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FEATURED

## Open TPS seat sees 4 aim to replace Jennettie Marshall

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Marshall TPS Seat, A12



FEATURED

## Stitt Aligns with Trump Admin, Proposes Tax Cuts and Government Efficiency Plan

Trump Alignment, A8

### TOWARDS A GREATER COMMON GOOD

In these challenging times, when so many aspects of life seem short of hope for so many, we in Tulsa often turn to communities of faith to help guide us toward light. In Tulsa's Black neighborhoods— and all over the city – spiritual leaders have been there, giving us hope, food and so much more to help us push forward and thrive. More than ever, we will look to long-held leaders and a new generation of spiritual guides to light a path forward.

At The Oklahoma Eagle, we plan to increase our coverage of communities of faith. We will be a reliable source of news, commentary and general information for institutions of faith, including leaders and followers, across our community – from churches to mosques and other places of worship. We will also cover events of interest to those who follow spiritual paths outside of the walls of formal institutions,

This edition of The Oklahoma Eagle features two articles

about faith-inspired events that occurred in Tulsa. On page A18, there is a photo essay by Cory Young of Tulsa's 2025 Martin Luther King Day Parade. Young, a church youth leader as well as a photographer and teacher, captures some very special moments from that January 17 event. Joe Tomlinson, The Oklahoma Eagle contributor (below), writes about a talk that Dr. Jonathan Lee Walton, president of the Princeton Theological Seminary, delivered in Tulsa on Feb. 2 on how religious institutions can teach "the common good." In the coming weeks and months, we will provide reports about the faith-based activities.

Besides their regularly scheduled in-person services, most institutions are making it easier for folks to stay connected by holding events online. And many are organizing special events to draw in more people from across the community. At Metropolitan Baptist Church (1228 W Apache St, <https://metropolitanbc.org>), there

will be a special service for members of fraternities and sororities on Feb. 16. On March 2, The First Baptist Mohawk Church (3329 East 30th Street North, will host Unity Day 2025 at 6 pm. All Souls Unitarian Church Tulsa Address: 2952 S Peoria Ave) is featuring a series of events – from Women's and Men's Retreats to a series of discussion on international topics. See their site for details: <https://allsoulschurch.org/your-guide-to-whats-happening-at-all-souls>

Beyond the coverage of events at area churches, we will also provide reports about many paths to faith. If you have news or information about events we should include, please e-mail us at [news@theOkEagle.com](mailto:news@theOkEagle.com).

Gary Lee, managing editor, The Oklahoma Eagle

*Gary Lee*



Dr. Jonathan Lee Walton, is a Black American author, ethicist and religious scholar. He is the President of Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey. He was previously Dean of Wake Forest University School of Divinity, Presidential Chair in Religion & Society and Dean of Wait Chapel. He is the author of A Lens of Love: Reading the Bible in its World for Our World.

PHOTO WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

# Speaker Highlights The Role Of Religious Institutions

**Religion**  
Joe Tomlinson  
The Oklahoma Eagle

Parishioners packed into the Grace Lutheran Church sanctuary on Feb. 2 to hear Dr. Jonathan Lee Walton, president of the Princeton Theological Seminary, deliver an interfaith lecture on how religious institutions can teach "the common good" in a society focused on individual spirituality.

Cont. A3, Religion



PHOTO ADOBE IMAGES

## The decline of institutions, a symptom of individualist mindsets

FROM A2

### Religion

Walton used the lecture to discuss the decline of institutions as a symptom of individualist mindsets.

“Unfortunately, we see this in politics, we see this in our religious spaces — institutions have become performative spaces. Spaces that allow us to perform particular identities. They become stages on which we can do what? Expand our brands,” Walton said.

Walton explained that the growing trend of people who identify as “spiritual but not religious” play a strong role in these individual attitudes.

“We cannot ignore the correlation between disaffiliation, people not attending religious communities, particularly under the guise of spiritual and non-religious, and the privatized banner of religion born of the individual brand,” Walton said. “Spiritual — it connotes that interiorization of religious faith that undercuts group solidarity and social commitments.”

“When we all think of ourselves as self-made or self-sufficient, the harder it is for us to learn gratitude and humility,” Walton said. “And without having gratitude and humility, virtues that are formed within institutions like this, then it’s hard for us to care at all about any kind of common good.”

Walton’s 45-minute lecture captivated those in attendance. His talk also underscored the robust interfaith community that has existed in Tulsa for decades.

“I think it speaks to the level of respect Tulsa’s interfaith community has earned nationally,” Rev. Ray Owens, pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church, said of Walton’s visit to Tulsa. “People don’t know that there’s a rich kind of diversity here in terms of faith.”

Walton’s lecture was the latest installment of an annual series honoring the late Rev. Clarence Knippa, a long-time pastor of Grace Lutheran Church who pioneered Tulsa’s interfaith community during the 1950s and 1960s.

On the 50th anniversary of Knippa’s ordination in 1986, an endowment fund for the Knippa Interfaith Lecture Series was established. Since then, nationally recognized religious scholars such as Donald Shriver and Paula Fredriksen have traveled to Tulsa to speak at the yearly lecture. The series seeks to promote and respect the religious traditions and concerns of others.

Aside from his work in the church, Knippa served as the chairman of the task force that launched the creation of the Tulsa Day Center for the homeless. He also played a critical role in the revitalization of the Kendall Whittier neighborhood.

Rabbi Charles Sherman, who served as the senior rabbi at Temple Israel for 37 years before retiring in 2013, now serves as president of the Knippa Interfaith Lecture Series Board of Trustees. Sherman reminisced about Knippa’s character during his opening

remarks.

“I had the privilege and pleasure of knowing pastor Knippa for 37 years. His remarkable ministry, commitments in his community, his respect for other faiths and his friendship were an example and a blessing for me,” Sherman said.

The Rev. James Haner, who succeeded Knippa as Grace Lutheran Church pastor in 1979 and is the founding chairman of the lecture series, said Sunday felt like a “seminary prep day” due to the number of Princeton Theological Seminary alumni in attendance. Haner, Owens, and Walton each graduated from PTS.

Prior to beginning his lecture, Walton emphasized the importance of interfaith dialogue.

“It’s a bold affirmation of the belief that our religious traditions, while distinct and diverse, must be in conversation with one another. Spaces like this where we engage one another across faith traditions are essential for dousing the flames of xenophobia and religious intolerance,” Walton said.

Walton said he previously spent time in Tulsa while writing and researching his first book, “Watch This! The Ethics and Aesthetics of Black Televangelism.”

“As you all know, if you’re studying televangelism then guess what? All roads come through Tulsa, Oklahoma,” Walton

Cont. A7, Religion

The Oklahoma Eagle

# Rentiesville: An Historic Oklahoma All-Black Town

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



Rentiesville, founded in 1903 and developed on twenty acres owned by William Rentie and twenty acres owned by Phoebe McIntosh, is located in McIntosh County five miles north of Checotah. The community is one of more than fifty All-Black towns in Oklahoma and one of thirteen still existing. Rev. N. A. Robinson, I. J. Foster, W. D. Robinson, and Rentie organized the townsite company with Robinson serving as president. J. J. Hudson opened the first mercantile business and became the first postmaster when the post office opened on May 11, 1904. B. C. Franklin followed Hudson as postmaster. By this time, as a flag stop on

the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway, the town had five businesses along Main Street, and eighty-one children were enrolled in the school. In 1905 the community elected F. P. Brinson as the first mayor, and Robinson succeeded Brinson in 1909. William Rentie, the town's only lawman, arrested Garfield Walker for drunkenness and disorderly conduct in 1908. Walker later shot and killed Rentie for revenge, taking away not only the marshal but also a principal founder and namesake. The town recovered and prospered for a time, boasting a lumber store, cotton gin, and many thriving businesses. The Great Depression and lure of opportunities

in urban centers caused an exodus of citizens from Rentiesville. By the late 1930s the population dwindled to 154, and the 1990 census reported 66 residents. A population boom occurred, with 102 residents by 2000 and 128 by 2010. The site of the Civil War Battle of Honey Springs is only a half-mile east of town. A noted attraction is the Down Home Blues Club of nationally famed Blues artist D. C. Minner. Every Labor Day weekend Minner hosts the Dusk 'til Dawn Blues Festival in the town. Rentiesville is also the birthplace of Dr. John Hope Franklin, dean of African American historians and author of the award-winning book From Slavery to Freedom.

**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.

**John Hope Franklin's old home** in Rentiesville (21446.TO.M184.511.9, Larry O'Dell Collection, OHS).

## The Oklahoma Eagle

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### Fed Funding Freeze, Leave OK Nonprofits Confused, Concerned



### Amid Homelessness: OK Lawmakers Look to Punitive Measures

The Oklahoma Eagle

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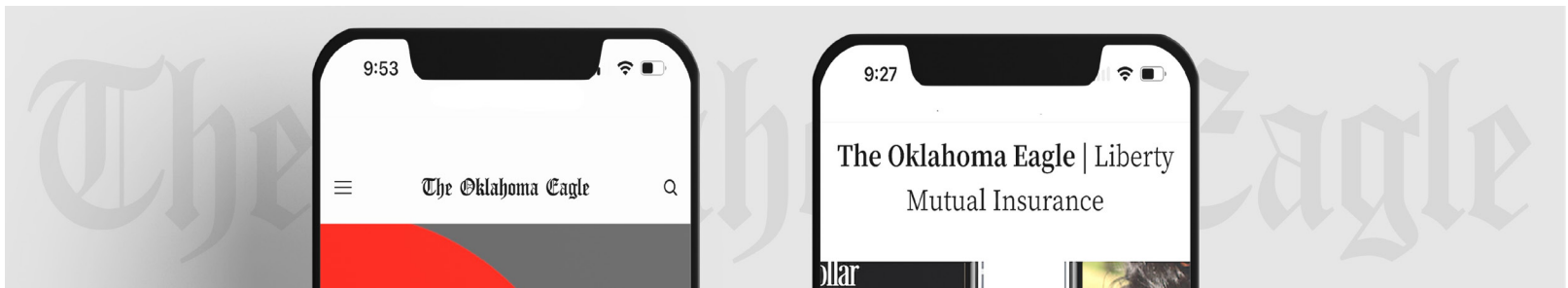
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1559 E Reading St. Tulsa OK  
(918) 584-3206

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.  
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Bible Study & Prayer Wednesday 7:00 p.m.  
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## Gethsemane Baptist Church

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(918) 425-6613

Dr. W. T. Lauderdale

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Church Services 11:00 a.m.

## Zoe' Life Church of Tulsa

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Tulsa OK 74106  
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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

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P: 918-587-1428  
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Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 pm

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## Mount Zion Baptist Church

419 N Elgin Tulsa, Oklahoma

Office: 918-584-0510  
Fax: 918-584-1958

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## Raising Up Tulsa's Interfaith Community

FROM A3

### Religion

said. "I spent many hours in the archives of Oral Roberts University, and I had the privilege of conducting extensive interviews with many people whose ministries were associated with this city, including the late bishop, Carlton Pearson."

Walton said Tulsa and the PTS have a deep connection.

"It's First Presbyterian, it's Metropolitan Baptist, (...) and it's our current academic dean, Dr. John Bowlin, who actually served for 15 years on the faculty here in the religion department at the University of Tulsa," Walton said. "I pray that these points of connection will lead to even greater collaboration between Princeton Theological Seminary and this remarkable city in the years to come."

#### "The kingdom of God is not a brand."

After Morehouse College awarded Walton with the Benjamin Elijah Mays Leadership Award in Religion a few years ago, a senior religion major approached him and asked for advice, Walton said.

"Can you tell me how to expand my brand?" the student said. Walton immediately took offense.

"Well, I need you to remember this — the kingdom of God is not a brand," Walton said. "And for good measure, I added a line that Dr. Mays often offered to aspiring ministers

“

**Well, I need you to remember this — the kingdom of God is not a brand. And for good measure, I added a line that Dr. Mays often offered to aspiring ministers at Morehouse:** Dr. Mays would tell us that preachers ought to be more concerned with their service to humanity than the wheelbase of their Cadillac.

**Dr. Jonathan Lee Walton**, president of the Princeton Theological Seminary

at Morehouse: Dr. Mays would tell us that preachers ought to be more concerned with their service to humanity than the wheelbase of their Cadillac."

But after reflecting upon his interaction with the student, Walton said he regretted his response.

"The kingdom of God is not a brand, I declared. Well, that's true, and it made for a cute quip, but this young man wasn't asking me about the Kingdom of God. He was talking to me," Walton said. "He was asking about me, somebody who was being awarded and recognized for religious leadership, somebody who in his eyes and probably in the eyes of the selection committee, had attended all the right private schools, had earned the appropriate degrees, had taught at elite universities and preached from prominent pulpits — and somebody who from prevailing, successful brand standards in our society, presents as sufficiently bourgeois, appropriately masculine, ostensibly heterosexual, convincingly articulate and presumably well-connected."

Whether or not he knew it, Walton had been branded, he said.

"Those brand markers that I just referenced quite possibly had as much to do with my leadership and character in the eyes of the public and in the eyes of that selection committee as any acts of integrity, generosity, and empathy that I sought to live out in life," Walton said.

Walton said he "missed the moment" when answering that student's question.

"Our job is to help our communities see the social invitations of our privatized decay

— to show leadership in our profession is to courageously and candidly identify the cultural pressures that undercut and asphyxiate young men like that senior at Morehouse College," Walton said.

During the Q&A portion following the lecture, Walton said he has not yet reconnected with the student but plans to do so.

"I am working on this, and hope to publish this in my next book," Walton said. "I pray that because our networks tend to be pretty small, that he will read it, and that he will read it as an apology."

#### Tulsa's Interfaith Community

After Sunday's lecture, Owens highlighted Tulsa's interfaith community for their continued cooperation across religious lines.

"All Souls is probably the largest Unitarian congregation in the nation right here in Tulsa but also works with our Muslim community and our Jewish community, which are very vibrant and strong as well. All these people have come together to do important work during the pandemic. We've worked together to address food insecurity over the years," Owens said. "Every time there was a need to come together as the faith community, we didn't let faith differences divide us. We worked together to address some of the pressing issues in our city. I'm proud to be a part of it."

Joe Tomlinson is a contributor to The Oklahoma Eagle

## Oklahoma Looks to Privatize Prison Food Service

### Privatizing Prison Food

Keaton Ross  
*Oklahoma Watch*

Fresh food was easy to come by when Teri Castle began serving time in the West Virginia Department of Corrections.

Women incarcerated at the Lakin Correctional Center had unlimited access to a salad bar at lunch and dinner. Many of the ingredients came from a prisoner-run garden.

That all changed when Aramark, a private food service company that operates in thousands of arenas, hospitals, schools and correctional facilities nationwide, took over in the early 2010s. Food from the garden no longer made it to the kitchen. She said the company started serving highly processed meals and charging prisoners for fresh fruits and vegetables as an add-on service called FreshFavorites.

"Whenever you can't get those vitamins and minerals that you need, everything declines," Castle said. "I ended up in the hospital because my iron level fell so low that I ended up in a seizure."

The Oklahoma Department of Corrections is planning a similar transition from in-house to privatized food service. A pending request for proposal, set to close on Feb. 21, seeks a

food service provider capable of feeding nearly 20,000 state prisoners daily. The agency plans to have the outside food vendor assume food service operations by late summer.

Corrections officials have pitched food service privatization as a solution to reduce waste and increase food quality, arguing that larger companies have proven their ability to serve better meals at a lower price. Critics question companies' profit motive and point to examples of states where privatization went poorly, including West Virginia, Michigan and Missouri.

Rising food costs and inefficiencies across facilities have plagued the agency for years. A 2022 report from the Office of Fiscal Transparency found that food costs varied by more than 40% across prisons despite all facilities utilizing a master menu. Ashlee Clemons, the agency's chief financial officer, told lawmakers its food costs have increased 30% since 2020.

"That's a driver to get this privatized," Executive Director Stephen Harpe said during a Jan. 21 Senate Public Safety Committee budget hearing. "They have a lot

more leverage around pricing and logistics than we do, which should drive that [food costs] down."

The request for proposal calls for bidders to have at least a decade of large-scale correctional food service experience. Once awarded, the vendor and corrections department would develop a master menu that meets minimum nutritional requirements.

The agency is also bidding out its commissary service to a private vendor. One of the largest commissary vendors in the U.S., the Union Supply Group, is owned by Aramark, sparking concern among prisoner advocates that vendors might intentionally serve bland food to drive up sales of higher-margin snack foods. Kay Thompson, a spokesperson for the Department of Corrections, said the agency will cap price increases as the vendor assumes operations.

Prison officials also said they would assign monitoring personnel to oversee the outside vendor's operations and regularly survey the inmate population on food preferences and quality via state-issued tablets. The vendor

Cont. A8, Privatizing Prison Food

Oklahoma Department of Corrections

**The Oklahoma Department of Corrections (DOC or ODOC) is an agency of the state of Oklahoma.**

DOC is responsible for the administration of the state prison system. The Board of Corrections are appointees: five members are appointed by the Governor; two members are appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and two members are appointed by the Speaker of the house of Representatives.



Prisoners work in the kitchen of the Joseph Harp Correctional Facility on Oct. 10, 2024.

PHOTO BRENT FUCHS/OKLAHOMA WATCH

## Balancing waste, oversight & quality of food

FROM A7

### Privatizing Prison Food

would be required to submit a corrective action plan if the scores fall too low.

Prison food experts interviewed by Oklahoma Watch said the inmate survey is a positive addition but they remain skeptical that the change will improve health.

"I have never seen an instance of a state switching from in-house to contracted food service where I've heard something positive about the results," said Leslie Soble, the senior manager of the Food in Prison Project at Impact Justice.

Michigan fined Aramark hundreds of thousands of dollars in 2014 and 2015 as issues ranging from maggots in food to workers smuggling in drugs accumulated. Similar problems persisted when the state switched to Trinity Food Services in 2016. The state returned to in-house food service in 2018, with one high-ranking state lawmaker calling the contract a nightmare.

Missouri prisoners complained of eating bologna for several days after Aramark took over food service operations in 2023. The company responded to the allegations by stating it worked with prison officials to develop nutritional guidelines and aims to resolve issues quickly.

“  
I can't see them switching to something to save money and the food gets better.

When you cut corners and the stuff is cheaper, I don't believe there's going to be an increase in quality.

Emily Barnes, founder of Oklahoma prisoner advocacy group Hooked on Justice

Daniel Rosen leads the Coalition for Carceral Nutrition, a nonprofit that aims to improve food quality in prisons and jails. He said prison officials are drawn to outsource food services because it's expensive and time-consuming to maintain kitchen equipment, source food and recruit and retain food service employees.

Accountability can be tricky when the agreement doesn't go to plan, Rosen said. States that opt to return to in-house food service face the logistical headache of re-hiring employees who left for the private vendor.

"They'll kind of point fingers at each other and say it's not their fault," he said. "I do put a lot of blame for that stuff on government officials who write the contract without specific enough requirements. The less specific corrections agencies are about contract requirements, the more latitude these companies have to feed people whatever they want."

The agency's bid calls for menus to contain a minimum of 2,800 calories and less than 3.5 grams of sodium, but does not specify a minimum amount of fresh fruit or vegetables to be served. The proposal also requires vendors to purchase some food from the agency's Agri-Services division but does not specify an amount.

Castle, who was released from prison in 2021 and co-wrote a research paper on West Virginia's poor prison food quality, said prison officials can adopt several accountability measures to keep private vendors in check. These include creating a food oversight committee at every facility, requiring vendors

to take a photo of every meal served and requiring regular unannounced sight checks.

Oklahoma's proposal states that corrections personnel and state or county health department personnel may conduct unannounced inspections, but does not specify how often those inspections must occur.

"It can turn into a disaster," Castle said of states with lax food service oversight. "You're going to see a lot more mental health issues, a lot more violence. It's not going to be good if people can't get what they need to survive."

Emily Barnes, the founder of the Oklahoma prisoner advocacy group Hooked on Justice, said prisoners have been reporting poor food quality and small portions in recent months. But she fears a food provider with a profit motive could make things worse.

"I can't see them switching to something to save money and the food gets better," she said. "When you cut corners and the stuff is cheaper, I don't believe there's going to be an increase in quality."

Harpe maintained that a change would benefit taxpayers and prisoners during a Jan. 24 House Appropriations and Budget Public Safety subcommittee hearing, citing poor survey results from the prisoner population.

"The problem is there's a lot of waste and the food isn't very good," Harpe told lawmakers. "We're not trying to create Disneyland, but the more we're able to humanize those in our care, the less violence we're going to have."

Keaton Ross covers democracy and criminal justice for Oklahoma Watch. Contact him at (405) 831-9753 or [Kross@Oklahomawatch.org](mailto:Kross@Oklahomawatch.org). Follow him on Twitter at [@KeatonRoss](https://twitter.com/KeatonRoss).

## Stitt Aligns with Trump Administration, Proposes Tax Cuts and Government Efficiency Plan

Trump Alignment  
Paul Monies  
Oklahoma Watch

Oklahoma Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt said he is ready to align his vision of lower spending and less taxes with the new Trump administration in Washington, D.C.

Stitt, delivering his seventh state of the state speech since taking office in 2019, said Oklahoma's economy is in better shape and the state has growing budget reserves. But he told Oklahomans it will take discipline to continue safeguarding taxpayer funds.

"Americans voted for courage," Stitt said. "They voted for freedom. They voted for the American Dream, not more government. We have a mandate to support and pass conservative, limited government legislation that makes the American Dream possible for all 4 million Oklahomans."

Stitt unveiled a state version of the Trump administration's Department of Government Efficiency. Businessman Elon Musk is heading up that effort for the Trump administration, but its implementation so far has been chaotic. Stitt wants his Oklahoma DOGE to submit a report on efficiency, fiscal reforms and budget findings

“  
[Americans] voted for freedom. They voted for the American Dream, not more government.

Kevin Stitt, Republican, Governor, Oklahoma



Kevin Stitt, Oklahoma Gov., gestures as he explains his State of the State speech at the Capitol in Oklahoma City on Monday, Feb. 3, 2025. PHOTO OKLAHOMA HOUSE MEDIA



# The spectre of a conservative agenda

FROM AS

## Trump Alignment

by March 31. Like the federal DOGE, Stitt wants a member of the business community to serve as an unpaid advisor and report only to the governor.

“For years, I’ve instructed my cabinet secretaries and agency directors to shrink employee count and cut unnecessary contracts,” Stitt said. “I am committed to having fewer state employees at the end of my term than when I took office in 2019. I also mandated an end to work from home policies for state employees to better serve the people of our state.”

As he was speaking, Stitt’s office released his budget proposal for fiscal year 2026. It calls for a legislative appropriation of \$11.09 billion. That represents an 11% decrease from appropriations in the current fiscal year. But the executive budget includes \$1.3 billion in one-time or supplemental expenditures from the 2025 fiscal year.

Stitt said Oklahoma must cut its income tax to remain competitive with surrounding states and states with no income taxes. To that end, his “Half and Path” state income tax plan calls for a 0.5 percentage point decrease in the state’s 4.75% personal income tax rate and a path toward no income tax. He also wants a half-point cut to the state’s corporate income tax, now set at 4%.

“If we don’t act quickly, we are going to be left behind and we’ll be considered a high-tax state,” Stitt said.

Oklahoma has about \$4.6 billion in unspent funds and reserves in various state savings accounts. Stitt said he wants the state to have a new savings floor of about \$4 billion. His half-point income tax cut proposal would cost about \$240 million for fiscal year 2026, which starts in July. But that would be more than \$480 million on a fully annualized basis because the state’s fiscal years and tax years don’t line up.

Stitt didn’t detail his path to zero income tax in the speech, but Republican lawmakers have filed several bills to step down the tax rate over the next several years if revenue targets are met.

House Speaker Kyle Hilbert,



PHOTO ADOBE IMAGES

R-Bristow, said he and the governor share goals regarding government efficiency and banning cell phones in schools. But he said House leaders will continue to monitor the latest revenue estimates from the Board of Equalization, which next meets on Feb. 14.

“We all agree in wanting Oklahoma taxpayers to keep as much of their hard-earned money as possible while being as prepared as possible for future budget uncertainty,” Hilbert said in a written statement.

Stitt’s speech also touched on education, criminal justice reform and immigration. One of the governor’s guests in the House gallery was Bixby Superintendent Rob Miller, who implemented a strict, no cell phone policy in the district.

“I want to challenge the Legislature and school districts across the state to consider ways to make cell phone-free schools a reality for all students,” Stitt said.

State Superintendent of Public

Instruction Ryan Walters, who last year called Miller a “clown and a liar” over school finances, sat stone-faced as Miller stood up to applause from lawmakers. Miller has an ongoing defamation lawsuit against Walters in Tulsa County.

Stitt also endorsed a Senate plan to get rid of virtual instructional days at public schools. He said Kansas has 186 instructional days. Some Oklahoma schools use planned virtual days, reducing seat time to as low as 148 days, he said. But the governor also touted the state’s approval of public funding for a Catholic virtual charter school, a decision that is pending before the U.S. Supreme Court.

“We all know that kids learn best when they’re in the classroom with our great teachers,” Stitt said.

Stitt said he wanted to end what he called a “debtors’ prison” of excessive court fines and fees of formerly incarcerated people. Those payments trap people in a cycle and contribute to higher recidivism, he said.

“I want to change that structure and make sure that a second chance is actually a second chance, and get rid of fines, fees and court costs for good,” Stitt said as Democrats joined their Republican colleagues in a rare moment of joint applause.

Stitt recounted his administration’s recent efforts on immigration, like sending the Oklahoma National Guard to the Texas border in 2023. More recently, he’s directed his corrections and public safety directors to come up with a plan to help the Trump administration deport migrants serving time in Oklahoma prisons.

“I’m so excited to have a law-and-order president back in the White House that will listen to the American people and our calls for safe communities,” Stitt said.

Several hundred protesters filled the plaza in front of the south steps of the Capitol on Monday morning before Stitt’s speech. The protest, organized by Defense of Democracy, included speakers

who criticized state and federal policies on immigration, labor, housing and the environment.

“To all the immigrants here, I stand with you,” said Sara Bana, a Midwest City councilwoman who is running for Oklahoma County commissioner. “Our local institutions must serve as a buffer against fascism.”

Among the signs held by protesters were those reading, “Fight Fascism Like Your Grandparents” and “Germany Ignored It First Too.”

In separate press conferences after Stitt’s speech, Democrats in the House and Senate said Stitt’s alignment with Trump administration policies showed he was out of touch with everyday Oklahomans. They said the governor didn’t mention policies that could help working families like paid family leave and educational policies like increased teacher pay.

Senate Democratic Leader Julia Kirt of Oklahoma City said she didn’t hear much new in Stitt’s speech.

“We heard a lot of the ideas that we’ve seen from Republicans who are using D.C. think tanks for policy ideas that they’re copying here,” Kirt said. “Unfortunately, we saw copy and paste for tax cuts for big business and for wealthy Oklahomans. We saw more mandates for classrooms without actually providing the kind of resources we need in our schools. We saw diverting money to private schools.”

House Democratic Leader Cyndi Munson, D-Oklahoma City, said Stitt should have been talking to Oklahomans on their doorsteps instead of traveling to Florida to meet with Trump at Mar-a-Lago. Munson said most Oklahomans are worried about paying for groceries, gasoline and rent.

“While I’m not surprised, I’m deeply disappointed that he spent so much of his time talking about the president and talking about what the president wants to do and taking time to appease him,” Munson said.

Paul Monies has been a reporter with Oklahoma Watch since 2017 and covers state agencies and public health. Contact him at (571) 319-3289 or pmonies@oklahomawatch.org. Follow him on Twitter @pmonies.



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The Supreme Court of Oklahoma is a court of appeal for non-criminal cases, one of the two highest judicial bodies in the U.S. state of Oklahoma, and leads the judiciary of Oklahoma, the judicial branch of the government of Oklahoma.

PHOTO WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## Divided OK Supreme Court rules sex offender residency restriction can be retroactive

**OK Supreme Court**  
Tristan Loveless  
*NonDoc*

In a 5-3 decision this week, the Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled the Sex Offender Registration Act's provision prohibiting sex offenders from living within 2,000 feet of a park applies retroactively to those who registered prior to the provision's 2006 enactment. Tuesday's narrow decision in *Donaldson v. City of El Reno* highlights a tense disagreement among justices on whether sex offenders can constitutionally be forced to comply with new requirements passed by the Legislature after their conviction, with only four permanent justices signing onto a majority opinion that comes more than a year after oral arguments were held.

The U.S. and Oklahoma constitutions both prevent the implementation of ex post facto laws, and state applications of sex offender registry requirements added after an offender's conviction have generated challenges under both. Justices on Oklahoma's highest court split into three camps in the case:

- A majority taking a case-by-case approach to analyzing the constitutionality of individual sex offender registry requirements;
- A minority that argued historic review illustrated how sex offender registration requirements were clearly intended by the Legislature to be punitive; and
- A sole justice who advocated a general holding that all sex offender registry requirements are civil and presumed constitutional.

The majority opinion cited a constitutional test adopted by the court in *Starkey v. Oklahoma Department of Corrections* as one of the reasons retroactive application of the law was constitutional. However, the author of the dissenting opinion in the new *Donaldson* decision — Justice Douglas Combs — was the author of the majority opinion in the *Starkey* decision, and in his dissent, he insisted the majority flouted the precedent set by the decision he had previously written.

The case made its way to the state Supreme Court after Kelly Patrick Donaldson, who was convicted of second degree rape in 2005, asked the El Reno Police Department if he could purchase a property in the city near Lake Reno. Police informed Donaldson that the entirety of the lake was a park under state law, and he could not live within 2,000 feet of the property anyway and filed suit to challenge the constitutionality of the state sex offender registry's restriction, because the requirement was passed into law in 2006, a year after his conviction. Canadian County District Judge Jack McCurdy II agreed with Donaldson and found retroactive application of new registration requirements were unconstitutional.

Judge James Huber, of the Court of Civil Appeals, was appointed last year by then-Chief Justice M. John Kane IV to serve as a temporary justice solely for the *Donaldson* case. Huber joined Kane, who authored the opinion, alongside Chief Justice Dustin Rowe

and Justices Noma Gurich and Richard Darby in the majority.

"In the seminal case *Smith v. Doe*, the [U.S.] Supreme Court set forth what has become known as the 'intent-effects' test for determining whether the retroactive application of sex offender registration laws violates the ex post facto clause of the [U.S.] Constitution. We adopted this test in *Starkey v. Oklahoma Department of Corrections*," Kane wrote. "The ex post facto clause applies only to criminal or penal laws. Therefore, the initial inquiry is whether the Legislature intended for the provision to be civil or criminal. If the Legislature intended to impose punishment, it is criminal, and the ex post facto clause prohibits its retroactive application. But, if the Legislature intended for the provision to be part of a civil, non-punitive regulatory scheme, we apply the intent-effects test to determine whether the civil, regulatory provision is so punitive, either in purpose or effect, as to negate that intent."

The majority found the park residency requirements were part of a "civil, non-punitive regulatory scheme" and applied the intent-effects test. That test is derived from *Kennedy v. Mendoza-Martinez*, a 1963 U.S. Supreme Court case, and weighs whether the effects of a civil regulation are too punitive to withstand constitutional scrutiny. The test has seven factors in Oklahoma:

1. Whether the law imposes an affirmative disability or restraint;
2. Whether it has been historically

regarded as a punishment;

3. Whether its operation promotes the traditional aims of punishment — retribution and deterrence;
4. Whether it has a rational connection to a non-punitive purpose;
5. Whether it is excessive in relation to this purpose;
6. Whether it is incumbent only on a finding of scienter; and
7. Whether the behavior to which it applies is already a crime.

The majority found that factors two, three, four, five, six, and seven did not support the conclusion the regulations were too punitive, while conceding that the first factor did weigh in favor of finding a punitive effect. Finding only one of the seven factors met, the court ruled that applying the 2,000 feet residency restriction to registered sex offenders convicted before enactment of the residency requirement is constitutional.

"The law prohibiting registered sex offenders from residing within 2,000 feet of a city park, [Title 57, Section 590(A)], does not amount to punishment and applies retroactively to persons who became subject to the provisions of SORA prior to the law's enactment or amendment without violating the ex post facto clauses of the federal or state constitution," Kane concluded.

Vice Chief Justice Dana Kuehn wrote separately and concurred in the case's result, but dissented to

*Cont. A11, OK Supreme Court*

## The burden will be on the sex offender



(FROM LEFT) Oklahoma Supreme Court Justices, M. John Kane IV, Noma Gurich, Dana Kuehn, Dustin Rowe, Douglas Combs, James Winchester and Richard Darby listen to Gov. Kevin Stitt's State of the State address Monday, Feb. 3, 2025. PHOTO: LEGISLATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

FROM A10

### OK Supreme Court

argue the court should have issued a more broad holding that all SORA regulations are presumed civil to prevent continued litigation over whether other parts of Oklahoma's sex offender registry violated the federal or state constitution.

"If we find SORA is civil once, we don't have to find it again in every case. Going forward, the burden will always be on the sex offender to show that a specific SORA provision is punitive as applied to him. That is, if we once find that SORA as a whole is civil, the presumption is that its provisions may always apply retroactively; only if a court finds that a provision is punitive in effect must it be applied prospectively. This would reduce the litigation surrounding SORA and simplify SORA claims," Kuehn wrote. "As I describe above, Starkey's reasoning is so uncertain that even this court can't agree on what it says, much less what it means."

The two dissenting Justices, Combs and James Edmondson, both reached the opposite conclusion from Kuehn, finding that the legislative history of Oklahoma's sex offender registry clearly demonstrated the legislation was not civil in nature.

### Dissent: 'The Legislature's intent was retributive and punitive'

Combs wrote the dissent and took issue with the majority's reading of Starkey, a decision he authored.

"I reach this conclusion because I disagree with the majority on three major points in their application of the 'intent-effects' test that this court adopted in Starkey v. Oklahoma Department of Corrections," Combs wrote. "First, I take issue with the majority's finding that 'the legislative intent of SORA is not to punish.' Second, I object to the majority's adoption and application of the 'clearest proof' burden in weighing whether the seven Mendoza-Martinez factors demonstrate the punitive effects of the statute. Third, I disagree with the majority's conclusion that the seven Mendoza-Martinez factors fail to demonstrate that the overall effects of the statute are so punitive as to negate any legislative intent to create a civil regulatory scheme."

“  
**Going forward, the burden will always be on the sex offender to show that a specific SORA provision is punitive as applied to him.**

Dana Kuehn, Vice Chief Justice, Oklahoma Supreme Court

### THE COURT

#### Oklahoma Supreme Court

The Supreme Court of Oklahoma is a court of appeal for non-criminal cases, one of the two highest judicial bodies in the U.S. state of Oklahoma, and leads the judiciary of Oklahoma, the judicial branch of the government of Oklahoma.

Combs began his opinion with more than 10 pages analyzing the legislative history of Oklahoma's sex offender registry laws since its creation in 1989. After the first sex offender registry statute was signed into law by Gov. Henry Bellmon, the Legislature has amended the law numerous times while codifying its requirements in several different titles, from "crimes" to "motor vehicles." In addition to the statutes, Combs examined the legislation's authors' press releases and public comments on sex offender registry requirements. Among the bills examined by Combs was 2002's SB 987, which would have allowed for the chemical castration of some sex offenders but for a veto by Gov. Frank Keating.

After analyzing decades of legislative history, Combs concluded the Legislature's intent when passing the laws has clearly been punitive.

"The 2003 and 2006 amendments concerning residency restrictions in Section 590 of SORA were always passed in tandem with the safety zone laws in section 1125 of the penal code and with numerous other sex offender provisions that clearly demonstrate the Legislature's punitive intent," Combs wrote. "A review of the legislators' press releases and quips for the newspapers only confirms that notion, as one reads about 'the legislature's fight to protect the public from sexual predators'; 'wag[ing] the war against sex crimes'; 'send[ing] a clear message to child predators in our state (...) [that] we will find you, we will prosecute you, and we will put you to death'; the need 'to put these demented criminals behind bars and keep them there for as long as possible'; and the belief that 'rapists must not be allowed to skirt the requirements of our sex offender registry.' Reviewing SORA's residency restrictions in their full context should lead everyone to conclude that the Legislature's intent was retributive and punitive."

Combs also objected to his colleagues' "veiled attempt to overrule one aspect of the Starkey precedent" and insisted the opinion was intended to interpret the Oklahoma Constitution as providing stronger protections than the U.S. Constitution. Combs argued the Starkey majority intentionally adopted the lower "neutral evaluation" burden of proof for recognizing punitive intent while analyzing ex post facto claims, and the court misapplied a higher standard requiring "clear proof" adopted by the U.S. Supreme Court.

"These paragraphs (quoted from Starkey)

make it readily apparent that Starkey did adopt a lower burden of proof to provide 'a neutral framework for determining SORA's purpose and effects because 'there [wa]s no clear legislative characterization that SORA is a civil law' and that the reason for adopting a neutral framework was to provide ex post facto protections beyond those afforded by the federal constitution," Combs wrote. "The Oklahoma Constitution provides more protection because six justices on this court looked at the debate between the Smith v. Doe majority and Justices (David) Souter and (Ruth Bader) Ginsburg and decided to go with a more robust ex post facto clause that didn't require 'clearest proof.' In other words, the Oklahoma Constitution provides more protection because six justices on this court said so."

Combs also argued that even if the justices assumed the Legislature's intent was not punitive, then the seven Mendoza-Martinez factors would favor finding their effect was punitive. Using the lower burden of proof, he found that six of the seven Mendoza-Martinez factors favored a finding the laws were punitive.

"The residency restrictions don't bear any rational connection to the nonpunitive purpose proffered by the majority and the City of El Reno," Combs wrote. "Therefore, the residency restrictions are extremely excessive in view of those nonpunitive purposes. Moreover, the residency restrictions impose an affirmative disability and restraint upon sex offenders, bear a strong resemblance to the historical punishment of banishment, only apply to conduct that is already criminal and further the traditional aims of punishment. Although clear proof isn't necessary, there seems to be clear proof here that the effects of retroactively applying SORA's residency restrictions are punitive and would outweigh any nonpunitive purposes."

Combs also raised two policy concerns with the Legislature's continued ramping up of registration requirements that he said should affect the analysis: Increasing registration requirements causes more offenders to "live off the grid" unregistered, and harsh residency restrictions "actually increase the risk of recidivism."

With the court narrowing its holding to only the park residency requirement, the justices left the door open for future challenges to the application of other requirements in SORA.

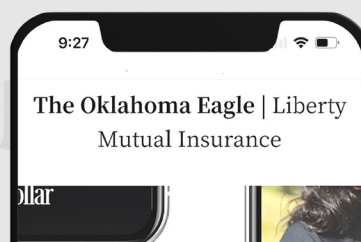
### Tristan Loveless

is a NonDoc Media reporter covering legal matters and other civic issues in the Tulsa area. A citizen of the Cherokee Nation who grew up in Turley and Skiatook, he graduated from the University of Tulsa College of Law in 2023. Before that, he taught for the Tulsa Debate League in Tulsa Public Schools.

The Oklahoma Eagle

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PHOTOS (ABOVE) ADOBE IMAGES, (BELOW) PROVIDED

## Four Aim To Replace Jennettie Marshall On TPS School Board

### Marshall TPS Seat Tristan Loveless

NonDoc

Tristan Loveless is a NonDoc Media reporter covering legal matters and other civic issues in the Tulsa area. A citizen of the Cherokee Nation who grew up in Turley and Skiatook, he graduated from the University of Tulsa College of Law in 2023. Before that, he taught for the Tulsa Debate League in Tulsa Public Schools.

Three of the four candidates vying to represent District 3 on the Tulsa Public Schools Board of Education braved a cold drizzle to speak to a few dozen potential voters at a candidate forum Tuesday night. Dorie Simmons, Kyra Carby and Eartha McAlester attended the event at McLain High School, which was hosted by the Tulsa Classroom Teachers Association and the League of Women Voters. Candidate Brandi Joseph did not attend.

One of the night's biggest moments of contention occurred not among the candidates, but between the moderators and someone in the audience. At the beginning of the forum, moderators announced that questions were prewritten and not shared with candidates.

"Do I hear you say that you're not allowing questions from the audience?" one person asked the moderators. When told that was correct, the audience member loudly declared, "I'm leaving, what's the point," before staying for the remainder of the event.

Tension in the audience aside, candidates found common ground in advocating for increasing transparency in the district, retaining teachers and supporting parent teacher associations. None of the three attending could identify a piece of legislation they found positive for public schools, and they castigated recent proposals for the State Department of Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction Ryan Walters.

The four candidates are hoping to succeed outgoing Tulsa Public Schools District 3 school board member Jennettie Marshall, who has served on the school board since 2016 and did not file for reelection. The primary election will be held Feb. 11.

TPS District 3 includes essentially all of Tulsa north of Pine Street, along with a few areas south of Pine Street. If no candidate captures more than 50 percent of the vote Feb. 11, the top two candidates will advance to an April 1 runoff. Presented alphabetically, candidate biographies included in the cheat sheet below were crafted from candidate websites, social media accounts, publicly available information and statements from the Feb. 4 candidate forum.



### Kyra Carby

Age: 39

Profession/Background: Kyra Carby has professional experience as chef, teacher and community engagement manager, according to her LinkedIn. After working at restaurants and bakeries during the mid-2010s, she worked for Tulsa Public Schools from 2017 to 2022 as a teacher at Gilcrease and John Hope Franklin elementary schools. After leaving TPS, Carby switched to community engagement and worked for both the Guthrie Green and the Gathering Place from 2022 to 2024. In June, she joined the City of Tulsa as its community genealogy grant coordinator, a position in charge of administering a federal grant to fund genealogical research related to the Tulsa Race Massacre. She is also of Muscogee descent.

Platform: Carby's platform includes increasing resources allocated to students and teachers, improving the district's transparency and strengthening community schools. At the candidate forum, she emphasized District 3's need for a collaborative board member.

"I think it is imperative that we realize that education is a part of any thriving community," Carby said. "If we don't encourage education, what are we saying about the future of our entire city? The district deserves a board member that will collaborate with others."

When asked about the "most egregious" policies for public schools, Carby targeted a new OSDE rule about documenting citizenship status.

"I will say that the one thing that I think is the worst that can happen to our students is that disclosing documentation status for our students. It's unconstitutional. It is detrimental to our society," she said.

Links: [Personal Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Website](#)



### Brandi Joseph

Age: 49

Profession/Background: Brandi Joseph moved to Tulsa in the 1990s to attend Oral Roberts University, where she earned a degree in mass media communication. She is active as a volunteer with Victory Christian Church, she works in media, and she runs a small product sales business, according to her website.

Platform: Issues listed as important to Joseph include improving student outcomes, promoting a "parent's rights to be involved and engaged in their child's education" and protecting teachers from "district retaliation."

She also advocates for ensuring a "safe learning environment" and addressing the teacher shortage, in part by advocating for pay raises.

Rep. Gabe Woolley (R-Broken Arrow), one of the House's newest and more active members on social media, gave Joseph an early endorsement in December.

"Tulsa has been run into the ground by California liberalism for too long and we must turn it around," Woolley said.

Joseph did not attend the Feb. 4 candidate forum and does not appear to have any other interview appearances available online.

Links: [Website](#) | [Facebook](#)



### Eartha McAlester

Age: 46

Profession/Background: Eartha McAlester grew up in Sallisaw and graduated from Langston University with a degree in psychology. She worked as a teaching aid and paraprofessional for Tulsa Public School in the 2010s. She appears to have been a party to an unsuccessful lawsuit against the state of Oklahoma over the Tulsa Race Massacre in the early- to mid-2000s. Most recently, she has served on the Tulsa Public Schools Early Childhood Parent Council for this school year.

Platform: During the candidate forum, McAlester emphasized that Tulsa Public Schools exists for "all" students, and she said board members needed to put all students before their personal politics.

"I think that a deterrent (to the board working well) would be going into things personally thinking and not for all," McAlester said. "With all the changes going on in the world, personal thinking can have a lasting effect, so be[ing] consistent, transparent and practicing equity is a great place to start."

As part of that desire to serve "all" students, McAlester takes exception to the idea of Walters' proposal to mandate Bibles in classrooms.

"The Bibles in school is a big deal to me. No matter if I'm a believer or not (...) [if] we are not able to support every religion, every spiritual belief, then I don't think it is OK to support just one," she said. "That is not OK, because it's not supporting all, and that's not the way Tulsa Public Schools claims that they do things. We support all students. No matter what your demographic or socioeconomic status, we support you."

Links: [Facebook](#) | [Personal Facebook](#)



### Dorie Simmons

Age: 50

Profession/Background: Dorie Simmons, a University of Tulsa graduate, is a Realtor and president of the Edison High School Boys Basketball booster club, a position she previously held from 2000 to 2013, according to her website. She describes herself as a "lifelong Oklahoman" and a "proud mother" who had her first child at 15. Her children have attended schools across the district, including Booker T. Washington High School, Thomas Edison Preparatory, Central High School, Carver Middle School, McLain High School and Barnard Elementary.

Platform: Simmons' campaign priorities include improving student outcomes, increasing board transparency and supporting both parents and teachers. At the candidate forum, she said the board should focus on both supporting the current superintendent, Ebony Johnson, while making sure she is also held accountable for her performance.

"Accountability at the board level is very important," Simmons said. "I do think Dr. Johnson is a very capable superintendent, and with that comes accountability. So it is our job as school board members to support her and to make sure that we help her become successful and continue to be successful and, yet, hold her accountable."

On statewide education issues, Simmons said recent proposals seem geared toward "the political gain of the person who is running the public school system down in Oklahoma City," not students.

"When we take the children and we take families out of public school, (then) they don't have a public school system any longer. When we allow school vouchers to go to the private sector, when they can pay for private school to begin with, we have a problem. When we force children to have Bibles in school under the pretense that there is some literary gain from it, we have a problem. When we require students to provide birth certificates and proof of citizenship to come into our school system, we have a problem," she said. "These are all things District 3 disproportionately faces when it comes to the public school system."

Links: [Website](#)

FEATURED

## New Policies Endanger Black Immigrant Students' Security

Immigrant Students, A13



FEATURED

## Keeping Hope Alive at Atlanta's Hub for Black Art and Activism

Atlanta's Black Hub, A15



PHOTO ADOBE IMAGES

### The Fight for Free School Meals: What's at Stake for Black Students

School Lunches  
Quintessa Williams  
*Word In Black*

**G**eorgia Flowers-Lee of United Teachers Los Angeles says the union will not let students' right to food be taken "without a fight."

In Oakland, California, 55 years ago, a group of Black children gathered at St. Augustine Episcopal Church for a free breakfast before school. However, it was the Black Panther Party that provided the food, not the federal government.

The Free Breakfast for School Children Program would eventually help reshape how America should feed its students. In 1975, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) established the School Breakfast Program, an initiative that now feeds millions of students nationwide. Such programs also influenced the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), a federal initiative under the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program that enables schools and districts in high-poverty areas to provide free school meals to all enrolled students without requiring application or documentation.

However, more than half a century later, the revolution over free school

meals still plays out in public cafeterias — especially for Black students.

During a recent appearance on CNN, Rich McCormick, a Republican Georgia State Representative, dismissed school meal programs as a "handout" and argued that students benefiting were merely "sponging off the government."

His remarks have sparked national outrage but also speak to Project 2025 and Republican lawmakers' push to scale back universal meal programs and limit access to only low-income students. While supporters of this effort frame it as "cutting government waste," critics argue that it is yet another policy that will further heighten racial and economic disparities, especially for Black students already disproportionately impacted by food security.

The rhetoric is infuriating and hypocritical, says Georgia Flowers-

Cont. A14, School Lunches

### New Policies Endanger Black Immigrant Students' Security

Immigrant Students  
Quintessa Williams  
*Word In Black*

*Attempts to end birthright citizenship and lift restrictions on school ICE enforcement have sparked widespread fear*

Imagine sending your child to school, only to worry that they might not come home — not because of violence or illness, but because their classroom could become the next target of immigration enforcement.

Cont. A14, Immigrant Students

## 1 in 4 Black children living in food-insecure households



PHOTO ADOBE IMAGES

FROM A13

### School Lunches

Lee, United Teachers Los Angeles NEA vice president.

“These are the same people who rant and rave about protecting the unborn,” she tells Word In Black. “But once they take their first breath, they don’t care. These beautiful babies deserve to grow into thriving, productive adults. And one of the most basic ways we ensure that happens is by making sure they have adequate nutrition.”

### Why Black Students Avoid School Meals

According to the CDC’s recent “Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data Summary & Trends

or other places with access to healthy foods, as underlying reasons for food insecurity in Black households, Flowers-Lee says that it wasn’t just about access but about stigma, too.

“When I was a Black student in the LAUSD, I was entitled to free meals, but I preferred to get a dollar, cross the street, and buy a bean and cheese burrito at Taco Bell,” Flowers-Lee says. “Why? Because the stigma of handing over a free meal ticket was humiliating. And I completely understand why students today make the same decision.”

Stigma plays a significant role in why Black students opt out of free school meals. Especially in states without universal school meal programs, students who receive free or reduced food are often singled out, further discouraging their participation.

“I had a student whose daily lunch was a bag of chips and a Capri Sun. That’s not a meal, and it’s not enough to help a student

“

**These are the same people who rant and rave about protecting the unborn,” she tells Word In Black. “But once they take their first breath, they don’t care.**

Georgia Flowers-Lee, United Teachers Los Angeles NEA vice president

Report for 2013-2023, only 24% of Black high school students reported eating breakfast daily in 2023. This is a significant drop from 30% a decade ago and falls below the national average of 39% for white students. Although the report did not indicate the underlying reasons behind the data, recent research has suggested that skipping breakfast isn’t just a matter of choice — but is linked to a more devastating reality for Black students.

In 2023, Feeding America reported that over 9 million Black people could not access enough food and that Black children were found to have been three times as likely to face hunger, with a reported 1 in 4 living in food-insecure households. While the organization pointed to low wages, unemployment, and food deserts — areas without grocery stores

stay focused and learn. Universal meals mean that everyone has the access to eat the same thing at the same time,” Flowers-Lee, a former special education teacher, says. “It builds community and eliminates shame.”

### Project 2025 and State-Level Variations

Project 2025, a conservative policy blueprint, proposes significant changes to federal education programs, including the scaling back of universal free breakfast school initiatives like the CEP.

While the plan suggests that only children from low-income families should receive meals, the policy would, one, — reverse policy changes from the Obama administration, like the CEP, that allowed entire schools or districts to provide free meals without

Cont. A15, School Lunches

## Schools, the next target of immigration enforcement

FROM A13

### Immigrant Students

The Trump administration’s push to end birthright citizenship and expand immigration and Customs Enforcement presence in sensitive locations like schools has sparked a constitutional and moral crisis. A federal judge in Maryland has blocked the order, but the mere possibility has sown fear in communities and classrooms nationwide.

“The attempt to end birthright citizenship is a racist attack,” says Amena Elamin, National Youth Organizer for the Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI). “It’s rooted in the same anti-Blackness that has historically denied rights to Black people. This isn’t just about immigration — it’s about who is seen as belonging in this country.”

It’s not just an issue for immigrant students of Mexican, El Salvadoran, or Venezuelan descent, either. Black students also come from immigrant families — or mixed-status families — and they’re caught in the crosshairs of policies that threaten to separate families and destabilize communities.

“Our communities are deeply intertwined,” Elamin says. “There are so many mixed-status families where one parent might be African American and other Sudanese, Jamaican, Haitian — you name it. These policies don’t just impact immigrants — they separate Black families, which then disrupts their children’s education. They cause harm that extends beyond immigration status because these communities are already marginalized.”

For Black students who are already over-policed and disproportionately pushed into the school-to-prison pipeline, these policies compound existing racial inequities, leading to Increased absenteeism, disengagement, and long-term setbacks for an entire generation of students.



PHOTO ADOBE IMAGES

President Donald Trump, who pushed such efforts early in his second term, said the 14th Amendment, often cited in immigration debates, was intended only for the “children of slaves” and should not have been interpreted as “extending citizenship universally to everyone born within the United States.”

### Schools No Longer Just a Place of Learning

Schools, once considered safe havens, are now potential sites of immigration enforcement. In Chicago, federal agents mistakenly believed to be ICE officers recently appeared at Hamline Elementary

School, sparking panic.

“Our attendance was pretty bad across the city. There was like 50 to 80% attendance,” one Chicago Public Schools teacher told NPR.

Studies from Harvard’s Immigration Initiative show that students from diverse or mixed-status families experience higher levels of anxiety, depression, and school disengagement. In addition, WCPO news recently reported that Tri-State teachers have witnessed a 50% drop in attendance due to the growing fears of immigration raids.

“In multiple classes, I am missing half of my students,” Kendra Adamson, a

teacher in Ohio, told WCPO 9 News. “Our students are living in fear that they will be deported.”

For Black immigrant students, the stakes are especially high: they face multiple threats: racial bullying and harassment in schools, racial profiling by teachers and school security, and deportation, all while trying to get an education.

“School should be a place of learning, not fear,” Elamin says. “Our students are not only just facing incarceration, but deportation, too. How can students focus on their education when their families could be torn apart at any moment?”

### How Can We Protect Black Immigrant Students?

Elamin believes schools must take a stand. She offers several recommendations for educators and administrators:

- Refuse to share sensitive information or immigration status with federal authorities. “Schools should not act as an extension of immigration enforcement,” she says.
- Provide “Know Your Rights” training for students, families, and staff so that Black communities understand their legal protections.
- Offer or ensure culturally competent mental health support tailored specifically to Black immigrant students who experience compounded stress from both racial and immigration-related trauma.

### Liberation Is Collective

Elamin also stresses that while schools have a role to play, parents, community members, and allies must also take action. “Liberation is collective,” she says. “We can’t fight for justice in silos, and our students deserve schools where they can learn and grow without constantly looking over their shoulders. Education should be a tool for freedom, not another battleground for exclusion.”

### Our Mission

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

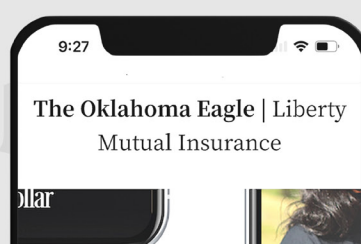




PHOTO ADOBE IMAGES

## The spirit of the Black Panther Party's breakfast program remains just as critical

FROM A14

### School Lunches

individual eligibility, and two, — could further eliminate similar initiatives without federal oversight, given that Trump has proposed shutting down the Department of Education.

If implemented, the conservative policy will also create more administrative hurdles, such as requiring more families to submit paperwork and strengthening state-level

“

**When you put food security in the hands of states, the reality is that some won't care.**

Georgia Flowers-Lee, United Teachers  
Los Angeles NEA vice president

variations on school meal programs.

“When you put food security in the hands of states, the reality is that some won't care,” Flowers-Lee says.

As of August 2023, only eight states have implemented universal free school meal programs, regardless of household income. States like California, Maine, Massachusetts, Nevada, and Vermont, which adopted the programs, have reported a 6% increase during the 22-23 school year. Meanwhile, the USDA Economic Research Service reported that states without universal free school programs during the 22-23 school year saw 1.5% more kids facing food shortages in the states without free school meals.

### Free School Meals Should Not Be a Civil Rights Issue

Ultimately, the same spirit that fueled the Black Panther Party's breakfast program back in 1969 — ensuring that every child, regardless of background, is ready to learn — remains just as critical. And if the push to dismantle or weaken free breakfast programs succeeds, it won't just roll back decades of progress; it will also widen the educational gap for Black students who rely on these meals the most.

“Food is not a privilege. It's a necessity,” Flowers-Lee says. “And we're not going to let them take that away from our students without a fight.”

## Keeping Hope Alive at Atlanta's Hub for Black Art and Activism

### Atlanta's Black Hub

Nadira Jamerson

Word In Black

Watch as WIB digital editor Nadira Jamerson interviews Poetry on Peter founder Miyana Sarver about building spaces where Black art and ideas can flourish.

When Miyana Sarver first entered Peter Street Station, an art gallery and event space in downtown Atlanta, in 2021, she was blown away by the floor-to-ceiling bookcases and artful decor. And though the prospect of curating a show there in only a month was daunting, Sarver knew she had found something special and was determined to pull it off.

Now, four years later, the 31-year-old writer and event planner is the founder of Poetry on Peter, one of Atlanta's premier art events for young Black creatives. Poetry on Peter, held twice monthly, combines music, poetry, and community to create an atmosphere where hope flourishes.

“Hope. Inspiration. People always talk about how the community needs a certain type of activism,” Sarver, a Louisville, Kentucky, native, says. “But people have forgotten that what gets people there first is inspiration, and them believing in themselves. Seeing your peers make their ideas reality will make you want to try your own ideas.”

At the often sold-out shows, audiences can expect to hear pieces that encompass the vastness of Black life and identity, from reflections on Black love and heartbreak to mental health and how the climate crisis impacts marginalized communities. Popular Black artists, including rapper FOGGIERAW and poet Papadook, have graced the Poetry on Peter stage. And the night's host always makes sure to lead the audience in cheering for each performer —



PHOTO ADOBE IMAGES

an act of encouragement and community celebration.

In an exclusive conversation with Word In Black's digital editor Nadira Jamerson, Sarver discusses her journey of becoming

a community “gatherer” through Poetry on Peter, and how other young Black folks can create spaces of resistance and hope in their cities.

**Nadira Jamerson**, a writer and content creator, is the Digital Editor for Word In Black. Her focus is to create space for Black individuals to express the complexities of their communities and identities through an honest and inspiring lens.

(ABOVE) **Black History Month: The Best Way to Shop**, sponsored by the U. S. Black Chambers of Commerce, is to support our communities during the month and throughout the year. (RIGHT, TOP) **Dr. Jamal Bryant**, pastor of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Stonecrest, Ga., is leading a campaign with the U. S. Black Chambers Inc. to demonstrate the economic power of the Black community. (RIGHT, BOTTOM) **Ron Busby**, is president of the U. S. Black Chambers Inc. in Washington, D. C.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

## U. S. Black Chambers Inc. Celebrates Black History Month And Launches 40-Day Target Department Store Fast

### Black Chambers Dr. Jerry Goodwin

*‘Shop Black, Celebrate Black; Georgia Pastor Jamal Bryant Leads March Campaign, March 5 – April 17*

For Black History Month, the U. S. Black Chambers Inc. invites the community to celebrate culture, community, and commerce by supporting Black-owned businesses. Whether looking for fashion, beauty, food, or services, the Chamber provides resources to help you find and support Black entrepreneurs nationwide.

According to the Chamber, “Every purchase is a powerful investment in Black excellence and economic growth.”

For more information, see <https://usblackchambers.org/buyingguide/>

### 40-Day Target Fast

Two leaders are combining efforts to launch a campaign to empower Black-owned businesses and demonstrate the economic influence of the Black purchasing power.

Dr. Jamal Bryant, pastor of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Stonecrest, Ga., and Ron Busby, president/CEO of the U. S. Black Chambers Inc. in Washington, D. C., have joined forces to announce a “40-day Target Fast” from March 5 – April 17.

Starting March 5, the leaders are calling on the Black community to pause shopping at Target stores and sell their Target stock for 40 days. The goal is to redirect their spending to Black-owned businesses.

Organizers plan to mobilize 100,000 participants to join the movement, highlighting the significant impact and value of Black consumer spending as major corporations continue to roll back diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs.

“Black businesses are the backbone of

America’s economy. This peaceful movement is a strategic demonstration of our economic power and a call to action for corporations to understand the value of DEI initiatives. By uniting with Dr. Bryant and mobilizing at least 100,000 participants, we aim to not only support Black-owned businesses but also show that neglecting diversity initiatives has long-term consequences,” said Busby.

According to the Chamber, the 40-Day Target Fast is a peaceful, strategic demonstration designed to hold Target accountable to its promises and ensure corporations prioritize diversity, equity, and justice.

“This is a fast for accountability, justice, and transformation for a future where corporate pressure does not come at the expense of marginalized communities,” said the Chamber.

For more information, visit [www.byblack.us](http://www.byblack.us), [www.targetfast.org](http://www.targetfast.org), and the [www.usblackchambers.org](http://www.usblackchambers.org).

## Events

### Feb. 7 - Mar. 6

“And Then Margaret Curtis” an exhibition at Alexandre Hogue Gallery in Jerri Jones Lecture Hall in Phillips Hall, Room 211, 2930 E. 5th St. An artist talk is scheduled for Feb. 6 at 5 p.m. – 6 p.m. Following the artist talk will be a reception, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. The gallery hours are Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The programs and exhibit are free and open to the public. For more information, call (918) 631-2739.

### Feb. 7

Seventh Annual Tiffany’s Heart Luncheon will be held at Tulsa Tech, Lemley Memorial Campus, Client Service Center, 3868 S. Memorial Dr. For more information, visit [SeventhAnnualTiffanyHeartLuncheon.org](http://SeventhAnnualTiffanyHeartLuncheon.org).

### Feb. 11

TT: Live Business Mentoring and Learning: Mastering Marketing Funnels is a chamber development and entrepreneurial training and development, 4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m. (EST). The webinar is sponsored by the U. S. Black Chambers, Inc. To register, visit [LiveBusinessMentoringandLearningMasteringMarketingFunnels.org](http://LiveBusinessMentoringandLearningMasteringMarketingFunnels.org).

### Feb. 11

2025 Contracting Accelerator Four-Week Training Course will provide individuals and their businesses with information covering the topic of contracting. The facilitator will be Kathy E. Porter with Porter Brown Associates. The virtual program is sponsored by at the Greenwood Women’s Business Center, 102 N. Greenwood Ave., 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Additional dates are Feb. 17 and 24. To register, send an email to [info@greenwoodwbc.org](mailto:info@greenwoodwbc.org). For more information, call (539) 867-4127 or see [www.greenwoodwbc.org](http://www.greenwoodwbc.org).

### Feb. 14

Greenwood Rising, 23 N. Greenwood Ave., is hosting “Freedom Fridays.” Oklahoma residents will receive free admission and can visit between Jan. 31 and March 7. The free admission is courtesy of a donation from Tulsa Teachers Credit Union. For more information, contact (539) 867-3173.

### Feb. 15

Education for Scholars Inc. invites you to its Martin Luther King Beacon of Hope fundraiser event. Pulitzer Prize-nominated author Clifton Taulbert will be the guest speaker. Proceeds will benefit North Tulsa Youth and Family Resilience Project. For more information, see [EducationforScholars.org/events](http://EducationforScholars.org/events).

### Feb. 17

2025 Contracting Accelerator Four-Week Training Course will provide individuals and their businesses with information covering the topic of contracting. The facilitator will be Kathy E. Porter with Porter Brown Associates. The virtual program is sponsored by at the Greenwood Women’s Business Center, 102 N. Greenwood Ave., 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Additional date is Feb. 24. To register, send an email to [info@greenwoodwbc.org](mailto:info@greenwoodwbc.org). For more information, call (539) 867-4127 or see [www.greenwoodwbc.org](http://www.greenwoodwbc.org).

## New Mental Health Services Grow Out Of Provider’s Circumstances



Chanel Johnson is opening VGH Mental Health Services to respond to the community’s growing need for mental health services.

PHOTO PROVIDED

### Telehealth Dr. Jerry Goodwin

Nurse practitioner and native Tulsan Chanel Johnson has opened a new telehealth service focusing on mental health. VGH Mental Health Services will address a growing need for mental health services in the community. She is offering these services after overcoming her own personal struggles stemming from a narcissistic relationship, financial exploitation, and betrayal.

“I experienced some severe mental illness

myself by circumstances that we can’t control, and I had to fight my way out of how to survive. I didn’t have anything but God, and God basically told me to go back to school,” Johnson said. “I discovered that healing hurts...I felt the pain, and I said, I don’t want anybody else to feel this pain.”

After 15 years of nursing, most recently in psychiatric mental health services, Johnson said it was time to open her own practice to offer help to others.

“Mental health is probably more needed than ever, just because of the way the world

is going... there are not enough mental health providers,” she said.

VGH Mental Health Services serves individuals aged six to 65 years of age in the treatment of a variety of mental health conditions, including trauma, depression, anxiety disorders, and mood disorders, including PTSD, OCD, and ADHD.

Johnson is a board-certified nurse practitioner who has served the medical industry in Tulsa for nearly 15 years. VGH, which is an acronym named for two of her children, Victory and Grace, offers telehealth services for psychiatric evaluations, medication management, and other treatment modalities. Johnson said she has a mission to offer hope and healing to everyone who seeks care under the stated mission.

Her mission is “Because Jesus is victorious, he has provided us with victory, grace, and healing,” Johnson said.

During her college career, Johnson participated in NCAA Division I, playing basketball at the University of Alabama and the University of Tulsa.

As a registered nurse, Johnson has worked in intensive care units for 10 years, specializing in neurological, trauma, stroke, and general surgical units at local hospitals in Tulsa and surrounding areas.

In 2019, she obtained an MSN from Maryville University as a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), graduating summa cum laude. She received a Post-Masters Certificate as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) in 2022, graduating summa cum laude. Johnson has also attended Harvest Time Prayer Ministry Bible College for three years, focusing on intercessory prayer and biblical understanding.

She is a member of the American Nurses Association (ANA), Association of Oklahoma Nurse Practitioners (AONP), American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP), and American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN). She has three young children, ages four, five, and 11, and she enjoys sharing her life with them.

To contact VGH Telehealth, email [info@vghmentalhealthservices.com](mailto:info@vghmentalhealthservices.com), visit the website, [vghmentalhealthservices.com](http://vghmentalhealthservices.com), or call (918) 428-8713.



The Oklahoma Eagle

## LU Hosts Basketball Doubleheader To Celebrate The School of Business



Langston University, Oklahoma's HBCU.

PHOTOS LANGSTON.EDU

### 'Welcome Back: The Remix Of Langston University School Of Business' and Greek Night, Feb. 20

**Langston**  
**Dr. Jerry Goodwin**

Langston University invites the community to a special event honoring the School of Business. On Feb. 20, the college is hosting "Welcome Back: The Remix of Langston University School of Business" and Basketball Greek Night.

The event will begin with a reception for corporate partners, alumni, administrators, faculty, staff, and students in Moore Hall, Room 213 from 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Afterwards, guests will be invited to attend

a basketball doubleheader with the Lions against Texas Wesleyan. The women's game will begin at 6 p.m. and the men's game will begin at 7:45 p.m. in the C. F. Gayles Fieldhouse.

"We are excited to invite you (to LU) to highlight the transformative changes at Langston University School of Business. The theme reflects our renewed commitment to providing hope and opportunity to our students, particularly the over 70% of first-generation college attendees," said Dr. Daryl Green, dean of the School of Business at LU.

The School of Business has increased

its course offerings, enrollment, and has expanded to teach courses online and at the Dick Conner Correctional Center for incarcerated students.

"Through innovation, collaboration, and a focus on student success, we are reshaping the future of business education," said Green. He will be sharing information about "exciting initiatives driving this transformation."

For more information, contact <https://langstonsports.com/>. For a list of other Black History Month activities, visit <https://langston.edu/bhm/>.



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[www.theokeagle.com](http://www.theokeagle.com)

## Events

### Feb. 19

The Women's March on Washington Co-Founder Tamika D. Mallory will host a lecture and book signing at All Souls Unitarian Church, 2952 S. Peoria Ave., beginning at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Magic City Books at (918) 602-4452 or visit [tamikadmallory.com](http://tamikadmallory.com).

### Feb. 20

Access to Capital - U. S. Black Chambers, Inc. introduces a "New Way to Borrow" webinar, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. (EST). The live-streamed event is a USBC chamber development and entrepreneurial training and development program. The forum will provide information about loans designed for small businesses with local communities in mind. For more information, visit [Access to Capital - USBC Introduces a New Way to Borrow](http://Access to Capital - USBC Introduces a New Way to Borrow).

### Feb. 20

Chase Money Skills is hosting a "Small Business: Power of Capital" workshop at Chase Bank, 6140 S. Lewis Ave., 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. The free program will provide practical insights on funding, financial planning, and leveraging capital to fuel your business growth. Small Business Consultant Carla Thomas will be the presenter. RSVP by Feb. 19. For more information, visit events. [chase.com/300056386](http://chase.com/300056386).

### Feb. 20

Greenwood Rising, 23 N. Greenwood Ave., is hosting author Hannibal Johnson and his newly released book, "10 Ways We Can Advance Social Justice Without Destroying Each Other," 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. The program is free to the public. For more information, call (539) 867-3173 or [contact@greenwoodrising.org](mailto:contact@greenwoodrising.org).

### Feb. 20

"Welcome Back: The Remix of Langston University School of Business" will be the theme for the LU vs. Texas Wesleyan basketball game, which begins at 6 p.m. Before the game, the School of Business will host a reception in Moore Hall, Room 213, 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. For more information, visit <https://langstonsports.com/>.

### Feb. 21 - 23

St. Monica Catholic Church and the Diocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma are hosting "The Church in Black and White: Creating the Beloved Catholic Community." The program includes the following: Feb. 21, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. - Meet and Greet at St. Monica Catholic Church, 633 E. Marshall Pl.; Feb. 22, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Workshop at Rudisill Regional Library, 1502 N. Harford Ave.; and Feb. 23, 10 a.m. - Unity Mass at St. Monica. A continental breakfast and lunch will be offered during the workshop. For more information and registration, visit conference registration or contact Fr. Celestine Obidegwu at [okekey1970@yahoo.com](mailto:okekey1970@yahoo.com).

### Feb. 21 - 23

2025 Black Futures Hackathon: Coding the Future, Honoring Past program will be hosted by Atlas School, 15 N. Cheyenne Ave., 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. The all-day event will invite middle and high school students to learn the fundamentals of web development during Black History Month. For more information, contact [Urban Coders Guild](http://Urban Coders Guild).

## 46th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Parade Tulsa: The Dream in Motion

**Tulsa MLK Parade** celebrated participants of all ages honoring Dr. King's legacy and demonstrated how we can continue keeping his dream alive.



(COLUMN ONE, TOP) Alondyn Cato, (pink coat), 4, gets candy from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oklahoma during the 46th Annual Tulsa MLK Parade on Monday Jan. 20, 2025. PHOTO CORY YOUNG, THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

(COLUMN ONE, BOTTOM) Tulsa Drillers' mascot Hornsby, rides in a float during the 46th Annual Tulsa MLK Parade on Monday Jan. 20, 2025. PHOTO CORY YOUNG, THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

(COLUMN TWO, TOP) Arunn Barnett, of Williams Companies, holds a photo of historic educator Clara Luper, as colleagues walk along John Hope Franklin Boulevard during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade on Monday, Jan. 17, 2022. PHOTO CORY YOUNG, THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

(COLUMN TWO, MIDDLE) Amari McCoy, 9, dances with Friendship Church, during the 46th Annual Tulsa MLK Parade on Monday Jan. 20, 2025. PHOTO CORY YOUNG, THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

(COLUMN TWO, BOTTOM) Hundreds of celebrants in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade on Monday, Jan. 17, 2022. PHOTO CORY YOUNG, THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

(COLUMN THREE) Tulsa Drillers' mascot Hornsby, rides in a float during the 46th Annual Tulsa MLK Parade on Monday Jan. 20, 2025. PHOTO CORY YOUNG, THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

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“Tulsa:  
The Dream In Motion”  
Saturday, January 20, 2025

# 4 The Dream In Motion

(ROW ONE) **Tiffany Crutcher**, (right), executive director of the Terence Crutcher Foundation, and her father Rev. **Joey Crutcher**, a founder of the foundation, ride in the 46th Annual Tulsa MLK Parade in the Greenwood District on Monday Jan. 20, 2025. PHOTO CORY YOUNG, THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

(ROW TWO) **Robert Lee**, Longtime educator, rides in the Tulsa Public Schools float at the 46th Annual Tulsa MLK Parade in the Greenwood District on Monday Jan. 20, 2025. PHOTO CORY YOUNG, THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

(ROW THREE) **Royalty** was present in the 46th Annual Tulsa MLK Parade in the Greenwood District on Monday Jan. 20, 2025. PHOTO CORY YOUNG, THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

(ROW FOUR) **Photos of several black leaders** was among the decorum of the Tulsa Public Schools' float at the 46th Annual Tulsa MLK Parade on Monday Jan. 20, 2025. PHOTO CORY YOUNG, THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

(ROW FIVE) **Terence Crutcher, Jr.**, 12, marches in front of a banner of his late father, Terence Crutcher Sr., with the Terence Crutcher Foundation, during the 46th Annual Tulsa MLK Parade on Monday Jan. 20, 2025. PHOTO CORY YOUNG, THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

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# 46<sup>th</sup>



(COLUMN ONE, TOP) **Ashley Townsend** (at right), Chase Bank, passes out candy in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade on Monday, Jan. 17, 2022. PHOTO CORY YOUNG, THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE



(COLUMN ONE, BOTTOM) **Steven Wilson**, (from left), 12, and sister Isabella Wilson, 7, both of Tulsa, pose during near a mural along Greenwood Avenue at the 46th Annual Tulsa MLK Parade on Monday Jan. 20, 2025. PHOTO CORY YOUNG, THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

(COLUMN TWO, TOP) **Turner Goodrum**, a longtime freelance photographer from Tulsa, takes photos from inside a vehicle during the 46th Annual Tulsa MLK Parade on Monday Jan. 20, 2025. PHOTO CORY YOUNG, THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

(COLUMN TWO, MIDDLE) **Pistol Pete** from OSU was one of the parade participants in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade on Monday, Jan. 17, 2022. PHOTO CORY YOUNG, THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE

(COLUMN TWO, BOTTOM) **Terrence Dorsey** with the US Postal Service, marched in the 46th Annual Tulsa MLK Parade on Monday Jan. 20, 2025. PHOTO CORY YOUNG, THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE



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