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VOLUME 78 NUMBER 20

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

February 12 - 18, 2026

## Congressional Black Caucus chair says Trump's post on the Obamas shows a 'bigoted and racist regime'

By BILL BARROW and RIVER ZHANG Associated Press



President Barack Obama and former First Lady Michelle Obama record a message for ABC "Good Morning America" anchor Robin Roberts, in the Library of the White House., February 2013.  
(Photo: Pete Souza / Wikimedia Commons)/NNPA

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ever since a racist video was posted on President Donald Trump's social media account, the White House has offered shifting responses.

First it dismissed "fake outrage," then it deleted the post and blamed a staff member.

Trump later told reporters Friday that "I didn't make a mistake." The Republican president insisted that before the

video was posted, no one saw the part that depicted former President Barack Obama and former first lady Michelle Obama as primates in the jungle.

But the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus had a different explanation when she spoke to The Associated Press.

"It's very clear that there was an intent to harm people, to hurt people, with this video," said

Rep. Yvette Clarke, D-N.Y.

The AP interviewed Clarke, who leads the group of more than 60 Black House and Senate members, hours after the video was deleted on Friday, and she was unsparing in her criticism. "As my mother would say, 'Too late. Mercy's gone,'" Clarke said. Here is an interview transcript, edited for length and clarity.

AP: What was your reaction

when you saw that the post?

CLARKE: We're dealing with a bigoted and racist regime. ... Every week we are, as the American people, put in a position where we have to respond to something very cruel or something extremely off-putting that this administration does. It's a part of their M.O. at this point.

Continue **Racist** Page 4

## OP-ED: Economic Empowerment Has Always Been a Part of Black History

By Louis J. King II,  
President & CEO, OIC of America

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Black History Month, I'm reflecting on the century of economic volatility and roadblocks that have often defined the experiences of disenfranchised communities. Our collective legacy is marked by resilience to overcome the economic challenges faced while trying to achieve the American dream.

For the last 50 years, many have pushed a single narrative: success can only come from a four-year college degree. While this opened the pathway to education, access, and wealth creation, this singular focus doesn't consider the varied ways people work to make our world move and operate. That path doesn't fit everyone, and it doesn't have to. Check the news: the best kept secret is out, and it is a career in the trades.

Starting a career in the skilled trades now means entering an industry with financially rewarding in-demand careers that are essential to the

Continue **History** Page 2

## Rep. Jasmine Crockett Sends Letter to DHS, ICE Opposing Massive Detention Facility in Hutchins

Washington, D.C. — Today, Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett (TX-30) sent a letter to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and Acting ICE Director Todd Lyons opposing plans to convert a large industrial warehouse in Hutchins, Texas into one of the largest immigration detention facilities in the country.

Reports indicate the proposed facility would hold thousands of detainees — a scale that would impose severe and immediate strain on Hutchins's infrastructure, emergency services, and public safety systems. Rep. Crockett warned that ICE has failed to provide local officials with basic information about the scope, scale, or operational demands of the facility, despite repeated requests.

"Decisions of this magnitude cannot be made behind closed doors," said Rep. Crockett. "Hutchins never consented to becoming a mass detention hub, and the federal government cannot expect a small city to absorb

Continue **ICE** Page 3

## Celebrating women and girls in science

By Jirah Fleming

Simone Chandler, a science teacher at Young Women's STEAM Academy at Balch Springs and Dallas ISD graduate, credits her early exposure to science for shaping her career in education and her journey toward becoming a dentist.

Now, she is preparing the next generation to be resilient and inquisitive girls.

Celebrated on Feb. 11, International Day of Women and Girls in Science highlights the importance of encouraging young

women to pursue innovation, discovery, and leadership in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The observance also recognizes learning environments, such as the STEAM Academy, that promote equity and opportunity in science education.

Chandler has taught at the school for four years and understands firsthand what it means to grow up with a love for science. From her early years as a student

Continue **Science** Page 2

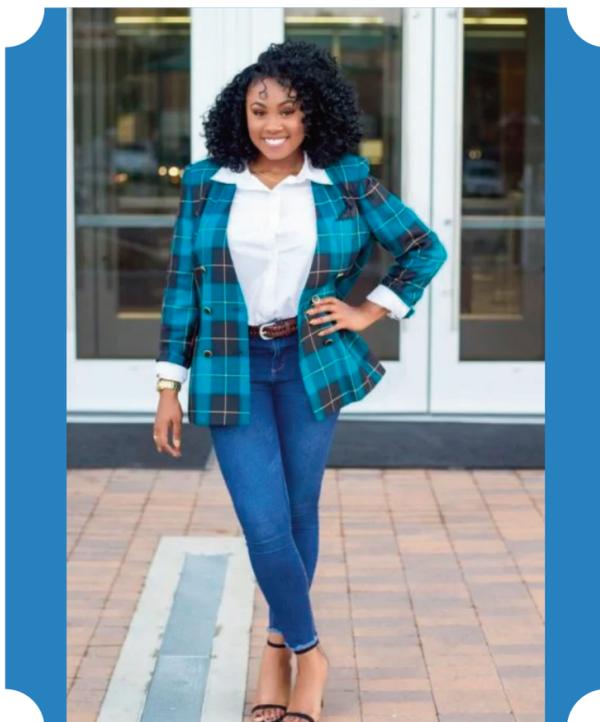


Photo Credit: Dallas ISD



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# EDITORIAL PAGE

## Nothing Can Stop Our Celebration of Black History this year or ever

By James B. Ewers Jr., Ed.



Dr. James Ewers

There are some things I remember like they happened yesterday. In fact, I can recall them with great detail. As a 4th quarter guy, I spend a fair amount of time musing about yesteryear.

For example, the celebration of Black History has been ongoing for quite some time. Dr. Carter G. Woodson had the foresight and the courage to create a platform for it. I can't imagine the vitriol he endured so we could have the celebrations and commemorations we have.

The fires of racism and segregation were blazing during this period, yet Dr. Woodson made this monumental breakthrough in American history. He is known as the "Father of Black History".

His staying power led him to establish Negro History Week in February 1926. That week led to Black History Month in 1976. Prior to Negro History Week, he was the co-founder of the Study

of Negro Life and History. This organization later became the Association for the Study of African American Life and History.

Over the years, African Americans have achieved at different levels. I have always felt our singular success is our shared success. We know that success is easily wanted but arduously achieved. This is the reason we must be happy for each other.

When I was growing up in Winston-Salem, NC, I was blessed to have been around a number of successful people. All were hardworking and set a great example for us.

Race did not affect our quest to do our best each day. There was a sense of fearlessness that permeated our homes and communities. We were proud and thankful.

February is Black History Month. There are events and activities that highlight our many contributions to this world.

Peanuts are a worldwide food enjoyed by people everywhere. In fact, I had some peanuts just a few hours ago. Dr. George Washington Carver was known as "The Peanut Man". He created over 300

uses for peanuts, along with sweet potatoes and soybeans. Dr. George Washington Carver was a professor at Tuskegee Institute, now University in Tuskegee, Alabama.

As we know, the Olympic Games are taking place in Italy. The first African American to win an Olympic Gold Medal was John Baxter Taylor Jr. at the 1908 London Olympics. Taylor was a part of the U.S. 4x400 relay team. He was a track athlete at the University of Pennsylvania. The first African American to win an Olympic Gold Medal in an individual event (the long jump) was DeHart Hubbard at the 1924 Paris Olympics. Both set the stage for future African American gold medalists.

Women like Gabby Douglas, Wilma Rudolph, Simone Manuel, and Erin Jackson have taken home the gold medal. Men like Bob Hayes, Anthony Ervin, Andre Ward, and Vincent Matthews have also won gold medals. Gold Medalist, Vincent Matthews, is a graduate of Johnson C. Smith University, my alma mater in Charlotte, NC.

Black people have excelled across all walks of life. We have broken bar-

riers and established new standards of excellence. Undaunted in our pursuits, we continue to defy the odds.

Mary McLeod Bethune defied the odds as she founded a private school for Black students, which later became Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Black churches have also played an important role in higher education. The African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church founded Wilberforce University (Ohio) in 1856 and Morris Brown College (Georgia) in 1881. There are 107 Historically Black Colleges and Universities in America. Each school will continue to graduate future world leaders.

We are living in an era where our history is being devalued and cheapened by those zealots who are jealous of our accomplishments. Their efforts are puny and have no standing.

It is important that we teach our children and grandchildren about our glorious past. Our future triumphs continue to shine brightly with the glow of faith and thanksgiving. Our Black History is yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

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Continued **Science** Page 1

at Harry Stone Montessori, to her high school experience at the School of Health Professions at Yvonne E. Ewell Townview Center, she was encouraged by educators who supported her plan to become both a dentist and a teacher.

She earned her bachelor's degree in biomedical science from San Jose State University, and while teaching, Chandler is continuing her own goal of becoming a dentist.

"When I was in eighth grade in my science class, I knew I wanted to be a dentist," she said. "Our teacher took us to the Texas A&M College of Dentistry downtown, and I knew that was what I wanted to do. It's science and it's art. I get to make people happy and

bring them out of discomfort. It's my ultimate STEM dream."

Receiving her registered dental assistant certificate while at Townview gave Chandler a head start after high school, allowing her to secure a position as a dental assistant at Mint Dentistry, where she worked for three years before becoming a teacher.

These days, between preparing for the dental school admission test and developing student lesson plans, Chandler is living by the values she teaches in her classroom—a growth mindset and an understanding that mistakes are not failures, but a necessary part of learning and scientific discovery.

"It's fun being a teacher because you can show the girls different ways of thinking and different

points of view," Chandler said. "I am preparing them to be more confident in the science field and more confident in understanding the why behind how things work."

Her philosophy as an educator is to make science relatable and to use the subject to prepare students to become critical and ethical thinkers in their everyday lives.

Chandler also leads the coding club at her campus. Through the Young Women's Preparatory Network, a local nonprofit that supports young women in education, students participate in an annual STEAM Challenge.

Last year, Chandler guided her students in creating a prototype that addressed challenges related to natural disasters and the people affected by those in-

idents. After competing at NorthPark Center, students earned the People's Choice Award.

"I've taught here for most of my teaching career," she said. "Teaching the girls here is what I'm used to, and I love it. I honestly don't want to ever leave."

Through her work in the classroom and beyond, Chandler is ensuring that more young women see science not as an obstacle, but as a pathway that prepares them to navigate life with confidence.

"Science is driven by curiosity, and your curiosity leads you to learn different things about the world," she said. "Developing girls' curiosity when it comes to science is my whole goal as a teacher, because STEM is the biggest force behind many things in our world."

Continued **History** Page 1

future of our economy. Skilled trades — like construction, plumbing, electrical work, carpentry, masonry, and HVAC — are not only in high demand, but they're also recession-resistant. As America rebuilds its infrastructure, provides disaster relief efforts, and moves toward a greener economy, these trades are leading the charge. And at OICA we are building America's workforce to rebuild America by enrolling thou-

sands of people per year to start their careers in the skilled trades.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than 500,000 skilled trade workers are needed every year to fill openings. And with roughly 40% of skilled trades workers expected to retire in the next decade, the demand will continue to grow and more pathways to the middle class will open up. These are careers that can't be outsourced and that AI won't replace. They require technical know-how,

problem-solving skills, and hands-on training. Another pathway to build a financially stable life.

At OIC of America, along with our affiliates across the country, we're working to dismantle the negative assumptions around vocational careers and open doors for young people and adults alike to explore these life-changing opportunities. We're also making sure women, returning citizens, multi-cultural and multigenerational folks are at the table — and in the field —

where these good-paying jobs are waiting. By 2030, we're on track to place over 50,000 people in the skilled trades per year — a pivot that opens up a world of economic potential they were previously locked out of.

A career in the skilled trades is not just about working with your hands. It's about building an economic future — for yourself, your family, and your community. In my view, that's truly one of the best ways to honor the legacy of Black History Month.

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

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# RELIGIOUS/NEWS

## The Certainty of God's Judgment of False Teachers

II Peter 2:10-22

Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith



False teachers will be ultimately judged as sure as God's judgment of fallen angels, the wicked of the Antediluvian period of Noah's day, and the wicked people of Sodom and Gomorrah. The false teachers were a constant plague to the church in the first century, however, Peter informs us that they will be ultimately judged. II Peter 2:10-22 may be outlined as follows:

I. A Depiction of the True Nature of False Teachers – II Peter 2:10-16

II. The Destruction of False Teachers – II Peter 2:17-22

### I. A Depiction of the True Nature of False Teachers – II Peter 2:10-16

First of all, Peter informs us that false teachers indulge in the flesh, that is, sexual perversion. Liberal teaching will lead to loose living! The false teachers also disregard or despise authority, even God's authority! They were really Antinomians. The Antinomians hold that under the Gospel dispensation of grace, the moral law is of no effect because faith alone is necessary to salvation. However, grace does not teach that we should live disgraceful lives! Not only do the false teachers indulge in the flesh, despise authority, these reckless false teachers were even presumptuous or daring and obstinate in their conduct and actions.

In verse 11, false teachers even speak in disdain of angels, unfallen angels; however, unfallen angels do not denounce them but leave all judgment unto God.

In verse 12, like ferocious animals, they acted from their instinct with a natural desire to catch and destroy! Peter considered

the false teachers to be extremely dangerous, although they will come to a corrupt end; that is, the false teachers will be eternally punished. They proclaim evil on things they do not understand.

In verses 13-14, God will inflict punishment on the wrong the false teachers have done as they revel in their dissolute behavior. They reveled in their pleasures in daylight. They turned the love feast of the church into a drinking party. Peter harshly denounced the habitual behavior of these false teachers. They were adulteress, seeking to commit adultery with everyone they saw (v. 14). They seduced those who were not steadfast. In their greed, they were never satisfied, therefore they are an accursed brood.

In verses 15-16, the false teachers were guilty of religious fraud as Balaam, the son Beor. Balaam urged the Moabites to seduce the Israelite men into illicit relationship with the Moabite women, bringing immorality into Israel's camp. Balaam, greed for wages was hired by Balak, King of Moab, to curse God's people. Enroute to cursing God's people, Balaam was riding on an ass; however, when the ass saw the Angel of the Lord along the way, the ass refused to go in the desired path. In anger, Balaam smote the ass three times. It took a donkey to stop the prophet in his madness (Numbers 25:1-3, 31:16). The donkey was smarter than Balaam!

Having discussed I. A Depiction of the True Nature of False Teachers – II Peter 2:10-16, let us observe II. The Destruction of False Teachers – II Peter 2:17-22.

### II. The Destruction of False Teachers – II Peter 2:17-22

Peter assured that judgment awaits false teachers, continue to inform believers of the destructive nature of false teachers. These false teachers continued to wreak havoc on the church through their underhanded and cunning ability to capitalize on the weakness of the unstable. The unstable are those who are not equipped in the word! Peter informs us in verse 17 that we should not expect to receive a blessing from these apostate for they are: "springs without water, and mists driven by a tempest or storm."

Instead of receiving a refreshing drink from a spring or welcoming shower from clouds, there will be no benefit at all, and one would be disappointed! Peter states again that judgment awaits these apostates: eternal punishment (v.17; Matthew 8:12). These apostates propagate or spread propaganda that is worthless, designed to deceive those who are vulnerable or unstable. They use cunning words to allure the unstable into licentious (sinful) behavior (v. 18).

According to verse 19, the false teachers promise liberty, but lead people into bondage. Peter advances this thought: "How can people who are slaves of sin themselves ever set anybody free!"

In verses 20-22, Peter writes about those apostates who professed to know the truth but did not embrace the new life of Christ. They were rejectors of the truth; thus, they were professors but not possessors!

It would have been better off for them

never to have known the truth of the gospel than to have known the truth and totally reject it!

In verse 22, Peter gives a graphic picture of those who knew the truth but turned away from it. The first proverb mentioned by Peter is quoted from Proverbs 26:11, and the second proverb relates to a sow that is washed but goes back to wallowing in the mud. The essence of what Peter is saying is the same: "the false teachers were never what they seemed to be, and they returned to what they had been all along."

The principle is inherently true: Reformation without regeneration means damnation! Dogs and pigs who can be scrubbed but not totally cleaned will return to their former way of living!

In closing, the death of Christ is sufficient for all (I Timothy 2:6; Hebrews 2:9; I John 2:2) but efficient only for who believe. The first half of the statement is a solid argument for unlimited atonement – the view that Christ died for everyone. The latter half is a strong argument for limited atonement. The view that He died for those who would appropriate salvation.

Thank God, as believers that we have been washed by the blood of the Lamb, for I Corinthians 6:11 says: "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God." Yes, as believers we have been justified, positionally, we have been sanctified, but one glorious day, we shall be glorified.

May God Bless!

### Continued ICE Page 1

these impacts without transparency, coordination, or accountability."

In the letter, Rep. Crockett details serious concerns about emergency response capacity, transportation infrastructure,

utilities, and municipal solvency, as well as ICE's well-documented failures within existing detention facilities — including inadequate medical care and preventable harm.

Rep. Crockett called on

DHS to suspend any efforts related to the Hutchins detention facility and to engage in meaningful consultation with local leaders and residents before taking further action.

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### ~ THE 1990s ~

(Solution will appear in February 19 edition)

- ACROSS**
- \*First cloned mammal
  - Fuel economy acronym
  - Land measure
  - Pascal of "The Mandalorian" fame
  - Second O in EVOO
  - a.k.a. sergeant fish or robalo
  - Plant fungus
  - \*"Titanic" star
  - \*"The \_\_\_ Whisper" (1998)
  - \*PepsiCo offering
  - \*One of the Walsh twins, 90210
  - Long reef dweller
  - Reach a high
  - Color of passion
  - Agitate
  - Like Matryoshka inside Matryoshka
  - Gave the boot
  - Arab League member
  - One of Florida Keys
  - Summer month
  - Polished diamond surface
  - Safecracker
  - Lazybones
  - Before "saw" and "conquered"
  - Glitch
  - Watercraft
  - Remains repository
  - Like some martinis
  - Comfort
  - One in a pod
  - \* \_\_\_ bubble
  - \*The 1990s, a.k.a. post- \_\_\_ decade
  - Biblical patriarch
  - Sensitive subject?
  - "Bad news travels fast," e.g.
  - \_\_\_ shopping cart
  - Father's progeny
  - Trojan War epic
  - Difficult situation
  - Like jalapeño
  - So out it's in

- DOWN**
- Design detail
  - M nchen mister
  - Jittery
  - Irregularly notched
  - \*Harry of Privet Drive
  - Gangster's gal
  - \*"American \_\_\_" (1999)
  - Geography class prop
  - Any minute, arch.
  - Cut at birth
  - Parks on a bus
  - \_\_\_ out a living
  - Israeli monetary unit
  - Remote in manner
  - Did a marathon, e.g.
  - Mollify
  - \*Assassinated Gandhi
  - Radiate
  - Small wooded hollows
  - \*Apple offering
  - Simon does what?
  - Influencer's creation
  - Daytime moth
  - \*Snoop \_\_\_ Dogg
  - Coloring substances
  - Nautilus' captain
  - Allegro or lento
  - Repeat an echo
  - Pathet \_\_\_
  - \*Fresh Prince's town
  - \* \_\_\_ Mouth of "All Star" fame
  - Discombobulate
  - \*Jeff Bridges in "The Big Lebowski," with The
  - Made in Vegas
  - Makes lace
  - One-tenth of a dime
  - \*" \_\_\_ Wait... Don't Tell Me!" on NPR
  - Petri dish gel
  - Do over
  - Fruit spread
  - \* \_\_\_ Goo Dolls of "Name" fame

### Statepoint Crossword Puzzle

Theme: THE 1990s

CROSSWORD													
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13					14			15					
16					17			18					
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64						65	66			67			
68						69				70			
71						72				73			

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# CLASSIFIEDS/NEWS

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## HEALTH

### Parkland to offer free tax preparation for qualifying patients and employees

*Parkland will host weekly 'Tax Prep Tuesdays' events*



Photo Credit: Parkland Press Release

Tax season is underway, and Parkland Health is once again partnering with Foundation Communities to offer free tax preparation services for qualifying patients, employees and community members. Services will be available every Tuesday from Feb. 3 through March 17 at select Parkland facilities.

Through the program, low- and middle-income families and individuals can

receive one-on-one assistance from IRS-certified tax preparers at no cost.

“This program is one more way we show up for our community,” said Vidya Ayyr, Director of Community Social Impact at Parkland. “Free tax preparation helps ease stress and gives individuals and families peace of mind during tax season.”

Continue Tax Page 5

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Continued Racist Page 1

AP: Do you buy the White House explanation that this was an aide's mistake?

CLARKE: They don't tell the truth. If there wasn't a climate, a toxic and racist climate within the White House, we wouldn't see this type of behavior regardless of who it's coming from. ... Here we are, in the year 2026, celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States of America, the 100th anniversary of the commemoration of Black history, and this is what comes out of the White House on a Friday morning. It's beneath all of us.

AP: Has there been any contact between the White

House and the Congressional Black Caucus on this? Could there be any good-faith exchange?

CLARKE: There has been no outreach from the White House. We certainly didn't expect there to be. The outreach has to happen prior to these type of juvenile antics.

AP: Republican criticism built more quickly Friday than it has during previous Trump controversies. What do you make of that?

CLARKE: It's not lost on them, our communities that we represent, that elections are coming up. So it's not lost on my colleagues, either. If they want to align themselves with this type of really profane imagery, this type of bigoted and

racist attack on a former sitting president and his wife, they are throwing their lot in with an individual who has shown himself to be a disgrace.

AP: It's not common for President Trump to retract anything. What does that indicate to you that he did?

CLARKE: I think it's more of a political expediency than it is any moral compass. ... As my mother would say, "Too late. Mercy's gone."

AP: What more do you hope to see from the White House about this?

CLARKE: My hope is that we can contain the harm that they're doing. There are Black children who are listening to their president ... seeing what he's posting on Truth So-

cial (and) it will have an impact on how they view leadership of their own country. ... I think that this administration has an opportunity to change course. They always do. We leave room for that. But, unfortunately, Donald Trump is hardwired this way.

AP: Is there anything else you'd like to add?

CLARKE: As a democracy, we have to stand up together against this type of racism, this type of bigotry, this kind of hatred that is coming from the president of the United States and those who surround him. ... It's very clear that there was an intent to harm people, to hurt people, with this video. Otherwise, it wouldn't have stayed up for 12 hours.

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## LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a BQ Wine and Beer Retailer's Off-Premise Permit by Super Target Liquor of Texas, Inc. dba Target Store T-2907, to be located at 655 W Illinois Avenue, Suite 300, Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75224. Officers of said corporation are Lisa Roath, President, and Aileen Guiney, Director & Officer.

February is Black History Month

## Quinn Minute

# Prehistoric humans

By Rix Quinn

We don't give prehistoric people enough credit. These remarkable folks learned to walk upright, discovered fire, and invented the wheel. Sadly, they made that wheel out of wood, accidentally set it on fire...then had to start over again.

Tribes painstakingly carved mud huts out of the earth. That must have been tough, especially if it rained and the kitchen cabinets flowed into the den.

One day at a hut housewarming, a neighbor said,

“Cave Guy, your home really bores me. Why don't you put some original prints on the walls?”

And Cave Guy said “Footprints?”

The neighbor said, “No, I mean pictures. You know...landscapes, impressionist works, maybe portraits.”

Cave Guy then colored his walls with vivid scenes of ancestors and mythical creatures.

Years later, scientists concluded the paintings told important legends. But

Cave Guy – a practical person – realized he'd invented wallpaper.

Neolithic man, as you know, gets credit for building the first neighborhood. He realized if he chased woolly mammoths all the time he would never get “yard of the month.”

Well, pretty soon somebody built a hut next door, and one neighbor decided to construct a fence to keep their pet lizard in, and the stray sabertooth out.

Yep, thanks to these early settlers, today we've

got streets, carpooling, and neighborhood associations.

In fact, if they'd known how to read, write, and medicate correctly, prehistoric humans might still be around today – 10,000 years later – sunning themselves.

But if they were...you would not want to see them in tank tops.

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

# SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

## 7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Feb. 12

Friday, Feb. 13

Saturday, Feb. 14

Sunday, Feb. 15

Monday, Feb. 16

Tuesday, Feb. 17

Wednesday, Feb. 18



### 'God bless América': Why Bad Bunny's Super Bowl halftime show resonated far beyond the US

By MARTÍN SILVA REY Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — When Bad Bunny said "God bless America" during the Super Bowl halftime show and then began naming countries across the continent, the line landed as both wordplay and statement. In Spanish, América often means the entire hemisphere, not a single nation, and the distinction mattered to millions watching from afar.

In a packed bar in Mexico City, the moment drew cheers loud enough to cut through the music.

Plates of brisket, pulled pork and mac and cheese moved between tables as beers kept flowing. Fans in NFL jerseys had spent the first half reacting to every play. Several giant foam fingers bobbed above the crowd. When halftime arrived, the attention did not disappear. It shifted. As Bad Bunny took the stage, people stood up, phones raised. Some danced between tables. When he listed countries across the Americas, the cheers grew louder. When he said "Mexico," the bar erupted.

"It really moved me," said Laura Gilda Mejía, a 51-year-old schoolteacher and longtime NFL fan watching the game with her two children. "With everything that's going on politically in the United States, and all the hostility toward Latinos ... seeing a Latino come out and sing in Spanish at the biggest show in the world was incredible."

Across Mexico, Puerto Rico and Latino com-

munities in the United States, Bad Bunny's halftime performance was received as more than entertainment. Many fans described it as a moment of pride and recognition: a Spanish-language artist commanding one of the most watched stages in American pop culture without translating himself, at a time when Latinos say cultural visibility and political vulnerability exist side by side.

Many in Latin America resist the idea that "American" belongs to a single country. By invoking "God bless America" and then expanding it to include dozens of nations, Bad Bunny turned that linguistic tension into a statement of inclusion.

U.S. President Donald Trump railed against the performance on Truth Social, calling it "absolutely terrible" and "an affront to the Greatness of America." Mexico watched closely. Mexico is one of the NFL's largest international markets, with tens of millions of fans and a long-running presence of regular-season games. The Super Bowl has become a major social event, drawing viewers who tune in for the game as much as for the commercials and the halftime show.

That made the performance feel especially consequential there.

Chrystian Plata, a 33-year-old singer and New York Giants fan watching with his parents, in-laws and his 2-year-old child,

said the halftime show was the emotional high point of the game for him with the way it tried "to unite the traditions of all the people who migrated there and also made the United States rich."

"I'm not a huge Bad Bunny fan musically," he said, "but culturally he did it very well."

Those reactions echo what many in Mexico have been expressing since Bad Bunny was announced as the halftime headliner.

In early December, as fans walked past street vendors selling his merchandise ahead of his Mexico City tour opener, María Fernanda Simón, a 35-year-old psychologist, described feeling surprised by the scale of his influence.

"I love that people want to speak Spanish because of him," she said. "For a long time... everything Anglo, everything 'gringo,' everything light-skinned, English — that was what was 'in,' what was 'fashionable' — and now seeing it flipped makes me feel excited, like being Latino is 'cool.'"

Not everyone in Mexico shares that framing. José Manuel Valenzuela, a cultural studies researcher at El Colegio de la Frontera Norte in Tijuana, cautions that the belief that cultural value flows only from the United States reflects a long-standing, "colonized" perspective shaped by history, power and media. In his view, Bad Bunny's moment is real, but it does not erase deeper inequalities

that made such a reversal feel novel.

Puerto Rico in the spotlight

In Puerto Rico, watch parties treated the game as a prelude. In San Juan and nearby communities, neighborhoods buzzed as the Super Bowl itself faded into the background and attention turned entirely to Bad Bunny's 13 minutes on stage.

Alexandra Núñez, a resident of Caguas south of San Juan, wore a traditional pava hat and clothing in the colors of the Puerto Rican flag as she watched.

"This is an achievement," she said. "Music has no borders. Language has no borders. ... You don't have to speak our language to enjoy our culture. This is global."

She drew a careful distinction between Bad Bunny and earlier Latin pop stars who reached U.S. audiences by adapting their sound or language.

"When Ricky Martin did it, that was a breakthrough, crossing over," she said. "Bad Bunny didn't have to cross over. ... He took what already existed and brought it there. He didn't have to change anything."

Celebration alongside unease

In the U.S., the celebration unfolded against a backdrop of heightened immigration enforcement and protests over raids and deportations, a context that shaped how many Latinos received the show.

- Continued Page 4 -

### Parkland to offer free tax preparation for qualifying patients and employees

Families and individuals earning less than \$69,000 annually can register for an appointment to receive help with:

- Current and prior years' federal tax returns
- Amendments to previously filed tax returns
- IRS letter questions
- ITIN applications and renewals
- Tax returns for foreign students and non-U.S. residents

Preparers will also help eligible individuals and families identify and claim valuable tax credits, including the Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit and American Opportunity Tax Credit, and provide guidance on using refunds to support long-term financial security. Dubbed "Tax Prep Tuesdays," appointments will be available from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the following dates and locations. Advance registration is required.

- Tuesday, Feb. 17:

Southeast Dallas Health Center, 9202 Elam Rd., Dallas, 75217

• Tuesday, Feb. 24: Bluitt-Flowers Health Center, 303 E. Overton Rd., Dallas, 75216

• Tuesday, March 3: Moody Outpatient Center, 5151 Maple Ave., Dallas, 75235

• Tuesday, March 10: Moody Outpatient Center, 5151 Maple Ave., Dallas, 75235

• Tuesday, March 17: Moody Outpatient Center, 5151 Maple Ave., Dallas, 75235

Foundation Communities is a nonprofit organization providing North Texas families and individuals the opportunity to reach financial stability through a multitude of programs, including free income tax preparation, one-on-one financial coaching and assistance, college financial aid and more.

For information about services at Parkland, please visit:

[www.parklandhealth.org](http://www.parklandhealth.org)

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle  
Solution: February 5 - U.S. PRESIDENTS

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# Why Should I Vote for You?

## My Day

By Dr. J. Ester Davis



you for that question. I am grateful that my parents grounded and rooted me in the words of our Creator. I have spent my life in service to my community, my profession, my sorority, and my church. I am evolving into a better leader. I am a judge and a staunch advocate for voters' rights. I am courageous and embrace opportunities to grow with new ideas.

**Voter:** Why a career in Family Court Practices?

**Judge Jackson:** My mission in the 302nd District Court is to continue to create more in the area of Family Solutions. This is my third term. There still exists a great need here for experience, compassion, and integrity, which I possess. We have an approved "Specialty Court" known as Legacy Court that provides programs where families can dialogue with each other and reach solutions. I want to continue to interact with community-based services like Casa.

**Voter:** What's in your future for this court should you win?

**Judge Jackson:** So happy you asked that ques-

tion.

Listening is also a major part of my duty as a Judge. By being proactive and listening, we are developing programs involving the community and grandparents raising grandchildren. To-date, there are emerging programs in the communities around us that are enrolling and engaging grandparents. Last year, I attended a luncheon meeting with current grandparents raising another generation, which was followed by a guest invitation to an existing community program of 'grands raising grands'.

*Thank you, and please follow Judge Jackson. SandraJackson4Judge@gmail.com and on all social media platforms. Early VOTING. Starts February 17, 2026.*



Dr. J. Ester Davis

*Esterdavis2000@gmail.com.*

Your vote. Your voice. What's on your mind? Who do you want to win and why?

Traveling on the 'campaign trail' with Judge Sandra Jackson the last month has been inspiring and encouraging. Yes, times have changed, but the voter is also more direct and educated with poignant questions. The heartbeat of questions is who are you and why should I vote for you.

Let me share with you a few answers from a recent forum.

**Voter:** Why should I

vote for you?

**Judge Jackson:** The 302nd Family District Court is strictly about family, resolving conflicts, and protecting the vulnerable while following the facts, evidence, and law. I have lived and worked in the family law profession for more than two(2)decades. As a judge, I have worked to build a career that fosters understanding, family law, and the best interests of our children.

**Voter:** What are your strongest strengths as a judge?

**Judge Jackson:** Thank

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today." ~ Malcolm X

DART CELEBRATES

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

#DARTCelebratesHeritage

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## Black Women Developers to Launch 130 Million Dollar Construction Project in Southern Dallas

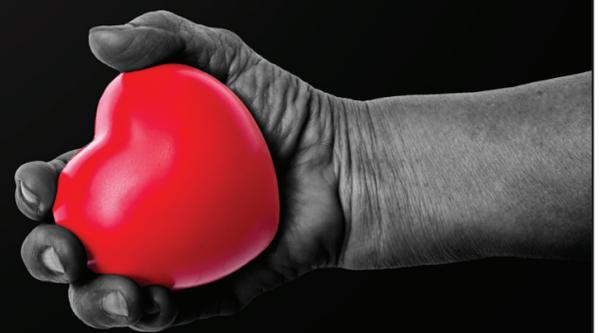
Dallas, TX - Women Breaking Ground, a group of professional, Black women developers, will launch an 11.4-acre, master-planned, 130-million-dollar, mixed-use community project in Spring 2026. The project, Airborne at University Hills, will be located in close proximity to the University of North Texas at Dallas. This innovative project will offer vibrant living accommodations for seniors, students, and veterans, coupled with retail space, a boutique

hotel, and a host of other community amenities. Valerie Ballard, Founder and CEO of Women Breaking Ground, shared, "Our vision and collective efforts have been to create a platform and construction opportunities for women developers, particularly Black women developers in a male-dominated industry." She added, "The Airborne construction project is a shot-in-the-arm for Southern Dallas that is designed to lead the way in building greater and

more resilient communities." Women Breaking Ground will host two upcoming events. On February 24, InvestHER will take place from 10 am to 12 pm at Dallas College Cedar Valley in Lancaster, TX. A National Arbor Day, Ground Breaking Ceremony is scheduled 11am - 1pm, April 24 at TriPlex Event Center located at 7225 University Hills Blvd., Dallas, TX 75241. For information, visit: [info@womenbreaking-ground.org](mailto:info@womenbreaking-ground.org).

## HEALTH

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Parkland

## Stories, Sites and Legacy: Kentucky's African American Heritage Trail



Photo Credit: StatePoint

(StatePoint) When it comes to learning history, there is something about the act of walking around a his-

torical site that will drive a lesson home in a way that is nearly impossible to replicate with films, books and

other media.

For instance, there are thousands of pages written on the historical importance of places like Camp Nelson in Nicholasville, Kentucky, where the Union Army used the installation as a vital supply depot, forward operating base, and safe haven for enslaved people escaping bondage in the south. Entire books have been written on how Camp Nelson was responsible for recruiting and training regiments of United States Colored Troops, which

helped hasten the end of the nation's bloodiest war. All of this can be read and understood without leaving one's house or classroom.

However, there is a certain perspective that can only be gained while standing on the same ground that turned people who had once been referred to as property, into soldiers fighting for the freedom of all Americans. And a feeling of heaviness that can only be experienced during a quiet walk amongst the pristine rows of Civil War headstones in

the Camp Nelson National Cemetery; each marker a reminder of the ultimate price someone had to pay for that freedom.

This emphasis on experiencing history firsthand is what lead to the creation of the Kentucky African American Heritage Trail. This trail includes more than 50 sites located across Kentucky that collectively tell the story of how African Americans overcame, innovated and thrived, while playing an essential role in forming the commonwealth

and the nation as a whole.

The trail is a collaboration between the Kentucky Department of Tourism, Kentucky Historical Society and the Kentucky Heritage Council, and was formed with the purpose of teaching accurate and culturally significant lessons to all visitors. By working together, the sites on the trail are able to further amplify marginalized voices and contributions while supporting local economies through tourism.