

“Dallas ISD News: All Dallas ISD schools open Friday, Jan. 30”



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VOLUME 78 NUMBER 18

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

January 29 - February 4, 2026

Lawmakers, protesters demand release of 5-year-old held at Texas immigration detention center

by Lomi Kriel

SAN ANTONIO — Flanked by state and local leaders, U.S. Rep. Joaquin Castro, a San Antonio Democrat, and U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett, a Dallas Democrat, on Wednesday called for the immediate release of 5-year-old Liam Conejo Ramos and his

father Adrian Conejo Arias, whose arrests in a Minneapolis suburb last week have become a flashpoint in the furor over the Trump administration’s deportation tactics.

Photographs of federal authorities detaining the Ecuadorian child, who was



U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett, D-Dallas, speaks at a press conference outside of the San Antonio City Hall along with other lawmakers to talk about her visit to the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley on Jan. 28, 2026.

Photo Credit: Brenda Bazán for The Texas Tribune

wearing a Spider-Man backpack and pale blue oversized winter hat, quickly went viral as some Americans saw it emblematic of the government’s se-

vere practices in Minnesota, where immigration agents shot and killed two people this month. Liam and his father were flown to an immigrant detention center

about 70 miles south of San Antonio and on Monday a federal judge in Texas temporarily blocked their deportation.

The congressional Dem-

ocrats met Wednesday with the family, who Castro said entered the U.S. legally through a Biden-era

Continue Center Page 2



Kanye West / Photo Credit: NNPA Files

Ye, the artist formerly known as Kanye West, used a full-page paid advertisement in The Wall Street Journal to directly address the Black community, apologizing for actions he says caused deep harm while describing a decades-long struggle with untreated

brain injury and bipolar disorder that he says culminated in a destructive manic episode.

“To the Black community—which held me down through all of the highs and lows and the darkest of times,” Ye wrote, but notably did not place

Kanye West Seeks Forgiveness from the Black Community in Wall Street Journal Apology

“I’m not asking for sympathy, or a free pass, though I aspire to earn your forgiveness,” Ye wrote. “I write today simply to ask for your patience and understanding as I find my way home.”

By Stacy M. Brown

such an apology in any of the 230-plus Black-owned newspapers that comprise the Black Press of America and led by former NAACP President and civil rights activist Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. “The Black community is, unquestionably, the foundation of who I am.

I am so sorry to have let you down. I love us.”

The advertisement, titled “To Those I’ve Hurt,” appeared in the January 26, 2026, edition of the newspaper and is signed simply, “With love, Ye.” In it, the

Continue West Page 5

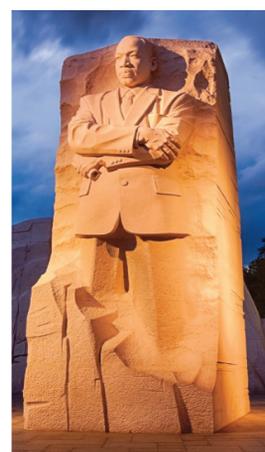


Photo Credit: iStockphoto / NNPA.

OP-ED: The Dream Cannot be Realized Without Financial Freedom

By 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 Mondays.

With the gas tank hover-

ing 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.

Continue Dream Page 6

Porter, Good Aren’t the First ICE Shooting Victims

THE HUTCHINSON REPORT:

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson, Contributing Columnist, WAVE Community Newspapers



Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA

I’m not going to judge what the secretary says, but if you look up the definition of terrorism, it certainly can fall within that.

Tom Homan, the director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, was simply parroting his boss, Homeland Security Director Kristi Noem’s narrative about the slaying of Renee Good. Both wasted no time in tarring Good as a domestic terrorist days after an ICE agent killed her in Min-

neapolis Jan. 7.

This is the first of a two-part series excerpted from Earl Ofari Hutchinson’s latest book, “The ICE Shooting Scorecard.”

Homan gave his self-assured assertion about Good’s action and killing to NBC News. By then the video, multiple videos, had raised serious doubt that Good acted out of deliberate malice and that she posed

Continue ICE Page 3



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EDITORIAL PAGE

Are Laws and Rules Without Protection and Guardrails These Days?

By James B. Ewers Jr., Ed.



Dr. James Ewers

America is a nation that has laws and rules. They govern our everyday lives. Wherever we go, at least in this country, we know we are protected. We know that we are safe because of them.

As I was coming of age, my earliest recollection of rules was in my house. My parents had certain rules that I had to follow. For example, I had to make my bed, and I had to do my homework. Those were just a few of them.

I had the good sense to follow them. Not following them put me at risk. If you are old school, you know what I mean by the phrase, "put me at risk."

Back then, there were some unjust laws that were in place. There wasn't much compromise about them. During my early years, there were rules in my city and state that didn't benefit

all people. The overarching term to describe them was segregation.

America just celebrated the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. He was one of many leaders who helped to change laws that gave people more rights. Without struggle and sacrifice, people of color and other marginalized groups would have been hopeless and forgotten.

The premise is that laws were made to protect all people. Is that premise still being followed? Let's fast-forward to today, when laws on the books aren't being followed as they should be.

In America, we have the right to assemble in a peaceful and orderly way. We should not be subjected to brutality or intimidation. Self-expression peacefully has always been a part of our democracy. Has that changed?

The city of Minneapolis has become the center of violence and protests. America is watching, and the reviews aren't good.

The tragic death of Renee Good in Minneapolis has triggered a number of events in which ICE

agents have overstepped their authority. This sentiment has been widely confirmed by citizens in the city.

Now, just a few days ago, another citizen, Alex Jeffrey Pretti was shot and killed by ICE agents. Video shows his registered gun was taken from him before he was shot. While the gun was registered in another state, he was shot after the gun was taken from him.

There have been different reports about the deaths of Ms. Good and Mr. Pretti. At this juncture, tempers are high and will remain that way for the foreseeable future.

Regarding the untimely death of Renee Good, the lead attorney for the Good family, Antonio M. Romanucci said, "We believe the evidence we are gathering and will continue to gather in our investigation will suffice to prove our case."

Public outcry is split between Renee Good and Alex Pretti. Many say the current administration has not given a sufficient rationale to dispute claims of overstepping by these federal agents. Their statements are not grounded in

law and order. However, they are indicative of putting fear in the lives of folks in Minneapolis.

Another case in this same city involved a boy and his father. The boy is five years old. According to reports, the man had been granted asylum and was therefore legally in the country from Ecuador.

At this writing, the father, Adrian Alexander Conejo Ramos, and the son, Liam Adrian Conejo Ramos, are at the Dilley detention center in Texas.

If you take a step back, what we have here is a five-year-old boy being detained in a prison-like setting. It's his 5th year on earth, and he is being held in a strange place by strange people.

I hope what is playing out in the city of Minneapolis troubles you, regardless of your political stripes. If you are in the office, how are you feeling right now? So, America, we do have laws, some rewritten and some interpreted differently. We have standards, yet we struggle to adhere to them. Oh, America, what is happening to us?

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What We Can Learn from The People of Minnesota

By: **Dr. John E. Warren**, Publisher
San Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper
Chairman of the Board of Directors, NNPA



Dr. John E. Warren

We, the people of San Diego and other cities around these States, have much we can learn from the people of Minnesota. First, they did not let the cold weather deter their need to rally and protest the illegal

actions of I.C.E. (Immigration and Customs Enforcement). They did NOT allow the double murders of their neighbors to keep them from getting involved.

Let it be said first that there are some very committed people in this county who take to the streets weekly against the actions of the Trump Administration against our neighbors. But all our problems are not with the Feds. We still have actions of police brutality against our citizens. We have too many issues of people dying and experiencing mistreatment while in cus-

tody. We recently had a Black SDPD Commander, the only one on the police force, passed over for promotion to Assistant Chief. We have had no collective public reaction. Then there is the overall absence of Black people from just about all protest movements. The reason some give is that not enough Whites supported the Black Lives Matter movement. The reality is that the attack on any of us is an attack on all of us. Can we ignore the plight of others while expecting help when they come to us?

We can be reminded by the people of Minnesota

that we are stronger together; that we must talk to one another. Most of us have bigger issues than parking rates in Balboa Park. We have another round of budget cuts coming and a Fourth District City Council member chairing the budget committee who appears out of touch with the people of his District. We have an election coming in November, but we are not talking about candidates in all four Districts up for election since it takes five votes to get anything done. We would like to know where you stand on these and other issues.

Continued **Center** Page 1

Contera application called CBP One that allowed asylum seekers to seek protection in the country after waiting months for an appointment. The father told the lawmakers that his son was now "very depressed," wasn't eating and appeared lethargic.

"His father said that Liam has been sleeping a lot, that he's been asking

about his family, his mom and his classmates, and saying that he wants to be back in school," said Castro, who told the family that "most of America wants Liam released."

But, Castro added, "the sad tragedy of all of this is that Liam is emblematic of the inhumanity of our (immigration) detention system."

Castro said they met with dozens of families in the fa-

cility, including the parents of a two-month-old infant, and saw many children younger than 5 who told the representatives that they were receiving no schooling, even though some had been imprisoned for as long as eight months. All the detainees they met had been locked up for longer than two months, a period of detention which attorneys say has skyrocketed under the Trump administration.

"The treatment that these people are suffering under right now is worse than those that are accused and sometimes even convicted of crimes," said Crockett, a criminal defense attorney who noted that federal officials told her that no one detained in Dilley was accused of any crimes beyond immigration offenses, which is a civil matter.

Continue **Center** Page 6

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.

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

RELIGIOUS/NEWS

Believers Have the Solid Word of God and a Sure Word of Prophecy

II Peter 1:12-21



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

The Grand Apostle Peter transitions from his focus of declaring God's work in providing believers with various spiritual resources or endowments in order to live vital and godly lives (II Peter 1:3-11), to the grand importance of God's word as our spiritual nourishment (II Peter 1:12-21). II Peter 1:12-21 may be outlined as follows: I. A Reminder to Remember What Has Been Written – II Peter 1:12-15; II. Revelation of a Sure Prophecy – II Peter 1:16-21.

I. A Reminder to Remember What Has Been Written – II Peter 1:12-15

Peter, aware that his sojourn on earth was drawing nigh, wanted these believers to keep that which he had written in this epistle (v. 12). Peter wanted these believers not to waver from the truths he had written and to be firmly entrenched in the truth. The problem with many bible believing churches, is that believers know the truth but forget to

practice what they know! As believers, we must live out the truths that we presently have now!

In verses 13-14, Peter was keenly aware that he would soon be with the Lord, however, he wanted to stir up the memories of the believers as long as the Lord granted him to live in the tent of his body. Peter knew that he had to put aside his tent because Jesus had clearly forecasted in St. John 21:18-19 that he would (vv. 13-14). Again, in verse 15, it was Peter's supreme focus for the believers to be able to remember what he had written even after his demise. Peter did not want God's people to forget God's work and word!

Having observed in I. A Reminder to Remember What Has Been Written – II Peter 1:12-15, now let us observe II. Revelation of a Sure Prophecy – II Peter 1:16-21.

II. Revelation of a Sure Prophecy – II Peter 1:16-21

Peter begins in verse 16 declaring that our Christian faith rests on historical facts that eyewitnesses val-

idated. Peter confirmed that he was a witness of the majesty of the Lord: this was a referral to the power and coming of Jesus Christ. Peter is offering a firm defense of the doctrine of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ which was confirmed by his eyewitness experience on the Mount of Transfiguration.

Peter is attesting that he experienced Christ's majesty on the Mount of Transfiguration. The doctrine of Christ's return is of paramount importance and Peter wanted the believers to remember this doctrine! The transfiguration event was an attestation that the Lord will come again in great power. The whole purpose of the transfiguration experience was to give the three disciples (Peter, James, John) a foretaste of Christ's coming kingdom (Matthew 16:28-17:2; Mark 9:1-8; Luke 9:28-36). These disciples witnessed Christ's majesty, an experience they could not forget!

In verses 17-18, as a member of the inner circle of disciples, Peter wanted the believers to anticipate a time when Christ will appear in honor and glory!

Peter is stating that he was privileged to witness the transfiguration event and that experience prompted him to be firmly committed to the doctrine of the Second Coming of Christ (Acts 2:32-33, 36; 3:16, 20-21) (v. 17). During that awesome experience of being on the Mount of Transfiguration, Peter was profoundly impressed more with what he heard than what he saw! (v. 18). God the Father spoke from heaven, voicing His approval of Jesus Christ!

In verse 19, Peter will shift from his transfiguration experience to remind the believers of the importance of God's written word given by the prophets. The Father's powerful voice on the sacred mountain authenticated the word of the prophets. The prophets forecasted that the kingdom was coming and the transfiguration confirmed the fulfillment of their prophecies. Peter exhorted the believers that we have a "sure word of prophecy" and they needed to pay strict attention to it.

As a light, God's written word serves to guide us until Christ comes again. You see in verse 19, the

written word of God illumines us in this dark chaotic world of sin and guides us, even enlightens us, about God's ways and exhorts us to anticipate the Lord's glorious coming!

Having written regarding prophecy serving as illumination (v. 19), Peter now discusses prophecy as revelation (v. 20). Peter informs us that "no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation." When interpreting prophecy, we should interpret it contextually and with the support of other prophecies in God's word (v. 20).

In verse 21, prophecies originated from God and not the prophets themselves. The prophets were men of God who were controlled by the Holy Spirit as they wrote. As the prophets wrote, they were being inspired by God (II Timothy 3:16).

Brothers and sisters, we have a sure word of prophecy because the human authors were controlled by the Divine Author, the Holy Spirit. And if the Holy Spirit is leading you, then you have a mighty good Leader! The Holy Spirit convicted our hearts

that He (Christ) is the way to salvation (St. John 14:6).

It is through the ministry of the Holy Spirit that we were firmly convicted that Christ became our substitutionary sacrifice, dying for us on an old rugged cross. The same Saviour who died in our stead on the cross, and was buried, rose triumphantly for our justification. Jesus Christ, the matchless Son of God, became man, and He completely paid the price for our redemption!

As believers, we have been saved from the penalty of sin (justification), we are being saved from the power of sin (sanctification), but one day, we shall be saved from the very presence of sin (glorification). I John 3:2 informs us that when Christ comes to receive the church, we will experience being glorified, for I John 3:2 says: "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is."

May God Bless!

Continued ICE Page 1

an imminent danger to ICE Agent Jonathan Ross. Though the Good slaying was exceptional in that it was caught on video, it was hardly the first time that

Homan spoke out on ICE actions, especially the use of deadly force.

The Good slaying, in fact, opened the door to many about just how emboldened and deadly ICE agents had become in the

first year of President Donald Trump's second Oval Office tenure. During 2025, ICE agents, at Trump's ironfisted directive, fanned out into Los Angeles before spreading to Washington, D.C., Chicago, Memphis,

Portland, Charlotte, North Carolina, New Orleans, and of course, Minneapolis.

In almost all those cities, there were reports of an avalanche of abuses, up to and including shootings.

An independent investi-

gative group, Trace, tallied 31 incidents where ICE agents either opened fire or held someone at gunpoint. The one figure that jumped out in the tally was five. That was the number of people shot that the agency

claimed were fleeing in their vehicle.

There were two presumptions about those shootings. One was that the allegedly fleeing individual was an

Continued ICE Page 4

~ LOVE'S IN THE AIR ~
(Solution will appear in February 5 edition)

- ACROSS**
- Biology lab supply
 - Aldous Huxley's drug of choice
 - *Certain Courtney
 - Tear violently
 - Color of a bruise
 - Al Roker's show
 - Pupil control
 - Any minute, to Shakespeare
 - Sheep-like
 - *H. P. of science fiction fame
 - Hibernation stations
 - Boat station
 - Tennis shot
 - Packed in container
 - User-friendly interface, acr.
 - Genetic info carrier, acr.
 - *Love unquestioningly
 - Equal to 1.3 ounces in Asia
 - Not a minor
 - Poem addressed to certain subject
 - Hundred, in Italian
 - Nothing
 - Relating to clone
 - Division, abbr.
 - Sloughed off skin
 - Fluffy dessert
 - All good things come to this?
 - Between Oets and Novs
 - ___ Verde National Park
 - *B-52s' "little old place" (2 words)
 - Singing femme fatale
 - Deed hearing
 - Reverberated sound
 - Blue-Green scum, pl.
 - Misery cause
 - Actress Perlman
 - Scheme
 - Right coast time
 - Made by tailor

- DOWN**
- Seed cover
 - Biking helmet manufacturer
 - Tel ____, Israel
 - #64 Across, redone
 - Like 1969 landing
 - Laugh with contempt
 - Fender-bender damage
 - *a.k.a. hickey (2 words)
 - Norse deity
 - "Off The Wall" shoe
 - Needle hole
 - Macy's Thanksgiving offering
 - Commotions
 - Silica variety
 - NaOH
 - Solder together
 - Dewey Decimal Classification, a.k.a. Relative
 - Pleasant Island
 - Small songbird
 - Harry's and Hermione's magic tools
 - Bigfoot's cousins
 - *Hand cover, with love
 - *Lemming relative, or anagram of love
 - Tokyo, formerly
 - *Couch for two
 - Lumps in liquid
 - Knave
 - Unit of electric current flow
 - Absurd
 - Theater guides
 - Nutritious beans
 - Black tie one
 - Grain grinder
 - "Cogito, ___ sum"
 - Stud site
 - Occasional heart condition
 - Prepare to swallow
 - Riddle without solution
 - Tree juice

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle
Theme: LOVE'S IN THE AIR

CROSSWORD

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HEALTH

New RAND study shows U.S. poison centers save billions annually

North Texas Poison Center highlights local impact, encourages community to use free, life-saving services

U.S. poison centers save \$3.1 billion every year in medical costs and lost productivity, according to a new independent study released by America's Poison Centers®. Conducted by RAND, the report confirms that poison centers provide substantial economic and societal benefits for communities across the country. In Texas, the North Texas Poison Center (NTPC), located at Parkland Health, responds to more than 64,000 exposure cases annually and provides critical services to prevent poisonings and 24/7 expert support to families and individuals in the community.

The RAND report, Poison Prevention, Treatment, and Detection as Public Health Investments, found that for every \$1 invested in

poison center services, communities receive \$16.77 in benefits. These cost-saving benefits reflect reduced emergency department use, shortened hospital stays, decreased mortality risk, enhanced public health surveillance and improved patient outcomes.

The report also found that poison centers and their national infrastructure have significantly modernized over the last decade, expanding beyond traditional telephone calls to offer text and live chat services that better meet the changing needs of the public and the healthcare system.

"Our specialists manage thousands of calls each year from families, first responders, and healthcare teams across 42 counties in

North Texas," said Anthony Tarango, MSN, MBA, RN, Managing Director of the NTPC. "From urgent questions at home to consultations with clinicians, our team provides real-time guidance 24/7 to support patient safety across a large and diverse region."

In addition to providing 24/7 expert guidance, the North Texas Poison Center offers poison prevention education and outreach at no cost to communities across its service area. NTPC public health educators conduct health fairs and lectures, share prevention materials, and lead programs such as the Poison Jungle Safari, National Poison Prevention Week poster and video contests, and Train-the-Trainer initiatives, helping raise aware-

ness and prevent poison-related emergencies throughout North Texas.

For additional information, or to read the full report, visit poisoncenters.org/national-impact-study. For fast, free, confidential help for a potential poisoning or poison-related question, contact the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222, PoisonHelp.org, or reach your local poison center by visiting www.poisoncontrol.org/about-us/north-texas-poison-center/.

About the North Texas Poison Center

The North Texas Poison Center, located at Parkland Health in Dallas, is a regional poison control center that provides expert

Continue **RAND** Page 5

Continued ICE Page 3

undocumented worker, or had committed some criminal act, and was trying to evade apprehension. The other was that the use of deadly force was justified.

The only evidence that the first presumption was true was the word of ICE agents. There was no evidence that any of the five individuals shot at while driving away posed an immediate danger to the agents, let alone that any of them possessed a weapon.

There are two questions about ICE's use of deadly force under Trump. The first is were the shootings really necessary? The other is did the shootings indicate a dangerous trend that ICE teetered on being a lawless, out-of-control agency, with the wholehearted cheerleading of the Trump administration?

"Everything about these incidents indicates that these are probably shootings that did not need to happen," Christy Lopez, a

former senior civil rights litigator at the Justice Department, noted, "The ICE agents can't prevent everything, but they have the ability to de-escalate situations. Instead, we see the opposite. They're actually stoking this inordinate amount of fear and this hyper-vigilance, and they should be trying to tamp it down — but they're not."

Another issue is whether the shootings mark a deadly trend by ICE and Homeland Security with no fear of genuine scrutiny and accountability when deadly force is used. There was little evidence that an ICE agent during Trump's first year in the White House was prosecuted for an unwarranted shooting.

The courts did little to rein in the violence. They steadily watered down the grounds on which victims of violence or abuse by ICE could bring legal action or a suit against federal law enforcement officers. That especially included immigration enforcement

officials and agents.

The list of shootings that were by any legal standard grounds for arrest and prosecution of the agent involved had grown by the end of 2025.

Trump, ICE and Homeland Security officials had the same stock answer to why there was more gunplay and use of other weaponry in abundance. That was that ICE agents were under attack, and they had the right to defend themselves. Homeland Security officials went further and claimed that attacks were up in 2025 more than 25%.

They ticked off the hazards the agents supposedly faced — terrorist attacks, being shot at, having cars being used as weapons against them, bomb threats, assaults, and doxing, shoving agents and throwing objects at them. The agency, in its defense left out one salient point, that was the overwhelming majority of the pro-immigrant rights protests were lawful and peaceful. It also

did not mention that some ICE agents routinely engaged in provocative actions against the peaceful protesters.

Even so, there were a few widely isolated incidents where ICE officers were fired on. The incidents were exceedingly rare, and no agents were killed or even seriously injured.

But they happened and that gave ICE, Homeland Security and Trump all the ammunition they needed to proclaim continually that their agents were in danger and that using force to protect themselves would and could be ruled out.

With the slaying of Good and Keith Porter Trump, and Homeland Security seemingly had the perfect foils to rail that ICE was under attack. Therefore, any means, and that included deadly force, was not only mandated but somehow heroic. That was a script that Trump would follow repeatedly.

Quinn Minute

Cold-weather activities

By Rix Quinn

I just talked to an old friend who told me it is very cold in his town. He wonders what he can do for fun in icy conditions.

Well, it is cold because it is winter. If it were hot, we would worry that there's a hole in the ozone layer. But the ozone layer is invisible, so it would be hard to find the hole.

For winter amusement, many people ski. That's fun if you like to go

downhill really fast. I do not ski because I am going downhill fast enough already.

In icy weather, it's unwise to water ski. Not only is it hard to stay up, but falling on a frozen lake is quite painful.

If you hate cold-weather sports, you might go to an indoor boxing match or basketball game. (Sometimes you can see both events at once.)

Yes, cold weather can be brutal, but just think about the rough life our ancestors had B.C. (before central heating). Houses got so cold at night that folks invented windows so they could close them.

And think about long winter travel before cars. What if your wagon wheel fell off? What if your horse ran away?

Or what if you got

stuck outside in the snow, and your CD player broke?

I have finally decided that winter is like a bad date. It's cold, it's unpleasant, and it seems like it lasts forever.

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

Dallas ISD monitoring January 2026 winter weather



By The Hub

Dallas ISD is closely monitoring winter weather conditions anticipated later this week and early next week.

UPDATE:

Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026 | 5:30 p.m.

Out of an abundance of caution and to ensure the safety of students, Dallas ISD will remain closed, Thursday, Jan. 29. Our crews continue to work around the clock to clear walkways and parking lots despite significant improvements in weather and road conditions. Also, many neighborhood streets and sidewalks remain difficult to navigate, particularly for our buses.

This decision was made with the safety of our students and staff in mind.

Families will receive an update regarding Friday through the district's website, official social media channels, calls, texts, and local media.

UPDATE:

Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026 | 3 p.m.

Dallas ISD will remain closed tomorrow, Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026. All athletic events and practices (indoor and outdoor) are postponed. While highways are improving, many neighborhood streets, sidewalks, and school parking lots remain icy

and difficult to navigate, with refreezing expected overnight. This decision was made with the safety of our students and staff in mind.

The official sources for all Dallas ISD weather updates can be found on the district's website, official social media channels, calls/texts, and local media. Stay safe and warm.

UPDATE:

Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026 | 12:30 p.m.

Dallas ISD is closely evaluating our decision to reopen Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026. While temperatures continue to climb above freezing, we are carefully monitoring the road conditions across the district to make a final determination.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we seek to safely welcome students and staff back. For updates, please continue to monitor the district's website, social media channels, or local media.

UPDATE:

Sunday, Jan. 25, 2026 | 3 p.m.

After careful consideration for anticipated road conditions and extreme temperatures, Dallas ISD will remain closed Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026. All athletic events

and practices (indoor and outdoor) were postponed. The district will reopen Wednesday.

Instructional days will be made up on:

- Monday, April 6
- Monday, May 4

For updates, please continue to monitor the district's website, social media channels, or local media.

UPDATE:

Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026 | 11:00 a.m.

Due to anticipated winter weather, Dallas ISD will be closed Monday, Jan. 26, 2026. Please visit the district's website and social media channels for the latest regarding a decision to hold school for Tuesday.

Students will be required to make up the day. More information will be provided later.

UPDATE:

Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026 | 5:22 p.m.

Dallas ISD is closely monitoring anticipated winter weather conditions. At this time, all schools are expected to open Friday, Jan. 23, 2026. Buses will run as regularly scheduled, and all students and staff are expected at their regular time.

All after-school activities, programs, and athletic events are canceled Friday, Jan. 23, 2026 and throughout the weekend. Activities will be rescheduled for a later date.

Any additional weather-related schedule changes will be communicated by call or text and posted on the district's website and social media channels. To receive alerts, families are encouraged to connect with their respective school to ensure contact information is up to date or download the Dallas ISD app.

UPDATE:

Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026 | 04:40 p.m.

Due to anticipated winter weather, the 2026 STEM Expo for Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026 has been postponed to Saturday, Feb. 14, 2026

UPDATE:

Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026 | 4:58 p.m.

Due to the forecasted weather, varsity basketball and soccer games originally scheduled for Friday, Jan. 23 will now be played Thursday, Jan. 22. Varsity soccer games that were scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 24 will be played on Monday, Jan. 26. All games will begin at their original start time.

Continued **Dream** Page 1

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 have 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.

We must shine a light on this struggle and work to

equip families with tools to build better futures. We must recognize Dr. King's wisdom and acknowledge that financial stability is a civil rights issue, because financial instability limits the ability to have choices.

The survey also found hope that can guide how we move forward.

Black families are not turning away from the idea of building stability. In fact, they are reaching for it. In the survey, 79% of Black respondents said they sought out financial education in the past six months. Ours is a community hungry for tools and a fair shot at creating a better tomorrow.

So, what does it mean to honor Dr. King right now?

It means we get practical.

It means we expand access to clear, trustworthy financial education that respects people's time and speaks to real solutions. It means we support savings pathways that help families prepare for emergencies before emergencies arrive. It means we encourage op-

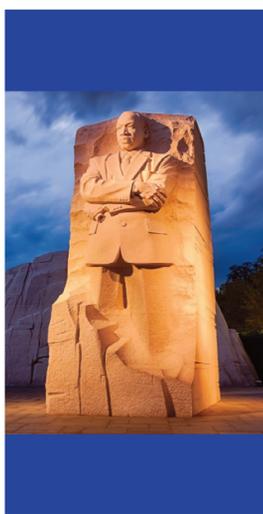


Photo Credit: **iStockphoto / NNPA.**

tions that make routine transactions easier and less costly, so a family is not paying extra simply to manage their own money. Most of all, it means we stop treating financial instability as normal. Because normal is not the same as acceptable.

Dr. King asked America to make its promises real. The best way to honor him now is to provide opportunities for everyone to achieve Dr. King's dream.

Continued **LA28** Page 5

LA28 Olympic Games: Sen. Smallwood-Cuevas Hosts Symposium

By Kaleef Starks

stage. It's a once-in-a-generation opportunity to uplift our communities," said Hoover. "That is why we are working to prioritize the Los Angeles region—from those who live and work here to the small business owners, the parents of young inspiring athletes, and beyond. We are committed to this community and the lasting impact we leave behind for future generations, and we appreciate Senator Smallwood-Cuevas for her partnership."

Workforce representatives gained knowledge about how to train their employees for career pipelines connected to LA28 projects and pathways into well-paying jobs. Minority-owned, women-owned, and small companies were given tools to assist them in

addition to advice on how to effectively obtain future contracts.

The mayor's office also led presentations to help small businesses understand demand and other procurement processes. "The 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games are more than a major sporting event—they're an opportunity to invest in our workforce and support our businesses, especially small businesses that have been historically underutilized," said Mayor Karen Bass. "From family-owned neighborhood restaurants to film and video producers and special print services, the City and LA28 are ensuring that all businesses have an opportunity to benefit from the economic boost these Games will provide."

Continued Page 2: Lawmakers, protesters demand release of 5-year-old held at Texas immigration detention CENTER



Protestors at the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley on Wednesday January 28, 2026. The protestors called for the release of 5-year-old Liam Conejo Ramos, who is being held in the detention center after being detained in Minneapolis with his father.

Photo Credit: **Brenda Bazán** for The Texas Tribune

The transfer of Liam and his father to the South Texas Family Residential Center has renewed attention on the nation's only detention facility that is permitted to hold families. The Biden administration shuttered the facility, which can hold up to 2,400 people, but Trump reopened it last year. Attor-

neys say that its population has exploded in recent months as the administration has ramped up arrests of families in the interior of the country.

Dozens of detained immigrant families protested over the weekend chanting, "Libertad," or "Let us go," said Eric Lee, a Michigan

immigration attorney who represents an Egyptian family at the facility that has been imprisoned for months. Lee and other visitors were forced out of the facility, he said, describing the guards as "white faced" about the uprising. He said the teenage daughter of his clients was separated from her mother and siblings after speaking out about the poor conditions there. In a letter the teen wrote that the attorney shared, she said, "no family should ever be separated or have to stay detained for months ... we don't even know if or when we will get out."

Those protests continued Wednesday as Castro and Crockett visited the facility. Lee and other attorneys said Department of Homeland Security officials placed the facility on a lockdown, including refusing to allow children to attend medical appoint-

ments. Tricia McLaughlin, a spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees Immigration and Customs Enforcement, said in a statement that the facility was not on a lockdown and that ICE would "NEVER deny any illegal alien medical care."

"These types of smears are leading to our officers facing a more than 1,300% increase in assaults against them," McLaughlin said.

Outside the heavily secured and cordoned-off facility, hundreds of faith and labor leaders, advocates and residents from across the state marched down the main street of Dilley toward the detention center, demanding the release of not only Liam and his father, but all detainees. At some point, Texas Department of Public Safety troopers deployed tear gas

against protesters and news media, witnesses said.

In a statement, DPS spokesperson Sheridan Nolen said that troopers responded to the protest at the request of Dilley officials. She said that after police ordered protesters to disperse, about 150 people "refused to leave and began to breach the established protest barrier and spit on officers. Despite continued orders to disperse, the group remained and DPS took less-lethal action, deploying pepper ball grenades and pepper ball projectiles."

DPS troopers arrested two people on charges including resisting arrest and interfering with public duties. At least one woman was later treated by EMS in San Antonio.

The scrutiny on the family detention facility follows years of complaints by advocates, except that

the conditions at the Dilley center now are worse, attorneys said.

"Children as young as newborns are being confined for weeks and months on end, often with no explanation beyond bureaucratic shorthand," said Robyn Barnard, senior director of refugee advocacy at Human Rights First, an international nonprofit.

A two-decade old federal settlement agreement, known as Flores, governs the rights of children in detention and generally holds that they cannot be detained longer than 20 days when they are with their parents. But the Trump administration, which is trying to undo that agreement in federal court, is broadly violating that guidance, according to attorneys and advocates.

This article first appeared on The Texas Tribune.