

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." ~ Maya Angelou.



ISSN # 0746-7303

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VOLUME 78 NUMBER 12

The Dallas Post Tribune

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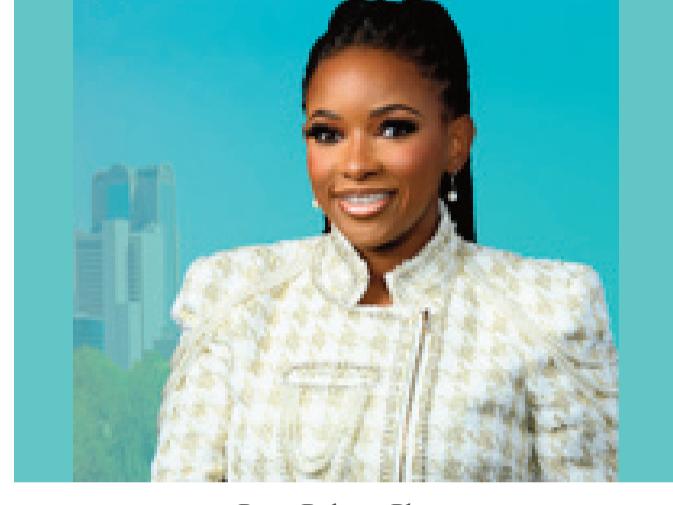


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December 4 - 10, 2025

Jasmine Crockett, leaning toward Senate bid, schedules campaign event Monday

By Gabby Birenbaum, The Texas Tribune



Press Release Photo

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett, D-Dallas, appears to be inching closer to a U.S. Senate bid, scheduling a "special announcement" for Monday.

Crockett, a second-term representative with a large national social media following, has teased a Senate run for weeks, saying publicly that she was exploring the possibility via polling and that she believed she could do what no Texas Democrat has done in over 30 years — win statewide —

by expanding the electorate.

"I am closer to yes than I am no," she said in an interview with MS NOW, formerly MSNBC, on Sunday.

In one of the clearest signs that she's leaning toward yes, Crockett told The Dallas Morning News she called both of her prospective primary opponents, former Rep. Colin Allred and state Rep. James Talarico, to discuss the results of

Continue Senate Page 5

New owner to open Mississippi barn where Emmett Till was killed as a memorial site

By SOPHIE BATES Associated Press

The barn in Mississippi where 14-year-old Emmett Till was tortured and killed will open to the public as a "sacred" memorial site by 2030, the new owner announced.

The Emmett Till Interpretive Center disclosed late Sunday that it had purchased the barn located in a rural area outside the city of Drew, aided by a \$1.5 million donation from television producer and writer Shonda Rhimes.

"We think that where the worst harms have happened, the most healing is possible," ETIC Executive Director Patrick Weems said.

The center plans to open the barn as a memorial ahead of the 75th anniversary of Till's lynching in 1955.

Two white men publicly confessed to the killing after being acquitted by an all-white jury in Mississippi later that year, but a Justice Department report released in 2021 said at least one more, unnamed person was involved in Till's abduction. Experts who've studied the case believe others participated, from a half-dozen to more than 14.

Continue Till Page 6

Trump's Big Ugly Bill Strips Nursing of Professional Status as Black Women Across the Nation Brace for Devastating Consequences

By STACY M. BROWN
Black Press USA Senior National Correspondent



Female healthcare colleagues standing outside hospital. Photo Credit: NNPA Files

The Trump administration has declared that nursing is not a professional degree, striking directly at the heart of America's healthcare workforce and landing hardest on Black women, who make up nearly 13 percent of the national healthcare labor force and almost 10 percent of registered nurses. The administration frames the move as a technical adjustment to loan classifications.

For Black women and the communities that rely on them, the consequences are far more severe.

"This is a gut punch for nursing," Patricia Pittman of George Washington University stated. "Education from ADN to BSN and beyond is the single best way to retain nurses, especially in underserved communities."

Under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, nursing,

physical therapy, physician assistants, and other front-line health professions have been stripped of professional degree status. Students in these fields can borrow only \$20,500 per year with a total cap of \$100,000. Students in law, dentistry, medicine, and other protected fields can borrow up to \$50,000 per year and \$200,000 total. Nursing students report tuition and clinical training

costs that far exceed the new caps, leaving many unable to continue their education.

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing issued a direct warning. "Excluding nursing disregards the rigorous education, licensure, and direct patient care that define our profession," the organization stated. "This decision

Continue Bill Page 5

From Tulsa to Ghana, Mother Fletcher's Long Journey Comes to a Close at 111

By STACY M. BROWN



Photo: Getty Images/NPNA Files

Mother Viola Fletcher, who carried the memory of Tulsa's shame and the nation's unfinished business longer than any other living soul, died on November 24 at age 111. She stood as the oldest known survivor of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, the burning of Greenwood, and the attempted erasure of Black prosperity that white mobs tried to silence forever. Tulsa Mayor

Monroe Nichols said her death marks a moment of mourning for a city still learning how to reckon with its own truth. "Today, our city mourns the loss of Mother Viola Fletcher, a survivor of one of the darkest chapters in our city's history," Nichols stated.

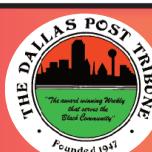
"Mother Fletcher endured more than anyone should, yet she spent her life lighting a path forward with purpose."

She spent that long life fighting for justice that too many leaders tried to bury along with the bodies from Black Wall Street. In Greenwood, she was a child watching terror reshape a world that had promised her nothing but possibility. For more than a century, she bore witness so the country could never again pretend not to know. "Her legacy

will be carried forward with the courage and conviction she modeled every day of her life," Nichols said.

Mother Fletcher's mission reached the halls of Congress when she demanded reparations for survivors and descendants of the massacre. She testified with a steadiness that shamed a nation still

Continue Tulsa Page 2



Recognizing #BLACK EXCELLENCE for 78 Years



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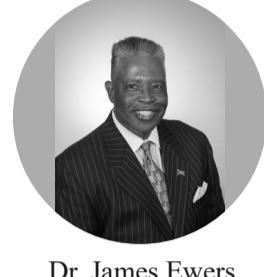
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EDITORIAL PAGE

Did You Have A Happy Thanksgiving Despite The Climate of Fear That Exists In This Country?

By James B. Ewers Jr., Ed.



Dr. James Ewers

The United States of America is recognized for having many holidays. We celebrate them and give honor to each of them.

There are 11 permanent federal holidays that we celebrate in this country. The first holidays were New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

There are some holidays where food is involved, and I must admit that those are my favorites. For example, we usually have barbeques when July 4th comes around.

There are even cooking contests for that national holiday to see who can prepare the best barbecue. Grills are fired up, along with having ribs and chicken as the meats. According to the cooking critics, it's the ingredients in the sauce that make the taste so good.

Yes, the food was important, and it was delicious. We ate all day and well into the night. To paraphrase Luther, it was never too much.

Over the years, we have begun to take having a turkey, dressing, macaroni and cheese, and other fixings for granted. Of course, there were other food items, and you always had enough.

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RELIGIOUS/NEWS

Some Exhortations for Overcoming Persecution In a Hostile World

I Peter 3:8-12



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

In this wonderful and sublime epistle, Peter is addressing this letter to Jews scattered and living in foreign cities, facing severe persecution. Peter calls these believers "strangers" because they were temporary residents in a hostile world (I Peter 1:1, 2:11). In spite of experiencing persecution, Peter offers words of hope, a call to holiness, and an explanation of the role of suffering in Christian experience. Peter reminds these believers struggling in the midst of persecution that they have been born again to a living hope because they serve a living Saviour; therefore, as children of God, their character and conduct can be above reproach as they imitate the Holy One who called them.

The essence of their Christian character can be manifested in actions rooted in their submissive obedience to authorities in the world (I Peter 2:13-25), and their conduct in the family (I Peter 3:1-8). Beginning in I Peter 3: 8-12, Peter makes an urgent appeal for these believers to exhibit Christ-like submission as they encounter persecution in a hostile world. This world, brothers and sisters, is not our permanent residence, for heaven is our ultimate and eternal

home (Philippians 3:20). As we sojourn in this hostile world, we will be tried and encounter tribulation in this hostile world, for Jesus said: "In this world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." Yes, as believers in this dismal and hostile world, we will experience hard times of persecution, for II Timothy 3:12 states: "Yes, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." However, your response to persecution can either cause you to grow or grumble as you sojourn in this hostile world!

In this section of I Peter 3:8-12, Peter issues some practical exhortations for living peacefully in a hostile world quoting from Psalm 34:12-16. I Peter 3:8-12 may be outlined as follows: I. The Mutual Love That Should Be Exhibited in the Christian Family – I Peter 3:8; II. The Christian Family Suffering in a Hostile World – I Peter 3:9-12.

I. The Mutual Love That Should Be Exhibited in the Christian Family – I Peter 3:8

Beginning in verse 8, Peter listed five characteristics every

believer must exhibit as he or she seeks to live peaceably in a hostile and unfriendly world. As believers, we are exhorted to live in harmony with one another, to be sympathetic, to love as brothers, to be compassionate, and to be courteous or humble. In seeking to live aright in this unfriendly world, believers must exhibit Agape love, that love that seeks the highest good of others.

You see, mutual love among believers is a genuine badge that we are disciples of Christ, for Christ said in St. John 13:35: "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." In St. John 15:12-13, Jesus also stated: "This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Brothers and sisters, the type of love Christ manifested toward us was self-sacrificial. Self-sacrificial love (Agape love) seeks the highest good of others!

Having observed "The Mutual Love That Should Be Exhibited in the Christian Family" – I Peter 3:8, now let us observe "The Christian Family Suffering in a

Hostile World" – I Peter 3:9-12.

II. The Christian Family Suffering in a Hostile World – I Peter 3:9-12

Peter exhorts believers not to retaliate when they are being maltreated by others in verse 9. We are not to retaliate when we are being maltreated by others; however, we are to commit the matter to the Lord. We need to roll the matter over unto the Lord. Allow the Lord to handle the matter, for Romans 12:19 states: "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." Psalm 37 informs us that we need not fret with regard to evil doers, for Psalm 37:1-2, 5 says: "Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity, For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass."

Rather than returning evil, Christians are to seek peace and pursue it. Peace is being pursued when we return a blessing when we are insulted. Paul wrote:

"When we are cursed, we bless: (I Corinthians 4:12). As believers, we are called to "inherit a blessing." As we seek to do good, we should practice using our tongues in the proper way and refrain from evil in pursuance of peace!"

Brothers and sisters, let us continue to live godly in this ungodly world, for God is watching over us, and He is very attentive to what we stand in need of! Brothers and sisters, even during this pandemic moment, don't you fret, because God will take care of us! Mount Moriah, let us be encouraged for the hymn writer wrote:

"God Will Take Care of You"

*Be not dismayed whate'er betide,
God will take care of you.
Beneath His wings of love abide,
God will take care of you.*

*God will take care of you,
Through every day,
o'er all the way;
He will take care of you,
God will take care of you.*

May God Bless!

Continued Abbott

Nov. 27 Edition

Despite Abbott's support, the 400 Texas National Guard troops mobilized by Trump are still not on the streets of Illinois or Oregon.

Federal judges temporarily halted the deployments after Oregon and Illinois sued the Trump administration, arguing that its actions violate the 10th Amendment, which gives the states all powers not explicitly granted to the federal

government by the Constitution.

The states' arguments echo those Abbott made in his 2016 essay, in which he warned that Washington too often ignored that amendment to impose its will on states. He proposed making it easier for states to sue the federal government over alleged abuses of power.

The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which is handling the Illinois case, had a similar take. In

an Oct. 16 ruling, the court said the Texas troop mobilization was "an incursion on Illinois's sovereignty" and likely a violation of the 10th Amendment.

The litigation kept Texas Guard members who were deployed to the Chicago area more than a month ago in limbo, unable to carry out what Trump wanted them to but unable to leave. A U.S. Defense Department spokesperson said the 200 guard members who

were training at a base in Illinois returned to Texas last week. The rest, bound for Oregon, remain at Fort Bliss in El Paso.

The U.S. Supreme Court has placed the Illinois case on its emergency docket and is considering the parties' written arguments. The court's pending ruling would likely apply to the Oregon case as well.

Despite the uncertainty regarding the deployment's legality,

Trump suggested in an October speech to U.S. military members that he was prepared to send troops, including active-duty units, into more cities.

Abbott's cooperation thus far will make it harder for other states to resist Trump in future deployments, said James Gardner, a constitutional law professor at the University at Buffalo. The

Continue Abbott Page 4

~ DISNEY CHARACTERS ~

(Solution will appear in December 11 edition)

ACROSS

1. Imperfections
6. Part of T.G.I.F.
9. Stark daughter on "Game of Thrones"
13. Kind of print, for short
14. Hula dancer's flowers
15. Kitchen tear-jerker
16. Viva voce
17. Draft beer container
18. Confused
19. *Irreverent Disney nanny
21. *Scar's older brother
23. Famous T-Rex
24. Gardening tool
25. Louisville Slugger
28. Stallion's mate
30. Famous ciphering machine
35. D'Artagnan's weapon of choice
37. Essence
39. Gloomy and drab
40. Containing limestone
41. Scrawny one
43. Purse to match a gown
44. Spot for boutonnierre
46. John Oates' partner Daryl
47. Prepare for a rainy day
48. Catch in a snare
50. Rapper LL ____ J
52. ____ Aviv
53. Wholly engrossed
55. Call to Bo Peep
57. *Sher Khan's sworn enemy
60. *Marie's and Toulouse's younger brother
64. Beneficiary
65. Opposite of nothing
67. Pancho's last name
68. Weasel's aquatic cousin
69. "New" prefix
70. *Like Iago in "Alladin" or Laddy Kluck in "Robin Hood"
71. Karate blow
72. Not safe in baseball
73. Like salad greens

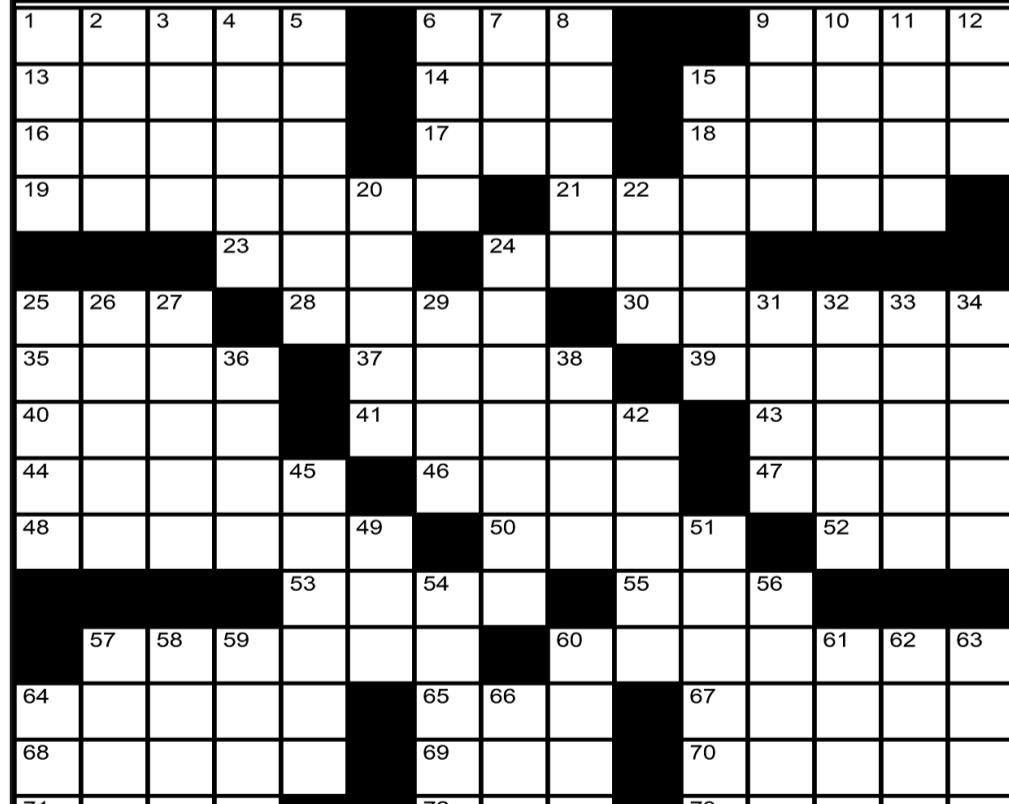
DOWN

1. Part of an envelope
2. *Nani Pelekai's little sister and new pet owner
3. At the summit of
4. Beats, slangily
5. Hypertension sufferer's dietary concern
6. Sorts
7. Driver's aid
8. Fraternity letter
9. Dwarf buffalo
10. Oil field structures
11. Moving meditation practice
12. "____ day now"
15. Hurt or upset
20. Some tides
22. Israel Kamakawiwo'ole's strings
24. Take back
25. *Beast's love interest
26. Bee-related
27. Act like a siren
29. Macaulay Culkin's "Richie ____"
31. Wraths
32. Gain access to (2 words)
33. Shade of violet
34. *a.k.a Little Mermaid
36. Oglar
38. Angel's headgear
42. Geography class prop
45. "____ than life"
49. Chum
51. Immature, as an undeveloped insect
54. Baby grand
56. Full of pep
57. It's drawn to light
58. "I'm ____ you!"
59. Shed tears
60. Soak some ink
61. Hipbones
62. *I am ____ , and I like warm hugs"
63. Goofy or silly
64. *Leader of the seven dwarfs
66. Romanian money

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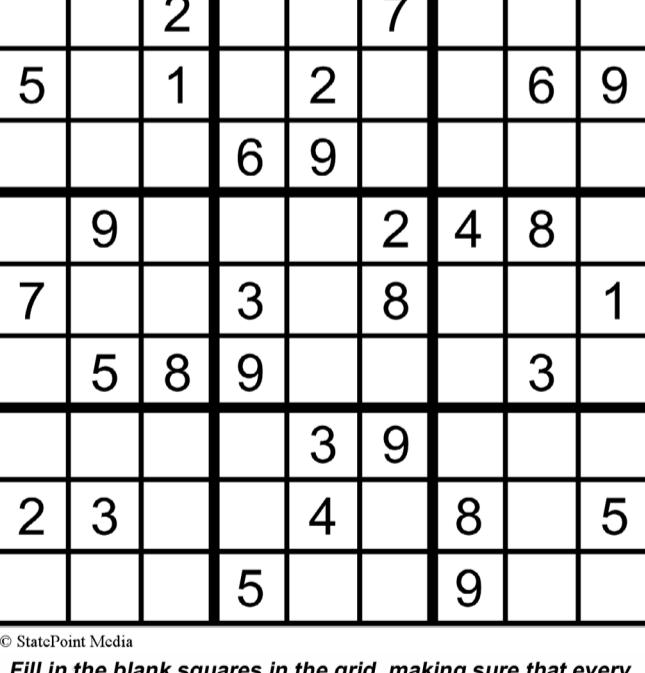
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2652	Bonus Money Overall Odds are 1 in 3.83	\$10	12/24/25	6/22/26
2556	Big Money Overall Odds are 1 in 3.73	\$20	12/24/25	6/22/26
2591	Ultimate Riches Overall Odds are 1 in 4.31	\$30	12/24/25	6/22/26

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 Texaslottery.com is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. PLAY RESPONSIBLY. For help with a gambling problem, ncpgambling.org. © 2025 Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

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Continued Abbott Page 3

framers of the Constitution intended for states to stand with one another to ensure officials in Washington never accumulated too much power, Gardner said.

He said that while Abbott, who is seeking a record fourth term next year, would likely rediscover his passion for states' rights if a Democrat were elected president, the governor may struggle to regain power he helped take away from the states.

"By altering the Constitution's contemplated balance of power, it makes it easier for the central government to crush dissenting states," Gardner said.

Misty Harris of The Texas Tribune and ProPublica contributed research.

Disclosure: Baylor University, New York Times, Texas Public Policy Foundation and Texas Secretary of State have been financial supporters of The Texas Tribune, a nonprofit, nonpartisan news organization that is funded in part by donations from members, foundations and corporate sponsors. Financial supporters play no role in the Tribune's journalism. Find a complete list of them here.

This article first appeared on The Texas Tribune.

Continued Tulsa Page 2

moving through the room, a presence made sharper by the endurance of Fletcher and Ellis. Goodwin said their lives proved that the African spirit cannot be broken. "This is what it's all about," Cross stated. "The spirit of Africa, its powerful and rich history."

Their citizenship ceremony became more than a celebration. It became a reminder that the diaspora carries stories the world still needs to hear, and that the road home is long but never closed. Bennett told the gathering that Ghana opens its doors to all who seek connection. "Welcome home," she said.

Quinn Minute

Christmas trees

By Rix Quinn

Christmas trees are like a distant cousin. They come to your house, surround themselves with presents, and stay for a month. Then they begin to shed, and need somebody to drive them off.

People often do strange things with cut trees. One of my neighbors pulled out a chainsaw and widened his front door three feet. That allowed him to bring in the

tree without bending it, and it made a great spectacle that the neighbors could video.

Once inside the home, some people say you should cut a couple of inches off the base of a live tree trunk and immerse it in a tree stand filled with water.

Never use water on an artificial tree. And if you cut anything off its trunk, you'll have a shorter tree next

year.

Do not use flammable decorations on a tree. The new, smaller, safer tree lights seem better. I even saw one guy try to wear these lights to a party, but his extension cord kept coming out.

Some people surround the tree with a decorative tree skirt. I have never worn a tree skirt to a party, because I do not shave my

legs.

After the holidays, dispose of your tree properly. Many cities will remove it from your lawn and recycle it into mulch.

Therefore, do not dispose of your artificial tree. Plastic mulch will not grow anything.

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Thursday, Dec. 4



H - 43°

L - 35°

Friday, Dec. 5



H - 51°

L - 40°

Saturday, Dec. 6



H - 56°

L - 41°

Sunday, Dec. 7



H - 57°

L - 36°

Monday, Dec. 8



H - 56°

L - 43°

Tuesday, Dec. 9



H - 62°

L - 48°

Wednesday, Dec. 10



H - 68°

L - 49°

Quinnen Williams won't say it, but there's no denying his impact on the Dallas defense

By SCHUYLER DIXON AP Pro Football Writer

FRISCO, Texas (AP) — Quinnen Williams disregards the notion that the standout defensive tackle's arrival in a trade is the best explanation for a dramatic turnaround by the defense of the Dallas Cowboys.

Teammates and coaches agree — to a point.

"When you open up the personnel report and you see Quinnen Williams' name, you're like, 'Ah, ..., what am I going to do about this?'" said coach Brian Schottenheimer, going silent while mouthing the expletive in his thought. "I think that's real. When you pay a lot of attention to him, it gives a lot of other guys a lot of oppor-

tunities to showcase their talent."

Here's the reality.

Dallas is 3-0 since giving the New York Jets a 2027 first-round draft pick, a second-rounder next year and underperforming defensive tackle Mazi Smith to acquire Williams at the trade deadline.

On top of that, the Cowboys (6-5-1) go into Thursday night's visit to Detroit having given up 21.7 points per game (essentially a touchdown below their average) and 69.7 yards rushing per game (not much more than half their average).

Dallas beat both of last season's Super Bowl teams

back-to-back, first 24-21 over defending champion and NFC East rival Philadelphia when the defense gave the Cowboys three fourth-quarter chances to take the lead and the offense finally cashed in with a game-ending field goal.

The winning drive came after Osa Odighizuwa's third down sack of Jalen Hurts.

The other pieces

The defensive revival isn't as simple as Williams coming aboard.

The returns from injury for starting safeties Malik Hooker and Donovan Wilson along with the season debuts of linebacker DeMarvion Overshown and

rookie cornerback Shavon Revel coming off 2024 knee surgeries have helped.

So has the other trade deadline addition, former Cincinnati linebacker Logan Wilson, whose veteran presence has improved the communication of first-year defensive coordinator Matt Eberflus' calls.

Those are among the reminders Williams has for anyone suggesting his arrival changed everything for the Dallas defense.

"I wasn't here before. I don't really know what was going on before I got here," Williams said. "But since I've been here, everybody's just been firing on all cylinders when it comes down to

doing their job to the best of their ability and feeding off each other, learning from each other, pushing each other, holding each other accountable."

Immediate impact

Still, the impact of Williams has been undeniable, right from the start. In the first half of his Dallas debut at Las Vegas, Williams had five pressures, the most in a half by a Cowboys defensive tackle in at least seven years, according to NFL Next Gen Stats. He had 1 1/2 sacks against the Raiders.

"Just watch him play. Simple as that," quarterback Dak Prescott said. "Guy that I know, as I said

before, playing against, he's a game-wrecker and now being on the same team as him and getting an opportunity when I do watch those guys over there, it's no different. The rest of the guys are stepping up and making plays when he's getting double-teamed."

Williams joined Dallas after spending all of his first six seasons with the Jets, who drafted him third overall in 2019. Jadeveon Clowney, a 12-year veteran who sacked Patrick Mahomes twice in last week's 31-28 Thanksgiving win over Kansas City, signed as a free agent early in the season.

Continued Senate Page 1

polling she had commissioned. The Talarico campaign said he called Crockett over the weekend, but that no polling data was shared; the Crockett campaign said the congresswoman offered to share internal polling but that Talarico didn't request to see it.

The Crockett campaign has not shared her internal polling publicly or with The Texas Tribune.

Crockett's entry into the race would scramble what had been a two-man primary to this point, increasing the likelihood that the March 3 primary goes to a runoff. Many Democrats were hoping that their primary could be wrapped up by early March, given that the Republican primary between Sen. John Cornyn, Attorney General Ken Pax-

ton and U.S. Rep. Wesley Hunt is likely going to a runoff. Such a scenario would have given the winning Democrat time to raise and spend money in a general election scenario while Republicans continued to fight each other.

Democrats had been trying to both avoid a glut of candidates running for the same office and attempting to organize a slate — Allred, Talarico, Rep. Joaquin Castro and 2018 candidate Beto O'Rourke held a Zoom meeting over the summer, to discuss dividing up the marquee statewide offices between them.

But with all interested in U.S. Senate, an attractive race given there is a competitive Republican primary, no agreement was ever reached, and Allred launched his campaign shortly after.

With little time left until

the Dec. 8 filing deadline, Crockett also said on MS NOW she wanted to organize a slate of Democrats with different electoral strengths.

"We also need to make sure we have, what I consider to be, a strong slate — people that can also raise money, people that also have different groups of people that are attracted to them,"

Crockett said, adding that she is the leading candidate among Black and brown voters.

"Instead of relying on one person to kind of carry the load, what type of ticket [can we run?]" she said on MS NOW. "So I've actually been talking to other candidates, potential candidates, as well, trying to recruit them."

Democratic state legislators are already running for the other statewide po-

sitions, and getting candidates to shift gears before Monday's filing deadline would be challenging.

Matt Angle, a Democratic operative and founder of the Lone Star Project, said the upside for Democrats is that the candidate that emerges from the primary will have been well-tested. But he lamented that they were not able to work out a slate where the strongest Democrats could run together instead of against each other.

"Assuming that Congresswoman Crockett gets in, it means next fall, two of our best communicators are going to be on the sidelines, not seeking office," Angle said. "That's frustrating."

"This is a year in which I think there's more opportunities, Republicans are more vulnerable in Texas than they've been in a

while," Angle continued. "And so you hate that we've got our best candidates running against each other."

Public polling of the race indicates that Crockett would be a formidable primary candidate, but may struggle, as Democrats in Texas have for decades, in a general election. A University of Houston Hobby School poll from late September, which included O'Rourke in a potential primary, found Crockett leading the field at 31% and beating both Allred and Talarico in head-to-head matchups. In general election matchups against each of the three Republican candidates, the poll found Crockett losing,

though her position against Attorney General Ken Paxton was within the margin of error.

A public polling memo from Change Research, conducted in late November, found similar warning signs for Crockett. She had both the highest favorability rating among all candidates, at 33%, but also the highest percentage of voters who found her unfavorable, among the Democratic candidates. And the poll found that 49% of voters said they would definitely not vote for her, higher than Allred's or Talarico's share.

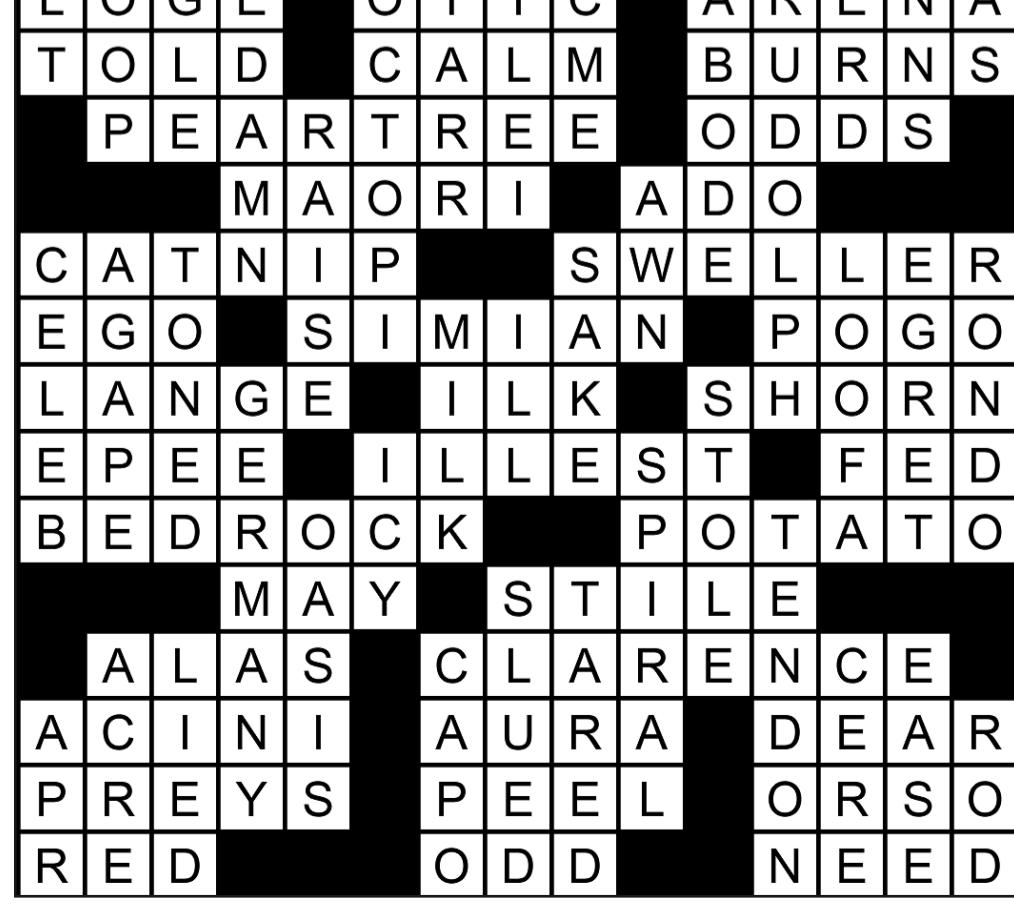
But Crockett has said she believes she can turn out unlikely voters and that her data shows she can win.

"I am very formidable, regardless of what people may want to put out into the atmosphere," she said on MS Now. "The numbers are the numbers."

This article first appeared on The Texas Tribune.

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Continue Bill Page 1

threatens the healthcare of patients in communities across the country."

The nation already faces a shortage of hundreds of thousands of nurses. Graduate degrees are required for advanced practice roles. Without meaningful access to federal loans, fewer students will enter or complete these programs. Black women, who rely on student loans at far higher rates than white students, now face a barrier to financial mobility and advancement in the nursing profession.

Research shows that Black nurses often serve in underserved rural and urban

communities. Studies of Black nurse practitioners describe persistent racism, heavy workloads, and limited institutional support.

Participants in one national qualitative study described taking additional time to address inequities and care for patients facing social and economic barriers while contending with organizational barriers and burnout.

Kim Brundidge, a doctoral nursing student and practicing nurse, described the consequences for the next generation of providers. "If students are not able to afford advanced education, the quality and number of nurses entering

the workforce will decline," she said.

Local and national nursing groups are preparing challenges to the reclassification. Leaders across the field warn that the bill undermines the country's ability to meet basic healthcare needs.

"In many communities across the country, advanced practice registered nurses ensure access to essential and high-quality care that would otherwise be unavailable," Jennifer Mensik Kennedy of the American Nurses Association said. "Limiting nurses' access to graduate education threatens the very foundation of patient care."

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Author **Sharon Jones-Scaife**
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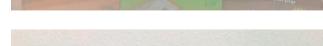
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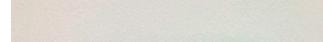
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Dallas ISD cheer program builds spirit and confidence through competition

DALLAS — Dallas ISD's cheerleading program is more than just chants and stunts. It's about leadership, confidence, and community.

This mission was on full display as more than 50 cheer teams from across the district came together for two spirited events: the High School and Middle School Cheer Showdown. Both events were held at Ellis Davis Field House, filling the arena with energy, teamwork, and pride.

The annual cheer showdown serves as a crucial step on the road to UIL Spirit State Championships, where Dallas ISD teams compete at the regional and state levels. Designed as a practice run, it gives students the opportunity to perform in a competition setting while refining routines, perfecting timing, and

gaining valuable feedback from judges.

"This event is a chance for our athletes to grow," said Lennon Formaggini, Student Activities cheer coordinator. "It's about building confidence, learning to work as a team, and showing school pride."

The Dallas ISD cheer program empowers students on and off the mat.

"Cheer teaches responsibility and leadership," said Kyre Walker, cheer coach at D.A. Hulce STEAM Middle School. "Our athletes are role models. They lead their peers in spirit, commitment, and discipline."

Dallas ISD launched the district-wide cheer program to ensure students at every level, from elementary through high school, have access to structured training,

mentorship, and competitive opportunities. Each event gives students a platform to showcase not only athletic skill but also teamwork, perseverance, and school spirit.

As the squads now set their sights on the upcoming Cheer Challenge Competition and UIL Spirit Championships, the excitement and pride built at Ellis Davis continues to echo through the halls of Dallas ISD schools. For many of these athletes, the experience goes far beyond the mat. It's about learning the power of voice, teamwork, and dedication.

"Watching these students perform reminds us why we host these events," Formaggini said. "Alongside learning routines, cheerleaders learn life skills that will stay with them long after the music stops."

Trump administration threatens to withhold SNAP management funds from states that don't share data

By **GEOFF MULVIHILL** and **DARLENE SUPERVILLE** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

President Donald Trump's administration warned on Tuesday that it will withhold money for administering SNAP food aid in most Democratic-controlled states starting next week unless those states provide information about people receiving the assistance.

Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins said at a Cabinet meeting Tuesday that the action is looming because those states are refusing to provide data the department requested such as the names and immigration status of aid recipients. She said the cooperation is needed to root out fraud in the program. Democratic states have sued to block the requirement, saying they verify eligibility for SNAP beneficiaries and that they never share large swaths of sensitive program data with the federal government.

States and the federal government split the cost of running SNAP, with the federal government paying the full cost of benefits. After Rollins' remarks, a USDA spokesperson later

explained that the agency is targeting the administrative funds — not the benefits people receive.

"Twenty-two states and the District of Columbia previously sued over the request for information, which was initially made in February. A San Francisco-based federal judge has barred the administration, at least for now, from collecting the information from those states.

The federal government last week sent the states a letter urging compliance, but the parties all agreed to give the states until Dec. 8 to respond.

"We have sent Democrat States yet another request for data, and if they fail to comply, they will be provided with formal warning that USDA will pull their administrative funds," the USDA said in a statement Tuesday.

Federal law allows the USDA to withhold some of the money states receive for administering SNAP if there's a pattern of non-compliance with certain federal regulations.

But "there's never au-

thority to withhold the SNAP benefits and, in this case, there's also no authority to withhold the administrative funding," said David Super, a law professor at Georgetown University who has studied the food aid program for several decades.

Administration says data is needed to spot fraud.

About 42 million lower-income Americans, or 1 in 8, rely on SNAP to help buy groceries. The average monthly benefit is about \$190 per person, or a little over \$6 a day.

Rollins has cited information provided by states that have complied, saying it shows that 186,000 deceased people are receiving SNAP benefits and that 500,000 are getting benefits more than once.

"We asked for all the states for the first time to turn over their data to the federal government to let the USDA partner with them to root out this fraud, to make sure that those who really need food stamps are getting them," Rollins said, "but also to ensure that the American taxpayer is protected."

Federal law allows the USDA to withhold some of the money states receive for administering SNAP if there's a pattern of non-compliance with certain federal regulations.

But "there's never au-

Continued Till 'Page 1

A historical marker, erected where Till's body was discovered, has been replaced three times after being vandalized. The first marker was stolen and thrown into the river in

2008. The second was shot more than 100 times by 2014. It was replaced in 2018, and shot another 35 times. Now the marker is the only bulletproof historical marker in the country, according to Weems.

The barn was purchased

Nov. 18. Weems noted that Nov. 23, the day the purchase was announced, was the birthday of Till's mother, Mamie Till-Mobley. Till's mother was a civil rights activist in the aftermath of her son's death and died in 2003.

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