

The Oklahoma Eagle

"WE MAKE AMERICA BETTER, WHEN WE AID OUR PEOPLE." - E. L. GOODWIN (PUBLISHER, 1936-1978)

SERVING GREATER TULSA SINCE 1921

LEGACY

5,415

Weeks, since the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre and a denial of justice.

NATION

Young People for Progress: Empowering Those Under 35 to Better Their Communities
Word In Black, **A11**

NATION

In the Classroom: A Look at How Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Legacy Is Addressed in School
Word In Black, **A11**

SOCIAL

THE OK EAGLE.COM
#THE OK EAGLE
#OKEAGLEPAPER

\$1.00

VOL. 104 NO. 04

January 24, 2025 - January 30, 2025

Angela Moore will be 65 years old in August. *She said she is praying she'll be approved* for an apartment at the newly renovated The Harmony Marcus Garvin Apartments. She said she'd consider it an early birthday gift.



HOUSING INSECURITY FORCING OKLAHOMA SENIORS TO MOVE

HEATHER WARLICK
Oklahoma Watch

A2

'Supreme executive power': Governor has right to hire outside counsel, AG power 'subordinate'
NonDoc. **A7**

Criminal Justice Bills to Watch in This Year's Legislature
Oklahoma Watch. **A6**

Trump Executive Order Could Push Up Prescription Drug Prices
Word In Black. **A13**

Voting and Election Bills to Follow in 2025
Oklahoma Watch. **A5**

Last Week's Headlines
Just in case you missed it. **A4**

Red Bird
Historic OK All-Black Town. **A4**

Jobs & Classifieds
Discover career opportunities. **A9**

Faith In Tulsa
The Eagle Church Directory. **A10**



FEATURED

'Supreme executive power': Gov. has right to hire outside counsel, AG power 'subordinate'

Counsel, A7



FEATURED

Criminal Justice Bills to Watch in This Year's Legislature

Legislators filed dozens of criminal justice bills
Criminal Justice, A6



PHOTO ADOBE IMAGES

Housing

Housing Insecurity Forcing Oklahoma Seniors To Move

HEATHER WARLICK
Oklahoma Watch

Angela Moore will be 65 years old in August. She said she is praying she'll be approved for an apartment at the newly renovated The Harmony Marcus Garvin Apartments. She said she'd consider it an early birthday gift.

Cont. A3, Housing



(ABOVE) The Harmony Marcus Garvey Apartment manager Gabby Thompson, right, speaks with applicant Angela Moore outside a duplex at the senior living complex in Oklahoma City.
PHOTO HEATHER WARLICK/OKLAHOMA WATCH

Housing

Housing Insecurity Forcing Oklahoma Seniors To Move

From A2

The northeast Oklahoma City apartments are for seniors ages 65 and older, but Moore heard she could be approved early. She visited the campus recently and took a rental application.

She'll pay more for rent than at her apartment on Britton Road and will have to contend with a flight of stairs to a second-floor unit.

Moore said she'd gladly make those sacrifices to live at The Harmony, with its freshly renovated interiors and enormous white-framed picture windows. In-unit washer/dryer sets are luxuries Moore said are worth the extra rent.

Marcus Garvey is an old schoolhouse that most recently served as a charter school. Developers redesigned the schoolhouse into 20 apartments and 20 duplexes, designated as affordable senior housing.

Oklahoma has many privately owned housing options for seniors, along with public housing and project-based housing complexes. But the over-60 demographic is growing faster than houses are being built in the state.

Nearly 900,000 Oklahomans are 60 and older, and another quarter million are approaching 60. During the past four years, the percentage of Oklahomans over 65 has grown by 43%; in 2034, the oldest age demographic will outpace the

number of people under 18 for the first time.

As the number of older Oklahomans rises, many are packing up and moving. Retirement Living estimated that one in four seniors feels compelled to move due to rising rents, inability to pay rent, threat of eviction and landlords who won't make necessary repairs.

Moving Out

While Moore may move as a choice, Shanon Van Gordon, 72, was recently forced out of the townhome she rented in central Oklahoma City. She lived in the same complex as her sisters, who are her closest companions.

Oklahoma Watch reported in October on the lack of repairs and apparent retaliatory actions Van Gordon and her family experienced.

Securing a rental that met her needs meant Van Gordon had to move 12 miles from the home where she lived for 21 years to a food desert where the nearest grocery store is seven miles away. Plus, she pays \$150 more per month for her new duplex.

Van Gordon's sisters, also in their 70s, still live in the townhome complex, which is crumbling around them. With the landlord still slow to make necessary repairs, the sisters are saving for move-

in deposits and other relocation costs in case they too are forced to move.

Housing Desperately Needed

The state lacks affordable rental options for seniors who want to downsize and don't need assisted care.

"About 40% of seniors are relying solely on Social Security for their income," said Sabine Brown, a senior policy analyst at Oklahoma Policy Institute. "And rent has just greatly outpaced Social Security income."

According to the Oklahoma 2025 Housing Needs Assessment, Oklahoma rent increased 31% between 2011 and 2021. During the same period, Social Security gave a 17.5% cost of living increase.

An estimated 68,000 senior-headed renter households in the state meet income requirements to receive Section 8 housing vouchers, Brown said. Of the approximate 25,000 vouchers used in 2023, only about 6,700, or 27%, were used by older Oklahoma households.

Legal Aid Services attorney Emily Dunn said she is seeing more seniors fighting for their homes at eviction court.

Older Oklahomans, she said, sometimes have trouble grasping that Oklahoma laws don't provide them greater protections, particularly in

housing concerns.

"I find not that they don't understand what is happening as much, but that it can be harder to overcome thinking that there can be more done than can be," Dunn said. "Laws, unfortunately, do not protect tenants in a way that we would like."

Van Gordon had been fighting her landlord for years, lobbying him to repair the many problems in her townhome. After finally taking legal action, a judge ruled in her favor. Her landlord was required to pay her \$1,000, a fraction of the nearly \$4,000 Van Gordon and her son spent in actual moving costs.

Outside the System

Similar factors that force some seniors to change their living arrangements may force others out of their homes altogether.

Janet Anders, 67, has been living in her car near the intersection of SW 33rd Street and Robinson Avenue for the past six months after being displaced when her sister was evicted.

Anders receives Social Security payments but said she can't find an apartment that is affordable for her and she is not on the waiting list for Section 8 rental assistance, which closed in the fall.

Cont. A5, Housing

The Oklahoma Eagle

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 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. In April 2020 the census counted 87 residents.

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).

The Oklahoma Eagle

Founded in 1921

- James O. Goodwin**
Publisher 1980-Present
- Robert K. Goodwin**
Publisher 1972-1980
- Edward L. Goodwin, Jr.**
Co-Publisher 1980-2014
- Edward L. Goodwin, Sr.**
Publisher 1936-1972
- Theodore B. Baughman**
Publisher 1921-1936

Business

- Jerry Goodwin**
Principal
- M. David Goodwin**
Principal
- Ross D. Johnson**
Principal
- David W. Cole**
General Council
- Marsh Media**
Advertising

News

- Gary Lee**
Managing Editor
- Ray Pearcey**
Sr. Contributor
- Russell LaCour**
Contributor
- Victor Luckerson**
Contributor
- John Neal**
Contributor

Photography

- Cory Young**
Photographer

Print

- Sam Levrault**
Production Director

Circulation

- Kirstein Lynn**
Subscription Manager

Digital

- Web**
TheOKEagle.com
- Facebook**
TheOKEagle
- Twitter**
OKEaglePaper

Contact

- Letters to the Editor**
editor@theokeagle.com
- Advertise**
advertise@theokeagle.com
- Circulation**
publishers@theokeagle.com
- Subscribe**
theokeagle.com/subscribe

THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE People. Narratives. News.

Get 52 weeks for only \$1 per week

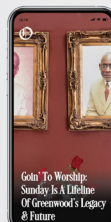
Visit theokeagle.com/subscribe-advertise

The Oklahoma Eagle

www.theokeagle.com

The Oklahoma Eagle

Enjoy articles, events and featured content online



Online

WEB: www.theokeagle.com
FACEBOOK: #TheOKEagle
TWITTER: #OKEaglePaper

Delivery

For questions about deliver, billing and our membership program, please contact us at +1 (918) 582-7124, ext. 241.

Submissions

Submitted content may be edited for space, clarity and for considerations of liability. All submissions become the sole property of The Oklahoma Eagle, which reserves the right to run all or part of any submissions due to timeliness or newsworthiness.

Letters to the Editor

Want to write a letter to be published in the paper and online? Email us online to submit.

Advertising

For print and online advertising information, go to theokeagle.com/media-kit/ or call. +1 (918) 582-7124.

The Newsroom

Know something important we should cover? Send an inquiry to theokeagle.com/subscribe.

The Oklahoma Eagle | Founded in 1921 | Vol. CIV No. 04

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

©2025 The Oklahoma Eagle, LLC. All rights reserved. No portions of this periodical may be reproduced with expressed written consent.



Housing

For seniors, options are few and reform is slow

From A3

Her boyfriend is in his 60s and the two said they know several other unhoused seniors. People age 50 and older are the fastest growing demographic experiencing homelessness.

Making Dents

Oklahoma needs tens of thousands of housing units the Housing Needs Assessment shows. To bridge the gap, particularly for older Oklahomans, Brown said state and local policymakers need to rethink zoning restrictions and find ways to encourage builders to accommodate accessibility needs for the fastest-growing age group.

Creative use of vacant buildings like The Harmony Marcus Garvey Apartments could represent a way to rejuvenate blighted areas while providing much-needed housing.

The Harmony is privately owned and built with a combination of tax increment financing, affordable housing GOLT bonds, HOME funds, and low-income housing tax

“**We are hearing that there are high numbers of seniors reaching out for legal assistance to help them deal with evictions**”

Stacy Hanson,
executive director of
the Oklahoma Alliance
on Aging

credits. As such, the complex accepts Section 8 rental assistance, making the \$1,007 rent for a two-bedroom unit more palatable for voucher holders.

In 2017, another school was renovated into low-income housing. The building that was Douglass High School from 1934 to 1954, then The Page Woodson School until 1994, is now The Douglass Apartments. Other schools and government buildings renovated into low-income and senior housing are sprinkled across the state. The same types of buildings are popular choices for market-rate apartments such as The Sieber in downtown Oklahoma City.

One development team is in the early stages of renovating the old Roosevelt School at 900 N Klein Ave. into The Theodore, a multi-use boutique hotel.

Creative use of old structures financed by gap funding sources may make a dent in the local housing landscape for older Oklahomans, but seniors are feeling the crunch, said Stacy Hanson, executive director of the Oklahoma Alliance on Aging. The Alliance takes calls daily from

seniors needing help with everything from food to housing assistance.

“We are hearing that there are high numbers of seniors reaching out for legal assistance to help them deal with evictions,” Hanson said. “I think people have just been suffering along, you know, paying for rent and food, really doing what they can.”

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, Hanson said she’s seen Oklahoma’s senior population struggling with rising rents and stagnating Social Security payments.

“It feels like it’s been a slow, slow tsunami,” Hanson said.

She said older Oklahomans should reach out to their lawmakers and push for attention to their needs, like more housing options.

Oklahoma Alliance on Aging advocates for senior causes at the annual Senior Day at the Capitol, set for March 3.

Heather Warlick is a reporter covering evictions, housing and homelessness. Contact her at (405) 226-1915 or hwarlick@oklahomawatch.org.

Voting

Voting and Election Bills to Follow in 2025

KEATON ROSS
Oklahoma Watch

Bills ending no-excuse absentee voting and making it more difficult for state questions to reach the ballot are among the dozens of election and voting proposals eligible to be considered in 2025.

Lawmakers also filed bills looking to expand voting access, including proposals to increase the number of early voting days. Many early voting places saw record-breaking turnout in November.

These measures face a March 6 deadline to advance out of committee in their originating chamber. Because it’s the start of a new two-year legislative cycle, they may be considered again next year if they aren’t voted down.

Here are five election and voting bills I’ll be tracking in the coming weeks and months:

- House Bill 1515 by Molly Jenkins, R-Coyle: This bill ends the state’s no-excuse absentee ballot policy by requiring requesters to declare why they can’t vote in-person early or on election day. Current law allows anyone to request and return an absentee ballot with a notarized signature.
- Senate Joint Resolution 5 by Michael Bergstrom, R-Adair: This resolution raises the threshold for a state question to pass

from a simple majority to 60%. If the resolution passes the Senate and House, it would go before voters during a statewide election for a final decision. Florida passed a similar law in 2006.

- House Bill 1005 by Jim Olsen, R-Roland: This bill requires photo identification for all elections held after Jan. 1, 2027, and directs the state to develop and roll out a voter identification card that includes a photo. Olsen chairs the House Elections and Ethics Committee and has broad discretion to decide what bills are and aren’t heard in the committee stage.
- Senate Bill 129 by Senate Minority Leader Julia Kirt, D-Oklahoma City: This bill increases the early in-person absentee voting period from four days to two weeks preceding a general election. This proposal would align Oklahoma more closely with neighboring Texas, which had an 11-day early voting period ahead of the Nov. 5 election.
- Senate Bill 116 by David Bullard, R-Durant: This bill requires initiative petition organizers to collect no more than 5% of signatures in a single county. If successful, the legislation could affect Oklahoma’s State Question 836, which aims to get an open primary question on the ballot in 2026.



A voter feeds his ballot into a machine at the St. James AME Church in Arcadia during the primary election on June 28, 2022. PHOTO WHITNEY BRYEN/OKLAHOMA WATCH



PHOTO ADOBE IMAGES

Criminal Justice

CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILLS TO WATCH IN THIS YEAR'S LEGISLATURE

KEATON ROSS
Oklahoma Watch

Oklahoma lawmakers filed dozens of criminal justice bills ahead of the Jan. 16 deadline, including ambitious proposals to establish a full-time Pardon and Parole Board and institute a death penalty moratorium.

The state's prison population has stayed relatively flat over the past three years, with most reforms focusing on improving reentry services and making it easier for formerly incarcerated to secure employment. Last year lawmakers passed a sweeping felony classification bill and measure allowing victims of domestic violence to present evidence of abuse as a mitigating factor.

The 2025 legislative session begins on Feb. 3 at noon. Bills must advance out of committee in their chamber of origin by March 6.

Here are five criminal justice bills to watch in the coming weeks and months:

Pausing the Death Penalty

Bill Number: Senate Bill 601
Author: Dave Rader, R-Tulsa

Rader's bill pauses all pending executions, blocks the state from seeking new execution dates and creates a task force to study Oklahoma's execution practices.

The five-member Death Penalty Task Force would issue its first report in November 2026, with annual follow-up reports required through 2029. The governor, House Speaker, Senate Pro Tem and legislative minority leaders would each appoint one member.

Oklahoma carried out four executions by lethal injection last year, all without

SB 601
Bill pauses all pending executions,
blocks the state from seeking new execution dates and creates a task force to study Oklahoma's execution practices.

significant complications or issues. In 2022, the state withstood a federal lawsuit alleging its execution practices constituted cruel and unusual punishment. However, a bipartisan group of lawmakers maintains there aren't sufficient checks and balances to ensure an innocent person isn't executed.

Former Rep. Kevin McDugle, R-Broken Arrow, proposed similar legislation last year. The measure passed the House Criminal Justice and Corrections Committee but stalled on the House floor.

Oklahoma is scheduled to put Wendell Grissom to death by lethal injection on March 20. No other execution dates have been set.

Making the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board Full-Time

Bill Number: House Bill 1968
Author: Danny Williams, R-Seminole

This bill transitions Pardon and Parole Board members from part-time to full-time state employees and raises their annual salary from \$22,800 to \$85,000 annually. The measure also authorizes the board to employ two alternative board members at a salary of \$75,000.

Criminal justice reform advocates have pushed for the change, arguing that part-time members are time-constrained in reviewing cases and therefore predisposed to reject parole for certain offenders. Several neighboring states, including Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas and Texas, employ full-time parole board members.

Alternate members could prevent delays when a sitting member resigns or recuses themselves from a hearing. The Parole Board's December 2024 regular meeting was postponed after two members resigned within weeks. Some death row clemency hearings,

including that of death row prisoner Richard Glossip, have moved forward with less than five members due to board members recusing themselves.

Williams hosted an interim study on criminal sentencing last October where several parole board reforms were weighed.

"Because we do have so many people incarcerated and so many people coming before the board regularly, it's difficult for them to actually fully consider cases before them," Oklahoma Applesseed Executive Director Colleen McCarty said at the hearing.

Reviving the Prison Rodeo

Bill Numbers: Senate Bill 137
Authors: Sen. Warren Hamilton, R-McCurtain

This proposal creates a revolving fund of state appropriations the Department of Corrections may utilize to revive the prison rodeo at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester. The event shuttered in 2009 after attendance declined and the facility maintenance lagged.

Last year the agency withdrew an \$8 million request to restart the prison rodeo following backlash from some lawmakers and prisoner advocates. Hamilton's bill calls for \$8.3 million to be deposited into the account by July.

Proponents of reviving the rodeo say it's an effective rehabilitation tool and an annual boon to McAlester's local economy. Critics say the agency should focus on more pressing matters, like boosting staffing and reducing violence.

Rep. Jim Grego, R-Wilburton, is sponsoring a similar bill in the House.

Cont. A7, Criminal Justice



Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt walks past Attorney General Gentner Drummond and other state officials Monday, Feb. 6, 2023, ahead of his State of the State address. PHOTO LEGISLATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

Gov. Counsel

‘Supreme executive power’: Governor has right to hire outside counsel, AG power ‘subordinate’

TRISTAN LOVELESS
NonDoc

The Oklahoma Supreme Court has ruled 8-0 that Gov. Kevin Stitt has the authority to hire his own outside counsel to represent him in specific cases and that Attorney General Gentner Drummond could make appearances in those cases ex officio, or by virtue of his office, but that the attorney general cannot fire and replace counsel appointed by the governor.

The ruling stems from a dispute over gaming compacts where Drummond sought to replace Stitt’s counsel with his

office’s attorneys. Heightening confusion around the decision’s implications, first Drummond’s office and then Stitt’s office sent out dueling press releases declaring victory Wednesday.

Citing a 1980 opinion which found the Oklahoma Corporation Commission could retain its own attorneys when then-Attorney General Jan Eric Cartwright sought to intervene in a case, the court held that Stitt’s “constitutionally granted supreme executive power” shields him from Drummond replacing his outside counsel. The Oklahoma high court also noted rulings by state supreme courts in Kansas and Alabama on similar

questions.

“As in Howard, we conclude that the governor, in defending the claims asserted against the state, is entitled to be represented by an attorney whose views are consonant with his own, or who at least will represent those views on his behalf in the federal case,” Justice Richard Darby wrote in his opinion. “We hold that the attorney general’s statutory authority to take and assume control of the state’s defense is subordinate to the governor’s constitutionally granted supreme executive power, and statutorily granted authority which gives him the right to represent the state and choose

his counsel in defense of the action.”

The underlying federal case, *Cherokee Nation et al v. U.S. Department of Interior et al*, involves gaming compacts Stitt signed with the Comanche Nation, the Otoe-Missouria Tribe, the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians and the Kialegee Tribal Town. (The compacts signed by Stitt with the four smaller tribes specified new casino opportunities near the plaintiff tribes’ existing casino interests.) In two separate cases, colloquially called Treat I (2020) and Treat II (2021), the state’s highest

Cont. A8, Gov. Counsel

Domestic abuse by strangulation: Added to state’s violent crime list



Criminal Justice

From A6

Adding Crimes to 85% List

Bill Number: House Bill 1591

Author: Rep. John George, R-Newalla

This bill adds domestic abuse by strangulation, domestic assault and battery with a deadly weapon and aggravated assault of a law enforcement officer to the state’s 85% crimes list.

As recently as 2020, domestic abuse by strangulation was not on the state’s violent crime list, allowing offenders to accumulate credits and secure release more quickly.

George’s bill would go a step further, requiring those offenders to serve at least

85% of their court-mandated sentence before becoming eligible for parole. Violent offenders must receive a favorable recommendation from the Pardon and Parole Board and the governor to be paroled.

Oklahoma’s Legislature has increased penalties for some domestic violence crimes in recent years, but has been hesitant to add to the 85% crimes list, fearing the change might cause the state’s prison population to balloon.

Requiring Mugshot Removal

Bill Number: Senate Bill 379

Author: Jo Anna Dossett, D-Tulsa

For-profit tabloids and webpages that

exclusively publish mugshots would be forbidden from requiring payment to remove an image if this bill becomes law.

Senate Bill 379 also stipulates that the business may not require payment to remove the image. Those who violate the provisions of the bill could face possible civil penalties of up to \$1,000 per day.

“Clearly this is a predatory practice,” Dossett said after an interim study on the topic in September 2023. “But we must proceed thoughtfully and cautiously, so as not to cause any unintended consequences impacting public safety or freedom of the press.”

Keaton Ross covers democracy and criminal justice for Oklahoma Watch. Contact him at (405) 831-9753 or Kross@Oklahomawatch.org. Follow him on Twitter at @KeatonRoss.

Gov. Counsel

8-0 Ruling by Okla. SUPREME COURT Acknowledges Gov's Authority

From A7

court found that the new compacts with the Comanche and Otoe-Missouria tribes were invalid for including types of betting illegal under state law, such as sports betting. In the second case, the court found the new UKB and Kialegee compacts were invalid for not being approved by the legislative Joint Committee on State-Tribal Relations.

While the compacts were ruled invalid under state law, it remains unclear whether that invalidates them under federal law. Because the state court decisions were issued after the compacts had been approved by default when then-Secretary of Interior David Bernhardt took no action on their federal review after 45 days, the Cherokee Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation and Citizen Potawatomi Nation sued in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to prevent the compacts from taking effect under federal law. The defendant tribes moved to dismiss the case in an effort to protect the approved status of their new compacts, should the Oklahoma Legislature legalize sports betting and other forms of gaming. (In October 2023, Stitt's office asked that the new UKB and Kialegee compacts to be considered by the Joint Committee on State-Tribal Relations, but the legislative body unanimously rejected the agreements.)

While Stitt has stood by the compacts and has argued the Oklahoma Supreme Court decisions do not override their federal approval status, Drummond sought to intervene in the case and replace Stitt's outside legal counsel, arguing the compacts are federally invalid for violating state law. With the federal district court unsure how to proceed, Judge Timothy J. Kelly requested the Oklahoma Supreme Court to clarify whether Drummond could enter the case under state law.

In Wednesday's 8-0 holding, Justice Douglas Combs wrote a brief concurring opinion that supported the finding of gubernatorial supreme executive power, but

he said the underlying federal case about casino compacts should be considered "moot."

"The attorney general has argued the compacts at issue in this matter have already been found to be invalid by this court and we have held the governor could not unilaterally execute them," Combs wrote. "My belief is the case and the controversy is over and our previous Treat v. Stitt decisions, which determined the compacts to be invalid, answers the issue before the federal court."

Wednesday's decision blocks Drummond from replacing Stitt's counsel with his own but allows him to appear in the case as the attorney general and potentially present his position to the court. While the court clarified the governor is authorized to retain his own counsel, it is unclear how the precedent will impact other executive officials, such as Mental Health Commissioner Allie Friesen who with Stitt has squabbled with Drummond over who can represent her in a mental health lawsuit about competency restoration services. A proposed settlement has been reached in that case, which the Legislature will consider in its 2025 regular session.

Drummond, Stitt claim victory in dueling press releases on outside counsel

Darby, in his opinion, wrote that while the Oklahoma Constitution does not explicitly describe the governor's authority over the other executive branch offices, the justices believe that a hierarchy is clearly contemplated in Article VI, Section 2.

"This court has held that the use of the word 'supreme' to modify the term 'executive power' indicates that the people intended to vest the governor with the full range of executive powers which were recognized when the Oklahoma Constitution was adopted," Darby said.

Drummond's office was first to respond to the decision, with communications director Phil Bacharach releasing a press release about 2:30 p.m. In contrast with prior press



The Oklahoma State Capitol is the house of government of the U.S. state of Oklahoma.

releases, it did not include a link to the decision or direct quotes from Drummond, but it did include a short statement from Bacharach.

"Attorney General Drummond had argued he has statutory authority to advocate for the interests of the state, and we are pleased that the state Supreme Court today affirmed that stance. This lawsuit, which has squandered state resources over four-plus years, is the result of unlawful gaming compacts orchestrated by the governor," Bacharach said.

While the high court did find the attorney general has the power to "advocate for the interests of the state" by appearing ex officio, it did not affirm Drummond's stance on his authority to replace the governor's chosen counsel.

Stitt's office followed with its own press release about an hour later, declaring victory on the question while calling Drummond's

stance a "power grab."

"I'm pleased with the court's common sense ruling which gives the governor clear authority to defend Oklahoma's interests in court. I'm also optimistic that this ruling signals the court's return to constitutional principles," Stitt said. "Unfortunately, [Attorney General] Drummond wasted a lot of time and taxpayer money trying to take control of litigation that was meant to protect Oklahomans. His power grab was rejected."

Just 30 minutes before his office released its press release, Drummond appeared on stage at one of his gubernatorial campaign events alongside the Oklahoma Association of General Contractors executive director Bobby Stem to receive the organization's endorsement for the 2026 election. Drummond has already been endorsed in the nascent gubernatorial race by the state Fraternal Order of Police.



THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

People. Narratives. News.

Get 52 weeks for only \$1 per week

Visit theokeagle.com/subscribe-advertise

The Oklahoma Eagle

www.theokeagle.com

LEGAL NOTICE

Published in The Oklahoma Eagle:
January 3, 10, 17, 24, 2025

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
SEALED BIDS FOR
PROJECT NO. 145500

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to an order by the Mayor of the City of Tulsa, Oklahoma, sealed bids will be received at the Timberlake Construction Office, 11349 East 60th Place, Tulsa, OK 74146 until 2:00 p.m. on the 4th day of February 2025 for furnishing all tools, materials, and labor and performing the work necessary to be done in the construction of the following:

PROJECT NO. 145500 - Tulsa Animal Services

A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 16th, 2025, at 10:00 AM at the Tulsa Animal Services site located at 5995 East 36th Street North, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74115 to familiarize themselves with the project site conditions and their scope of work for the following bid packages, Demolition, Earthwork, and Utilities. The meeting location is at the southwest corner of the site.

The Pre-Bid is NON-MANDATORY for all other scopes.

NOTE: All utility contractors MUST be approved IDP contractors with non-expired registrations to bid and perform the associated scope of work on this project.

Timberlake Construction, Inc. will accept bids on behalf of the City of Tulsa for the following bid packages along with ALL associated alternates.

- Bid Package #2A
- Bid Package #3A Demolition
- Bid Package #4A Building Concrete
- Bid Package #5A Masonry
- Bid Package #6A Structural Steel Fabrication and Erection
- Bid Package #7A Millwork and Finish Carpentry
- Bid Package #8A Rough Carpentry
- Bid Package #9A Roofing and Wall Panels
- Bid Package #10A Waterproofing and Joint Sealants
- Bid Package #11A EIFS
- Bid Package #12A Doors, Frames, and Hardware (Material Only)
- Bid Package #13A Overhead Coiling Doors
- Bid Package #14A Storefront, Glass, and Glazing
- Bid Package #15A Framing, Drywall, and Ceilings
- Bid Package #16A Flooring
- Bid Package #17A Painting
- Bid Package #18A Specialties
- Bid Package #19A Signage
- Bid Package #20A Flagpoles
- Bid Package #21A Fixed Sunscreens
- Bid Package #22A Residential Appliances
- Bid Package #23A Window Shades
- Bid Package #24A Site Furnishes
- Bid Package #25A Tensioned Fabric Structures
- Bid Package #26A Fire Suppression
- Bid Package #27A Plumbing
- Bid Package #28A Mechanical HVAC and Controls
- Bid Package #29A Electrical
- Bid Package #30A Earthwork
- Bid Package #31A Site Concrete and Paving
- Bid Package #32A Chain Link Fences and Gates
- Bid Package #33A Landscape and Sprinklers
- Bid Package #34A Utilities

Drawings, specifications, and contract documents for the construction of said public improvements may be obtained from the Timberlake Construction website, iSqFt, Southwest Construction News, major plan rooms, or by email request from estimating@timberlakeconstruction.com.

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. A Certified or Cashier's Check or Bidders Surety Bond, in the sum of 5% of the bid amount is only for bids over \$50,000, as per statutory requirements, and 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, acceptable to the Tulsa Public Facilities Authority, in conformity with the requirements of the proposed contract documents.

All bids will be publicly opened, recorded, and considered by the Bid Committee of said City at a meeting of said Committee to be held in the Timberlake Construction Office, 11349 East 60th Place, Tulsa, OK 74146 until 2:00 p.m. the 4th day Of February 2025. A link is provided in the documents for remote participation in the bid opening.

Late bids will be returned unopened to the submitting entity.

We reserve the right to request a Subcontractor's Qualification Statement (A305) from the bidders. All proposals must remain irrevocable for 45 days after submission, meaning the bidder cannot withdraw or alter their bid during this period. The owner (City of Tulsa) reserves the right to waive informalities and accept or reject any or all bids received.

This information sets clear expectations for bidders regarding the submission process, documentation requirements, and conditions for bid evaluation.

Dated at Tulsa, Oklahoma, this 6th day of January 2025.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

You benefit from public notices. Public notices are required because a government body or corporation wants to do something you need to know about.

When government is about to change your life, or your property or assets are about to be taken, newspaper notices are there to keep you informed.

www.oklahomanotices.com
for free access to public notices in Oklahoma newspapers

The Oklahoma Eagle

Our Mission

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

CLASSIFIEDS

OKLAHOMA CLASSIFIED AD NETWORK

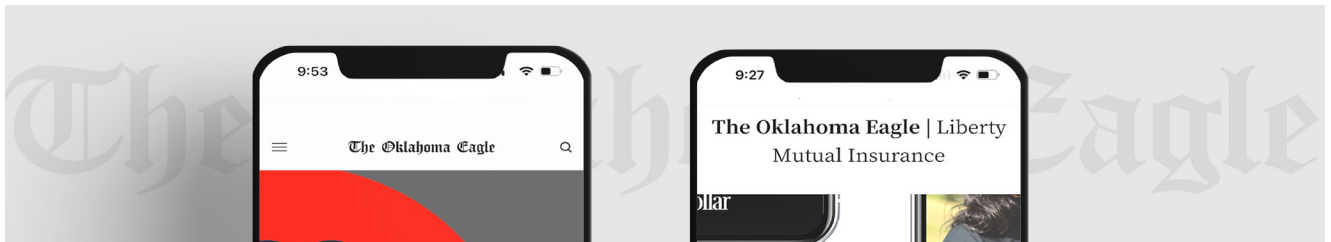
FOR MORE INFO CALL
1-888-815-2672

WANT TO BUY

OLD GUITARS WANTED! LARRY BRINGS CASH for vintage USA guitars, tube amps, banjos, mandolins, etc. Fender, Gibson, Martin, Gretsch, others. Call or text 918-288-2222. www.stringswest.com

ADVERTISE STATEWIDE

Put your message where it matters most - IN OKLAHOMA NEWSPAPERS. We can place your ad in 132 newspapers. For more information or to place an ad, contact Landon Cobb at (405) 499-0022 or toll-free in OK at 1-888-815-2672.



THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

People. Narratives. News.

Get 52 weeks for only \$1 per week

Visit theokeagle.com/subscribe-advertise

The Oklahoma Eagle

www.theokeagle.com



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 Marriot 3340 S 79th E Ave Tulsa OK
(918) 230-3022

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

The Oklahoma Eagle Church Directory

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

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

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

GTOMi

Gospel Tabernacle Outreach Ministries, Inc.
Traveling Outreach Ministries

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

ALL ARE WELCOME

MOHAWK FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

3329 E. 30th St. North • 834-0391

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship 11 a.m.

Bible Study Wednesday 7 p.m.
Rev. Emanuel L. Collier, Sr. Pastor

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

Place your church directory with us today! Advertising your church in *The Oklahoma Eagle* will get you results! Call (918) 582-7124

The Oklahoma Eagle Church Directory

Participation in the Directory allows free church announcements and church news. Post events and celebrations. Priority over non-listed churches for news.

BOSTON AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

Sunday School 9:40 a.m.

Sunday TV Worship 11:00 a.m.

KTUL Channel 8

TIMOTHY BAPTIST CHURCH

821 E. 46th St. N. • 425-8021
REV. TWAN T. JONES

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

"We've come this far by faith"

NORTH PEORIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Warren Blakney, Minister

Sunday Bible School.....9:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

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

Pettie Chapel CME

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

Rev. Robert Givens

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

"Where Peaceful Waters Flow"

Church In Power

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

Service times: 9am Sundays, 7pm Wed, and Special Supernatural Breakthrough Services every last Friday and Saturday of every month at 7pm and Sunday at 9am
Wednesday Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

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



Pastor Bukky and Wunmi Alabi

For Further Information call (918) 835-1525.

"Have Faith In God." Mark 11:22

List Your Church Today!

The Oklahoma Eagle Church Directory

Participate in *The Oklahoma Eagle's* weekly church directory. List in one of the largest church directories in Oklahoma.

- Participation in the Church Directory allows free Church announcements and Church news. Post your church events and celebrations.
- Priority over non-listed churches for news.

Two service styles to meet your spiritual & community-building needs.
2952 S. Peoria Ave. Tulsa, OK | allsoulschurch.org



10 am Worship & 11:30 am Humanist Hour
allsoulschurch.org

Mount Zion Baptist Church

419 N Elgin Tulsa, Oklahoma
Leroy M. Cole, Pastor

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



List Your Church Today!

The Oklahoma Eagle Church Directory

Participate in *The Oklahoma Eagle's* weekly church directory. List in one of the largest church directories in Oklahoma.

- Participation in the Church Directory allows free Church announcements and Church news. Post your church events and celebrations.
- Priority over non-listed churches for news.

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

Teaching Minds Changing Hearts Touching the World

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

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



SMILING HEARTS

The NICK BLAKELY Foundation

Our vision is to turn every potential tragedy of Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) into a story of survival.

www.nickblakelyfoundation.org

FEATURED

In the Classroom: A Look at How Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Legacy Is Addressed in School

MLK, A11



FEATURED

Trump Executive Order Could Push Up Prescription Drug Prices

Drug Prices, A13



Community

Young People for Progress: Empowering Those Under 35 to Better Their Communities

MEGAN SAYLES
Word In Black

The organization works to increase political power among young adults and youth, leading grassroots campaigns on issues like voter education, restorative justice, and banning consent searches

Silver Spring, Md. native Danielle Blocker established Young People for Progress, a community organizing and social justice nonprofit for people under age 35 (YPP) in 2019. The organization, based in Montgomery County, works to increase political power among young adults and youth, leading grassroots campaigns on issues, like voter education, restorative justice and banning consent searches.

It was founded on the belief that young people can improve their lives and communities through collective action.

“Young people often are left out of the conversation, and there are narratives that young people are disengaged, but organizing spaces are not always hospitable to young people,” said Blocker. “As a young person myself, I saw a lack of other young people in organizing and a real need for us to have a seat at the table

so our voices can influence the discussion of community problems and solutions.”

The 30-year-old got a taste for activism in college. While attending Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., she began advocating for better wages and working conditions and fighting against police brutality. At the time, the Ferguson community was reeling following the death of 18-year-old Michael Brown, an unarmed Black man who was shot and killed by police in August 2014.

“I saw the St. Louis area erupt, and I saw how the residents and parents in Ferguson did not have the political power to protect their children and themselves,” said Blocker. “A lack of political power can really cost you your life.”

The experience showed Blocker the importance of being prepared to mobilize

Cont. A12, Community

MLK

In the Classroom: A Look at How Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Legacy Is Addressed in School

MEKHI ABBOTT
Word In Black

With efforts to remove critical race theory from school curriculum in full swing, educators are working to ensure that King's legacy is not lost in the classroom.

This year's recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day marks the 39th anniversary of the national observance

Cont. A12, MLK

Community

A community prepared to mobilize in the wake of crises



From A11

in the wake of community crises and to better yet, be prepared before they happen. A stint in union organizing brought her back to the Washington-Baltimore area. She started YPP to ensure her peers could sustain organizing around the issues they were passionate about.

In doing community surveying, a top concern was the criminalization of young people in Montgomery County. One of the organization's first objectives was to secure two seats for youth and young adults on the county's Policing Advisory Commission, which it achieved in 2020.

That same year, YPP began advocating for the removal of school resource officers in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) after high school students expressed their fear of the police presence. According to

positions for restorative justice coaches in every school.

"We are still organizing to make sure that MCPS can work with students, parents and families to create effective student safety and well-being policies that don't criminalize them," said Blocker. "Right now, restorative justice is being used in some schools more than others and for some students more than others. There's more organizing to do there."

Most recently, YPP has focused on ending consent searches in Montgomery County. These take place when a law enforcement officer conducts a search of your person, property or belongings after a person agrees to it. By consenting, a person waives their constitutional right to require a warrant or probable cause for a search. This decision cannot be reversed, and any evidence found can be used against them even if it is not relevant to the initial reason for the search.

“

I saw the St. Louis area erupt, and I saw how the residents and parents in Ferguson did not have the political power to protect their children and themselves

Danielle Blocker, established Young People for Progress

data from the Office of Legislative Oversight, 48 percent of school-based arrests involved Black students during the 2019 to 2020 school year, compared to 6 percent involving White students.

The organization was successful in 2021, marking the first time in 19 years that the school system opened without police stationed in schools. Today, MCPS has access to community engagement officers who are assigned to a cluster of schools and focus on building community relationships rather than day-to-day policing.

YPP was also able to get the county to fund

Communities, like African Americans, who have been disproportionately harmed by law enforcement may feel as though they have no choice but to consent. They also may face coercion or pressure from police as there is a clear power imbalance.

Last year, YPP collaborated with Councilmember Will Jawando (D-At-large) to introduce a bill, the Freedom to Leave Act, that would prohibit consent searches of a person or vehicle. Though it did not move forward, the Montgomery County Police Department did implement a policy on Jan. 1

Cont. A13, Community

MLK

The history of Martin Luther King, Jr. is still relevant

From A11

of the federal holiday. King, one of the United States' most prominent figures in reference to the civil rights movement, is typically one of the most recognizable names as it pertains to the fight for equal rights for Black Americans in this country.

King has long been one of the first people that students learn about when they are being taught about the civil rights movement. King, Rosa Parks and Malcolm X are the universal "Big 3" included in most school civil rights curriculum. But through efforts to remove critical race theory from school curriculum by Gov. Greg Abbott of Texas, Gov. Robert DeSantis of Florida and President-elect Donald Trump, the education around how race and social issues directly play into the history of this country come into question.

In fact, even in seemingly "progressive" states, the educational system never mandated that students be taught about King. Marty Bland, 84, who has worked in education for 61 years in New York City and attended James Madison high school with Bernie Sanders, said that Dr. Martin Luther King was never a part of his curriculum even as a United States history teacher.

"When I taught American history, I had to start with the exploration of colonization and the revolution and then follow on through to modern times. In New York, we have regional exams and you have 'X amount of months' to prepare these kids for the exam. There was nothing that really focused on Martin Luther King," said Bland. "But when I had the chance and opportunity to, I would educate my students on current events. My students were very aware of every member of the



Supreme Court and all the things that were going on throughout history during that time period, whether it was MLK or any other civil rights leader. But nothing that was ever a part of the curriculum."

For many teachers, no matter the state, educating their students on the legacy of King is something that they have to intentionally carve out time to do.

"It's something that in my class, I do

myself," said Timothy Morehead, an eighth grade history teacher for Prince George's County Public Schools.

"The county offers instruction on Martin Luther King when they are in ninth grade. I teach part one of U.S. history which goes from colonization through the Reconstruction Era. Ninth grade is the Reconstruction Era and the Civil Rights Movement. Typically, during his birthday

weekend, I have an activity I do with the students where they learn about specific facts about his life and his contributions to the civil rights movement."

In addition to the activity that Morehead, 31, does with his students, he also has three 8 x 10 inch portraits of Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks and Malcolm X's mugshots. The pictures are all next to each other and include the slogan "Freedom Isn't Free."

Janet Thompson, a 24-year-old Howard graduate and third grade teacher for Newtown Elementary School in Virginia Beach, Va. also makes intentional efforts to educate students on King's impact even though it is not included in the curriculum.

"Since I work with younger students, we do a lot of engaging activities with Dr. King's speeches and written work. Two of my favorites are 'Letter from Birmingham Jail' and his 'I Have a Dream' speech. I like that they provide insight to his intellectual evolution and I invite my students to engage in discussions about his speeches and writings. We discuss how they see his ideas and visions reflected in their own lives," said Thompson.

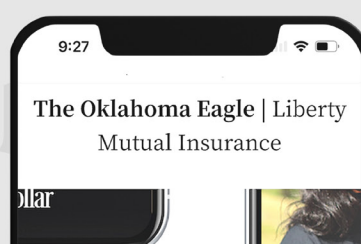
Although Dr. King is one of the most important figures in American history, there doesn't seem to be a concerted effort by school boards to include his work in their curriculum. Instead, educators of young and old make sure they carve out time during their lectures to pay homage to the legacy of one of the most influential figures of the civil rights movement.

"Let's face it, although we are still, which is very obvious, a racist nation," said Bland. "We've always been a racist nation. But again, we're definitely more of an integrated country than we ever were before."

The Oklahoma Eagle

Our Mission

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



Community

The partial success of a new consent search policy



Danielle Blocker is the founder and executive director of Young People for Progress, a nonprofit for people aged 35 and younger to engage in social justice and community organizing. The 30-year-old established the organization in 2019.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DANIELLE BLOCKER

From A12

that limits its ability to conduct consent searches. It bans officers from asking to perform a consent search without reasonable suspicion and requires them to explain why they want to conduct a search and that a person can refuse. It also instructs that the scope of the consent search cannot exceed the scope of the consent that was given.

“We wanted a law, but a policy is still a partial success,” said Blocker. “We know that

“Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?”

Dr. Martin Luther King, 1967

we never would have gotten this policy if we hadn’t pushed for a law to address this issue.”

Aside from creating YPP, Blocker also helped to launch the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. The organization draws inspiration from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders’ call for a “revolution of values.” The phrase spoke to the need for society to shift from materialism and racism to justice, compassion and equality.

Blocker resonates with this message in her

daily mobilizing work. She’s currently reading his 1967 book, “Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?” In it, King outlines his dreams for the future of America as the Civil Rights Movement began to wind down.

“He talks a lot about how we need a movement for human rights, particularly in making sure that people have the economic and material things they need to live full lives,” said Blocker. “He was certainly a steadfast organizer, and I see the organizing that we’re doing as a continuation of that legacy.”

Megan Sayles is a business reporter for The Baltimore Afro-American paper. Before this, Sayles interned with Baltimore Magazine, where she wrote feature stories about the city’s residents, nonprofits and initiatives. Her love of music inspired her to be a writer.

Drug Prices

Trump Executive Order Could Push Up Prescription Drug Prices

JENNIFER PORTER GORE
Word In Black

Donald Trump has upended efforts to cap out-of-pocket costs for several prescription drugs at \$2 per month.

In a flurry of executive orders signed just hours after he took office, President Donald Trump rescinded a Biden administration order on prescription drugs — a move that could hike drug prices for millions of Medicare and Medicaid enrollees.

At the same time, Trump also reversed Biden’s efforts to make it easier for people to enroll in Medicaid or to get insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

Approximately 67 million adults have health coverage through Medicare and 11% of them — just over 7 million — are Black. The vast majority of enrollees are aged 65 and older, but younger people with disabilities are also covered.

The Trump order rescinds an executive order President Joseph Biden signed in 2022 that’s intended to lower the cost of most prescription drugs. It also comes as new polling finds that half of Americans say the federal government isn’t spending enough on Medicare and Medicaid.

MSNBC reports that the new administration said the “recission order” is aimed at “deeply unpopular” and “radical” Biden policies.

Drafted in conjunction with the Inflation Reduction Act, Biden’s order instructed the federal government to negotiate some prescription drug prices, with a goal of limiting out-of-pocket prescription drug costs for people on Medicare.

Signed into law during Biden’s first term, the IRA included a cap on annual out-of-pocket prescription costs of \$2,000, a rule that was to become effective this year. That law also capped insulin costs for Medicare



PHOTO ADOBE IMAGES

recipients at \$35 per month.

“On average, Americans pay two to three times as much as people in other countries for prescription drugs, and one in four Americans who take prescription drugs struggle to afford their medications,” Biden said when introducing the measure in 2022. “Nearly three in 10 American adults who take prescription drugs say that they have skipped doses, cut pills in half or not filled prescriptions due to cost.”

Trump’s order won’t affect this benefit, since it became law by Congressional action. But Biden’s executive order also identified a list of prescription drugs that Medicare and

Medicaid recipients would have been able to obtain for just a \$2 monthly copay. Drugs considered for that list treat diabetes, high cholesterol and thyroid issues.

Biden’s order also directed the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to find ways to lower prescription drug costs for recipients. Trump’s Executive Order overturned that move, and halted efforts to improve access to high-cost cell and gene therapies.

A recent KFF Health Tracking Poll shows about just over half of respondents (51%) believe the rate federal government isn’t spending is “not enough”

on Medicare, and nearly half (46%) say the same about the Medicaid program, according to the KFF Health Tracking Poll.

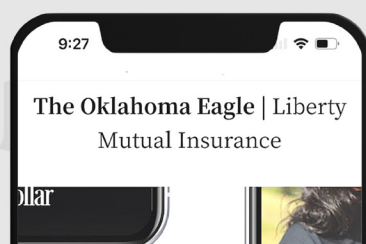
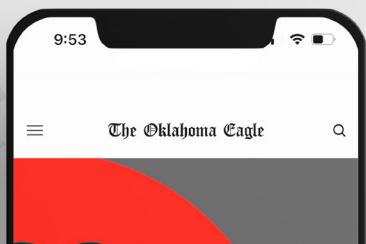
The poll finds that, as while lawmakers are considering major changes to Medicaid and Medicare — including possible spending cuts — the majority of the public support the programs. The poll also found that almost two-thirds of adults (64%) still support the 2010 Affordable Care Act or ACA, frequently known as Obamacare.

Jennifer Porter Gore is a writer living in the Washington, D.C., area.

The Oklahoma Eagle

Our Mission

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



The Oklahoma Eagle



THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

People. Narratives. News.

Get 52 weeks for only \$1 per week

Visit theokeagle.com/subscribe-advertise

The Oklahoma Eagle

www.theokeagle.com