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# EDITORIAL PAGE

## Johnson C. Smith University Raises The CIAA Football Championship Banner

By James B. Ewers Jr., Ed.



Dr. James Ewers

confidence in himself. Plainly put, he had the "it factor".

I was hooked. So, I tuned in or turned on to find out the score between JCSU and our opponent. Last year was a year that we almost made it. I know the JCSU family was disappointed near and far.

You see, I was a student-athlete at Johnson C. Smith University and was a part of a CIAA Tennis Championship team. I know first-hand the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat because I have been on both sides of that sports equation.

While 2nd place is a great achievement, it's not the championship trophy. Winning is tough, and there is a gear that you must shift to in order to achieve a championship.

The 2025 Johnson C. Smith University Football team is now the champion of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association. Let's ring the bell and applaud mightily for this wonderful accomplishment.

I have often said that records can be broken, but championships cannot. They will remain with you forever. To be called a CIAA champion is a high honor and must be celebrated. It must be revered.

The football target was on this team's back for the past month. Lose, and they were out of contention. There could be no slip-ups. It had to be winning time each week.

Fayetteville State University wanted to play spoiler, but our character and our resilience stopped them. I believe our team must have said, "The Golden Bulls are in your house, and it's winning time for us."

Every member of the Golden Bulls nation was on high alert as we defeated the Broncos. However, we still had more work to do.

My antenna was up because I knew that Livingstone College was our next opponent. We hear the term, win and you're in, and that was certainly true for us on

Saturday, November 8th. A victory in The Commemorative Classic would send us to the CIAA Championship game. We won.

Virginia Union University will be our foes on Saturday, November 15th. Alumni and friends of JCSU all arrived in Durham, NC, to watch the game. Those who couldn't attend watched it on HBCU Go, a television station owned by Byron Allen.

Announcements and pronouncements were made by the media about the significance of this game. The CIAA is the oldest African American athletic conference in America.

The two teams were both ranked in the NCAA II college rankings. Pundits opined that, regardless of the outcome, both teams would make the playoffs. We defeated the Virginia Union University Panthers 45-26.

Hold high the Gold and Blue as the JCSU Golden Bulls will forever be called CIAA Champions.

Trump endorsed Abbott for reelection, citing redistricting as one of the governor's key accomplishments. A week later, a panel of three federal judges blocked the state's newly drawn congressional map from taking effect, finding that it discriminated against voters based on race. On Tuesday, Abbott said Texas would "swiftly appeal" to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Abbott's cooperation has extended to sharing voter registration data with Washington.

Texas joined more than a dozen states in turning over voter roll information to the Justice Department, despite long-standing resistance to federal oversight of state elections.

The Constitution allows states to run elections, subject to oversight by Congress. But Trump sought greater control over the process, issuing an executive order in March that prioritized enforcing the federal laws that bar noncitizens from voting.

Trump has repeatedly claimed that noncitizens are voting en masse to sway U.S. elections in favor of Democrats, while research has shown this not to be true.

A recent voter roll audit by the Texas secretary of state, using a federal citizenship database, flagged 2,724 voters — or 0.015% — as potential noncitizens. Preliminary investigations by county voter registrars, however, found that some of those voters are citizens.

Acting on Trump's order, the Justice Department requested from states their entire voter rolls, including dates of birth, addresses, driver's license numbers and partial Social Security numbers according to a

Continue Abbott Page 6

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt, a Republican, told The New York Times that he was surprised Abbott sent Texas guard members to Illinois. "We believe in the federalist system — that's states' rights. Oklahomans would lose their mind if Pritzker in Illinois sent troops down to Oklahoma during the Biden administration," said Stitt, who did not respond to interview requests.

Ron Beal, a retired law professor at Baylor University, said Abbott's actions not only violate the historic spirit of cooperation among states, but provide Trump cover to unlawfully interfere in state matters.

"Trump's reason for sending troops is clearly a total fabrication of reality and I believe a constitutional violation," Beal said. "It is simply outrageous that Abbott would participate and cooperate with such activity."

Abbott proposed the "Texas Plan," a set of nine constitutional amendments that he said would restore the balance of authority between the federal government and states. Among them was one that would make clear that the president, Congress and judges have no powers beyond those expressly mentioned in the Constitution.

Texas lawmakers in 2003 similarly conducted a rare mid-decade redistricting, but that was not directed by then-President George W. Bush, said Karl Rove, one of Bush's senior advisers. "The White House and RNC didn't provoke or lead the effort," Rove said in a text message.

A governor allowing a president to influence when a state redistricts cedes the historical power of states to run their own elections, said Sanford Levinson, a constitutional law professor at the University of Texas, who has assigned it as required reading for his students.

Levinson said Abbott's recent actions mark a complete reversal.

"He condemned presidents for overreach, particularly in executive orders, and said we had to do something to rein that in. There's much to be said for

Earlier this month,

# RELIGIOUS/NEWS

## Christian Conduct in the Family

### I Peter 3:1-7



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

Having dealt with the Christian's conduct in relation to manifesting respect and submissive obedience to authorities in the world (I Peter 2:13-25), Peter will now deal with the Christian's conduct in the family. As stated previously, Peter is addressing this wonderful letter to Jews who had been scattered, who lived in foreign cities, and were under severe persecution. Peter calls these believers "strangers" because they were temporary visitors in a hostile world (I Peter 1:1; 2:11).

This wonderful epistle of Peter offers words of hope, a call to holiness, and an explanation of the role of suffering in Christian experience. Yes, the Jewish believers were suffering severely under the then notorious and infamous Roman

Emperor Nero; nevertheless, Peter calls on these believers to exhibit a life of holiness expressed in godly submission to human authorities and in the home. As Christians, we must understand that our conduct is always being examined by those around us, and we must submit to the Holy Spirit's ministry in our Christian lives as we walk in this dark and dismal world (Galatians 5:16).

As believers, Peter informs us that we are aliens, visitors in a world that we only have temporary residence; however, our eternal home is heaven (Philippians 3:20). The marvelous salvation that we now possess calls upon us to live holy and obedient lives in a world infected and tainted by sin!

I Peter 3:1-7 may be outlined as follows: I. The Conduct of Christian Wives – I

Peter 3:1-6; II. The Conduct of Christian Husbands – I Peter 3:7.

#### I. The Conduct of Christian Wives – I Peter 3:1-6

Peter exhorts Christian women to be in subjection to their husbands and show them honor and respect. A wife is to accept her place in the family under the leadership of her husband who God has placed as the spiritual leader in the home. Wives are to be submissive even if their husbands are unbelievers so that those men might be saved by the conduct or behavior of their lives. Because their husbands are unsaved, the saved wives were not to nag nor preach to them! However, they were to live such devoted lives that their husbands would be won

"without a word," that is, apart from talking. Unsaved loved ones watch how we deport ourselves; if our lives point to Christ, they may be drawn to Him!

In verses 2-4, the Christian wife's behavior must be pure (chaste) and her emphasis must be on the inner person rather than the outward adorning. The wife who wins the unsaved husband will possess a loveliness that comes not from outward adornment, but from her inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit. This adornment of the spirit is of great worth in God's sight. Whereas the world prizes costly clothing and gold jewelry, a Christian woman with inner beauty of spirit is of unusual value to God!

In verses 5-6, Peter cited Sarah as one of the examples

of holy women in the Old Testament who was submissive. Sarah was submissive to Abraham, calling him her master. She recognized Abraham as the spiritual leader of their household (Genesis 18:12).

Having observed "The Conduct of Christian Wives" – I Peter 3:1-6, let us now observe "The Conduct of Christian Husbands" – I Peter 3:7.

#### II. The Conduct of Christian Husbands – I Peter 3:7

Christian husbands are exhorted to be considerate to their wives and render respect unto them as the weaker partner. The word "weaker" refers to the phys-

ical and not to wives being inferior. The Christian women are fellow heirs of the grace of life ("salvation") as the Christian husbands.

In closing, the grand Apostle Paul enjoins the Christian husbands to love our wives, for Ephesians 5:25 says: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it." Yes, Christ died and gave Himself for the church, but the Resurrected and Ascended Christ is coming back for us. He will consummate the great work of salvation He started in us, for Philippians 1:6 says: "Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

**May God Bless!**

Continued Cliff Page 1

relationship marked by mutual respect and an understanding of each other's cultural impact. Cliff, who achieved international recognition earlier, particularly through "The Harder They Come," helped open global doors that Marley would later rocket through as he be-

came the reggae genre's most iconic figure. Marley would, in turn, push the music's political aspects to new heights, which Cliff openly admired. Their relationship was defined less by collaboration and more by a shared mission: Elevating Jamaican music onto the world stage and using it as a vehicle for storytelling, struggle, and

liberation.

Jimmy Cliff achieved his breakthrough moments with a series of socially conscious songs in the 1960s. They included "Many Rivers to Cross," "You Can Get It If You Really Want," and "The Harder They Come." That song became part of a movie soundtrack that would introduce reggae to

international audiences and build Cliff's image as a pioneer of the genre. Cliff would become second only to Bob Marley in shaping reggae's global reach.

Over the decades, Cliff continued to change musically and fuse reggae with rock, pop, and world music influences. But he always maintained sharp

political and emotional clarity in his songwriting. Jimmy Cliff's musical collaborations included work with the Rolling Stones, Elvis Costello, and Annie Lennox.

Cliff's contributions earned him induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2010, making him one of the few reggae artists to be inducted into

the Hall. Known for his charismatic stage presence and unwavering commitment to political messages of resilience, Jimmy Cliff will remain an enduring icon whose music has spoken across generations from Jamaica and beyond.

Jimmy Cliff is survived by his children, Lilti Cliff, Aken Cliff, and Nabiyyah Be.

Continued Friday Page 1

silence while Black households are battered by economic loss. "No spending. No work. No surrender," the Mass Blackout coalition

announced in its call to action, which accuses the nation's corporate power structure of thriving while ordinary people struggle to survive.

The second coalition fo-

cuses its attention on retailers like Amazon and Home Depot. Activists accuse these companies of cooperating with or benefiting from Trump's political agenda. LaTosha Brown,

cofounder of Black Voters Matter and a member of the We Ain't Buying It coalition, delivered her remarks in the coalition's public statement. "We ain't buying this foolishness. We're not

buying this racism. We're not buying the abandonment of DEI. We're not buying that the wealthiest country in the world cannot take care of its own citizens," she stated. "If they

want to call it Black Friday, let's show them what a Black Friday really looks like."

Home Depot issued its

Continue Friday Page 4

#### - HAPPY HOLIDAYS -

(Solution will appear in December 4 edition)

#### ACROSS

- Shapeless form
- Hot springs resort
- Not square
- Private theater box
- Relating to ear
- Rome's Colosseum, e.g.
- I \_\_\_\_ you so!
- The opposite of a store the day before Christmas?
- "Auld Lang Syne" poet
- Partridge's perch (2 words)
- Vegas numbers
- New Zealand's indigenous people
- Fuss
- Tabby's favorite herb
- More so than swell
- Big-headedness
- Resembling an ape
- John Wayne Gacy's \_\_\_\_ the Clown
- Photographer Dorothea of "Migrant Mother" fame
- Type or kind
- Like a sheep after a haircut
- D'Artagnan's weapon of choice
- Superlative of #33 Down
- U.S. central bank
- Wilma and Fred's hometown
- \*Latke's main ingredient
- Word of possibility
- Turning token taker
- Exclamation of sorrow
- Odbody of "It's a Wonderful Life"
- Raspberry drupelets
- Saintly glow
- Letter opener
- Hunts for food
- Banana leftover
- Guesstimate phrase
- Color on a Kwanzaa flag
- Not divisible by two
- Scholarship criterion

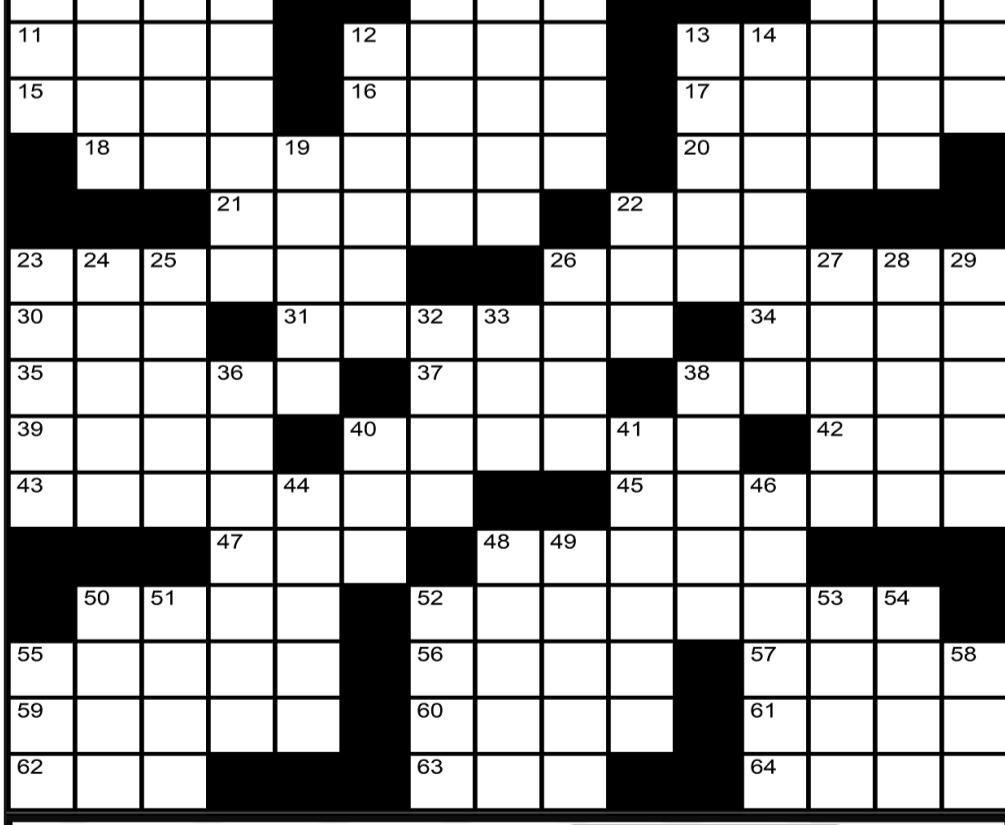
#### DOWN

- Deli acronym
- Chicago's central district, with The
- Gawk at
- Wish harm upon, arch.
- One of The Beatles
- Pileus, pl.
- "The Road Runner" corporation
- Group of cows
- Bed-and-breakfast alternative, pl.
- "The Nutcracker" step
- Certain cephalopod, pl.
- It's sometimes humble
- Chuck Berry's "Run, \_\_\_\_, Run"
- Reason to strike
- Grass bristle
- Famous one, slangily
- Open-mouthed
- Like a well-defined muscle
- Hot alcoholic beverage
- Washing sponge
- Type of heron
- Rondeau, alt. sp.
- \*Santa's beverage of choice
- Not well
- Original home of Christmas tannenbaum
- Fur shawl
- Extremely unfriendly
- Plane trick
- Reprise in a desert
- Muscle to bone connector
- Skidded
- Weighed
- 4,840 square yards
- Told an untruth
- Head of family
- Wrap in waxy cloth
- Comfort
- Financing acronym
- Stewart of "Maggie May" fame

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Theme: HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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2	1	8	9	3	6	5	7	4
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If you're like me, your mailbox is now bulging with holiday gift catalogs. Yesterday I even got a catalog showing other catalogs I could order.

Many families consider the dog to be part of the family. "What do I buy Rover?" is a common question, especially if Rover is a cousin.

The answer is simple: Dogs don't keep calendars, so they don't know holidays from squat.

Of course, always select non-toxic toys. Sometimes a dog will eat one, and it is days before you can find and disinfect it.

My history books say that the first Thanksgiving, turkey was skewered on a long solid rod called a spit.

I am a vegetarian. I never cook my vegetables that way, and I never spit on them.

I often have trouble shopping for relatives who

show up only occasionally. Each year for the last decade, Uncle Ken has arrived on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, and he has stayed in our guest room.

He eats a lot, but he doesn't bring any food. He never remembers anybody's names.

So, last week I asked my wife not to invite her Uncle Ken again. "My uncle?" she replied, "I thought he was your

uncle."

Finally, activity books make a great gift. Even toddlers can spend hours with crayons if they've got pictures or furniture to color.

Whatever you buy, remember it's better to give than to receive. Last year I gave holiday visitors a cold.

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## HEALTH

### Let's Talk Diabetes: Real Life. Real Tips. Real Support.

Diabetes is one of the leading chronic diseases among Parkland patients, according to the [2022 Dallas County Community Health Needs Assessment \(CHNA\)](#). For many people, a new diabetes diagnosis can feel overwhelming. Questions about lifestyle changes, medications, nutrition and blood sugar checks often come all at once.

Parkland Health's diabetes experts believe no one should face those questions alone. Our team is here to provide real support from the very beginning of a patient's health journey.

"Far too many people in our community are living with diabetes without the guidance they need. We wanted to be that helping hand, especially for those who can't get to their doctor right away. It's about meeting people where they are and making sure no one feels alone in managing their health," said Senior Registered Nurse Regina Wren, MBA, BSN, RN-BC.

That is why the Diabetes CHNA Initiative at Parkland offers educational classes through the [Let's Talk Diabetes](#) program. These classes are available at several locations throughout Dallas County and are led by Wren and Mary Beth Robinson, MS, RD/LD, CDES, Diabetes Education Specialist and Registered Dietitian.

"This program provides resources and builds a bridge to patients' providers so that they can get their diabetes under control," said Wren.

The classes cover key topics such as:

- **What is diabetes?** Understanding diabetes, recognizing symptoms, knowing your numbers and goals.
- **What can I do?** Learning simple steps to manage your blood sugar and health.

Education is often the turning point in a patient's health. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), people who received diabetes education were more likely to follow self-care practices such as checking blood sugar and foot sores daily and getting regular physical activity. Receiving information from a diabetes education specialist is one of the best first steps to managing diabetes.

"It is confusing for someone who does not know anything about diabetes to just go online and get pieces of information," said Robinson. "Having an expert that can really see the big picture and personalizes the education portion to the patient is everything."

Visit [www.parklanddiabetes.com/diabetes/lets-talk-diabetes](http://www.parklanddiabetes.com/diabetes/lets-talk-diabetes) to find the list of locations to learn how to manage diabetes.

Continued **Friday** Page 3

response after activists accused the retailer of working with immigration authorities during enforcement actions. The company stated that it is not notified before such actions occur and that it is not involved in them. Organizers remain unconvinced and continue to include the retailer in holiday boycott plans. Amazon has faced scrutiny for working conditions and for the \$1 million it contributed to Trump's inaugu-

ration, which boycott leaders cite as evidence of political alignment. The coalition argues that Amazon has benefited from federal policy while workers across the country face tightening hours and declining wages, and its owner, Jeff Bezos, has fully capitulated to Trump. Behind all these confrontations sits a larger truth. Black Americans are living through an economic emergency that has been shaped by federal policy decisions targeting the jobs, protec-

tions, and historical pathways that built the Black middle class. Analysts at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities report that Trump's agenda has attacked food assistance, health care, and family income supports at the very moment when unemployment among Black women is rising, and Black communities are losing stable federal careers that once offered a route out of poverty. Organizers say this Black Friday is not about dis-

counts. It is a line drawn by people who are tired of being told to spend in a country that is stripping away their ability to live. It is a refusal to pretend that holiday lights can hide the harm done to families who have been pushed to the margins of the economy. The final word from organizers cut through the noise of the season. "We're not buying from companies that won't stand with us," LaTosha Brown stated. "Our dollars will go elsewhere."

## HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

### Quinn Minute

# Shopping thoughts for early-season buyers

By Rix Quinn

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# 7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

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H - 58

L - 48

Friday, Nov. 28



H - 62

L - 57

Saturday, Nov. 29



H - 69°

L - 59°

Sunday, Nov. 30



H - 69°

L - 59°

Monday, Dec. 1



H - 60°

L - 53°

Tuesday, Dec. 2



H - 67°

L - 47°

Wednesday, Dec. 3



H - 56°

L - 41°

## HBCU Football Roundup: SC State and Delaware State will battle for MEAC Title



DeSean Jackson's amazing season could be capped off by winning the MEAC title Alumni Stadium next Saturday. (Photo: Delaware State Athletics)

Josh Shaw's late-game burst lifts South Carolina State over NC Central

Josh Shaw delivered the decisive moment for South Carolina State, breaking loose for a 30-yard touchdown run with just under two minutes left to secure a 34-27 victory over NC Central on Friday night.

Shaw powered the Bulldogs' (8-3, 4-0 MEAC) rushing attack with 83 yards on 10 carries, while KZ Adams chipped in 52

yards on 14 touches. Behind a well-balanced 454-yard offensive effort and a defense that tightened in key moments, South Carolina State strengthened its undefeated conference record.

Quarterback William Atkins IV fueled the passing game, completing 24 of

36 throws for 314 yards, three touchdowns, and one interception. Senior receiver Jordan Smith hauled in seven passes for 72

yards and a score.

On defense, Roderick Kelly led the Bulldogs with eight tackles and a tackle for loss. Ka'Von Chisolm added five tackles and a sack, and Michael Lunz contributed two tackles, a sack, and a forced fumble to help close out the win.

**Delaware State remains unbeaten in MEAC behind dominant ground game**

Delaware State stayed

perfect in conference play thanks to a standout defensive moment from Wayne Favors III, whose pick-six sparked a 26-13 victory over Howard on Saturday.

Favors jumped a pass deep in Bison territory, returning it for a touchdown to put the Hornets (8-3, 4-0 MEAC) ahead 23-6. Delaware State leaned on its trademark rushing attack once again, with five players surpassing the 20-yard mark on the ground as part of a 205-yard team effort. Entering the weekend, the Hornets led the FCS with 283.6 rushing yards per game.

Marquis Gillis set the tone with 92 yards on 16 carries. Quarterback Jayden Sauray added a rushing touchdown, and Ryan Pellum Taylor scored on his lone 4-yard attempt of the day.

### Jackson State rolls past Bethune-Cookman with three 100-yard rushers

Jackson State's backfield overwhelmed Bethune-Cookman on Sunday, piling up 360 rushing yards in a 28-13 win behind three different 100-yard performers.

Travis Terrell Jr. posted 103 yards on 11 carries, highlighted by a 25-yard touchdown burst. Donerio Davenport added 106 yards, including a 6-yard score and a 36-yard breakaway run. Ahmad Miller led the trio with 118 yards on 22 attempts as the Tigers (8-2, 6-1 SWAC) continued their strong season.

Quarterback Jared Lockhart completed 12 of

21 passes for 160 yards and a touchdown, connecting with six receivers. Jameel Gardner Jr. paced the group with 98 yards on three catches. Defensively, 22

Tigers recorded at least one tackle, with Frankie Dunn Jr. leading the way with five.

### Alabama State cruises past Mississippi Valley State in Port City Classic

Alabama State made quick work of Mississippi Valley State, rolling to a 41-3 victory on Saturday at Ladd-Peebles Stadium in Mobile.

The Hornets (8-2, 6-1 SWAC) extended their winning streak to four games and remain tied with Jackson State atop the SWAC East Division. The blowout victory also secured the program's first eight-win season since 2018. Under head coach Eddie Robinson Jr., Alabama State improved to 3-0 in the Port City Classic and 12-2 in Classic matchups overall.

Mississippi Valley State dropped to 1-9 on the season and 0-6 in conference play.

### Prairie View claims SWAC West crown with dominant win over UAPB

Prairie View A&M clinched the 2025 SWAC Western Division title with an overwhelming 56-9 triumph over Arkansas-Pine Bluff on Saturday afternoon.

The Panthers (8-3, 6-1 SWAC) secured their spot in the upcoming conference championship game

after an explosive showing that featured multiple touchdowns each from Chase Bingmon, Lamagea McDowell, and Andre Dennis.

Quarterback Cameron Peters delivered another efficient outing, throwing for 269 yards and two touchdowns on 20-for-24 passing with no interceptions.

Bingmon headlined the ground game with 135 yards and two scores on a remarkable nine yards per carry. McDowell added two more rushing touchdowns, and Shadrick Byrd contributed 37 yards as Prairie View dominated the red zone.

The Panthers now turn their attention to Senior Night against Mississippi Valley State before preparing for the championship showdown.

### Texas Southern storms back to shock Southern

Texas Southern erased a 10-point deficit and held on late to defeat Southern 35-30 on Saturday at A.W. Mumford Stadium in Baton Rouge.

Quarterback KJ Cooper threw for 210 yards and three touchdowns, helping the Tigers (5-5, 4-3 SWAC) mount their comeback after trailing 24-14. Lawrence Butler narrowed the gap with a 2-yard scoring run, and Texas Southern recovered a fumble on the ensuing kickoff to seize momentum.

Southern (1-10) pulled within five on a late touchdown run by Cam'Ron McCoy, but the Jaguars ran out of time on their final possession.

### Statepoint Crossword Puzzle

Solution: November 20 ~ NURSERY RHYMES



## Dallas Bar Association

### Dallas Lawyers Answer Legal Questions via E-Clinic

Volunteer attorneys will answer legal questions at no cost from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays in December, via a LegalLine E-Clinic, sponsored by the Dallas Bar Association.

To participate, complete the online form found here <https://tinyurl.com/DBALegalLine> for the upcoming LegalLine. This month's LegalLine E-Clinics are **December 3, December 10, and December 17, between 4:00-8:00 p.m.** A volunteer attorney will call the participant to provide up to 15 minutes of free legal advice for your legal issue. **Space is limited.** Registration will close at Noon on the Tuesday prior.

Please note that the volunteer attorney will remain anonymous. Participants should watch for a call from an unknown number that should be labeled "No Caller ID" or something similar. No attorney-client relationship will be established. We cannot guarantee that the attorney will speak any language other than English. Individuals may also receive referrals to local, legal, or social service agencies.

For legal assistance any time, contact the DBA's Lawyer Referral Service at [www.dallasbar.org/index.cfm?pg=LawyerReferralService](http://www.dallasbar.org/index.cfm?pg=LawyerReferralService).

# Roosevelt cheer program builds momentum with growing roster

By Molly Schrader



Photo Credit: Dallas ISD/The HUB

When a student told Honesty Lewis they wished she would coach cheer at Franklin D. Roosevelt High School of Innovation, she realized this was her opportunity to make a meaningful impact on her community.

"If I had one word to describe what I love about cheer, it would be fire. I'm so passionate about cheer that sometimes it can make my head hurt," she said. "I'll want to randomly make up a dance, and I know it's making my head hurt because it's hard, but I'm so passionate about doing it. When I think about cheer, even though now I'm not in it, it still makes me happy and excited."

A lifelong cheerleader who started at age three, Lewis now leads Roosevelt's 31-member squad, shaping it into a program defined by strong academics, leadership development, and consistent competitive growth.

"I want every single class to graduate with an

associate's degree or a certification so they have something attached to their name before they go," Lewis said. "My second thing is I want at least two people from every graduating class to be on a college cheer team."

Under her guidance, the team placed seventh out of 61 teams at the 2025 UIL Spirit State Championships, earned three all-American titles, and took third at a district competition.

Membership on the Roosevelt squad also comes with a unique academic expectation: students must be enrolled in P-TECH or Career Institute South. The requirement supports Lewis' belief that cheer should support a student's long-term goals.

For Makalah G., academic and cheer success go hand in hand.

"I want to try to be top of my classes, that's a priority," she said. "As a team, I want to be top five or ten

in the state. I also want to be known as a leader because that's what I was born to be."

Asia J., who has led the cheer squad for two years, credits Lewis for giving her students a chance to excel in both areas.

"Some coaches don't push their cheer team or give them big opportunities, but Coach Lewis makes sure that academically, we are in our right area," she said.

As the program strengthens, opportunities continue to expand.

The team now regularly performs at community events, visits college campuses—including Xavier University of Louisiana, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Langston University, and Texas Southern University—and connects with university cheer programs.

"I love cheer," said Janaeaya M. "It's a really great opportunity because not everyone gets the chance, or

feels confident enough, to try. "People come to me all the time saying they're nervous, and I love seeing them give it a shot."

For Asia, Janaeaya, and Makalah, the cheer squad at Roosevelt is a place where they've formed lasting friendships and grown as a team.

Together, they bring energy, encouragement, and school spirit to classrooms, hallways, and school events, lifting the entire Roosevelt community.

"I want to be remembered as someone who always kept myself up," Janaeaya said. "That I never failed a class or got kicked out of a program because I wasn't doing what I was supposed to do. I want to be extraordinary. For cheer, I want to leave that I cared about my team."

At Roosevelt, cheer is more than spirit. It is strength, leadership, and a foundation for lifelong success.

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Continued Abbott Page 2

letter sent to Texas and obtained by ProPublica and the Tribune under public records laws.

Records show that Texas provided voter roll information to the Justice Department in October.

Texas secretary of state spokesperson Alicia Pierce told ProPublica and the Tribune that the secretary of state provided only the publicly available version of its voter roll, which redacts information such as driver's license and Social Security numbers.

The Justice Department is suing eight states, six of which had provided or offered publicly available versions of their voter rolls because they did not include all the information the federal government sought. One such state is Pennsylvania.

"This request, and reported efforts to collect broad data on millions of Americans, represent a concerning attempt to expand the federal government's role in our country's electoral process," Pennsylvania Secretary of the Commonwealth Al Schmidt, a Republican, wrote to the Justice Department in August.

Justice Department

spokesperson Natalie Baldassarre declined to comment on why the federal government had not included Texas among the states it was suing for failing to share all the information the government sought.

But the same month that Texas quietly handed over the limited voter roll, Secretary of State Jane Nelson, an Abbott appointee, announced her office had finished running the full roll, along with Social Security numbers, through a federal database to check voters' citizenship status.

The Department of Homeland Security stores voter data uploaded by state officials, DHS records obtained by ProPublica found.

Nelson's office did not answer questions about whether doing so essentially provided the federal government with even more data on Texas voters than it had initially sought.

Abbott embraced Trump's deployment of Texas National Guard troops under a novel interpretation of a federal law that authorizes the mobilization of troops to quell a rebellion or threat of rebellion.

*Continue Abbott in December 4th Edition*

## Beliefs clash among students, parents and teachers as the Ten Commandments go up in Texas classrooms

By JAMIE STENGLE Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — When it became clear to Texas high school theater teacher Gigi Cervantes that she couldn't ignore a new state law requiring the Ten Commandments to be posted in her Fort Worth classroom, she felt she had no choice. She resigned from the job she loved.

In the small city of Whitesboro, eighth grade U.S. history teacher Dustin Parsons welcomed the new poster on his classroom wall, saying the display helps him demonstrate the influence of Christianity on the country's founding principles.

Across Texas, there are no shortage of strong opinions among teachers, parents and students as the state undertakes the nation's largest attempt to hang the

Ten Commandments in public schools. In the rush to navigate the Republican-led mandate that took effect in September, the rollout has forced some administrators, teachers and school boards to confront hard choices.

"I just was not going to be a part of forcing or imposing religious doctrine onto my students," Cervantes said.

Federal courts have ordered more than two dozen of the state's roughly 1,200 school districts to not hang the posters, including on Tuesday when a judge said the mandate violates First Amendment language guaranteeing religious liberty and forbidding government establishment of religion. Courts have also ruled against similar laws in Ar-

kansas and Louisiana, and the issue is expected to reach the U.S. Supreme Court.

But many Texas classrooms are far along in implementing a law that has animated school board meetings, spun up guidance about what to say when students ask questions, and led to boxes of donated posters being dropped on the doorsteps of campuses statewide. Some districts didn't wait: In suburban Dallas, school officials in Frisco spent about \$1,800 to print nearly 5,000 posters, even though the law only requires schools to hang the Ten Commandments if the displays are donated. Some schools have no posters to hang.

"I'm not evangelizing," Parsons said. "I'm doing it

more from a history source perspective in how they were building the Constitution."

School districts face a dilemma

The law says schools must put donated posters "in a conspicuous place" and requires the writing to be a size and typeface that is visible from anywhere in a classroom to a person with "average vision." The displays must also be 16 inches wide and 20 inches tall (40 centimeters wide and 50 centimeters tall).

South of Austin, the Hays Consolidated Independent School District posted copies of the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights — which includes the First Amendment — alongside the state-required Ten Commandments.

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