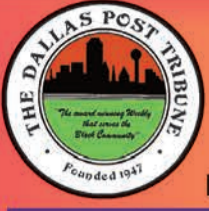


“Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America.” ~ Congressman John Lewis



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VOLUME 77 NUMBER 36

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

May 15 - 21, 2025

Black America Celebrates African Descent Heritage of Pope Leo XIV

By Stacy M. Brown
Black Press USA Senior National Correspondent



Pope Leo XIV
(Wikimedia Commons / Photo by Vatican Media)

Black America is taking pride in a truth shaking up the Vatican and resonating through the streets of New Orleans: Pope Leo XIV—formerly Cardinal Robert Prevost of Chicago—has Black and Creole roots. The Pope’s factual anthropological roots are not just symbolic. According to genealogist Jari Honora, his maternal lineage traces directly to the Black community of New Orleans’ 7th Ward, with family ties to Haiti, and census records identifying his ancestors as “Black” or “Mu-

latto.” “By the Europeans’ own ‘1/8th’ rules, we have a Black Pope,” noted author Elie Mystal declared. “Anyway, Pope’s grandfather is Haitian. We kind of got a Black Pope. ‘End Woke’ is not gonna be happy about this.” Further, New Orleans historian Jari Christopher Honora also speaking to the National Catholic Reporter and Black Catholic Messenger, detailed how the pope’s grandparents married in 1887 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church on Annette Street in New Or-

leans before migrating north. His mother, Mildred Martínez, was the first child in the family born in Chicago. “The Holy Father’s ancestors are identified as either Black or Mulatto,” Honora said. The Chicago Tribune and New York Times also reported on Pope Leo’s mixed-race background and Creole lineage, noting that his election marks a defining moment in the Church’s evolving identity. “As a Black man, a proud

Episcopal Church says it won't help resettle white South Africans granted refugee status in US

By PETER SMITH Associated Press

The Episcopal Church's migration service is refusing a directive from the federal government to help resettle white South Africans granted refugee status, citing the church's long-standing "commitment to racial justice and reconciliation." Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe announced the step Monday, shortly before 59 South Africans arrived at Dulles International Airport outside Washington on a private charter plane and were greeted by a government delegation. Episcopal Migration Ministries instead will halt its decades-long partnership with the government, Rowe said. President Donald Trump opened a fast-tracked refugee status to white South Africans, accusing their government of discrimination, even as his administration abruptly shut down the overall U.S. refugee program. The South Africans jumped ahead of thousands of would-be refugees overseas who had been undergoing years of vetting and processing. Episcopal Migration Ministries instead will halt

Continue Africa Page 3

Texas lawmakers want to lower homeowners' insurance costs, but have few options

By JOSHUA FECHTER/The Texas Tribune

DALLAS (AP) — Texas lawmakers hope to rein in homeowners' rising insurance bills even as they acknowledge there's only so much they can do to tackle costs. Legislators have advanced bills to limit how much insurance companies can hike rates and help homeowners make their homes more insurable. They've also sought to compel insurers to be more upfront with homeowners when they decide to yank coverage, or deny it in the first place. Texans pay some of the highest insurance premiums in the country. On average, Texas home-

owners saw their insurance rates spike by double digits in recent years — a far cry from the previous decade when such increases were unheard of. Homeowners' insurance rates climbed by nearly 19% in 2024, according to the Texas Department of Insurance, slightly down from more than 21% the previous year. A number of factors have spurred insurance costs in recent years, insurance experts say. For one, property values in Texas surged amid the state's population boom — raising the cost to ensure homes and businesses. Climate change

Continue Texas Page 5

GOP Medicaid Plans Would Slash Health Coverage for Millions, CBO Confirms

By Stacy M. Brown

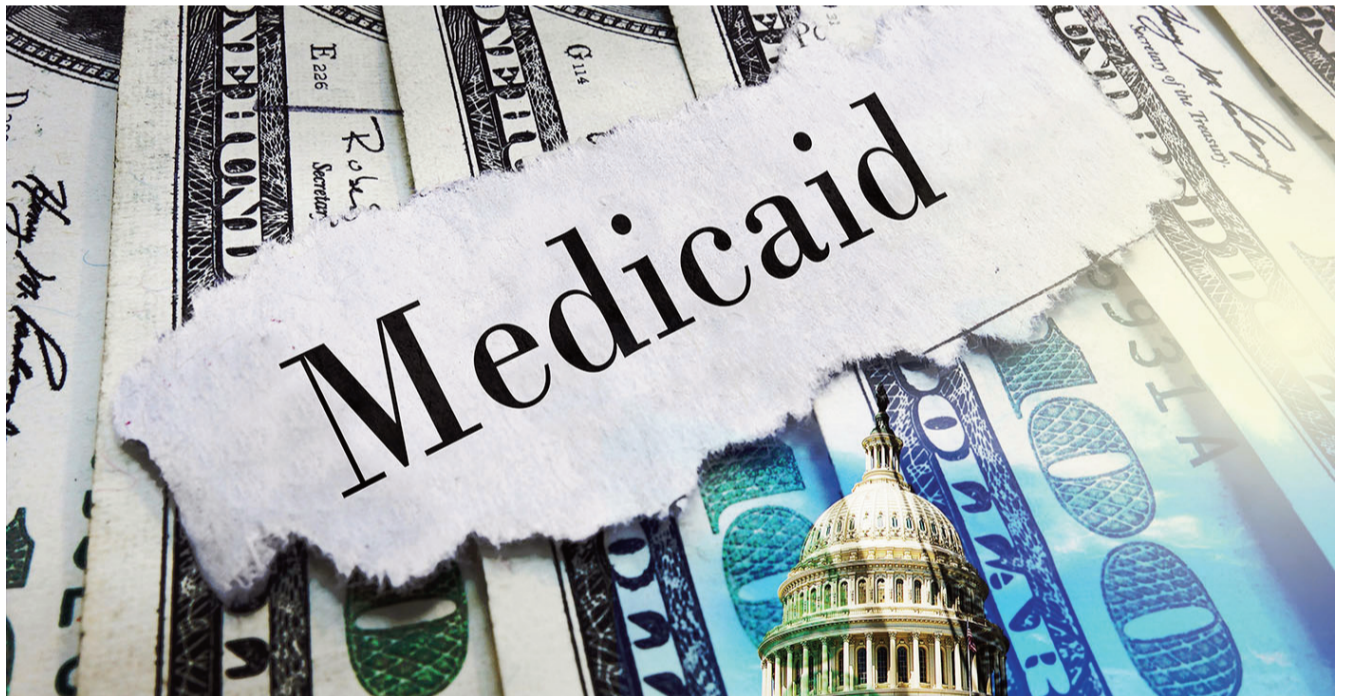


Photo Credit: Medicaid newspaper headline on hundred dollar bills with US Capitol in Washington DC

A newly released analysis by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has confirmed that proposals pushed by Republicans in Congress to slash Medicaid spending would result in millions of Americans losing health coverage. The analysis arrives just days before the House Energy and Commerce Committee is expected to vote on several of these drastic policy changes. The CBO report, addressed to Senate Fi-

nanace Ranking Member Ron Wyden and House Energy and Commerce Ranking Member Frank Pallone Jr., outlines five Republican-backed Medicaid policy options that would significantly reduce federal spending. The agency estimates that under the proposed changes, as many as 8.6 million people could lose Medicaid coverage, and up to 3.9 million would become uninsured. “This CBO report further confirms what we already

knew – that Republicans in Congress are willing to sell out millions of working families to give their billionaire friends another massive tax break,” said Kobie Christian, spokesperson for Unrig Our Economy. “Republicans in Congress have been gaslighting the American public by claiming to be against Medicaid cuts, while actively trying to take away health care from millions of working-class Americans.”

Continue Slash Page 4

The 12 Jurors Who Will Decide Sean 'Diddy' Combs' Fate

By Stacy M. Brown



Juror's row in a court room./Photo Credit: NNPA

As the explosive federal sex trafficking and racketeering trial of Sean “Diddy” Combs continues in Manhattan, the fate of one of hip-hop’s most iconic figures now lies in the hands of a diverse jury of 12 New Yorkers, ranging in age from 30 to 74. With opening testimony already revealing harrowing allegations from former partner Cassie Ventura, the jurors will be asked to weigh damning charges that span decades and shake the very foundation of Combs’ vast business em-

pire. Already, Ventura has delivered chilling testimony describing the alleged violence and coercion she endured. “He would ... knock me over, drag me, kick me, stomp me in the head,” Ventura told the court. Her account marks the first in what prosecutors suggest will be a long line of testimony detailing a pattern of abuse and control.

However, legal experts have already expressed concern that Combs hasn’t been

Continue Sean Page 5



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EDITORIAL PAGE

Is The United States Of America Headed In The Right Direction?

By James B Ewers Jr. Ed.D



James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D

There are a lot of people asking that question these days. Your friends and my friends are wondering what's happening. Is Old Glory up or down?

In recent months, some would say that America is in a tailspin. Those in control are out of control.

Because they have lost control many of our venerable institutions are tossing and turning. Executive orders are being written by the hour. Keeping up with them is confusing. Is that on purpose?

There are people asking about the need for these orders which seem to be extreme and wrongly placed.

It is being said by some that we are living in nightmarish conditions. The headlines are never favorable for most of us. They always say that programs are being cut, and funding is being reduced. Is this good for America?

Doom and gloom are never good, always bad.

The wealthy are guiding the country now and they are unfeeling and unfazed by the increased cost of goods and services.

We the people go to the store, so we know the cost of things. Our budgets are stretched, and our pocketbooks are lighter. Do they care? You know the answer to that question.

I heard someone talking recently about toys and that girls should limit the number of dolls they get. It was a bit sarcastic as the economy is worsening and the analogy was about toys.

Recent reports say, "Seventy-six percent of workers expect layoffs to increase in 2025, while 63% expect more business closures compared to 2024. Additionally, 53% anticipate a rise in the unemployment rate."

We already know that food insecurity is rampant in America. How can food insecurity occur in the richest nation in the world? It would be safe to assume that people would not go hungry here, but they do.

A related report says, "The USDA cut over \$1 billion in funding for food programs impacting food banks

and school lunch programs across the country. The cuts could affect millions of students and families."

What these cuts mean is that some children won't be eating on a regular basis. Those in charge should be ashamed and embarrassed as they are taking food out of the mouths of kids.

Organizations receiving grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities are in danger. Recently the White House announced they are freezing all monies.

If you are a dance company or a company that produces plays, then your budget will be compromised.

Another move by this current administration has caused concern among military personnel. Secretary of Defense, Pete Hegseth plans to eliminate 20% of four-star general positions. According to those who follow this news, it will mean the early forced retirement of approximately 150 senior officers.

There are 38 active duty four-star positions in the U.S. military. Some are saying we are at a tipping point in the U.S. Armed Services.

Will this have reverberations for new recruits and for seasoned officers looking for promotions? I believe

it will. Recruiters will have their work cut out for them as they try to reach their recruitment goals.

Veterans are also getting bad news from the Department of Veterans Affairs. It has been reported by FoxNews.com that 80,000 workers will lose their jobs with the Department of Veterans Affairs. As a result, there will be a 15% drop in their workforce.

Democratic Representative Chris Deluzio of Pennsylvania said, "There are real-life dangerous impacts for veterans."

ProPublica reported last week that roughly 9 million veterans will be affected. The scenario being painted is that a soldier who has served in the United States Armed Services returns home to inadequate health-care.

Food being taken away, jobs being eliminated and services being cut are all signs of demoralization. Our America must fasten our seatbelts as those in power attempt to rip the moral lining from our souls.

America, stay afloat and don't bolt. Our democracy and its bearings are too strong for a temporary windstorm to unravel it.

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The Real Issue Is What Will Congress Do About The President Violating The Constitution

By: Dr. John E. Warren, Publisher
San Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper



Dr. John E. Warren

The real issue in America is no longer what Donald Trump is doing with his daily and consistent violation of the U.S. Constitution but rather what will the Congress do in light of the blatant violations of the Constitution and the Oath of Office both the President and the Members of Congress took to "Protect and Defend The Constitution Of The United States Against All Enemies Foreign and Domestic"?

Here are four of the most

recent examples of ignoring the Constitution in "plain view" of everyone and everything the Constitution stands for:

1. The acceptance of a \$400 million dollar airplane from the government of Qatar, when Article I of the Constitution under section 9. Any gifts given to officials of the United States, personally or otherwise, are the property of the United States Government, unless Congress so authorizes the acceptance. Only Congress can stop this gift, which is intended to replace Air Force One and puts this nation's security at risk, no matter how much the plane is inspected or searched for devices that can harm American intelligence;
2. Against individuals, as a ground for deporting people, is a violation of the Constitution. Only Congress Can Declare, and the Supreme Court has already

ruled, that the law being used by the Trump Administration is illegal. That ruling has been ignored;

3. Having Homeland Security stationed at a maternity ward waiting for an immigrant mother to give birth, with the idea of deporting mother and child when the child is a U.S. citizen by birth under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution;
4. Firing the Librarian of the Library of Congress. The Library and its staff are under Congressional authority and control, and in no way come under the powers of the Executive under Article II of the Constitution, and finally, just to name a few, the efforts of his Administration speaking of suspending Habeas Corpus. The Constitution says under Article I, Section 9, Clause 2: "That the privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, except in cases of

rebellion or invasion where the public safety may require it."

What needs to happen is that all 213 Democratic members of Congress should be on the steps of the Capitol every day, demanding that the Republicans, as the controlling Party of the House of Representatives, take action against the President to demand enforcement of the Constitution, which is their sworn oath and duty. The people of this nation, in every congressional district where that elected member refuses to act on this Constitutional authority, should be recalled. America can not wait until Mid-Term elections in 2026. America as we know and cherish will not exist in 2026 if we don't act now, both the Legislature under Article I and the Judicial under Article III.

My fellow citizens, "What say Ye?"

Trump Administration Moves to Eliminate Habeas Corpus

By Stacy M. Brown
Black Press USA Senior National Correspondent

Senior White House adviser Stephen Miller confirmed the Trump administration is "actively looking at" suspending the writ of habeas corpus — a constitutional right that allows individuals to challenge unlawful detention. Though framed as a move against undocumented im-

migrants, historians and legal experts warn the consequences could be far more sweeping, especially for Black Americans. "The Constitution is clear," Miller told reporters. "The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus can be

Continue **Habeas** Page 4

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RELIGIOUS/NEWS

Living by Biblical Faith

Hebrews 11:23-28



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

Having viewed the superb faith of the antediluvian saints (Abel, Enoch and Noah) in verses 4-7, the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob) in verses 8-21 and the faith of Joseph in verse 22, we come now to the sterling faith of Moses in verses 23-28.

The sterling character of Moses was highly esteemed among the Jews. He had given Israel the Law, which was at the heart of the nation's religious life and the subject of diligent study on the part of its scholars. Before venturing into the noble career of Moses, the author of Hebrews sets forth

the exemplary faith of Moses' parents (v. 23), who concealed or hid their child for three months, thus disobeying the King's edict. The Old Testament speaks only of the mother, but apparently the father was involved; the mother could not conceal him without the father's consent. Moses' parents defied the King's edict because they knew that not only was Moses a beautiful child, but that he was a child of destiny. God had marked out Moses for a special work (v. 23).

In verse 24, the author of Hebrews noted the noble self-renunciation or

refusal of Moses. Although reared as an adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter, experiencing the luxury of Egypt, and being a part of the social elite, Moses would not hide his true nationality to win a few short years of earthly fame. Instead of occupying a line on some cuneiform tablet, he is memorialized in God's eternal Book. In verse 24, not only did Moses refuse Egypt's fame, he renounced Egypt's pleasures in verse 25. Identification with God's suffering people meant more to him than the transient gratification of his appetites. The

grand privilege of sharing ill-treatment with his own people was greater pleasure to him than dissipation in Pharaoh's court.

Not only did Moses refuse Egypt's fame in verse 24, renounced Egypt's pleasures in verse 25, but he rejected Egypt's wealth in verse 26. Faith enabled him to see that the marvelous treasure houses of Egypt were worthless in the light of eternity! He made a conscientious choice to suffer the same kind of reproach as the Messiah would later suffer. Loyalty to God and love for His people were of immense value to him

more than the combined wealth of Pharaoh. He knew that loyalty to God and love of His people would count more than the fleeting wealth of Egypt!

In verse 27, Moses also renounced Egypt's King. Being emboldened by faith, Moses made his exit from the land of bondage, unconcerned with the fury of the Monarch. He feared Pharaoh so little because he feared God the more! His eyes were gazed on "the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, who alone has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom

no man has ever seen or can see" (1 Timothy 6:15-16).

Finally in verse 28, Moses rejected Egypt's religion. By instituting the Passover and by sprinkling the blood, he clearly separated himself from the idolatry of the Egyptians forever. For Moses, salvation was through the blood of the lamb, not through the waters of the Nile. Through the blood of the lamb, Israel was spiritually delivered first; then at the Red Sea, the Israelites were physically delivered.

May God Bless!

Continued Africa Page 1 Ministries has long resettled refugees under federal grants. Rowe said that about two weeks ago, the government contacted it and said it expected the ministry to resettle some of the South Africans under terms of its grant.

"In light of our church's steadfast commitment to racial justice and reconciliation and our historic ties with the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, we are not able to take this step," Rowe said. "Accordingly, we have determined that, by the end of the federal fiscal year, we will conclude our refugee resettlement grant agreements with the U.S. federal government."

Another faith-based group, Church World Service, said it is open to help-

ing resettle the Afrikaners. South Africa's government has vehemently denied allegations of discriminatory treatment of its white minority residents. "It has been painful to watch one group of refugees, selected in a highly unusual manner, receive preferential treatment over many others who have been waiting in refugee camps or dangerous conditions for years," Rowe said. "I am saddened and ashamed that many of the refugees who are being denied entrance to the United States are brave people who worked alongside our military in Iraq and Afghanistan and now face danger at home because of their service to our country."

He also said many refugees, including Christians, are victims of religious

persecution and are now denied entry. He said the church would find other ways to serve immigrants, such as those already in this country and those stranded overseas.

The move marks the end of a ministry-government partnership that, for nearly four decades, has served nearly 110,000 refugees from countries, including Ukraine, Myanmar and Congo, Rowe said.

It's not the first high-profile friction between the Episcopal Church and the Trump administration. Bishop Mariann Budde of Washington drew Trump's anger in January at an inaugural prayer service in which she urged "mercy" on those fearing his actions, including migrants and LGBTQ+ children.

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa includes churches in South Africa and neighboring countries. It was a potent force in the campaign against apartheid in the 1980s and 1990s, an effort for which the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984.

Another faith-based refugee agency, Church World Service, says it is open to serving the South African arrivals.

"We are concerned that the U.S. Government has chosen to fast-track the admission of Afrikaners, while actively fighting court orders to provide life-saving resettlement to other refugee populations who are in desperate need of resettlement," Rick Santos, CWS president and CEO, said in a statement.

Continued Pope Page 1 son of New Orleans, and the U.S. Congressman representing the very 7th Ward neighborhood where our new Pope's family hails from, I am bursting with pride today," said Rep. Troy Carter. "This is history! The first American Pope, with Creole and Haitian roots, rising from the streets of New Orleans to the Vatican. As a Xavier University alum, I know how deeply faith and resilience run in our community. We celebrate this moment—with joy, with prayers, and with pride."

Former New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial called Leo XIV's background "universal," saying, "Here's an American whose ministry was in Peru, who has roots in the American South and also ancestry in the Ameri-

can Black community." Leo XIV is a member of the Augustinian Order, named after the African theologian St. Augustine of Hippo. His election came from a conclave in which two other leading contenders—Cardinal Peter Turkson of Ghana and Cardinal Fridolin Ambongo Besungu of the Democratic Republic of Congo—were also men of African descent.

But Leo XIV stood apart—not just as the first pope from the U.S. but as one known for his outspokenness on racial justice, immigrant rights, gun reform, and the abolition of the death penalty. TIME Magazine reported that his selection represented a Vatican rebuke of efforts by wealthy Americans and

Continue Pope Page 4

~ THE 1950s ~

(Solution will appear in May 22 edition)

ACROSS

1. Deals a death blow
5. Large edible mushroom
8. Food safety agency, acr.
11. Auditor's hope
12. Closing act
13. *Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, supposedly
15. Corset rod
16. Therefore
17. *"Lord of the Flies" shell
18. *Ed of TV
20. Sty sound
21. Pillow filler
22. Gastrointestinal tract
23. *Pooch on a 1950s skirt
26. Most cautious
30. Go wrong
31. Camels' relatives
34. Lake north of Cleveland
35. Wide open
37. Kind of conifer
38. Spectrum maker
39. Better than never
40. Portable stairs
42. Headdress
43. Tennis shoe
45. Triage nurse's measurements
47. Old horse
48. Film director Sergio
50. Band's work-related trip
52. *Slicked men's hairstyle
55. Does like a hot dog
56. Rod for a hot rod
57. Winter forecast
59. Be
60. Measurement, abbr.
61. U2 guitarist
62. *Clearasil target
63. Ballpark fig.
64. Wine choice

DOWN

1. Roman goddess of fertility
2. *Domino's nickname
3. German Mrs.
4. Coiffed
5. Turn pumpkin into Jack-o-Lantern
6. "Pomp and Circumstance" composer
7. Low-ranking worker
8. Certain Scandinavian
9. 52 cards
10. Fireplace mess
12. Beer mug
13. Use elbow grease
14. *First Black nominee of Oscar for Best Actor
19. City in Northern France
22. Neon or radon, e.g.
23. Church bell sounds
24. Liturgy instrument
25. Speak like Pericles
26. *June Cleaver's husband
27. "Fear of Flying" author Jong
28. Type of rug
29. Christmas help, pl.
32. Way, way off
33. *_-Century Modern
36. *Charles Schulz creation
38. Newspapers and such
40. Chicken order
41. Calls forth
44. Eroded limestone landscape
46. Movie trailer, e.g.
48. Lumen per square meter, pl.
49. "Bravo! Bravo!", e.g.
50. Yellow ride
51. The Fonz: "Sit ____!"
52. Female equivalent of sir
53. ____-European language
54. Fireplace fodder
55. *Candy in dispenser
58. Itsy-bitsy

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle

Theme: THE 1950s

CROSSWORD

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7	6	1	3	5	8	9	4	2
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Continued Slash Page 1

enrollment. The fifth option alone—repealing the Eligibility and Enrollment final rule—would eliminate coverage for 2.3 million people, most of whom are low-income seniors and people with disabilities. “Donald Trump and Rubber Stamp Republicans in Congress are lying to the American people about their plans to enact the largest cut to Medicaid in our nation’s history,” warned Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries. The CBO analysis confirms House Democrats’ warnings that the GOP proposals would force states to raise taxes, cut education spending, or push people off health insurance,” Jeffries said. “Rather than working to improve the Medicaid program, congressional Republicans are continuing a

15-year-old fight to repeal the Affordable Care Act,” noted Andrea Ducas, vice president of Health Policy at the Center for American Progress. “This new CBO report confirms that each of congressional Republicans’ latest proposals would kick millions of the most vulnerable Americans off their health care, all to pay for tax giveaways for the president’s billionaire donors.”

The report also arrives as Senate Republicans voted 53-47 to confirm Frank Bisignano—former Wall Street executive and self-described “DOGE person”—as the new head of the Social Security Administration, drawing harsh criticism from Democrats and advocates. During his confirmation hearing, Bisignano dodged questions from Senators Bernie

Sanders and Ron Wyden about the agency’s cuts and the use of cryptocurrency-related tools in sensitive federal databases. In recent months, under the Trump administration, the SSA has shuttered field offices, laid off 7,000 employees, and made it harder for Americans—especially seniors and rural residents—to access benefits. Reports from outlets including Axios, NPR, and the Washington Post highlight the collapse of customer service at the SSA, long wait times, and the inability of many Americans to apply for benefits online or by phone. “Republicans just handed over the future of Americans’ Social Security to Frank Bisignano, a Wall Street stooge,” said Ken Martin, Chair of the Democratic National Com-

mittee. “Just like Trump and Musk, Bisignano will gladly put Social Security on the chopping block to line the pockets of billionaires and special interests.”

Democrats argue the Republican strategy—cutting Medicaid and destabilizing Social Security—amounts to an all-out war on working-class Americans. The CBO report estimates the GOP’s Medicaid policy shifts would reduce the federal deficit by as much as \$710 billion over the next decade, but at a devastating cost: loss of care, rising out-of-pocket expenses, and widening inequities in health access. “Crafting health care policy is not an academic exercise; for tens of thousands of Americans, it’s a matter of life or death,” Ducas noted.

Continued Habeas Page 2

suspended in time of invasion.” Miller cited immigration at the southern border as justification, using language similar to what President Trump has repeatedly described as an “invasion.” But civil liberties advocates and Black historians say suspending this right—a cornerstone of due process—would reopen legal pathways used throughout U.S. history to detain, pun-

ish, and silence Black Americans. From the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 to Reconstruction-era terror and Japanese internment in World War II, the right to habeas corpus has been both a shield and a last resort for marginalized people. Its suspension has consistently led to devastating consequences. “Black Americans remember what happens when the government has unchecked power to detain,” wrote historian

Amanda Tyler, author of *Habeas Corpus in Wartime*. “This isn’t new. It’s the same mechanism that was used to capture fugitive slaves and suppress Black resistance during Reconstruction.”

In 1850, Congress passed a law that denied suspected fugitives any right to testify in court or even seek habeas relief. Free Black Americans were captured alongside escapees. “It meant no Black person in the North was safe,” wrote historians

James and Lois Horton, who documented how the law turned states like Massachusetts into hunting grounds for slave catchers backed by federal power. The parallels are striking. Today, many of the deportation cases the Trump administration wants to fast-track involve habeas claims — legal challenges asserting that the government has no lawful basis for detention. One such case

Continue **Habeas** Page 6

Continued Pope Page 3

political operatives aligned with Donald Trump to influence the papal outcome. Known in Rome as “The Latin Yankee,” Leo XIV used his verified X account (@drprevost) to amplify criticism of Trump-era immigration policies, often reposting commentary from respected Catholic figures. The New York Post reported that his last post before his election was a retweet of Catholic journalist Rocco Palmo slamming Trump’s alliance with El Salvador’s President Nayib

Bukele over migrant deportations. Back in 2017, the Roman Catholic leader also reposted a message quoting Chicago Archbishop Blase Cupich, calling Trump’s refugee bans “a dark hour of US history.”

Though Trump offered lukewarm congratulations from the White House driveway, his far-right allies were quick to lash out. Laura Loomer tweeted, “WOKE MARXIST POPE,” calling Pope Leo “just another Marxist puppet in the Vatican.” But out-

side the MAGA echo chamber, in Black communities across the globe, the emotion is pride. “The pope is Black,” journalist Clarence Hill Jr. said bluntly. And that means something in the Black neighborhoods of Chicago and the Creole corridors of New Orleans. Many said it means representation, resilience, and the reshaping of history at the highest level of the Catholic Church. “We celebrate this moment—not because it erases the struggles of our past, but

because it affirms that our faith, our heritage, and our presence matter,” Rep. Carter said. “This is history, and it belongs to all of us.” The Reverend Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. affirmed, “On behalf of the Black Press of America as the authentic voice of 50 million African Americans and millions more throughout the African diaspora, we join to celebrate Pope Leo XVI, a world leader of African descent who speaks truth to power with courage and grace.”

Quinn Minute

Short history of long film strips

By Rix Quinn

Not long ago, at a class reunion, several of us got to talking about “film strips.” If you attended elementary school during the 1950s through 1970s, you may remember these visual learning tools.

Because there were so many of us, states quickly constructed schools to contain us. Educators developed scholarly “film strips” to help instructors explain complicated concepts.

Film strips were like slide shows. Each film strip had an audio record that

came with it. The record was put on a record player, which sat next to the film projector. (If you do not know what a record player is, please consult a history book.)

The teacher displayed the first picture of the film strip and then started the audio. Usually, the audio narrator had an authoritative voice, so you were convinced he knew everything.

The teacher moved from one picture to the next on the strip, each time the

record made a beeping sound.

A kid in our class also made random beep sounds. This made the teacher race through the pictures on the film strip, leaving us several minutes of mind-numbing audio about hibernating snakes.

Did you personally ever see a film strip? Did anybody in your class die from boredom?

My two favorite film strips were “From caterpillar to butterfly” and “Mr. Gorilla learns to drive.”

(Actually, I made that last one up, because I never saw a film strip about a gorilla driver, especially one who could pass the written exam.)

Were you born between 1946-1964? Would you like to know more about the generation called Baby Boomers? You can order Rix’s book on that generation today. Just go to this link:

<https://www.amazon.com/BABY-BOOMERS-SPEAK-learned-whatever/dp/>

SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, May 8	Friday, May 9	Saturday, May 10	Sunday, May 11	Monday, May 12	Tuesday, May 13	Wednesday, May 14
H - 92° L - 77°	H - 94° L - 78°	H - 90° L - 77° 30%	H - 91° L - 75°	H - 91° L - 76°	H - 89° L - 75° 30%	H - 91° L - 73°

Meet the Coach Night connects students with new coaches

By Jenna Carpenter

Dallas ISD's Meet the Coach Night provides student-athletes an early opportunity to connect with their new coaches before the start of the school year.

An initiative by Superintendent Stephanie S. Elizalde, Ed.D., the event will be held on May 13 for rising seventh graders and May 14 for rising ninth graders, offering students valuable insights to prepare for their athletic journeys.

Similar to Meet the Teacher Night, student-athletes will meet each sport's athletic coordinator and head coaches, and review requirements for athletic physicals necessary to participate in any sport.

The event also aims to increase student participation in UIL athletics. Students attending specialty schools may participate in athletics at their zoned high school or middle school, ensuring access to sports and physical education for all.



Photo Credit: Dallas ISD/The HUB

Middle school students can choose from:

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Football
- Soccer
- Softball
- Track & Field
- Volleyball

High school athletes can choose from:

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Football
- Golf
- Soccer
- Softball
- Swimming
- Team Tennis

- Tennis
- Track & Field
- Volleyball
- Wrestling

All middle and high schools participating in UIL athletics will host a Meet the Coach Night, each setting its own schedule, typically between 5 to 7 p.m.

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Continued **Texas** Page 1

has intensified extreme weather events like hailstorms, hurricanes, and winter freezes and made severe weather more common. With the state's population growth, more people have moved into the path of that severe weather. Higher labor and construction material costs have driven up the cost of repairing damage when severe weather events damage a home.

Buying homeowners insurance isn't an optional cost. Lenders require homebuyers to purchase insurance to obtain a mortgage. Even if a home is paid off, insurance experts say it's unwise to go without coverage in case disaster strikes.

Even as lawmakers look for ways to tackle the insurance crisis, they acknowledge many of the drivers of insurance costs are beyond lawmakers' control, they say.

"We can't control the weather, we can't control inflation," state Rep. Tom Oliverson, a Cypress Republican behind one such proposal, told a House com-

mittee last month. "I can't control the availability of building materials, and I can't control how the houses that are already built were built, what standard they were built to."

And they find themselves in the position of trying to rein in exorbitant insurance costs without scaring off insurers and cratering the state's insurance market.

One proposal by state Sen. Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown, aims to give policyholders a check against steep rate increases. In Texas, insurers can file proposed rate increases with the Texas Department of Insurance, the state's insurance regulator, and implement the new rates right away. If the agency later decides the increase is unreasonable, they can disapprove it.

Senate Bill 1643, which has cleared the Senate but awaits a committee hearing in the House, would require the insurance department to approve any rate increase above 10% before it can go into effect.

"As companies make significant rate changes, it is

incumbent upon the Legislature to ensure that the regulatory environment is giving these filings the level of scrutiny they necessitate," Schwertner said ahead of a Senate vote on the bill in April.

That proposal has drawn pushback from the insurance industry. Capping rate increases does nothing to address the underlying drivers of the rising cost of providing insurance, said Beaman Floyd, who heads the Texas Coalition for Affordable Insurance Solutions, a group that represents major insurance companies including Allstate, State Farm and USAA. Insurers might pursue lower rate increases than they otherwise would have if they worry regulators wouldn't approve larger ones, Floyd said — leaving them with mounting financial liabilities that could lead to policy cancellations because insurers can't afford to provide coverage.

"That's not good for consumers," Floyd said.

Requiring the state insurance regulator to review rate increases above 10%

doesn't necessarily mean the regulator will automatically reject those increases, Schwertner said in a statement. The bill "simply seeks to curb unchecked rate filing and review practices," he said.

Consumer advocates argue the state's current system doesn't provide a real check on insurers — one that Schwertner's proposal could theoretically help create. But they also worry insurers will thwart the intent of the law simply by asking for multiple rate increases, a practice the bill doesn't cap. Ware Wendell, executive director of the consumer rights group Texas Watch, posited that an insurer could theoretically file a 9% increase one month and seek the same increase the next month.

"Insurance companies could come in and nibble," Wendell said.

The Texas Department of Insurance would still require insurers to justify their rate increases even if they filed multiple increases a year, Schwertner said. If those increases aren't justified, the state could still reject the increase, he said.

- Continued Page 1 -
The 12 Jurors Who Will Decide

charged with domestic violence, which has been the early theme of prosecutors. Combs, 54, was indicted last year on three federal counts: racketeering conspiracy, sex trafficking by force, fraud or coercion, and transportation for prostitution. If convicted, he faces up to life in prison. The indictment paints Combs as the ringleader of a criminal enterprise that engaged in sex trafficking, forced labor, kidnapping, arson, bribery, and obstruction of justice from 2008 to the present. Federal prosecutors accuse him of leveraging his wealth, celebrity, and network of employees to abuse women, control their careers, and cover up the alleged crimes. Attorney Damian Williams said. The jury selected to decide Combs' fate is as varied as the city itself, with jurors hailing from Manhattan, the Bronx, and Westchester. Each has at least a college degree—two hold master's degrees and one a PhD. Their professional backgrounds span deli clerks, massage therapists, bank analysts, and scientists.

Here are some of the jurors now tasked with deliberating one of the most high-profile cases in recent memory:

- A 69-year-old Manhattan massage therapist disclosed that a family member was a victim of domestic violence but assured the court of his impartiality.
- A 31-year-old Manhattan-based investment analyst and active church

member acknowledged seeing the video of Combs allegedly assaulting Ventura.

- A 51-year-old scientist with a PhD in molecular biology who is only vaguely familiar with the case from media coverage.
- A 30-year-old deli clerk from the Bronx said she rarely follows the news but enjoys hip-hop and reggae.
- A 42-year-old nursing home aide from Manhattan admitted to knowing about the allegations but relies on word-of-mouth for news.
- A 41-year-old Bronx correctional facility clerk who once pleaded guilty to misdemeanor fraud but claimed he could still be a fair juror.
- A 68-year-old retired banker from Westchester who listens to Indian music and enjoys cricket.
- Another 68-year-old retired lineman from Westchester said he watched Combs' reality show Making the Band and viewed the Ventura video.
- A 43-year-old physician's assistant from Westchester is involved in women's advocacy and social justice theater.
- A 39-year-old Bronx social worker specializing in domestic violence cases who also works as a security guard.
- A 67-year-old bank analyst from Westchester who has previously served on a hung jury in a criminal case.
- A 74-year-old Manhattan-based treatment coordinator who works with people with disabilities and holds a sociology degree.



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Statepoint Crossword Puzzle Solution: May 8 - Theme: MOTHER'S DAY

C	R	I	S	P	P	E	R	T	W	A	S		
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Representative Davis congratulates Ms. Berna Dean Steptoe on her retirement from WFAA



Ms. Berna Dean Steptoe and Rep. Yvonne Davis

State Representative Yvonne Davis (District 111) recently honored and congratulated Ms. Berna Dean Steptoe on her retirement from WFAA - Channel 8, concluding a noteworthy career spanning 33 years with the television station. Ms. Steptoe was recognized on the floor of the Texas House of Representatives by Representative Davis with House Resolution Number 987 on Wednesday, May 8, 2025, at the State Capitol.

My Day

The Community Speaks: A Special Edition Announcement From DeSoto, Texas

By Dr. J. Ester Davis



Dr. J. Ester Davis

Mrs. Brenda King-Murphy, the Organizer and Section President of the Suburban Dallas/DeSoto Section of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) and the Chair of the Texas State Life-Legacy issued the following statement in support of the National Museum of African American History and Culture in response to a proposed Executive Action

that would defund critical Smithsonian Programs and exhibits.

“The National Museum of African American History and Culture is more than a museum- it is a vital institution that preserves and honors the richness, resilience, and reality of African American History. Any attempt to reduce its funding threatens not only an educational treasure but also the integrity of our national identity.

Our history must be preserved, not silenced; our stories matter, and they must be told fully and truthfully. That is why we must not only support the

National Museum of African American History and Culture but also show up and stand up for our Local African American Museums in cities and communities across the country.

At NCNA, we remain committed to standing on the front lines when it comes to preserving our legacy and passing it forward.’

We welcome any statement from our community leaders in this space. It takes all of us in every community, near and far, to write it down and ‘make it plain’. Please read online the Mobilization Set from the National

Office of NCNW. That James Brown’s” I’m Black and Proud” is back with a louder bullhorn. As stated several times by many writers...’ the whitewashing of American History is no longer implied, it’s spelled out in ink, signed into law and backed by a government that is now openly in follow-thru mode.

I need to remind you that the orders directed are to eliminate these so-called ‘divisive’ elements from the Smithsonian’s 21 museums, educational and research centers, and even the National Zoo.

Esterdavis2000@gmail.com

Trump Administration Moves to Eliminate Habeas Corpus

Continued Page 4

involves Rumeysa Öztürk, a Turkish student at Tufts University, who was jailed for 45 days without charges. A federal judge in Vermont ordered her release after she filed a habeas petition, arguing her detention was based on her political speech and not any crime. Miller hinted that such judicial checks on the executive branch are part of the reason for considering suspension. “It depends on whether the courts do the right thing or not,” he said. That sentiment echoes past abuse. During Reconstruction, Congress had to pass the Ku Klux Klan Act in 1871 to protect Black citizens from paramilitary terror. The act allowed President Grant to suspend habeas corpus — not to restrict civil rights, but to crush white supremacist violence.

Now, the suspension is being considered not to protect Black life, but to expand detention powers in the name of immigration control. Critics say that opens the door to much broader repression. “The

legal history is clear,” said Tyler. “Suspending habeas has often led to the erosion of other rights — especially for Black people.” The fear isn’t hypothetical. In 1786, a Black father named Cato used a writ of habeas corpus to rescue his daughter Betsey from enslavement in Pennsylvania. Their case became one of the first major freedom suits in U.S. legal history. Even during Lincoln’s suspension of habeas corpus in 1862, a fierce backlash followed. Lincoln justified it during a rebellion. Critics warned then — as now — that the nation cannot preserve itself by abandoning the very liberties it claims to protect. Stephen Miller’s comments come at a time when millions of Americans are already concerned about voter suppression, militarized policing, and authoritarian tactics. For Black Americans, the prospect of suspending habeas corpus rings especially loud. “When we hear this,” said one civil rights attorney, “we don’t just hear a legal argument. We hear footsteps from the past.”

Nearly 100 seniors to graduate with Big Tex Scholarships

By Sebastián Saucedo



Photo Credit: Dallas ISD/The HUB

With the school year nearly complete, Dallas ISD seniors are continuing to unlock opportunities for their future.

This year, 96 students were selected for the Juanita Craft Scholarship, which awards \$6,000 to those who attend schools in the Fair Park area. These schools include Franklin D. Roosevelt High School of Innova-

tion, Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women’s Leadership School, James Madison High School, Lincoln High School and Humanities/Communications Magnet, North Dallas High School, and Woodrow Wilson High School.

“Receiving the Big Tex Scholarship is something that I’m very appreciative of. It means a lot to me because it allows me to go to

college and fulfill my educational goals without the stress of having to take out loans,” said Alyssa A., a scholarship recipient and senior at Irma Lerma who will be studying Mechanical Engineering at Texas Tech University. “I’m so grateful and so honored to be one of the students who gets to celebrate earning this scholarship.”

Nicole V., another Irma

Lerma senior, was selected for the Peggy Sloan Memorial Scholarship and she will attend Rice University to study Mechanical Engineering. This opportunity, which awards another \$6,000 on top of the Juanita Craft Scholarship, is given to an Irma Lerma Rangel student who showcases strong leadership skills.

“Being selected as the Peggy Sloan Memorial Scholarship recipient is a great honor. As a first-generation student, receiving greater financial support is something I never imagined,” said Nicole. “Receiving a scholarship named after an amazing female leader inspires me to continue working hard to improve my leadership skills and remain dedicated to helping my community.”

The Juanita Craft Scholarship is renewable each semester, and students are required to enroll in a minimum of 12 hours a semester and maintain a 3.0 GPA.