

“Love is the greatest force in the universe. It is the heartbeat of the moral cosmos. He who loves is a participant in the being of God.”
 ~ Martin Luther King, Jr.



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SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

January 22- 28, 2026



.Photo Credit: NNPA Files

New Trump Tax Law Locks in Gains for the Rich, Leaves Black Households Behind

By Stacy M. Brown

President Donald Trump's new tax law is now in force, and as the 2026 filing season begins, economists say the damage is not theoretical. It is already written into the tax code. The legislation locks in and expands Trump's 2017 overhaul while layering on new provisions that funnel wealth upward, raise taxes on millions of low-income Americans, and deepen racial inequities that have defined the U.S. economy for generations.

“This massive tax-and-spending package does more to transfer wealth upward than any other single

piece of legislation in decades while penalizing lower-income Americans and cutting public benefits,” the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy said in its analysis of the law.

According to ITEP, the poorest 40 percent of Americans will pay more in taxes under the new law, while the middle fifth receives only marginal relief. The richest 1 percent, however, will take home more benefits than the bottom 80 percent combined in 2026.

The racial divide is

Continue **Gains** Page 2

An arctic storm is expected to blanket the state

Here's what Texans can expect Texas is preparing for the coldest temperatures of the season, and forecasters are warning of possible power outages and icy roads in much of the state.

By Colleen DeGuzman



Photo Credit: Shelby Tauber for The Texas Tribune

Texans are bracing for a harsh winter storm that's expected to plunge the entire state into subfreezing temperatures starting Friday, bringing an arctic mix of snow, sleet and freezing rain.

Frigid air is blowing in from northern Canada, and according to National Weather Service Meteorologist Kurt Van Speybroeck, it's expected to reach the very southern tip of Texas by Sunday morning.

Texans from Wichita Falls west to Lubbock and Amarillo should be preparing for snowy weather late Friday. The cold air and precipitation is expected to move south Saturday, and by Sunday morning, residents in Brownsville should expect temperatures to dip below freezing. Every part of the state, from El Paso to the Houston region, will experience a hard freeze during the storm, Speybroeck said.

“By Sunday, the whole state will definitely be experiencing well-below normal temperatures and dangerous wind chills,” Speybroeck said, adding that the storm brings a strong chance of ice for most of the state, which may cause power outages.

“We're talking about two thirds to three quarters of the state having some pretty dangerous winter driving conditions,” he said, but “everything south

of I-10 should be drivable.”

Officials in North and Central Texas, which have the highest chances of snow and sleet, have already issued winter storm watches ahead of the storm. Other areas are also under a winter storm watch, including Houston.

Gov. Greg Abbott on Tuesday said he has activated state emergency response resources, saying

Continue **Storm** Page 2

Remembering Publisher Tommie Lee (T. L.) Wyatt

The Villager Newspaper - Austin, Texas



Tommie "T.L." Lee Wyatt
 July 27, 1937 – January 10, 2026

Tommie Lee (T. L.) Wyatt, a steadfast voice for Austin's Black community and a lifelong champion of truthful, empowering journalism, passed away in his sleep in the presence of his son, Thomas L. Wyatt, on January 9th, 2026, at the AVIR at Park Bend facility in Austin, Texas. He was 88 years old.

Born in Point Blank, Texas, on July 27, 1937, to Ardalia Standifer, T. L. grew up and earned a football scholarship, played, and graduated from Bishop College at Marshall, Texas

with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration (BBA).

Wyatt came of age during the height of the Civil Rights Movement, a time marked by both profound pain and transformative progress. Those early years shaped his understanding of justice, community, and the power of storytelling—values that would guide his life's work.

Wyatt moved to Austin in 1962, entering a city still governed by the constraints

Continue **Wyatt** Page 5



Photo credit: NNPA

The Dream Cannot be Realized Without Financial Freedom

By Stacy M. Brown/By Ben Crump

Article Page 5



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EDITORIAL PAGE

The Landscape of Humanity Was Changed for All of Us by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

By James B. Ewers Jr., Ed.



Dr. James Ewers

Our nation needs more compassion. We are in desperate need of caring and kindness. It seems that righteousness and justice are in short supply today.

There are men and women in our history who were clarions and carriers of these characteristics. One such person was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. His contributions in my opinion will never be duplicated again. This is my opinion.

He cared about people. While he was one of the chief architects of the Civil Rights Movement, he never lost his ability to be with those who didn't have a title or position. I met Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. when I was a student in college.

This period of social justice history was significant as it gave all of us a role to play. Our community in

Winston-Salem NC was a community of believers. We admired right and called out wrong. Sit-ins and other acts of non-violence were always happening in our city.

It was because of Dr. King's mantra of non-violence. He knew and made us believe that right would overrule wrong. Good would triumph over evil. It is fitting and right that America celebrated the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday on Monday, January 19, 2026.

There were church services, parades and other events held in his honor. We re-committed ourselves to being strong advocates for justice in our communities. Giving of ourselves is what he did. We know that he gave his life on April 4, 1968, in Memphis TN.

I can remember this time quite vividly and like the world, I was in shock. The news reports and interviews were painful and hurtful to watch. This was a defining moment of sadness for our country.

Yet, like it was yester-

day, we recall with joy his "I have a dream" speech on August 28, 1963. He said, "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

It seems at times that America is in a holding pattern when it comes to equality for all of its citizens. There is happiness for some of us but sadness for way too many of us.

An enduring faith was central in his life. He said, "With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain a stone of hope. With this faith, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day."

Dr. King always strived to make America better. It is my opinion that we are better. Can we get even better? Yes, we can.

It is my strong belief that it begins with how we treat one another. Wanting what is best for each other should always be a part of our humanity. Dr. King understood this important life tenet and that is how he lived his life.

Love is the prescription of hope that all of us need. Do you remember the R&B group, The Friends of Distinction? They sang a song entitled, "Love can make it easier". The lyrics are, "love can make it easier if only you give it a chance. Is it really hard to go out of your way for someone and lend a helping hand just to make one life much brighter".

So, let's lighten up on meanness and let's do away with hate. Dr. King said, "Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. Even a superficial look at history reveals that no social advance rolls in on the wheels of inevitability.

Victories in life aren't easy. They require boldness and courage. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was the example and the model.

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Continued Storm Page 1

saying the winter weather "could create hazardous travel conditions into the weekend and cause impacts to infrastructure."

Here's what Texans should expect and when, depending on where they live:

The Panhandle

The Panhandle is expected to experience the worst of the storm on Friday night, according to the NWS, when the low is expected to reach 2 degrees and the chance of precipitation is 90%.

"That's going to change over to snow really fast and it'll be a fairly dry and fluffy type of snow," Speybroeck said, adding that wind may make visibility while driving difficult and dangerous.

Friday night into Saturday morning, the storm is expected to move further south.

Dallas-Fort Worth area

The Dallas-Fort Worth region is expected to see freezing rain and sleet ac-

cumulate Friday night, which may become snow by Saturday evening in some areas, according to the NWS.

Cities north of Dallas-Fort Worth, from Graham to Paris, should expect the most snow.

The coldest weather forecast for the Dallas-Fort Worth area is expected to hit Saturday night, with a low of 10 degrees. The freezing temperature will last through Sunday, when the high is predicted to be 22 degrees.

Central Texas

Central Texans should also expect sleet and freezing rain, but Speybroeck said chances of heavy accumulations are lower compared to North Texas.

"We're expecting sleet and freezing rain in the Hill Country, maybe into the Austin-San Antonio corridor, but we're not expecting significant winter precipitation," Speybroeck said.

Temperatures in Central Texas are expected to drop

as low as 14 degrees on Saturday night.

El Paso and far West Texas

El Paso may see snow as soon as Friday morning, according to the NWS, and could see up to 10 inches accumulate during the storm.

Wind gusts are expected to be as high as 22 miles per hour on Saturday, making roads dangerous to drive on.

Although the chances of snow are higher in El Paso, forecasters don't expect the area to see temperatures as low as other parts of the state — the coldest temperatures Saturday night are expected to reach 28 degrees before rising to 41 on Sunday.

Temperatures are expected to dip back below freezing on Sunday night.

Houston region

The Houston region has a high chance of rain and thunderstorms Friday night going into Saturday morn-

ing. By Saturday night, that's expected to turn into freezing rain with a low of 27 degrees, the NWS said. Rain is expected to continue throughout Saturday and turn into freezing rain overnight into Sunday morning when temperatures are expected to dip below freezing. Partly sunny weather should bring temperatures above freezing on Monday.

South Texas

By Sunday morning the winter storm is expected to reach Texas' southern tip, according to the NWS.

Residents from Laredo to Brownsville, Speybroeck said, should expect temperatures right around freezing on Sunday going into Monday.

The coldest temperatures are expected Saturday night and Sunday night, with lows around 33 degrees and a slight chance of light rain.

This article first appeared on The Texas Tribune.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Icons of Liberation explores how Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela and other notable icons transformed the twentieth century through nonviolence, moral clarity, and a deep commitment to human dignity. Though shaped by different histories and geographies, their visions of justice echo each other across continents and generations.

An Exhibition About Freedom, Moral Courage, and the Power of Collective Action

ICONS OF LIBERATION
January 15, 2026 - April 17, 2026

Continued Gains Page 1

stark. High-income households are disproportionately white, while Black and Latino families are far more likely to be concentrated in income groups that lose ground.

At the center of the imbalance is the expanded pass-through business deduction, increased from 20 percent to 23 percent.

Treasury Department data show that nearly all of the \$1 trillion in tax cuts generated by this provision over the next decade will flow to the top 1 percent. Hispanic taxpayers, who account for 15 percent of the population, receive about 5 percent of the benefit. Black taxpayers, 11 percent of the population, receive roughly 2 percent.

The law also sharply

weakens the estate tax by permanently raising the exemption to \$15 million for individuals and \$30 million for married couples, indexed to inflation. Economists say the change all but eliminates the tax for ultra-wealthy families while locking in racial disparities tied to inherited wealth. White families are about three times as likely as Black families to receive an

inheritance, and the median inheritance for White families is roughly 25 percent higher.

Supporters of the law point to larger tax refunds expected this year as proof that working Americans are benefiting. The Tax Foundation estimates individual income taxes were reduced by \$129 billion for 2025,

Continue **Gains** Page 3

RELIGIOUS/NEWS

Believers Admonished to Grow Toward Spiritual Maturity

II Peter 1:1-11



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

II Peter was written by the Apostle Peter around A.D. 64-66 just before his martyrdom in A.D. 67 and most likely from Rome. In his first epistle, Peter wrote to encourage believers to respond properly to external opposition. In this grand epistle II Peter, Peter focuses on internal opposition caused by false teachers whose destructive heresies can seduce believers into error and immorality. These false teachers perverted the doctrine of Justification and promoted a rebellious and immoral way of life.

The key word in II Peter is "knowledge." The only weapon to combat false teaching and the devil's lies is the word of God, for this is the reason why Peter emphasized the word "knowledge." Peter's use of the word "knowledge" in II Peter involves not only intellectual comprehension, but experiential realization as well. Peter exhorts the believers to keep a close watch on their Christian conduct. Their

conduct should be a reflection of their calling; their practice should be a manifestation of their profession. Peter writes to inform that Jesus Christ is the source of full knowledge and power for the attainment of spiritual maturity (II Peter 1:2-3, 8; 3:18).

II Peter 1:1-11 may be outlined as follows: I. A Declaration of the Abundant Provisions for the Believers – II Peter 1:1-4; II. A Description of Spiritually Growing Believers – II Peter 1:5-11.

I. A Declaration of the Abundant Provisions for the Believers – II Peter 1:1-4

Peter introduces himself as an humble servant of Jesus Christ before mentioning the fact of being an apostle. Peter is writing to believers who have obtained precious faith as the apostles because of God's abundant blessings (v. 1). In a marvelous way, God has saved us by grace because of our faith in Him. Once we experience God's

grace, we can experience the peace of God. Grace and peace are multiplied "through the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ" (v. 2).

In verses 3-4, Peter reminds the believers of the "Divine power and precious promises" they have that accompanied their faith. All that believers need for spiritual vitality (life) and godly living is attainable through our knowledge of Him.

Believers also are "partakers of the Divine nature," meaning that we are given the nature of God. We receive the nature of God through new birth. In view of these tremendous blessings from God, we have been called away from the corruption of the world to conformity with Christ.

Having discussed - I. A Declaration of the Abundant Provisions for the Believers – II Peter 1:1-4, let us now discuss II. A Description of Spiritually Growing Believers – II Peter 1:5-11.

II. A Description of Spiritually Growing Believers – II Peter 1:5-11

Because of God's abundant spiritual provisions, and due to their faith, believers have received all they need to live godly lives. However, believers must be diligent in their pursuit to add to their faith other qualities. Faith in Jesus Christ is the foundation of all other qualities in the Christian life. Believers must add to their faith virtue or moral excellence and to virtue or moral excellence knowledge. True spiritual knowledge is found by belief in God through faith in Christ, not by depending on one's own intellect (v. 5).

Along with virtue and knowledge, believers must have temperance or self-control. This means to have one's passions under control. Believers living among false teachers need to employ patience or perseverance. Perseverance is steadfast endurance under adversity, without giving in or giving up (Ro-

mans 5:3-4; II Corinthians 1:6). Along with patience, believers are to manifest godliness. Godliness refers to piety, one's reverence toward God (v. 6).

Lastly, believers should add to their faith brotherly kindness (concern for others' needs) and love (desiring the highest good for others) (v. 7).

In verses 8-9, believers who are not progressing in the seven qualities mention in verses 5-7 are ineffective and unproductive in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, and they are blind and nearsighted. They have forgotten that they have been cleansed from their pre-conversion sins. Believers with spiritual myopia are not developing spiritually.

In verse 10, believers evidence through their godly living that they have been called and elected by God. Believers who are maturing spiritually will not stumble or "trip up" so easily as immature believers. Finally, in verse 11, believers who have ex-

hibited Christ-honoring lives will be richly rewarded with a welcome by the Saviour into His Kingdom.

Because of the perilous times of uncertainties, and the prevalence of false teachers who mock the Second Coming of Christ, people need an anchor in that conditions are not getting better. Faith in Jesus Christ is a sure anchor for the soul. The hymn writer expressed it this way has he wrote "In Times Like These."

*In times like these you need a Savior,
In times like these you need an anchor;
Be very sure, be very sure,
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!*

*This Rock is Jesus, Yes
He's the One,
This Rock is Jesus, the only One;
Be very sure, be very sure,
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!*

May God Bless!

Continued **Gains** Page 2

with as much as \$100 billion likely to be paid out through higher refunds during the 2026 filing season. Average refunds could rise by several hundred dollars, and in some cases close to \$1,000.

But analysts say those

refunds are largely the result of delayed withholding adjustments, not sustained gains in wages or financial security. Many low-income filers, particularly those with little or no tax liability, receive little to nothing. ITEP said provisions marketed as help for working families continue to bypass

the poorest households, many of them Black.

The child tax credit was raised to \$2,200 per child, yet it remains only partially refundable and far below its 2021 level. Millions of very low-income families are still excluded. Census data show that nearly one in five Black and American Indian

people lived below the poverty line in 2024, placing them among those least likely to see any benefit.

The law offsets tax cuts at the top by reducing funding for health care, food assistance, and other programs relied upon by working families. Economists warn that the long-

term costs will fall heaviest on younger Americans. Millennials and Gen Z, the most racially diverse generations in U.S. history, will inherit higher deficits and fewer public resources. The Internal Revenue Service began accepting 2025 returns on Jan. 26 and expects to process roughly 164 mil-

lion filings this year. New deductions for overtime, tips, auto loan interest, and seniors are now available, though many phase out well before reaching higher income levels. Analysts note that administrative readiness does not change who ultimately wins and loses under the law.

~ SUPER BOWL

(Solution will appear in January 15 edition)

<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1. Pakistani attire</p> <p>5. Research location</p> <p>8. Partridge's fruit tree</p> <p>12. *Grid follower</p> <p>13. * ___ Upshaw, multiple Super Bowl winner</p> <p>14. Canada's national tree</p> <p>15. Like Homer Simpson's head</p> <p>16. Allege</p> <p>17. Agenda entries</p> <p>18. *Adding a rushing player</p> <p>20. Aphrodite's lover</p> <p>21. Not host</p> <p>22. Tire meas.</p> <p>23. Composure under strain</p> <p>26. More distant</p> <p>30. Thompson of "Some Kind of Wonderful"</p> <p>31. Ubiquitous deciduous tree</p> <p>34. Genealogical plant</p> <p>35. Poetic feet</p> <p>37. Dream time, acr.</p> <p>38. The Romanovs, e.g.</p> <p>39. Song for solo voice</p> <p>40. Dishevel, as in hair</p> <p>42. Clever humor</p> <p>43. *SoFi ____, Super Bowl LXI venue</p> <p>45. *Last year's Super Bowl winners</p> <p>47. Web robot</p> <p>48. Tesla Roadster with Starman location</p> <p>50. a.k.a. podagra</p> <p>52. *The only NFL team with perfect season</p> <p>55. Plant-based laxative</p> <p>56. Symphony member</p> <p>57. "No ___ for you!"</p> <p>59. No gains without them</p> <p>60. Retired, abbr.</p> <p>61. Field worker</p> <p>62. Bohemian</p> <p>63. Not Miss or Ms</p> <p>64. Poker amount</p>	<p>DOWN</p> <p>1. Bro to bro</p> <p>2. Speedy steed</p> <p>3. Chuck Berry's " ___ Over Beethoven"</p> <p>4. Rainbow color</p> <p>5. *Santa Clara's ___ Stadium, Super Bowl LX venue</p> <p>6. Beside, archaic</p> <p>7. Titanic's frozen enemy</p> <p>8. *Team with most Super Bowl appearances</p> <p>9. Fencing weapon</p> <p>10. Charitable contributions</p> <p>11. Hi-___</p> <p>13. Garden shelter</p> <p>14. Unhealthy atmosphere</p> <p>19. Little hills</p> <p>22. P in m.p.g.</p> <p>23. Mark Twain to Samuel Clemens</p> <p>24. Lively</p> <p>25. Vampire of Greek mythology</p> <p>26. *One of two teams to win while hosting Super Bowl</p> <p>27. Long fishing line</p> <p>28. Like haunted house</p> <p>29. What the defense does?</p> <p>32. High school dressy affair</p> <p>33. Romanian money</p> <p>36. *Super Bowl LX halftime show headliner (2 words)</p> <p>38. Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young: " ___ Your Children"</p> <p>40. Egyptian boy king, for short</p> <p>41. Long jump</p> <p>44. I to Greeks, pl.</p> <p>46. Rob Marshall's 2005 movie "Memoirs of a ___"</p> <p>48. On the wagon</p> <p>49. Land parcels</p> <p>50. *Shoulder pads and cleats</p> <p>51. "Put a lid ___!"</p> <p>52. College dwelling</p> <p>53. High part of day</p> <p>54. Edible fat</p> <p>55. Facial site</p> <p>58. *Charlie Puth and Brandi Carlile, ___ game stars</p>
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Statepoint Crossword Puzzle

Theme: SUPER BOWL

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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Quinn Minute

Author of Little Red Riding Hood

By Rix Quinn

This month, we recognize the birthday of Charles Perrault, who preserved folk tales like "Little Red Riding Hood," "Sleeping Beauty," and many more.

We'd bake him a cake, but since he was born in 1628, he's 397 now, and few folks that age can blow out the candles.

Before Perrault committed them to paper, folk tales passed orally from one generation to the next. As you know, the mouth is filled with bacteria, so many stories were man-

gled through repetition.

There's also the possibility that characters got "co-mingled." Without Perrault, Cinderella might have wandered into Grandma's house and been devoured by the wolf. Then the glass shoe really would be on another foot!

The legend about Riding Hood is a favorite. Where else can you find fresh-baked goods, a lovely heroine, a wolf, and a lumberjack all in one place?

In the fable, Red's

mom summons her to deliver food to ailing Grandma. Red takes a shortcut through the woods and meets a talking wolf (pretty suspicious). Not content to simply steal the food, Wolf finds out where Red's going and beats her there.

He devours Granny, puts on her gown, and crawls into bed. Red – for the same reason Lois Lane can't identify Clark Kent as Superman – can't tell Wolf from Grandma.

Wolf jumps at Red, but

her screams summon a lumberjack. He races in, confronts the Wolf...and out pops a live Granny.

From this tale, we discover that wolves have problems digesting sick people. And we also learn that if you don't write down great stories, you'll omit details...and end up with a near-myth

You can read more of Rix Quinn's ideas on memoir and biography writing by going to this link: <https://rixquinn.substack.com>.

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1	2	6	7	3	5	8	9	4
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SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Jan. 22

Friday, Jan. 23

Saturday, Jan. 24

Sunday, Jan. 25

Monday, Jan. 26

Tuesday, Jan. 27

Wednesday, Jan. 28



H -58°
L -49°



H 49°
L -27°



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H -31°
L -15*



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Jerry Jones wants to be the owner with the most Super Bowls, but the Cowboys have a long way to go

By SCHUYLER DIXON AP Pro Football Writer

FRISCO, Texas (AP) — Jerry Jones hasn't even sniffed an NFL championship in the past 30 of his 37 years as owner, president and general manager of the Dallas Cowboys.

Yet the 83-year-old still has the goal of retiring as the owner with the most Super Bowl titles, despite New England's Robert Kraft having twice as many as Jones' three.

"Got work to do," son Stephen Jones, the executive vice president of personnel, said at the club's season-ending news conference Wednesday.

"I've got work to do," Jerry Jones repeated. "But at least I'm up to the second rung of the ladder. My goal is to have retired and won a Super Bowl as an old man."

First things first, though.

Dallas is the only team that hasn't reached an NFC championship game since

1996. The Cowboys have missed the playoffs the past two seasons — Mike McCarthy's last as Dallas head coach and Brian Schottenheimer's first.

The defense is pretty much a mess, soon to have its fourth defensive coordinator in four seasons after Matt Eberflus became the third since 2020 to last just one year.

The offense is among the NFL's best, with Dallas (7-9-1) missing the playoffs in a full season from quarterback Dak Prescott for the first time since 2019. It was one of Prescott's best seasons, too — third in yards passing and fourth in touchdowns.

The Cowboys like to believe they have some foundational pieces on defense, and standout defensive tackle Quinnen Williams surely counts as one. Any others are debatable at best.

Prescott is going into his 11th season, and the Cowboys have two first-round draft picks in April after the trade that sent star pass rusher Micah Parsons to Green Bay a week before the season started.

As far as the Dallas defense is concerned, this draft will be among the most important in the tenure of Jerry Jones, particularly if the Pro Football Hall of Famer really does want to believe he can catch Kraft.

"I don't have that many drafts left," Jones said as reporters around him chuckled. "The bottom line is that, yes, this is very important. We want to while Dak is playing the game and got it down the way he's got it, we want to get out here and basically do better than what we did this year. So the combination of those things give us the incentive to, dare I say

it, bust the budget to try to get something done now, yes. We'll do some dramatic things."

The Cowboys haven't done anything dramatic in free agency in years, and the top priority this offseason will be keeping receiver George Pickens. Whether it's a franchise tag or a long-term deal, Pickens will cost in the neighborhood of \$30 million per season. Dallas also wants to keep running back Javonte Williams, who will be an unrestricted free agent.

Defensive tackle Kenny Clark came in the Parsons trade, and provided the consistency and accountability that Schottenheimer often preaches. The reality is, Clark has a \$20 million salary cap hit on a contract with no more guaranteed money, so a reworked deal makes the most sense.

ERCOT Issues Weather Watch

(Austin, TX) The Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. (ERCOT) has issued a Weather Watch from January 24-27 due to forecasted below-freezing temperatures with the possibility of frozen precipitation, higher electrical demand, and the potential for lower reserves. Grid conditions are expected to be normal during an ERCOT Weather Watch.

ERCOT is monitoring weather conditions closely and will deploy all available tools to manage the grid, continuing a reliability-first approach to operations. In anticipation of the extreme cold weather, ERCOT is coordinating preparation efforts with the Texas Energy Reliability Council, the Public Utility Commission of Texas, the Texas Division of Emergency Management, and other state agencies, as well as with Market Participants.

ERCOT encourages everyone to sign up for grid condition notifications through the Texas Advisory and Notification System (TXANS). Texans can also monitor real-time and extended grid conditions at ercot.com.

What is an ERCOT Weather Watch?

An ERCOT Weather Watch is an advance notification of forecasted significant weather with higher electrical demand and the potential for lower reserves. At this time, grid conditions are expected to be normal, and there is no current expectation of an energy emergency. Texans should continue to monitor real-time and extended grid conditions at ercot.com.

What Action is Needed?

No action is needed. You can monitor current and extended grid conditions on ercot.com.

Did You Know?

Reducing electric use during peak demand times can help you save and lower demand on the grid. Energy-saving tips can be found on the TXANS webpage.

Stay Updated

Sign up for TXANS notifications on the TXANS webpage. You can also subscribe to ERCOT Emergency Alerts, which are not sent through TXANS notifications, and download the ERCOT mobile app for additional notifications: iOS | Android.

Continued Wyatt Page 1

of segregation. Yet he remembered East Austin not for its imposed limits, but for its brilliance: a vibrant, self-sustaining Black community filled with thriving businesses, cultural pride, and deep-rooted connection. That sense of possibility stayed with him.

In 1973, Wyatt, his wife at the time, Barbara, and a dear friend co-founded The Villager Newspaper with a bold and necessary mission—to shine a light on the positive stories of Black Austin. At a time when mainstream media often portrayed African Americans through narrow or negative frames, The Vil-

lager became a counter-narrative, a source of affirmation and truth. When his co-founders moved on to other careers, Wyatt remained, carrying the paper forward with unwavering commitment. He focused on the neighborhoods, families, and issues that needed visibility, insisting that Black communities deserved coverage that reflected their full humanity.

Wyatt often said, "The community needed a voice," whether through his newspaper, his magazine - Loquacity, or the only Black radio station in Austin at the time - KAZI. Having grown up reading Black newspapers, he knew the standard they set—and

he held himself to it. He credited community support as the force that kept The Villager strong through the decades.

As technology changed the media landscape, Wyatt remained convinced of the enduring importance of Black newspapers. He said, "People still keep scrapbooks of articles. We continue to do the work for them." His belief in print was never nostalgia—it was a commitment to accessibility, memory, and belonging.

Beyond journalism, Wyatt became a respected civic leader, serving on numerous boards and commissions, including the Private Industry Council,

the Austin Cable Commission, and the East 11th Street Village Association. Wyatt was also a founding member of the Texas Publishers Association (TPA) and a steadfast member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA). He implemented programs like the Youth Brigade to help support the education of children. Through contacts with major corporations like Budweiser, Frost Bank, Wells Fargo, and Bank of America, Wyatt was able to provide a financial lifeline for community resources very much needed. And through his connections within the Austin City Council and the City of

Austin, Wyatt was able to show the wonderful opportunities that East Austin had to give back to the city. His work helped shape policy, preserve culture, and uplift communities too often overlooked by city leadership.

A lover of golf, travel, vacationing, good food, and gambling, Wyatt carried joy with him wherever he went. He built alliances not only through his newspaper, but through the warmth, curiosity, and optimism he brought to every room. Even when reflecting on the hardships of segregation, he chose to focus on resilience and possibility. "Why incessantly fuss about the negative when

you can always focus on the positive," he would ask while smiling through pearly whites.

Through his vision, persistence, and perseverance, T.L. Wyatt's deep love for his community and East Austin created a legacy that will continue to guide and inspire others who wish to follow in his footsteps. He leaves behind a city forever shaped by his voice, his leadership, and his unwavering belief in the power of telling our own stories.

May his memory be a blessing, and may the light he carried continue to illuminate the path forward. Wyatt is survived by his son, granddaughter, and great-grandchildren.

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle

Solution: January 15 - WINTER OLYMPICS

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The Dream Cannot be Realized Without Financial Freedom

By Stacy M. Brown/Ben Crump

We honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. each January with speeches, service projects, and by reciting powerful quotes we know by heart. But too many Black families will spend much of MLK Day the same way they spend most

With the gas tank hovering near empty, hoping the car can go until the next paycheck arrives. With a prescription waiting at the pharmacy counter because they cannot afford the cost. With a paycheck that has to stretch further than what seems possible. Dr. King understood that true dignity means being able to afford and build a good life. In one of his clearest reminders, he asked what it means to "eat at an integrated lunch counter" if you cannot "buy a hamburger and a cup of coffee."

That question still carries

weight for many. Personal freedom will not be achieved without financial freedom. Dr. King spent the final chapter of his life pushing the country to face economic injustice. The day before he was tragically assassinated, Dr. King stood with sanitation workers in Memphis to call for economic equality. He helped launch the Poor People's Campaign because he knew freedom hollowed out by poverty is not freedom at all. Dr. King kept pushing America to match its promises with practical pathways.

That is the part of his legacy we should sit with this MLK Day.

This work has never been more important or needed. The cost of groceries, rent, and childcare has become an increased burden. And many families go from

stable to scrambling with just one unexpected expense. These realities are on display in a recent national survey commissioned by DreamFi, echoing what so many families already feel so deeply. More than one in four respondents told us they used check-cashing services in the past year. This finding makes it clear that too many households still need simpler and more accessible options for moving money.

The survey also shows how unexpected expenses impact families. Only 41% of Black respondents said they could cover a \$1,000 emergency, compared with 56% of white respondents. When a tire blows out, when a child gets sick, when hours get cut, the question is not theoretical. The question is immediate, and the impact is real.



WASHINGTON, D.C. — Today, Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett (TX-30) introduced the “Transparency Requirements for Aircraft Carriers to Know Immigration Conduct and Enforcement Act,” or the TRACK ICE Act.

Reports show that ICE has been abusing Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) privacy programs, such as FAA’s Limiting Aircraft Data Displayed (LADD) Program, to avoid disclosing their flight operations. This leaves families in the dark of their loved ones’ whereabouts and loosens accountability for safe and lawful deportation practices.

This legislation ensures that any entity under contract with DHS, ICE, or CBP to transport, detain, or deport individuals can no longer hide behind privacy loopholes.

“For far too long, the federal government has operated immigration flights without full transparency. These ghost flights are tearing families apart, leaving loved ones in the dark, and giving immigration agencies free rein to act without oversight, transparency, and justice. It is Congress’s job to ensure they aren’t operating above the law,” said Congresswoman Crockett.

The TRACK ICE Act:

- Requires comprehensive data to be released within 72 hours of any immigration enforcement flights.
- Prohibits aircraft operators from hiding their tracking data while on federal missions.
- Require disclosure of the condition and restraints used on de-

tained individuals. Robyn Barnard, senior director in the Refugee and Immigrant Rights team at Human Rights First, said “In this first year of the Trump administration, we have witnessed a detention and deportation machine operating at a scale we have never seen before and enabled by the opaque ICE enforcement flight network. Our ICE Flight Monitor project has tracked thousands of these flights transferring people far from their loved ones and counsel, even to countries that are not their own, and at times in violation of court orders. This government refuses to be transparent in its use of taxpayer dollars or its treatment of human beings. We are deeply grateful for the leadership of Congresswoman Crockett in introducing the TRACK

ICE Act to shine a light on a system that is not only cruel, but increasingly lawless, and to ensure there is accountability for the injustices it has caused.”

The TRACK ICE Act is endorsed by Human Rights First, Detention Watch Network, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Vera Institute of Justice, National Immigration Law Center (NILC), Advocates for Human Rights, African Communities Together, Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, Witness at the Border, Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, African Human Rights Coalition, Oasis Legal Services, Refugee Council USA, Climate Refugees, Alianza Nacional de Campesinas, Immigrant Defenders Law Center (ImmDef), and Church World Service.

North Texas school district cancels Islamic Games for alleged ties to group governor calls terroristic

By Fort Worth Report, The Texas Tribune

FORT WORTH — Grapevine-Colleyville ISD officials “severed negotiations” with an Islamic group seeking to host an all-ages sporting tournament at a local high school, a district spokesperson confirmed to the Fort Worth Report on Tuesday.

The decision came after school administrators were “made aware” that one of the event’s sponsors, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, or CAIR, was designated a terrorist organization by Gov. Greg Abbott last year, GCISD spokesperson Nicole Lyons said in an email.

But organizers of the Islamic Games said CAIR “has never been, and is not presently, a sponsor, partner, affiliate or supporter” of the sports festival.

“We are deeply concerned that a sporting event for children is being targeted,” Salaudeen Nausrudeen, president of Islamic Games, said in an email to the Report. “It is our hope that better minds prevail.”

Islamic Games officials requested to use the Colleyville Heritage High School to host its Dallas chapter’s gaming event in May, Lyons said. The facility reservation was in negotiation and not yet finalized before district officials learned Monday of CAIR’s alleged sponsorship, she said.

In a news release Wednesday morning, Islamic Games officials announced that the event will still be held this summer but did not specify a location.

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The Exit Signs Are Flashing at the Place That Wrote the Authoritarian Playbook

By Stacy M. Brown

The Heritage Foundation is beginning to come apart in public, and what is unraveling is not simply a think tank but a long-maintained illusion. More than 60 senior staff members, fellows, and trustees have now resigned from the institution that spent decades presenting itself as the sober custodian of conservative thought. Board members tied to major donors have stepped down. Veteran policy writers have walked away. What remains is an organization forced, perhaps for the first time, to reckon with the distance between how it spoke about America and what it planned to do to it.

Philosophers have long maintained that power, when it believes itself righteous, often mistakes silence for consent. The Heritage Foundation thrived on that mistake. For years it wrote in careful abstractions, never naming the people its policies would dispossess, never acknowledging the communities that would be bruised by its ideas. Project 2025 changed that. Nearly 900 pages long, the document spoke plainly. It described how to bend the federal government toward a single will. It explained how to weaken civil rights enforcement, how to hollow out agencies, how to turn immigration into mass detention, and how to place ideology above law. It did not whisper. It declared.

Donald Trump told the country he had nothing to do with it. He said he did not know the authors. He dismissed the warnings as political theater. Those words collapsed the moment he returned to the White House and appointed Russell Vought, one of Project 2025’s principal architects, to run the Office of Management and Budget. The blueprint Trump denied

became the machinery through which his presidency now moves.

“A lot of the policies from Day 1 to the last day and in between that the administration has adopted are right out of Project 2025,” California Attorney General Rob Bonta said, as his office and others prepared lawsuits not in reaction, but in expectation.

What followed has been neither theoretical nor restrained. In Minneapolis, a federal agent shot and killed a man during an operation, igniting protests in a city that already carries the memory of unchecked force. Immigration hardened into something colder still when the administration suspended visa processing for applicants from 75 countries, closing pathways without warning and without apology. Across the nation, demonstrations rose as Americans confronted a government that now acts as though consent is an obstacle rather than a foundation.

Project 2025 anticipated this atmosphere. Its immigration chapter calls for ending asylum at the border, canceling legal status for millions, compelling local police to serve federal deportation goals, and expanding detention camps through executive authority alone. It treats people as numbers to be managed and rights as technicalities to be brushed aside.

For Black America, this moment is not unfamiliar. Civil rights organizations have warned that Project 2025 threatens voting access, education protections, housing enforcement, and reproductive autonomy. The document rarely names Black communities directly, yet it targets the very systems that protect Black citizenship and political power. The danger lies not



Photo Credit: NNPA Files

in what it says aloud, but in what it dismantles quietly.

Abroad, the same logic has spilled beyond U.S. borders. On January 3, American forces struck Venezuela and captured President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, transporting them to New York to face federal charges. Governments across Europe and Latin America condemned the action as a breach of international law. The United States escalated further by seizing Venezuelan oil tankers, tightening control over the country’s resources and deepening regional instability.

In the Arctic, Trump renewed his demand for U.S. control of Greenland, declaring anything less unacceptable. Denmark deployed troops. Protests filled streets in Greenland and Copenhagen. A Greenlandic official broke down on live television after a White House meeting failed to soften Washington’s posture. At Davos, Trump’s confrontations with European leaders turned diplomacy into spectacle and strained alliances that had taken generations to build.

This is not chaos without authority. Analysts tracking implementation estimate that roughly half of Project 2025 has already been executed through executive orders, agency restructuring, and enforcement changes. This was not improvisation. It was preparation made visible.

HEALTH

Need Help Paying for Care at Parkland? We Can Guide You

The new year is here, and for many people it brings a blend of hope and worry. Across the country, millions of Americans are feeling the pressure from the rising cost of healthcare.

Many people do not have health insurance and are seeing higher prescription drug costs. A recent [West Health and Gallup survey](#) found that nearly half of U.S. adults (47%) are worried they won’t be able to afford necessary healthcare in 2026. With higher premiums, larger deductibles, and everyday expenses stacking up, it is no surprise that many people are stressed about how they will afford the care they need.

Parkland Health’s Patient Financial Services team is here to help you understand programs that may lower the costs of care received at Parkland. Our counselors can walk you through programs that may reduce your costs for care provided at Parkland and help you identify health coverage you may qualify for.

You may qualify for programs such as:

- **Medicaid:** For people with low income, limited resources, disabilities, or certain life situations like pregnancy. It covers doctor visits, hospital care, prescriptions, long-term care, and more. Benefits vary by state.
- **Medicare:** Health insurance for adults 65 and older.
- **Health Insurance Marketplace® (ACA):** If you don’t have health insurance through your job, the Marketplace lets you compare insurance plans, check for low monthly premiums, and explore options that reduce out-of-pocket costs.
- **Parkland Financial Assistance (PFA):** For eligible Dallas County residents who meet income requirements and need help paying for services at Parkland.
- **Crime Victims Compensation Program:** Helps victims and their families cover medical bills, counseling, lost wages, and other recovery costs.
- **Parkland Self Pay Charity Discount Program:** Offers discounts for medically necessary care performed at Parkland.
- **Parkland Community Health Plan:** Health coverage for people who qualify for Medicaid or CHIP (Children’s Health Insurance Program), with access to many doctors, specialists, and hospitals at little or no cost.

You do not have to manage these challenges alone when it comes to care at Parkland. Visit parklandhealth.org/insurance to see accepted plans, or parklandhealth.org/paying-for-your-services for guidance.