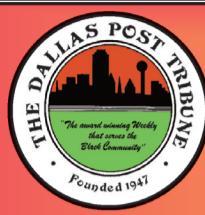


To All Veterans ~ "HAPPY VETERAN'S DAY!"



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November 6 - 12, 2025

**North Texas Food Bank
Unveils Container Pantry
Sponsored by American
Heart Association and
Medical City Healthcare,
supported by the HCA
Healthcare Foundation**

Article Page 2

**Historic Beatdown:
Democrats Sweep
Virginia as Speaker
Don Scott and Jay
Jones Make History**

By Lauren Burke

In a clear rejection of the policies of President Donald Trump, history repeated itself in Virginia. Democrats once again swept all three statewide offices as they did in 2017 during Trump's first term. Abigail Spanberger easily won the office of Governor, and State Senator Ghazala Hashmi won her race over John Reid to be the next Lieutenant Governor. The victories occurred against the backdrop of a historic win in Virginia by Spanberger that will give Virginia its first woman Governor.

Spanberger's widely predicted win over Republican gubernatorial nominee Winsome Earle-Sears was called 17 minutes after the polls closed in Virginia at 7 pm. Former Delegate Jay Jones won his race against incumbent Attorney General Jason Miyares. His victory means Jones will be the first Black Attorney General in Virginia's history. Jones' win was particularly noteworthy since the last month of his campaign was consumed by the issue of private text messages from 2022 to Republican Delegate Carrie Coyner. Republicans ran a non-stop barrage of negative ads against Jones for a month.

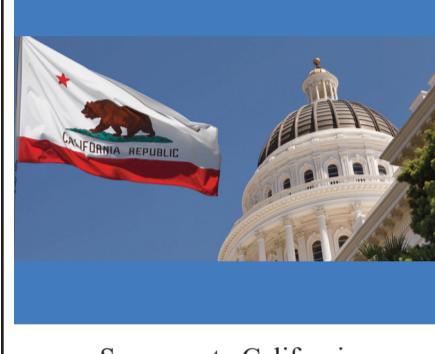
Del. Coyner lost her bid for re-election to Delegate-elect Lindsey Dougherty. The Dougherty race was the number one target for House Speaker Don Scott and his campaign lieutenant, Delegate Dan Helmer. Coyner's defeat was one of at least 13 victories for Democrats who have now added to their ranks in the

Continue Virginia Page 4

California's Proposition 50: A Quiet Rebellion

Against the Rigged Game

By Stacy M. Brown
Black Press USA Senior National Correspondent



Sacramento California outside the capital building.
Photo Credit:NNPA

In a political season defined by distrust, Californians did something rare on Tuesday night. They stood up for democracy. Proposition 50, approved by a wide margin, was more than a ballot measure. It was a statement of intent. Voters sent a message that when the system begins to fracture, citizens still have the power to restore it.

The initiative gives California's Democratic-controlled legislature the authority to draw new congressional maps, replacing those crafted by the state's independent redistricting com-

mission. The goal is to counterbalance Republican gerrymanders in states such as Texas, Florida, and North Carolina. Analysts say the move could deliver as many as five additional Democratic seats in the U.S. House next year, a shift that could alter control of Congress. Gov. Gavin Newsom saw the fight over Proposition 50 as both political and moral. He warned that while one side manipulates the system, the other cannot simply play

Continue California Page 7



The Texas Capitol is seen on June 30, 2025, in Austin. Photo Credit: [Ronaldo Bolaños/The Texas Tribune](#)

All 17 Texas Constitutional amendments pass

Ayden Runnels and Carla Astudillo, The Texas Tribune

Voters in Texas approved a series of tax exemptions and bans as well as new investments in state infrastructure and research as all 17 constitutional amendments on the ballot passed.

Most propositions restrict the creation of certain taxes or allow for new tax exemptions. Other amendments will create state investments in water infrastructure, dementia research and technical college funds.

Proposition 10 received the largest share of voter support Tuesday night. The amendment would tempo-

rarily lower homeowners' property taxes if their homes are destroyed by fires.

After all unofficial results were posted, the closest race was for Proposition 6, which would ban the creation of

new taxes on securities transactions, like stock trading. The next closest was Proposition 17, which would allow the state government to prevent market values of properties in border counties from increasing due to border security infrastructure.

This article first appeared on The Texas Tribune.

**Halfway to Chains:
What's Already
Been Enforced
Under Project 2025**

By Stacy M. Brown
Black Press USA Senior National Correspondent

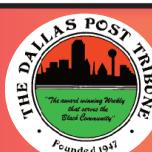


Republican Project 2025
(Photo by Douglas Rissing)/NNPA

They said it would never happen here. Yet here we are. Forty-eight percent of Project 2025, the Heritage Foundation's fascist playbook for dismantling American democracy, has already been put into motion. Nearly half of this regime's roadmap to erase civil rights, gut public programs, and reimpose racial hierarchy has been realized, with Black America once again standing at the edge of the abyss.

Project 2025 was never just a "policy plan." It was a

Continue 2025 Page 3



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North Texas Food Bank Unveils Container Pantry Sponsored by American Heart Association and Medical City Healthcare, supported by the HCA Healthcare Foundation

The pantry celebrates Medical City Healthcare, supported by the HCA Healthcare Foundation, and the American Heart Association's \$50,000 gift to support neighbors facing hunger. Each Container Pantry helps provide access to over 350,000 meals annually.

DALLAS, TX, November 5, 2025 – The North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) unveiled this week its newly cobranded container pantry, sponsored by the American Heart Association and Medical City Healthcare, supported by the HCA Healthcare Foundation, which together provided a \$50,000 sponsorship to NTFB's Container Pantry initiative. Their partnership enabled the placement of the branded Container Pantry at Uplift Infinity Preparatory in Irving as well as a Produce Pod in McKinney. Both pantries are increasing the availability of fresh produce for families facing hunger at a time when 1 in 6 North Texans and 1 in 5 children experience food insecurity.

"We could not do what we do in the fight against hunger without the generous support of partners like the American Heart Association and Medical City Healthcare," said Trisha Cunningham, President and CEO of North Texas Food Bank. "Over 254,000 children in North Texas don't always know where their next meal will come from, and this partnership provides additional access to nutritious food while also delivering the hope and nourishment that students need to be equipped to succeed in the classroom."

The Container Pantry initiative, in part-

nership with Uplift Infinity, is an innovative, community-based solution that underscores the shared vision of NTFB, Medical City Healthcare, and the American Heart Association to combat hunger while promoting health. The Container Pantries, introduced by NTFB in 2021, provide a short-term solution to address unmet demand for food assistance while a longer-term solution is being assessed. Each Container Pantry has the capacity to hold roughly 3,000 pounds of food, including fresh produce and pantry staples. If operational three days a week, each Container Pantry can provide access to 360,000 nutritious meals a year.

"Good nutrition is the foundation of good health. We are proud to advance healthcare through partnerships like this Container Pantry at Uplift Infinity, which provides essential support to families who need it most," said Medical City Healthcare President Allen Harrison. "This effort reflects our system of care's commitment to serve our community—inside our hospitals and also in the neighborhoods we call home."

(Left to right) Christine Mathis, Medical City Las Colinas, CEO; Yasmine Bhatia, Uplift Education, CEO; Cobi Lambert, North Texas Food Bank, Senior

Director; and Jenny Eyer, American Heart Association, Vice President, Community Impact.

The Container Pantry is stocked with nutritious food and is set up to allow neighbors to walk through and select the foods they know their families need and can use. Uplift Infinity also hosts a monthly drive-through food distribution. Since first partnering with NTFB in 2023, Uplift Infinity has provided families and students with access to over 115,000 meals.

"The ability of our communities to thrive should not be hindered by a lack of nutrition access. American Heart Association is proud to continue our support of the community with this pantry, and we hope others in North Texas see what is possible and are motivated to act," said Jenny Eyer, Vice President of Community Impact for American Heart Association in North Texas.

Since the government shutdown began on October 1, the Container Pantry has also enabled Uplift Infinity to meet a surge in demand for food assistance from families, whether because of lost federal wages or the loss of SNAP benefits. As an integral part of the Uplift community, the Container Pantry has provided readily ac-

cessible support that families can easily access during times of crisis.

The Container Pantry is stocked with nutritious food and is set up to allow neighbors to walk through and select the foods they know their families need and can use.

"Partnerships like this make an incredible difference in the lives of our scholars and families. We have seen a sharp rise in the number of households requesting food assistance, and thanks to this pantry, we can offer support right here at Uplift. Having food available on campus helps ensure our students can focus on learning, while parents know they have a reliable resource to help them through difficult times. It is helping us strengthen our community in ways that go far beyond the classroom," said Yasmine Bhatia, CEO of Uplift Education.

Cunningham added that while the impacts of food insecurity can be harmful to anyone, they can be particularly devastating for children, underscoring the importance of partnerships like this one.

"Through the Container Pantry at Uplift Infinity, American Heart Association and Medical City Healthcare are helping ensure students have the nourishment they need to focus, grow and thrive," she said.

NEWS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

- Continued - October 30 Edition -

An ancient tradition is helping girls in Zimbabwe fight child marriages

By FARAI MUTSAKA Associated Press



Anita Razo, a 18-year-old girl speaks to the Associated Press, in Shamva, Zimbabwe, Friday, Aug. 29, 2025.

(AP Photo/Aaron Ufumeli)

After two years, she walked away, enduring stigma as neighbors warned others not to associate with her. With support from Rozaria Memorial Trust, she returned to school and became one of the modern Nhangwa pioneers.

"Initially we were only about 20 girls. Almost 90% of us did well, some went to college, others started projects. The community began to see our power, and encouraged their children to join," she said. "Nhangwa is now seen

as cool."

Today, more than 200 girls in her village participate. Many schools across Zimbabwe have adopted the model, which has spread to Zambia and Sierra Leone and reached African Union and United Nations forums.

Winning over elders

Because child marriage is often rooted in culture and religion, girls sought the backing of chiefs and village heads — custodians of local customs.

Xmas Savanhu, a local

village headman, said leaders now enforce rules against early marriage. Offenders must pay a cow as a fine held in trust by the chief for the girl's education. "This ensures she can return to school without financial worries," he said, noting that culprits are also reported to police. Chiefs also partner with NGOs to help young mothers resume their studies.

Despite progress, poverty and entrenched attitudes persist, said Enet Tini, a teacher and girls mentor whose school adopted the model.

She welcomed a government policy allowing girls to return to school after giving birth, but noted parents are often reluctant. "The gap that we have lies with the adults. They view pregnancy or child marriage as indiscretions so they think the girls should be punished," she said, highlighting the importance of girls-led initiatives to change attitudes among themselves and the community.

A global problem, local solutions

Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda, deputy executive director at U.N. Women and founder of the Rozaria Memorial Trust, called child marriage "essentially rape and sexual exploitation" and a worldwide problem, but "much higher in Africa," where laws alone cannot end it.

"Laws are important ... but it is critically essential to reach to the girls themselves, to do the shift in the social norms in our communities," said Gumbonzvanda, who started Rozaria Memorial Trust in 2007 in honor of her late mother, who was married at 13.

Her message that solutions must involve girls themselves alongside policymakers and traditional leaders resonates with Razo, the young mentor.

"If we can pressure each other into behaving badly, then we can also influence each other to act positively," Razo said.

Continued State - October 30 Edition

But the district has begun to see improvements: Test scores went up in all of Fort Worth ISD last year. This year, the number of F-rated campuses plummeted from 31 to 11. And the roughly 135 schools overall have earned a C rating the last two years. The education agency considers that an "acceptable performance," meaning the district serves many students well but needs to provide additional support to others.

Trenace Dorsey-Hollins, founder of parent activist group Parent Shield Fort Worth, said some of the credit for the improvements belongs to Molinar, the superintendent, who started her role in an interim capacity late last year and was officially appointed in February.

"This is her first year being able to make some changes to the district, and I do feel like she's doing a pretty good job," Dorsey-Hollins said.

After Molinar came on board, Ken Kuhl, a parent on the Fort Worth Council of PTAs, said the district has increasingly focused on improving student outcomes.

The district has sought to introduce more alignment across the district, from creating an infrastructure for educators to gameplan lessons together and attain feedback on their teaching methods, to rolling out what the education agency considers high-quality instructional materials aligned with state standards, to overhauling seven under-resourced campuses with a goal of attracting more effective instructors.

But none of those efforts stopped a takeover.

With a district as large as Fort Worth's, disparities between schools' perform-

ance run deep. Kuhl wonders if the district previously celebrated success at high-performing campuses "at the expense of" their academically struggling peers. The Fort Worth community, Kuhl said, would have liked to see the district address its shortcomings sooner.

Molinar said the state takeover was preventable, and the superintendent pointed blame at the district for the current situation.

"I can be upset and say it's not fair and be upset with the commissioner," she said. "But I'm more upset that we have not been more aggressive for my students."

Many advocates and families believe the Texas Legislature's decisions on public education funding have played an outsized role in districts' academic struggles. Hundreds of districts are operating at a budget deficit, meaning they are increasing class sizes, cutting instructional staff and shutting down programs that help drive positive student outcomes. The Fort Worth district had a \$44 million budget deficit earlier this year.

The Legislature for six years did not add to schools' base level funding, a critical pot of money that provides districts with flexibility to pay rising operational expenses and boost the salaries of teachers, which rank 31st in the nation. During this year's lawmaking session, the state approved nearly \$8.5 billion in new funding, though many district leaders have noted that the increase falls billions short of catching them up with inflation and that it lacks the spending flexibility they need to tackle all of

Continue State Page 5

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RELIGIOUS/NEWS

The Special Position of the Believers

I Peter 2:4-10



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

The Apostle Peter introduces us in I Peter 2:4 that Jesus Christ is our "Living Stone." Although the world rejected Him, the Father considers Him precious. We should note Peter's use of the word "living" in this epistle. In chapter 1:3, we have a "living" hope and we have a living hope because we have a living Saviour! In chapter 1:23, we have a living word, for our new birth experience rests upon the imperishable word of God. Peter went on to identify believers as "living stones" who make up the church, which is a spiritual house (v. 5).

Believers are also identified as a holy priesthood, having free access to God through Jesus Christ. We

are to offer up acceptable sacrifices to God because of our position in Jesus Christ. Quoting from Isaiah 28:16, Peter mentions that Jesus Christ is our cornerstone. A cornerstone in Bible times was the most important part of a building's foundation. The weight of the building rested on the cornerstone. As believers, we rely on Jesus Christ and we have found Him to be precious and indispensable; however, unbelievers stumble on the cornerstone (vv. 6-8).

Peter enumerates the lofty position of every child of God in verse 9. First of all, we are a chosen generation. Just as Israel was God's chosen people, Peter related that all Christians are God's chosen ones. God

chose us because He loves us, for Deuteronomy 7:6-8 says: "For thou art a holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto Himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. The Lord did not set His love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the Lord loved you, and because He would keep the oath which He had sworn unto your fathers, hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt."

Not only are we a chosen

generation, but we are a royal priesthood. As believing priests, we have free access to God through Jesus Christ. The writer of the book of Hebrews enjoins us to come boldly to the throne of grace, for Hebrews 4:16 says: "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

Having discussed that all believers are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, now Peter says that all believers are a holy nation. Just as Israel was a holy nation, Christians have been set apart for God's purposes. As believers, our main purpose for existence is to praise the Lord, listen to Revelation 4:11: "Thou art

worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

astly, Christians are also a peculiar people, that is, they are possessed by God; they are God's own people. The fourfold special position of the believer should bring forth a desire to magnify God for the marked transformation He has wrought in our lives. He has brought us out of darkness into His marvelous light (v. 9). We are God's people, His possessed ones who have obtained His mercy (v. 10). Yes, we ought to praise Him for bringing us out of spiritual darkness, for Colossians 1:13-14 says: "Who

hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins."

As believers, we have been saved from the penalty of sin; we are being saved from the power of sin, and one day, we will be saved from the very presence of sin. Yes, we will be saved from the very presence of sin, for I John 3:2 says: "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is."

May God Bless!

Continued 2025 Page 1

immigrants and protestors. Now, the chains are tightening. The Center for Progressive Reform reports that 251 of the 532 Project 2025 actions have been executed. Entire agencies that were once meant to serve and protect have been hollowed out, their missions inverted. Within the Department of Justice, Trump's appointees have revived the death penalty, reinstated the racist China Initiative, and authorized aggressive prosecutions of local officials who refuse to enforce his version of "law and order." Civil rights enforcement has been stripped bare; instead of protecting citizens from discrimination, the DOJ now

protects power from dissent. At the Department of Education, Title IX protections for women and LGBTQ students have been rolled back, and the Office for Civil Rights dismantled. Public education is being replaced with privatized indoctrination, pushing "parental rights" that serve as a Trojan horse for white Christian control. Even special education programs have been gutted, leaving millions of disabled children abandoned in the name of "efficiency." The Department of Health and Human Services, which was once a guardian of public welfare, has been turned into a moral police force. Abortion access is being criminalized, Planned Parenthood de-

funded, and data on gender identity erased from health surveys. The new public health priorities are "fertility awareness" and "family discipline," language straight from the Heritage Foundation's patriarchal gospel. In housing, Trump's HUD has repealed fair housing protections and reintroduced policies that penalize single mothers while rewarding "marriage stability." The echoes of Jim Crow are unmistakable. Homes and neighborhoods once opened through decades of civil rights struggle are being closed again under the pretext of "local control."

Project 2025's architects have already unleashed the machinery of cruelty on immigrants and communities

of color. Thousands have been rounded up under ICE raids that blur the line between citizen and foreigner. It's a calculated terror tactic meant to normalize the surveillance and detention of Black and brown bodies. Families have been separated again. Birthright citizenship is under attack. ICE, that iron emblem of modern slavery, now casts a shadow over the same soil where slave patrols once hunted the enslaved. This is not accidental. It is the vision of Russell Vought, who co-authored the 900-page "Mandate for Leadership," the Project 2025 manifesto. As Trump's budget director and now his ideological enforcer, Vought believes in purging the federal govern-

ment of "unfaithful" employees, which means anyone who resists his religious and racial orthodoxy. Stephen Miller, the same architect of family separation and Muslim bans, is back to oversee deportations, surveillance, and the silencing of dissent. Their fingerprints are everywhere, from the federal hiring purges to the empowerment of police forces granted immunity from prosecution. Nearly half of the Project 2025 vision has already been achieved, and it is remaking America into a parody of its democratic promise. The Environmental Protection Agency has reversed greenhouse gas regulations, the Department of Agriculture has reinstated draconian

work requirements for food aid, and the White House itself now dictates loyalty tests for every federal employee. This is not governance, it is occupation.

The Center for Progressive Reform notes that Trump's government shutdown in October 2025 was not a failure of management but a strategy. A deliberate effort to dismantle public programs while blaming "big government" for their collapse. He used the shutdown, as the report states, "as an excuse to advance his goals of slashing programs that benefit millions of Americans." In this America, cruelty has become the operating principle. The

Continue 2025 Page 4

~ NORTH & SOUTH POLES ~

(Solution will appear in November 13 edition)

ACROSS

1. Impromptu (2 words)
6. Chop
9. Little bit, in Cancun
13. Luffa, alt. sp.
14. The day before
15. Rn, a health hazard
16. Surveyor's maps
17. Black gunk
18. Run off, as in couple
19. *Mount ___, Earth's southernmost active volcano
21. *Antarctica - world's largest ____
23. A Bobbsey twin
24. Not to be broken?
25. Eyeball shape
28. Minimal distortion
30. *Polar bear, a ____ mammal
35. Goldfish or koi
37. Memorial Day solo
39. Red-dot pointer, e.g.
40. Purse to match a gown
41. *Amundsen-____ South Pole Station
43. Hipbones
44. Letter H, phonetically speaking
46. Biblical twin
47. Frog delicacy
48. Intellectual
50. Novice or beginner
52. Café alternative
53. You, in bygone era
55. Ciao, in the U.S.
57. * ____ Nast, imagined Santa at North Pole
60. *The largest lake near South Pole
63. Hotel room option
64. *Barents or Laptev
66. Blackfin and bluefin
68. Remove location from digital map
69. Paul Simon's former partner
70. Swelling
71. Monster's loch
72. An affirmative
73. Button on electrical outlet

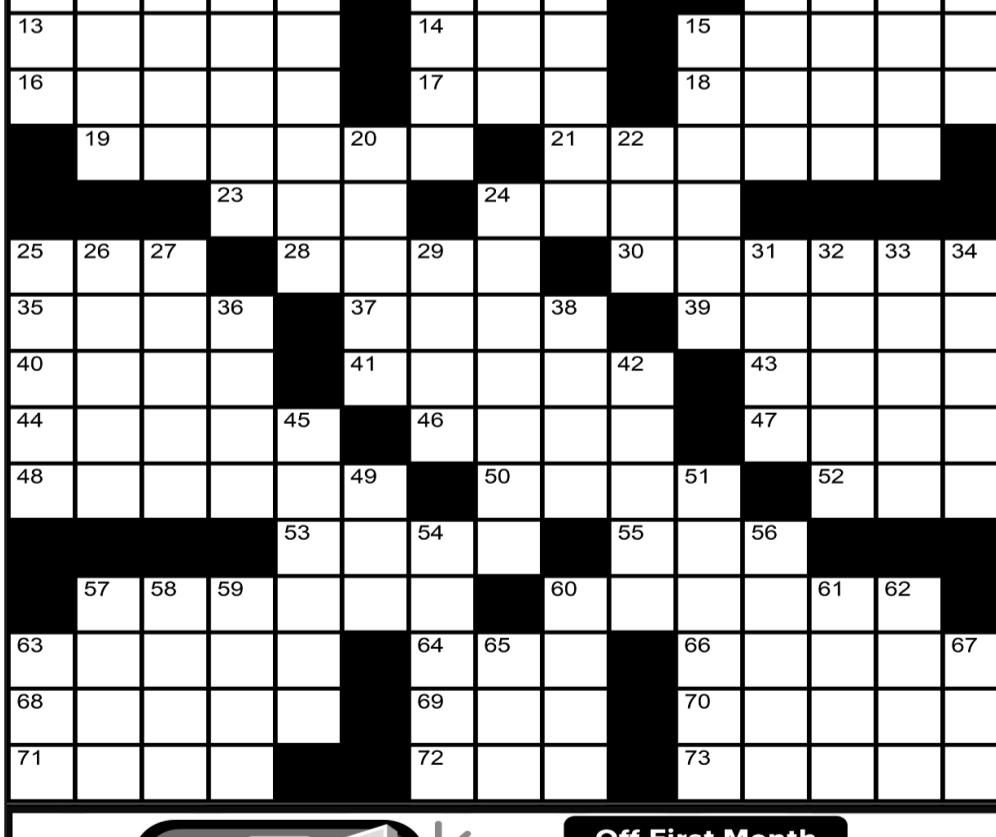
DOWN

1. Mountain peak
2. Pineapple producer
3. Gray-haired
4. As a rule
5. The Clash: "Rock the ____"
6. Answer to "Shall we?"
7. Female gametes
8. Lost, in Marseille
9. Opposite of sun-kissed
10. Deodorant's target
11. Native Egyptian, in Roman times
12. *How many sunsets in a year on either pole?
15. Close again, as in envelope
20. Yards and miles, e.g.
22. "Slippery" tree
24. Quick and clever reply
25. *North Pole "base"
26. Fraction, e.g.
27. Beastly person
29. Front of the head
31. Not top-shelf
32. Part of archipelago
33. Sound like Secretariat
34. Clear the whiteboard
36. Ancient Briton
38. Dog command
42. Supercharger
45. Glen Powell's 2023 role, pl. (2 words)
49. Cuban dance step
51. Half-shell delicacy
54. English homework
56. Chopin's composition
57. Ad jingle, e.g.
58. Shakira's don't lie
59. Milo's adventurous canine friend
60. Giant kettles
61. Change for a five
62. Glacier's deposit
63. *Midnight ___, opposite of polar night
65. Old-fashioned "before"
67. Aptitude test, acr.

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle

Theme: NORTH & SOUTH POLES

CROSSWORD



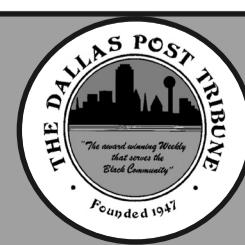
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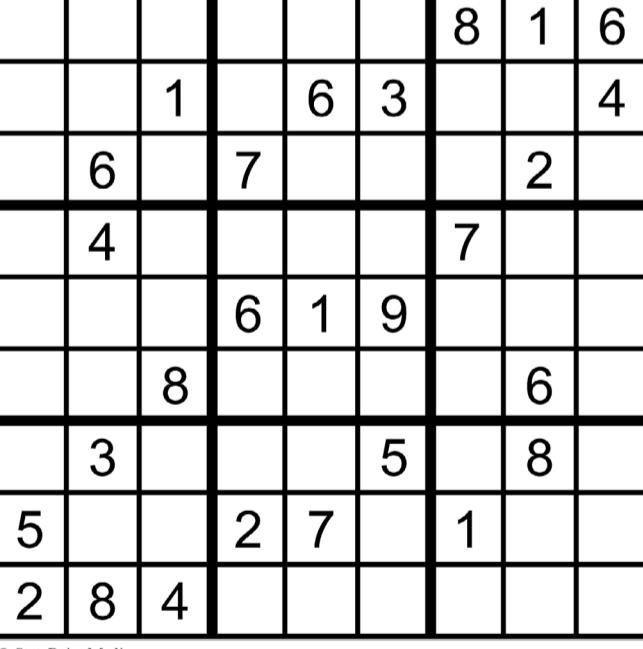
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Quinn Minute

– First loves

By Rix Quinn

The first romantic interest in my life was a new girl in my first-grade class. She had the best-looking tennis shoes on the planet.

Even better, she was a world-class runner. All of us kids raced every day during recess and -- except for the time some guy tripped her -- she won every race.

Because boys and girls stayed on different sides of the playground, it took all my courage to cross the di-

viding sidewalk to ask where she got those shoes. Once I got those footwear details, she was no longer interested in me.

I did briefly admire a girl in a third-grade square dance class, because she knew the do-se-do.

But then I met Charlotte, my seventh-grade English teacher.

To this 12-year-old boy, she seemed gorgeous. She was an older woman... probably 23. In class, she

teased me, and we kidded around a lot.

By the third six weeks, I was profoundly in love, and that had never happened before. But at the height of my passion, spring came around.

A couple of friends and I got tickets to the local professional golf tournament, a big social event.

While there, I saw my 20-something instructor with a man about her age. "Rix," she said, "I'd

like for you to meet my fiancé." What? She was engaged?

I shook the guy's hand and talked to them for a couple of minutes, but I was emotionally destroyed. How could she?

I felt really bad for at least nine days. Then baseball season started.

*Presented by (paid link):
Under desk
elliptical exerciser
<https://amzn.to/4jUCtN6>*

November is Native American Heritage Month, Movember (focused on men's health), Diabetes Awareness Month, and Alzheimer's Awareness Month.

Recognizing #BLACK EXCELLENCE for 78 Years

NEWS

Continued 2025 Page 3

poor are starved to feed the rich, the immigrant is caged to comfort the fearful, and truth itself is outlawed. He once warned that if we do not confront the truth of who we are, we will be consumed by it. Project 2025 is the truth of America unmasked. A nation willing to trade freedom for dominance, justice for vengeance, and compassion for control. Nearly half of the chains have already been forged. They rattle in our schools, our hospitals, our courts, our homes. And while they may not yet bind every wrist, they are ready. The architects of Project 2025 have made their intention plain. To enslave the will of a free people through law, bureaucracy, and fear.

We are halfway to chains.

Continued Virginia Page 1

Virginia House to historic margins. When the Virginia General Assembly returns to session in January, there will be at least 64 Democrats in the chamber. The widespread Republican defeat is a testament to a combination of historic fundraising, Democrats running in all 100 seats, dislike of President Trump's policies, and an ineffective top of the ticket featuring Lt. Gov. Earle Sears.

+13: Speaker Scott and Del. Helmer Hit Historic Numbers in Fundraising and Power

As the evening ended, a glaring historic fact became clearer: The Virginia House of Delegates will expand to a historic number. The change means the largest Democratic House chamber in the modern era. There were several notable wins by Democrats running for the Virginia House. They include Virgil Thornton, Lilly Franklin, and Kim Pope Adams. Speaker Don Scott and his campaign chair, Dan Helmer, undertook a record fundraising effort never before seen in Virginia's history.



SPORTS/NEWS PAGE



7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Nov. 6

H - 80
L - 63°

Friday, Nov. 7

H - 78°
L - 56°

Saturday, Nov. 8

H - 79°
L - 54°

Sunday, Nov. 9

H - 57°
L - 38°

Monday, Nov. 10

H - 55°
L - 40°*

Tuesday, Nov. 11

H - 65°
L - 51°

Wednesday, Nov. 12

H - 70°
L - 54°Cowboys make major move for
beleaguered defense in trade for

Jets' Quinnen Williams

By SCHUYLER DIXON AP Pro Football Writer

FRISCO, Texas (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys traded for star defensive tackle Quinnen Williams of the New York Jets on Tuesday in a major move to try to improve one of the NFL's worst defenses.

The deal for Williams came about two hours before the trading deadline, following a lower-profile addition in linebacker Logan Wilson from the Cincinnati Bengals, who was acquired for a seventh-round pick in the upcoming draft.

The Cowboys are giving New York a 2027 first-round pick, a 2026 second-rounder and underperforming defensive tackle Mazi Smith.

The Jets will get the better of Dallas' 2027 first-rounders. The Cowboys added first-round choices each of the next two years in another blockbuster, the trade that sent star pass rusher Micah Parsons to the Green Bay Packers a week before the season.

The Cowboys were talking to the Jets about Williams when they were trying to find a resolution to the contract stalemate with Parsons during training camp. Dallas also got defensive tackle Kenny Clark in the Green Bay trade.

Williams was No. 3 overall pick of the Jets in 2019 out of Alabama and has steadily developed into one of the NFL's top inter-

rior defensive linemen.

Jets general manager Darren Moushey wouldn't say whether Williams requested a trade, but added the deal with the Cowboys "came together and it was a good value for us today, so we went ahead and did that."

The deal came with New York (1-7) among three teams with an NFL-worst one victory, while Dallas (3-5-1) is trying to keep pace in the NFC a year after missing the playoffs. The Cowboys made three straight postseasons from 2021-23.

"New York will always have a special place in my heart," Williams wrote on X. "To the fans, thank you for embracing a kid from Alabama and showing love through every high and low. You welcomed me with open arms, and gave me a place to grow. I'm excited for what's next in Dallas and can't wait to get to work."

The trade gives Dallas the potential for one of the best interior defensive lines in the league in Williams and Clark, who has been good for the Cowboys but hasn't been able to reverse the club's struggles in recent years trying to stop the run. Osa Odighizuwa has started alongside Clark.

It remains to be seen how the addition of Williams will help edge rushers who struggled

badly early in the season without Parsons. The pressure has been better recently for the Cowboys, but mostly because of increased blitzing.

Dallas is on its bye week coming off a 27-17 loss to Arizona and next plays at Las Vegas in another Monday night game Nov. 17.

An All-Pro in 2022 and a three-time Pro Bowl selection, Williams has 40 sacks and routinely drew double teams from opposing offensive lines that tried to neutralize him — often creating opportunities for other defenders.

Williams signed a four-year, \$96 million contract extension with the Jets, including \$66 million guaranteed, in July 2023.

"Very competitive D-tackle room," said Odighizuwa, who signed an \$80 million extension, with \$58 million guaranteed, in March. "I think that's just going to add to the competitiveness of the room and I think obviously our ability to rotate and still be very effective no matter who's in the game."

Williams and his older brother Quincy, a linebacker who was an All-Pro in 2023, had been teammates with the Jets since 2021.

With the Jets off to a rough start to the season, Williams said the defense — expected to be a strength — was largely to blame.

"When you are probably the worst defense in the league," Williams said a few weeks ago, "no matter where you're at, you've got to fix things if you want to win football games."

The 27-year-old Williams will be reunited with defensive line coach Aaron Whitecotton, his position coach the previous four seasons with the Jets. Brian Schottenheimer, a first-time head coach after a quarter-century as an NFL assistant, hired Whitecotton after getting promoted from offensive coordinator.

Smith has been a disappointment in three seasons since the Cowboys drafted him 26th overall in the first round. He has alternated between playing and being a healthy scratch most of this season. He was inactive against the Cardinals.

Wilson had requested a trade after his playing time decreased for the Bengals, who have the league's worst defense. The Dallas defense is the NFL's second worst.

"It was weird for sure," Wilson told reporters at team headquarters Tuesday night. "That was just the nature of what we were dealing with, but I made a promise to myself that I wasn't going to change who I was. I wasn't going to stop pouring into the rookies just because they were playing over me."

Williams and his older brother Quincy, a linebacker who was an All-Pro in 2023, had been teammates with the Jets since 2021.

With the Jets off to a rough start to the season, Williams said the defense — expected to be a strength — was largely to blame.

Continued State Page 2

their campuses' needs.

Meanwhile, Texas' education agency has been flexing its power to take over schools in recent years, notably in the Houston, La Joya and South San Antonio districts. Fort Worth's intervention marks the 11th since 2000 and will be the second largest, following the 2023 takeover in Houston. Four other districts — Lake Worth, Beaumont, Connally and Wichita — are at risk of being next.

Academic takeovers are largely driven by results on the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, which lawmakers, educators and families have long criticized. They say the test consumes meaningful instructional time, places too much pressure on students and does not adequately measure how much children are learning.

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pointed Superintendent Mike Miles say that take-over was warranted, and they tout improved test scores in the two years since it started. No Houston ISD campuses received an F on the state's accountability ratings in the 2024-25 school year, a drastic improvement from the 56 underperforming campuses the district had in 2022-23.

But the intervention has also run into strong criticism. Teacher departures have skyrocketed. Thousands of students have unenrolled. And improved test scores have sparked concern that the district has accomplished that feat, in part, because of a hyper-focus on testing and moving students into less rigorous math and science classes.

The direction of Fort Worth's intervention will also depend heavily on the superintendent Morath chooses to lead it. It's unclear exactly when he will make the decision, though the commissioner has noted that he will consider Molinar for the job.

Dorsey-Hollins said she's hopeful for the intervention. The parent of two students in the district called on Morath to appoint people who are "open to hearing from the community and actually showing that growth is being made, letting that be the North Star for the takeover and for this change."

"I feel like this is a possibility of a fresh start for our district," she said. "Knowing that we're going to have an appointed board that is hyper-focused on student achievement, this could change the trajectory for our city and for our kids."

Sneha Dey contributed to this story.

This article first appeared on The Texas Tribune.

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle

Solution: October 30 ~ IN THE WOODS



The end of federal food aid could hit Black Americans hardest

By TERRY TANG, JAYLEN GREEN and GRAHAM LEE BREWER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In one of the wealthiest neighborhoods in the nation, a line stretched along the side of the Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen and Pantry.

Willy Hilaire is homeless, unemployed and 63. He lives in a New York shelter with his two grandchildren and often goes hungry so that they can eat the food he gets from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

On many days, Hilaire's only food is a hot meal he gets from Holy Apostles in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood. With SNAP at risk, he worries there won't be enough for him and the chil-

dren, forcing more sacrifice.

"I always tell them, 'Grandpa is there for you,'" he said. "Whatever I have, I'll give it to you."

Two federal judges ruled nearly simultaneously on Friday that President Donald Trump's administration must continue to fund SNAP, the nation's biggest food aid program, using contingency funds during the government shutdown. But officials said it was too late to stop recipients from losing benefits on Saturday and that restoring them could likely take at least one week.

Reliance on food aid hits Black people harder

One in eight Americans

use SNAP but its halt will disproportionately hurt Black Americans like Hilaire.

Black people are 12.6% of the population but more than a quarter of SNAP recipients, the largest overrepresentation of any ethnic or racial group. Other racial groups get SNAP at rates lower than their overall share of the population.

Historians and advocates say that's an example of what's known as systemic racism. There may be no formally racist policy at play but America's long history of racism — from slavery to unfair zoning rules — has

Continue Black Page 8


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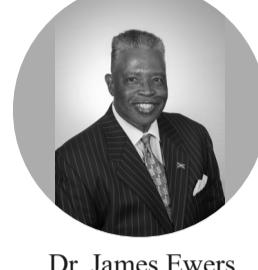
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EDITORIAL PAGE

Being Self-Absorbed and Self-Centered Will Bring You Short-Term Success But Long-Term Failure

By James B. Ewers Jr., Ed.



Dr. James Ewers

want to do has been found. Due process is now no process. Systems that once worked have now been tabled and are under further review.

Laws once kept are now broken with no consequences. Treaties once used for peace are now discarded resulting in chaos and war. Diversity, once a cornerstone of our democracy, is now a dream deferred. This is American life today.

People are hungry with no food to eat because benefits are being cut. Men and women are losing their jobs because of budget realignments. Folks are experiencing higher prices in stores because of tariffs.

Senior citizens are paying more for their medications because of increased prices within the drug industry. Students wanting to attend college are finding less pathways to get there because there are less grants and loans and more restrictions to get them.

This is American life today. It hasn't always been this way. Every day living is becoming more difficult. What we could do we can't do anymore. Frustration and aggravation have replaced good fortune and ethical behavior.

Accountability has been lost, and doing whatever you

sees the polls show that he is becoming increasingly unpopular. The numbers don't look good, and he knows that he can't go on this way.

However, a GOP senator sees it differently. Senate Majority Leader John Thune, through a spokesperson, said, "Leader Thune's position on the importance of the legislative filibuster is unchanged." Now, House Speaker Mike Johnson is siding with the sitting president. He, too, wants the shutdown to end. The caveat is under his terms and conditions.

Let's be clear and say that Senator Thune and other elected officials are eating three meals plus snacks each day. They are going home to heating and air-conditioned domiciles.

Their answers are tied to blaming the other side. The shutdown is now in month two. Who can be satisfied with this political free-for-all? It's a disaster with more to come.

Reports indicate the sitting president wants the shutdown to end. This seems to be a change in his position, given his contentious statements some weeks ago.

Why did his position change?

I believe it is because he

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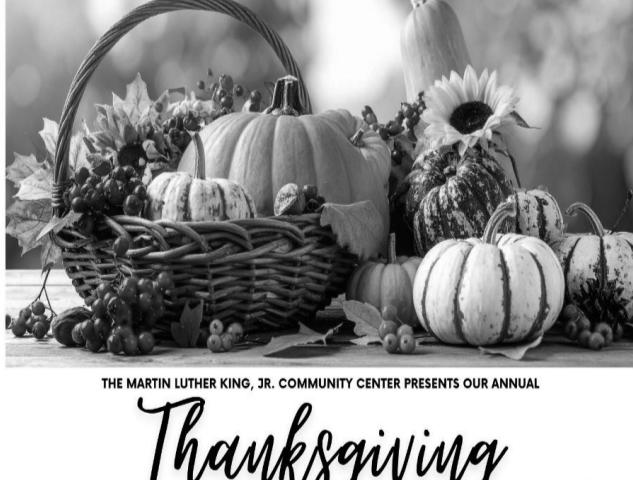
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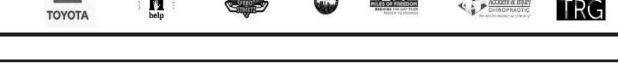
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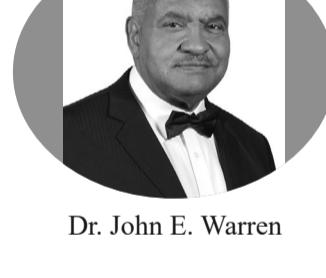
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Remembering African American Veterans with Honor

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



Dr. John E. Warren

On November 11, 2025, Americans will honor those brave men and women who have served in the military. As a reminder, it all started on November 11, 1918, when an Armistice between the Allied forces of World War I and Germany went into effect. In November 1919, President Woodrow Wilson declared November 11th Armistice Day, in recognition of the end of the War that was to end all Wars. In 1938, the U.S. Congress passed an Act declaring November 11, Armistice Day, a national holiday. In 1954, after World War II, President Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed that Congress approve changing the name of Armistice Day to Veterans Day, honoring all Americans who had served in all wars.

But the celebrations we have today do not do justice to the African Americans who have fought and died for America, in spite of the racism and segregated practices that have denied us full and equal treatment. Consider the following Hall of Fame of African Americans who have served and in many instances, died for this country:

Crispus Attucks, son of a

slave, first American casualty of the Revolutionary War. March 5, 1770; Nurse Susie King Taylor, who in the 1800s, when it was illegal for African Americans to be educated, snuck in lessons at an underground school which she built with her passion to help others. She met and worked alongside Clara Barton, founder of the Red Cross.

During the Civil War; Lewis Martin of the 29th U.S. Colored Infantry, who lost a leg and an arm following the Battle of the Crater in July 1864; the Buffalo Soldiers, as the Colored Soldiers of the 10th Cavalry became known, who fought both in the Civil War and the Indian Wars where they got the name "Buffalo" from Native Americans; and Corporal Freddie Stowers, who led the all-Black 371st Infantry Regiment in France in a successful battle against German troops and was recommended for the Medal of Honor which was not given to him until 70 years later and awarded posthumously to his family. We also remember Corporal John T. Van Rensselaer of the 350th HQ Battalion, who was awarded the French Legion of Honor in WWI; Doris "Dorie" Miller, a Mess Stewart in the U.S. Navy, who became the first African American to win the Navy Cross based on service at Pearl Harbor in WWII. Let us not forget African American women like Colonel

Margaret Barley serving in WWI and fighting for integrated military housing when Blacks were still fighting and living in a segregated army.

Let us remember Colonel Charles Young, the 3rd African American to graduate from West Point Military Academy and the first African American to reach the rank of "Colonel" in the U.S. Army; or the Tuskegee Airmen, Colored fighter pilots who never lost a plane they were escorting during WWII and paved the way for more than 1.2 million African Americans to enter the service during and following that war.

We have seen from history that African Americans who fought for the freedom of others on distant shores came home to disenfranchisement, segregation, and subhuman treatment on every front where they should have received respect and equality for having served. We have seen from a historical point that a Black soldier named Charles Lewis, recently discharged from the military, was lynched in uniform in Hichman, Kentucky; in 1944, four Black soldiers after a white store owner claimed they tried to take over his place; in 1947, we repeat, how Joe Nathan Roberts, a Black Navy Veteran studying at Temple University on the G.I. Bill was abducted and shot because he wouldn't say "Sir" to white

men.

We remember with pride our pioneering Black generals like General Benjamin Oliver Davis, Sr., U.S. Army, the first African American to obtain that rank in the U.S. Army, and his son Benjamin Oliver Davis, Jr., U.S. Air Force, as well as General Daniel "Chappy" James, fighter pilot, U.S. Air Force and General Colin Powell, City College of New York ROTC graduate who rose to become a four-star general and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, twice, as well as the first African American Secretary of State under President George Bush.

Of the 3547 Medals of Honor given out since the beginning of this award, 96 have been given to African Americans, according to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. The first African American to receive the medal was William Carney on July 18, 1863.

So, this Veterans Day, all African Americans have a very special and proud history to celebrate, recognizing that among those we honor and remember are our own countless "Band of Brothers and Sisters" that must not be forgotten in the first of parades and holiday sales.

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Continued California Page 1

by old rules. "Donald Trump is trying to rig the midterm elections before one single vote is even cast," Newsom said. He called on Democrats in other states to "meet this moment head on."

Former President Barack Obama added his voice to the debate. "Republicans want to steal enough seats in Congress to rig the next election and wield unchecked power for two more years," he said. The message landed with voters who have watched Trump's party gain influence despite repeated national defeats. Opponents framed Proposition 50 as an overreach. Arnold Schwarzenegger, the former Republican governor who championed California's original independent redistricting system, accused Newsom of taking power away from voters. Republicans warned that Democrats were undermining the very process they once defended. Yet

many Californians viewed the measure differently. They saw it as a necessary countermeasure in a political landscape where fair play had already been abandoned.

Siddhartha Deb, a newly registered voter, captured that sentiment. "I don't like the way the Republican Party is basically trying to rig elections by gerrymandering," he said. "And this is the only way, to fight fire with fire." For Democrats, the stakes could not be higher. Proposition 50 represents both a practical and symbolic stand against the erosion of representative government. "When Donald Trump started ordering his Republican lackeys to save his fading power by rigging the midterms, he didn't realize he'd be up against a new Democratic Party," Democratic National Committee Chair Ken Martin said. "We don't roll over when one team refuses to play by the rules. We fight back. Trump got his showdown, and tonight, we met him in the arena.

Californians stood up, rallied together, and passed Proposition 50 to make sure voters, not Donald Trump, decide who represents them in Congress."

Martin called the victory "a testament to the leadership of Governor Newsom and Democrats across California who refused to back down." He said, "When we fight, we win, and from Day One, the DNC has been proud to stand right there alongside Californians to defend democracy and deliver a message that echoes nationwide."

EMILY's List President Jessica Mackler praised the initiative and the women who helped lead it. "California voters sent a clear message. Republicans will not get away with manipulating the midterms in order to maintain their grip on power," she said. "Strong women leaders will be key to flipping the House districts drawn by Proposition 50. EMILY's List is already working with the women best equipped to win these dis-

tricts, take back the majority, and put a stop to Republicans' barrage of attacks on Americans' lives." For Newsom and his allies, the passage of Proposition 50 represents a reassertion of democratic will in a time of democratic decay. It is not the work of idealists, but of pragmatists who believe the only way to preserve fairness is to confront those who manipulate it. It is also a reflection of how deeply voters have grown weary of the gamesmanship that dominates national politics. Californians voted not just to redraw maps, but to redraw the moral boundaries of the fight for democracy. The initiative may shift a few seats in Congress, but its real meaning lies in its message. It declares that the will of the people cannot be quietly rewritten by power.

In the end, Proposition 50 was less about partisanship than about preservation. Democracy, Californians decided, is still worth the fight.

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Where music builds men of character

By Jenna Carpenter



Photo Credit: Dallas ISD

Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy at A. Maceo Smith Glee Club students are learning more than musical notes and scales; they are gaining self-confidence and forming relationships.

"Choir is like exposure therapy," said Christian R. "It's a safe environment, so the pressure of performing in front of others is lost very quickly and will help you be more confident in

every aspect of your life."

A senior, Christian, joined seven years ago as a way to learn more about music. His favorite parts of being in the glee club are the friends he's made along the way.

"Choir helped me meet so many different people from my school and is a means of connecting to people that aren't from my school," he said. "It's a meaningful experience that

bridges strangers together."

More than an extracurricular activity, BOMLA glee club prepares students for life after high school, a responsibility Dustin Barksdale, choir director, takes seriously.

"My main goal as an educator is to teach students to be good people. I want them to go out in the world and spread positivity, not hate," he said. "I want them to be able to ex-

press themselves articulately, yet sensitively. Music is merely the tool we use to develop the social and emotional skills needed for life."

Being involved in choir helps students learn soft skills like time management, collaboration, and organization. And earning state accolades and awards at UIL competitions helps them stand out on their college applications, Barks-

dale said.

Participating in competitions builds confidence, but also teaches students how to work toward a goal and how to handle disappointment, he added.

"Life is a constant wheel of highs and lows, yeses and no's, good times and bad times," Barksdale said. "The results are not always what they want them to be. While it can be upsetting to them at the time, this is one of the best lessons a choir can teach a student."

More than anything, Barksdale hopes they graduate with a sense of self.

"I want students to leave the choir knowing how to show emotion, knowing how to work with others, but most importantly, being empowered to be themselves," he said.

That is a lesson Frederick W., a senior, is learning.

"Choir helped me learn how to express my feelings and work hard for things I want," he said. "By putting me on the spot in certain situations, I have become more confident in real-life situations."

Frederick said he's learned patience, resilience,

discipline, and passion, which he said will help him after he walks across the graduation stage.

"I've been a part of it for four years and I've been rewarded with experiences I would have never thought possible," he said. "It gave me a view of life I had never seen and opened a career path for me."

Looking back at his experience, Isaac M., who graduated from BOMLA in May 2025, joined the glee club to have a space where he could express himself through music and be part of a family.

Now, majoring in neuroscience and behavioral biology at Emory University, he applies the lessons he learned at BOMLA to his classes.

"In college, there are so many things going on at once that sometimes it feels overwhelming," Isaac said. "Choir taught me how to balance responsibilities and stay committed even when things get hard."

The deadline to apply to application-based schools, like BOMLA, for the 2026-2027 school year is Jan. 31, 2026.

CONTINUED BLACK PAGE 5

left Black communities with a series of structural disadvantages, and far less wealth accumulated over generations.

Non-Hispanic white people are 58.1% of the population but just 35.4% of SNAP recipients, the latest data show.

Hispanic people and Asian people are underrepresented in the SNAP statistics. And Native Americans get SNAP at basically the same rate that their group is in the general population.

Asian Americans living in poverty face constraints like lack of English fluency and neighborhood gentrification. In New York City, 253,000 of the 1.5 million Asian residents use SNAP, according to the nonprofit Asian American Federation. Over 91% of them work. But, with limited English proficiency, many are limited in their job opportunities, said CEO Catherine Chen. Families who have lived comfortably in cultural enclaves like Chinatown for one or two generations are getting priced out.

Working on food aid
A majority of adult SNAP recipients who can work, do. Some still qualify for SNAP — typically \$187 a month — despite holding down one or more jobs, according to nonprofit advocates. They're often low-wage jobs without benefits like paid sick days.

A report by the National Urban League last year found that the racial income gap has been virtually unchanged for more than 20 years, with Black Americans making 64% of the income of white people, on average.

"There's so much discrimination in the work force, so much discrim-

ination in America today, that Black people who were enslaved and segregated for 350 years are still fighting for economic parity," said Marc Morial, president of the civil rights group. "While we have a growing number of African American, middle-class Americans, we still have a disproportionate number of poor (Black) Americans."

At the current pace, it would take anywhere from one to three centuries for most Black Americans to achieve parity with their white peers, depending on where they live, according to the McKinsey Institute for Black Economic Mobility.

Worsening statistics
This year Black unemployment rose from 6.2% to 7.5%, the highest level since October 2021. Black homeownership fell to the lowest level in four years, according to an analysis by the real estate brokerage Redfin. The Census Bureau found the median Black household income fell 3.3% last year to \$56,020. That's around \$36,000 less than what a white household earns.

The looming absence of grocery dollars would almost certainly make it harder for families to afford rent, gas and other expenses. Even if SNAP benefits are restored before November ends, nonprofit leaders say low-income residents could face financial setbacks into next year.

Tribal nations navigate a web of bureaucracy for food aid

For tribal nations, food and nutrition assistance programs are part of the U.S. government's trust and treaty responsibilities — the government's legal and moral obligations to fund tribes' health and

well-being. The U.S. promised to uphold those rights in exchange for the land and resources it took from Indigenous peoples.

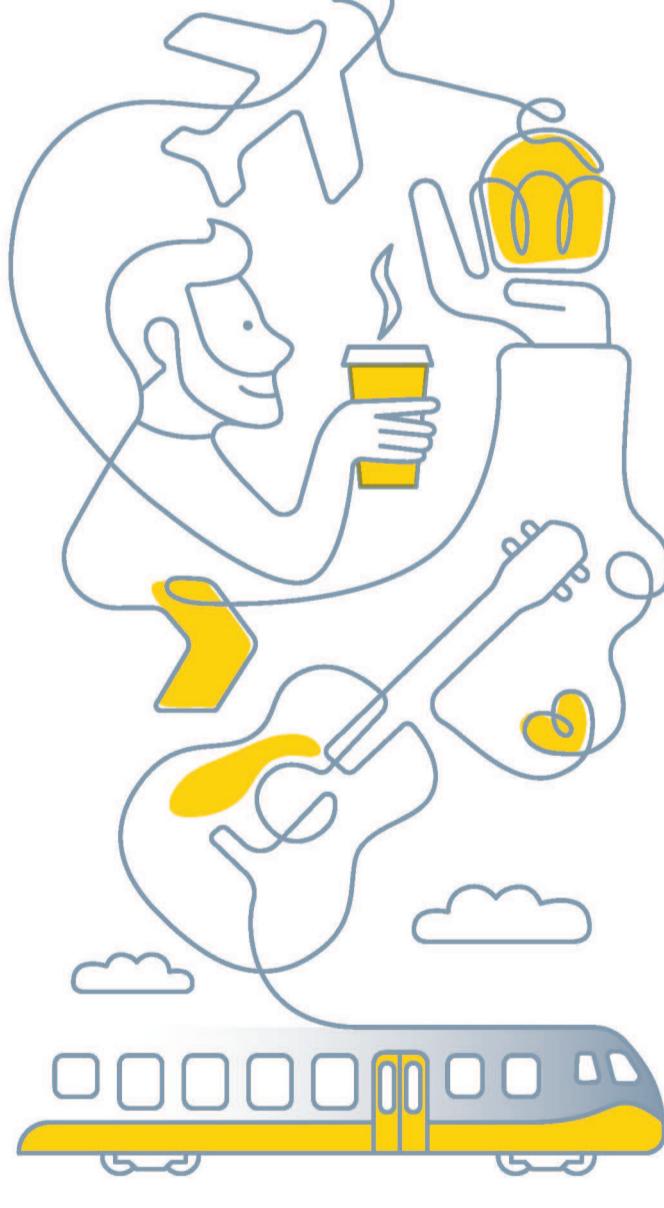
However, those rights continue to be chronically underfunded and uniquely vulnerable to government shutdowns, according to a report released last week by the Brookings Institution. The study found that in 2024, more than two-thirds of trust and treaty responsibilities were funded through discretionary spending, meaning they are not guaranteed during a shutdown. It also noted that one of the largest sources of mandatory spending owed to tribes comes in the form of SNAP benefits.

Another U.S. Department of Agriculture program that provides food to income-eligible Native American households, the Food Distribution Program in Indian Reservations, is still operating. But Native Americans already enrolled in SNAP cannot participate in that program. FDPIR President Mary Greene-Trottier said in October that her agency asked USDA Undersecretary Patrick Penn for a waiver, which the agency has granted for November, according to a letter Greene-Trottier received on Friday.

She expects to see a substantial increase in demand for her program once SNAP benefits are shut off.

"I've heard the pleas from the people in the community and outside the community that are just really concerned with not having enough food to eat and the choices between paying medical bills or utility bills that are increasing," Greene-Trottier said.

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