

# **Oklahoma superintendent issues Bible mandate**

July 1, 2024

Oklahoma State Superintendent of Public Instruction Ryan Walters issued a directive June 27 requiring all schools to incorporate the Bible and the Ten Commandments into the curriculum, effective immediately.

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# **Handyman ministry helps church spring into action**

July 1, 2024

To help meet needs within their own congregation, Barry Newman and Doug French of Oak View Baptist Church in Irving started a handyman ministry—Oak View for You, better known as OV4U—to help assist fellow members with basic home repairs and maintenance.

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# **Jack Tennison builds furniture**

# **and much more**

July 1, 2024

Jack Tennison has built more than 6,000 pieces of furniture for ministries from Texas to Canada to Cuba, but at age 92 he's now lost count. Still, he and others working with him keep building.

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## **East Texas pastor nominee for BGCT 2nd vice president**

July 1, 2024

Joseph Adams, pastor of First Baptist Church in Hughes Springs, will be nominated for second vice president of the Baptist General Convention at Texas Baptists' annual meeting, Nov. 10-12 in Waco.

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## **Report notes religious persecution in 199 countries**

July 1, 2024

Millions continue to suffer religious persecution globally, with wars and civil conflicts exacerbating already existing ills in Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Africa, the U.S. State Department documented in its 2023 Report

on International Religious Freedom.

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## **Court blocks publicly funded religious charter school**

July 1, 2024

The Oklahoma Supreme Court blocked a publicly funded religious charter school that would have been the first in the U.S. on June 25.

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## **Texas executes inmate mentor from faith-based unit**

July 1, 2024

Texas executed Ramiro Gonzales on June 26 over the objections of some evangelical leaders and the forensic psychologist who recanted his original assessment of Gonzales.

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# **On the Move: Brisco**

July 1, 2024

Staff change noted for Olney church.

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## **Abortions down but infant deaths increased in Texas**

July 1, 2024

In the two years since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, the number of abortions performed in Texas has dropped dramatically. But a study published in a medical journal revealed infant deaths increased since the Texas Heartbeat Act became law.

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## **Evangelical voters may not be the ones who matter**

July 1, 2024

Evangelicals have made the most of the God and country political headlines in recent years, but experts say they aren't as numerous or influential as other faith groups in the swing states where the presidential election likely will be decided.

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# **Faith and Gen Z: Sarah Potts**

July 1, 2024

Statistics on Gen Z paint a pessimistic picture, but some Gen Z graduates of Texas Baptist colleges tell a more optimistic story.

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# **Around the State: HCU hosts future health care leaders camp**

July 1, 2024

Houston Christian University's school of nursing joined forces with Memorial Hermann Southwest to host a camp for future health care leaders.