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THE OKLAHOMAN

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026 | OKLAHOMAN.COM

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Answers sought after LA massacre

7 of the 8 children killed were suspect's

Christopher Cann, Makenzie Boucher and N'dea Yancey-Bragg
USA TODAY NETWORK

SHREVEPORT, LA – Residents of this historic riverfront city remained shaken a day after a gunman opened fire April 19 and killed eight children in the nation's deadliest mass shooting since January 2024.

They were looking for explanations – and authorities were trying to provide them, piecing together information on the tragedy.

Police said the suspect, identified as Shamar Elkins, also shot the mother of his children and another woman, both of whom survived with serious injuries. Elkins then fled the scene on foot and stole a car at gunpoint, leading to a police chase that ended with

See **MASSACRE**, Page 2A



The Pugh and Elkins families gather while grieving the shooting deaths of family members on April 19 in Shreveport, Louisiana. Eight children were killed and two women injured. BRANDON BELL/GETTY IMAGES

Edmond out to remove 'freeholder' mandate

Richard Mize
The Oklahoman
USA TODAY NETWORK

EDMOND – The "freeholder" requirement is closer to being scrubbed from the 101-year-old Edmond City Charter as a qualification for local political candidates. The decades-old clause is generally understood to have been a tactic meant to keep Black people from running for office.

A freeholder is someone who owns a property and the land it sits on. The charter directive basically means renters can't run for mayor or Edmond City Council.

The council declared that the requirement is "contrary to law and shall

See **'FREEHOLDER'**, Page 6A

TITLE TWISTS



The University of Oklahoma gymnastics team poses with the champions trophy after finishing in first place in the 2026 NCAA Women's Gymnastics National Championships at Dickies Arena. JEROME MIRON/IMAGN IMAGES

OU gymnastics is a dynasty, but that doesn't mean championship was easy



Jenni Carlson
Columnist
The Oklahoman
USA TODAY NETWORK

FORT WORTH, TEXAS — Faith Torrez bounded off the floor, her excitement after her championship-clinching floor routine causing footsteps to be replaced by bunny-hops. ● The only person who might've been jumping for joy more than the OU gymnast? ● Sooners coach KJ Kindler. ● "You have no idea what we've been through and how she literally got ready in two weeks," Kindler told The Oklahoman after the NCAA Championship finals Saturday, April 18. "People think she was working her way back."

See **CARLSON**, Page 3A

"They're all different, they're all unique, and they're all incredibly special. All the credit goes to the athletes after the things that we have been through this year."

KJ Kindler Sooners coach

OK furniture stores running mattress Thunder promotion

Jeff Elkins
The Oklahoman
USA TODAY NETWORK

Sports gambling may be illegal in Oklahoma, but fans looking to upgrade their bed can now make a wager on a new mattress: if the Oklahoma City Thunder win the championship again, they won't pay a dime.

Excitement is growing with the start of the post season for Oklahoma City basketball, and Bob Mills Furniture has a new promotion tied in to the Thunder's effort to keep the Larry O'

Brien trophy in Oklahoma. It's a chance for customers to get their mattress free if the team goes all the way.

It gives Oklahomans in the market for a new mattress another reason to cheer for the hometown team.

Bob Mills, owner of Bob Mills Furniture, said this is a "fun moment" for Oklahoma. "You can feel it in (Oklahoma City), you can feel it in Tulsa," Mills said in a statement.

"People are paying attention, talking about games, and we wanted to give

See **PROMOTION**, Page 6A



A look inside the OKC Thunder's tradition of NBA Playoffs shirts

OKLAHOMA, 4A

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Volume 136 | No. 95
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