

“Hold fast to dreams / For if dreams die / Life is a broken-winged bird / That cannot fly” ~ Langston Hughes



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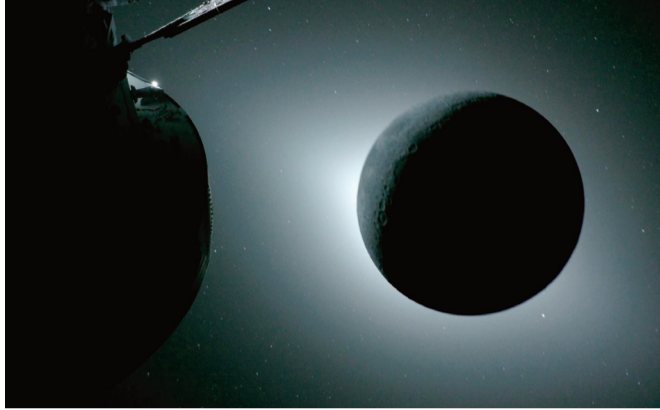
VOLUME 78 NUMBER 28

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

April 9 - 15, 2026

## NASA's Artemis II Crew Beams Official Moon Flyby Photos to Earth

By Jessica Taveau



The Moon, backlit by the Sun during a solar eclipse, is photographed by NASA's Orion spacecraft on Monday, April 6, 2026, during the Artemis II mission. Orion is visible in the foreground on the left. Earth is reflecting sunlight at the left edge of the Moon, which is slightly brighter than the rest of the disk. The bright spot visible just below the Moon's bottom right edge is Saturn. Beyond that, the bright spot at the right edge of the image is Mars. Photo Credit: NASA

The Moon, backlit by the Sun during a solar eclipse, is photographed by NASA's Orion spacecraft on Monday, April 6, 2026, during the Artemis II mission. Orion is visible in the foreground on the left. Earth is reflecting sunlight at the left edge of the Moon, which is slightly brighter than the rest of the disk. The bright spot visible just below the Moon's bottom right edge is Saturn. Beyond that, the bright spot at the right edge of the image is Mars. Photo Credit: NASA

The first flyby images of the Moon captured by NASA's Artemis II astronauts during their historic

test flight reveal some regions no human has seen, including a rare in-space solar eclipse. Released Tuesday, astronauts captured the images April 6 during the mission's seven-hour flyby of the lunar far side, showing humanity's return to the Moon's vicinity and opening a trove of scientific data.

NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and CSA (Canadian Space Agency) astronaut Jeremy Hansen, have used a fleet of cameras to take thousands of photos. The agency released several

Continue NASA Page 6



Photo Credit: Black Press Media USA

## EXCLUSIVE: Russell Simmons Files Explosive Manhattan Lawsuit, Says HBO Ignored Sharpton, Jackson Warnings and Pushed a "Tabloid Hit Piece" Worldwide

By Stacy Brown

Russell Simmons is accusing HBO and its partners of ignoring civil rights leaders, burying evidence, and turning his name into a global spectacle, and he's putting it before a Manhattan court.

In a sweeping amended lawsuit, the New York-born architect behind some of rap's biggest stars, including Run-DMC, LL Cool J, and Jay-Z, alleges that Warner Bros. Discovery, HBO, HBO Max, Max, filmmakers Kirby Dick and Amy Ziering, and Jane Doe

Films knowingly pushed the 2019 documentary, "On the Record," despite repeated warnings that the film was one-sided and unreliable.

"This lawsuit is about the reckless and/or malicious defamation of Simmons," the complaint states, describing the film as "a defamatory film that was mislabeled as a factual documentary" and a "tabloid hit piece" that "blurred the lines between

Continue HBO Page 2

## Texas expected to pay \$700 million in penalties to the feds for SNAP errors by 2027

By Terri Langford, The Texas Tribune



Customers stock up on groceries at an Austin H-E-B on Jan. 13, 2024.

Photo Credit: Maria Crane/The Texas Tribune

New Trump administration rules designed to cut waste in the nation's food stamp program means Texas taxpayers will have to pay the federal government \$700 million more each year to participate, state officials told lawmakers on Wednesday.

Texas Health and Human

Services officials disclosed the cost in a presentation to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, which met to discuss how Texas curbs fraud in welfare programs.

Federal officials announced the new rules last year during the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill

Act. The rules force each state to improve the number of times officials overpay or underpay recipients in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance, or SNAP, program. States, including Texas, have until 2027 to improve their SNAP error rate or face financial penalties.

Almost 9% of Texas'

SNAP payments had an error, better than the national rate of 11%, putting it in the middle of the pack compared to other states. But under the new rules, the state would be penalized more, unless it can bring down that error rate to

Continue SNAP Page 5

## My Truth

## To the Honorable Diane Ragsdale

By Cheryl Smith



Trustee Ed Turner and the Hon. Diane Ragsdale

Congrats! I was so pleased to read that Dallas Independent School District Board Trustee Ed Turner's efforts led to the renaming of the City Lab High School to Diane Ragsdale City Lab High School, in honor of the Sunny South Dallas native and former Dallas Deputy Mayor Pro Tem. I would have been there with some of my team; however, I didn't re-

ceive any notification from the District.

The District has a staff, and communication takes a team effort, but this issue is continuing to cause me angst as the Black Press is ignored, dissed and marginalized. News Flash: All ice is 32 degrees Fahrenheit! (If anyone needs an interpretation of the above statement

Continue My Truth Page 6



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# EDITORIAL PAGE

## Is No Kings Becoming a Movement, and Will You Be a Part of It?

By James B. Ewers Jr., Ed.



Dr. James Ewers

It is more than an assertion or an assumption that the United States of America is not faring well now. Regardless of your politics, you know America is in trouble. Factions have eroded us, leaving us divided at every level. These are unprecedented times.

We have so much negativity happening that it is almost overwhelming. I say this as a 4th quarter guy nearing overtime. I have witnessed a lot over my lifetime; however, this level of strife is new even to me.

Many of us were a part of the Civil Rights Movement. We marched, being close to people with hoods over their faces and dogs that wanted to bite us.

We have a history of being marginalized and misunderstood. When it rains on some, it storms on others. Through it all, we have maintained our dignity and our self-respect.

We haven't been broken by the pressures of unequal and unjust.

Our history is such that stilted and slanted laws didn't wilt us or destroy us. We didn't give in and we didn't give up. Our lives have been prideful and purposeful in every respect.

Civil Rights marches and protests gave future activists a platform and a model to follow. In my opinion, many people who didn't understand the Civil Rights Movement now embrace it.

Today, people see their rights and civil liberties taken from them. Each day, a new law or executive mandate eats at the very core of our democracy. Humanity has taken a back seat to tyranny and authoritarianism. Civility and decency have been replaced by rudeness and deceit.

Some kept waiting for a change, thinking it would get better. Well, it didn't and it won't be without us doing something about it.

Thus, the No Kings marches began. They started out with the demonstrated signs that democracy was no longer fundamental to our country's foundation. Organizers saw that our nation

was becoming unhinged. The people had to act to stop this economic and moral pain.

The initial No Kings protest was held on June 14, 2025. Reports show it was held on the current president's 79th birthday with a military parade held in his honor. Another No Kings demonstration was held on March 28th, just weeks ago.

Millions of people across America marched in solidarity decrying this administration's regulations and instant laws that penalize people and families. Many of us have taken part in these protests because we want change in America.

It is only when we stand up against men and women whose procedures and programs hurt Americans that there will be changes made. Over the past several months, fear and trepidation have crept into our nation's consciousness. Promises have been deferred, and hopes have been diminished. Questions are many, but answers are few and vague.

No Kings' protests have received financial support from foundations, including the Ford Foundation, the NoVo Foundation, and the

Rockefeller Foundation. On the ground and on-site organizers include the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Indivisible.

Researchers at the Government Accountability Institute say \$294,487,641.00 in grant funding from six major donors has supported No Kings marches and protests.

Noteworthy speakers at the No Kings rallies have included Robert DeNiro, Letitia James, Chelsia Rice, Bruce Springsteen, Cliff Albright, and Bernie Sanders. These names represent just a small sampling of people who have spoken out about this current form of government. They all realize the problems our country is facing today.

No Kings marches will continue to be a movement for all who believe the quality of our lives is important. There have been protests at over 3,300 locations, and more are coming. That is my opinion as we get closer to the midterm elections.

Every day of every week, we must be resolute in knowing that we live in the land of the free and the home of the brave. No kings reside here.

**Continued HBO Page 1**

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documentary and drama to exploit [the] #MeToo movement for media profit."

Simmons has lived in near exile in Bali, Indonesia, since the allegations erupted, and he is now accusing HBO and others of ignoring clear warnings and pressing forward anyway with the explosive film

**WARNINGS IGNORED**

According to the lawsuit, which cites several articles the NNPA published about the film, those warnings came from the highest levels.

"Before OTR was broadcast, the Defendants ignored the requests of many highly respected and notable civil rights leaders, including but not limited to, Reverend Al Sharpton and Reverend Jesse Jackson...who asked the Defendants to verify the Accusers' stories and not to release a one-sided story," the complaint states.

The filing adds that even inside corporate leadership, there were calls for balance.

"At least one Time Warner Board Member...asked the Defendants to include both sides of the story...which the Defendants again refused to do," the filing states.

Simmons says this was not an oversight. He says it was a decision.

**"IN IT FOR THE MONEY AND ATTENTION"**

The lawsuit also challenges the foundation of the film itself.

Simmons alleges the central accuser was not simply a participant but someone with a financial stake and influence over the production.

According to the com-

plaint, she "played an active, instrumental, behind-the-scenes role" and "definitely had a private deal" with the filmmakers, adding that she was "in it for the money and attention reasons period."

That arrangement, Simmons says, was never disclosed to viewers.

Instead, audiences were presented with what appeared to be independent testimony.

The filing adds that she described herself as "the main one most associated with the film" and had "planned this for years" as part of a larger effort that included a book built on the same allegations.

**Oprah Winfrey AND THE EXIT THAT RAISED QUESTIONS**

One of the most striking moments in the complaint centers on Oprah Winfrey.

According to the filing, Winfrey initially backed the project but stepped away after reviewing the material and raising concerns about inconsistencies.

"There's some inconsistencies in the stories we need to look at," she said, according to the complaint, which also states she found "too many inconsistencies" in the lead accuser's account.

Simmons says she urged the filmmakers to include opposing perspectives.

*They refused.*

Winfrey has publicly defended her decision to withdraw, saying it was based on concerns about the film itself and not because she did not believe the alleged victims.

**INSIDERS WHO NEVER MADE THE**

**CUT**

The lawsuit highlights voices Simmons says could have changed the entire narrative.

Nana Carmen Ashhurst, a former president of Def Jam Recordings, is described as a key witness contradicting one of the central allegations.

"At no point did [she] use the term rape," Ashhurst said, recalling a phone call the day after the alleged incident, according to the complaint.

Simmons says the filmmakers knew about her account and excluded it.

Thomasina Perkins-Washington, a longtime publicist, also warned executives before the film aired.

"This is a one-sided narrative with no credibility or integrity," her 2019 letter to HBO states, according to the complaint, which says she provided documentation and witness statements that challenged the allegations.

Simmons claims those warnings were ignored.

**"DELIBERATELY, RECKLESSLY, AND MALICIOUSLY"**

The complaint repeats that phrase again and again.

"The Defendants deliberately, recklessly, and maliciously persisted in publicly releasing...OTR," it states, even after being presented with "highly relevant and credible evidence favorable to Simmons."

Simmons alleges the filmmakers refused to include his side of the story and ignored evidence that challenged the allegations.

Before the film was broadcast, Simmons said he

spoke to Casey Bloys, Chairman of HBO and Max Content. Simmons told Bloys he had witness testimony and a short movie rebuttal and he asked Bloys to review it for the inclusion in the film.

"Bloys thought that was funny, laughed, and replied, 'Only if the girls agree to be in it.'" Simmons said. The filing accuses Bloys of deliberately placing unreasonable and unrealistic conditions on Simmons for

**THE EVIDENCE HE SAYS WAS LEFT OUT**

Among the claims, Simmons says he voluntarily took nine lie detector tests and passed them.

"I believe he was truthful in all of these," a polygraph examiner is quoted as saying in the filing.

He also alleges the filmmakers failed to properly vet the accusers.

"It is unclear what the Defendants did, if anything, to personally vet the credibility of the Accusers," the complaint states.

**THE DECISION TO MOVE FORWARD**

Simmons argues HBO and Warner Bros. Discovery were fully aware of the controversy before distributing the film.

"Despite the obvious and unmissable serious red flags," the complaint states, the company moved forward anyway.

He says executives were contacted repeatedly with evidence and requests for review.

Instead, they relied on the filmmakers.

"The filmmakers...stand behind the content," an HBO attorney stated.

# RELIGIOUS/NEWS

## AI Jesus might 'listen' to your confession, but it can't absolve your sins – a scholar of Catholicism explains

Author, **Joanne M. Pierce**,  
Professor Emerita of Religious Studies, College of the Holy Cross / **The Conversation**



A 17th-century confessional at the Toulouse St. Stephen's Cathedral. Didier Descouens via Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA.

In the autumn of 2024, a Swiss Catholic church installed an AI Jesus in a confessional to interact with visitors.

The installation was a two-month project in religion, technology and art titled "Deus in Machina," created at the University of Lucerne. The original Latin phrase literally means "god from the machine"; it refers to a plot device used in Greek and Roman plays, introducing a god to resolve an impossible problem or conflict facing the characters.

This hologram of Jesus Christ on a screen was animated by an artificial intelligence program. The AI's programming included theological texts, and visitors were invited to pose questions to the AI Jesus, viewed on a monitor behind a latticework screen. Users were advised not to disclose any personal information and confirm that they knew they were engaging with the avatar at their own risk.

### AI Jesus confessional.

Some headlines stated that the AI Jesus was actually engaged in the ritual act of hearing people's confessions of their sins, but this wasn't the case. However, even though AI Jesus was not actually hearing confessions, as a specialist in the history of Christian worship, I was disturbed by

the act of placing the AI project in a real confessional that parishioners would ordinarily use.

A confessional is a booth where Catholic priests hear parishioners' confessions of their sins and grant them absolution, forgiveness, in the name of God. Confession and repentance always take place within the human community that is the church. Human believers confess their sins to human priests or bishops.

### Early history

The New Testament scriptures clearly stress a human, communal context for admitting and repenting for sins.

In the Gospel of John, for example, Jesus speaks to his apostles, saying, "Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven, and whose sins you shall retain they are retained." And in the epistle of James, Christians are urged to confess their sins to one another.

Churches in the earliest centuries encouraged public confession of more serious sins, such as fornication or idolatry. Church leaders, called bishops, absolved sinners and welcomed them back into the community.

From the third century on, the process of forgiving sins became more ritualized. Most confessions of sins remained private – one on one with a priest or bishop.

Sinners would express their sorrow in doing penance individually by prayer and fasting.

However, some Christians guilty of certain major offenses, such as murder, idolatry, apostasy or sexual misconduct, would be treated very differently.

These sinners would do public penance as a group. Some were required to stand on the steps of the church and ask for prayers. Others might be admitted in for worship but were required to stand in the back or be dismissed before the scriptures were read. Penitents were expected to fast and pray, sometimes for years, before being ritually reconciled to the church community by the bishop.

### Medieval developments

During the first centuries of the Middle Ages, public penance fell into disuse, and emphasis was increasingly placed on verbally confessing sins to an individual priest. After privately completing the penitential prayers or acts assigned by the confessor, the penitent would return for absolution.

The concept of Purgatory also became a widespread part of Western Christian spirituality. It was understood to be a stage of the afterlife where the souls of the deceased who died before confession with minor sins, or had not completed pen-

ance, would be cleansed by spiritual suffering before being admitted to heaven.

Living friends or family of the deceased were encouraged to offer prayers and undertake private penitential acts, such as giving alms – gifts of money or clothes – to the poor, to reduce the time these souls would have to spend in this interim state.

Other developments took place in the later Middle Ages. Based on the work of the theologian Peter Lombard, penance was declared a sacrament, one of the major rites of the Catholic Church. In 1215, a new church document mandated that every Catholic go to confession and receive Holy Communion at least once a year.

Priests who revealed the identity of any penitent faced severe penalties. Guidebooks for priests, generally called Handbooks for Confessors, listed various types of sins and suggested appropriate penances for each.

### The first confessionals

Until the 16th century, those wishing to confess their sins had to arrange meeting places with their clergy, sometimes just inside the local church when it was empty.

But the Catholic Council of Trent changed this. The 14th session in 1551 ad-

dressed penance and confession, stressing the importance of privately confessing to priests ordained to forgive in Christ's name.

Soon after, Charles Borromeo, the cardinal archbishop of Milan, installed the first confessionals along the walls of his cathedral. These booths were designed with a physical barrier between priest and penitent to preserve anonymity and prevent other abuses, such as inappropriate sexual conduct.

Similar confessionals appeared in Catholic churches over the following centuries: The main element was a screen or veil between the priest confessor and the layperson, kneeling at his side. Later, curtains or doors were added to increase privacy and ensure confidentiality.

### Rites of penance in contemporary times

In 1962, Pope John XXIII opened the Second Vatican Council. Its first document, issued in December 1963, set new norms for promoting and reforming Catholic liturgy.

Since 1975, Catholics have three forms of the rite of penance and reconciliation. The first form structures private confession, while the second and third forms apply to groups of people in special liturgical

rites. The second form, often used at set times during the year, offers those attending the opportunity to go to confession privately with one of the many priests present.

The third form can be used in special circumstances, when death threatens with no time for individual confession, like a natural disaster or pandemic. Those assembled are given general absolution, and survivors confess privately afterward.

In addition, these reforms prompted the development of a second location for confession: Instead of being restricted to the confessional booth, Catholics now had the option of confessing their sins face-to-face with the priest.

To facilitate this, some Catholic communities added a reconciliation room to their churches. Upon entering the room, the penitent could choose anonymity by using the kneeler in front of a traditional screen or walk around the screen to a chair set facing the priest.

Over the following decades, the Catholic experience of penance changed. Catholics went to confession less often, or stopped altogether. Many confessionals remained empty or were used for storage. Many parishes began to schedule

Continue AI Page 4

### - INSECTS

(Solution will appear in April 16 edition)

#### ACROSS

1. Ira \_\_\_\_ of NPR
6. Mr. Turkey
9. Gives the boot
13. Between octet and decet
14. Ginger one
15. Spherical bacteria
16. Popular ursine meme star
17. Public health org.
18. Mountaineer's tool (2 words)
19. \*Fly larva
21. \*World's noisiest insect
23. Comic book shriek
24. Like some excuses
25. Food safety org.
28. Man Ray's genre
30. Temporarily, legally speaking (2 words)
35. Like unpleasant awakening
37. 4th down kick
39. Quarter-round molding
40. Computer operating system
41. Metal bar
43. Mine passage
44. Antonym of exhume
46. Expert
47. Strip of wood
48. Throws
50. It will
52. Concurrence word
53. Silo contents
55. Romanian money
57. \*Bee's bounty
60. \*Boll weevil, e.g.
63. Aquarium scum
64. \*Lightning bug trap?
66. Brandish
68. Part of a flower
69. Bonanza find
70. Courtroom excuse
71. Whiskey grain, pl.
72. Coniferous tree
73. #52 Across, pl.

#### DOWN

1. Econ. measure
2. Good earth
3. Wintour of "Vogue" fame
4. Marsh plant
5. Not impromptu
6. Diplomat's asset
7. Antediluvian
8. Hajji destination
9. Cocaine plant
10. Got an A
11. March Madness org.
12. \*Number of legs on an insect
15. Famous Roman orator
20. Giraffe's striped-legged cousin
22. Mischief-maker
24. Opposite of energetic
25. \* \_\_\_\_ fly, first living creature sent to space
26. "I don't know," casually
27. #43 Across, pl.
29. \* \_\_\_\_ beetle, world's strongest insect
31. \*Shape of a ladybug or carpet beetle
32. Not tomorrow, not yesterday
33. Like basketball's final eight
34. \*Lepidoptera members, not butterflies
36. Demi Moore and Bruce Willis, e.g.
38. Reason for suit
42. Tutu fabric
45. Duran Duran's 1984 hit, with The
49. "Monkey \_\_\_\_, monkey do"
51. Wiggle room
54. "Have a great time!"
56. Useful
57. Performance with acts
58. Lecherous look
59. "Betcha Can't Eat Just One" brand
60. Tea or beer
61. Hawaiian flower garlands
62. Major European river
63. Acronym, abbr.
65. "Roses \_\_\_\_ red"
67. Bad-mouth, slangily

### Statepoint Crossword Puzzle

Theme: INSECTS

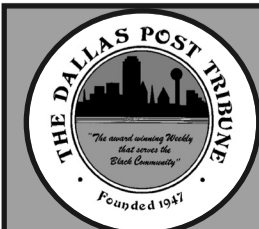
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## HEALTH

# Asthma in Children

Asthma is a condition that causes swelling and narrowing of the airways. The airways are the passages that lead from the nose and mouth down into the lungs. When asthma symptoms get worse, it is called an asthma attack. When this happens, it can be difficult for your child to breathe. Asthma attacks can range from minor to life-threatening.

Asthma cannot be cured, but medicines and lifestyle changes can help to control your child's asthma symptoms. It is important to keep your child's asthma well-controlled so that asthma does not cause problems for his or her daily life.

### What are the signs or symptoms?

Symptoms may be different for each child. Common symptoms include:

- Wheezing (breathing with a whistle or rattle sound)
- Trouble breathing (shortness of breath)
- Nighttime or early morning coughing
- Frequent or severe coughing with a common cold
- Chest tightness

### How is asthma diagnosed and treated?

This condition may be diagnosed based on:

- An exam by a provider and review of medical history, and
- Lung function test to measure the flow of air in the lungs. In this test, you breathe into a device, called a spirometer. It measures breathing and does not hurt.
- Treatment may include fast-acting or rescue medicines. These quickly relieve asthma symptoms. They are used when needed and provide short-term relief. Some patients who have poorly-controlled asthma could use daily preventative medications – doctors can help determine if this is needed.

### Flu and asthma in children

Asthma can make it difficult to breathe. The flu virus can also make it hard to breathe. Don't risk your child getting both! The flu shot is the BEST protection. Find a Parkland location near you! No appointment is needed and there is no cost to you.

Teach your child about why the flu shot is important with the Let's Talk About Flu Coloring Book (English and Spanish PDF).

### How can I get help for asthma

### at Parkland?

- Make an appointment at one of our community clinics. Find a location near you.
- Call 214-266-4000 to make an appointment
- Request an appointment online with Parkland MyChart, the online patient portal. Go to MyChart.pmh.org
- Email a Parkland Community Health Worker at CHW@phhs.org for help getting asthma care.

### Get help by text message

Sign up for Parkland's asthma text message program to get appointment reminders, asthma health tips, reminders to refill medicines and more. The information and reminders will help you take care of your child's asthma.

### Keep your child well with the power of a text message:

- Learn more about asthma
- How to care for asthma
- Reminders about healthcare

Sign up today!

Text @asthma to 844-721-0839. Except for message/data rates, the text program is free to eligible patients.

## April is Stress Awareness Month, Autism Acceptance Month, Alcohol Awareness Month, and Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month.

Continued AI Page 3

confessions by appointment only. Some priests might insist on face-to-face confession, and some penitents might prefer the anonymous form only. The anonymous form takes priority, since the confidentiality of the sacrament must be maintained.

In 2002, Pope John Paul II addressed some of these problems, insisting that parishes make every effort to schedule set hours for confessions. Pope Francis himself has become concerned with reviving the sacrament

of penance. In fact, he demonstrated its importance by presenting himself for confession, face-to-face, at a confessional in St. Peter's Basilica.

Perhaps, in the future, a program like AI Jesus could offer Catholics and interested questioners from other faiths information, advice, referrals and limited spiritual counseling around the clock. But from the Catholic perspective, an AI, with no experience of having a human body, emotions and hope for transcendence, cannot authentically absolve human sins.

## JOB POSTING

There is a Security job opening at the Allen Chapel Baptist Church  
 2146 E Overton Rd.  
 Dallas Tx 75216

Must be 21 years or over  
 Preferred security guard license  
 5 to 15 hours per week  
 salary open

Verner Lewis  
 214 773 4074

## Quinn Minute

# Have people improved?

By Rix Quinn

Have people evolved much?

We, humans, possess remarkable powers. We can walk, run, swim, and even fly (if we hold a boarding pass). Other creatures aren't so adaptable.

Fish can swim, but walk poorly. Birds can fly, but often misjudge altitude and end up as hood ornaments.

Some snakes can squeeze you to death...but who wants an affectionate reptile? Bears possess

power, but hibernate all winter, and miss some great parties.

Rabbits multiply quickly, but can't understand other math. Amoebas divide, but separate from their better halves.

Beavers build constantly, but live a dam hard life. Wild pigs are unpredictable and can bore you senseless. Turtles appear gentle, but rarely come out of their shells.

However, animals can

learn through trial and error.

Scientists discovered that many beasts can master complicated tricks if rewarded with food. I also love being rewarded with food and have personally mastered many complex recipes.

Over the centuries, folks have survived with intellect, ingenuity, and improvisation.

And when cornered – unlike animals – some

folks can talk their way out of trouble. That's a skill I have not yet mastered.

Were you born between 1946-1964? Would you like to know more about the generation called Baby Boomers? You can order Rix's book on that generation today. Just go to this link:

<https://www.amazon.com/BABY-BOOMERS-SPEAK-learned-whatever/dp/>

# SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

## 7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Apr. 9



Friday, Apr. 10



Saturday, Apr. 11



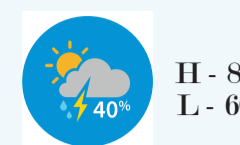
Sunday, Apr. 12



Monday, Apr. 13



Tuesday, Apr. 14



Wednesday, Apr. 15



### Producing the future: Lincoln's digital media program builds on a powerful legacy

By Mariah Conduff



Photo courtesy: Dallas ISD

When you step into Lincoln High School and Humanities/Communications Magnet's news studio, it doesn't look like a typical classroom, but a professional broadcast station.

Cameras are set. The studio is illuminated by bright lights and the signature Lincoln logo.

For Derrick Knighten, audio/video production and theatre arts director, the newly renovated space is a full circle moment. A proud 1998 Lincoln graduate, Knighten once sat in the same program when it was known as Radio/TV. Now called Digital Media Arts, the program has transformed alongside the industry itself.

"At one time we were cutting everything on quarter-inch tape, and then I was able to witness the bridge from analog to digital," Knighten said.

Principal Lance Williams sees the program as part of

a much larger legacy.

"This program is one of the signature legacies of the Legendary Lincoln High School. For generations, this powerhouse program has shaped storytellers and trained future professionals who've gone on to make an impact in media and beyond," Williams said. "Today, that legacy is stronger than ever."

The reimagined program features a news broadcasting studio, a professional sound recording studio, and a non-linear editing lab that mirrors real-world production environments.

For students like senior Antoine E., the transformation is exciting to witness.

"My favorite part is seeing how much has changed over the past four years," Antoine said. "It's fun learning how to use all the new equipment."

Although Antoine plans to major in sports medicine

at Texas College this fall, he says mastering professional camera and production skills is a valuable asset he'll carry into any field.

For Jarrett P., the program opened the door to a new career pathway in communications.

"Before, I casually dismissed the news," he said. "Now I see the importance of why we need it—to keep everyone informed, involved, and aware of what's going on in the world."

Following graduation this spring, Jarrett plans to join the armed forces, where he intends to pursue a degree in communications.

Beyond technical training, Knighten emphasizes media literacy in the classroom by teaching students to critically analyze the content they consume and understand its broader impact.

"Media literacy—whether in news or film—teaches you

to truly understand what you see, how it relates to government, how it affects you here as a Dallasite, a South Dallas native, as an African American, Latino—how does it affect you personally?" Knighten said.

Students don't just sit behind cameras. They write scripts, edit film, build confident on-camera presence, produce podcasts, record music, and manage lighting and sound for theatre performances. Graduates leave with Adobe Premiere certification and hands-on experience that reflects professional industry standards.

The long-term goal is to one day operate as a live, closed-circuit television station broadcasting directly from Lincoln's studio. For now, students are already gaining the skills and experience to tell meaningful stories and continue Lincoln's legacy.

### Continued Page 5 SNAP

below 6%. Texas has until October 2027 to bring its error rate down or it can face \$709 million in penalties. An error rate is based on unintentional mistakes by the agency or the client receiving the benefits that results in an overpayment or underpayment. Monthly changes in a SNAP recipient's financial situation can result in an overpayment or underpayment.

Currently, SNAP assistance is 100% funded by federal tax dollars but each state agrees to pick up a percentage of the administrative costs. Under the new federal rules, Texas will also have to pay 75% of SNAP's administrative cost — about \$117 million more starting next year, according to HHS' numbers — instead of the 50% share the state pays now. Add in the penalties from the error rate, taxpayers will have to pay a total of \$826 million more in 2027.

Because the October 2027 deadline will occur after the Legislature forms a budget, budget writers will likely have to set aside money ahead of time.

SNAP, also known as food stamps, feeds about 3.1 million low-income residents, including about 1.5 million children in Texas, as of March. Texas households receive an average payment of nearly \$400 per month that is loaded onto a debit-like Lone Star card that they can use to purchase groceries. Unused benefits from one month can be rolled over to the next month. Starting this month, SNAP recipients can no longer purchase candy or sugary drinks. Also, undocumented immigrants are not eligible for SNAP assistance.

With 24% of the state's population receiving some type of assistance from

Texas Health and Human Services, lawmakers are focusing hard on what to do to improve the state's record on fraud control, especially now they are facing a hefty financial penalty if they do not reduce the SNAP error rate.

Wednesday's hearing was scheduled after Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick listed fraud as an interim charge or priority. Welfare fraud has resurfaced as a conservative priority following reports from Minnesota of child care fraud in that state earlier this year. By comparison, Texas sees little fraud in its own child care assistance programs. Still, Gov. Greg Abbott earlier this year has directed agencies to make fraud detection a top priority.

"We are dealing today with a health care epidemic, but not from a disease or virus," said Sen Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, the committee chair. "With scandals in place like Minnesota and California drawing national attention, we, as Texans, must examine our own system and see how we measure up to other states."

Texas spends more money than many states to shore up its enforcement apparatus, according to health plan representatives and state agencies charged with investigating health care fraud, namely the Office of the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) and state Health and Human Services Inspector General Raymond Winter. Both agencies re-layed big wins and recouped millions of dollars in fraudulent billing from providers.

In fiscal year 2025, HHS OIG recouped \$465 million in overpayments. The MFCU recouped another

Continue SNAP Page 6

### Statepoint Crossword Puzzle

Solution: April 2 - FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS

S	T	U	N	T		O	P	T		T	U	B	A					
K	O	R	E	A		D	A	H		O	R	R	I	S				
A	S	S	A	M		O	R	E		L	O	A	T	H				
	H	A	T	T	E	R		F	I	D	D	L	E					
		H	A	J		E	T	C	H									
S	P	A			M	E	S	A		E	A	G	L	E	T			
H	O	L	T			C	U	T	E		T	R	A	D	E			
A	L	A	R			T	E	A	R	S		A	G	U	E			
L	I	M	E	D			T	B	S	P		F	A	C	T			
L	O	O	K	U	P			L	E	A	N			N	T	H		
						M	O	R	E		R	E	S					
						H	A	N	D	L	E		T	E	A	C	U	P
B	A	Y	O	U			G	E	E			R	A	V	E	D		
A	T	E	A	M			A	R	E			B	R	E	A	D		
M	E	S	H				L	A	N			Y	E	A	S	T		

### HEALTH

**STOP THE MESS BEFORE IT STARTS**

**The STI Hotline is your local resource** to prevent messy situations.

**214-266-7837**

Parkland providers are here to answer questions, provide guidance, and schedule testing.

**Parkland**

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [parklandhealth.org/sexual-health](https://parklandhealth.org/sexual-health)

# FC Dallas Announces 2026 Homegrown Partner Program Class, Supported by Gallagher



FRISCO, Texas (April 2, 2026) — FC Dallas has announced the Dallas-Fort Worth-based business selected for the club's 2026 Homegrown Partner Program class. Supported by Gallagher, the Homegrown Partner Program is continuing for the sixth consecutive year supporting minority-owned businesses through the power of sports marketing and FC Dallas' platform.

Launched in 2020, the program has now served 20 locally owned businesses through customized corporate partnerships. FC Dallas has committed more than \$2 million in support since the program's inception.

The club will welcome Lil' Marco and Friends as the 2026 FC Dallas Homegrown Partner Program selection.

"We're thrilled to welcome another outstanding local business into our Homegrown Partner Program," said Megan Miller,

Executive Vice President of Strategic Initiatives for FC Dallas and Toyota Stadium." As we enter our sixth year, the program continues to evolve in exciting ways. Thanks to the support of our corporate partner, Gallagher, we're deepening community connections and helping drive meaningful economic growth throughout North Texas."

2026 Homegrown Partner Program Class

Lil' Marco and Friends — Lil' Marco and Friends is a purpose-driven children's literacy brand dedicated to helping every child see themselves as the hero of their own story. Founded by award-winning author and illustrator Sharon Jones-Scaife, the brand creates joy-filled books and products that celebrate Black culture, spark imagination, and build confidence in young readers.

Rooted in representation and community, Lil' Marco and Friends brings stories to

life through books, school visits, and engaging events that connect with families and educators. Through every story, the brand inspires children to feel seen, valued, and proud of who they are.

"I am truly honored and grateful to be selected as a 2026 FC Dallas Homegrown Partner," Jones-Scaife said. "Lil' Marco and Friends was created from a deeply personal place with a mission to close the literacy gap and ensure every child feels seen, valued, and inspired through the power of storytelling.

This partnership represents more than an opportunity—it's a chance to bring literacy, representation, and joy to families across our community in a meaningful and visible way. I'm excited to work alongside FC Dallas to create experiences that inspire children both on and off the field."

With the addition of Lil' Marco and Friends, the

Homegrown Partner Program has now featured 20 businesses since its launch, including these honorees from the previous five classes:

- 2021: Casa M Spice, GRIT Fitness, Reveal Suits, Smokey John's Bar-B-Que, Urban Hydration
- 2022: The Cookie Society, Esposure, The Good Jerky, iCode, Southwest Mobile Advertising
- 2023: Avery's Savory Popcorn, Flatrock Smokehouse BBQ Catering, Hustle Clean, Oasis Accents, Sol Dias Ice Cream
- 2024: Bagelology, Unica Enterprises
- 2025: Detour Doughnuts, Rayson's Creations Kaptured Memories

For more on the Homegrown Partner Program, visit [fcdallas.com/homegrownpartners](https://www.fcdallas.com/homegrownpartners).

Continued *My Truth* Page 1

— Call me 214-941-0110 or email [editor@texasmetronews.com](mailto:editor@texasmetronews.com).

I wish we had the resources to be everywhere and gather all the information, but we don't! WE need one another. For too long, the Black Press has been disrespected, and sadly, by some who look like we should be the first call they make. People are being paid to disseminate information, and if they don't know the audiences or the vehicles to reach those audiences, then they don't deserve to have their jobs!

Too many are languishing behind their desks, taking the easy route and doing a disservice to those hardworking, prepared, and conscientious professionals who care about their jobs and the communities they serve. Actually, all bosses/supervisors, presidents, et al, should do an audit of their PR/Marketing/Communications work — have them bring a full-fledged presentation with samples of everything your money is being spent on — EVERYTHING!

I would urge those who have communications departments or PR people to ask tough questions of their teams and see just who and what is being served. No more excuses! The Black Press is 199 years old. I owe it to our ancestors and to YOU as well as future generations to ensure it exists for more centuries, by fighting those who deny it exists today! Diane Ragsdale, you are the reason we continue to exist.

You respect the Black Press, and you have worked your entire life on the right side of history. We are attempting to record history, but we also need help. You know and support the Black Press, and we need others to join you. All elected, appointed, and anointed leaders and community folk should support the Black Press.

If your local news organization is not what you think it should be, I know I would love your suggestions as we continue our efforts to build strong institutions in our communities. Help us get better. Support our efforts. Second News Flash: The Black Press is comprised of businesses. So, when someone issues the battle cry to support Black businesses, that includes newspapers, radio/ television stations, podcasts, blogs, magazines, digital newsletters, websites, mobile units, and more.

We're here because we want to tell our own stories and plead our own causes. Don't help others devalue us! Thanks for your vision and efforts, Trustee Turner. Congratulations to you, Diane Ragsdale.

You have been a catalyst for change, and you are so deserving of the honor of having a school named in your honor. I want to share your accomplishments with the world. Your tireless efforts have benefited so many, and I salute you. We celebrate your works that extend long before and after your service on the Dallas City Council.

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Continued SNAP Page 5

\$125 million and secured 123 arrests and 180 indictments related to health care fraud. Since 2020, the attorney general's office has brought back more than \$1 billion to Texas coffers.

"I think long before we had this federal focus on fraud, waste, and abuse, Texas has been a national leader in the proactive steps that we've taken," said HHS Executive Commissioner Stephanie Muth. "And that is largely due to the leadership from the governor, as well as the leadership from the legislative body, and creating extra protections for our taxpayer dollars."

Even with the millions spent over several legislative sessions to better detect health care fraud, it is like tackling an elephant one bite at a time, Sen. Charles Perry, R-Lubbock said.

The National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association estimates that up to 10% of total health care expenditures are lost to fraud, waste and abuse each year, Winter said. Texas spent \$53 billion on welfare programs.

New problems are emerging, experts told the committee. Texas has seen a dramatic spike in the number of hospice providers coming to Texas since 2020, said Lisa McNair, the CEO and pres-

ident of Hospice Brazos Valley, a nonprofit hospice company offering end of life care in 17 counties. She suggested not all of those companies are coming here because of increased patient demand. Some of them are coming because of the state's looser regulations.

"We basically doubled the number of hospices since 2020," McNair said. "We haven't doubled our population."

Fraud in personal attendant billing — where the state pays for personal attendants for disabled Texans — is another growing problem, MFCU Chief William Marlowe said.

His unit caught one Texas jail correctional officer scamming the state by falsely recording she was making visits as a personal attendant even though she was on duty at the jail. In another case, a Texas family kept the corpse of an elderly relative in the house for three years to keep payments for personal attendant services going.

"Never underestimate the depravity of humanity," Perry said.

*This article first appeared on The Texas Tribune.*

[<link rel="canonical" href="https://www.texastribune.org/2026/04/08/texas-hhsc-snap-fraud-food-stamp-big-beautiful-bill-senate-hearing/" />](https://www.texastribune.org/2026/04/08/texas-hhsc-snap-fraud-food-stamp-big-beautiful-bill-senate-hearing/)

Continued Page 1

## NASA's Artemis II Crew Beams Official Moon Flyby Photos to Earth



### Hello, World

NASA astronaut and Artemis II Commander Reid Wiseman took this picture of Earth from the Orion spacecraft's window on April 2, 2026, after completing the translunar injection burn.

Image Credit: NASA/Reid Wiseman



### Final Flyby Preparations

art002e009294 (April 6, 2026) — Artemis II Pilot Victor Glover (Left), Commander Reid Wiseman (Center), and Mission Specialist Jeremy Hansen (Right) prepare for their journey around the far side of the Moon by configuring their camera equipment shortly before beginning their lunar flyby observations.

Image Credit: NASA

images, with more expected in the coming days as the crew members are more than halfway through their journey and now headed home toward Earth.

"Our four Artemis II astronauts — Reid, Victor, Christina, and Jeremy — took humanity on an incredible journey around the Moon and brought back images so exquisite and brimming with science, they will inspire generations to come," said Dr. Nicky Fox, associate administrator, Science Mission Directorate, NASA Headquarters in Washington.

During the lunar flyby, the crew documented impact craters, ancient lava flows, and surface fractures that will help scientists study the Moon's geologic evolution. They monitored color, brightness, and texture differences across the terrain, observed an earthset and earthrise, and captured solar eclipse views of the Sun's corona. The crew also reported six meteoroid impact flashes on the darkened lunar surface.

Scientists already are analyzing the downlinked images, audio, and data to refine the timing and locations of these events and compare them with observations from amateur astronomers. The new imagery also will help NASA better understand the Moon's geology and inform future exploration and science missions that will lay the foundation for an enduring presence on the Moon ahead of future astronaut missions to Mars.

"It was remarkable listening to the crew describe the stunning views during the flyby," said Jacob Bleacher, NASA's chief exploration scientist at the agency's headquarters. "At first, their descriptions didn't quite match what we were seeing on our screens. Now that higher resolution images are coming down, we can finally experience the moments they were trying to share and truly appreciate the scientific return provided by these images and our other research on this mission."



The Rings of the Orientale Basin art002e012090 (April 6, 2026) - In this view of the Moon, the Artemis II crew captured an intricate snapshot of the rings of the Orientale basin, one of the Moon's youngest and best-preserved large impact craters on his first shift during the lunar flyby observation period. Image Credit: NASA