



Building a Stronger Grid for Oklahoma



PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF OKLAHOMA



OSU continues Oregon momentum, OU still searches for offensive identity **SPORTS, PAGE B1**

Meet Tulsa's Small Business Person of the Year: Chick-fil-A's David Chen **BUSINESS, PAGE E1**





Renovated Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame & Museum ready for visitors **SCENE, PAGE D1**

Tulsa World announces the Best in the World winners for 2026 **PAGE C1**

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

COACHES SCORING LIKE NEVER BEFORE



TULSA WORLD ARCHIVE PHOTOS
A Tulsa World survey found 16 area coaches in 2026-27 have compensation exceeding \$100,000. Pictured, from left, are Union's Antonio Graham, Bixby's Loren Montgomery, Jenks' Adam Gaylor and Will Rogers' Antwain Jimmerson.

As public schools face money issues, \$100,000 coaches' salaries become more common

BILL HAISTEN
Tulsa World

On Sept. 9, there was a sobering report from the Tulsa World's Lenzy Krehbiel-Burton: *With a board-imposed deadline for budget cut recommendations less than six weeks away, Tulsa Public Schools administrators confirmed (during a) board of education meeting that school closures and consolidations are among the possible options being weighed to offset a \$12 million deficit.*

While money challenges or crises seem universal for Oklahoma public school districts, Tulsa-area high school head football coaches make more money than ever before.

As recently as the 2022-23 school year, eight area public-school coaches made at least \$100,000.

A Tulsa World survey of area public districts reveals that 16 area coaches have a 2026-27 total-compensation package with a value of more than \$100,000.

While Oklahoma reportedly is 37th nationally in average teacher salary at \$61,931 and 48th in average starting teacher salary at \$41,294, seven of the nine Tulsa Public Schools head football coaches have a current total-compensation situation of at least \$78,000.

Three of the TPS coaches are beyond the \$100,000 mark: Will Rogers' Antwain Jimmerson (\$130,959), Central's Jarvis Payne (\$108,816) and Webster's



DANIEL SHULAR, TULSA WORLD ARCHIVE

After Bobby Klinck coached the 2025 Sand Springs Sandites to the Class 6AII championship, his total-package income was raised to \$119,842.

Josh Calvert (\$101,341).

Typical within the contracts of public-school coaches are a base salary, pay for additional administrative roles and extra-duty income, along with district contributions to retirement funds.

Factored into TPS contracts is a years-of-service component. Previously the head man at Booker T. Washington and

East Central, Jimmerson has an extensive history in the Tulsa Public Schools system.

Please see **COACHES**, Page A4

■ **For more:** Several variables go into salaries, **NEWS**, Page A5

No stance from mayor on oversight proposal

As candidate, Nichols said he would support some form of independent monitoring of police

KEVIN CANFIELD
Tulsa World

Mayor Monroe Nichols has yet to take a position on the latest proposal to establish an independent oversight program for the city's Police Department and other public safety services.

During his campaign for mayor, candidate Nichols was clear on his position, telling the Tulsa World twice that he would support some form of oversight of the Police Department.

In mid-July 2023, Nichols said any such program would be coupled with his doing everything he could to ensure that officers are compensated properly for their work.

"I think if we were more conditioned to know if something goes bad, our tolerance for bad things happening would be a little bit higher," Nichols said. "And not that we think that it's OK, but knowing that every time something happens somebody is being held accountable, I think that in and of itself would help the relationships between law enforcement and those in the community and probably make things safer for both in car stops and so on and so forth."

Later that month, the Tulsa World asked candidates for mayor the following question: Do you support some type of independent monitoring of the Tulsa Police Department? If so, what might that program look like?

Nichols' written response was as follows:

"I come from a law enforcement family. My father was a police officer before he passed away, and my uncle is currently a police officer. Wearing a badge and swearing an oath to protect your community is one of the highest forms of public service, which is why I co-authored Senate Bill 102, which increased pension benefits for police officers.

"That being said, I support some form of independent monitoring. It would be critical to work with law enforcement, members of the community and experts in the field to design something that actually works with a goal of building a department that officers are proud to work in, where morale is high, and one that citizens have high confidence and trust in. I don't believe you have to trade one for the other and I don't believe an independent monitor in some form is antithetical to that goal."



Nichols

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Lottery
For the latest lottery numbers, point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link.

Weather
A p.m. thunderstorm
High: 91 **Low:** 69
Forecast: A22

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