

Daylight saving time ends November 2, 2025 at 2:00 a.m.



ISSN # 0746-7303

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VOLUME 78 NUMBER 7

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

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October 30 - November 5, 2025

25 States Suing Trump USDA for Gutting Food Aid to 40 million Americans

By Stacy M. Brown



SNAP Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is shown using the text. SNAP provides food benefits to low-income families in US

(Photo by Andrii Dodonov)Website Tags and Keywords:/NNPA

Twenty-five attorneys general across the country and three governors have filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture and its Secretary, Brooke Rollins, after the agency moved to suspend the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, better known as SNAP, which helps more than 40 million Americans buy food each month.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Massachusetts, argues that Rollins and the

USDA unlawfully halted the program despite having billions of dollars in contingency funds that Congress specifically approved for emergencies like the current federal government shutdown. It names both the USDA and the Office of Management and Budget, led by Russell Vought, as defendants, accusing them of violating federal law and the Administrative Procedure Act by arbitrarily denying food assistance to millions of people who de-

pend on it. "SNAP is the largest anti-hunger program in D.C., and if these cuts are allowed to go through, tens of thousands of District children, seniors, and families will be unable to afford food," said District of Columbia Attorney General Brian Schwalb. "The adverse downstream impacts on public health, education, and public safety will be immediate, catastrophic, and irreparable.

Continue Food Page 3

The Silence of Black Wealth: When the Billionaires Turned Their Backs on the Black Press

By Stacy M. Brown

Two months ago, famed civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump stood before a ballroom filled with the echoes of history. He did not whisper. He thundered. "If you've been blessed," he said, "you got to pass the blessing on. You just can't keep it to yourself." Then he pledged fifty thousand dollars to the Black Press of America. It was not an act of charity. It was an act of faith. A declaration that the oldest voice of Black truth must live to speak again. Crump said he made his gift public because he wanted others to follow. He said he hoped those who had been lifted by the love and loyalty of Black people would remember who gave them their first breath of recognition. He hoped they would remember that the Black Press was not a charity case but a lifeline. Two months later, the silence has been deafening.

Magic Johnson's people said "no." David Steward,

founder of World Wide Technology, said "no." Jay-Z's team didn't bother to return calls. Janice Bryant Howroyd of the Act-One Group did not respond. Richelieu Dennis of Sundial Brands did not respond. Daymond John, Thomas Moorehead, and Tristan Walker did not respond. Tyler Perry, Robert Smith, and Oprah Winfrey did not respond. Dr. Dre, Spike Lee, and Michael Jordan each have also ignored multiple attempts to have conversations. Even across the ocean, Africa's wealthiest men—Aliko Dangote, Mike Adenuga, Patrice Motsepe, Strive Masiyiwa, and Abdulsamad Rabiu—have people working for them who won't acknowledge the Black Press with a simple response. Let the record show what was asked of them. The Black Press did not beg for charity. The Black Press asked to

Continue Wealth Page 4



The Leadership Academy at Forest Oak Middle School in Fort Worth on Friday, Oct. 24, 2025. The Texas Education Agency took over the Fort Worth Independent School District after the now-closed Leadership Academy at Forest Oak Sixth Grade failed to meet state academic standards for five consecutive years. Photo Credit/Desiree Rios for The Texas Tribune

How a single Fort Worth ISD campus prompted a state takeover

Colleen DeGuzman and Jaden Edison, The Texas Tribune

The Texas Education Agency is taking over the Fort Worth Independent School District—a district with more than 70,000 students—because a campus with just over 300 sixth graders repeatedly failed to meet state academic standards.

While Leadership Academy at Forest Oak Sixth Grade ultimately set off the state's ability to intervene, the threat of a state takeover has been looming over the district for nearly two decades—with the first dating back to 2008. The district has a history of

struggling to bring students' grades up across the city, especially at campuses in low-income neighborhoods with large Black and brown populations.

TEA Commissioner

Mike Morath announced

last week his decision to re-

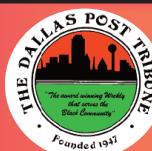
move all decision-making

power from elected Fort Worth ISD school board members. Soon, the state will replace them with a board of managers and a superintendent handpicked by Morath. The new set of appointed leaders will

Continue State Page 5

The Dallas National College Fair is scheduled for Sunday, November 2, 2025, at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center.

Time: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. ~ Continue Page 7



Recognizing #BLACK EXCELLENCE for 78 Years



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Affirming Black Children Through Books: Stories That Help Them See Their Light

By Aundrea Tabbs-Smith, Emotional Well-being Literacy and Curriculum Coordinator, Friends Center for Children

I spent my earliest years as an educator searching for books that reflected my students' experiences; I wanted to introduce them to books that reflected not just the colors of their skin, but also the textures of their lives. I wanted them to see themselves as I saw them: loved, powerful, and full of potential. Too often, those stories were missing from the shelves.

As the Emotional Well-being Literacy and Curriculum Coordinator at Friends Center for Children in New Haven, Conn., I lead programming for the organization's new Books with Friends Trolley — a mobile library that provides professional development and age- and culturally-appropriate books to family- and center-based childcare providers across New Haven. I spend my days working with young children, teaching them to name their feelings, build confidence, and understand that every part of who they are deserves to be celebrated.



Aundrea Tabbs-Smith

Books are one of our best tools to do that work. When a child hears a story that reflects their truth, something shifts fundamentally. They feel seen. Their eyes light up, their shoulders relax, and their minds open to the possibilities that await them. Below are just a few of my favorite affirming books for Black children, which will help them build that sense of belonging and possibility from their earliest moments.

Continue Books Page 3

My Day

Special Report:

FRAUD ALERT

By Dr. J. Ester Davis

Scams and fraud are nothing new. Fraud and Scams are big business!

Scams and fraud have earned a disrespectful place in our homes, businesses, credit unions, banks, (credit cards, debit cards,) et cetera... and the financial universe chooses to ignore their progressive power, growth patterns, development, and successful strategies. Now we are faced with 'new scams', new poignant tactics, new counterfeit products, gift cards, or cryptocurrency. Today, we have specialty, targeted, and couture scams. And the scammers are more sophisticated, more powerful, smart, and persistent. Let's talk about a few very successful ones: pet scams, toll road scams, VIN number scams, romance, travel, and charity scams. However, I only have time to address a few. One of my personal most annoying ones is the toll tag notice scam. Monthly, I receive a toll tag message on how much is owed on my toll tag, and it must be paid immediately. Two things are wrong with that message. I do not have a toll tag, and I avoid traveling on their roads. In spite of my disclaimer to the same, my phone calls on miscellaneous lines, and discussions with elected officials, bankers, ...they remain steadfast, immovable, and obstinate. The most common answer is "Oh, that is just a scam. So, you are saying unaccountably that scams are acceptable or that scams cannot be controlled ... and they are accepted.

Of TOP Priority:

Scammers use fake safety certificates on counterfeit electronics.

Please. Use your cell phone and check out electronics before ordering.

Look for counterfeit, fake safety seals on electronics.

Check with

Havoc Scope, a global black market company. They reported that counterfeit devices and accessories cause more than 70 deaths and 350,000 injuries a year in the United States. Check online also with UL Solutions, a private company that certifies electronics and other products.

Tech Support: Please do not allow remote access to repair your computer defect or equipment.

Apply and ATT have remote

repairs that come with agree-

ments you sign online.

Overpayment Scams:

Read twice. This is a very

clever one. Keep in mind

that if you have an older

cell phone, it may not be

able or equipped to read the

QR Code in the box. So,

essentially, you are handi-

capped if you expect your

old cell phone to adequ-

ately read some QR codes.

Check Cashing: BEST

Advice. DO NOT Particip-

ate. The bad check will be



Dr. J. Ester Davis

held against your account if it does not clear. IMPOR-

TANT: Let's assume the

check clears the first time.

You should sit back and

wait for the second request.

The scammer will try

again. The second time

will be more painful to your

bank account.

Grandmother Scam: A

Cruel One. A Common

One: You receive a call

from someone claiming to

be a grandchild or for a

grandchild being detained

in jail, on the highway, or in

a small town. This request

comes with a designated

place to send the cash. Re-

fuse the call.

Check Cashing: BEST

Advice. DO NOT Particip-

ate. The bad check will be

Esterdavis2000@gmail.com

NEWS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

An ancient tradition is helping girls in Zimbabwe fight child marriages

By FARAI MUTSAKA Associated Press



Girls and women sit inside a tent as they listen to their mentor speaking to them about child marriages at a school in Shamva, Zimbabwe, Friday, Aug. 29, 2025.

(AP Photo/Aaron Ufumeli)

SHAMVA, Zimbabwe (AP) — Inside a white tent with a wooden fireplace in the middle, about two dozen African girls slipped off their shoes, sat on mattresses and prepared to pour their hearts out.

They held hands and their chants of "it's so nice to be here" echoed through the tent before they set about discussing sexuality, child marriage, teen pregnancy, gender bias, education, economic empowerment and the law. Nothing was off limits.

The girls' hangout in rural northeastern Zimbabwe is a revival of Nhanga, the local term for "girls' bedroom," an ancient traditional space once used to prepare adolescent girls for marriage. Across rural Zimbabwe, girls are now reinventing the centuries-

old practice as a peer-led movement to resist child marriage, which is rife in the southern African nation.

"This is a safe space, every girl feels free," said 18-year-old Anita Razo, who joined at 14 and now mentors younger girls.

Ancient tradition, new purpose

In traditional homesteads, a round thatched hut served as Nhanga, a female-only room where girls were taught obedience, how to please husbands and moral education. It reinforced patriarchal expectations.

Today, the practice is being flipped. "The new Nhanga is a cultural innovation dealing with modern problems," and where girls candidly tackle sub-

jects still sensitive in many conservative homes, said Nokutenda Magama, a programs officer with Rozaria Memorial Trust, a nonprofit that works to empower rural girls and women and is behind the Nhanga revival.

Sessions include practical skills like poultry raising, farming and soap making.

The trust organizes gatherings by age group, from girls as young as five to women over 35, ensuring an age-appropriate curriculum and mentorship across generations. Elders, including senior government officials, are sometimes invited.

A wider problem

The reinvention comes against worrying statistics. One in three girls in Zim-

babwe marries before 18, according to the United Nations Children's Fund, calling it "a national emergency demanding urgent action." It's a similar situation across East and southern Africa. Child marriage rates soar to above 40% in central and West Africa, with Niger, at 76%, the highest globally, according to UNICEF.

Zimbabwe and many other African countries have outlawed child marriage, even overturning laws prohibiting abortion for girls under 18, but poverty, lethargic enforcement and cultural and religious customs keep it alive.

Child bride to community role model

For Samantha Chidodo, the revival offered a path back. Now 26 and a final-year law student, she was forced into an abusive marriage at 17 to a man nearly a decade older.

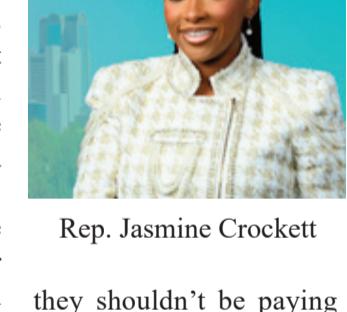
"All I wanted was to play and think of my future. Suddenly I had to be a mother and wife," she said at a camp that blended tent sessions with a "girls and goals" soccer tournament.

"I didn't even know what to do. I would be dead asleep, oblivious that I needed to breastfeed." A woman next door would take the crying baby, feed him and return him to the sleeping teen mother, she recalled.

Continue Fight

November 6 Edition

Rep. Jasmine Crockett Introduces the "No Presidential Payouts Act" to Stop Taxpayer Dollars from Covering a President's Legal Bills



Rep. Jasmine Crockett

they shouldn't be paying for a President's corruption."

The No Presidential Payouts Act closes loopholes that could allow a President—or anyone associated with them—to dip into taxpayer funds for personal legal issues.

The legislation underscores Rep. Crockett's ongoing work to hold those in power accountable and ensure government resources are used to serve the people—not to protect personal interests or political allies.

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RELIGIOUS/NEWS

Life-Changing Effects of God's Word

I Peter 2:1-3



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

In the previous chapter, Peter discussed that as believers, we have received the new birth, being born of incorruptible seed, the word of God. Now, as believers, we have a new nature, and we are to live in that new nature by the power of the Holy Spirit. We have been brought into a loving relationship with One whom, having not seen, we love! Our love for Christ should produce a desire to please Him! The work of Christ has settled every question

that sin has raised between God and the believer. But God wants us to value the work of redemption by living lives that demonstrate that we have been born again.

In Chapter 2:1, Peter would inform us as believers to rid ourselves of five sins that would bring about disunity among believers. In this verse, Peter is not addressing unbelievers, but believers. Peter says that the first sin that needs to be dealt with is

"malice." Malice is gross hatred. Christians should not harbor hatred toward one another. Jesus Christ enjoins us to love one another, for St. John 13:35 says: "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

Another sin that Christians are to rid themselves of is guile, which is simply deceit. In other words, we should practice being honest with one another. The next two sins are hypocrisy

(pretending to be what you are not) and envy (active resentment). Lastly, Peter says that evil speaking (meaning slander) should be cast aside because it would promote disunity in the body of Christ. However, Peter says that a believer should be eager, hungry for the word of God as babes are for milk.

As we rid ourselves of the various sins enumerated in verse 1, we need to nourish on spiritual food that produces growth. Just as a

hungry baby reaches for the bottle, a believer is to desire the word of God. A child of God needs spiritual nutrition from the word of God. There is no growth apart from the word of God. In verse 3, Peter likened their experience of having a present knowledge of Christ to tasting. They had experienced God's grace in their new birth and have discovered that indeed the Lord is good. Once you gain knowledge of the Lord, you will see that He

is good, for Psalm 34:8 says: "O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him."

As you begin to allow God's Spirit to work in you, you will readily acknowledge with the psalmist – "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my Redeemer" (Psalm 19:14).

May God Bless!

Continued Food Page 1

Additionally, the economic impact on our local business community will be severe as hundreds of SNAP retailers, including many that operate in food deserts, will lose a vital revenue stream. If these stores are forced to close, even non-SNAP recipients will lose access to critical sources of food."

According to the complaint, the USDA ordered states on October 24 to suspend all November SNAP benefit allotments until further notice, claiming insufficient funding due to the lapse in congressional appropriations. But attorneys general in 25 jurisdictions argue that the agency's position is both unlawful and immoral, as Congress has already provided two separate \$3 billion contingency reserves specifically to cover such

emergencies. The complaint further alleges that the USDA has tapped other emergency funds to reopen farm service offices and finance other programs during the shutdown, while refusing to use similar funds to feed families. For the District of Columbia and so many others, the impact will be devastating. In fiscal year 2025, an average of 141,000 D.C. residents relied on SNAP each month, including 47,000 children and 24,000 elderly individuals. The suspension will also cripple the local economy. More than 420 local retailers, including over 320 small "mom and pop" stores operating in food deserts, depend heavily on SNAP purchases. Many already run on razor-thin margins, and without those sales, they risk permanent closure.

The coalition argues that the USDA's decision defies decades of precedent. During every prior government shutdown, SNAP has continued to operate, and the agency has always used available funds to prevent hunger. This is the first time in history that benefits have been interrupted since the program's inception in 1964. The 51-page lawsuit paints a dire picture. It notes that even as the USDA claims poverty, its contingency accounts hold billions of unused dollars, including a \$23 billion "Section 32" fund drawn from customs receipts and agricultural tariffs. The agency recently used part of that fund to cover the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program through October, but refused to extend the same courtesy to SNAP recipi-

ents. The suit argues that this selective funding violates both federal law and the agency's duty to act rationally and in good faith.

Food banks, many already overwhelmed, are bracing for surges in demand. Governors in several plaintiff states, including California and Minnesota, have already deployed emergency funds to keep families fed. Schwab warned that the consequences go beyond hunger. "The ripple effects of this decision will reach every corner of our city," he said. "Children who are hungry cannot learn, seniors will face life-threatening health risks, and small businesses will go under. This fight is about basic human decency and about keeping food on the table for those who need it most."

Continued Books Page 2

Homemade Love by bell hooks

Nancy Redd
Appropriate for 2- through 6-years-old

This joyful tribute to family is the first picture book to shine a light on nighttime hair rituals for Black people, an experience familiar to many young girls who've misplaced their bonnet before bed. Bedtime Bonnet offers a tender glimpse into cherished hair care traditions and honors the deep bonds shared across generations in a loving, close-knit Black family.

I love this book because it's a gentle affirmation of unconditional love, perfect for bedtime or any moment a child needs reassurance. The text is simple yet lyrical, filled with affectionate nicknames and rhythmic phrasing that makes it perfect for reading aloud. This book is a tender anthem for secure attachment, which is something every young child needs to thrive.

Bedtime Bonnet by

This book showcases the importance of hair care in Black culture, making it both relatable and educational. It also reinforces the idea that these small acts are part of a shared experience. For any child with a nighttime hair routine, it's a validating and joyful reflection of their lives.

~ IN THE WOODS ~
(Solution will appear in November 6 edition)

ACROSS

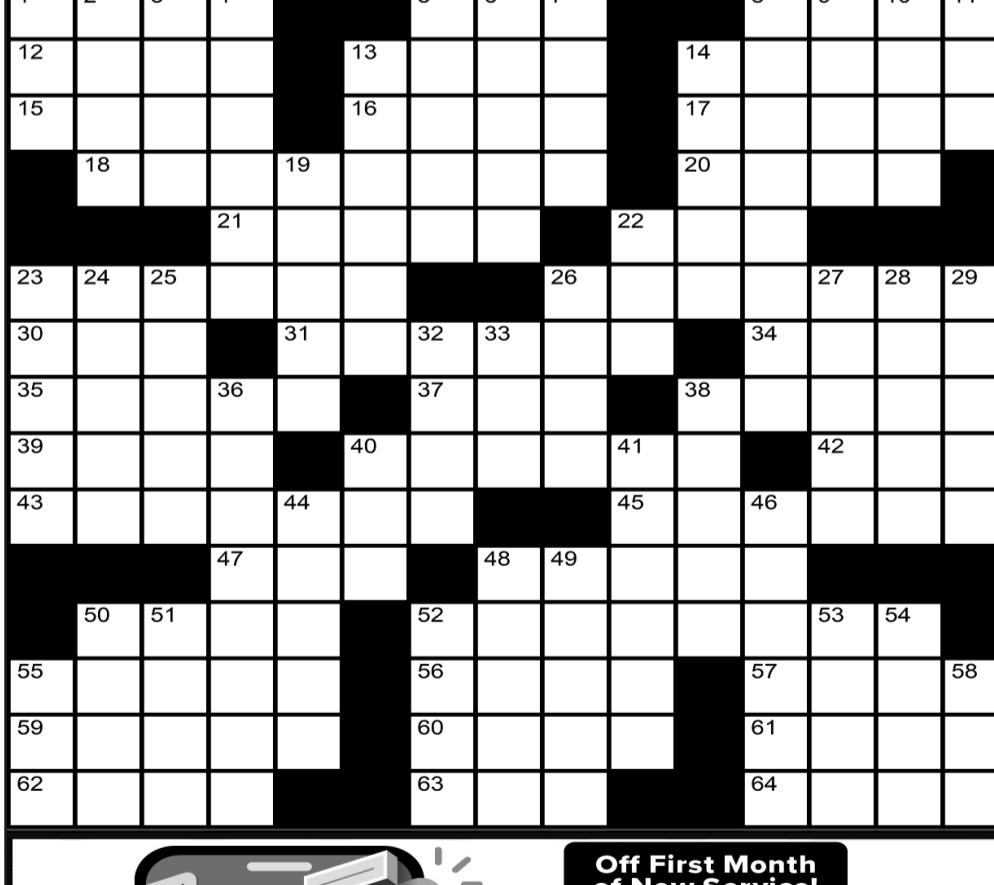
- Flows' partners
- "When Harry ____ Sally..."
- Sound of laughter
- **"Hide" behind the bush
- Bébé's mother
- *Age units in the woods
- Rum cake
- Placido Domingo's solo, e.g.
- Concluded
- **"Into the Woods" star Anna
- Come clean, with up
- Terra ____
- Urge Spot to attack
- One of seven gnomes
- Prior to the present (3 words)
- FEMA provisions, e.g.
- Erratum, pl.
- Int. org. in Brussels
- Merge
- Time frame
- Right-hand page
- 1920s art style
- Cause of wheezing
- Like The Hot Chili Peppers
- God we ___, on U.S. currency
- Some vipers
- Clairvoyant's gift
- Source of chocolate
- Form of payment
- *Edible fungus
- Multi-layered cake
- Mélange
- Utah's national park
- Bake an egg
- Plural of #22 Down
- **"____ the Woods" play and movie
- Prefix for multiple
- Japanese honorific
- Barely got by

DOWN

- Singular of #1 Across
- *Woodpecker's pecker
- *One lost in the woods
- Posture
- Boy Scout's badge
- "Fear of Flying" author ____ Jong
- Furniture wood
- *Conifer's dropping
- Peters out
- Def Leppard's "Rock of ____"
- Psychedelic drug, acr.
- St. Valentine, e.g.
- Equip again
- One of Seven Dwarfs
- Rejuvenating spot
- Arabia
- Wrinkle-prone fabric
- Declaration of Independence, e.g.
- 2002 Winter Olympics state
- Mother-of-pearl
- Weasel's cousin
- *Golf's great
- Catch one's breath
- A in MOMA
- Scientific study in woodlands
- Meteorologist's tool
- Nile reptile
- Masculine one and proud of it, pl.
- Theater greeter
- Something extraordinary
- "Mea ___, or "my fault"
- Hailing from the East
- Type of salmon
- *Seed covering
- *Trunk growth
- Sty cry
- Speck
- Recipe amt.
- Go-ahead

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle
Theme: IN THE WOODS

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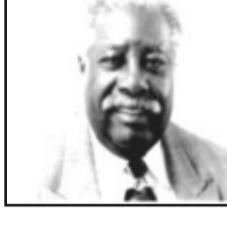
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8	1	9	4	6	7	3	5	2
1	5	4	6	2	9	8	7	3
2	9	6	7	3	8	4	1	5
7	3	8	5	4	1	6	2	9

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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Premise to Live By

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and

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What's the most important position on a football team?

I vote for the center. Some pay more attention to the quarterback or running backs, but without the center, they'd just be standing around.

The center starts each play. Although his primary job is to snap the ball to the quarterback, his first mission is to watch how the defense lines up. And if he sees something he doesn't expect, he can call out spe-

cial instructions to his team.

But we fans don't see that. And we don't pay attention to the brave way he blocks defensive guys who try to grab the quarterback.

But we do notice something truly amazing. Much of the time, he accurately throws the football while upside down.

He throws the ball four ways. The first way, he bends over, and hands the ball to the quarterback directly behind him. Or he throws the ball back a few

yards to the quarterback.

But if his team is punting the ball, he must snap the ball – between his legs – to a kicker 15 yards behind him. Try doing this sometime when you're bent over and staring at somebody upside down. (The last time I did that, I was looking under the couch for a sandwich.)

His toughest job – from that same awkward position – is snapping the ball perfectly about ten yards to someone holding the ball

for a placekicker. If that's done wrong, lots of bad things can happen like a fumble, a missed kick, or an angry coach.

Not me...I could never handle that pressure. Luckily, a kind coach found a position on the sideline where I could help the team. He called it Left Out.

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HEALTH

Living Well With Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension

(StatePoint) November is Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Month, and the American Lung Association, with support from Merck, is raising awareness about one form of the condition: pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH).

PAH is a serious condition that can affect people of all ages. It occurs when the tiny arteries in the lungs become thickened and narrowed, which causes reduced blood flow through the lungs. This raises pressure in the pulmonary arteries and forces the heart to work harder to push blood through the narrowed vessels. While there is no cure for PAH, there is medication to help manage the symptoms and slow disease

progression. Getting a correct diagnosis is essential because without the proper treatment, PAH can be fatal.

While often seen in adults, pulmonary hypertension, including PAH, can also affect children. When Jackson was diagnosed with pediatric PAH at 14 months old, his family started advocating for his care early. "From the very beginning, we've done everything we can to ensure he is getting the best treatment options," Jayna, his mom says.

Once accurately diagnosed, Jackson's family embarked on a journey of managing PAH in their young child, "We had to figure out how to manage a toddler with a subcutaneous pump. It was terrifying, but

we knew it was what he needed," says Jayna.

No matter the age of the patient, these key actions can help your family navigate a diagnosis of pulmonary hypertension:

Find a trusted PH specialist. A specialist will tailor your treatment specific to your needs. Being able to talk with your specialist is vital in developing your personalized care plan. As Jackson shares, "My doctor is amazing," assisting him with a comprehensive healthcare plan and helping him navigate PAH as he transitions from childhood to adolescence.

Learn all you can about PH and PAH. Take the PH Basics course offered by the American Lung Associa-

tion. This free, short online module is designed to help patients and caregivers understand symptoms, monitoring, treatment options and more.

Activate your support network. Join support groups and peer communities to build knowledge and resilience and receive emotional support. Jayna found an online pulmonary hypertension community of other parents, which made it "easier to cope, learn from others and feel less isolated," and eventually became one of the community's administrators.

Learn more about PAH this Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Month at Lung.org/pah.

vanish. Many of these newspapers live in the same cities that raised the icons now silent. Chicago, where Jordan and Oprah became legends. Los Angeles, where Magic Johnson built his empire. Brooklyn, where Spike Lee found his voice. Philadelphia and New York, where Jay-Z and Will Smith found theirs. The irony is sharp. These newspapers gave many of them their first headlines, their first interviews, their first measure of respect.

Remember EBONY? JET? How about Right On! Yet now, as the Black Press struggles for air, those it once lifted act as if they never knew its name. So it is that in this moment of trial, a civil rights attorney and a white businessman stand nearly alone. Mark Cuban, through his Cost-Plus Drugs company, reached into his own pocket and gave one hundred

Continue **Wealth** Page 5

Quinn Minute

Football's most important player

By Rix Quinn

What's the most important position on a football team?

I vote for the center. Some pay more attention to the quarterback or running backs, but without the center, they'd just be standing around.

The center starts each play. Although his primary job is to snap the ball to the quarterback, his first mission is to watch how the defense lines up. And if he sees something he doesn't expect, he can call out spe-

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Recognizing #BLACK EXCELLENCE for 78 Years



SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Oct. 30

Friday, Oct. 31

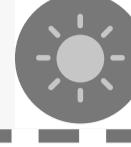
Saturday, Nov. 1

Sunday, Nov. 2

Monday, Nov. 3

Tuesday, Nov. 4

Wednesday, Nov. 5



H - 63°

L - 46°



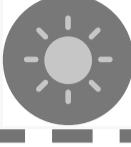
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H - 65°

L - 47°



H - 71°

L - 52°



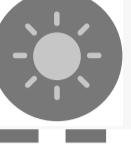
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H - 72°

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Jerry Jones says erratic Cowboys simply must be better after blowout by Broncos

By PAT GRAHAM AP Sports Writer

DENVER (AP) — Dak Prescott spent a good chunk of the fourth quarter watching from the sideline in a game that was well out of hand.

It was just another installment in what's been an inconsistent season for the Dallas Cowboys. This time, it was the league's best offense, and not just a porous, injury-riddled defense, that was stymied.

"Surprised is a good word to use," Prescott said of the Cowboys' struggles in a 44-24 loss to the Denver Broncos on Sunday. "Frustrated as well."

This after a 44-22 win over Washington the week before that looked as if it might ignite the Cowboys (3-4-1). Instead, they continued their trend of being streaky. They've yet to win two in a row.

A sign of just how sour things went against the Broncos: Prescott was taken out with just over seven minutes remaining in favor of backup Joe Milton, who threw the only TD pass for the Cowboys. They haven't beaten Denver in 30 years.

"We want to put a streak together and talk about identity, trying to find identity," said Prescott, who fin-

ished 19 of 31 for 188 yards and two interceptions before giving way to Milton. "It's hard to even give you an identity until we put a couple of games together in a row."

The defense struggled once again. The Cowboys have given up 250 points through eight games, the third-most in team history, according to ESPN Research. The only Dallas teams to allow more were in 1960 (272 points) and 2020 (266).

"We had high hopes, because we thought we could come in here and have a big win for us," team owner Jerry Jones said. "That didn't happen. They had everything to do with it. Got to get better."

With the trade deadline coming up, would an acquisition help?

"If I saw a proposition for us to help this team, no matter what this score was today, then I would look at it on the merits," said Jones, who's also Dallas' general manager.

It certainly panned out for the Cowboys in 2018, when they traded for receiver Amari Cooper. They turned a 3-4 start into a 7-2 finish that earned them a

playoff berth.

"I trust and I like the guys that we have," Prescott said. "I honestly do, and that's not just a political answer or whatever it is."

"I just echo to those people or to the guys in locker room, forget a trade. Do more. Shut that talk up. Whether it be offense, whether it be defense, whatever position group that you guys are alluding to, step up and shut the talk up."

Prescott had another take.

"We've got to find a way to be consistent, whether it's at home, on the road, regardless. We're too good," said Prescott, whose team committed nine penalties for 80 yards. "We've got too many good players. We've got great coaches. Jadeveon (Clowney) was just saying in the locker room this roster should not be going up and down like we're doing."

"We've just got to look in the mirror."

For Prescott, it was those two interceptions — one at the end of the first half with the Cowboys on the move and another in Denver territory in the fourth quarter.

Cowboys coach Brian

Schottenheimer didn't think it was all a matter of Prescott pressing.

"It was one of those deals where it was hard to get into a rhythm a little bit," Schottenheimer said. "At the end of the day, Dak has done a great job of trying to just say, 'Each play is its own.'"

It was a bittersweet homecoming for running back Javonte Williams, who scored a pair of touchdowns against his former team but was largely bottled up along with the rest of Dallas' offense.

"It turned out the way it did," Williams said. "We have to execute better."

Jones felt the same way.

"We all saw the same thing out there," Jones said. "We've got a lot of work to do."

Bo Nix guided a Broncos offense that gained 426 yards against the beleaguered Cowboys defense. Jones danced around the topic of whether he's lost any confidence in defensive coordinator Matt Eberflus.

"I've seen him take players and units, and they improve and get better as he coaches, and I've seen it more than once," Jones said. "He's a good coach."

wield substantial power. They will preside over one of North Texas' biggest school districts — around 135 campuses — and their responsibilities will range from deciding how to spend the district's \$1 billion budget to hiring the directors who will lead day-to-day operations such as bus transportation and campus maintenance.

The district has been on the upswing academically in the last two years. But TEA, under state law, can take over a school district when a school receives a failing grade on the state agency's A-F accountability rating system for five consecutive years, and Leadership Academy at Forest Oak Sixth Grade received its fifth F in 2023.

The ratings, which were recently unveiled, had been held back because several school districts had sued to block their release. But long before the sixth-grade campus reached the threshold for a takeover, conversations of state intervention in Fort Worth had swirled around the community.

In 2008, Meadowbrook Middle School, a campus composed of around 60% Hispanic students and 35% Black students, had missed federal academic standards for years, which nearly led to a state takeover under the now-defunct No Child Left Behind Act.

In the years that followed, the district averted two other threats of an intervention. John T. White

and Maude Logan elementarys endured a streak of failing grades and nearly met the takeover threshold before seeing improved scores.

Leadership Academy at Forest Oak Sixth Grade, which the district shuttered after the 2023-24 school year, was located in Glencrest, a largely Black and Hispanic neighborhood with a median household income far below the national average. The campus, which drew in refugee and immigrant newcomers, struggled with academic performance for years.

"There has to be ownership for that," Fort Worth ISD Superintendent Karen Molinar said in a recent interview with The Texas Tribune. "It's not about a physical building or a statute. The kids were on a campus that was continuously underperforming, and we allowed it for multiple years."

The campus was one of the Fort Worth district's lowest-performing, though the struggle to lift students up to state standards has affected the entire district. In 2023, 44% of Fort Worth ISD students could read on grade level. That year, all grade levels with the exception of sixth grade saw reading scores dip.

Continue State
November 6.

This article first appeared on The Texas Tribune.

Continued State Page 1

Continued Wealth Page 4

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Statepoint Crossword Puzzle

Solution: October 23 - HALLOWEEN



November 4th Constitutional Amendment & Joint Elections

Early Voting Schedule

Monday, October 20th – Friday, October 24th

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Saturday, October 25th

7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Sunday, October 26th

12:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Monday, October 27th – Friday, October 31st

7:00 AM – 7:00 PM


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James B. Ewers Jr., Ed.D

We are now in a political tug of war. Politicians on both sides are arm wrestling with America's future. We are zigging and zagging with no direction.

Politics is at the center of a battle that is now in its 4th week. No one has moved. No one has said, let us get a compromise so that the people can return to a normal way of living.

Growing up, at times, I had some strained friendships. At most, I'd go for a day or so without speaking or playing with a friend. Usually, one of us would apologize, or we would start playing with each other again.

Our friendship was more important than a spat. Being a friend was an important component of my maturation. Having the ability to forgive and to forget is a quality that has remained with me over the years.

Friendship and what's happening with America's shutdown have some interesting similarities. First off, a bipartisan group made up of members from both sides must create a strategy to end the shutdown.

Compromise doesn't mean losing. Decision-makers use compromise as a tool in helping their organizations. It is for the greater good that compromise is used.

Visionary leaders see it as a way to move along their agendas. With compromise, the win may not be immediate, but it opens the door to it. Being deadlocked for extended periods of time only worsens the situation.

These deadlocks and dead ends are where we are today. The greatest country in the world is at an impasse. We are embarrassed and are viewed negatively by some world leaders.

Instead of the federal government paying our military, the new president received a gift of \$130 million to pay them. We will probably never know who provided that gift.

Canada has received another tariff increase from the new president. It hap-

pened because the late American president Ronald Reagan's talk about the negative effects of tariffs was aired on Canadian television.

The late president spoke the truth. Tariffs are harming this country. Prices have risen, and the costs have been passed on to us. However, the new president took offense to the telecast and punished Canada.

You can look at this increased tariff in two ways, according to the critics. First, reports say that both countries were in the middle of some important economic talks. Having President Reagan's talk was not needed.

On the other hand, those in favor of airing the segment say that our administration was being picky and sensitive. Well, the bottom line is that there is an increased tariff for Canada.

Now, as you travel by air, you see travel delays and cancellations. This is because of a shortage of air travel personnel.

We have taken air traffic controllers for granted. This is my opinion. When the airplanes go up and come down, we know that our safety is in their hands.

Well, it is still in their hands, however, their morale is like sinking sands. They have become dismayed and distraught by this shutdown. Reports say that they are taking second jobs and calling off sick. This trend will not change if the government shutdown does not end.

The new president is now in Asia. He is in Malaysia and will be traveling to Japan and South Korea. A meeting is scheduled with Chinese President Xi Jinping while he is in South Korea. A possible trade deal will be discussed.

The new president's travel plans have elicited a response from Senate Minority Leader, Chuck Schumer. He said, "While Americans are struggling to make ends meet, federal workers are going without pay and millions of families are bracing for soaring healthcare costs, America is shut down, and the president is skipping town."

Somewhere in the recesses of elected officials' minds must be ways to reach a compromise and bring a healing to the land." At this moment, we are in a briar patch with no Band-Aids.

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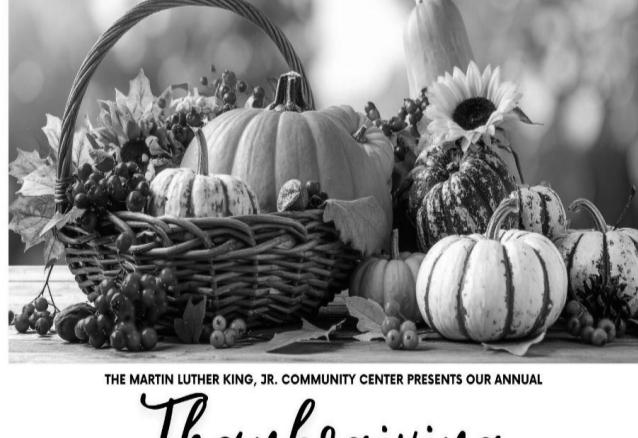
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Dr. John E. Warren

Halloween is once again upon us, with more spending than before pandemic levels. Last year in 2024, Americans spent a total of \$11.6 billion. This year, expenditures by this same group of Americans are projected to reach an all-time record of \$13.1 billion. It is clear that "even with concerns about price increases due to tariffs, Halloween continues to resonate with consumers of all ages," as 73% of consumers are expected to participate, up from 72% in 2024, and 63% in 2023, according to

the National Retail Federation (NRF).

Driving the increase in spending this year is the holidays' popularity amongst millennials and Gen-Z. In addition, data suggest a marked shift back to pre-pandemic activities.

This year consumers are expected to spend \$4.3 billion on costumes; \$3.9 billion on candy; \$4.2 billion for decorations; and \$700 million for greeting cards. This will equate to \$114.45 per individual or families celebrating the occasion, "nearly \$11 more than last year and up from the previous record of \$108.24 in 2023," according to the NRF.

Most people are not aware of the history of Halloween or the fact that the observance was brought to America by the Irish during the Potato Famine of 1840. From about 1930 until Mickey Mouse had a Halloween celebration in the 1950s, it

had been an occasion for pranks or tricks on people if they didn't have treats. Disney's Mickey Mouse Halloween celebration, through animation, was responsible for the growth and takeoff of the celebrations we have today.

But the history is not as much fun as the observance has become. The history is a mixture of the Catholic Church's observance of All Saint's Day and All Souls Day, to be celebrated on November 1st. That date was considered a "Holy" day. The evening before became known as "All Hallow's" Eve. This original celebration dates back more than 2,000 years to the Druids and the time of harvest.

Eventually, the idea surfaced that the spirits of the dead came out the evening before "The Day of the Dead" and sought bodies to inhabit the night before. The idea of the pumpkin was to carve a face and put a candle in

the pumpkin, and the pumpkin being placed in one's window or door. This told passing spirits that the dwelling was already inhabited and, therefore, the spirits would move on to look for another place.

To those of the Catholic faith, in Mexico, the celebration adopted elements of the Aztec culture and was added to the Day of the Dead or "Dia de Muertos," a time honoring those who have passed on. What has now become a three-day celebration is a time for family gatherings for prayers and remembrances of the dead.

The other side of this story is that in many Protestant faiths, Halloween is seen as a Satanic event. The celebration of witches and demons is forbidden in the Bible.

The conclusion of the matter is that one should know and understand that which one celebrates.

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EDITORIAL PAGE

Stalemates and Partisanship are Holding America Hostage

By James B. Ewers Jr., Ed.

The Dallas National College Fair is scheduled for Sunday, November 2, 2025, at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center.

Time: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

The US Department of Education has identified 107 (three are currently closed) Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the United States.

These institutions were established during the era of racial segregation to offer educational opportunities for African American students.

Below is an alphabetical list of HBCUs by State for your convenience.

Alabama

Alabama A&M University- Huntsville
 Alabama State University- Montgomery
 Bishop State Community College - Mobile
 Concordia University-Alabama- Selma (closed 2018)
 Gadsden State College- Gadsden
 J.F. Drake State Technical College- Huntsville
 Lawson State Community College- Birmingham
 Miles College- Fairfield
 Miles School of Law- Fairfield *
 Oakwood University- Huntsville
 Selma University- Selma
 Shelton State Community College- Tuscaloosa
 Stillman College- Tuscaloosa
 Talladega College- Talladega
 Tuskegee University- Tuskegee
 H. Councill Trenholm State Community College- Montgomery

Arkansas

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff- Pine Bluff
 Arkansas Baptist College- Little Rock
 Philander Smith College- Little Rock
 Shorter College- North Little Rock

Delaware

Delaware State University- Dover

District of Columbia

University of the District of Columbia
 Howard University

Florida

Bethune Cookman University- Daytona Beach
 Edward Waters University- Jacksonville
 Florida A&M University- Tallahassee
 Florida Memorial University- Miami Gardens

Georgia

Albany State University- Albany
 Carver College*- Atlanta
 Clark Atlanta University- Atlanta
 Fort Valley State University- Fort Valley
 Interdenominational Theological Center- Atlanta
 Johnson C Smith Theological Seminary*- Atlanta
 Morehouse College- Atlanta
 Morehouse School of Medicine- Atlanta
 Morris Brown College- Atlanta
 Paine College- Augusta
 Savannah State University- Savannah
 Spelman College- Atlanta

Kentucky

Kentucky State University- Frankfort
 Simmons College of Kentucky- Louisville

Louisiana

Dillard University-New Orleans
 Grambling State University- Grambling
 Southern University and A&M College- Baton Rouge
 Southern University New Orleans- New Orleans
 Southern University-Shreveport- Shreveport
 Southern University Law Center- Baton Rouge
 Xavier University- New Orleans

Maryland

Bowie State University- Bowie
 Coppin State University- Baltimore
 University of Maryland- Eastern Shore- Princess Anne
 Morgan State University- Baltimore

Michigan

Lewis College of Business- Detroit (Closed 2013)

Mississippi

Alcorn State University- Lorman
 Coahoma Community College- Clarksdale
 Hinds County Community College- Utica
 Jackson State University- Jackson
 Mississippi Valley State University- Itta Bena
 Rust College- Holly Springs
 Tougaloo College- Tougaloo

Missouri

Harris-Stowe State University- St. Louis
 Lincoln University- Jefferson City

North Carolina

Barber-Scotia College**- Concord
 Bennett College- Greensboro
 Elizabeth City State University- Elizabeth City
 Fayetteville State University- Fayetteville
 Hood Theological Seminary*- Salisbury
 Johnson C. Smith University- Charlotte
 Livingstone College- Salisbury
 North Carolina Central University- Durham
 North Carolina A&T State University- Greensboro
 Shaw University- Raleigh
 St. Augustine's University- Raleigh
 Winston-Salem State University- Winston Salem

Ohio

Central State University- Wilberforce
 Payne Theological Seminary*- Wilberforce
 Wilberforce University- Wilberforce

Oklahoma

Langston University- Langston

Pennsylvania

Cheyney University- Cheyney
 The Lincoln University- Lincoln University

South Carolina

Allen University- Columbia
 Benedict College- Columbia
 Claflin University- Orangeburg
 Clinton College- Rock Hill
 Denmark Technical College- Denmark
 Morris College- Sumter
 South Carolina State University- Orangeburg
 Voorhees University- Denmark

Tennessee

American Baptist University- Nashville
 Fisk University- Nashville
 Knoxville College**- Knoxville
 Lane College- Jackson
 LeMoyne Owen College- Memphis
 Meharry Medical College
 Tennessee State University- Nashville

Texas

Huston-Tillotson University- Austin
 Jarvis Christian University- Hawkins
 Paul Quinn College- Dallas
 Prairie View A&M University- Prairie View
 Southwestern Christian College- Terrell
 St. Philip's College- San Antonio
 Texas College- Tyler
 Texas Southern University- Houston
 Wiley University- Marshall

US Virgin Islands

University of the Virgin Islands- St. Thomas & St. Croix

Virginia

Hampton University- Hampton
 Norfolk State University- Norfolk
 Saint Paul's College- Lawrenceville (closed 2013)
 Virginia State University- Petersburg
 Virginia Union University- Richmond
 Virginia University of Lynchburg- Lynchburg

West Virginia

Bluefield State College- Bluefield
 West Virginia State



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