

“Focus on what you can control. Be a good person every day. Vote. Read. Treat one another kindly. Follow the law. Don’t tweet nasty stuff.”

— Michelle Obama



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VOLUME 78 NUMBER 39

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

June 25 - July 1, 2026

EDUCATION



Photo Credit: Dallas ISD

Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III Global Preparatory Academy shapes the next generation

DALLAS — Hidden in plain sight on the campus of Paul Quinn College, Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III Global Preparatory Academy is empowering Dallas ISD students with a rigorous International Baccalaureate curriculum.

Open since 2021, Haynes Global Prep utilizes the IB model to cultivate critical thinking skills that prepare students for success in high school, higher education, and future careers. Students can enroll as early as sixth grade.

“Over six years, they develop lifelong, transferable skills: critical thinking, advanced analytical writing, and global citizenship,” Mercedes Holly, IB coordi-

nator, said. “We want them to see a problem in the world and feel empowered to fix it.”

The campus operates without academic entrance exams, welcoming students of all academic backgrounds. Once enrolled, students are immersed in an advanced-level-only environment, with an average student-to-teacher ratio of 18-to-1.

“Academics are our number-one priority; however, as an IB campus, we place an equal emphasis on developing a student’s character,” Holly said. “When they graduate, they feel empowered to be leaders. We

Continue **Global** Page 5

Cornyn and Crockett remain top skeptics of their party’s U.S. Senate nominees after primary losses

By Kayla Guo, The Texas Tribune

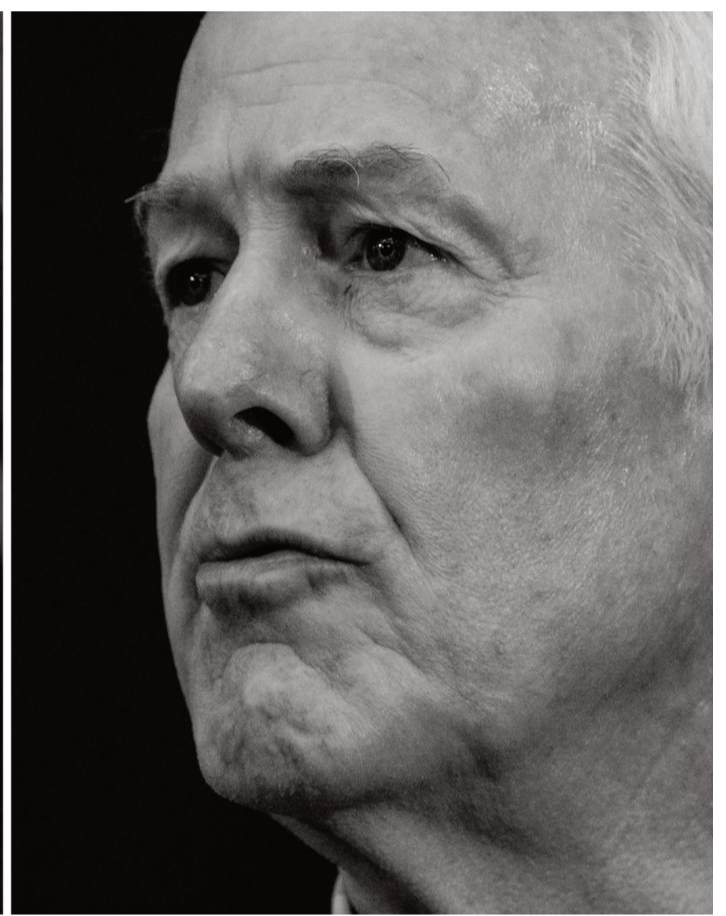


Photo Credit: Mark Felix and Joel Angel Juarez for The Texas Tribune

This week when Democrats meet at their state convention to energize and organize their party ahead of November, they’ll be doing so without U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett, D-Dallas, who declined an invitation to headline the event from Sen. John Cornyn, the Senate nominee who defeated her in March.

Last week, Crockett told The Dallas Morning News that she hadn’t listened to Talarico’s message asking her to speak but thought the

invitation was an “afterthought.” She added that she “had no idea” if she’d be actively campaigning for her primary opponent because she was focusing more on down-ballot candidates.

Across the aisle, U.S. Sen. John Cornyn is no closer to letting up on his beef with Attorney General Ken Paxton, who bested him for the Republican Senate nomination last month. In recent interviews, Cornyn said he would not

campaign nor raise money for Paxton and stands by his sharp criticisms of the attorney general from the primary as corrupt and unfit for office.

A month since the U.S. Senate race in Texas was set, Paxton and Talarico’s most notable skeptics of late are still their primary opponents, who have publicly cast doubt on the coalitions behind the nominees — highlighting potential vulnerabilities the candidates face in shoring up their sup-

port ahead of November after deeply divisive primaries.

Cornyn and Crockett’s comments spotlighted the voting blocs who backed them in the primary whose support and enthusiasm the nominees are now looking to capture. While Paxton will need to minimize potential defections by Cornyn’s voters — traditional Republicans repelled by the attorney general’s

Continue **Losses** Page 3



Nellie Pearl Morgan Nolly
Taken in Germany at a Medical Convention

A Pain I Can’t Explain

A Tribute to My Deceased Friend
January 6, 1946 - June 8, 2026

By Shirley Gray

On Day One, I was in denial.

On Day Two, reality hit me, and I broke down in hysterical tears. My denial faded as overwhelming grief set in, and I realized it was true: I had lost my lifelong friend.

Today, my heart aches with this ‘Pain I Can’t Explain.’ Still, when I hear you reassure me, “Girl, I am okay. I am not in pain

or suffering anymore,” my emotions shift between sorrow and comfort.

Our friendship began in the Pre-Prima class at Cayuga Colored School in Bethel, Texas (Anderson County). Later, when we were old enough to know what cousins were, we discovered that we were descendants of the same great-grandparents, London & Julie Mims,

giving us more to talk about and cherish.

Together, we were proud to have been born in January 1946, always recognizing each other’s Special Day, encouraging each other that age is only a number, and finally, ecstatic to become members of the **80th Club**.

Although my heart aches today, I will find

comfort knowing that **one day**, those beautiful memories we shared will keep me close to you, **my friend, my cousin**.

Nellie Pearl, I will miss you deeply; the bond we had leaves a part of me forever void.

Until we meet again...

Your friend,
Shirley Gray



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EDITORIAL PAGE

My Day

Chums

A Chum? A Chum is a friend indeed, faithful, mix and mingling with inspiration.

By Dr. J. Ester Davis



Members of The Greater Dallas Chapter of Chums
Photo Credit:

Introducing Chums, Inc., also known as The Dynamic Divas of Dallas, bedazzled and delighted the metroplex during their chartering weekend. And...WHAT a fabulously memorable weekend it was! These outstanding daughters, mothers, and sisters, bonded in the spirit of friendship, community service, and fun, finely laced with intentional purpose, passion, unity, and inspiration, were nationally incorporated in 1946 in

Norfolk, Virginia, by three women of vision and vitality. In the more than eighty (80) years since its inception, Chums, Inc., has grown into a nationwide organization that promotes civic, cultural, educational, and social improvement throughout our borders. Their unyielding mission is 'listen to the children and enrich their lives'.

Mrs. Barbara Washington is the current President of the Dallas Chapter of Chums, Inc., and is the

First Lady and Co-Owner of Paradise Funeral Home in Dallas, Texas. Mrs. Barbara Washington was recently honored by The Independent Funeral Directors Association as the Funeral Professional of the Year. Chums, Inc., true to their English ideas, boasts some of the most amazing and accomplished women in and around the Dallas metroplex. When asked about Mrs. Washington, I was told that she leads 'through her unwavering

faith'. The appropriate speaker for the highly anticipated weekend was the inimitable Dr. Sheila Bailey. Chum Member and Attorney Inez Clark, featured nationally in an Aviation Mom article, was the masterful PR Chair. An all-rounded team effort for the community.

The Greater Dallas Chapter of Chums is the third chapter of Chums, Inc., in Texas, with chapters in Fort Worth and Houston. The Dallas Chapter is now the 40th active chapter of Chums, Inc. In the spotlight, the "Dynamic Divas of Dallas" have engaged in many activities, ushering in an unmatched style with energy and noted enthusiasm. Among a few, in November, 2025, Chums, Inc., aka "Dynamic Divas of Dallas", supported the Gateway Charter Academy Elementary Campus, through its 'Warm Hearts Warm Clothes' initiative in providing thirty(30)boys and girls with full school uniforms, underwear, socks, and of course warm coats.

It was followed by Thanksgiving baskets for the parents.

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What Are the Roles and Responsibilities of Fathers in Our Communities Today?

By James B. Ewers Jr., Ed.



Dr. James Ewers

Another Father's Day has come and gone. On Sunday, June 21st, fathers celebrated with family and friends. Dinner was delicious, and the fellowship was great. Gift cards and presents were added to the occasion.

Platitudes and acclamations were plentiful, all extolling the virtues of a good dad. Being a father isn't easy today. There are some roadblocks that fathers must get over and around.

Has reverence for fathers changed over time? That question might get some different responses.

The first man in my young life was my dad. I found him to be kind and generous with his time. Proudly, I say that my dad was a dentist in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. His birthplace was Jamaica, West Indies.

He was a graduate of the

Howard University School of Dentistry in Washington, D.C. My dad was the only Jamaican in Winston-Salem, NC, until he sponsored his nephew, my cousin, Wilfred Ewers.

There were always people coming over to our house seeking his counsel and wisdom. I don't think he ever turned anyone away. I can say without hesitation that I was blessed to have had him as my dad. My dad and mom gave me the fundamentals for success. Where would I be without them? That's a question I never had to answer.

Fathers held important positions in my community when I was a child. They carried themselves in a way that earned your respect. It was what they said and how they said it. The combination of encouragement and kindness gave us the impetus to do our best.

The men in my neighborhood gave us an unspoken shield of protection. My dad and the other dads had a bond with each other. They knew what was important and how to impart

that knowledge upon us.

My dad, Dr. James B. Ewers, was a community leader yet was always there for me. I never had to wonder if he was coming home. Hearing his voice as he walked into the house gave me instant comfort.

While I am sure he faced challenges, he never let them affect how he treated me. When I look back now, my dad had a tremendous amount of self-discipline. Was it his Jamaican heritage? Maybe it was. Not once in my life did I ever hear my dad use inappropriate language. He set a high bar, which I have tried to emulate.

Like yesterday, I can remember some of the lectures that he gave me. I believe my father helped create the word "monologue". They were commercial free as I never knew when they would end.

I sat on the couch and didn't say a word. All these monologues had themes of doing your best each day, comportment, and education. Am I a better person for having listened to them? That's an easy answer. Yes.

The first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910, in Spokane, Washington. It was founded by Sonora Smart Dodd to honor her widower father who raised six children. Wishing your dad a Happy Father's Day has become a ritual and a treasured event as well. There are many responsibilities associated with being a father. It is a special calling.

Many of us learned lessons on how to be good fathers because we had good fathers. We were fortunate to have learned from the best. Our dads showed us what character, integrity, and honesty were. There were no short-cuts to decency.

Much has changed as fathers are navigating this new age. We live in a faster-paced society. As a result, fathers are always on the go these days. If you aren't careful, your priorities can go awry. Make time for your children now. Time has a way of slipping by you. My sage advice is not to let life get in the way of being a good father. I don't think living with regret will feel good.

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- Imagination Week

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June 18 | 1-2 PM
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June 25 | 12-2 PM
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July 25 | 1-2 PM
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RELIGIOUS/NEWS

The Apostle John's Letter to the Church of Smyrna

Revelation 2:8-11



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

John's letter to the church at Smyrna may be outlined under six headings: Destination (2:8), The Lord (2:8), Commendation (2:9), Condemnation (None), Exhortation (2:10a), Promise (2:10b-11).

Destination (Revelation 2:8)

The church of Smyrna is noted as the martyred church, the church that suffered for the cause of Christ. The word Smyrna means "myrrh" and carries the connotation of suffering. Whereas Ephesus represents the Apostolic church, Smyrna represents the martyr church, which covers the period from about A.D. 100 to approximately A.D. 313 or A.D. 314, a period from the death of Apostle John to the Edict of Toleration by Constantine. Constantine's Edict in A.D. 313 ended the persecution of Christians, not only in Smyrna, but all over the Roman Empire.

The Lord (Revelation 2:8)

Christ identified Himself as the "first and the last, which was dead, and is alive." He is the "first and the last," for there was nothing before Him and there will be nothing to follow Him! The church of Smyrna experienced severe persecution that threatened their very lives; and although suffering severely, these believers needed to know that Christ was Sovereign and in control of all things. Christ was triumphant over death and can save to the uttermost those who are going through a severe period of trial and persecution.

Commendation (Revelation 2:9)

It was extremely encouraging to these saints to know that Christ was aware that they were experiencing "tribulation" and poverty. These believers experienced poverty (destitution) because they refused to participate in the imperial

cult (emperor worship). Because of this economic persecution, they were excluded from the business of the town and forced into abject poverty! While they were poor in terms of earthly goods, they were rich from Heaven's viewpoint (II Corinthians 6:10; 8:9; James, 2:5).

In addition to the opposition from the pagan culture, the church at Smyrna was receiving verbal abuse from the adherents to Judaism. Christ called the local Jewish synagogue a "synagogue of Satan" (Revelation 2:9). These Jews did not acknowledge Jesus as Lord, the Messiah; therefore, they were not truly Jewish in the sense that they had rejected the Messiah (Romans 2:28-29).

Condemnation

It is to be noted that the church of Smyrna and the church of Philadelphia did not receive a word of condemnation.

Exhortation (Revelation 2:10a)

Although these believers were suffering severely, Christ offered words of assurance by stating that they should not fear. Some of these believers would be imprisoned for ten days (a brief period). It is indeed comforting to know that God never allows His saints to be tested above what they can endure, for I Corinthians 10:13 says: "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." God never intended that we should escape trouble. God's goal for us, however, is conformity to Christ (Romans 8:29), not pain-free or trouble-free existence! Many times, suffering is allowed by

God simply to bring us closer to Him (II Corinthians 12:7). Suffering can be used by God to discipline us (Hebrews 12:3-11), but even this is meant for the spiritual development of the believer.

Promise (Revelation 2:10b-11)

Christ urged these believers to continue being faithful, even to the point of death. He promised that those who did remain faithful would receive "a crown of life." Persecutors could take away the lives of the faithful, but not their rewards! Christ even promised that those who overcome (that is, obey Him in spite of all opposition), will not be harmed by the second death. An overcomer is not an especially spiritual believer. John used this term to refer to all true believers (I John 5:4-5). All who hear and obey God's Word are overcomers.

May God Bless!

Continued Losses Page 1

long list of legal and ethical scandals — Talarico will need to gin up excitement among Black voters, who are central to the Democratic base and broke overwhelmingly for Crockett in March.

"I've not heard a bunch of kumbaya," Crockett told the Dallas Morning News about whether Talarico had done enough to win over Black voters. "People don't seem to be convinced at this point, but there's a lot of time between now and November."

Matthew Wilson, a political science professor at Southern

Methodist University, said Cornyn and Crockett's muted support could stifle enthusiasm on Election Day.

"There's some sour grapes on both the Democratic and the Republican sides about the way that things ended up playing out," Wilson said. "While in the end both Cornyn and Crockett will signal support for their party's ticket, the level of enthusiasm that they bring to that is going to be pretty limited."

In a statement, Crockett spokesperson Karrol Rimal reiterated the congresswoman's endorsement of Talarico, which she issued the day after she lost the

primary and noted during a social media livestream Saturday.

"The congresswoman is a lifelong Democrat who wants to see Dems retake the House, Senate, governor's mansion and the state Legislature," Rimal said. "Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett will continue being a force for change, civil rights and equal representation with or without a title."

In a statement, Talarico spokesperson JT Ennis said, "James is honored to have Congresswoman Crockett's endorsement in this race."

He added, "While Republicans, Independents and Demo-

crats continue to reject Ken Paxton's corruption, Texans are coming together in this election to do something extraordinary: End thirty years of one-party rule and give hope to working people left behind by this broken, corrupt political system rigged by billionaire megadonors and puppet politicians like Ken Paxton."

Cornyn's campaign declined to comment for this story.

Paxton spokesperson Madison Cercy did not address Cornyn's remarks or Republican divides in response to a request for comment for this story, and instead issued a statement about racial tensions among Democrats, calling on Ta-

larico to "publicly apologize" for what she cast as "sexist and racist attacks" during the primary.

Brendan Steinhauser, a Republican strategist uninvolved in the race, argued that the tenor of conversation at this point in the cycle was "normal for competitive and often emotional primaries," and not necessarily indicative of a deeper or lasting discontent among Cornyn and Crockett's supporters with their party's nominee.

"It's a long way from November, and eventually Republicans and Democrats are going to

Continued Losses Page 4

~ THEME: THE 4TH OF JULY (Solution will appear in July 2 edition)

- ACROSS
- Dagger's partner
 - Elephant party, acr.
 - Do like volcano
 - Fire (2 words)
 - Pro football org.
 - Jonas Salk's conquest
 - Like a Harvard building?
 - ET carrier
 - Bedeck
 - *Tasty Fourth of July outings
 - *Float processions
 - Black gunk
 - Ivan the Terrible, e.g.
 - The Jackson 5's 1970 hit
 - Caffeine source
 - TV classic "___ Heroes"
 - Folio page
 - Abel's big brother
 - Fortune teller's card
 - Rank in British peerage
 - Archipelago parts
 - Head for (2 words)
 - Beseech
 - Impermanent employee
 - Prayer's end
 - Gardener's trimmer
 - Part of speech
 - Am is to I as ___ is to we
 - Calista Flockhart's husband
 - Likewise
 - *Salad tuber
 - *___ Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest
 - Nonsense
 - Female gametes
 - "A Doll's House" playwright
 - Cuckoo
 - Opposite of guzzle
 - Cuckoo for what puffs?
 - Eyelid affliction
 - Driver's aid
 - Giving a once-over

- DOWN
- Hair holder
 - First name in jeans
 - Auricular
 - ___ provocateur
 - Island off Alaskan coast
 - Wildebeests
 - *For most, the 4th is a day ___
 - Onomatopoeia for splash
 - *Drink at a barbeque
 - Weary walk
 - Ireland, once
 - *Patriots ___ over Loyalists
 - Long John Silver's pet
 - Crocus, pl.
 - Ooh partner
 - Last part (2 words)
 - 1st letter of Hebrew alphabet
 - Famous Memphis street
 - Felt concern
 - *"...twilight's ___ gleaming"
 - Lady of "A Star is Born"
 - Smell
 - Post-it user
 - *"Born on the Fourth of July" director
 - *Popular July 4th decoration
 - Captain of Nautilus
 - Phlegms
 - Sully one's reputation
 - Go bad
 - Public announcement
 - Fowl perch
 - Exclamation of delight or dismay (2 words)
 - Bridge, in Paris
 - Colloquial approval
 - Ditty
 - Back of neck
 - Ascus, pl.
 - Ne
 - Glitch
 - Part of O.H.M.S.
 - Strive

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle Theme: THE 4TH OF JULY

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
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71						72				73				

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8	1	7	5	9	3	4	2	6
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7	3	1	6	2	4	8	5	9
5	9	4	8	7	1	6	3	2
1	8	9	2	5	6	3	7	4
3	7	6	4	8	9	2	1	5
4	5	2	3	1	7	9	6	8

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NEWS

Continued Losses Page 3

come home," he said.

On the Republican side, Texas GOP leaders have repeatedly urged their party to come together — or risk a Democratic upset in November.

Cornyn has said he will "support the Republican ticket." But he's also stood by the attacks he levied against Paxton during the primary, telling Semafor that he would leave it to President Donald Trump to shell out the tens of millions of dollars Paxton's campaign will need for the general election. He also predicted to The New York Times that Trump, who all but sealed the senior senator's demise by granting Paxton an 11th-hour endorsement, would regret his decision to do so and see Paxton's nomination threaten GOP control of the seat and down-ballot races.

"It's going to make things harder, certainly more expensive in Texas, and make it harder around the country," Cornyn said. Trump is "going to have the most miserable two years of his life in the last two years of his term, I think, because I think November is going to be a disaster."

At the Texas GOP convention last month, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick called Cornyn one of two "sore losers" among Republicans who lost their primaries for his unwillingness to throw his support behind his former opponent.

"I've already seen bad behavior by two" Republicans who lost, Patrick said. "We cannot have any people deserting our party in November of 2026 if we're going to keep Texas red. We have to come together."

Comments like those, Cornyn told Semafor, are evidence that Texas GOP leaders were "basically

continuing to alienate what I would call traditional conservative Republicans like me, and the people who voted for me. Makes no sense whatsoever."

Other Republicans have also been outspoken about their reluctance to support Paxton.

"Please explain to me how bashing Sen. Cornyn, a good man with a lifetime of service to the state of Texas and the country, is going to help convince his 900k supporters to vote for Ken," former Southlake mayor and state Senate candidate John Huffman, a Republican, posted on X. "Newsflash to the top of the ticket - YOU NEED US. Best you start acting like it."

The enduring intraparty conflict signals an opening for Talarico, who has made appealing to Cornyn supporters and disaffected voters across the political spectrum central to his general election strategy. Recent polling has found Talarico narrowly trailing Paxton overall, but winning up to 30% of Cornyn supporters and trouncing the hardline attorney general among independent and moderate voters.

Steinhauser said he expected Paxton's campaign to "recalibrate a little bit on focus and messaging for the general election" and coalesce Republican voters.

They're going to continue to be that conservative fighter that the voters want to see, but I also expect that you're going to see Paxton and his team do a good job of appealing to Cornyn Republicans, appealing to independents who lean conservative," he said. "They're very aware that they need to do that, and I expect them to do so."

As Talarico pursues potential crossover voters, he'll also need to mobilize Black Texans, among

whom Crockett is an influential leader.

She endorsed him quickly after the primary. But since then, the Dallas congresswoman, one of the state's most prominent Black leaders, has questioned the unity of voters behind the statewide ticket and said her focus will largely be on boosting down-ballot candidates through FIRE PAC, her new leadership PAC, rather than the top of the ticket.

Crockett's comments set off an online firestorm that revived racial tensions from the primary, with many of the congresswoman's social media allies viewing criticisms of her remarks as unfairly demanding she campaign for Talarico.

"People seem to be obsessed with now dictating what I'll do and when?!" Crockett posted on social media Friday. "I said as a senate candidate that I'd be focused on the down ballot and my plan to do that hasn't changed."

Dallas Jones, a Democratic strategist uninvolved with the race, argued that while Talarico needed to energize Black voters to support a surge in Democratic turnout in November, Paxton faced the more daunting task of curtailing crossover voting.

Still, Jones said, muted enthusiasm for Talarico from Crockett could make it harder for his campaign to "show that there is a genuine desire and quest to go after these Black voters, particularly around Black women who have experienced being the most loyal voting bloc in this party and suffering disappointments — what I have called Kamala trauma."

Roughly two-thirds of Black voters said they would support Talarico over Paxton, according to recent public polling — lower than the proportion

that have backed the Democratic U.S. Senate candidate in previous cycles.

Talarico has worked to win over Black voters since the primary, visiting Black churches and universities, meeting with Black leaders around the state, rolling out a plan to tackle maternal mortality, which disproportionately impacts Black women, and more.

Numerous Black elected officials have campaigned and served as surrogates for him, including influential Black Democrats Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis and state Sen. Royce West of Dallas. Texas Organizing Project, which supported Crockett during the primary and is dedicated to mobilizing Black and Latino voters, also endorsed Talarico last month.

Ellis predicted that Talarico would win a "tremendous amount of support in the African American community because Black Texans more than anybody else — we've had the brunt of disadvantages in the state, and we know how important it is to end this one-party rule in Texas."

"I was for Jasmine Crockett in the primary — that was then, this is now," Ellis said on stage at a Talarico campaign rally in Houston last month. "There's too much at stake to be petty."

Disclosure: New York Times and Southern Methodist University have been financial supporters of The Texas Tribune, a nonprofit, nonpartisan news organization that is funded in part by donations from members, foundations and corporate sponsors. Financial supporters play no role in the Tribune's journalism. Find a complete list of them here.

This article first appeared on The Texas Tribune.

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Quinn Simple Scenes

Class Reunion

By Rix Quinn

The old guy in the grocery line looked about two coughing spells away from the Promised Land. Gnarled and unshaven, he mumbled to himself while the clerk totaled his bill.

He noticed me as he reached into his pocket for change and accidentally pulled out a set of teeth.

"Hey," he smiled, "remember me? I'm George, from biology class!"

Suddenly, I did remember. Back in tenth grade, we dissected the same frog. Disgusting!

George never comes to our high school reunions. That's too bad, because he could make the rest of us feel lots younger.

My friend Ray was the mascot at his school, and he wears a silly hornet outfit to every class gathering. On his drive there last year, he got pulled over...and it's hard to walk a straight line if you can't control your stinger.

He got to the party late, then made the entrance only a middle-aged potbellied hornet can. Across

the room, he noticed Mollie.

She was a former cheerleader, and she remembered Ray immediately. And she looked great to Ray, whose glasses fit sort of funny on a hornet mask.

Funny how fast time flies. Just when we understand school, we graduate. When we finally learn to comb our hair right, it falls out. And when we get our act together, there are no old friends around to watch the performance.

But reunions reconnect

us with our roots...and roots remind us of our natural hair color. Ray and I both recommend them...if you don't dress like an insect.

Ever wanted to write your life story to share with family members? Here's the link to a series of simple steps you can follow to finish this project. And this Simple Scenes presentation is inexpensive, too:
<https://payhip.com/b/b7mDQ>

SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, June 25

Friday, June 26

Saturday, June 27

Sunday, June 28

Monday, June 29

Tuesday, June 30

Wednesday, July 1



H -94°
L -78°



H 96°
L -79°



H -96°
L -79°



H -97°
L -80°



H -97°
L -80*



H - 97°
L - 81°



H -95°
L -81°

Saddle Up! African American Museum Dallas to Host 37th Annual Texas Black Invitational Rodeo on Saturday, July 25 at Fair Park Coliseum

With proceeds benefiting the African American Museum, this beloved family-fun tradition pays tribute to the late cowboy legend Cleo Hearn and celebrates the significant legacy of Black cowboys and cowgirls.



Photo Credit: Texas Black Invitational Rodeo

DALLAS (June 18, 2026) – Shine up those boots and belt buckles because the 37th Texas Black Invitational Rodeo is riding into town Saturday, July 25, at 7 p.m. at the Fair Park Coliseum (1438 Coliseum Dr., Dallas, Texas 75210). Tickets are now on sale at eventbrite.com. Last year's event sold out in advance, and early purchase is encouraged.

Presented by and benefiting the African American Museum, Dallas, the family-fun rodeo showcases Black cowboys and cowgirls competing for cash prizes in fan-favorite events including bronc and bull riding, calf and steer roping, barrel racing and a Pony Express relay race. Aside from the thrills, the rodeo provides a powerful glimpse of the often-forgotten historical contributions African Americans

made in settling the western U.S.

This year's event pays tribute to the late Western trailblazer Cleo Hearn. Known affectionately as "Mr. Black Rodeo," the National Rodeo Hall of Famer spent more than 50 years breaking racial barriers and educating audiences on the diverse history of the American West. Today, his four sons carry his torch forward,

partnering with the African American Museum to produce this beloved annual tradition that celebrates community, culture, and cowboy excellence.

To date, sponsors of the Texas Black Invitational Rodeo are Oncor and the Dallas Mavericks. Season sponsors of the African American Museum, Dallas, are Visit Dallas and the City of Dallas' Office of Arts and Culture. Media partners are NBC 5 and Telemundo 39.

With proceeds benefiting the African American Museum, tickets start at \$28 (plus fees) with VIP box seats available for \$55 (plus fees) at eventbrite.com. Tickets may also be purchased in person at the museum during extended operating hours from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday.

Doors open at 6 p.m., with the Grand Entry Parade beginning at 6:30 p.m. and the competition at 7 p.m. For more information, go to aamdallas.org. Follow the museum on Instagram and Facebook for the latest updates.



Photo Credit: City of Dallas and Dallas Sports Commission

City of Dallas and Dallas Sports Commission Countdown To Kickoff for 2026 State Fair Classic

Dallas (June 2, 2026) – The stage is set for the renewal of one of the most storied rivalries in college football as the City of Dallas and the Dallas Sports Commission welcome the return of the 101st annual State Fair Classic on September 26, 2026. This historic college football showdown between the Prairie View A&M Panthers and the Grambling State Tigers has been a celebrated tradition at the historic Cotton Bowl Stadium in Fair Park since the 1980s.

"The State Fair Classic is one of Dallas' most treasured traditions, uniting fans, families, and alumni in a powerful celebration of HBCU's rich legacy and spirit," said Al Wash,

founder of ALW Entertainment. "For more than 100 years, the State Fair Classic has delivered unforgettable moments both on and off the field, and we're proud to continue growing that legacy in Dallas."

This year's highly anticipated clash between the Southwestern Athletic Conference rivals will kickoff at 6 p.m. on Saturday, September 26, 2026.

The State Fair Classic is renowned for its unique pageantry, featuring captivating halftime performances by the Prairie View A&M University Marching Storm and Grambling State University's World-Famed Tiger Marching Band. Beyond the game and halftime

Continue Classic Page 6

Continued Global Page 1

focus heavily on developing public speaking skills and teaching students how to advocate for themselves and others."

Jasmine Ervins, the school's principal, said the

educational framework encourages students to broaden their perspectives, think beyond classroom instruction, and recognize that the possibilities for their future are limitless.

"We want our students to know it doesn't matter

where you're from or where you live. The education you receive at our school will equip you to go anywhere you want to go in the world," Ervins said.

To balance the academic weight of the IB program, the school inte-

grates clubs on select Fridays that range from gaming and robotics to soccer and dance.

Next school year, the culinary arts club, led by an eighth-grade English teacher and professional food truck entrepreneur,

will give participating students the chance to earn formal ServeSafe certifications.

With the inaugural class of seniors preparing to graduate next spring, the vision for the future of the campus remains bright.

"I want our graduates to be disruptors in the world, in the best way possible," Ervins said. "We are actively creating knowledgeable, capable leaders who are prepared to step into society and make the world a better place."

HEALTH

**Men could live longer.
Here's what can help.**

Across Dallas County, men are living shorter lives than they should. In some areas, the gap is even greater.

The 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment found that in some Dallas County ZIP Codes, life expectancy is nearly 20 years shorter than in others. Overall, men in Dallas County also live shorter lives than the national average.

Many factors play a role, including access to care and other challenges that can affect health. One thing that can help is getting care early.

One part of the problem is that men often wait too long to see a doctor. They skip check-ups and they ignore symptoms. But conditions like high blood pressure, diabetes, and cancer often show no warning signs early on. By the time you feel something, it may already be serious.

Getting a simple check-up can help you catch problems early when they are easier to treat.

Key check-ups every man should consider:

- An annual physical exam
- Blood pressure screening to prevent heart disease, hypertension and stroke
- Blood sugar test to check for early signs of diabetes
- Colon cancer screenings (starting at age 45) to help find cancer early
- Mental health supports stress, anxiety, and depression

It's easy to put your health last. But taking care of yourself now can help you stay healthier longer.

You don't have to do everything at once. One visit can make a difference. This Men's Health Month, take the first step.

Parkland has community clinics across Dallas County. To find a clinic near you and schedule an appointment, visit www.parklandhealth.org/community-clinics.

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle

Solution: June 18 - DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

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

Fair Park Community Park Awarded \$2.5 Million Grant From McKesson Foundation to Advance Health Access in South Dallas

Gift establishes the McKesson Market Grove and supports long-term community health programming at Fair Park's new Community Park



Photo Credit: Press Release

DALLAS (June 18, 2026) — Fair Park First, in partnership with the Dallas Park and Recreation Department, today announced a transformative \$2.5 million investment from the McKesson Foundation to support the development and activation of the McKesson Market Grove within the new Community Park at Fair Park.

The gift represents McKesson Foundation's single largest investment in Dallas and its first major philanthropic investment focused on expanding access to greenspace and health-centered community programming in South Dallas.

Located within the 10.5-acre Community Park currently under development, the McKesson Market Grove will serve as a welcoming destination for gatherings, wellness programming, community events, healthy food access initiatives, educational opportunities, and year-round engagement, all designed to improve health outcomes for residents.

The Community Park will reconnect 13 historically under-resourced neighborhoods surrounding Fair Park to safe, accessible greenspace and free recreational opportunities while creating a new front porch for one of Dallas' most iconic civic destinations.

"At McKesson Foundation, we believe that where people live, gather, and connect has a profound impact on their health and well-being," said Melissa Thompson, President of the McKesson Foundation. "The Community Park at Fair Park reflects our commitment to strengthening access in the communities

we serve, creating a space where families can access wellness resources, connect with one another, and enjoy the benefits of a welcoming greenspace. Through the McKesson Market Grove and our partnership with Fair Park First and the City of Dallas, we're helping create a vibrant, year-round space to strengthen community ties and advance health outcomes in South Dallas for generations to come."

The McKesson Market Grove will anchor a vibrant section of the park dedicated to community gathering and wellness-focused activities. The space is envisioned as a hub for health education, fitness and recreation opportunities, farmers markets, nutrition-focused programming, health clinic events, and partnerships with local organizations serving South Dallas residents.

For decades, the neighborhoods surrounding Fair Park have experienced limited access to quality greenspace despite being located adjacent to one of Dallas' most recognized public assets. The Community Park addresses that disparity while delivering environmental, economic, and public health benefits for generations to come.

This investment reflects exactly what the Community Park was envisioned to achieve," said Jason Brown, Chair of the Fair Park First Board of Directors. "McKesson Foundation recognized that this project is about far more than building a park. It is about creating opportunities, improving quality of life, strengthening community health and ensuring that the neighborhoods sur-

rounding Fair Park benefit directly from one of the most significant public investments underway in Dallas. Their leadership will have a lasting impact on South Dallas families for generations."

The Community Park is the centerpiece of Fair Park First's efforts to implement the Fair Park Master Plan, a long-term vision to transform Fair Park into a year-round destination that better serves Dallas residents while preserving its historic significance.

"McKesson Foundation's investment is a powerful example of what can happen when philanthropic leaders step forward to champion transformational community projects," said Heather Stevens, President/CEO of Rise360 and Campaign Advisor for the Community Park. "This gift not only moves us significantly closer to completing the Community Park, but it also demonstrates confidence in the vision, the community and the long-term impact this project will have on Dallas. We are deeply grateful for McKesson Foundation's partnership and leadership. Their investment will help create a lasting legacy of health, access and opportunity for generations of families who will benefit from this park."

The Community Park will feature expansive lawns, playgrounds, walking trails, shaded gathering spaces, public art, educational opportunities, native landscaping and community-focused amenities designed to serve residents of all ages. The McKesson Market Grove will further strengthen those offerings by creating a dedicated

space where health, wellness, education and community can intersect.

The Community Park represents the largest expansion of publicly accessible greenspace at Fair Park in generations and is expected to serve residents across South Dallas while attracting visitors from throughout the city and region.

"The Community Park represents a historic investment in the neighborhoods that have surrounded Fair Park for generations," said Dallas City Council Member Adam Bazaldua. "For too long, residents have lacked access to the quality greenspace and recreational opportunities that many communities take for granted. This project helps address that need while creating a healthier, more connected and more vibrant future for South Dallas. We are grateful to McKesson Foundation for joining the City and Fair Park First in making this transformative community asset a reality."

Fair Park First is leading the effort to deliver the Community Park as the centerpiece of the Fair Park Master Plan and one of the most significant greenspace community investments in South Dallas in recent decades. Fair Park First is working alongside the City of Dallas, philanthropic partners and community stakeholders to bring this long-awaited vision to life. Once completed, the 10.5-acre Community Park will reconnect 13 surrounding neighborhoods to quality greenspace, improve health and wellness outcomes, and establish a new front door to Fair Park for generations to come.

Camp Mystic files for bankruptcy almost one year after deadly flood

By Associated Press, The Texas Tribune

Camp Mystic filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization Wednesday, nearly a year after catastrophic floods killed 25 campers and two teenage counselors at the Christian camp for girls along the Guadalupe River.

Camp Mystic has been under increasing pressure since the July 4 disaster. Owners had planned to reopen the Texas Hill Country camp this summer for its 100th anniversary but reversed course in April amid outrage from victims' families and lawmakers. Victims' families filed lawsuits accusing the camp of failing to protect the girls as the powerful floodwaters approached.

Camp Mystic's owner, Richard Eastland, also died in the flood.

The camp listed its debt at more than \$10 million, according to the filing made in federal bankruptcy court in Houston. An attorney for Camp Mystic has not responded to an email and a phone message seeking comment.

"Bankruptcy will not stop all responsible parties from being held accountable," Paul Yetter, a lawyer who represents multiple families of campers and counselors who died at Camp Mystic, said in a statement. "These innocent girls deserve justice."

For decades, Camp Mystic was a summer staple and an institution for generations of families who dropped off their girls at the sleepaway camp to ride horses, canoe, fish and attend Bible studies. Other summer camps in Kerr County, west of Austin, did not take on such devastating flooding and, in some cases, have reopened.

All told, the destructive flooding killed at least 136 people along a several-mile stretch of the river, raising questions about how things went so terribly wrong.

In the aftermath of the tragedy, the Eastland

family spent months determined to reopen the camp this summer, pointing to enhanced safety measures that included flood warning river monitors and putting two-way radios enabled with national weather alerts in every cabin.

By the spring, Camp Mystic's attorney said it was ready to reopen for business for nearly 900 campers.

But assurances of safety did not convince victims' families and some Texas lawmakers. State regulators found nearly two dozen deficiencies in the emergency operations plan submitted by the owners, including in proposals for flood warning evacuations and safety training.

The decision not to reopen followed weeks of testimony in court hearings and legislative investigations that laid bare the camp's lack of detailed planning for a flood emergency and its reliance on poorly trained staff.

Families of the victims packed the hearings, some wearing "Heaven's 27" pins with photographs of their daughters. They listened to the details of missed flood warning signs, the descriptions of the flood and the decision to leave girls in their cabins until it was too late. Testimony included video of the raging floodwaters as a girl repeatedly screamed "help!" somewhere in the distance.

Before halting the reopening plans, Camp Mystic invited journalists and lawmakers to review safety improvements at the camp and promised that no camp activities would take place in the low-lying area that was devastated by the flood. The Eastland family also stressed that hundreds of families wanted to return.

This article first appeared on The Texas Tribune.

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Continued **Classic** Page 5 shows, tickets for the State Fair Classic also include admission to the State Fair of Texas, Midway, including pre and post-game concerts on the Chevy Main Stage. The Chevy Main Stage

lineup will be announced on June 17.

"Our goal is to ensure the State Fair Classic remains an experience that everyone can be part of and enjoy," said Executive Director of the Dallas Sports Commission Monica Paul.

"More than a football game, this event is a celebration of community, culture, tradition, and the enduring spirit of HBCU excellence that brings people together year after year."

Dating back to 1985, Grambling State holds a 28-

12 lead in the series between these two historically Black college and university programs, after Prairie View's 28-13 win last year.

"For more than a century, the State Fair Classic has been a cherished part of the State Fair of Texas,

bringing together generations of fans through the shared traditions of football, culture, music, and community," said State Fair of Texas President Mitchell Gieber. "As we celebrate the game's 101st year, we're honored to continue

hosting this iconic matchup and the memories it creates for families and fans across Texas and Louisiana."

Tickets for the 2026 State Fair Classic start at \$40 and are available starting June 5, and can be purchased at ticketmaster.com.

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