

# “Happy Holidays to our readers.”

~ The Dallas Post Tribune Family



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VOLUME 78 NUMBER 14

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

December 18, 2025 - January 7, 2026

50¢



### UNEMPLOYMENT REPORT



Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA.

### November Jobs Report Shows Rising Unemployment and Worsening Outlook for Black Workers

By Stacy M. Brown

Black Press USA Senior National Correspondent

The U.S. labor market showed further signs of strain in November, with new federal data revealing rising unemployment, steep losses in government jobs, and worsening conditions for Black workers, particularly Black men, according to an analysis of the latest Bureau of Labor Statistics report and a review by the National Women's Law Center.

Employers added 64,000 jobs nationwide in November, a modest gain following months of data disruptions caused by the federal government shutdown. The unemployment rate rose to 4.6 percent, up from 4.4 percent in September, the last month for which a full labor force sur-

vey was completed. The increase places unemployment at its highest level in four years.

Behind the headline figures, federal employment continued to fall sharply. Since January, when Donald Trump returned to office, federal payrolls have declined by 271,000 positions. The November report reveals continued reductions tied to deferred resignation programs and layoffs that accelerated earlier in the fall, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The rise in unemployment has been uneven, with Black workers experiencing some of the most severe impacts. Black men ages 20

### Jasmine Crockett leads James Talarico by 8 points in Senate Democratic primary, new poll finds

Kayla Guo, The Texas Tribune



From left: State Rep. James Talarico, D-Austin, former congressman Beto O'Rourke, and U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett, D-Dallas, watch from the audience at a redistricting rally at Delco Activity Center in Austin on July 25, 2025.

Photo Credit: Ronaldo Bolaños/The Texas Tribune.

U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett leads state Rep. James Talarico by 8 percentage points in the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate, according to a poll released Friday.

The statewide survey, conducted by Texas Southern University from Tuesday through Thursday, found that 51% of likely

Democratic voters planned to support Crockett in the March primary and 43% intended to vote for Talarico, with 6% of voters unsure.

The poll, which fielded 1,600 likely Democratic primary voters, is the first public survey conducted and released since Crockett jumped into the race — and former U.S. Rep. Colin All-

red dropped out — on Monday, the candidate filing deadline. Crockett said she entered the race after seeing polling that showed she could win the general election in November regardless of who the Republican nominee might be, though she has not released those numbers.

The Dallas congress-

woman, who has made a national name for herself as a fiery and quick-witted fighter against Republicans, has argued that she is the best candidate to turn out Texans who lean blue but tend not to vote. Talarico, a progressive aspiring Presbyterian minister, mean-

Continue Poll Page 5



Photo Courtesy: Fred Redmond/NNPA Site

### The Voting Rights Act Is Under Threat So Are Workers' Rights

By Fred Redmond

In our workplaces, in our communities and in our government, the right to vote is how working people make our voices heard. The late Rep. John Lewis (Georgia) proclaimed, “Your vote is precious, almost sacred.” The Supreme Court’s recent decision allowing Texas to

use a racially discriminatory congressional map threatens that precious right once again—and with it, the foundation of worker power itself.

A challenge out of Louisiana may soon make matters worse, threatening to further limit the strength

of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965—the nation’s most powerful tool for correcting historical racial discrimination in voting, including the violence and suppression once used to keep Black voters from the polls.

The VRA was brought to

life by courageous civil rights and labor leaders who risked everything to end racial discrimination at the ballot box. The law transformed American democracy by dramatically increasing Black political power.

Continue Rights Page 3

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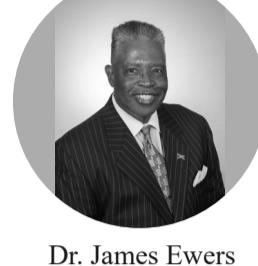
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Dr. James Ewers

America, this is not a dream. The economy has nosedived. We are on the floor below the basement. Buying has become trying. Selling is at a standstill.

"Can't find any work, can't find any job, my friend. Money is tighter than it's ever been. Say, man, I just don't understand what's going on across this land," are lyrics sung by iconic singer Marvin Gaye in 1971.

That's many years ago, and much has changed in this country.

While these lyrics were written some years back, they have relevance to many people today. The economy is a painful reality to many Americans. Affordability has become an issue, and it is not going away.

Several months have passed since the new administration began talking about the cost of living. Their constant refrain was that the

economic forecast was good and all was right with America. We, the people, saw a different picture when we went to the store. In other words, their talk didn't match our walk.

Most recently, the new president was in Pennsylvania, telling the folks the economy is in good shape. Critics and those who know about these matters disagree with his assertions. A recent Gallup poll says that 62% disapprove of his handling of the economy.

Noted scholar, Dr. Cornel West, said recently on CNN that the president is out of touch with everyday Americans.

It's clear the new administration is struggling with its message. The economy is listless, so now the Federal Reserve has cut interest rates a quarter point.

Chairman Jerome Powell suggests "that the Fed is well-positioned to wait for more data, noting cooling labor markets and tariff-driven inflation, with no immediate rate hikes expected, while balancing risks to both inflation and employment, though facing internal disagreements."

If you are a potential

home buyer, this cut may help you. Danielle Hale, chief economist at Realtor.com, said, "I expect to see home sales in 2026 move more convincingly up from their 30-year lows."

According to Real Estate News, Ruben Gonzalez, chief economist at Keller Williams, is quoted as saying, "2026 will be a transitional year with home sales ticking up in a high inventory environment across most of the U.S."

Christmas purchases will become more difficult. Goods that were cost-effective in past years will be more expensive this year. That is simply a fact of life.

Another problem on our radar screen is healthcare. This year is coming to an end in a few weeks and so will the healthcare subsidies for many Americans. The Affordable Care Act is being debated by our elected leaders.

There have been several proposals floated in both legislative chambers about the future of healthcare in this country. All have failed so we are now in a state of healthcare limbo. More than 20 million Americans

will be affected. That doesn't have to be if legislators would act for the people instead of acting against the people.

It is my opinion that the next few days to a week will be a tipping point for this healthcare crisis. At the end of the pharmacy counter is the question about what the future of healthcare will be in the United States of America.

The economy and healthcare are problems with solutions not readily available at this moment. It must change. America is too great a country to be in this predicament. We are being held hostage by these circumstances.

There has not been this level of vitriol between the political parties in many years. Now, it is just commonplace. Frustration and fatigue are words to describe how we feel about what is happening in Washington, DC. We are weary of the meanness and tired of the malcontent between the Democrats and the Republicans.

There will be no solutions until this atmosphere of animosity turns into an environment of amicability.

# EDITORIAL PAGE

## We Are Wide Awake And Not Dreaming In This Economic Nightmare

By James B. Ewers Jr., Ed.

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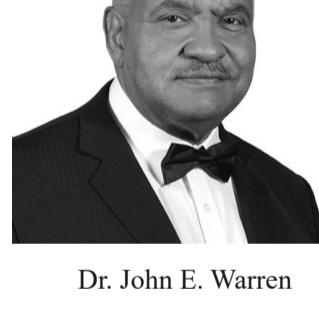
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## Publisher's Christmas Message

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



Dr. John E. Warren

We at the San Diego Voice & Viewpoint would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere desire for God's blessings upon you and your families. It is also a time to remind each of us why we have and celebrate Christmas.

This country, and most of our lives, were founded upon Christian principles that are at the very essence of this season. The fact that those of different faiths are allowed to exercise their religious beliefs does not negate that which many of us profess. Neither do we require others to acknowledge or share in our beliefs. This is the beauty of the Freedom of Religion Clause in our Constitution. But the differences in faith do not stop the Spirit of Christmas and here is the

reason why.

The Gospel of John, recorded in the Bible at 3:16, states that: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." The operative word is "gave". It is the gift of Jesus that is responsible for the desire we all have to "give" gifts. It is because that with the gift of Jesus to mankind came the Spirit of giving which is released each time we celebrate His birth. The angel of the Lord that appeared to the shepherds that night over Bethlehem made a pronouncement that we still feel each Christmas. The angel said: "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, goodwill toward men."

Consider that Christmas is the only time in the year that just about everything shuts down; it is the one time of the year that we see an outpouring of kindness not seen at any other time. That kindness is the "goodwill" toward men that the angel spoke of. It was that which the angels spoke of that caused what is called

the Christmas Truce of December 24, 1914. It occurred when soldiers in the muddy trenches on the Western Front of World War I put down their weapons on both sides, stepped out of trenches, met each other face to face and sang Christmas songs because both sides missed being away from their families. In some areas the truce persisted until after New Year's Day.

That same Spirit of Peace continues to settle on each Christmas season as God honors our recognition of the birth of His Son.

There are still so many without food or shelter, especially this Christmas season with major wars underway and a people by the thousands seeking shelter and refuge in our land; those without the basic necessities and comfort. So many are knocking at our doors and so many of us are responding in every way possible. This is a time for us to be thankful for what we do have as opposed to complaining about what we want or don't have. To many, the stable at Bethlehem would be a welcomed shelter as compared to the

streets on which they sleep. For many of our families there are personal problems, an empty chair at a table because of a missing loved one, but we are still blessed and should find comfort in helping others through this dark time in their lives.

While many of us do not have the shelter, food or comforts that so many others have, yet we are blessed with health or family or the meeting of our basic needs, if not our wants. Let us remember those who lost so much during the recent storms. Let us seek ways to be of help to others and, by doing so, help ourselves.

We give thanks for those among us seeking to help and feed and shelter so many others. Let us commit to seeking what each of us can do to make a difference in the lives of others, and by doing so, participate in the gift that keeps on giving. May God bless and keep you, regardless of your circumstances. Let us offer up prayers of praise and thanksgiving and sing glory to God in the Highest as well as peace on earth and goodwill toward all men.

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# RELIGIOUS/NEWS

## Christians Called to Serve and Suffer in this Present Age

I Peter 4:1-6



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

Peter, the writer of this grand epistle, addresses dispersed believers scattered throughout five provinces in Asia Minor (I Peter 1:1). His epistle reveals clearly that these believers were suffering severely for their faith. Peter addresses the problem of suffering, but he wanted the believers to focus on the spiritual privileges that they had in Jesus Christ. Peter offers or presents to these believers a theological foundation or base for encouragement in the midst of persecution. In the midst of suffering severely under Emperor Nero, Peter draws attention to the believers' election and sanctification by God, praising God for the new birth or spiritual life that carries with it a lively hope because of the fact that they are serving a living Saviour.

In I Peter 3:15, Peter enjoined these believers to sanctify the Lord God in their hearts. As believers, we "sanctify the Lord God in our hearts" by acknowledging His Supreme Lordship in our lives! Brothers and sisters, we must set Him apart as Lord of our lives. In the midst of suffering unjustly in this dismal and decadent world, we must concentrate on Him instead of on our circumstances. As believers, we are called upon to suffer as we serve the Lord in this present age. We are definitely not exempted from suffering, for Jesus said: "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

Yes, as Christians, we are indeed called upon to suffer as we serve the Lord. Ho-

wever, we must be awfully sure that we are suffering for righteousness' sake and not because of some wrongdoing on our part! As we undergo suffering in this godless age, Peter directs our attention to embracing a biblical perspective to our suffering as the basis for encouragement amidst suffering.

I Peter 4:1-6 may be outlined as follows: I. Recalling Christ's Supreme Example of Suffering – I Peter 4:1; II. Renouncing the Former Lifestyle of Sin – I Peter 4:2-6.

### I. Recalling Christ's Supreme Example of Suffering – I Peter 4:1

Jesus' supreme example of righteous suffering stands as a permanent encouragement to persecuted believers. Christ, who suffered supremely for our sins, bore an exceedingly heavy load as indicated by the plural term "sins" (I Peter 3:18). He served as our substitutionary sacrifice as expressed by the phrase – "the Just for the unjust." His morally impeccable life was given for our unjust and despicable lives!

In our pre-salvatic condition, we were unacceptable to God apart from identification with Him! His mediatorial work and our acceptance of Him served as the basis of our acceptance by God. He died that we might be reconciled to God. The expression – He was "put to death in the flesh" refers to Jesus' humanity. However, through the agency of the Holy Spirit, Christ was raised!

In I Peter 4:1, Christ gained a victory over evil by suffering in the flesh. As a result of Christ's victory over evil, we are ex-

horted to arm ourselves with the same courageous attitude or mindset of Christ regarding suffering. As we arm ourselves with Christ's attitude regarding suffering, we are sharing in His suffering and death. Christ suffered in His body and we also suffer in our bodies.

As we identify with Christ's suffering, we demonstrate our break with the dominion of sin in our lives. Because of Christ's death, we should no longer be slaves to sin, because we have died to sin and have been freed from sin (Romans 6:6-7). By the grace of God, we are able to victoriously break the old pattern of a sin-dominated life.

Having discussed "Recalling Christ's Supreme Example of Suffering – I Peter 4:1, let us now observe "Renouncing the Former Lifestyle of Sin – I Peter 4:2-6.

### II. Renouncing the Former Lifestyle of Sin – I Peter 4:2-6

As believers, having adapted Christ's mindset, we must reckon ourselves dead to sin. We must live our lives not for evil desires, but rather for the will of God (v. 2). We are to live for the present in God's will because old habits are a thing of the past. Peter stressed that there must be a definite break from the lifestyle of sin; breaking away from such sins of the past, such as debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and idolatry.

In verse 4, the sinful lifestyle of the past should not characterize the lifestyle of believers who should be living in the present

for the will of God. The ones who used to be our acquaintances in the world are surprised by our changed lives. A changed life provokes hostility from those who reject the gospel. Verse 5 informs us that those who have spent their lives in indulgence and idolatry will someday give account; they will face a willing Judge! Christ will judge both the living and the dead.

Finally, in verse 6, because everybody must give an account to God, the gospel was preached even to those now dead. This verse refers to believers who have died physically but are alive in God in the spirit. They were judged by the world when they were here; however, they heard the gospel before they died and believed. They suffered and died because of their faith – but they are living with God!

In closing, even death, a great tyrant of mankind, cannot nullify the eternal security that we have in Jesus Christ. Because of Christ's supreme victory over sin, death, and the grave, Paul taunts death and thanks God for the victory we have in Christ, for I Corinthians 15:55-58 says: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

*May God Bless!*

Continued Rights Page 1

expanding representation at every level of government and giving working people a real chance to shape the decisions that affect their lives.

This fight is part of the labor movement's history too. In 1963, labor leaders were key architects of the

March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, and labor unions mobilized 40,000 union members and provided resources. We offered critical lobbying support and testimony in support of the Civil Rights Act and the VRA—the passage of which in 1965 led to the filing of thousands of successful cases against workplace dis-

crimination and eliminated many of the racist voting restrictions in the South. When Black voter turnout surged, so did worker power, especially in the South, where the VRA helped create a diverse coalition of working-class voters.

According to research from the University of Califor-

fornia San Diego, the VRA narrowed the wage gap between Black and White workers by 5.5% between 1950 and 1980. Another study found that high-turnout communities saw more paved roads and streetlights; better access to city and county resources; and easier entry into public sector jobs such as police, firefighters and teachers.

The lesson is clear: A strong democracy gives working people space to thrive. When democracy is weakened, workers pay the price.

In 2013, the Supreme Court issued its *Shelby County v. Holder* decision and gutted the VRA, ruling that states with histories of

racial discrimination no longer needed federal approval to change voting laws. Almost immediately, a race to the bottom began. States wasted no time closing polling places, shortening early voting hours and passing restrictive ID laws. The targets were clear:

*Continue Rights Page 4*

### ~ YEAR-IN-REVIEW ~

(Solution will appear in January 8 edition)

ACROSS	
1. W.E.B Du Bois' org.	
6. Rascal	
9. Ho-hum	
13. "Pomp and Circumstance" composer	
14. Tropical constrictor	
15. Forgo	
16. Tequila source	
17. + or - atom	
18. Reason by deduction	
19. *Trade war "weapon," pl.	
21. *2025 MLB World Series winners	
23. ___-tzu	
24. C&H crop	
25. Dunce	
28. Western necktie	
30. Catch in a snare	
35. Ginger cookie	
37. Master of his castle	
39. Use a razor	
40. British slang for donkey	
41. Arch and ball locations	
43. Winglike	
44. March celebrants	
46. *Arthur Sze, 2025 ___ Laureate	
47. Dam-like structure	
48. *Beyoncé's "Cowboy ___," 2025 Grammy winner	
50. King Kong and Curious George, e.g.	
52. Like a fox	
53. What Pinocchio did	
55. *Florida Panthers won this org.'s '25 championship	
57. *"Wicked: ___"	
61. *Late environmentalist and chimpanzee expert	
65. German submarine destroyer	
66. *2025 Ryder Cup loser	
68. Manuscript sheet	
69. Brazilian coins	
70. Roll-your-own one, for short	
71. To the left, on a boat	
72. Orpheus' instrument	
73. Geological time period	
74. They are cut by Federal Reserve	

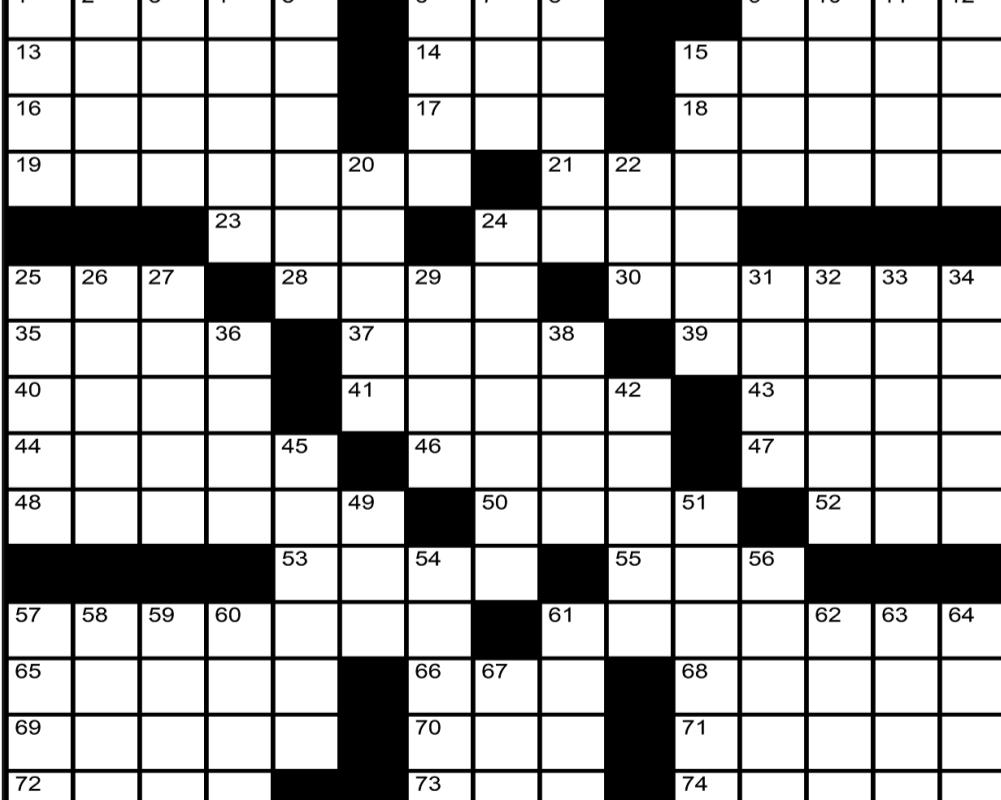
### DOWN

- 1. At room temperature, bar order
- 2. Algae, sing.
- 3. Petri dish filler
- 4. Raise trivial objections
- 5. Ready to be assembled
- 6. Avian wader
- 7. Farm sound
- 8. China's goodwill "\_\_\_ diplomacy"
- 9. Collision, onomatopoeically speaking
- 10. \*Taylor Swift's "The \_\_\_ of a Showgirl"
- 11. Affirm solemnly
- 12. Third-person possessive pronoun
- 15. Makes broader
- 20. Why do they fall in love?
- 22. \*Aryna Sabalenka's seed
- 24. Auto contents
- 25. Pertaining to osmium
- 26. \*2025 Academy Awards Best Picture winner
- 27. Faquir, alt.spelling
- 29. Pilot's stunt
- 31. Spring event
- 32. Pneumonia symptom, pl.
- 33. Be of use
- 34. \*Blue Origin's 2025 singing passenger
- 36. Boll weevil, e.g.
- 38. \*\_\_\_ Seek
- 42. Shorthand typist, for short
- 45. Serfs
- 49. 2016 Olympics host, for short
- 51. Ram's horn at a synagogue
- 54. Draw a conclusion
- 56. Parkinson's disease drug
- 57. Roll up
- 58. Heed
- 59. Lion sound
- 60. Dorothy's last name
- 61. \*Lady of "The Mayhem Ball"
- 62. Tons (2 words)
- 63. Lira, pl.
- 64. Land parcels
- 67. \*Gary Oldman received this honorific in 2025

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Theme: YEAR-IN-REVIEW

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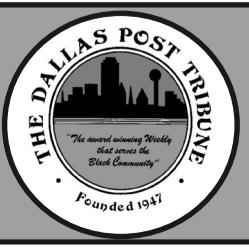
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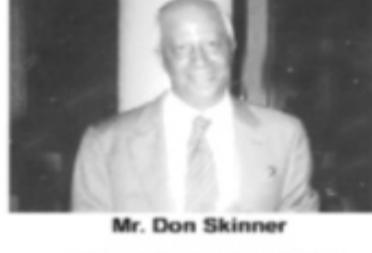
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FindHelp is especially useful during times when some benefits or public services may be delayed or harder to access. It's a simple, private way to explore other options and stay connected to support in your community.

Here are just a few ways FindHelp can assist you:

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- Search for job training and employment support
- Discover mental health and wellness resources

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## NEWS

Continued Rights Page 3

young people, shift workers and communities of color—the same groups driving today's organizing momentum. In the years since Shelby, wages for Black teachers, city workers and health care aides have fallen, while corporate power has only grown stronger.

The Texas congressional map offers a glimpse of a future without the VRA: diluted working-class voices in a system that answers only to the wealthy few. These attempts to roll back the clock on racial progress should sound an alarm. When politicians get a green light to manipulate voting maps and take intentional steps to block representation on the basis of race, they can use that power to dismantle protections for union power, fair wages and retirement security.

Democracy depends on rules that keep it fair. Those in power understand this—and some are working overtime to erase the rules entirely. But America's unions have never accepted a world where working people are silenced. We fought for the Voting Rights Act because this movement knows our fight for fair pay, safe jobs and dignity at work is the same fight as the struggle for the ballot box.

Workers built this democracy, and we will defend it. We will continue to push Congress to do its job and pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to fully restore and permanently protect voting rights and ensure access to free and fair elections.

Voting rights are a labor issue—because when democracy breaks down, worker power breaks down with it.

## JOB POSTING



Ed Bell Construction Company

An Equal Opportunity Employer

December 1, 2025

Ed Bell Construction is a Dallas based heavy highway contractor doing business in the North Texas market since 1963. With clients such as TxDOT, Dallas County Public Works, and the Cities of Dallas, Fort Worth, Richardson, and Mansfield (plus many others), we have a strong backlog of work in the highway market locally.

We are currently hiring for the following positions:

- Mechanic (Shop)
- Laborer (Earthwork)
- Form Setter (Structures)
- Dozer Operator (Earthwork)
- Roller Operator (Earthwork)
- Mixer Operator (Earthwork)
- Finisher (Structures, Paving)
- Loader Operator (Earthwork)
- Excavator Operator (Earthwork)
- Slipform Machine Operator (Paving)
- Motor Grader Operator (Earthwork)
- CDL Drivers (Haul Truck, End Dump)
- Off Road Hauler Operator (Earthwork)
- Barricade Servicer (Must have valid DL)

Available: multiple openings

Rate: Negotiable

Must have own transportation.

Years of Experience required will vary, from 6 months to 2 years (depending on position)

Physical and Drug Screen Required

Must have a Clear Background

Must be at least 18 years old (CDL Driver, 21 yrs.)

Must **APPLY IN PERSON** at 10605 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas, TX 75220 from 7am-11am Mon-Fri.

Please visit our website: [www.edbellconstruction.com/careers](http://www.edbellconstruction.com/careers)

Or email your resume to: [careers@edbellconstruction.com](mailto:careers@edbellconstruction.com)

## Quinn Minute

# Holiday traditions

By Rix Quinn

One of my favorite stories is "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. How many other tales feature a miser, four ghosts, tombstones, and a goose?

Actually, before I read this story, I thought it was about somebody named Carol. I once had a girlfriend I called Christmas Carol, because we broke up every December.

But if you haven't read this fantastic Dickens classic, here's a brief synopsis:

Ebenezer Scrooge is a crochety old geezer working Christmas Eve with his

clerk Bob Cratchit. When his nephew Fred invites him to Christmas dinner, Scrooge says it's a waste of a workday and tells the nephew to leave.

But when Scrooge gets home that night, he's visited by the ghost of his deceased partner, Jacob Marley, who also lived a selfish life. He warns Scrooge that he'll soon be visited by three ghosts who might be able to save him.

The Ghost of Christmas Past reminds Scrooge he could have married if he had not chosen money over matrimony. The

Ghost of Christmas Present transports Scrooge to the Cratchit household, where he sees a happy family enjoying the evening. (Sadly, they couldn't watch television, because 18th-century TV offered few channels.)

Next, the scary Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come takes Scrooge to a graveyard, where he views his gravestone and hears negative comments about himself from acquaintances.

Christmas morning finds Scrooge a changed man, who helps Cratchit

and suddenly becomes friendly and generous.

This story reminds us that (1) a selfish life is a sad one, (2) it's impossible to find Christmas movies on a 200-year-old TV, and (3) giving money away brings a happier day.

Turn major moments of your life into compelling, easy-to-write stories. This method blends memoir writing with the structure of flash fiction and the drama of a stage play.

Please check it out by going to this link: [SIMPLE SCENES](http://SIMPLE SCENES)

Recognizing #BLACK EXCELLENCE for 78 Years



# SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

## 7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Dec. 18

Friday, Dec. 19

Saturday, Dec. 20

Sunday, Dec. 21

Monday, Dec. 22

Tuesday, Dec. 23

Wednesday, Dec. 24



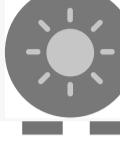
H - 64°

L - 51°



H - 61°

L - 49°



H - 74°

L - 55°



H - 74°

L - 49°



H - 65°

L - 57°



H - 72°

L - 60°



H - 71°

L - 60°

## Prescott says Cowboys have to stick to business with playoff hopes all but gone

By SCHUYLER DIXON AP Pro Football Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Dak Prescott stared blankly for several seconds when the star quarterback was asked what the goal would be for the Dallas Cowboys over the final three games with their playoff hopes all but gone.

The long pause said it all after a Minnesota team that was eliminated from post-season contention before kickoff Sunday night put Prescott's crew in basically the same place with a 34-26 victory.

Dallas (6-7-1) might be eliminated before playing its next game Sunday against the Los Angeles Chargers (10-4). NFC East rival Philadelphia (9-5), the defending Super Bowl champion, likely will finish off the Cowboys by beating four-win Washington on Saturday.

"You're a professional football player," Prescott said, still searching for the words. "You have to come to work and give your absolute best, regardless. I know for a lot of guys, it's just the business of the world, right? That's interviews for

some people. You can't just give up. You can't just stop. You can't just say, 'Oh, we're not going to playoffs.'"

A three-game November winning streak gave the Cowboys hope during a trying season that started with the trade of star pass rusher Micah Parsons to Green Bay a week before the opener at the Eagles, and was jarred midseason when 24-year-old defensive end Marshawn Kneeland died of an apparent suicide.

The surge started after an eventful open week that included Kneeland's death and a trade that brought standout defensive tackle Quinnen Williams from the New York Jets, a move that sparked a struggling defense.

Those struggles are back — the winning streak ended with a 44-30 loss at Detroit — and the personnel questions that surround the defense grow larger now without a playoff spot on the line.

"I told them: 'Hey, we're not changing. We're not changing who we are,'"

first-year coach Brian Schottenheimer said. "We knew that we're guaranteed 17 games and I'm not going to wake up any different tomorrow. I'm frustrated that we didn't find a way to get this game done. I'm frustrated that we were that poor on third down. We're better than that. I'm better than that."

The Cowboys made three consecutive playoff trips with 12-5 records under Mike McCarthy from 2021-23, but that run ended along with his contract and last season's 7-10 finish. The sides couldn't agree on his return, which led to Schottenheimer.

Now Dallas is at risk of consecutive losing records for the first time since all three of former coach Dave Campo's seasons (2000-02) ended at 5-11. Following the visit from the likely playoff-bound Chargers, the Cowboys finish with road games against the Commanders and the New York Giants, both teams below them in the NFC East.

"I don't know that you

accept it, but I sure am going to live with it," owner Jerry Jones said. "I really thought we'd come out of here with a win, so I'm very disappointed. But I thought that we would play better against Detroit, too, so when I look back at both games, this is a letdown."

### What's working

RB Javonte Williams last week clinched his first 1,000-yard season in his fifth year. He followed that up with one of his most efficient games, rushing for 91 yards on 15 carries (6.1 yards per carry). And that was after missing most of the first half with a shoulder injury. His 1-yard plunge was his 10th rushing touchdown of the season.

### What needs help

Minnesota's blitzing defense gave Dallas fits on third down. The Cowboys were 2 of 12, and Prescott went without a touchdown pass for just the third time this season. The two sacks didn't really illustrate how much pressure he faced.

Stock up

The Cowboys were much better returning and covering kickoffs than they were in the loss to the Lions, when breakdowns by the coverage unit made it difficult to try to rally in the fourth quarter. Minnesota's average field position after kickoffs was its 28-yard line.

### Stock down

CB Trevon Diggs might have played his last game for the Cowboys in Week 6. He sustained a concussion in an accident at home the next week and hasn't made it off injured reserve. The Cowboys say knee issues are keeping him off the field now. If he's not activated before the game against the Chargers, Diggs' season will be over. He's a prime candidate to get released in a cost-cutting move during the off-season.

### Injuries

Standout DT Quinnen Williams will be the biggest question of the week after sustaining a concussion against the Vikings. ...

If LT Tyler Guyton can't return from an ankle injury that has sidelined him for three games, Dallas might have to stick with a third option at his position. Nate Thomas injured a shoulder, and Hakeem Adeniji was called for holding soon after replacing him. The penalty helped cut short a drive with Dallas down eight in the fourth quarter. The drive ended on downs.

### Key number

2 — Missed field goals by Brandon Aubrey, the first time he has missed more than one at home in his three seasons. Both were from 50-plus yards, as were the only other two misses he had this season. The 59-yard attempt would have given Dallas a lead in the fourth quarter. Instead, the miss gave the Vikings a short field and led to a touchdown.

### Next steps

The Chargers have won three in a row at the Cowboys, most recently in 2017, the year the franchise moved to LA.

- Continued Page 1 -

### November Jobs Report Shows Rising Unemployment

and older recorded an unemployment rate of 7.1 percent in November, slightly lower than September's 7.5 percent but still higher than any other racial or ethnic group.

Long-term unemployment has also become more pronounced for Black workers. Black women who are unemployed are typically out of work for 14.5

weeks, while Black men face average unemployment spells of 12.1 weeks. By comparison, white women experience unemployment lasting about 8.6 weeks, and white men about 9.6 weeks, according to the National Women's Law Center's review of federal labor data.

The November report shows that overall job

growth remains concentrated in a narrow set of sectors. Healthcare added more than 46,000 jobs, while construction employment rose by 28,000. Manufacturing lost 5,000 jobs, and transportation and warehousing shed nearly 18,000 positions. Leisure and hospitality also declined, reflecting broader weakness outside a handful of growth

industries.

Federal officials cautioned that November's data carries higher-than-usual margins of error due to the shutdown-related survey delays. Even so, economists reviewing the report noted that revisions to late summer and early fall payrolls showed fewer jobs than initially reported, reinforcing signs of a cooling

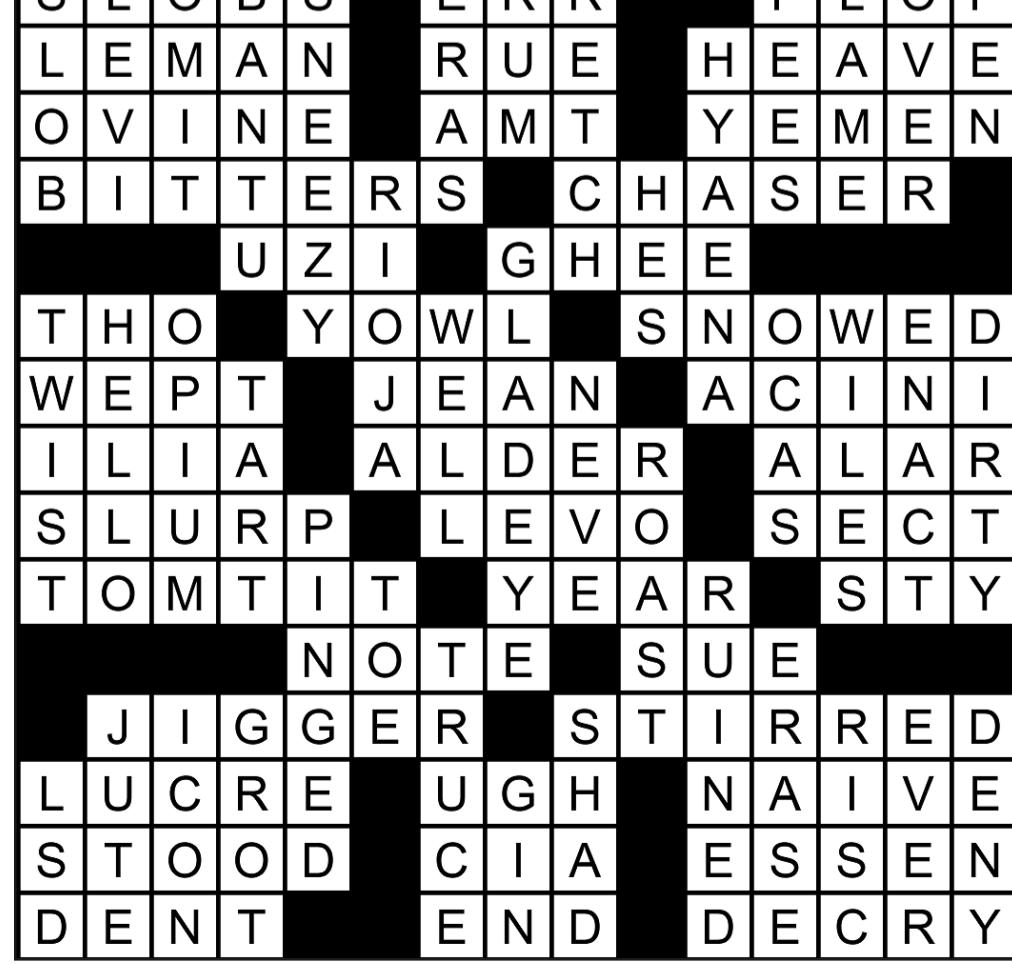
labor market.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the number of people unemployed for more than six months rose to 1.9 million in November, up from 1.7 million a year earlier. Wage growth slowed to 3.5 percent over the past year, the weakest pace since before the pandemic, adding pressure on households facing

elevated prices and limited job mobility.

The National Women's Law Center said it will continue monitoring labor market data by race, gender, and industry to assess how job losses and prolonged unemployment affect women and families as federal employment contracts and hiring remains subdued.

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle  
Solution: December 11 - AT A BAR



- Continued Page 1 -  
Jasmine Crockett leads Jame Talarico

while, has focused his campaign more on building a broader coalition and winning support from infrequent voters, in addition to more moderate or right-leaning Texans.

According to the Texas Southern poll, Crockett's lead was built on her overwhelming support from Black voters, with 89% planning to support her and just 8% behind Talarico. At the same time, almost half of all Black voters — 47% — said they didn't know enough about Talarico.

Talarico managed to keep Crockett's margin to single digits by maintaining higher support among white and Latino voters, holding double-digit leads among those groups over Crockett.

Talarico, 36, also had a 29-point lead over Crockett, 44, among young people between the ages of 18 and

34, while Crockett led the Austin state representative by 25 points among voters over the age of 55.

Crockett had almost universal name recognition among likely primary voters — 94% — while Talarico's name identification came in lower, at 79%.

In a statement, Talarico's campaign argued that the poll showed the Austin Democrat was in a strong position to win.

"This is a single-digit race before any money has been spent," a Talarico spokesperson said. "Polling consistently shows that the more people get to know James, the more they support him. As voters hear his message of taking on the

billionaire mega-donors and their puppet politicians, James will earn their support and win."

Crockett's campaign,

meanwhile, argued that the survey confirmed she was in the "best position to mobilize voters who've been overlooked, ignored and excluded."

"Getting those voters to show up and make their voices heard is the only way for a Democrat to win in Texas," a Crockett spokesperson said in a statement. "I'm honored to have the support of a wide cross-section of voters and I will keep working to grow this winning coalition, to bring people into the process, and uplift every voice."

This article first appeared on The Texas Tribune.

[link](https://www.texastribune.org/2025/12/12/texas-senate-democratic-primary-poll-jasmine-crockett-james-talarico/)

# Remembering the Life and Legacy of Sharon Laverne Gray (Jones)



Sharon Laverne Gray (Jones)  
June 5, 1945 – November 11, 2025

Sharon LaVerne Gray (Jones) was born on June 5, 1945, in Dallas, Texas, as the eldest of three daughters to Johnnie B. and Opal Dorothy Williams Jones. From the earliest years, Sharon exhibited the intelligence, strength, poise, and beauty of both of her parents. She attended K.B. Polk Elementary School and was an honor student at Lincoln High School, where she thrived as a student leader. Sharon was a member of the Thespians and the Creative Hands Service Club, was the Company Queen of the National Defense Cadet Corps, the student director for the Harry T. Burleigh Choir, and a Miss Lincoln finalist.

Sharon then matriculated at Texas Woman's University

(TWU), where she continued to excel. She was the first-place winner of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Oratorical Contest and the first African American selected as a student officer, serving as the Vice President of her freshman class. She was extremely active throughout her college years, volunteering for the Tuberculosis Mobile Unit and serving as a counselor for freshman students. She also continued to excel academically, achieving honors each year. She graduated from Texas Woman's University in 1967 with a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Sociology and Social Work and minoring in Psychology. She then earned a Master of Arts in Sociology the following year, also

from Texas Woman's University. While earning her master's degree, she also worked as a substitute teacher for the Dallas Independent School District.

In 1968, Sharon married her high school sweetheart, Everette E. Gray, and accompanied him, raising their family, throughout his 25-year military career, starting with their first assignment in Ansbach, Germany, where Sharon worked as an Education Counselor.

Upon the young couple's return to the United States, they were assigned to the US Army Advanced Chemical School, where Sharon worked full-time as a Sociology instructor at Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Alabama. A year later, Sharon and Everette welcomed their first child, Sharette Kirsten. Always dedicated to their growing family, Sharon remained in El Paso, Texas, serving as a "waiting wife" and caring for Kirsten, who was only two weeks old when Everette deployed for a year to Vietnam. Upon Everette's return, they were assigned to Iowa State University (ISU), where Sharon was an ISU faculty member in the Sociology department, while Everette completed his graduate studies.

During their next assignment in Charlottesville, Virginia, Sharon and Everette were blessed to have two more children, LaGena Kerri and Jone Kala. Sha-

ron was an amazing, active mother, raising all three young girls while also working as a Senior Services Social Worker in the Loudoun County Department of Social Services, and keeping the girls involved in Girl Scouts, piano lessons, tennis lessons, and playdates. The young family moved to West Point, New York, in 1979, where Everette taught Physics at the United States Military Academy, and Sharon worked as a Cadet Hostess and Social Activities Coordinator.

Following West Point, the family was assigned to Ft Leavenworth, Kansas; Frankfurt, Germany; Hermiston, Oregon; and then the National Capital Region, and at each new location, Sharon continued to work full-time as a social worker and substance abuse counselor, often serving in leadership roles as a clinical supervisor of the military or local county mental health clinics. Committed to her passion for social work, she continually expanded her expertise in substance abuse and mental health. She developed training modules for other providers and regularly attended and presented at national workshops. She also earned a second Master's degree, a master's in social work, from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1999, while working full-time.

However, the transcendent nature of her achievements is that while

continually working full-time serving others, she first and foremost always gave of herself to serve her family, her priority. She excelled at the formidable task of packing up the home, preparing the children, and ensuring everyone settled into their new environment. With every relocation came the responsibility of signing the girls up for new schools, Girl Scouts, music lessons, dance classes, summer camps, band leadership retreats, and more. Always selflessly committed to Everette and her children, Sharon never missed a single meeting, recital, game, or parents' night. Sharon managed it all, with two beliefs she held dear and that motivated her steps, "Home is where the Army sends you" and "Bloom where you are planted." Sharon cross-stitched these philosophies, and they were prominently displayed as reminders throughout the home, as they also were embedded in her foundation of family.

Sharon was dedicated to serving others and her community in her personal life, as well. Sharon was a 50-year member and a 'Golden Life member' of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, an organization committed to service. As part of Delta Sigma Theta, she assisted with fundraising for scholarship programs as a 'Delta Dear.' She also tutored young students weekly at First Baptist Church of Vienna.

Sharon was also an Associate Member of Jack and Jill of America's Reston Chapter. She was a woman of grace and a friend to all who knew her.

Not surprisingly, Sharon's greatest pride was her role as a dedicated wife and mother. She was the epitome of a military wife, always committed to supporting Everette in his military career, regardless of any challenges, while equally committed to and focused on raising three confident, successful, capable women of character. And, there is no question that she not only succeeded, but excelled, in doing that. Her girls are a testament to her legacy – and the legacy of her commitment (to) and partnership with (her best friend), Everette.

Sharon is preceded in death by her parents, Johnnie B. and Opal Jones; her sister Carolyn Ann Henderson; and her first love, Everette E. Gray.

She is survived by her sister Marilyn Foster, her three daughters, COL (Ret.) (Dr.) Sharette Kirsten Gray (Patrick), CAPT LaGena Kerri Yarbrough, M.B.A., and Jone Kala Bullett, J.D.; two sons-in-law, Robert Patrick and Marcus Bullett; five grandchildren, Benjamin Anderson Patrick, Cameron Gray Yarbrough, Campbell Huang Yarbrough, Amari Kalyn Bullett, and Marcus Johnathan Bullett; and a host of nieces, nephews, and relatives.

## Police officer spreads cheer, one toy at a time

By The Hub

When Dallas ISD police officer Omar Sepulveda decided to bring holiday cheer—and presents—to students with special needs at Dr. L.G. Pinkston Sr. High School, he asked the JROTC cadets to help him organize the drive.

Sepulveda went a step further by incentivizing students to participate through a competition among five different classes to see which would raise the most donations. The winner, he said, would get a pizza party. It worked.

Students brought enough donations for the special education population but also for the children at Children's Medical Center Dallas.

That act of generosity marked the beginning of the Officer Claus Toy Drive.

Teaming up with public safety officer Regina Black, the officers work with the school staff to identify children they suspect might be experiencing financial difficulties. After obtaining approval from their respective school principals, Sepulveda and Black place collection boxes and post flyers around their schools to encourage students and staff to give.

"I've been assigned to multiple schools in Dallas, so every year I just go to the principals of my district and ask them, 'Is it okay if we could give out toys?'" Sepulveda said.

Sepulveda and Black do not limit the drive to a single district. To ensure families elsewhere are reached, they rely on staff members in those areas to act as their

eyes and ears.

"In some areas, you can tell which schools need help. It just depends on where you are," Sepulveda said. "There are some areas where I don't make it myself, so there are different officers in their areas, and they'll tell me, 'Hey, I think this school will need something.' I just say, 'Sure, we've got the toys. Come and get them.'"

Throughout the years, Sepulveda said he has been fortunate to have had the support of the nonprofit Buckner Humanitarian Aid Center, which distributes food and other essential items to families in need. The partnership blossomed when Sepulveda's church brought young volunteers there, and later, when Sepulveda decided to bring

toys to the Buckner Center one Christmas.

"For Christmas, Buckner gives out food and small gifts to families. I figured we could bring some more toys out there and help them out, too," Sepulveda said. "There have been years when I've been low on toys, and the people over at Buckner say, 'We've got you. You helped us out, so now let us help you.'"

Additional partnerships have surfaced, including ones with El Rio Grande Latin Market, Credit Union of Texas, National Latino Law Enforcement Organization (NLLEO), and Comadres Unidas de Dallas y Más. While most organizations provide financial donations, others such as El Rio Grande, donate meat for Sepulveda's Tacos for

Toys fundraiser, which promises community members a taco in exchange for a toy. Credit Union of Texas not only gives financial contributions but its representatives go with Sepulveda and Black on toy shopping trips to Five Below.

Just before winter break, Sepulveda and Black hold the main toy distribution event in the auditorium of a host school—this year, at Seagoville High School. The space is decorated festively with a Christmas tree and, in recent years, a snow machine to give the atmosphere an air of magic. As students file in, they take in a lively scene: volunteers standing at gift-wrapping stations, bags stacked high with gifts, and an officer dressed as Santa.

"I want the kids to come out and have a good time, not just get a toy," Sepulveda said. "They should feel like they have those 45 minutes to themselves—they can grab chocolate while their present is getting wrapped and enjoy the moment."

Sepulveda will continue the tradition for as long as he can, and he hopes others will carry the legacy forward long after he is gone.

"I'm just hoping someone who wants to be a giver keeps it going," Sepulveda said. "I tell everybody, it's better to give than to receive; that's the main thing."

If you would like to donate a toy, please contact Officer Omar Sepulveda at (469) 605-7018 or at osepulveda@dallasisd.org.



Photo Credit: The HUB