

WEEK
5,334

**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.

NATION
**ENDGAME AGONY:
BLACK NFL PLAYERS
SUFFERING MORE** **B2**

By ALEXA SPENCER, WORD IN BLACK
ENDGAME AGONY

NATION
**SUPREME COURT
DECISIONS & BLACK
AMERICANS** **B3**

By JOHN NEAL, THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE
SCOTUS

Man In Mental Health Crisis Killed By Passing Truck After OKC Police Abandon Him

By **WHITNEY BRYEN**, OKLAHOMA WATCH
MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

A7

State School Superintendent Drawn To HOTSEAT

JOHN NEAL,
The Oklahoma Eagle
WALTERS, HOTSEAT *cont. A1*

LOCAL & STATE
**AN EX-OKLAHOMA UNDERSHERIFF
IS SENTENCED FOR ASSAULTING A
HANDCUFFED INMATE**

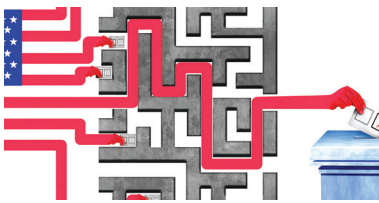
By ASSOCIATED PRESS
UNDERSHERIFF SENTENCED *cont. A1*

LOCAL & STATE
**OKLAHOMA'S WAIT FOR
ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION
IS FINALLY OVER**

By KEATON ROSS, OKLAHOMA WATCH
ONLINE VOTING *cont. A1*

LOCAL & STATE
**ARPA PROGRAM PROVIDING
TRIBAL SMALL BUSINESSES
'ACCESS TO CAPITAL'**

By DACODA McDOWELL-WAHPKECHE, NONDOC
ARPA PROGRAM *cont. A1*



OKLAHOMA ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION

Oklahoma launched its long-awaited online voter registration system this week. **A5**

TRIBAL SMALL BUSINESSES 'ACCESS TO CAPITAL'

Three Oklahoma tribal nations will receive initial funding from a new small business initiative. **A3**



“CRT IS A DANGEROUS AND RACIST PHILOS

Oklahoma's State SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, **WALTERS, COURTS CONTROVERSY**

By JOHN NEAL, THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

WALTERS, HOTSEAT

The latest example came earlier this month when he told a forum in Norman that teachers could cover the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, but that they should not “say that the skin color determined it.” He was referring to the historic bloody event, which occurred in late May 1921 in Tulsa, when a white mob murdered an estimated 300 Black Tulsans and destroyed the Black Wall Street community.

The next day, after a public flap, Walters appeared to walk back his comments.

But those remarks were only the latest in a long string of controversies centering around one or another of Walter’s public pronouncements. Walters, a staunch Republican in the Donald J. Trump mold, was elected state superintendent of public instruction in November 2022 after a stint as Oklahoma Secretary of Education.

In late May, Oklahoma legislators on both sides of the political aisle criticized his written response to them following a raucous meeting earlier in the month. This time the criticism of Walters centered on his unwillingness to seek full federal funding for public education.

It was one of a series of salvos in what Oklahoma legislator Mark McBride described as Walters’ “crazy destruction of public education.”

McBride, a Republican representing House District 53 in central Oklahoma, made that comment when he introduced legislation to strip Walters from some of his powers. McBride said, “I want to put this gentleman in a box.” The controversy was sparked when Walters handed documents over to the House that revealed, as School Superintendent, he would not seek federal funds for grants that did not align with “Oklahoma values,” as determined by Walters.

That was immediately followed by the assertion by a whistleblower that even the premise of Walter’s position was not true. No federal grants had been applied for whatsoever, the whistleblower said.

Terri Grissom, Director of Grant Development until earlier this Spring told legislators and multiple media outlets, “We have not applied for a single grant.” She said documents turned over by Walters as part of his written response to legislators’ concerns were grants from the prior administration of the Oklahoma State Department of Education. That is the department which applies for federal education grants, where Grissom worked until recently, and which Walters oversees. She characterized the statements he made in the meeting with lawmakers about the grants as a “blatant lie.”

Grant concerns

At that meeting in early May, legislators expressed skepticism that Walters was applying for all federal grants available for public education. That skepticism sprang, in part, from statements Walters had made in his campaign about rejecting all federal funding for Oklahoma public education.

He walked back that full-throated position later in the campaign. Still, he appeared to waffle when discussing the matter in the legislative meeting. He said he wanted to see “how the money is to be spent” and would not accept anything “inappropriate.” Rep. Ryan Martinez (R-Edmond) asked for a special report on federal grant applications. Martinez and others were unsatisfied with Walters’ answer and were seeking further clarification.

Oklahoma receives \$1 billion in federal funding for public education. Tulsa Public Schools receives over \$100 million of its annual revenue from federal coffers, budget documents for 2022-23 reveal. TPS disproportionately needs these funds because eighty percent of its students are economically disadvantaged. Federal funding constitutes well over 15% of the TPS current budget and funds “Academic Achievement for the Disadvantaged,” child nutrition, and other special programs.



. PHOTO ADOBE IMAGES

**Oklahoma
receives \$1 billion
in federal funding
for public
education. Tulsa
Public Schools
receives over
\$100 million of its
annual revenue
from federal
coffers.**

Earlier this summer, Stacey Woolley, TPS Board President, expressed concerns about a potential grant shortfall affecting school revenue following a TPS preliminary budget presentation for 2023-24. Referring to the recent controversy, she asked, “What might that mean to us of federal grants that are possibly at risk and might not have been applied for?” Jorge Robles, Chief Financial and Operations Officer, said in response, “We don’t know what might be at risk,” but would provide the Board with more information as “it is concerning.” Robles had earlier told the Board his department was forecasting a budget loss next year of \$10 million in federal relief funds which are being phased out.

At the forum in Norman on July 6, Walters was asked how the Tulsa Race Massacre could “not fall” under his broad definition of Critical Race Theory.

“I would never tell a kid that because of your race, because of your color of your skin, or your gender or anything like that, you are less of a person or are inherently racist,” he said.

WALTERS, HOTSEAT *cont. A2*



PUBLIC SCRUTINY

fell on the state's largest police force in recent years after Oklahoma City officers shot and killed Bennie Edwards

MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS *from A1*

Shirley Antwine's son had been arrested by Oklahoma City police at least 15 times when she called for their help again in the summer of 2021.

Though they previously had shocked him with a Taser for resisting arrest, they usually took him to the hospital for treatment before booking him into one of the nation's deadliest jails. Even that seemed like a safer option than letting the influence of drugs and symptoms of schizophrenia fester.

Oklahoma City Police Sgt. Robert Burton loaded Antwine's son into the back of his cruiser on Aug. 4, 2021. But, this time, Burton didn't take him to a hospital or to jail. Instead, Burton left him stranded on the side of Sooner Road surrounded by an overgrown field and abandoned buildings.

Within five minutes, Ernest Antwine died after stepping in front of a silver Nissan pickup.

Now, Shirley Antwine is suing the driver of the truck that killed her son and the officer who drove him beyond Oklahoma City Police jurisdiction, and left him alone on the side of a four-lane road with no sidewalks and no shoulder to provide a buffer from the steady stream of traffic.

Law enforcement statewide are responding to mental health emergencies more than ever. Public scrutiny fell on the state's largest police force in recent years after Oklahoma City officers shot and killed Bennie Edwards, a 60-year-old homeless man with a history of mental illness, and Daniel Hobbs, a 34-year-old father who told the officer he was mentally ill moments before he was fatally shot. Those and other deadly and violent interactions prompted questions about who should answer those calls, and who shouldn't.

A federal investigation into Oklahoma

Ernest Antwine was left stranded on the side of Sooner Road surrounded by an overgrown field and abandoned buildings.



ERNEST ANTWINE PHOTO PROVIDED

City police response to people in crisis is underway, part of a probe the U.S. Department of Justice launched in November into Oklahoma's mental health care.

More officers are being trained in crisis intervention, a weeklong class teaching law enforcement best practices for responding to people with mental illness and substance abuse disorders. The officer who killed Hobbs and two officers that responded to Antwine were trained in crisis intervention. A program launched in 2022 pairs counselors with police to answer these calls. But the department's efforts cannot keep up with rising crisis calls.

Mental health calls have doubled at the department in the past decade peaking at more than 21,000 calls in 2021, up from about 10,000 in 2013, according to data from the department. The calls, which include people experiencing suicidal thoughts or hallucinations, who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol and those sleeping in homeless camps, dropped in 2022 to about 18,700.

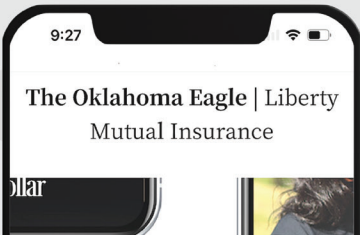
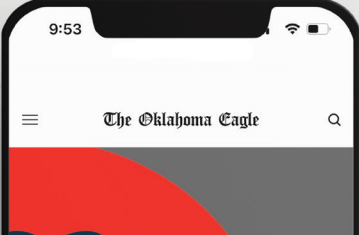
All Oklahoma City officers are responding to those calls, which are underreported. Shirley Antwine's call, for instance, wasn't classified by the department as a mental health call, but a domestic disturbance.

A Familiar Scenario

Online posts from friends and family remembered Ernest, or Ernie, Antwine for his basketball skills and ability to make others laugh. A photo of him with his daughters is posted to the top of a website raising money for his memorial service.

On that Wednesday afternoon in August,

MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS cont. A8



Taft: An Historic Oklahoma All-Black Town

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

The All-Black town known as Taft started as the community of Twine, which had a post office by 1902.



Taft, located eight miles west of Muskogee, in Muskogee County is one of more than fifty All-Black towns of Oklahoma and one of only thirteen still existing. The town name honored William H. Twine, a resident who moved away and edited the Muskogee Cimeter. In 1904 citizens named the town Taft in honor of then Secretary of War (later President) William Howard Taft. The settlement developed in the Creek Nation on land allotted to Creek Freedmen.

Early in the town’s history the citizens promoted their new community throughout the South. The Reaves Realty Company advertised Taft as the “fastest growing Colored community in Oklahoma.” Taft had two newspapers, the Enterprise and the Tribune. The first mayor, Charlie Ford, owned Ford’s Cotton Gin, and W. R. Grimmert operated

a sawmill northwest of town. Before 1910 the community supported three general stores, one drugstore, a brickyard, a soda pop factory, a livery stable, a gristmill, a lumberyard, two hotels, a restaurant, a bank, and a funeral home.

Educational and state-agency facilities have always been important economic activities. Halochee Institute, founded in 1906, was the first of several educational institutes to locate there: W. T. Vernon School (1908), the Industrial Institute for the Deaf, Blind, and Orphans of the Colored Race (1909), Moton High School, and the State Training School for Negro Girls followed Halochee. In 1934 the Taft State Hospital for the Negro Insane was established. The state later placed two state penitentiaries in Taft: Dr. Eddie Warrior Correctional Center, for women, and Jess Dunn Correctional Center, for men.

From a population of 250 in 1907 Taft grew to 690 by 1937 and then slowly declined; by 1990 the population was four hundred. Taft City Hall is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NR 84003330). The Reeder Walker House and St. Paul Baptist Church are listed in the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory. In 1973 the town elected Lelia Foley-Davis as mayor, making her the nation’s first female African American mayor. Davis stepped down in 1989 but was reelected in 1999. Taft reached its peak of population at 772 in 1940 but dropped to a low of 386 in 1960. After rebounding to 525 in 1970, it declined to 400 in 1990. At the approach of the twenty-first century Taft exhibited a strong economy. The 2000 census counted 349 residents, and the 2010 census counted 250.

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.

HEADSTART FACULTY OF TAFT SCHOOL (4072, Frederick S. Barde Collection, OHS).

Featured Last Week



Thousands of Oklahomans Without Power After Storm

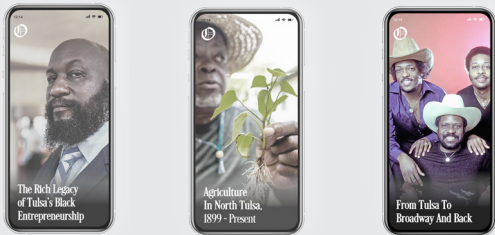


Lawmaker Seeks Study On Protecting OK’s Ballot Initiative Process



Black Men Are Shifting The Mental Health Narrative

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The Oklahoma Eagle

Founded in 1921

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Robert K. Goodwin

Publisher 1972-1980

Edward L. Goodwin, Jr.

Co-Publisher 1980-2014

Edward L. Goodwin, Sr.

Publisher 1936-1972

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The Oklahoma Eagle | Founded in 1921 | Vol. CII No. 26

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

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

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We Need A BLACK POLITICAL Unity Summit

BY ROGER HOUSE,
WORD IN BLACK

By JOHN NEAL, THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

With the 2024 elections on the horizon, Black America needs our leaders to “step up with a plan for the future.”

Black America is at a crossroads in history and needs its political leaders to step up with a plan for the future. There is a glaring urgency for a “unity summit” to discuss the fate of Black Americans and devise an effective agenda for the 2024 election and beyond.

The Supreme Court decision striking down affirmative action illustrates a lack of preparation by the Black political class. While many individuals expressed outrage about the decision in the media, the collective leadership response was inadequate for the moment and raises doubts about their legitimacy. There was widespread consternation among many Black Americans after the reversal of decades-old college admissions practices.

In one way or another, the message seemed to be, “You don’t belong here.”

The moment required a joint display of leaders issuing a statement of condemnation to let students know they matter. President Biden expressed support for them, but he does not speak for the Black community, no matter the void of leadership.

In the wake of the decision, Black political leaders have a springboard to a broader discussion on the inertia within their community, and the judicial denial of the wrongs of slavery and Jim Crow behind a “colorblind” reading of the Constitution. A unity summit could devise a constructive agenda for the future — how Black America can survive the 21st century — before we embark on the ritual mobilization of voters for the 2024 election.

Putting Out the Call

On July 26, the National NAACP Convention will be held in Boston. As a nonprofit entity, the NAACP is ill-positioned to craft a political agenda — but is it well-positioned to put out a call for a unity summit? For that matter, any number of leaders — even the missing-in-action Vice President Kamala Harris, who will speak at the NAACP event — could call for a unity summit to see who responds. It partly depends on having the resources to host politicians and heads of organizations, among others.

Maryland may be best suited to host the summit as the “new capital of Black America.” The Free State of more than 6 million is 30% Black, with power centered in Baltimore and affluent suburbs. Black voters propelled the campaigns of Gov. Wes Moore and Attorney General Anthony Brown to a historic victory in the 2022 election.

The state is close to the power centers of Washington and New York City. And it is poised to make history again if voters elect Prince George’s County Executive Angela Alsobrooks to the U.S. Senate in 2024.

A proposed unity summit would not be the first time for such an event. In 1972, the National Black Political Convention took place in Gary, Indiana, under Mayor Richard Hatcher. The unwieldy and contentious event lacked the talent that leaders have today — but it managed to issue a poignant manifesto, “The Gary Declaration: Black Politics at the Crossroads.”

“We come to Gary in a time of unrelieved crisis for our people,” the Declaration stated. “From every rural community in Alabama to the high-rise compounds of Chicago, we bring to this Convention the agonies of the masses of our people.”

The Notion of a ‘Black Community’

A unity summit should craft a pragmatic agenda for America’s 45 million Black citizens — more than 90% of whom are related to the original pool of 400,000 Africans enslaved in North America.

Some may question the ancestral linkage, but contrary to popular belief, the historic bond is a fact. Immigration to America from predominantly Black countries has been negligible, so much so that Black Americans as a population

have experienced only small changes in the demographic makeup. By comparison, U.S. immigration policy has been favorable to Western Europe for centuries.

And while there has long been immigration from Latin America and Asia, it was severely curtailed under the racially discriminatory immigrant law of 1924. Those restrictions ended with the 1964 Immigration and Nationality Act, passed in the spirit of the civil rights movement. The act triggered waves of migrant families — many of them educated and affluent — from Asia and Latin America, among other places.

Therefore, even modest demographic changes within the Black American population can spark reports from social researchers. An example is the 2015 Pew Research Center study, “A Rising Share of the U.S. Black Population is Foreign Born.” It reported that 9% of the population was made up of immigrants from the Caribbean, Latin America, and Africa — up from a mere 3% in 1980.

Of course, many people avoid an undue association with their racial heritage and prefer to live as fully assimilated individuals with intersected interests. The circumstances of their personal lives, professions, finances, locations, and friends take them in a different and fulfilling direction.

And many Black politicians represent diverse — even predominantly white — voting districts. While they speak for a broader constituency, their insights still would be valued in forging an agenda for Black America.

To be clear, the majority of the Black community identifies with its racial heritage and feels the pain when its members are mistreated. Such is the conclusion of the 2022 Pew report, “Race Is Central to Identity for Black Americans and Affects How They Connect With Each Other.”

Topics for a Unity Summit

A summit should grapple with an economic vision beyond the talking points of political parties and organization donors. How can Black people reverse the erosion of recent decades and thrive in America’s economic system?

Their rate of unemployment has stood at twice the level of white unemployment, and its middle class has been stagnant for generations. The Bureau of Labor Statistics found that “Black workers comprise 90 percent of the unemployment spike” in the July report. And in cities such as New York, where white unemployment stands at 1%, Black unemployment is 12% and youth unemployment is nearly twice as high.

Black workers are overrepresented in industries threatened by automation. The middle-class anchor has been public employment — but opponents of affirmative action may soon target decades-old policies on hiring and contracting in the public and corporate sectors.

A unity summit must acknowledge the urgency and explore workforce development as a priority, among other methods.

The summit should be bold in placing demands on the bipartisan infrastructure law. As President Biden travels the country touting the \$1.2 trillion program, there is little reported movement on its requirement for voluntary state equity plans. The foot-dragging will impact the training and hiring of Black skilled workers and contractors in a construction industry where they have been historically excluded.

The summit should consider an organized approach to expanding proposals for reparations. It should explore ways to build institutional wealth, rather than individual payouts for the unjust enrichment from slavery and Jim Crow. It should encourage reliable structures for filing claims for reparations and target the distribution of potential awards in the areas of pensions, affordable housing, debt relief, and health insurance.

A summit should discuss public safety measures that foster youth recovery, rather than the current racial-profiling methods of “stop-and-frisk” detentions and incarceration. Young Black men have sunk into a state of despair — their needs abandoned in the Democratic Party agenda — except for those who can intersect with other causes.

No doubt there are other topics of concern that attendees would bring to the table. For example, the summit could consider ways for investors to participate in President Biden’s initiative to develop trade and electricity projects in Africa. And it must craft an independent policy response to the immigration crisis.

The Democratic Party’s approach to immigration sacrifices resources for urban communities. The busloads of immigrants sent from border states to New York and other sanctuary cities is the most egregious example, but hardly exceptional.

A call for a unity summit would do well to honor the ambitions of the Gary Declaration, which stated: “We must build for our people. We must build for our world. We stand on the edge of history. We cannot turn back.”



ROGER HOUSE is associate professor of American Studies at Emerson College and the author of “Blue Smoke: The Recorded Journey of Big Bill Broonzy” and “South End Shout: Boston’s Forgotten Music Scene in the Jazz Age.” A version of the commentary appeared in The Messenger.

The Oklahoma Eagle			
NOTICE	NOTICE	NOTICE	NOTICE
<p>Published in The Oklahoma Eagle: June 30 and July 7, 2023</p> <p>NOTICE TO BIDDERS SEALED BIDS FOR PROJECT NO. 2036N9050Z</p> <p>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 28th day of July, 2023 for furnishing all tools, materials and labor and performing the work necessary to be done in the construction of the following:</p> <p>PROJECT NO. 2036N9050Z NON-ARTERIAL STREET REHABILITATION MAINTENANCE ZONE 9050</p> <p>The entire cost of the improvement shall be paid from Account No. 2036N9050Z.Streets. NArthRhb.4281.42813122-541106 2036N9050Z.Streets. NArthRhb.4283.42833122-541106</p> <p>A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, July 11, 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/</p> <p>Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference is MANDATORY. Bids will not be received from contractors who did not attend the Pre-Bid Conference.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Contract requirements shall include compliance as required by law pertaining to the practice of non-discrimination in employment.</p> <p>The overall aspirational Small Business Enterprise utilization goal for this project is ten (10) percent.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 28th day of July 2023.</p> <p>Dated at Tulsa, Oklahoma, this 30th day of June 2023.</p> <p>(SEAL) Christina Chappell City Clerk</p>	<p>Published in The Oklahoma Eagle: June 30 and July 7, 2023.</p> <p>NOTICE TO BIDDERS SEALED BIDS FOR PROJECT NO. SP 22-7</p> <p>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 28th day of July, 2023 for furnishing all tools, materials and labor and performing the work necessary to be done in the construction of the following:</p> <p>PROJECT NO. SP 22-7 TULSA POLICE DEPARTMENT HELIPORT</p> <p>The entire cost of the improvement shall be paid from Account No. 2159FR0283.Capital.Bldgs.3001.30013122-541104</p> <p>A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, 2020 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/</p> <p>Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference is MANDATORY. Bids will not be received from contractors who did not attend the Pre-Bid Conference.</p> <p>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 B</p> <p>Drawings, specifications and contract documents for construction of said public improvements of the said project have been adopted by the Mayor of said City. 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The Performance, Statutory, and Maintenance bonds shall be for one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price.</p> <p>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 28th day of July 2023.</p> <p>Dated at Tulsa, Oklahoma, this 30th day of June 2023.</p> <p>(SEAL) Christina Chappell City Clerk</p>	<p>Published in The Oklahoma Eagle: June 30 and July 7, 2023.</p> <p>NOTICE TO BIDDERS SEALED BIDS FOR PROJECT NO. SP 19-13R</p> <p>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 28th day of July, 2023 for furnishing all tools, materials and labor and performing the work necessary to be done in the construction of the following:</p> <p>PROJECT NO. SP 19-13R ROOF REPLACEMENT AIR FORCE PLANT 3 – BUILDING 6</p> <p>The entire cost of the improvement shall be paid from Account No. 580.5801673-541101</p> <p>A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for Monday, July 10, 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/</p> <p>Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference is MANDATORY. Bids will not be received from contractors who did not attend the Pre-Bid Conference.</p> <p>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, B or S</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Contract requirements shall include compliance as required by law pertaining to the practice of non-discrimination in employment.</p> <p>The overall aspirational Small Business Enterprise utilization goal for this project is ten (10) percent.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The City of Tulsa itself is exempt from the payment of any sales or use taxes, and pursuant to Title 68 O.S. 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NArtrhb.4283.42833122-541106; 2036N9045Z.Streets.NArtrhb.4282.42823122-541106; 2036N8113Z.Streets. NArtrhb.4282.42823122-541106; 2036N9052Z.Streets.NArtrhb.4282.42823122-541106</p> <p>A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for Tuesday July 11, 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/</p> <p>Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference is MANDATORY. Bids will not be received from contractors who did not attend the Pre-Bid Conference.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Contract requirements shall include compliance as required by law pertaining to the practice of non-discrimination in employment.</p> <p>The overall aspirational Small Business Enterprise utilization goal for this project is ten (10) percent.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The City of Tulsa itself is exempt from the payment of any sales or use taxes, and pursuant to Title 68 O.S. 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The Oklahoma Eagle

THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE CHURCH DIRECTORY



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Church Of The Living God

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

Minister RJ Smith

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

CAPERNAUM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1962 N. Sheridan Rd.
(918) 834-4747
Pastor Ruthie I. Howard
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Bible Study & Prayer Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
For Transportation (918) 402-6027

Words of Wisdom Ministries FC

Temporarily meeting at the Courtyard Marriott 3340 S 79th E Ave Tulsa OK (918) 230-3022
Pastors Wesley & Alfie Gray would like to invite you to come and experience the Word of God in action this Sunday! God has a word for you, He Guarantee's it! You'll be glad you did!!!

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GTOMi

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

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MOHAWK FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

3329 E. 30th St. North • 834-0391
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Bible Study Wednesday 7 p.m.
Rev. Emanuel L. Collier, Sr. Pastor

Gethsemane Baptist Church

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

Dr. W. T. Lauderdale

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Church Services 11:00 a.m.

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Zoe' Life Church of Tulsa

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

SOLID ROCK 7th DAY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Northside Christ Gospel Church

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

VERNON AME CHURCH

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

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH NORTH TULSA

THE CHURCH WHERE THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS US



Pastor Anthony L. & Mrs. Kelly Scott

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

1414 N. Greenwood Ave.

Tulsa, OK 74103

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Senior Minister
Sunday Worship 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:40 a.m.
Sunday TV Worship 11:00 a.m.
KTUL Channel 8

TIMOTHY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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Tulsa, OK 74106 - (918) 835-1525

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Wednesday Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

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

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Pastor Bukky and Wunmi Alabi

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918-584-PRAY

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Morning

Worship 10:45

Wednesday

Bible Study

Noon and 7:00



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Tulsa, Okla., 74128
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Fax: (918) 836-6833

Eclectic Praise, Extraordinary
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10:00 a.m. Spirit Seniors
5:30 p.m. Support Groups
6:30 p.m. Community Dinner
7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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

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Cosby-Willis,

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Broken glass, empty cigarette cartons and liquor bottles dot the stretch of Sooner Road between Northeast 23rd Street and Northeast 10th Street where Antwine was abandoned.

MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS from A3



Antwine was high on his mother’s front porch banging on the door with a stick when she called for help, according to court documents.

There was a warrant for Antwine’s arrest from a previous drug charge when Burton and officer Rebecca Fry went to his mother’s home in northeast Oklahoma City. Police had arrested Antwine there twice in the previous eight months. Both times he was under the influence of drugs, refused to leave and fought with officers, according to arrest reports. And both times, officers took Antwine to a hospital for treatment before he was booked into jail.

That’s standard procedure when someone is experiencing psychosis, said Jeffery Pierce, a retired Oklahoma City Police commander who led the department’s crisis intervention team. “The last thing you want is to take them to the jail without being checked out and then they die,” Pierce said.

But Burton did not arrest the 42-year-old. And he did not place Antwine under an emergency order of detention, commonly used to detain someone who has not broken the law but who is deemed a danger to themselves or others.

Burton told Oklahoma County Sheriff’s Deputy Whitton White who interviewed him after the fatal crash that he “forcefully removed” Antwine from the front porch of his mother’s home and then dropped him off in “no man’s

land,” according to the deputy’s incident report.

According to the lawsuit, Burton was on his way to a job interview. There is no mention of the job interview in a motion filed by Burton’s attorney to dismiss the lawsuit.

Broken glass, empty cigarette cartons and liquor bottles dot the stretch of Sooner Road between Northeast 23rd Street and Northeast 10th Street where Antwine was abandoned. Rusted tanks from an old pipeline operation sit near a railyard. A quarter mile south is a liquor store, smoke shop and gas station.

According to Burton’s motion to dismiss, Burton removed Antwine from his mother’s home in order to diffuse the situation and released him near Northeast 10th Street and Sooner Road.

Pierce said though police routinely transport someone to a requested location as a way to diffuse a volatile situation, it’s up to the officer to determine if the location is safe and whether the person’s condition justifies leaving them alone.

According to White’s report, Burton told the deputy he knew that Antwine was homeless and struggling with mental health and addiction.

Ralph Caruthers was driving a cement truck south on Sooner Road just after 2 p.m. that day in August 2021 when he noticed a shirtless, disoriented man standing near the edge of the

road. Caruthers said after he passed the man, he looked in his passenger-side mirror and saw him step onto the street in front of a pickup. Caruthers and truck driver, Robert Dunn, ran to Antwine’s aid but he was already gone, Caruthers said. They called 911 and Oklahoma County Sheriff deputies responded.

Antwine died of multiple blunt force injuries, according to a State Medical Examiner’s report. Acute phencyclidine — or PCP — toxicity contributed to his death, according to the report.

A Troubled Past

When deputies told her that her son was dead, Shirley Antwine asked if he was in the Oklahoma County jail, according to White’s report. After White told her no, she asked if “those officers knew his condition, why did they leave him alone?,” the report states.

Officers Burton and Fry did not respond to Oklahoma Watch’s requests for an interview. Both still work for the department.

The Oklahoma City Police Department has no incident report related to officers’ response to Antwine, spokeswoman Valerie Littlejohn said. Officers are required to submit an incident report only if an arrest is made, she said. Neither officer submitted a report, she said.

At the time of publication, Littlejohn did not know whether officers’ response had been

investigated internally or whether any body camera footage existed.

Antwine was entangled in the criminal justice system for more than 20 years. He served nearly 10 years in prison between 2006 and 2019 for drug charges, rape and forcible sodomy, according to Oklahoma Department of Corrections records. Between 2000 and 2021, Oklahoma City police officers arrested Ernest Antwine 15 times for possession of drugs, domestic abuse and outstanding warrants, department records show.

In March 2014, officers shocked Ernest Antwine with a stun gun when he fought officers who were trying to handcuff him after he refused to leave the house, according to an arrest report. Ernest Antwine was high on drugs, delusional and out of touch with reality, according to the report. Officers took Ernest Antwine to the hospital for treatment before he was booked into jail, according to the report.

WHITNEY BRYEN is an investigative reporter at Oklahoma Watch covering vulnerable populations. Her recent investigations focus on mental health and substance abuse, domestic violence, nonprofits and nursing homes. Contact her at (405) 201-6057 or wbryen@oklahomawatch.org.

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OKLAHOMA
SCHOOL
SUPERINTENDENT
THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2023
EDUCATION

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

ILLUSTRATION THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

“How are you going to talk about a race massacre as if race isn’t part of the very cause of the incident?”

- ALICIA ANDREWS, chair, Oklahoma Democratic Party

WALTERS, HOTSEAT *from AI*

“That doesn’t mean you don’t judge the actions of individuals. Oh, you can, absolutely. Historically, you should: ‘This was right. This was wrong. They did this for this reason.’

“But to say it was inherent in that ... because of their skin is where I say that is critical race theory. You’re saying that race defines a person. I reject that.

“So, I would say you be judgmental of the issue, of the action, of the content, of the character of the individual, absolutely. But let’s not tie it to the skin color and say that the skin color determined it.”

After sharp objections to his comments on social media, Walters appeared to backtrack on his comments. Tulsa’s 1921 Race Massacre was about race and should be taught as such, he said in a written statement.

“Let me be crystal clear that history should be accurately taught,” Walters said in a written statement. “The Tulsa Race Massacre is a terrible mark on our history. The events on that day were racist, evil, and it is inexcusable.”

Following the brouhaha, Alicia Andrews, the chair of the Oklahoma Democratic party,

described Walters as “ridiculous”.

“How are you going to talk about a race massacre as if race isn’t part of the very cause of the incident?” Andrews said in an interview in the Guardian.

“I would love for him to be impeached, because he’s forgotten that his job is superintendent of public instruction. Most of his actions have been with his direct intent of destroying public education in favor of shoring up private and charter schools on public tax dollars. To me that’s a clear dereliction.”

Other wild statements and actions

At the May meeting, the Superintendent drew the ire of legislators of both parties by saying, “I don’t negotiate with the teacher’s union,” calling the Oklahoma Educational Association a “terrorist organization.” He described the Oklahoma State Department of Education, which he heads as an “absolute dumpster fire” and said (without evidence) critical race theory was being taught in all 77 Oklahoma counties. North Tulsa Representative Regina Goodwin chastised him for his “constant flame-throwing” rhetoric shortly before the Chairperson abruptly halted the meeting after approximately fifteen minutes.

But these meeting statements followed Walters’s long list of questionable activities as Secretary of Education and his less than five-month stint as School Superintendent. They include:

- Demanding that Tulsa Public Schools have their accreditation downgraded because a white teacher felt discomfort in a diversity training session.
- Urging and now following through to strip a Norman teacher of her teacher certification for refusing to screen her class library in a search for books that could be banned.
- Sending “pornographic” photos to all legislators to obtain their support for book banning in school libraries.
- Cut in half previously budgeted teacher pay increases.
- Advocates using public funds for private schools.

Passing rules that would require teachers to identify and inform parents of gender identification deviation of their students and

submit lists of all library books in a search for books that could be banned. The Oklahoma Attorney General struck down the rules because they lacked legislative authorization.

Attacking Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs in public education, calling them efforts to Divide, Exclude, and Indoctrinate.

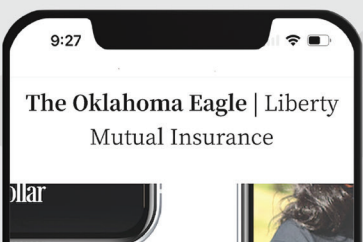
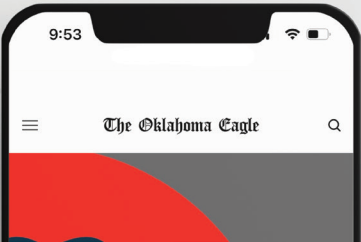
Advocating that a catholic school sponsored by the archdiocese in Oklahoma be accepted as a public chartered virtual school accessing public funds. His advocacy was despite legal counsel advising that such action would violate the constitution and state law.

With these actions as background, Walters’s statements to legislators and his determination to limit or eliminate federal funding grants for education have created disquiet in the legislative bodies. State Representative Regina Goodwin, who has a strong constituency in North Tulsa, summed up the consensus of legislators’ sentiments on Walters’ comments as the meeting ended. “We don’t need all the racists-tinged comments,” she said. We don’t need all this divisiveness.”

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



“The reputation of the entire law enforcement profession is tarnished when an officer betrays the oath.”

EDWARD GRAY,
FBI Oklahoma City
Special Agent

UNDERSHERIFF SENTENCED *from AI*

MUSKOGEE, Okla. (AP) — A former undersheriff in southeast Oklahoma was sentenced Thursday to nearly two years in prison for repeatedly striking a handcuffed arrestee in 2017, federal prosecutors said.

Kendall Morgan, 45, also was sentenced to 36 months of supervised release following his prison term, according to the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Oklahoma.

According to a plea agreement signed by Morgan, the then-undersheriff struck the handcuffed inmate several times even though the inmate was not resisting arrest.

Morgan pleaded guilty in November 2022 to one count of deprivation of rights under color of law, and according to his attorney, Ben Hilfiger, Morgan began serving his prison sentence at that time.

“The reputation of the entire law enforcement profession is tarnished when an officer betrays the oath to protect and serve,” FBI Oklahoma City Special Agent in Charge Edward Gray said in a statement.

A message left Thursday with Hilfiger wasn’t immediately returned.

BIDEN-HARRIS INITIATIVE Drives Tribal Nation Small Business Funding

By DACODA MCDOWELL-WAHPKECHE, NONDOC



WASHINGTON — Three Oklahoma tribal nations will receive almost half of the initial funding from a new small business initiative that the Biden-Harris Administration announced last week.

The Osage, Chickasaw and Citizen Potawatomi nations will receive small business funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, created by Congress to help the nation recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The White House said this is the first ever inclusion of dedicated, direct support to tribal governments and that investments like the State Small Business Credit Initiative will help to ensure that all Americans, including those in underserved tribal communities, will benefit.

“Small businesses are the backbone of our nation’s economy,” Vice President Kamala Harris said in the White House’s Monday announcement. “Far too often, entrepreneurs and small business owners with big plans and a vision for the future struggle simply because they lack the capital or financial services they need. That’s why we are making this historic investment, which will help tribal communities grow their small businesses, create jobs, and strengthen our economy.”

‘Recognizing our sovereignty’

The administration provided \$73 million for the venture – with the Osage, Chickasaw and Citizen Potawatomi Nations receiving almost \$30 million.

Cindy Logsden, Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation’s CEO, said the funding will help many tribal

small business owners with money needed to make investments into their businesses.

“It’s recognizing the tribes as equal to state entities and recognizing our sovereignty,” she said. “It means more dollars to the state of Oklahoma. Hopefully we are making more sustainable businesses and families at the end of the day.”

The Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation will be receiving more than \$8 million from the federal government, which will help them lead to more entrepreneurs, she said.

“It’s access to capital that otherwise — individuals, that Native family, that Native business — probably would not be able to (access),” Logsden said. “We do a lot more hand holding than a bank would do. We think outside of the box. If we don’t have enough collateral, ‘Could we get the [Bureau of Indian Affairs] insurance?’ Because we aren’t regulated like a bank is, we could be normal or creative in assisting Native Americans in getting access to capital.”

The Citizen Potawatomie Nation has had a program that lends to small businesses for 20 years. Logsden said they have lent around \$125 million to several small businesses.

The Osage Nation, which will receive \$5.2 million, is just getting a lending program started. Candy Thomas, director of self-governance and strategic planning, said the tribe is building two programs using this money to improve help for tribal small businesses.

Thomas said the tribe is developing an equity fund alongside a capital fund program which is designed to loan money to small businesses with

a focus on Osage people, but any Native American is eligible.

“We can’t just say it’s for Osages. We have a [Community Development Financial Institution] that’s being set up and we can’t specify a population in that like ‘just Osages,’” Thomas said. “That’s where we are. It’s been going on for a long-time and it keeps changing when they change the guidelines and change the allocation amount.”

Thomas said being recognized with the award from the federal government is “highly satisfying.”

“Traditionally, Native Americans don’t have good credit scores. Banks would even turn them down because they’re Native American or they don’t have everything they’re looking for,” Thomas said. “We’re very excited about this and that it will work hand-in-hand with our [Community Development Financial Institution].”

In a statement, Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby said the tribe will split the \$16 million it is receiving into two programs: a collateral support program, designed to provide funds for tribal members who might not have enough collateral to secure a loan, and a venture capital program.

“Access to capital is vital for small business success, and the Chickasaw Nation is grateful to be partnering with the U.S. Treasury,” Anoatubby said. “Delivering these vital programs to underserved small business owners is key to fulfilling the Chickasaw Nation’s mission to enhance the overall quality of life of the Chickasaw people.”

DACODA MCDOWELL-WAHPKECHE is a journalism student in the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Oklahoma.

Oklahoma’s long-awaited online voter registration is now live for state voters

ONLINE VOTING *from AI*



PHOTO ADOBE IMAGES

Oklahoma launched its long-awaited online voter registration system Tuesday, giving prospective voters ample time to submit a fully digital application ahead of the 2024 presidential election cycle.

Oklahomans who hold U.S. citizenship, are at least 18 years old by the next election day and have a valid driver’s license or state identification card may use the online registration portal, State Election Board Secretary Paul Ziriaux said in a written statement. The Legislature first authorized the election board to create the online system in 2015, but technical snags in cross-checking voter registration information and motor vehicle data delayed full implementation for several years.

Beginning in 2018, the state allowed prospective voters to fill out a registration form online but required them to print out the sheet and deliver it to their county election board office. Oklahoma now becomes the 41st state in the U.S. to allow its residents to register completely online, according to data compiled by the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Ziriaux said in the press release that the system allows people to submit the form electronically via desktop or mobile device and that the system had undergone testing to ensure its security.

County election officials will manually review online registration applications and mail out ID cards upon approval. Those whose applications are initially rejected will also be notified.

Voting access advocates in Oklahoma have long called on the state to expedite its launch of online voter registration, noting its effectiveness in boosting voter participation and reducing administrative costs in other states. For instance, Kansas saw voter application transactions double in the weeks after it released its online registration system in 2009.

Lynn Skaggs, president of the League of Women Voters of Oklahoma, said the organization is optimistic the streamlined process will aid voter registration efforts in the coming months, particularly among young voters. Youth voter turnout in Oklahoma has lagged in recent election cycles, with just a quarter of voters ages 18-30 participating in the 2022 midterm election and less than 10% casting a ballot in the March 7 special election to decide State Question 820.

“This is something that has been on our radar for a long time,” Skaggs said. “It’s more accessible, it’s more efficient, and of course you have the younger generation coming up who is used to doing all of these kinds of processes online.”

Registered Republicans and Democrats statewide will go to the polls on March 5, 2024 to vote in presidential primary elections. Some voters have special election and proposition elections approaching this year. The OK Voter Portal provides upcoming election dates by precinct.

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.



FORMER OKLAHOMA HOUSE REP. DAN KIRBY, right, walks into the Eastern District of Oklahoma federal courthouse in Muskogee for the final day of his trial Wednesday, June 28, 2023. PHOTO BENNETT BRINKMAN

‘Consequence’: Jury Finds Former Rep. Dan Kirby Guilty Of Involuntary Manslaughter

BENNETT BRINKMAN,
NonDoc



PHOTO ADOBE IMAGES

“You don’t drink, smoke marijuana and take amphetamine, stimulants (...) and depressants and drive.”

— JOSH SATTER, U.S. Attorney

DAN KIRBY GUILTY

MUSKOGEE — After nearly five hours of deliberation, a federal jury found twice-resigned politician Dan Kirby guilty of involuntary manslaughter in the July 2022 motorcycle wreck that killed his girlfriend, Sheryl Bichsel.

When the verdict was read in U.S. District Judge John F. Heil III’s courtroom, Kirby closed his eyes. Members of his family gasped and cried quietly.

Others, although quiet in the courtroom, celebrated the conviction later.

“I think that his actions needed some type of consequence, and that happened,” said Stephanie Winesburg, Bichsel’s daughter. “I don’t feel like anybody’s a winner in this situation, because my mom is still not here. But I’m still happy that there is a consequence so that it won’t happen again.”

To affirm the unanimity of the verdict, Heil made each juror verbally state that they considered Kirby to be guilty.

Over the three-day trial, prosecutors convinced the 12 jurors beyond a reasonable doubt that Kirby, 65, was intoxicated to the point of impairment when he drove off a road and wrecked his motorcycle near Checotah after a day of partying with friends. Bichsel, who was not wearing a helmet, flew off the back of Kirby’s motorcycle and died the next day at a Tulsa hospital.

Kirby’s trial began Monday with testimony from three witnesses called by the United States government, which prosecuted the case owing to Kirby’s citizenship of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation. Monday’s witnesses were OSBI

criminologist Garry Metcalfe (who testified as a toxicology expert), Janann Geis (a friend of Kirby and Bichsel who witnessed the wreck) and Oklahoma Highway Patrol trooper Charles Epley (who responded to the wreck).

Kirby’s lawyer, John Campbell, attempted to poke holes in Epley’s testimony in particular, asking why he did not arrest Kirby if he truly believed Kirby to be intoxicated that night. Jurors, however, apparently did not find those doubts convincing enough to render a not guilty verdict.

Prosecutors showed video evidence from Epley’s vehicle dash cam of the field sobriety test the trooper attempted to conduct with Kirby. After Kirby was unable to follow Epley’s instructions three separate times on one part of the test, Kirby opted to not continue the rest. (Epley testified that, although he was wearing a body camera, it malfunctioned and he “has no idea why.”)

On Tuesday, the government called three more witnesses, including Jarrad Wagner, a forensic toxicologist who issued two reports on the contents of Kirby’s blood the night of the crash.

While Kirby’s blood alcohol content was only 0.028, below the legal limit, the OSBI toxicology analysis also found a combination of narcotics in his system, including unspecified amounts of amphetamine, marijuana, tramadol, oxycodone and a pair of anti-depressants — citalopram and trazodone.

Campbell succeeded in getting Wagner to admit that the blood toxicology report alone was not enough to convince Wagner of Kirby’s intoxication, but Wagner maintained that the report combined with

the video evidence was enough to conclude that Kirby was intoxicated.

‘Defendant cared about himself’

Campbell returned to the toxicology report Wednesday in his closing arguments, calling Wagner a “hired gun” and arguing that the lack of specified amounts of drugs in Kirby’s system should be too circumstantial to conclude he was intoxicated.

“They want to take this report that does not tell you that he was intoxicated and say that he was intoxicated,” Campbell said.

Campbell also emphasized a point he made frequently the previous two days: officers’ decision not to arrest Kirby that night.

“They don’t release drunk drivers back out onto the street,” Campbell said. “If they think you’re drunk, they arrest you.”

Ultimately, the doubts Campbell raised proved insufficient for jurors to disregard the evidence that U.S. attorneys Jordan Howanitz and Josh Satter took jurors back through methodically during their closing arguments.

“What is evident is intoxication based on the whole picture,” Howanitz said.

Howanitz replayed videos shown to jurors Monday, including one showing Kirby and Epley in Epley’s car when the trooper received a phone call from an off-duty trooper checking on Kirby.

“Defendant cared about himself,” Howanitz said. “While Sheryl Bichsel was dying, defendant was making calls to save himself.”

Additionally, prosecutors again drew attention to Kirby’s inability to follow instructions during the Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus part of the field sobriety test.

“You don’t drink and drive,” Satter said.

“You don’t drink and smoke marijuana and drive. You don’t drink, smoke marijuana and take amphetamine, stimulants (...) and depressants and drive.”

A sentencing hearing for Kirby was not immediately set. In federal court, involuntary manslaughter carries a maximum sentence of up to eight years in prison.

Kirby’s attorney, Campbell, declined to comment on the verdict.

Christine Riley, Bichsel’s friend, said she appreciated Wednesday’s verdict.

“Couldn’t be happier,” Riley said. “The only thing that could’ve made it better is if he left the courthouse in handcuffs.”

Riley said that while no punishment for Kirby can bring true justice, she is looking forward to the upcoming sentencing hearing.

“What does matter is all of his past bad behaviors that he barely even got a slap on the wrist for — now that comes back to bite him in the ass,” Riley said.

In 2017, then-Rep. Dan Kirby (R-Tulsa) resigned while facing expulsion from the Oklahoma House of Representatives for sexual harassment allegations.

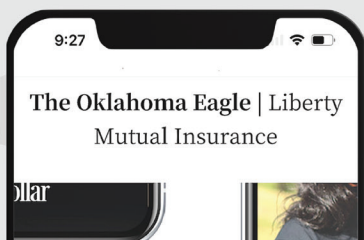
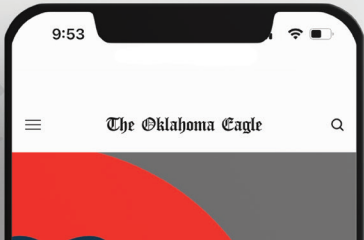
Kirby returned to his hometown of Eufaula and won election to Ward 4 of the Eufaula City Council in April 2021, but he resigned in March following his involuntary manslaughter indictment by a federal grand jury.

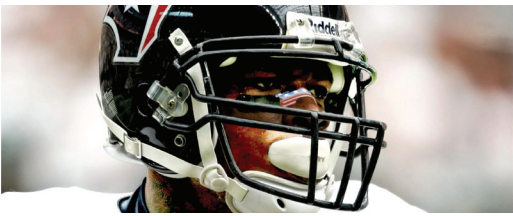
BENNETT BRINKMAN became NonDoc’s education reporter in August 2022 after completing a reporting internship. He holds a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Oklahoma and is originally from Edmond.

The Oklahoma Eagle

Our Mission

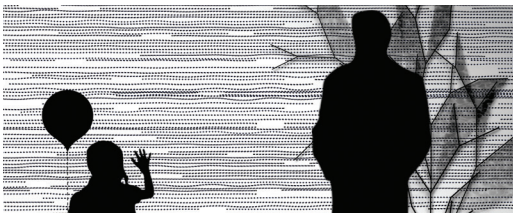
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**ENDGAME AGONY:
BLACKNFLPLAYERS**
A new analysis by Harvard
University’s Football Players Health
Study. **B2**

**SCOTUSDECISIONS&
BLACK AMERICANS**
Recent Supreme Court of the United
States decisions have a negative
impact on Black Americans. **B3**



HOMESCHOOLING *In The Black Community Continues To Grow*



PHOTOS ADOBE IMAGES

The Black
Homeschoolers of
Birmingham network
connects families and
shows newcomers
the ropes of learning
at home.

By AZIAH SID, WORD IN BLACK

HOMESCHOOLING

There’s only so much a parent will take before making a major decision to remove their child from school. A huge family relocation or simply a rough school year could result in a kid being uprooted from their campus and placed into another for the following school year. But how does a parent make the decision to remove their child from the public education system completely?

For Jennifer Duckworth and Yalonda Chandler, the two co-founders of the Black Homeschoolers of Birmingham, making that decision wasn’t easy — but it was based on common sense. They wanted the best for their children and made the decision to homeschool them based on that.

The two women entrepreneurs and leaders in their communities found each other on social media in an attempt to connect with other homeschooling families, but what they didn’t know is that their friendship would be the foundation of an entire network of homeschooled children and their parents.

“It came about when we both were two homeschool moms who were in other co-op opportunities with our homeschool children, and we both felt like, you know what? Our children are not getting exactly everything that they need in this educational journey that we’ve chosen,” Duckworth tells Word In Black.

What started in 2019 as just a group of ladies looking for ways to create the best safe space for their Black and Brown students to grow eventually transformed into a network of over 300 families planning day programs, playdates, field trips, and more for their children across the city.

Now they’re gearing up for the third annual Black Homeschoolers of Birmingham Summit. The one-day gathering is an opportunity to empower and educate families about homeschooling and learn how to position their kids for success.

“A summit like this, the goal is to bring the community together to let them all get all their questions out, give them the tools and the resources, and set them up for success,” Chandler says. She doesn’t want parents to not “have the tools, or resources, or support that they need, and then they’re at home with their children five days a week, and it’s an epic failure.”

Post-Pandemic Increase

Before the COVID-19 Pandemic, a total of 2.8% of students aged 5 to 17 were considered homeschooled children in the United States. Among them, Black students made up the lowest population of only 1.2% in comparison to their white counterparts, which made up 4% of the homeschooled population.

In March 2020, millions of students of all ages were forced to transition into remote learning, a decision that took the homeschooled population from 3% to nearly 7% across the country, according to 2022 data from National Home Education Research Institute.

“During COVID, most of our families were spread out where you’d only see a family once a month, or something like that, and you really had to search for community,” Chandler tells Word In Black. “We started this organization so it would be a built-in community.”

Research shows that among the overall increase in homeschooled children, Black families saw the largest jump from an estimated 5.4% to a fivefold jump of 16.1%. This jump rippled through the Birmingham families, fast-tracking the decision to turn the Facebook group into an official organization.

“If you want to create this community, then you have to help us,” Duckworth says. “If you want field trips, then you’ve got to create those field trips. We started becoming more of an organization during COVID.”

Music classes, debate sessions, STEM programs, soccer, art, and more were created for students to bolster the much-needed social interactions. Originally parent-led courses, experts in their respective fields have taken over the enrichment programs to give kids the full experience.

Homeschooling in the Black Community

Similar to other homeschooling families and co-ops, parents of the organization educate their children based on what they see as fit for their child. When it comes to teaching the truth about the Black experience in the U.S., their views, like many Black parents, differ from the mainstream education system,

HOMESCHOOLING *cont.* **B2**



“We definitely wanted to have a safe space where Black and Brown homeschool families can come and connect with one another.”

YALONDA CHANDLER, co-founder,
Black Homeschoolers of Birmingham

HOMESCHOOLING from BI

“We would be in very good communities that would talk about history, but the history may not reflect our children,” Duckworth says. “Like we’re in the library, and whatnot, but the library would not completely reflect what our children look like.”

Chandler, a mother of four, has been a homeschooling mom since her now 22-year-old entered the sixth grade. Moving to homeschooling is a decision she’s stuck with since her child with disabilities experienced over-policing.

“We encountered a 30-year teacher at first grade within the public school setting who was determined to break his spirit,” she explains. “It was just one thing after another...I had to make the decision as the mom, we were just not going to continue.”

The need for her son to reach a level of proficiency in math to move up was also a deciding factor in removing him from a space where she felt his needs were not being

addressed as a multifaceted individual.

“We definitely wanted to have a safe space where Black and Brown homeschool families can come and connect with one another, so they wouldn’t be homeschooling in isolation, but also they can learn from each other,” Chandler says.

In Duckworth’s case, she wanted her son’s learning to reflect their own lived experiences and develop a foundation for him.

“We were looking to go into the public school system at first, but then we had been instructed by some local people in our village of friends that we might want to consider not doing that because having a confident, Black son being put into the public school system at that time was not probably the best for his mental foundation,” Duckworth tells Word In Black. “This is our eighth year of homeschooling... we just take it one year at a time.”



PHOTO ADOBE IMAGES

Endgame Agony: Black Ex-NFL Players Suffering More

A new analysis by Harvard University’s Football Players Health Study found that retired Black players experience more severe pain off the field

By ALEXA SPENCER, WORD IN BLACK

There comes a time when every professional football player hangs up their jersey as the lights go out on their multi-million-dollar career. They may never again feel the impact of colliding head-on with a 300-pound defensive tackle or being sacked before making a pass, but the pain from the sport lingers on — especially for Black players.

According to a recent study, Black former National Football League (NFL) players are hurting worse off the field than their white peers.

Researchers at Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital, and Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital found that Black ex-players experience more intense levels of pain that interfere with daily activities.

“We’ve known for quite a while that there are large racial and ethnic differences in pain outcomes around the world, just like there are for most other medical outcomes,” Robert Edwards, a senior author and Harvard Medical School associate professor of anesthesia, said in a statement. “It’s only recently we’ve been studying some of the contributors to these sorts of effects in the U.S.”

The research team also found that Black players experienced more severe fatigue, were more likely to smoke, and exercised less. Mental and social factors, such as depression, anxiety, and a lack of social support were more strongly connected with pain among Black players than in white players.

The findings, published in the June issue of the journal “Pain,” were discovered as part of Harvard University’s Football Players Health Study — a program that examines the conditions impacting players’ short- and long-

term health.

“There are many factors that likely drive the racial disparities in chronic pain that we found in elite athletes, such as discrimination in medical settings, early life socioeconomic disadvantages, and more,” Rachel Grashow, a senior author and director of epidemiological research initiatives for the Football Players Health Study said.

Black men represent 56% of NFL players, compared to white men, who represent 25%, and Hispanic and Latino men, who represent less than 1%, according to Statista. As a result, Black players are no strangers to the injuries the physically demanding sport causes.

In 2022, there were reportedly 161 concussions during the regular season. Between 2015 and 2021, there were an average of 159 per year, according to data from the NFL.

Concussions — known to increase the likelihood of cognitive impairment, depression, and anxiety later in life — are among the most common NFL injuries next to torn ACLs, ankle sprains, and shoulder dislocation.

Whether they’re a pro baller, star college athlete, or a high school team member, football players of all levels are vulnerable to poor health outcomes.

“This study is a microcosm of the racial and ethnic disparities in pain that we’ve observed over the years, and reminds us that elite athletic status is not sufficient to eliminate these differences,” Ross Zafonte, principal investigator of the Football Players Health Study and the HMS Earle P. and Ida S. Charlton Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Spaulding said.

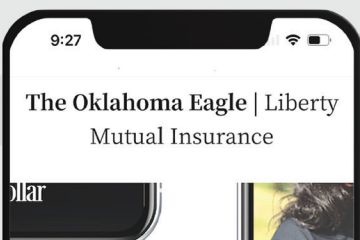
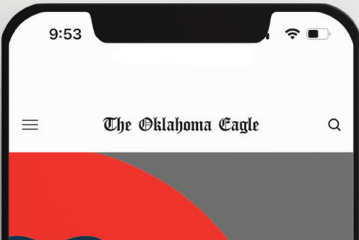


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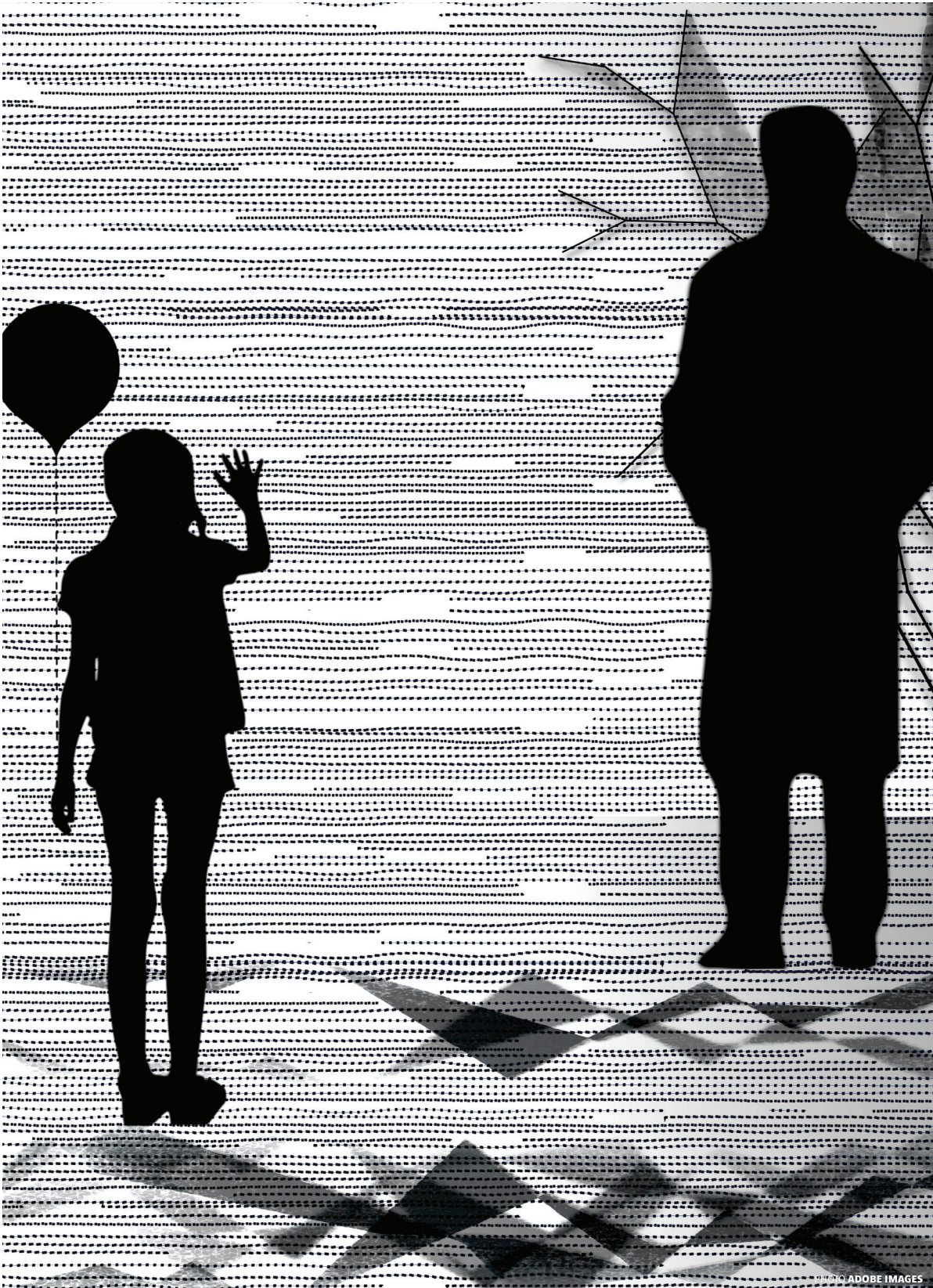


Supreme Court Decisions NEGATIVELY IMPACT BLACKS, OTHER MINORITIES

By JOHN NEAL, THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

In June 2022, in a controversial decision in the Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization case, the Court stripped away a woman’s constitutional right to an abortion.

The Supreme Court also nixed President Biden’s student loan forgiveness program.



A series of U.S. Supreme Court decisions have disproportionately harmed the rights of Blacks and other marginalized groups. The Court chose to take cases involving rights previously taken for granted and proceeded to slam the door shut on them in decisions pushed through by a super-conservative majority. Each of the rulings curtailed individual liberties and adversely affected targeted minorities. Every one of the actions will directly and negatively impact the lives of people of color and other minorities in Tulsa and elsewhere in Oklahoma. Whether they are women seeking abortions, college graduates trying to pay back student loans, or college bound students trying to gain access to top-ranked institutions of learning, Black and Brown Oklahomans will have a far more difficult time pursuing these actions because of the decisions.

Abortion rights
In June 2022, in a controversial decision in the Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization case, the Court stripped away a woman’s constitutional right to an abortion. Black and poor women were the groups harmed the most. (There is considerable overlap between those two population groups.) Lower-income women have a higher unintended pregnancy rate, and Black women have higher abortion rates. In Oklahoma in 2021, among women aged 15-44, Black women had an abortion rate of 13.3 per 1,000 live births, while the rate for whites was 3.8, according to the Oklahoma State Health Department. Oklahoma is one of fourteen states to enact an abortion ban in 2022-23. Multiple studies have established beyond dispute that these women have poorer health care and experience much higher rates of infant and maternal mortality during pregnancy. They are least likely to have health insurance and less able to afford an out-of-state abortion. Recently, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has recognized that “implicit bias” and “structural racism” contribute to adverse outcomes.

Student loan forgiveness
The Supreme Court also nixed President Biden’s student loan forgiveness program. It decided the administration could not “cancel \$430 billions of student loan principal.” National student loan debt is \$1.7 trillion owed by 43 million Americans. What has not been commonly reported is that the Court’s decision more often negatively impacts Blacks and people of color. The U.S. Department of Education in 2019 said, “More than two-thirds of African American Pell Grant recipients took out a student loan with an average debt of \$7,200.” Pell Grant awards are limited to students who have the greatest financial need. Recipients are twice as likely to be Black than white, although college enrollment rates are nearly the same. In Oklahoma, over 70% of undergraduate students rely on financial aid, and over 40% of the assistance comes from student loans (2020 Higher Education Regents Report). The Biden financial assistance program would have forgiven up to \$20,000 for Pell Grant recipients and \$10,000 for other borrowers. Black students borrow 50% more than their white counterparts and have an average debt of \$45,000, per the Federal Reserve Board. They are also more likely to struggle to pay it back. The Institute of Assets and Social Policy recently “found that the average Black borrower still owed 95% of their loan after two decades.” Other minority students are also affected. In summary, Black, Hispanic, and Native American borrowers generally had higher financial needs, more student loan debt, and were more likely to struggle to pay off their debt.

Last Friday, the Biden administration announced a plan that would address the student loan through administrative action. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona announced that 804,000 borrowers will have their student loan debt cancelled, totaling \$39 billion worth of debt, in the coming weeks due to fixes that more accurately count qualified

monthly payments under existing income-driven repayment plans. “For far too long, borrowers fell through the cracks of a broken system that failed to keep accurate track of their progress towards forgiveness,” Cardona said in a written statement.

Affirmative action
No recent U.S. Supreme Court decision took greater aim at the African American community than their overturning of Affirmative Action in college admissions, both private and public. The Court announced this ruling in June 2023. Race-based affirmative action policies began over 50 years ago and have helped millions of Blacks attend higher education institutions that previous racially discriminatory practices would have denied. Originating in the Kennedy administration in the 1960s, they were gradually broadened to include other minorities and women in a wide range of institutions of education and employment, and in social settings. But beginning in 1989 and continuing over recent decades, the Court has gradually imposed greater restrictions on the ability of institutions to use Affirmative Action. In Affirmative Action higher education programs, race was only one factor of many factors considered in admissions policies. Nevertheless, the Supreme Court banned its application completely in its June decision. Based on the experiences of states who had previously imposed a ban, including Oklahoma in 2012, Black and other minority admission rates will drop. This decision will indisputably have a ripple effect on minorities throughout society, including graduate admissions and professional training in schools for doctors and lawyers. Critics have already viewed the decision as establishing a court basis for further eroding or abolishing affirmative action in employment and a potential death knell for Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion programs throughout society. Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson’s dissenting opinion characterized the conservative majority decision as “truly a tragedy for us all.” Jackson is one of two African Americans on the higher court.

Sexual orientation
Under the guise of protecting free speech, The Supreme Court curtailed the rights of LGBT persons to access goods and services from public businesses in a Colorado case. Over recent years the public and the courts have increasingly come to view the discrimination of this minority group as immoral and unlawful. Many see the protection of their rights as an extension of laws having their origins in the Civil Rights Act of 1964, outlawing discrimination based on race, color, and national origin. Most states have enacted “public accommodations” laws protecting these rights, and twenty-five states, including Colorado but not Oklahoma, have extended the rights to deny discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. However, the Court upheld a preemptive challenge to this law from a web designer who said her business would not design a website for same-sex marriages. Justice Gorsuch wrote the majority opinion for the Court characterizing her public business refusal to provide this service as speech “expressive conduct.” Critics of the Court ruling claim the basis for their decision would also potentially undermine similar rights of other minority groups, including Blacks and other persons of color. The Court’s dissenting justices said the majority decision was a “license to discriminate.” Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor likened it to a public business sign that reads, “No Blacks, No Muslims, No Gays.” Sotomayor’s dissent argues, “The decision’s logic cannot be limited to discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.” The same logic could apply to a “wedding website for an interracial couple.”

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- Flexible underwriting
- Borrower must be a first-time homebuyer³

1 Dream Home Loan Eligibility: Must be 18 years or older. The collateral securing the loan must be located in a MidFirst Assessment Area and must be the primary residence of the applicant(s). Also, either the collateral property must be located within a Majority Minority Census Tract (tract minority population greater than 50 percent) or Low-to-Moderate Income Census Tract (tract income is less than 80% area median income), or the applicant(s) combined annual income must be considered Low-to-Moderate (less than 80% of the median family income of the MidFirst Assessment Area) based on data published by Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC). **2** Limited down payment may be required under certain circumstances - ask for details when you apply. **3** MidFirst follows FNMA guidelines which considers a first-time homebuyer as someone who has not owned a property in the last three years.





TULSA PRIDE 2023



By SAM LEVRULT MEDIA

The 2023 Tulsa Pride took place on June 23 through June 25th. Live performances, vendors, local organizations, and large crowds filled downtown. Adjustments were made to the usual parade route along 4th street in the East Village District as recovery efforts of the previous week's storm continued across the city. Pride celebrations continued on spreading messages love and community including the Tulsa Pride Rainbow Run, Tulsa Pride Festival and Parade, and Pride in the Park at Guthrie Green.

