dallas, and Kansas City that she first connected with crowds as a performer and built her early following.

Appearances in Tulsa

Tina made infrequent stops in Tulsa, first with Ike - who she teamed up with from the early 1960s to 1976 - and later as a solo performer. The Ike and Tina Revue was several times a headliner at The Big Ten Ballroom on North Apache. It was the biggest performance space



MUSICIAN
TINA TURNER’S
signature. PHOTO
WIKIMEDIA COMMONS.
IKE AND TINA TURNER’S
INDUCTEE PAGE ON THE
ROCK & ROLL HALL OF
FAME WEBSITE

“She was down to earth,” Lewis recalls. “She didn’t drink, smoke, or do drugs. Her idea of a party was to sit down to a good meal and have a good conversation.”

MAXAYN LEWIS, Tulsan, Tina Turner fan.

in North Tulsa in that era. After Tina and Ike split, she was the first performer, in 1978, at Ziegfeld’s Theater, located at 71st and Sheridan. Her show there opened the doors for other big stars, including Ella Fitzgerald, BB King, Ray Charles, Loretta Lynch, and more.

Turner also staged a rollicking production at Tulsa’s Mabee Center in 1985 as part of her Private Dancer tour.

Every Tulsan of a certain age holds close to the memory of their first Tina Turner concert. Carmen Fields, a North Tulsa native, nationally recognized journalist, and daughter of renowned Tulsa musician Ernie Fields, remembers stealing into a show of Ike and Tina at the Big Ten Ballroom.

Native Tulsan Holly Owens, a physician in Las Vegas, recalls being dazzled by Tina’s performance at the Mabee Center. She belted out “River Deep, Mountain High,” “What’s Love Got to Do with It,” and other signature songs at the show.

A documentarian of the recently re-opened Big Ten Ballroom shared a story told by one of Tina’s early fans.

“As a child, she rode her bike over during rehearsal time for the Ike & Tina show,” the documentarian recalled. “She not only got inside, but she ended up in the dressing room sitting on Tina’s lap as she got ready for the show. The child’s parents received tickets to the show that evening too, which at the time cost 50 cents each. Such a wonderful example of an amazing woman with a heart of love!”

Big Ten reports that the dressing room has been kept close to what it was back then with their 2022 restoration.

Tina: Devoted to hard work and rock music

North Tulsa musicians who worked with Tina Turner cite her Herculean work ethic as one of her superpowers. Bobby Eaton Jr, a Tulsa-born bass player, and radio station owner, came to know Tina well in the early 1970s when he played with the Ike and Tina Turner Revue. (The group needed a bass player, and the GAP Band’s Charlie Wilson recommended Eaton to Ike Turner.) Turner hired the young Eaton and put him up in an apartment at the

TINA TURNER *cont. A6*

Red Bird: An Historic Oklahoma All-Black Town

By LARRY O’DELL, THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF OKLAHOMA HISTORY AND CULTURE

Red Bird, located in Wagoner County five miles southeast of Coweta, is one of more than fifty original All-Black towns of Oklahoma and one of only thirteen still existing.



The Barber and Ruffin families settled in the Red Bird community before 1900, and other families soon followed. The settlement attained a post office in 1902, with A. A. White as the first postmaster. In 1889 E. L. Barber, one of the town’s developers, organized the First Baptist Church, the largest church in Red Bird. He also became Red Bird’s first justice of the peace and served as an early mayor. The Red Bird Investment Company recruited African American families from all parts of the South to settle in the newly established town. More than six hundred people attended the grand opening

at Red Bird, August 10, 1907. By 1920 Red Bird’s population was 336. In 1919 Professor J. F. Cathey, the principal of the school, planned Miller Washington High School, which flourished until 1959 when it closed for lack of students. The high school and Red Bird City Hall are both listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Sharp’s Grocery/Masonic Hall and the Red Bird Drugstore, both constructed in 1910, are the two commercial properties listed in the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory. In 1938 I. W. Lane, a former mayor of Red Bird, successfully

challenged a law, similar to the grandfather clause, that made it difficult for African Americans to register to vote in Wagoner County. Like many rural towns in Oklahoma, Red Bird faced devastation and population decline brought about by falling cotton prices and by the onset of the Great Depression. In 1930 the population was 218. It rose and fell over the decades, reaching a high of 411 in 1950 but dropping to 310 in 1960 and 199 in 1980. At the beginning of the twenty-first century the town was steadily rebuilding, although the population stood at only 137 in 2010.

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

A SCENE IN RED BIRD (2012.201.B1078.0824, Oklahoma Publishing Company Photography Collection, OHS).

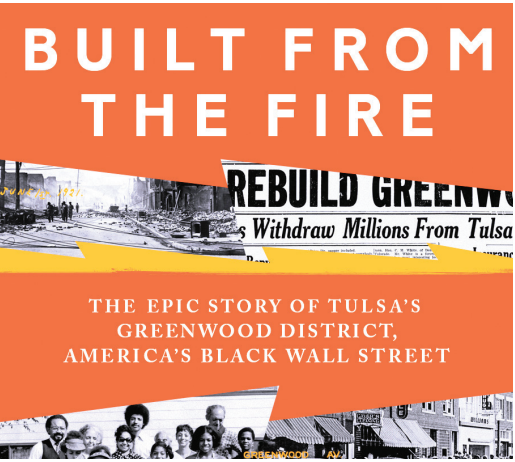
Featured Last Week



Public Funding, Private Schools In Oklahoma



‘Prayer & Politics’: Fairview Baptist Church Walks Tightrope with IRS code



Book Review: Victor Luckerson’s Built From The Fire

The Oklahoma Eagle

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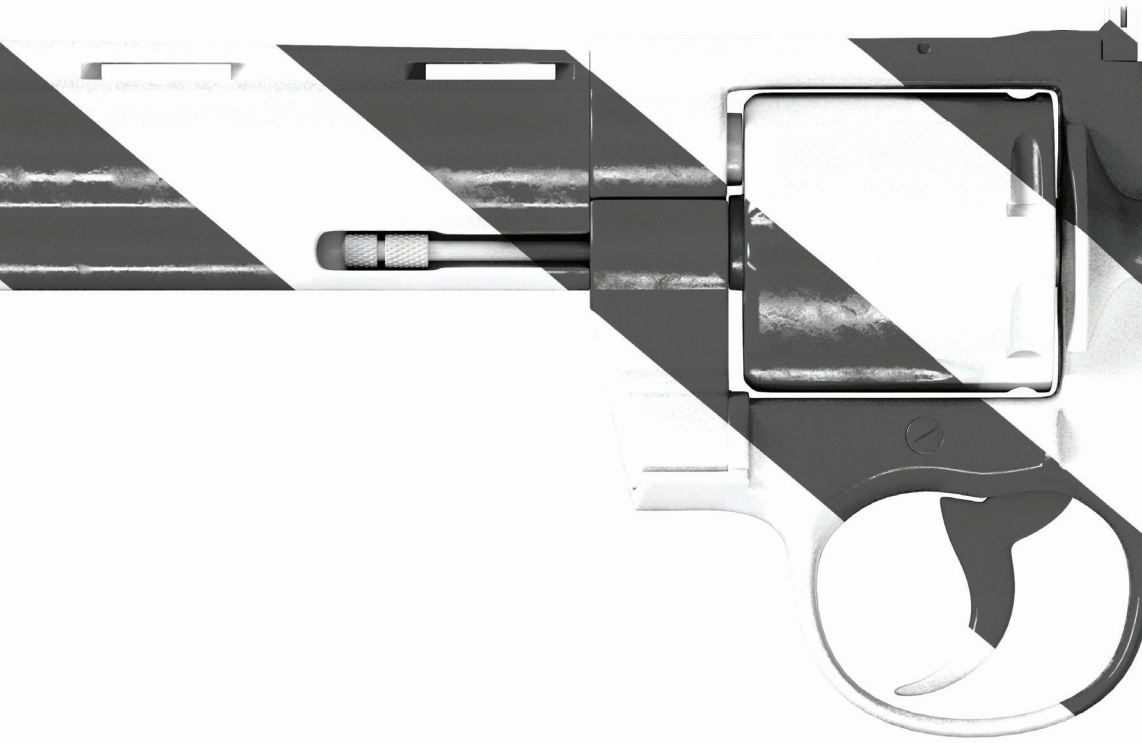
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Where Does Your Right To BEAR ARMS End and Mine Begin?

By **HIRAM JACKSON**, WORD IN BLACK
BEARING ARMS from AI

Faced with the mounting number of tragedies in the wake of the unprecedented and recurrent acts of violence in every sector of the nation, what is particularly disturbing about this social psychosis is that the wanton disregard for life continues to proliferate.



The Gun Violence Archive tracked more than 647 mass shootings in 2022 and 690 in 2021. Mass shootings are defined — which in and of itself is tragic that there is a national threshold — requires a minimum of four people shot to qualify.

And in 2023, we are already on par to beat our own staggering and despicable record, with more than 280 mass shootings in only 150 days of the year.

But the real frustration is that while we decry these senseless tragedies when they happen and stain the social conscience, they end up being a sound bite that invariably ends with “we have to do something.”

We haven’t done much, and that “doing something” is basically an ambiguous declaration for more investigations, studies, and analyses of why 10 shoppers at a Buffalo grocery store were mowed down, or why nine churchgoers were killed in Charleston, South Carolina, by one wayward but armed teen, and why entirely too many children are killed in schools, and at parties and in the streets.

It goes without saying that this latest wave of violence and terrorism is seeded in an enriched climate of cruelty and hatred for Black, Brown, Asian, Jewish, and LGBTQ persons. But these deranged killers don’t discriminate. They kill kids and students, parents and parishioners, the disabled and the disadvantaged.

Taking a deeper dive into the issues and incidents in our communities and shining a spotlight on the factors that contribute to the problem is a start, not a solution. Mass shootings, police-involved killings, and random acts of violence from rebels without a cause or conscience, are rooted in a distorted and dangerous need for power.

What’s absurd is that while an individual can carry out an act of what amounts to mass destruction, legislators charged with a duty to protect the public are unable or unwilling to effectively address and resolve to end these attacks on gender, race, color, and creed.

Stopping the violence is more than a matter of chronicling the incidents, studying the circumstances, and looking for explanations. The point is to get beyond the obligatory mourning period and mandate an end to the violence that is decimating communities and the country.

That well-meaning, but incredibly tired declaration that “something” has to be done is ambiguous at best, and an empty sound bite for politicians and government officials to deflect attention from their lack of action regarding the barrage of assaults on their constituents and the American public.

Certainly, they are earnest in their grief. They just don’t feel bad enough to make assault rifles and handguns illegal and prohibit questionable persons from buying any guns at all.

And then the NRA flexes its muscle and money to influence legislation and block attempts to stop the indiscriminate licenses to purchase guns. That “right to bear arms” argument has become passe.

The text of the Second Amendment that gun advocates hold onto so dearly, actually reads: “A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

That was written before organized law enforcement agencies were established and during a time when a militia was necessary to protect Americans against foreign adversaries.

We live in an increasingly vitriolic climate with distorted notions of what is allowable under the law, whether it’s a police officer shooting an unarmed citizen, or vigilantes exercising some bloated sense of power.

But when those who have real power — the power to mandate a stop to violence — don’t respond to these horrific tragedies by enacting and enforcing stricter gun laws, they will have to bear much of the responsibility for the terrorism we are witnessing. And the anarchy we saw at the nation’s capital on Jan. 6, 2021, was just a preview of what’s to come.



TINA TURNER, in NIA
Birmingham. PHOTO
SUE RECORDS, WIKIMEDIA
COMMONS

THE HARDEST WORKING WOMAN IN SHOW BUSINESS

TINA TURNER *from A3*

group’s Los Angles studio, Bolic Sound.

In an interview with The Oklahoma Eagle, Eaton remembers Tina as a “strait-laced, God-fearing, down-to-earth person.” He added, “She didn’t do crazy stuff. Her demeanor was all about the music. She loved rock ‘n’ roll. She would do the David Bowie kind of stuff, and she was good at it. I don’t know any female rockers who worked as much at rock and were as good at it as Tina.”

Lewis, who labored closely with Tina for four years as an Ikette, summed the star up succinctly: “Tina understood music as a business,” she said.

Lewis first witnessed Tina’s work ethic on the evening back in ’68 when she showed up at the Mayo Hotel in Tulsa to interview for the Ikette job. Within minutes of walking in the door, Tina had interviewed Lewis, given her face a makeover, and dolled her up in a wig, miniskirt, and tall boots.

“Look,” Tina said, pulling Lewis to a mirror. “You were made to be an Ikette.”

“She was the hardest working woman in show business,” Lewis recalled. “And when you joined the group, you were expected to keep up that pace. So, it was nothing for us to keep moving, dancing, and strutting for hours on end, day after day, week after week. It’s no wonder she – and all of us - were in such good shape.”

Remembered her humble past

Even after becoming a Swiss citizen in 2013, Turner seemed to retain something of her early roots as the person who was born as Anna Mae Bullock in 1939 in Nutbush, Tennessee, sang in the choir at Woodhaven

Missionary Baptist Church and played basketball at Carver High School.

Washington Rucker, a renowned drummer, and North Tulsa native, remembers Turner as an international superstar who never seemed to forget her humble past.

In the early 1990s, he spotted Turner sitting in front of a hotel in Gstaad, Switzerland, the beloved posh ski resort. Rucker greeted her and recalled seeing her in the 1960s with Ike at the Howard Theater in Washington, DC. She and I were staying in a DC basement, lamenting that they did not have the funds to pay for a trip to New York, where they had a gig at the Apollo Theater.

“So, things have changed for the better,” Rucker laughed.

“Yes,” Tina agreed. “They have changed. But we are still the way we were.”

Years later, in 2005, this Tulsan also had a Tina moment in Switzerland. The occasion was the Opera Ball at the vaunted Baur au Lac Hotel on Lake Zurich. Zurich’s glitterati gathered for the event. Heads turned backward when Tina, then a Swiss resident, arrived in a beige designer gown. Cocktails gave way to an elegant dinner and eventually to dancing.

As the evening wore on, dance partners changed from one to the next. And at one point, I found myself dancing with the queen of rock and roll. After two minutes, she rolled on, leaving this Tulsan starstruck.



IKE & TINA TURNER,
featured on the cover of Cash
Box magazine, 30 June 1962.
PHOTO SUE RECORDS, WIKIMEDIA
COMMONS



SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ADAM PUGH (R-EDMOND) AND SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE GREG TREAT (R-OKC) express their displeasure with Gov. Kevin Stitt's slate of vetoes Friday, April 27, 2023.

PHOTO TRES SAVAGE

Stitt's 'Tantrum'

With multiple members criticizing Gov. Kevin Stitt for throwing a “tantrum” in late April when he vetoed 20 “unrelated” bills in an effort to cajole the State Senate into supporting his proposed education compromise and tax cuts, the Oklahoma Legislature overrode 19 of the governor’s vetoes Thursday and Friday.

OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE ‘TANTRUM’ from AI

The measures crammed down the governor’s gullet and into law despite his objections included the sunset extension of the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority, a bill allowing more flexibility in representation of collegiate athletes in name, image and likeness matters, and a measure establishing a new Oklahoma State University Veterinary Medicine Authority.

But in a series of surprising moves that emphasized the discord between House and Senate leaders this year, five bills that were part of the Legislature’s apparent budget agreement did not make it to the finish line Friday. Lawmakers adjourned their annual regular session in the 3 p.m. hour, and they adjourned their concurrent special session on budget bills until an expected return of June 12.

That day could feature more fireworks than previously anticipated owing to the failure of two House budget bills in the Senate on Friday: HB 1022X to create a new “judicial performance evaluation” program; and HB 1026X to increase future statewide elected official pay.

In response to the Senate voting down two pieces of the chambers’ supposed budget agreement, the House chose not to hear three bills:

- SB 11 to turn the Tourism and Recreation Commission back into a governing body;
- SB 22 to establish a fund and rules for the Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture to receive \$18 million contingent on matched fundraising; and
- SB 27 to direct \$12.5 million to the County Community Safety Investment Fund, which was created to reallocate criminal justice reform savings to community mental health efforts in line with State Question 781.

“SB 22X and SB 27X were part of the budget deal, along with HB 1022X and HB 1026X that [the Senate] failed,” said House Appropriations and Budget Chairman Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) after adjournment. “We’re waiting on the Senate to uphold their end of the budget deal.”

Asked his reaction to the Senate voting down the two bills, Wallace said, “It’s par for the Senate.”

“They didn’t hear all the bills last year as well. This year they kill two bills, capture them and don’t bring them back up,” Wallace said. “It is interesting to me that this week the Senate wanted to (...) extend special session to June 30 but still come in on June 12. I think I’m starting to understand why.”

Asked if he had any comment about how the budget bills were handled, Senate Appropriations and Budget Chairman Roger Thompson (R-Okemah) spoke in general terms.

“All in all, I believe that it is a good year for the people of Oklahoma,” Thompson said. “I was honored to be a small part of the process.”

One veto override fails on House floor

The House failed one veto override attempt on HB 1236, a one-word bill changing “shall” to “may” in a state law about how attorney fees and sanctions are awarded when a lawsuit is dismissed by a judge on grounds related to First Amendment protections.

“House Bill 1236 would amend the Oklahoma Citizens Participation Act, which is designed to deter lawsuits intended to chill Oklahomans’ right of free speech, right to petition and right of association. Currently, defendants who secure dismissal of lawsuits under the act are entitled to mandatory costs, attorney fees, other expenses, and potential sanctions,” Stitt said in his veto message for HB 1236. “The

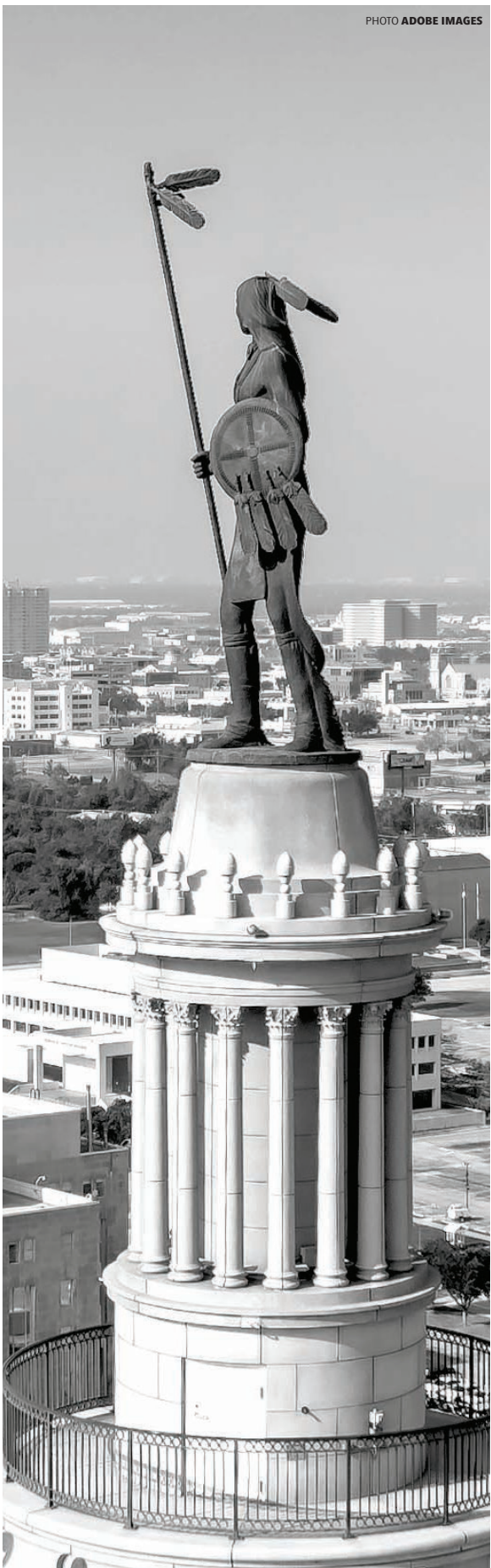


PHOTO ADOBE IMAGES

bill would make discretionary what is now mandatory. Such a change would undermine the act’s purpose, ensuring a greater frequency of frivolous lawsuits against Oklahomans exercising free speech. Although I would support an amendment providing for mandatory attorney fees only when a strategic lawsuit against public participation (SLAPP) is found to be frivolous, this amendment would go too far in relaxing a needed deterrent.”

When House Majority Floor Leader Jon Echols (R-OKC) presented the override on HB 1236, Rep. Danny Williams (R-Seminole) asked him whether the bill was being pushed by Paycom in connection to its pending lawsuit against the Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs.

“Would you believe that several people have told me that that goes into play here?” Williams asked. “I don’t really care about either one of those entities. What I do care about is the right of passage to get things done and not be disadvantaged as an individual versus a major corporation.”

Echols declined to answer directly, instead referencing the film Casablanca in his response.

“Would I be surprised there are rumors in the Capitol? I mean I would be shocked, shocked to learn there’s gambling in this establishment,” Echols said. “No, I would not be shocked to know that you heard a rumor. And again, I can’t speak for it one way or another.”

The House motion to override the HB 1236 veto failed 36-61, which means the bill will not become law. On Friday, 20 organizations spanning the political spectrum — from the ACLU to Americans for Prosperity — sent Stitt a letter of appreciation for his veto of HB 1236.

Senators offer sarcasm as they vote on overrides

In the Senate on Thursday morning, some lawmakers were more flippant than others in their remarks as they called up vetoed bills for override votes.

In moving to override the veto on SB 34 about youth tobacco access prevention, Senate Appropriations and Budget Vice Chairman Chuck Hall (R-Perry) started the morning off with a soliloquy about the legislative process and criticism of what he called Gov. Kevin Stitt’s 20-bill veto “tantrum” on April 26.

“I believe in government. I believe that what we do here in this building matters. I believe in the process. I believe that we introduce bills, that we hear those bills in committee, that we hear those bills on the floor, that the process repeats itself over in the House and then ultimately goes to the governor for his signature or veto,” Hall said. “Members, in my career, I have had veto messages come to me. Some of them I didn’t agree with, but at least there was a base behind it that made sense. Members, I’m reading a veto message related to this particular bill where the executive says until I get what I want I will be vetoing this unrelated policy. Members, this bill that was vetoed by the executive is not even a policy bill. All this bill does is point to references now that never existed in law before.

“And here we are taking up the time of the Senate to address a veto message that appears to me to be nothing more than a tantrum.”

Soon thereafter, Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) moved to override the veto on SB 123 and drew laughter from his colleagues.

“SB 123 is as simple as it sounds. There’s no logical reason nor rational thinking that can veto this bill. It’s not policy. It’s just a simple correction of a scrivener’s error scooped into a pile and discarded offhand,” said

OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE ‘TANTRUM’ cont. A8



LONGSTANDING *tribal protections at risk with recent SCOTUS decision*

TRIBAL PROTECTIONS *from A2*

Talk, a blog run by three Indian law professors in Michigan. Four other states considered similar laws this year. All failed or stalled in committee.

Nimmo said if any part of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act is overturned on the basis of racial discrimination, those state laws will also likely be ruled unconstitutional in state courts.

Oklahoma passed its version in 1982. While the state law adds some protections for Oklahoma tribes by requiring the state to notify them of all child welfare cases involving Indian children, Nimmo said it doesn't adopt the full language of the ICWA, making it unclear if the state statute would survive a constitutional challenge.

"The federal act only requires tribes to be notified of involuntary proceedings. The Oklahoma Indian Child Welfare Act requires the state to notify tribes of both involuntary and voluntary child welfare proceedings," Nimmo said.

Voluntary means the parents of the child consent to foster care and adoption, while involuntary means the state is taking a child against the wishes of the parents.

"I don't know if that enhanced notification requirement survives if the underlying law were to be struck," Nimmo said. "But it might, because it is the state's policy to cooperate with Indian tribes."

Overturning of the Indian Child Welfare Act wouldn't automatically reverse all federal Indian laws in Oklahoma and beyond, but it would open the door for rampant lawsuits challenging them.

- CHRISSE ROSS NIMMO, the Cherokee Nation's deputy attorney general and expert on Indian child welfare law.

How Life In Oklahoma Could Change

Overturning of the Indian Child Welfare Act wouldn't automatically reverse all federal Indian laws in Oklahoma and beyond, but it would open the door for rampant lawsuits challenging them, Nimmo said.

She used the attempts to dismantle tribal gaming laws as an example. The overturn of the ICWA would mean the race-based argument in the Maverick Gaming case would gain precedent. If gambling is extended to private and government entities beyond native tribes and their members via a court decision, revenues it yields to those tribes will also be spread out, she said.

Tribal gaming revenues fund social services, environmental protection and disaster relief in their nations. While those funds are supplemented by federal dollars, reduced gaming revenue would mean less money allocated by the tribes to provide for

their citizens. The chipping away of tribes' ability to self-govern could be carried out one lawsuit at a time, Nimmo said.

Tribes also use money they collect to bolster non-Native infrastructure within their reservations, Nimmo said. For example, the Cherokee Nation uses money collected from allowing its citizens to register vehicle tags to donate to public schools within its boundaries, as well as volunteer fire stations and municipal police departments.

"These are all things that Cherokee Nation provides in our community, not just to Cherokee citizens. If they're giving money to volunteer fire departments, that impacts everyone," she said.

Overturning the ICWA would be devastating to native and non-native communities in the state, said Sarah Adams, a Choctaw Nation citizen and co-founder of the non-profit Matriarch, which focuses on promoting social welfare for

Native women through education, community building, and other direct services.

"Our tribes contribute so much to our state that without them our schools would be less funded, our roads would be worse, our infrastructure would be worse," Adams said. "Not to mention the cultural piece we add to the state."

Adams said tribes and the communities they support across the state are threatened under the guise of deciding what's best for native children in foster care.

"It can be seen as another step in the genocide of our people," Adams said. "It's about the survival of a people, of cultures, languages, of ceremony and art. It's everything. And the fallout always happens first for women and children."

LIONEL RAMOS is a Report for America corps member who covers race and equity issues for Oklahoma Watch. Contact him at 405-905-9953 or lramos@oklahomawatch.org. Follow him on Twitter at @LionelRamos_.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN *Oklahoma's Education Funding Package*

OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE 'TANTRUM' *from A7*

Gollihare, an attorney. "I jokingly referred to it as my landmark legislation. And maybe it is. Landmark means a case or law that is studied because it has historical (...) significance. I think to the governor's veto, this bill achieved that status."

Later in the morning, Hall moved to override SB 623, a bill he claimed "was a request by the governor himself."

When Senate Floor Leader Greg McCortney (R-Ada) moved to override the veto on SB 249, he also took a dig at Stitt.

"During a recent tantrum, the chief executive of the state indicated he did not think it was important for hospice patients in nursing homes to have quick access to pain medication," McCortney said.

To override vetoes, both chambers of the Legislature must vote with two-thirds support of their chamber to push the bill into law despite the governor's objection. Overrides of vetoed bills must begin in their chamber of origin and then be voted on by the opposite chamber.

Thursday, Senate President Pro Tempore Greg Treat (R-OKC) discussed his reaction to Stitt's 20 vetoes on April 26.

"I've said publicly and I've said privately to him that I thought it was beneath the dignity of



A FIFTH GRADER raised his hand on Jan. 11, 2023, at Lawton Academy for Arts and Sciences, a private school in a warehouse district. PHOTO WHITNEY BRYEN/OKLAHOMA WATCH

his office. I haven't wavered on that opinion," Treat said. "That doesn't mean I can't work with him or have a good relationship with him, but I felt that was a very inappropriate use of that authority and power. Not that he is precluded from being able to do it, but I just thought it was an abuse of that power."

Stitt calls override of OETA veto 'unbelievable'

Of all the bills Stitt vetoed and that the Legislature pushed into law despite his objections, HB 2820 to extend the sunset on the Oklahoma Educational Television

Authority received the most public and national attention.

"The OETA oversees the provision of educational television systems and services provided by and through various educational and cultural agencies," Stitt wrote in his veto message for HB 2808. "Although the OETA may have played a principal role in the provision of educational television services at one time, today the OETA's long-term, strategic value is at best unclear, if not outright imagined."

Members of the Legislature initially expressed surprise at the OETA sunset extension veto, with some senators ultimately believing Stitt vetoed the bill as a red-meat political distraction on the same day he axed the 20 "unrelated" Senate bills.

On May 1, NonDoc requested records between Feb. 1 and April 30 from Stitt's office for "any and all communications referencing 'OETA,' the 'Oklahoma Educational Television Authority' or 'PBS' sent by text message, email or memo" among, from or to:

- Stitt
- Chief of staff Brandon Tatum
- Director of communications Carly Atchison
- Press secretary Kate Vesper; and
- Secretary of State Brian Bingman.

OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE 'TANTRUM' *cont. A9*



GOV. KEVIN STITT answers questions during a press conference on Friday, May 26, 2023, the final day of the annual regular session of the Oklahoma Legislature. PHOTO TRES SAVAGE

Wins & Losses

It’s unbelievable that conservative Republicans would override that bill. – CHRISSI ROSS NIMMO, the Cherokee Nation’s deputy attorney general and expert on Indian child welfare law.

OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE ‘TANTRUM’ from A8

The Stitt administration provided about 2,000 pages of responsive emails May 22. Most of the emails involved news tracking service reports that included OETA stories or references. Some emails involved an interview the governor ultimately conducted with a journalist producing a story for OETA. Other emails involved subsequent media requests and responses regarding Stitt’s veto of HB 2820, including a list of seven programs or episodes aired on OETA and PBS that referenced LGBTQ characters or issues.

SB 249

Broadens a hospice exemption for access to controlled dangerous substances.

None of the emails involved discussion of OETA’s sunset extension or funding prior to Stitt’s veto. One email referenced Stitt’s fall 2022 veto of American Rescue Plan Act funding the Legislature attempted to dedicate to tower upgrades for OETA. (Lawmakers did not override that veto.) Thursday evening, Atchison, Stitt’s former communications director who departed his administration last week in effort of a national political campaign, tweeted a one-word acronym in response to the OETA veto override: RINOs, which stands for “Republicans In Name Only.”

Friday, Stitt expressed similar confusion about Republicans refusing to eliminate a public television network. “It’s unbelievable that conservative Republicans would override that bill,” Stitt said, again saying LGBTQ issues should not be referenced in PBS content. “Using taxpayer dollars to get into these social issues, I’m just adamantly opposed to it.”

Full list of vetoes overridden by the Legislature
In all, the Oklahoma Legislature overrode Stitt’s vetoes on 19 bills, including 14 Senate bills:

- **SB 249** broadens a hospice exemption for access to controlled dangerous substances;
- **SB 291** modifies eligibility for the filing of petitions for emergency protective orders;
- **SB 299** extends the sunset date for the Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education;
- **SB 429** requires Oklahoma public

- school districts to allow students who are tribal citizens to wear tribal regalia;
- **SB 563** modifies Medicaid reimbursement rates for anesthesia;
- **SB 617** modifies definitions related to where lawsuits can be filed against corporations and limited liability companies;
- **SB 623** includes a series of changes regarding Service Oklahoma;
- **SB 711** requires the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to provide emergency opioid antagonists — such as naloxone — and requires the Department of Corrections and county jails to provide emergency opioid antagonists to certain persons on certain conditions;
- **SB 712** requires the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to provide emergency opioid antagonists — such as naloxone — and requires hospitals to distribute them to certain persons upon discharge;
- **SB 772** creates new notification requirements to the Attorney General’s Office within 45 days of a variety of actions;
- **SB 775** modifies rules regarding continuing education eligibility for county employees;
- **SB 840** modifies the Student Athlete Name, Image and Likeness Rights Act to allow more people other than attorneys to represent athletes in NIL deals;
- **SB 841** includes aftermarket crash part repair facilities under wrecker and towing service rates established by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission;
- **SB 951** increases the travel allowance for county commissioners and sheriffs.

Five vetoes were overridden on House bills:

HB 2820

Extends the sunset for the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority.

- **HB 1843** changes from the Oklahoma Insurance Department to the Attorney General’s Office the duty to “review and approve retail pharmacy network access for all pharmacy benefits managers” in state law;
- **HB 2255** is an omnibus license plate bill that Stitt vetoed owing to a proposed plate recognizing the University of Kansas;
- **HB 2263** modifies membership of the Oklahoma Turnpike Commission, decreasing the gubernatorial

- appointees and adding appointees from leaders of both legislative chambers;
- **HB 2820** extends the sunset for the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority;
- **HB 2863** creates the Oklahoma State University Veterinary Medical Authority to support the College of Veterinary Medicine at OSU. Other vetoes stand — for now

SB 267

Would increase membership of and broadens jurisdictional areas for the Advancement of Wellness Advisory Council.

On Thursday, the House voted 68-22 to override the veto on HB 1612. But when regular session adjourned Friday afternoon, the Senate had not taken up an override vote on HB 1612, which proposes making the crime of shooting into a building used for public purposes an “85 percent” crime requiring offenders to serve that percentage of any jail term. Echols, the House floor leader, said after adjournment that remaining vetoed bills could be considered for further overrides at the start of the 2024 regular session, which will be the second session of the 59th Legislature. Echols said the House “could have” overrode other vetoes Friday but ultimately decided not to. “We looked at each override one-by-one and figured out what we thought made sense and what could wait,” Echols said. “They’re all alive next session. It’s just a timing issue.”

The 13 vetoed bills that the Senate overrode but that the House did not were:

- **SB 34** would modify statutory references to refer to other changes in law regarding youth access to tobacco;
- **SB 58** would extend the sunset date for the board of governors for licensed architects, landscape architects and commercial interior designers;
- **SB 60** would extend the sunset date for the Board of Chiropractic Examiners;
- **SB 123** would clarify language related to the state’s parole process;
- **SB 125** would reduce from monthly to quarterly the required frequency of meetings of the governing boards of law libraries;
- **SB 162** would extend the sunset date for the Board of Examiners of Psychologists;

- **SB 267** would increase membership of and broadens jurisdictional areas for the Advancement of Wellness Advisory Council;

SB 395

Would allow Oklahomans to make an income tax refund donation for Recovering Oklahomans After Disaster.

- **SB 369** would expand the list of criminal convictions and pleadings that constitute prohibition to be hired for employment at a nursing home to include human trafficking and any crime that results in registration as a sex offender;
- **SB 395** would allow Oklahomans to make an income tax refund donation for Recovering Oklahomans After Disaster;
- **SB 479** would codify changes in definitions about uniformed service to include service in the Space Force;
- **SB 715** would modify the Open Records Act to require an agency denying a records request to provide notification of the denial. The bill also references an existing court appeal process and states a judge may order release of the records “if the court finds that the public interest in the records outweighs the privacy interest” and states the judge may award attorney fees and court costs for the requestor.
- **SB 889** would modify definitions for milk to specify derivation from “hoofed mammals”;
- **SB 976** would create the Invasive Species Task Force.

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



OKLAHOMA BROADBAND UPGRADE

Efforts Gaining Speed

By **MICHAEL McNUTT**, NonDoc

OKLAHOMA BROADBAND

The Oklahoma Broadband Office, which is poised to disburse as much as \$1.6 billion to internet service providers to establish high-speed internet for underserved areas of Oklahoma, seems to be moving from a dial-up pace to one more closely fitting to its name..

Work to create an updated broadband service map for the state should be completed in August, about the same time the OBO plans to award proposals to internet service providers who submitted plans last year to provide service to areas of the state with no or poor levels of high-seed internet service.

Similarly, work on OBO’s five-year plan should be completed in November, said Edyn Rolls, the agency’s director of broadband strategy.

Data show more than one-in-five Oklahoma residents — about 830,000 people — lack access to dependable high-speed internet.

The Legislature has allocated about \$382 million of federal American Rescue Plan Act money to the OBO to fund various projects across the state.

Bids came in totaling more than 10 times the amount of the available ARPA funds. The OBO received 133 broadband requests for about \$4.3 billion worth of proposed projects. Those requests are being reviewed by a committee of the agency’s Broadband Governing Board.

In addition, the OBO is anticipating it will administer another \$1.2 billion in other federal grant funds, with the goal of providing high-speed internet service to the vast majority of Oklahomans by June 2028, at which point the Oklahoma Broadband Office will be closed.

OBO executive director Mike Sanders said his office has been told it should know by the end of June how much money it will ultimately receive to allocate from the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment program. Funds from other federal agencies will be made known later in the year.

Internet service providers will be asked to submit proposals for those funds. The BEAD funds and other grants, such as those from the Digital Equity Act, have different criteria than the ARPA money, which has to be spent by Dec. 31, 2026.

“The good thing is if they don’t get the ARPA money, they can reapply for the BEAD money and the DEA money,” Sanders said. “We’ll know more as the summer goes on how much those pots are going to have.”

Rolls said those considered to be unserved are those who have internet service with a download speed of less than 25 megabits per second (Mbps) and an upload speed of less than 3 Mbps. Residents are considered underserved if their internet service has a download speed of less than 100 Mbps and an upload speed of less than 20 Mbps.

A good download speed is at least 100Mbps, and a good upload speed is at least 10 Mbps, according to HighSpeedInternet.com. With 100Mbps, you can easily watch Netflix or YouTube, attend Zoom meetings and play most online games on several devices at the same time.

Sanders said the goal is to get internet service throughout the state at a download speed of at least 100 Mbps and an upload speed of also at least 100 Mbps.

With such a massive undertaking and a project that will receive about \$1.6 billion of federal funds, competition is intense among internet service providers of all sizes. Travis Greer, director of the professional services division for AirWave Broadband in Ralston, showed up at the May 9 meeting of the Oklahoma Broadband Governing Board requesting that smaller companies and communities of 200 people or less are not overlooked.

“Rural is our top priority,” said Oklahoma Broadband Governing Board Chairman Mike Fina after that meeting.

Sanders, a former state representative from Kingfisher, agreed. “The need is unserved and underserved, and most of those areas are in rural areas,” Sanders said. “Our charge is to take care of the unserved and underserved. (...) There are doughnuts. There are pockets here in suburban or even urban areas that have doughnut holes — as I like to call them — that don’t have it, but the vast majority are in the rural areas.”

The OBO office is developing a map showing the availability and speeds of broadband services across the state, which will be helpful in determining where work to upgrade services should take place. Residents who want to examine their internet service options can check out a Federal Communications Commission map posted on the OBO’s website.

The OBO was created in HB 3363, which was enacted last year. Its nine-member governing board is responsible for broadband expansion policy and overseeing the broadband office.

Most of the time this past year has been dedicated to setting up the office and hiring an executive director, which was pushed back nearly a month in March when the OBO’s governing board reconsidered an earlier choice and instead hired Sanders, who started his duties with the OBO last month.

Oklahoma City meeting attracts no regular internet customers Earlier this month, the Oklahoma Broadband Office began holding meetings across the state to tell residents about its plans and to hear comments from people in those communities.

About 50 people turned out for Monday’s meeting at the Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library in Oklahoma City. Most said they were professionally connected with internet service providers or a government agency. Others identified with a nonprofit organization or a school. None were there simply as internet customers or residents without internet service. Several at the meeting said it might have been difficult for citizens to attend because of the day and time, the hassle of finding a parking space downtown, or people being unaware of the meeting.

Those attending said they wanted a clear, transparent process to ensure funds are used to accomplish OBO’s goal of providing internet services to the unserved and underserved in the state.

They also said rural areas have been left out in the past, emphasizing that those living in rural communities deserve reliable, high-speed internet service.

Jabar Shumate, vice president of community convening and social justice with the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City, said the OBO should keep in mind that residents in urban areas also lack high-speed internet services, especially in under-resourced communities.

“We want to make sure they don’t get left out,” he said. “Especially in under-resourced communities, you have to have a trusted partner, folks that can engage individuals that they trust to get them appropriate information in order to explore some of the challenges they have.”

Should Oklahoma Broadband Office reopen bidding process? Shumate, a former state senator, said he was disappointed about the lack of progress made by OBO in the past year, but he said he has been encouraged since Sanders, with whom he served in the Legislature for several years, has come on board as the agency’s executive director.

“It’s taken a while for the state to get visible and moving,” Shumate said. “I’m really optimistic with the new director. I know of his work from the Legislature, so I’m very optimistic now seeing the rollout of the office, the plan.”

Gus Sanchez, a senior government account executive with T-Mobile who manages the state of Oklahoma, said the OBO should reopen the bidding process for the ARPA funds, saying technological advances have occurred making such services as 5G wireless more practical and more cost-efficient. Building infrastructure and installing lines underground will be expensive. It’s been estimated it would cost about \$120,000 per mile to lay fiber in the granite found in many areas of southeast Oklahoma.

“When this plan was put together, 5G hadn’t matured,” Sanchez said. “If the goal is to deliver as quickly as possible to the citizens, there are better ways and more cost-effective ways.”

Asked about the possibility of reopening the process to seek proposals, Sanders expressed hesitation.

“When you open it up, then what happens is those who had played by the rules and got it in by the time they were asked, that puts us in a very precarious situation,” Sanders said. “I would have hoped that some of the folks that were interested should have done it when we asked them to do it.”

The OBO is going through an exhaustive scoring metrics and challenge process on the proposals, he said.

“All of those have to be done right,” Sanders said. “We’re going to make sure that’s done right before one thing is announced.”

During the OKC community meeting, unavailable service and internet service being too expensive were the two highest reasons given why people do not subscribe to home internet service in their communities.

Rolls, the OBO’s director of broadband strategy, reminded those in attendance about the federal government’s Affordable Connectivity Program. Eligible households can receive up to a \$30-per-month discount toward internet service. Those living on qualified tribal lands can get a discount up to a 75 per month. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price.

A household is eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program if a member of the household has an income that is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline, or participates in tribal-specific programs, such as Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.

The OBO is scheduled to continue its sessions across the state through next month. Residents are encouraged to register at oklahoma.gov/broadband/outreach for any of the remaining stops, which are all set for a 4:30 p.m. start time:

- May 26 — Chickasha
- June 2 — Altus
- June 6 — Sallisaw
- June 8 — Sulphur
- June 9 — Lawton
- June 13 — Ada
- June 20 — Okmulgee
- June 22 — Goodwell
- June 23 — Woodward

Residents, business owners, farmers and ranchers, leaders, members of tribal communities, and representatives for schools, hospitals, nonprofits and other community organizations are encouraged to attend the events.



THIS IMAGE provided by the U.S. Postal Service shows the new stamp honoring Native American civil rights leader Chief Standing Bear, issued on Friday, May 12, 2023. Standing Bear won a landmark court ruling in 1879 recognizing that Native Americans are entitled to inherent rights under the law. Art director Derry Noyes designed the stamp. PHOTO U.S. POSTAL SERVICE VIA AP

HONORING PONCA TRIBE CHIEF from AI

The release of the stamp of Chief Standing Bear comes 146 years after the Army forced him and about 700 other members of the Ponca tribe to leave their homeland in northeast Nebraska and walk 600 miles (965 kilometers) to the Indian Territory in Oklahoma. Chief Standing Bear was arrested and imprisoned in Fort Omaha when he and others tried to return. This prompted him to file a lawsuit that led to an 1879 ruling ordering his release and finding that a Native American is a person with a right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

“For so long people didn’t know his story or the Ponca story — our own trail of tears,” Candace Schmidt, chairwoman of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska said. “We are finally able to tell his story of perseverance and how we as a tribe are resilient.”

Judi M. gaiashkibos, executive director of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs, called the issuing of a Chief Standing Bear stamp a milestone that she hopes “provokes necessary conversations about race, sovereignty and equality in the United States.”

“It’s remarkable, that the story of Nebraska Native American civil rights leader Chief Standing Bear has progressed from a native man being considered a non-person by the U.S. Government in 1879, to today, being recognized by the Postal Service with a stamp honoring him as an American icon,” gaiashkibos said.

The Postal Service, which released the stamp at a ceremony Friday in Lincoln, Nebraska, has printed 18 million stamps. The stamp features a portrait of Chief Standing Bear by illustrator Thomas Blackshear II, based on a black and white photograph taken in 1877, the Postal Service said.

More than 100 members of the Ponca tribe died during or soon after the forced journey to Oklahoma, including Chief Standing Bear’s only son. It was a desire to have his son buried in their homeland in Nebraska’s Niobrara River Valley that resulted in the return of Chief Standing Bear and 29 others and their subsequent arrest.

According to the National Park Service, two Omaha attorneys represented Chief Standing Bear at a two-day trial before Judge Elmer S. Dundy in U.S. District Court in Omaha. The government appealed Dundy’s ruling that Chief Standing Bear and other arrested members of his tribe were “persons” but the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the case.

The Ponca members were freed and returned to their old reservation along the Niobrara River, where Chief Standing Bear died in 1908.

A congressional investigation later determined the government wrongly gave away the Ponca homeland and removed the tribe, leading to congressional legislation in 1881 that gave some compensation to members of the tribe. In 1924, an issue that arose in the 1879

“For so long people didn’t know his story or the Ponca story — our own trail of tears.”

- CANDACE SCHMIDT, chairwoman of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska.

trial was resolved when Congress approved a law that conferred citizenship on all Native Americans born in the United States.

The federal government terminated the Ponca tribe of Nebraska in 1966 but the tribe regained federal recognition in 1990. Schmidt said the Ponca now has about 5,500 members, operates three health clinic and offers numerous services to members.

“We’re doing really well,” she said.

There is a separate Ponca tribe in Oklahoma.

Anton G. Hajjar, vice chairman of the Postal Service Board of Governors, said the post office has been issuing stamps that honor the legacy of great Americans since the 1800s. In issuing the stamp of Chief Standing Bear, Hajjar noted, “It took our country far too long to recognize the humanity in many of its people – including the American Indians who lived in these lands for thousands of years.”

The Postal Service previously has issued stamps honoring Native Americans including Pocahontas, Chief Joseph, Sequoyah, Red Cloud, Sitting Bull and Jim Thorpe.

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What lawmakers **DID & DIDN'T DO** for Voters and Election Officials

By **KEATON ROSS**, OKLAHOMA WATCH
OK ACCOUNTABILITY. VOTING from AI

State lawmakers opted not to sweeping changes to Oklahoma’s voting laws, instead focusing on measures aimed at cracking down on threats or fraud ahead of the 2024 presidential election cycle.

As the Legislature’s 2023 session winded down Friday, here’s a look at how state lawmakers approached voting and election administration policy:

The Big Impact: Election officials statewide have new legal protections as the 2024 presidential election cycle approaches. Senate Bill 481 classifies threatening, harassing, intimidating or doxing an election official as a misdemeanor offense punishable by up to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine. State Election Board Secretary Paul Ziriaux said the bill is necessary to protect officials recently targeted by individuals who falsely believe there is widespread voter fraud in Oklahoma.

“As one of those who has been doxed and threatened, I can tell you that election officials across this state are very grateful to the Legislature and the Governor for taking these threats seriously and enacting this legislation to deter and punish such actions in the future,” Ziriaux said in a statement. “All election workers should be able to serve our state and perform their civic duties without fear of threats and harassment.”

Poll workers are also set to receive a significant pay bump. Senate Bill 290, which takes effect on July 1, 2024, raises the daily compensation for precinct judges and clerks from \$100 to \$200 per day. Inspectors, who act as the lead precinct official, will receive \$225 per day when the measure takes effect next year.

“It is incredibly important that we recruit and retain poll workers as there has been a shortage in recent years,” bill sponsor Warren Hamilton, R-McCurtain, said in a statement on Thursday. “Increasing compensation is the least we can do for these dedicated community members who often work 12 to 14 hours on election day.”

Also Notable: Oklahoma is opting against joining an interstate organization that helps states root out fraud and boost voter registration.

House Bill 2052 forbids the state from joining any voter list maintenance group that requires outreach to eligible but unregistered voters. That would effectively bar the state from joining the Electronic Registration Information Center, an interstate cooperative that helps states identify duplicate registrations and out-of-state movers.

The Legislature authorized the organization in 2021, with lawmakers

‘Increasing compensation is the least we can do for these dedicated community members who often work 12 to 14 hours on election day.’ - WARREN HAMILTON, R-MCCURTAIN



POLL WORKER BARBARA PENNINGTON holds a book of voter names while a Norman voter signs before receiving her ballot on March 7, 2023. Pennington has been volunteering as a poll worker for four years and said she has never worked the same location twice. PHOTO **WHITNEY BRYEN/OKLAHOMA WATCH**

lauding the organization’s ability to help states keep their voter rolls clean and reach people who aren’t registered to vote. But cost and data privacy concerns, along with dissatisfaction with recent board-level decisions, have caused lawmakers and the state’s top election official to sour on partnering with the organization.

Left Behind: Proposals seeking to add requirements to Oklahoma’s initiative petition process, which organizers say is already among the most stringent in the nation among states that allow voters to put a question on the ballot, didn’t gain traction.

Most of the measures, including resolutions to mandate signature collection in all 77 counties and require questions raising state government expenditures to receive at least 60% approval to take effect, would have required approval from a majority of voters to take effect.

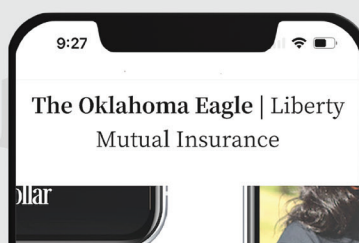
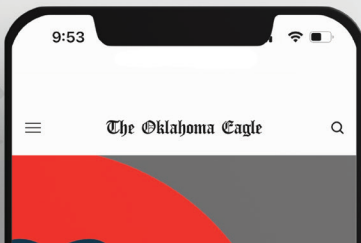
An exception was Senate Bill 518, which proposed implementing a \$750 filing fee for initiative petitions and increasing the number of data points necessary to verify a signature. The measure cleared the Senate but failed to win approval in the House.

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](https://twitter.com/_KeatonRoss).

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Meet the Doctor Turning Health Struggles Into Sweet Success



PHOTO COURTESY OF TABATHA CARR

By **BRIA OVERS**, WORD IN BLACK
GOOD GIRL CHOCOLATE *from AI*

Tabatha Carr, owner of Good Girl Chocolate, went from facing a health crisis to launching a business that puts sweet treats in Whole Foods.

Health issues are all too common in the Black community. And Tabatha Carr, the Oklahoma City-based naturopathic doctor behind Good Girl Chocolate, knows this on a personal level.

At 16, Carr’s doctor prescribed her a blood pressure medication. She was a teenager weighing over 200 pounds and wearing a size 22.

Despite her efforts to make positive lifestyle changes, at 30- years- old, she went from one blood pressure medication to three, was diagnosed with pre-diabetes, and struggled with hormonal challenges.

With her family’s history of health issues — including heart attacks, dialysis, and hysterectomies — she had to make a choice: opt for surgery and more medication, or make a significant lifestyle change.

Her health journey led to her shedding 80 pounds and finding a lifelong mission of helping women with health experiences similar to her own. She works with those struggling with anxiety, stress, diabetes, high blood pressure, and weight loss.

And it’s led to her founding a business, too. In 2018, she launched Good Girl Chocolate, a brand with treats that are dairy-free, gluten-free, soy-free, preservative-free, and made with non-GMO organic plant-based sweeteners.

“Basically, it doesn’t have any ingredient in it that would cause inflammation in the body,” she says.

She sees her business as a way to help people experience the pleasures of chocolate without guilt. And it hasn’t been easy, with hurdles to jump over, like the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I wanted to bring something to my community and the world that’s actually clean,” Carr told Word In Black. “When we think about indulging in sweets or desserts, we typically think we can only eat them occasionally. I want folks to know that chocolate can taste good and still be clean.”

The New Farm-to-Table Is Bean-to-Bar

Good Girl Chocolate carries a range of products, like milk chocolates, dark chocolates, and brownie bars with five ingredients or less. Carr roasts and grinds her cocoa beans for an overall three-day process.

“There are very few Black chocolate factories,” she says. “We’re more than just a chocolate company. I’m more than just a chocolatier. We’re a bean-to-bar chocolate factory making chocolate from scratch.”

Good Girl Chocolate opened its factory at the Penn Square Mall in July 2021. The original plan was to open in 2020, but with the pandemic, they had to slow things down.

According to the Federal Reserve, more than 700,000 businesses closed from March to June 2020, accounting for nearly three million job losses. Fortunately, Carr says, she didn’t have to lay off any of her staff or close her business.

While facing the challenges of the pandemic, Carr applied for the BeyGOOD Black-Owned Small Business Impact Fund, a \$10,000 grant provided by Beyoncé Knowles-Carter’s public charity foundation.

She remembers applying for it right before the deadline. A few weeks later, she noticed her chocolate on the foundation’s Instagram page.

“That money helped tremendously because we were just ramping up and getting started, and then COVID hit,” she says.

The Future of Good Girl Chocolate

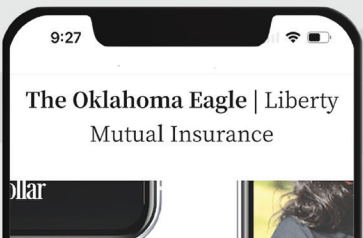
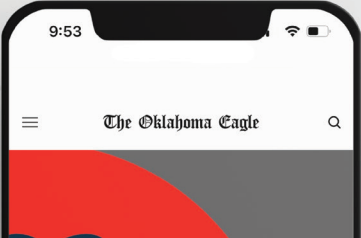
Carr is focused on growing her business and doing it successfully. Her chocolates are now available in the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport in Texas and Tulsa International Airport in Oklahoma.

Good Girl Chocolate was also part of the Grammy Awards gifting in 2019 and 2023.

Her next big launch? Having her products in Whole Foods stores in the southwest region starting in June 2023 and then expanding to stores nationwide.

Good Girl Chocolate was selected to be part of Whole Foods Market’s Local and Emerging Accelerator Program. The program provides partnerships, mentorships, education, and a potential opportunity for financial support of \$25,000.

“You just have to be lean. A lot of minority businesses either fail or give up because of the lack of resources and support,” Carr says. “But I know that I not only have something good and fantastic — I have something unique. I have something that stands out in the market, putting me in a very, very good position.”





A PROCEDURE ROOM at the Tulsa Women's Clinic. PHOTO RIP STELL FOR OKLAHOMA WATCH

What lawmakers **DID & DIDN'T DO** for Healthcare Providers, Patients

By KEATON ROSS, OKLAHOMA WATCH

OK ACCOUNTABILITY, HEALTHCARE from AI

House and Senate Republicans moved quickly to advance a bill outlawing certain transgender youth healthcare, but measures clarifying or carving out exceptions in the state's near-total abortion ban stalled early in the legislative process.

Here's a look at what state lawmakers did and didn't do on healthcare policy during the 2023, which ended Friday:

The Big Impact: Lawmakers passed a bill barring Oklahomans 18 and under from receiving gender-affirming care, though the state attorney general's office has agreed to delay its enforcement while a lawsuit challenging the measure is pending.

Senate Bill 613 prohibits healthcare providers from performing transition surgeries and giving puberty blockers to children and adolescents 17 and under. Physicians suspected of violating the terms of the law may be charged with a felony, face civil action and risk losing their professional licensing.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oklahoma filed a lawsuit earlier this month seeking to overturn SB613, saying it unjustly targets transgender youth and violates their right to healthcare under the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. Attorney General Gentner Drummond agreed last week to temporarily block enforcement of the measure, saying in a statement the pause will give the state time to "mount the strongest possible defense" as the case progresses through federal court.

Federal judges have temporarily blocked similar bans on transgender youth healthcare passed in Arkansas and Alabama.

Also Notable: Beginning in November, fentanyl testing strips will be added to a list of items excluded from being classified as drug paraphernalia.

House Bill 1987 aims to prevent overdoses and help users who are trying to break an addiction, said author Mickey Dollens, D-Oklahoma City. Fentanyl overdoses killed 300 people statewide in 2021, according to the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics, up from 47 in 2019.

"Oklahoma is facing a serious addiction crisis and synthetic fentanyl is extremely deadly," Dollens said in an April statement. "The hope of this bill is to save vulnerable Oklahomans who are struggling with addiction."

Left Behind: Bills that would carve out new exceptions in Oklahoma's near-total abortion ban did not progress.

Among the measures include House Bill 2088, which would allow a physician to end a pregnancy if the fetus has no medical chance

'The hope of this bill is to save vulnerable Oklahomans who are struggling with addiction.' - MICKEY DOLLENS, D-OKLAHOMA CITY



PHOTO ADOBE IMAGES

of survival, and Senate Bill 834, which would establish rape and incest exceptions.

Senate Bill 368, which sought to codify women's access to birth control, cleared the House and Senate but stalled in a conference committee.

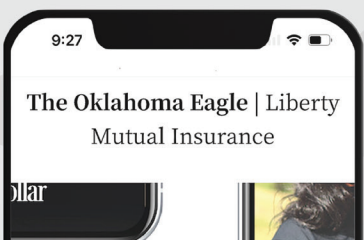
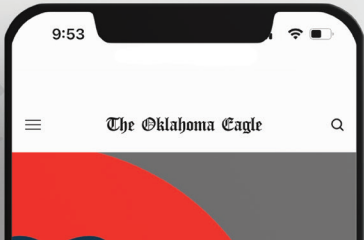
In a March decision, the Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled that Oklahomans have the right to a life-saving abortion whether or not there's an imminent medical emergency. Abortion rights groups have raised concerns about hospitals providing contradictory information on pregnancy-related emergencies.

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](https://twitter.com/_KeatonRoss).

The Oklahoma Eagle

Our Mission

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



BLACK, FEMALE SCHOOL
SUPERINTENDENTS

Four Black women superintendents from around the country had a candid conversation with The Education Trust.

..... B2

‘We need to be more diligent and vigilant about bringing more Black women into leadership roles in our districts.’

FEATURE

With
AMANDA
GORMAN
BAN,
Anti-Blackness
Strikes Again

By AZIAH SHID, WORD IN BLACK

AMANDA GORMAN BAN

Educational freedom vs. “indirect hate.” One Florida parent’s complaint got Gorman’s inaugural poem yanked from Miami schools.



President Joe Biden’s inauguration was a day of celebration for many Americans — a sign of hope, indicating a better tomorrow for the nation. A large part of those promises shined through “The Hill We Climb,” Amanda Gorman’s soul-moving poem she delivered on January 20, 2021, making her the youngest inaugural poet in U.S. history. To top it off? Gorman, then just 22 years old, is a beautiful dark-skinned Black woman. She stood tall, loud, and proud as she addressed the entire country with grace and poise a mere two weeks after the Jan. 6 insurrection. Well, unfortunately, many others want to silence Gorman’s voice. According to a parent in Florida, Gorman’s poem doesn’t represent hope and faith in this country, but rather “indirect hate messages.” Miami-Dade County Schools responded by limiting access to Gorman’s, “The Hill We Climb,” in elementary schools after a single parent from Bob Graham Education Center, a pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade school in Miami Lakes, filed a written complaint. The poem was one of five books challenged by a parent at the school, including “The ABCs of Black History.” Daily Salinas, the parent responsible for the complaint, referenced two pages of the book in defense of the “hate messages” she felt were being taught.

“We’ve braved the belly of the beast. We’ve learned that quiet isn’t always peace, And the norms and notions of what ‘just is’ Isn’t always justice.”

And

“And yet the dawn is ours before we knew it.

Somehow, we do it. Somehow, we’ve weathered and witnessed. A nation that isn’t broken, but simply unfinished.”

Gorman, now 25, took to Instagram to address the outrageous ban. “Often all it takes to remove these works from our libraries and schools is a single objection,” she wrote. “And let’s be clear: most of the forbidden works are by authors who have struggled for generations to get on bookshelves,” she continued. In addition to saying Gorman’s book has no educational value and contains indirect hate messages, the parent mistook the author for Oprah Winfrey, who wrote the foreword. No wonder Black people often joke that non-Black people think we all look alike.

AMANDA GORMAN recites her inaugural poem, “The Hill We Climb,” during the 59th Presidential Inauguration ceremony in Washington. PHOTO NAVY PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS CARLOS M. VAZQUEZ II/ WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PROVIDED

The Oklahoma Eagle

Arts
Culture
History
Education
Business

Only One Percent of
School
Superintendents
Are Black
Women.
But They Lead
With Excellence

BLACK SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS



need to be more diverse to reflect the student populations that we serve,” Dr. Adrienne Battle, superintendent of Metro Nashville Public Schools, says in The Education Trust’s conversation Black Women Superintendents Leading With Excellence.

“We need to be more diligent and vigilant about bringing more Black women into leadership roles in our districts,” Battle says, “pulling them up when they’ve earned promotions, and helping them advance their careers.”

During the candid and wide-ranging conversation, four Black women superintendents discuss everything from supporting students’ mental health, the pressures of leadership,

diversifying the school leadership pipeline and how to support Black women school leaders new to the job.

Panelists:

- Dr. Latonya M. Goffney, Superintendent, Aldine Independent School District (TX)
- Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises, CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools (MD)
- Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Superintendent of Alexandria City Public Schools (VA)
- Dr. Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent

of Oakland Unified School District (CA)

Moderator:

- Arthur Jones II, ABC News Producer/Reporter

Featuring a discussion on the research of the experiences of Black women superintendents with:

- Denisa R. Superville, assistant editor at Education Week, focused on principals and school leadership.
- Dr. Angel Miles Nash, program officer at the

Wallace Foundation

With remarks by:

- Kamau Marshall, Senior Advisor, U.S. Department of Education
- Dr. Monifa B. McKnight, Superintendent of Montgomery County (MD) Schools
- Dr. Christina Grant, State Superintendent of Education for Washington, DC
- Dr. Adrienne Battle, Superintendent of Metro Nashville Public Schools

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“ To amplify our core value of
Equity...”

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

NOTICE

IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR
TULSA COUNTY, STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
CAROLYN FAYE HEERMAN, Deceased
CASE NO. PB-2021-963

NOTICE OF HEARING FIRST AND FINAL
ACCOUNTING, PETITION FOR DECREE
OF DISTRIBUTION, APPROVAL OF
ATTORNEY FEES, COSTS AND EXPENSES,
AND DISCHARGE OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE

NOTICE is hereby given that KATHY
WILLIAMS, the duly appointed and
qualified Personal Representative. of
the Estate of CAROLYN FAYE HEERMAN.,
Deceased, has filed her First and Final
Accounting, Petition for Decree of
Distribution, Approval of Attorney Fees,
Costs and Expenses, and Discharge of
Personal Representative. A hearing has
been fixed by the Judge of the Court
for the 12th day of July, 2023, at 10:00
o'clock AM. in Courtroom 701, of the
Tulsa County Courthouse, 500 S Denver
Ave., Tulsa, Oklahoma, and all persons
interested in the Estate of CAROLYN
FAYE HEERMAN are notified to appear
and show cause, if any, they have, why
the First and Final Accounting., Petition
for Decree of Distribution, Approval of
Attorney Fees, Costs and Expenses, and
Discharge of Personal Representative
should not be settled and allowed, the
Estate distributed, the Attorney Fees,
Costs and Expenses approved, and the
Personal Representative, discharged.

DATED this 17th day of May 2023.

/S/
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT
KURT G. GLASSCO

James O. Goodwin, OBA #3458
Attorney for Petitioner
GOODWIN & GOODWIN
P.O. Box 3267
Tulsa, OK 74101-3267
Telephone: (918) 625-7196
Fax: (918) 599-0250
Email: jgoodwin@theoklahomaeagle.
net

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ONLINE AUCTION 6/8 @ 6 PM: '12
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Flatbed Tender Ttr | McElroy Ground
Load Ttr | Gooseneck Livestock Ttr |
Wil-rich 10 bottom Plow | '16 Polaris
RZR | '07 Yamaha Raptor 700 & MORE!
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The Oklahoma Eagle

Since

1921

Our Mission

“

To amplify
our core
value of
equity,
through
journalism
and
editorial

NOTICE

Published in The Oklahoma Eagle:
May 26 and June 2, 2023.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
SEALED BIDS FOR
TULSA METROPOLITAN UTILITY
AUTHORITY
PROJECT NO. ES 2017-03 –
CONTRACT 1

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., 30th day of
June 2023 for furnishing all tools,
materials and labor and performing
the work necessary to be done in the
construction of the following:

PROJECT NO. ES 2017-03 – CONTRACT
1 SOUTHSIDE WASTEWATER
TREATMENT PLANT – SOLIDS FACILITY
5300 S. ELWOOD AVE.

The entire cost of the improvement
shall be paid from Account No.
2 3 3 1 5 0 0 0 0 3 . S e w e r T r e a t .
Sewer.7500.75003122-541101
2 3 3 1 5 0 0 0 0 4 . S e w e r T r e a t .
Sewer.7500.75003122-541101
2 3 3 1 5 0 0 0 0 5 . S e w e r T r e a t .
Sewer.7500.75003122-541101

A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Conference is
scheduled for
Tuesday June 6, 2023, at 9:00 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/](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 30th day of June 2023.
Dated at Tulsa, Oklahoma, this 26th
day of May 2023.

(SEAL)
Rick Hudson, Chairperson
Tulsa Metropolitan Utility Authority

NOTICE

Published in The Oklahoma Eagle:
May 26 and June 2, 2023

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
SEALED BIDS FOR
PROJECT NO. TD-2020-B1

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

PROJECT NO. TD-2020-B1 ARTERIAL
BRIDGE REHABILITATION FOR BRIDGE
245 -11TH STREET
BRIDGE 258 - 21ST STREET

The entire cost of the improvement
shall be paid from Account No.
2037B0245Z.Bridges.
BridgMR.4282.42823122-541107
2037B0245Z.Bridges.
BridgMR.4281.42813122-541107
2037B0258Z.Bridges.
BridgMR.4282.42823122-541107

A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Conference
is scheduled for Tuesday, June 6,
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/](https://www.cityoftulsa.org/government/departments/engineering-services/construction-bids/)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All bids will be opened and considered
by the Bid Committee of said City at a
meeting of said Committee to be held
in the City Council Room of City Hall
in said City at 9:00 a.m. on the 30th
day of June 2023.

Dated at Tulsa, Oklahoma, this 26th
day of May 2023.

(SEAL)
Christina Chappell
City Clerk

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AND STARTING AT 8:00 AM DAY OF AUCTION

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The Oklahoma Eagle

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Business

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THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE CHURCH DIRECTORY



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

Church Of The Living God

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

Minister RJ Smith

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

CAPERNAUM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1962 N. Sheridan Rd.
(918) 834-4747

Pastor Ruthie I. Howard

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

Words of Wisdom Ministries FC

Temporarily meeting at the Courtyard Marriott 3340 S 79th E Ave Tulsa OK
(918) 230-3022

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

The Oklahoma Eagle Church Directory

List your church in one of the largest church directories in Oklahoma.

Participation in the directory allows free church announcements/ church news.

Post events and celebrations. Priority over non-listed churches for news.

GTOMi

Gospel Tabernacle Outreach Ministries, Inc.

Traveling Outreach Ministries

609 E. Zion Street
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Elder Julius W. Bland
Sr., Pastor
918-810-3882

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3329 E. 30th St. North • 834-0391

Sunday School
9:30 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship 11 a.m.

Bible Study
Wednesday
7 p.m.



Rev. Emanuel L. Collier, Sr.
Pastor

Gethsemane Baptist Church

727 East 56th St. North
(918) 425-6613

Dr. W. T. Lauderdale

Sunday School
9:00 a.m.

Church Services
11:00 a.m.

Zoe' Life Church of Tulsa

Rudisill Regional Library
1520 N Hartford Ave.
Tulsa OK 74106
(918) 409-4899

Pastor Richard and Cher Lyons

Sunday Worship: 1pm
Wed- Healing School: 6:30p - 8p
"The Righteous Are As Bold As A Lion." - Prov.28:1a

SOLID ROCK 7th DAY BAPTIST CHURCH

123 E. 59th St. North
Ph: (918) 425-2077

Pastor Rick Bruner

Sabbath School (Saturday)
9:30-10:45 a.m.
Praise & Worship 11:00 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday 6:00 p.m.

"The Seventh Day Is Still God's Sabbath"

Northside Christ Gospel Church

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

Sunday School - 10 am

Sunday Morning Worship - 10:45

Sunday Evening Prayer - 7 pm
Sunday Worship - 7:30 pm
Wednesday Prayer - 7:30 pm
Wednesday worship - 8pm

Rev. John W. Anderson

VERNON AME CHURCH

307-311 N. Greenwood Ave.

P: 918-587-1428

F: 918-587-0642

vernonamechurch@sbcglobal.net

Sunday Church School
8:30 am

Worship Service
10:00 am

Wednesday Bible Study
6:00 pm

Rev. Dr. Robert R. Allen Turner

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH NORTH TULSA

THE CHURCH WHERE THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS US



Pastor Anthony L. & Mrs. Kelly Scott

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
Bible Study - Noon & 7:00 p.m.

1414 N. Greenwood Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74103
918-582-5129
www.fbcnt.org

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BOSTON AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1301 S. Boston
(918) 583-5181
Rev. David Wiggs
Senior Minister

Sunday Worship
8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School
9:40 a.m.

Sunday TV Worship
11:00 a.m.

KTUL Channel 8

TIMOTHY BAPTIST CHURCH

821 E. 46th St. N. • 425-8021

REV. TWAN T. JONES

Sunday School

9:45 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship
11:00 a.m.

"We've come this far by faith"

NORTH PEORIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Warren Blakney, Minister

Sunday Bible School.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

There's no place, like this place, anywhere near this place.

Pettie Chapel CME



19364 S. S. Mingo Road.
Bixby, 74008
Phone: (918) 366-8870

Rev. Robert Givens

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

"Where Peaceful Waters Flow"

Church In Power

732 E. 31st North
Tulsa, OK 74106 - (918) 835-1525

Service times: 9am Sundays, 7pm Wed, and Special Supernatural Breakthrough Services every last Friday and Saturday of every month at 7pm and Sunday at 9am

Wednesday Bible Study
- 6:30 p.m.

Church Ministries:
Children's Church, CIP Praise Dancers, and CIP Praise Tem.

For Further Information call (918) 835-1525.

"Have Faith In God." Mark 11:22



Pastor Bukky and Wunmi Alabi

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Mount
Zion
Baptist Church
419 N Elgin Tulsa, Oklahoma

Office:

918-584-0510

Fax:

918-584-1958

Prayer Line:

918-584-PRAY

Sunday School

9:30 a.m.

Morning

Worship 10:45

Wednesday

Bible Study

Noon and 7:00



In The Spirit Christian Church

"Come And Experience The Spirit"

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

Eclectic Praise, Extraordinary
Worship, And Spirited Preaching.

Wednesday Services
10:00 a.m. Spirit Seniors
5:30 p.m. Support Groups
6:30 p.m. Community Dinner
7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Sunday Worship
Church School
9:45 a.m.
Worship
11:00 a.m.

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



Rev. Sharyn Cosby-Willis,

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www.nickblakelyfoundation.org

When entrepreneurs succeed, our communities do too

As America’s #1 business lender, we’re invested in local economies with over \$30 billion in business loans. Our commitment includes providing funding to under-resourced business owners and supporting entrepreneurs with the tools and resources to help them make every move matter.



My teammates work closely with entrepreneurs here in Tulsa. We are here to help them start and grow their business, so they can continue to create jobs and keep our community strong.

Bill Lissau
President, Bank of America Tulsa

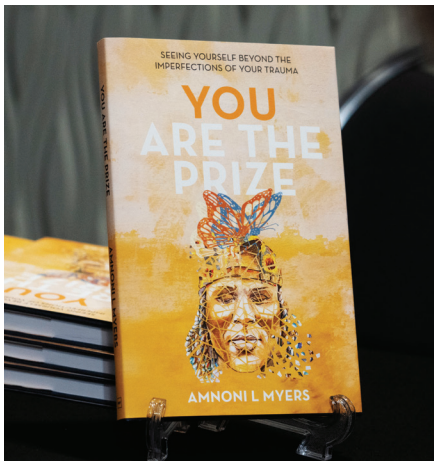
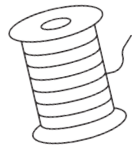
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THREADS OF CHANGE IN TULSA

By Sam Levrault Media



THREADS OF CHANGE, a fundraising fashion show took place at the Dennis R. Neill Equality Center on May 19.

Organized to celebrate and honor foster youth, local Tulsa talent, vendors, and speakers gathered to benefit Youth Services of Tulsa and Tulsa Individuals in Need.

Excerpts from Amnoni Myers' "You Are the Prize," the book the fashion line is designed after, were recited while models paraded down the runway for the audience to enjoy.

