

“Elections belong to the people. It's their decision...”

~ Abraham Lincoln



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VOLUME 78 NUMBER 47

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

August 20 - 26, 2026

State Fair of Texas Announces \$10 Kids Admission Every Day, Lower Admission and Parking Prices for 2026

New pricing and expanded value opportunities give Texans more ways to experience the State Fair this fall



Photo Credit: State Fair of Texas/Press Release

DALLAS — August 17, 2026 — The State Fair of Texas is making it easier for families and fairgoers to experience the State Fair in 2026 with lower admission and parking prices, new \$10 admission for children every day, and expanded opportunities to make the most of a State Fair visit.

Following feedback from fairgoers during the 2025 season, the State Fair took a comprehensive look at the total cost of attending. The nonprofit organi-

zation listened to guests, evaluated where changes could be made, and worked with vendors and partners to identify opportunities to provide greater value while continuing to invest in the attractions, entertainment, traditions, and guest experience that have made the State Fair of Texas a beloved Texas tradition for 140 years.

“Families have always been at the heart of the State Fair of Texas, and every year we listen closely

to what our fairgoers tell us about their experience,” said Karissa Condoianis, State Fair of Texas Senior Vice President of Public Relations. “We take that feedback seriously. This year, we are making meaningful changes to admission and parking while continuing to offer the experiences, traditions, and attractions our guests look forward to every fall. Our goal is to make it easier for families to plan a State Fair day that works for them

and get the most from their time at the State Fair.”

New for 2026: Including \$10 Admission for Kids Every Day!

The State Fair is lowering the price of general admission and official State Fair parking, giving guests more flexibility in choosing when and how they visit.

Changes to daily ticket prices for the 2026 State Fair include:

- \$2 price reduction on all Adult Daily Tickets
- \$10 Child Tickets every day
- \$10 Admission for everyone after 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday

Children ages 3 through 12 can attend the State Fair for just \$10 every day of the 2026 State Fair. Children ages 2 and younger will continue to receive

Continue Fair Page 3

A surrogate’s fight for parental rights in Dallas could discourage surrogacy use in Texas, lawyers say

By Katlyn Ma,
he Texas Tribune

An Alaskan surrogate who sued to obtain medical care for a baby she carried is still requesting that a Dallas court give her custody.

Rumi, who is a week old, has undergone heart surgery under the care of his biological parents and is in critical condition at a Dallas area hospital, as of Monday, said Lee Budner, the couple’s attorney.

Their surrogate McKenna West, who gave Rumi a different name, Gabriel, had challenged the couple’s parental rights after she said they were going to refuse medical care for the baby upon birth and were forcing her to get an abortion, the latter of which the parents deny. In a statement released by West’s attorneys on Tuesday, she confirmed that she is still pursuing custody to

Continue Lawyers Page 4

BAR-B-QUE
EST. 1978
SMOKEY JOHN’S
and HOME COOKING

Smokey John's Bar-B-Que Marks 50 Years of Family, Faith and Flavor with Free Dallas Block Party

Founded on a backyard smoker, the Reaves family celebrates five decades with Customer Appreciation Week and a citywide celebration on Aug. 29.

Continue Free Page 7

Michael Jackson Would Have Turned 68. In Las Vegas, His Music Is Filling the Room Again

BLACKPRESSUSA—Fueled by the record-breaking success of the biopic Michael, fans across generations are converging on Las Vegas to mark Michael Jackson’s 68th birthday with special events and a high-tech refresh of Cirque du Soleil’s Michael Jackson ONE.

By BlackPressUSA.com

Las Vegas turns up the music to celebrate Michael Jackson’s birthday.

The lights go out, the theater goes dark, and then that unmistakable voice fills the room, even before the song begins.

Suddenly, Michael Jackson feels larger than life once more.

His image appears above

the Las Vegas stage while dancers perform moves inspired by him, acrobats spin through the air, and his decades-old music fills a theater designed for it. Now, 64 drones fly overhead, and nine new LED panels light up the room with images.

Jackson died 17 years ago. He would have turned 68 on August 29. At Mandalay Bay

Resort and Casino, the Estate of Michael Jackson and Cirque du Soleil are planning a birthday celebration at a special time: Michael Jackson is having another big year.

The biographical film Michael, directed by Antoine Fuqua and starring Jackson’s nephew Jaafar Jackson, has

Continue Music Page 7



Photo Credit: Cirque and the Estate for all Black-owned newspapers./Black Press USA.



Recognizing #BLACK EXCELLENCE for 78 Years





As the new school year kicks off, students, educators, and institutions alike are buzzing with creativity and innovation. From groundbreaking science projects to catchy slogans for school clubs, intellectual property (IP) plays a crucial role in protecting these ideas. Whether you’re a student inventor, an educator developing curriculum, or a school administrator, understanding IP can help safeguard your creations and ensure that credit is given where it’s due. Here’s a rundown of back-to-school IP ideas to consider:

1. Protecting Student Inventions

Many students are brimming with inventive ideas, from engineering marvels to new apps. If your student is working on a project that has the potential to go beyond the classroom, it might be worth considering patent protection. Patents can protect new, useful inventions, giving the inventor exclusive rights to their creation. Encourage students to document their invention process meticulously, as this can be crucial if they decide to file a patent application.

2. Trademarking School Logos and Slogans

Schools often have unique logos, mascots, and slogans that represent their identity. These elements are not just symbols; they are brand assets that can be trademarked to prevent unauthorized use. Whether it’s a school’s name, a motto, or a sports team’s logo, securing a trademark ensures that your school’s brand is protected from misuse and can be a valuable asset for fundraising and merchandising.

3. Copyrighting Educational Materials

Teachers and educators invest significant time and effort

into developing lesson plans, teaching materials, and educational content. These original works are protected under copyright law, giving the creator exclusive rights to reproduce, distribute, and display their work. Educators should be aware of their rights when sharing materials online or collaborating with other teachers and schools. Registering copyrights can provide additional protection and benefits, especially for those looking to publish their work.

4. Understanding Fair Use in Education

While copyright law protects original works, it’s also important for students and educators to understand the concept of fair use. Fair use allows limited use of copyrighted material without permission for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, or research. However, determining what constitutes fair use can be tricky. Educators should guide students on how to appropriately use and cite sources in their work, ensuring they respect the rights of original creators.

5. IP in the Digital Age: Protecting Online Content

With the increasing use of digital platforms for learning and content creation, protecting online intellectual property has become more critical than ever. Students and educators who create digital content—be it videos, blogs, or online courses—should be aware of how to protect their work from unauthorized use. This includes understanding terms of service on platforms like YouTube or Instagram and considering whether to use watermarks, licensing agreements, or digital rights management tools.

6. Encouraging Innovation and IP Awareness

One of the most valuable lessons educators can impart is an understanding of the importance of innovation and intellectual property. By integrating IP education into the curriculum, schools can foster a culture of creativity and respect for intellectual property rights. This might include inviting guest speakers, organizing workshops, or even starting an IP club where students can learn about patents, trademarks, and copyrights in a hands-on environment.

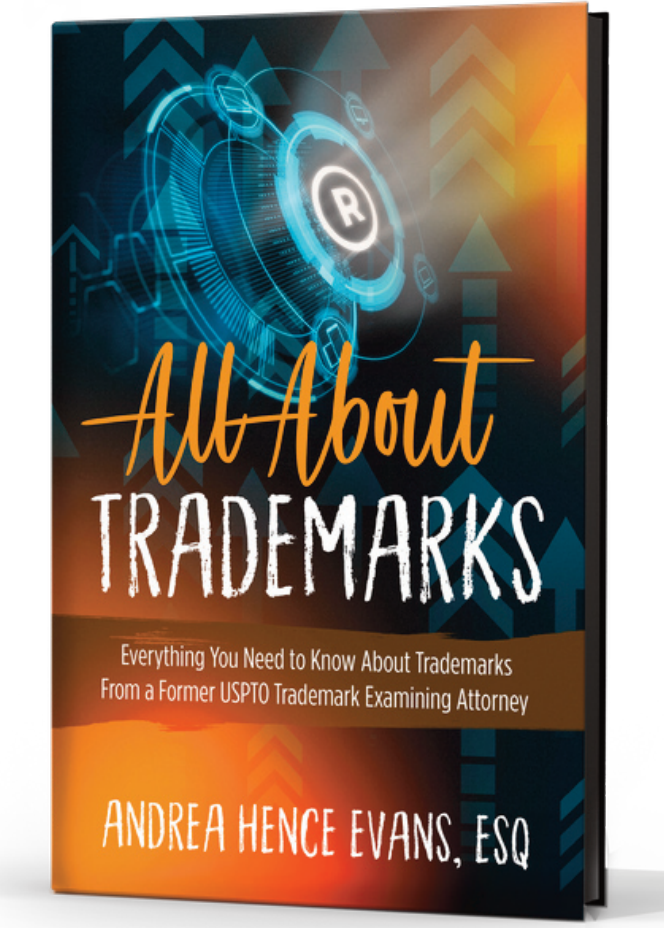
7. Collaborating with the School’s Legal Team

Schools and educational institutions often have legal teams or access to legal resources that can assist with IP issues. Whether it’s filing a trademark for a school logo or addressing potential copyright infringements, working with legal professionals ensures that the school’s intellectual property is well-protected. For student inventions, the school may consider partnering with legal experts to help guide young inventors through the patent process.

Conclusion

As you gear up for the school year, don’t overlook the importance of intellectual property. Whether you’re safeguarding a student’s innovative project, protecting a school’s brand, or ensuring educational materials are properly credited, understanding IP is key to preserving the value and integrity of your creations. By fostering an environment that respects and protects intellectual property, schools can encourage innovation, creativity, and a sense of ownership among students and educators alike.

Here’s to a year full of learning, creating, and protecting what’s yours from all of us at The Law Firm of Andrea Hence Evans, LLC. www.evansiplaw.com.



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ABOUT THE BOOK

Protecting your trademark is critical. Often business owners do not register trademarks federally at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) because they are unsure of how to do so or because they do not understand the benefits of registering. It is more costly to not register- you may be required to change the name and destroy all goods, pay damages and pay your profits if it is determined that you are infringing on someone else’s trademark.

In All About Trademarks: Everything You Need to Know About Trademarks from a Former USPTO Trademark Examining Attorney, Andrea Hence Evans, Esq. uses her extensive experience and expertise in trademark law to provide you with the tools you need to un-



Andrea H. Evans, Esq.
The Law Firm of Andrea Hence Evans, LLC
info@evansiplaw.com

derstand how to protect your trademark at the USPTO and how to avoid making common mistakes. This book is sure to help anyone looking to register their trademark and to help readers to understand how to navigate a trademark application successfully through the USPTO process.

RELIGIOUS/NEWS

The Seal Judgments of God

Revelation 6:1-19



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

There are six seals opened in chapter 6, with the opening of the seventh seal in chapter 8:1. The seventh seal results in the second series of judgments – the seven trumpets.

First Seal – Rider on the White Horse – Revelation 6:1-2

As the Lord Jesus Christ breaks the seven-sealed book, the Apostle John sees, with the opening of the first seal, a rider on a white horse (Revelation 6:1-2). The first seal is broken from heaven, and judgment is meted out to the earth. As the first command is issued, a man upon a white horse goes out to conquer (v. 2). Many fundamental expositors believe the rider on the white horse is the Anti-Christ or the Anti-Messiah. His coming here signals the beginning of his rise to power. When

the Anti-Christ comes to power, he will promise the Jews peace, but he will not be faithful to his pact (I Thessalonians 5:2-3). A promise of peace is the big delusion the Jews and the world will believe. You can’t believe the Anti-Christ because he is a deceiver like Satan (II Thessalonians 2:9). We must remember that the Anti-Christ is a deceiver, for he wants to be worshipped. Furthermore, he is an imitation of Jesus Christ, and will deceive many during the Tribulation Period with his lying wonders!

Second Seal – Rider on the Red Horse - Revelation 6:3-4

Next, John sees and records the opening of the second seal, a rider on a red horse, with war invading the earth. The rider on the white horse must have been the Antichrist, for after he begins

to conquer, war inevitably breaks out! The Anti-Christ can never guarantee peace, for Isaiah 57:21 says: “There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.” When God meted out His judgment upon an ungodly world, the Anti-Christ cannot offer peace! The Antichrist will deceive many during the Tribulation Period, but the pseudo-peace that he offers is only temporary and counterfeit! Notice that everything associated with the second seal involves bloodshed.

Third Seal – Rider on the Black Horse – Revelation 6:5-6

With the coming of the rider on the black horse, the earth experiences famine. After every invasion of war, famine comes. As the earth during the Tribulation Period experiences this

shortage of food, the greater will be the demand for a one-man ruler of the world. In the Tribulation Period, a full-day’s wage of man will buy little.

Fourth Seal – The Rider on the Pale Horse – Revelation 6:7-8

As the fourth rider on the pale horse appears, death claims one-fourth of the population by means of a sword (war), hunger (famine that follows war), death, and wild beasts of the earth. This will be a cataclysmic time for those who are left behind after the rapture of the church!

Revelation 6:9-11

These verses clearly reveal that martyrdom will occur during the Tribulation Period. Those who were martyred cried out for vengeance and are told to rest a little season, for there

would be believers, like them, who were to be killed for their faith (Revelation 6:10-11; 20:4).

Sixth Seal – Revelation 6:12-17

As the sixth seal judgment is disclosed, there is a great physical disturbance that takes place upon the earth. The judgment of the sixth seal will result in a great earthquake, with the sun becoming black as sackcloth, and with the moon becoming reddened as blood. The result of these judgments will be to strike terror into the hearts of men living on the earth! The populace cannot hide from the wrath of the Lamb (Revelation 6:17). These men shall expect to see a Lamb, but they will see a Lion! The Lion shall mete out true justice to an ungodly world!

“May God Bless!”

CONTINUED FAIR PAGE 1

free admission to the State Fair.

Official State Fair Parking Reduced

Parking in official State Fair parking lots is now just \$25 (reduced \$5 from 2025) every day. Official parking offers convenient access to State Fair entry gates and is part of the Fair’s comprehensive approach to providing a safe, secure, and welcoming ex-

perience for fairgoers from arrival to departure.

“Providing greater value does not mean compromising the State Fair experience,” said Mitchell Glier, State Fair of Texas President. “We are continuing to invest in the attractions, entertainment, agriculture, and traditions that make the State Fair special, while creating more flexibility for Texans to experience the State Fair.

And because the State Fair is a nonprofit organization, every Fair day also helps create opportunities for Texans through scholarships, agriculture education, youth programs, and year-round community investment.”

More Ways to Make the Most of a State Fair Day

Admission to the State Fair includes access to hundreds of attractions and ac-

tivities, along with live entertainment, agriculture and livestock experiences, cultural programming, exhibits and the traditions that have made the State Fair of Texas a Texas institution for 140 years.

Whether guests plan to spend a full day at the State Fair, stop by after work, or return multiple times throughout the 24-day run, there are several ways to make a State Fair visit fit

their plans.

After 5 p.m. Reduced Admission – Every Day!

Fairgoers – ages 13 and above – looking for an evening State Fair experience can take advantage of reduced admission after 5 p.m. at the admission gates:

- Monday through Thursday: \$10 for adults and seniors
- Friday through Sunday: \$20 for adults

and seniors Opening Day Peanut Butter Drive

The State Fair kicks off on Friday, September 25, with an opportunity to enjoy Opening Day while helping the North Texas Food Bank. Guests who bring two jars of peanut butter to donate will receive \$10 admission at the gate.

Continue Fair Page 5

~ THEME: FICTIONAL DETECTIVES (Solution will appear in August 27 edition)

- ACROSS
1. Invitation request, acr.

5. Workout unit

8. Prohibit

11. Affirmative response

12. Type of lure, pl.

13. Small silvery fish

15. Seed covering

16. Gumbo vegetable

17. Like Siberian winters

18. *"Murder, She Wrote" amateur sleuth

20. Descartes's "therefore"

21. *Apparition investigated in a Scooby-Doo cartoon

22. ____ Air in L.A.

23. *Arthur Conan Doyle's detective

26. Deposit, in Paris

30. "Wheel of Fortune" purchase (2 words)

31. Always, in Rome

34. "She ____ blue velvet..."

35. From then on

37. Am is to I as ____ is to we

38. Prison-related

39. International Civil Aviation Organization

40. Window-shop

42. "He ____ and drank the precious words..."

43. Announce

45. *Agatha Christie's Hercule

47. Ryder Cup participant

48. Fern leaf

50. Charitable contribution

52. *"The Pink Panther" Inspector

55. Diver's breathing device

56. Vietnam neighbor

57. Bald eagle's home

59. Bother

60. Highland tongue

61. Get checkmated

62. Cribbage piece

63. Like certain nurse

64. Ginger cookie
- DOWN
1. Dueler's blow

2. Unit of pressure

3. Jellystone Park denizen

4. Amerigo to America

5. *Plagiarize, technically speaking

6. Heap of "David Copperfield"

7. *School signaling device

8. *Unwelcome load

9. Current unit, pl.

10. Catcher's catcher

11. Chester White's home

13. Three in one

14. Animal toxin

19. Poultry houses

22. "It ____ a dark and stormy night..."

23. Too many in the kitchen?

24. Baby owl

25. Free-for-all1. Shag rug

2. Lord's worker

3. Colorado skiing destination

4. Mucus in lungs

5. Adherents of Sikhism

6. Wading bird

7. Russia's 1917 abdicator

8. Titanic's inanimate foe

9. "The Sun is ____ a Star"

10. Unknown power

12. Humorous

13. Blind followers

14. *Raymond Chandler's hardboiled detective

19. Not those

22. Quilting gathering

23. Orthodox Judaism adherent

24. Chilled (2 words)

25. Cancer-treating machine, acr.

26. *Carolyn Keene's amateur sleuth

27. Navigational aid

28. Inspiration for poets and musicians

29. Get a new tenant

32. Stud's companion

33. Trained instructor at a country club

36. *Peter Falk's Lieutenant

38. Lowly workers

40. Lingerie item

41. *Nick to Nora in The Thin Man series

44. Analyze

46. Paragons

48. Bell-bottoms bottom

49. Fowl perch

50. Skin problem

51. Miner's black one

52. Ball of yarn

53. Same as eon

54. Major one in the sky

55. Tree juice

58. Casual affirmative

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle Theme: FICTIONAL DETECTIVES

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4			5	6	7			8	9	10	
11					12					13	14			
15					16					17				
	18			19						20				
			21					22						
23	24	25						26				27	28	29
30				31		32	33				34			
35			36			37				38				
39					40				41			42		
43				44					45		46			
			47				48	49						
	50	51				52						53	54	
55						56					57			58
59						60					61			
62						63					64			

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

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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Asthma in Children

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 My-Chart.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:

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- How to care for asthma
- Reminders about healthcare

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

Learn more about Parkland's asthma text program: English PDF / Spanish PDF

Continued Lawyers Page 1

who has and will have to undergo multiple surgeries in the first several years of his life to address the under-developed heart he was born with.

“Ms. West continues to assert baseless claims for custody of Rumi, in violation of multiple courts orders out of both Alaska and California,” Budner said. “We look forward to quickly defeating those claims as Rumi’s parents continue to focus on his health and safety above all else.”

If the courts side with

West, the decision could reshape surrogacy for couples wanting to use this method to have a child and for the women who offer to carry these babies. Surrogacy experts say the case threatens to erode the parental rights of birth parents, water down pregnancy termination clauses in surrogacy contracts, and discourage couples from using surrogacy to grow a family in Texas.

“This poses the question, how much power do we give the state over our private families?” said Christine Andresen, an attorney

with Austin-based CHA Law Group specializing in surrogacy law.

The case has captured the attention of conservative groups, including the Alliance Defending Freedom, which represents West, Texas Alliance for Life, and Texas Right for Life because it touches three conservative priorities: eliminating abortions, upholding traditional parental rights and their latest focus — restricting commercial surrogacy.

Continue Lawyers Page 8

Quinn Simple Scenes

Falling in love

By Rix Quinn

One of life’s great questions is, “What makes people fall in love?”

Almost nobody knows how to answer this. All we know is that suddenly a young man willingly trades a heart full of love and a wallet full of money for a wedding full of guests who sit on the bride’s side.

And nobody can tell you how to craft a perfect union. It’s a little like synchronized swimming in a heated pool. No matter

how much you practice, you’ll never do everything correctly, and half the time you’re in hot water.

To start things well, a flawless “ring presentation” is critical. If you do it right, she’ll remember it for the rest of her life.

If you do it wrong, you may hear about it for the rest of your life.

Before you purchase the jewelry, take your time shopping and ask thoughtful questions like “Do you

agree with me that a large ring is pretentious?”

Possibly, she will answer “no,” and steer you to a stunning stone that will cost you more than your first two cars. But that’s OK...it’ll get much better mileage.

Perhaps the best way to present the ring is after a fine meal at a top restaurant. After completing dessert, you might pull the ring from your pocket and utter something mem-

orable like “I’ve been waiting for the right time to tell you...I want to spend the rest of time with you.”

This worked for me, especially after she stopped laughing.

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: BABY BOOMERS SPEAK!

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Aug. 20



-104°
L -85°

Friday, Aug. 21



H 106°
L -83°

Saturday, Aug. 22



H -107°
L -82°

Sunday, Aug. 23



H 108°
L -85°

Monday, Aug. 24



H -107°
L -86°*

Tuesday, Aug. 25



H - 107°
L - 83°

Wednesday, Aug. 26



H -103°
L -82°

How Angel Reese and ‘Barbie Night’ Reminded Fans Why Representation Matters

Angel Reese and Atlanta Dream’s “Barbie Night” became a bigger statement about identity, inspiration, and the power of seeing yourself reflected.

By A.R. Shaw



Alexis Mosley and daughter Nevaeh Jones—
Photo by A.R. Shaw/Black Press USA

Over 16,000 people, mostly wearing pink, filled Atlanta’s State Farm Arena as the Atlanta Dream and Las Vegas Aces battled on the court.

The fans wore pink jerseys and dresses, and a few sported vibrant pink hair. Celebrities such as Mariah

The Scientist, Aniya Harvey, “Love Island,” Monalea, Flo Milli, and actress Crystal Renee Hayslett were all in attendance to support the Atlanta Dream’s “Barbie Night.” The pink theme celebrated Angel Reese’s new collaboration with Barbie, which debuted

in retail stores during WNBA All-Star Weekend.

Angel Reese and a fan with a Barbie Signature Role Model Angel Reese Doll Photo by A.R. Shaw

But beyond the fun theme of women and girls wearing all-pink on “Barbie Night,” it proved to be a powerful moment of representation.

Dolls are not just toys kids use to pass the time; they reflect how kids see themselves within the broader framework of society.

“I didn’t have dolls that really looked like me much, and that’s why I really wanted to make sure this was super intentional,” Reese said prior to the game. “Because now they have a doll that looks like you, with nails and hair. That was something that was important for me when getting the doll.”

Reese became known as the “Bayou Barbie” during her college years at Louisiana State University. The nickname followed her to the WNBA, and she also

held two “Barbie Nights” while playing with the Chicago Sky in 2024 and 2025. But this year’s “Barbie Night” has a bit more history involved, considering that Reese is now the first WNBA player with a Barbie doll.

“Being a first always means a lot,” Reese said, now known as the ATL Barbie. “There are a lot of women that have come before me that have walked so I can run. So many of the legends of this game have reached out to me and just poured into me, and it really just means a lot to me.”

Kennedy Saulsberry, Shirley Saulsberry, Kameron Saulsberry—Photo by A.R. Shaw

Thousands of young girls at State Farm Arena held the Angel Reese Barbie doll while watching Reese play on the court. Atlanta Dream fan Alexis Mosley attended the game with her 6-year-old daughter, Nevaeh Jones, who held her Angel Reese Barbie doll in hand from start to finish.

“My daughter absolutely

thinks the Angel Reese Barbie doll is magical,” Mosley said. “She loves Black Barbie dolls and to have one that she can hold, see on TV, and can come to the game, that’s everything to her. I hope she remembers this moment so she can grow up and make something great of herself as well.”

Adult fans also found inspiration. Kameron Saulsberry, an attorney, has collected dolls since childhood and brought her Angel Reese Barbie doll to the game.

“It means a lot to me, my whole life, having a doll that could represent me as a Black woman and being raised by a strong Black woman,” Saulsberry said. “I always wanted to look up to role models as a kid, so having a doll who could symbolize a strong role model of a strong Black woman is phenomenal and amazing. It teaches us that we can be what we want to be. You can be a WNBA star, a lawyer, a doctor, a pharmacist, a teacher, or an astronaut.”

Alexis Mosley and daughter Nevaeh Jones—
Photo by A.R. Shaw

Reese echoed those sentiments about the role she plays in inspiring the next generation.

“If you see it, you can be it. You can believe it,” Reese said. “Hopefully, the young girls are inspired. They see a Barbie that looks like them. Knowing that there’s no limitation. Anything you want to do, you can put your mind to.”

When asked what she would say to her younger self, Reese took a moment to reflect on her childhood. From not having many dolls that looked like her to having her own Barbie, Reese has come a long way, and her journey is just beginning.

“[My childhood self] would probably be proud of me and where I am right now,” Reese shared. “It hasn’t been an easy journey for me. I would tell her to just continue to push through, drive through, and there’s always going to be a light down the tunnel.”

Continued **Fair** Page 3

Feed the Need Wednesdays

Every Wednesday, fairgoers can receive \$7 admission by bringing five canned food items to benefit the North Texas Food Bank.

Since 2010, the State Fair’s “Feed the Need” partnership with North Texas Food Bank has pro-

duced more than 3.4 million pounds donated by fairgoers at the gates and distributed to families in need throughout North Texas.

Dr Pepper Value Days

Every Tuesday and Thursday of the State Fair, Big Tex Insiders can purchase online admission for \$12 with a promotional code.

Guests can sign up for

the Big Tex Insider program at BigTex.com/Insider. Big Tex Insider emails are sent from info@bigtex.com, so make sure to mark us as a safe sender to ensure you receive all the best State Fair news!

Senior Day

Every Thursday, guests ages 60 and older can receive admission for \$7 at the gate.

Military Appreciation Day Presented by Chevrolet

Active-duty military, retired military and veterans can save \$5 off admission any day with valid military identification.

First Responder Discounts

The State Fair honors active and retired law enforcement officers, fire-

fighters, paramedics and other emergency services personnel with \$5 off admission any day when valid department or organization identification is presented.

Military and first responder guests purchasing discounted admission online will be prompted to verify eligibility through ID.me. Guests purchasing

at the gate should bring valid documentation.

McDonald's Discounts

Participating McDonald's locations throughout North Texas will offer State Fair admission discounts through coupons available on tray liners and inside select meal bags. Adults can save \$5 on admission any day with a valid coupon.

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Statepoint Crossword Puzzle
Solution: August 13 - BACK TO SCHOOL

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EDITORIAL PAGE

Don't Count on Your Neighbor to Vote. You Must Vote, too

By **James B. Ewers Jr., Ed.**



Dr. James Ewers

We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers. We have heard that timeless phrase over the years. Looking out for one another should be a daily habit. That is especially true if you are in the 4th quarter of your life. Keeping tabs on each other is a long-standing tradition in our communities. We count on our neighbors for their kindness and concern. They help us in times of need.

Events such as neighborhood clean-ups and block parties bring us together for fellowship and information. Each creates a wholesome family environment, and we enjoy the good times. Our lives are busy, so it is good to get a TO (timeout) sometimes.

Increasingly, our conversations with neighbors and friends turn to everyday dinner-table issues. Of

course, the high cost of goods and services is at the top of the list. Invariably, this will lead to voting and who our elected officials are. The question becomes, are they doing the job that we elected them to do?

Voting is a staple in the American way of life. We look forward to the opportunity whenever it's time to go to the polls. This privilege cannot and should not be taken for granted.

Our going to the polls in recent years has not been seamless. Detours and stumbling blocks have been placed in our way, yet we persevere and get through it.

Our ancestors and leaders never gave in to tyranny and oppression. We won't start now. Reverend Jesse L. Jackson always said to "keep hope alive". This mantra has sustained us through the good and the challenging times.

Countries across the globe have had their voting rights stifled or outright stopped. They have no say about what happens to them. They are intellectually handcuffed and mo-

rally bankrupt. Others manage and control their comings and goings.

Americans will have another chance to go to the polls in November. The midterm elections will give us a chance to vote for the candidates we choose.

You and I know the peril and uncertainty that has America in an unfamiliar place. Over my lifetime as a 4th quarter guy, these are some of the worst times.

Prices for everything are high. Everywhere we go, we are spending more money than we did last year. The numbers show that each day, so there is no need to show them here. Our pocketbooks are suffering and in shock.

We have elected officials in state and national offices who are responsible for this economic disconnect. If you voted for someone who is a part of the problem, then you have a decision to make.

You know the choices on the ballot. You can't stay at home on voting day and think things will change. It doesn't work that way. By staying away

from the polls, you are signaling that you don't care about the direction of this country.

Voting for change in America says that we are sick of the current way of doing business. We are distraught and emotionally drained by the excuses and unanswered questions. We are hurt because families have been dismantled and forgotten. You and I must vote them out.

Some people still believe things are great and that wrong is right. We must overwhelm them with our voting power for change. We must leave nothing to chance.

We must be ambassadors for change and for good. Get your friends and neighbors ready because November will be here before you know it. However, we must get ready to vote right now. Find out where your voting location is. Make sure your voting credentials are in order. Know who is on the ballot and their platforms.

Let's wake up on Wednesday, November 4th knowing that our vote changed America.

Why We Must Vote

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



Dr. John E. Warren

As summer nears its end, usually marked by Labor Day, political candidates and activities will increase. Many of us, who are already tired of hearing about the coming Midterm elections, will begin to tune out for a variety of reasons. Some have never voted and don't think their votes make a difference. Some are busy working multiple jobs,

struggling with bills like food, housing, and gas, all of which have increased greatly and show no signs of relief.

If you have housing, healthcare, or food-supplement assistance, prepare for it to disappear, if it hasn't already. To date, more than 26 million Americans are without health insurance, and the numbers will increase. Local hospitals are closing with no plans to replace their services, and many jobs some think are secure could soon disappear.

The answer to all of this is YOUR VOTE. Who you vote for is secondary to the fact that you need to vote. If you do your homework, your vote could keep more people who support Donald Trump out of office. Your

vote, here in California, can ensure that a Trump supporter like Steve Hilton does not become Governor of this state. That issue is greater than your disagreements with the Democratic alternative. Your vote can ensure that a Republican like Jim Desmond, who is a Trump supporter, does not get elected to a Congress that already refuses to exercise its Oath of Office against Trump's abuse of the Constitution. Your vote could put in office another person who will take action against the Trump agenda and open the doors to recovering our economy and way of life now under attack by Trump and his supporters.

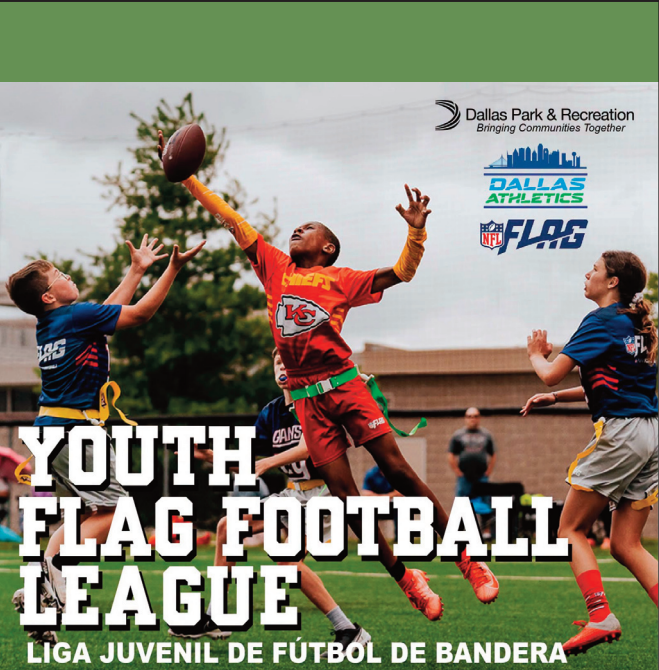
Your vote must take the long view both of the past and the future. The past in-

volves remembering the sacrifices, beatings, and deaths of so many who thought our right to vote was worth dying for; the future involves voting for people who will restore and improve our current way of life.

Just consider: if we were not mobilizing the vote to bring an end to the Trump era, he and the Republicans would not be working harder at blocking our votes than presenting answers to our economic problems as a means of getting our votes. Their reality is: "If we can stop or limit the vote, we can continue things as they are."

Let's get registered and prepared to vote. By November 3rd, we will know who to vote for if we don't already.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



YOUTH FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUE
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REGISTRATION DATES
FECHAS DE INSCRIPCIÓN
AUGUST 1st - SEPTEMBER 10th
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Aretha’s Gospel Voice Still Resonates

*THE POSITIVE COMMUNITY — Aretha Franklin’s 1972 album *Amazing Grace* stands as a seminal live recording in American music history. Captured at the New Temple Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles, the project saw Franklin return to her gospel roots, blending her vocal talent with the spiritual foundations of her childhood and the energy of a live congregation.*



Photo Credit: **Black Press USA**

Aretha Franklin’s *Amazing Grace* remains one of the most extraordinary live recordings in American music history. Released in 1972, the album captured Franklin returning to her gospel roots and performing inside the New Temple Missionary Baptist Church in

Los Angeles. The project brought together her extraordinary vocal talent, the spiritual foundation of her childhood, and the energy of a live congregation. For Franklin, gospel music was never simply another musical style. It was deeply connected to her up-

bringing and family. Her father, Reverend C. L. Franklin, was a renowned Baptist minister, and the Franklin household was surrounded by some of the most important voices in gospel music. As a young girl, Aretha absorbed the emotional intensity, improvisation, call-and-response, and spiritual conviction that would eventually become hallmarks of her own legendary sound.

By the time *Amazing Grace* was recorded, Franklin was already an international superstar. She had transformed popular music with landmark recordings such as “Respect,” “Chain of Fools,” and “Think.” Yet

rather than using the album to demonstrate her pop dominance, she chose to return to the church and create something deeply personal. The decision revealed another side of an artist who had spent much of her career moving between gospel, soul, R&B, pop, and other musical traditions. The recording sessions took place over two nights in January 1972, with Franklin accompanied by the Reverend James Cleveland and the Southern California Community Choir. Cleveland, one of gospel music’s most influential figures, was an important presence in Franklin’s musical

development. His collaboration with her helped create an atmosphere in which the performances felt less like a conventional recording session and more like an actual worship service. The centerpiece of the album is Franklin’s interpretation of “Amazing Grace.” The hymn had been performed countless times before, but Franklin approached it with a combination of technical control and emotional vulnerability that made the performance unmistakably her own. Her voice rises and falls with the congregation, transforming the familiar words into a deeply personal tes-

timony. Another important dimension of *Amazing Grace* is its historical significance. The album arrived during a period of enormous social and cultural change in America. Black music was influencing the mainstream in unprecedented ways, while gospel traditions continued to provide spiritual and cultural grounding for African-American communities. Franklin’s decision to make such a prominent gospel album demonstrated that her connection to the church remained central even after she had become one of

Continue **Aretha** Page 8

Continued **Music** Page 1
made over \$1 billion worldwide. It is now the highest-grossing biopic and music biopic ever and the biggest film in Lionsgate’s history. The movie opened in late April with \$97 million in the U.S. and \$217 million worldwide, making it the largest global debut for a musical biopic.

Alana Clapp, general manager of Michael Jackson ONE, thinks the movie’s success is bringing longtime Jackson fans back with new excitement and introducing him to a new generation who never saw him perform. “We’re seeing such a wonderful movement right now with Michael Jackson and old fans that are coming together to celebrate his legacy and his stature in pop culture,” Clapp told The Black Press. “I think a lot of that is obviously driven by the success of the biopic that’s come out recently.” That energy is making this year’s birthday celebration feel different. “We’re lucky enough in Las Vegas to have a show that can continue to celebrate everything that he has

done as a performer and as an entertainer in today’s world,” Clapp said. A one-time birthday surprise The Aug. 29 celebration begins at 12:30 p.m. with the sixth annual fan reception in the lobby of the Michael Jackson ONE Theater for ticketholders to either the 6:30 or 9 p.m. show. At 2 p.m., the theater opens to everyone. A question-and-answer session with special guests chosen by Jackson’s Estate starts at 2:30 p.m., followed by a surprise that Clapp is keeping secret. “The Q&A portion will culminate with a performance, a unique, one-time-only special performance by the cast of Michael Jackson ONE, where you will only be able to see it this one time,” she said. “The cast and crew have worked incredibly hard on bringing something new and fun and different than anything that you’ve seen on our stages before.” Organizers plan to live-stream the Q&A for fans worldwide. Michael Bush, Jackson’s longtime costume designer, will hold his annual book signing near

the Michael Jackson ONE Boutique, followed by pre-show meet-and-greets with Estate representatives, special guests, and members of the ONE creative team. Cupcakes will be served, too. After all, it is Michael Jackson’s birthday. Michael without an impersonator The celebration centers on a show facing a clear challenge: its star can’t step onto the stage. Cirque doesn’t try to solve this by hiring an impersonator. For Clapp, this is key to what makes ONE special. “This is the only show where you get to see Michael Jackson,” she said. “It’s not an impersonator or somebody who’s playing tribute to Michael. It is Michael Jackson.” Jackson is seen through his original recordings and films, sometimes shown on a huge scale. His choreography, costumes, and images are the base, while Cirque’s dancers and acrobats perform live around him. His voice fills the theater as performers move above the audience. Dancers strike poses that

fans instantly recognize. Sometimes, the acrobatics fade, and Jackson’s image takes over, making it feel like a concert—until you remember he’s been gone since 2009. Michael Jackson ONE just marked its 13th anniversary and, as Clapp describes, has had a “massive refresh” with new music, costumes, and technology. A striking addition may be flying above the seats: 64 drones will move above the crowd. “This is one of the first times that’s being done in an indoor space,” Clapp said, “and we’re really proud of that.” Nine new LED panels add even more visuals, and a new Diabolo act set to “Wanna Be Startin’ Somethin’” has performers tossing spinning objects high into the air as Jackson’s 1983 hit plays. Clapp thinks Jackson, who always pushed the limits of concert technology and showmanship, would like these updates. “I would hope that he would be very proud of what the team has done,” she said. “Especially with the refresh, bringing some of these new technological

elements.” A new generation finds Michael You can sometimes see the renewed excitement for Jackson even before the show starts. More fans are showing up in Jackson-inspired outfits. Military jackets, black leather, buckles, glitter, and fedoras fill the lobby, creating a living timeline of his career, where his style is almost as famous as his music. Some remember when those looks were new. Others weren’t alive to see them. Michael’s billion-dollar movie has opened a new door for younger fans. They can see Jaafar Jackson play his uncle, then look back and discover Motown 25, the moonwalk, Thriller, “Billie Jean,” Bad, “Smooth Criminal,” and concert clips of Jackson standing still while crowds went wild. Then, they can visit Las Vegas, where the actor steps aside. Jackson’s real voice and images are still there, with Cirque performers bringing his recordings to life on stage.

That mix of generations will be clear on August 29, when fans who remember the Jackson 5 sit alongside people whose first real experience with Michael Jackson was the 2026 movie. By the end of the night, the special guests will have taken the stage, Bush will have signed books, the unique performance will be over, and most of the cupcakes will be gone. Then the doors will close. The dancers and acrobats will get ready. Nine LED panels will sit in the dark. Sixty-four drones will wait to take off. No one knows how Michael Jackson would have sounded at 68, or what he might have done with today’s technology. Las Vegas can’t answer that question. But it can dim the lights and let his original voice fill the room. “That is what makes this show so unique and unlike anything else in the world,” Clapp said. “Seeing it live with the human performance element and with Michael himself is an experience that you will never forget.”

Continued Page 1

Smokey John's Bar-B-Que Marks 50 Years of Family, Faith and Flavor with Free Dallas Block Party

DALLAS, TX (July 22, 2026) — Fifty years ago, “Smokey” John Reaves was smoking turkeys and hams in his backyard as thank-you gifts for his roofing and construction clients, stacking the extras in his mother-in-law’s bathtub because there was nowhere else to put them. That hobby became Smokey John’s Bar-B-Que and Home Cooking, a Dallas institution now led by his sons, Brent and Juan Reaves. On Saturday, Aug. 29, the family will open its parking lot and dining room at 1820 W. Mockingbird Lane for a free block party marking 50 years in business. The milestone celebration begins with Smokey John’s annual Customer Appreciation Week, Aug. 24–29, and builds to the block party from 11 a.m. to

4 p.m. on the 29th. Ten percent of that day’s sales will be donated to Helping Hands Open Hearts and Rock Teen Youth Foundation, continuing a tradition of community giving that the Reaves family traces directly back to its founder. 50th Anniversary Block Party Details The Aug. 29 celebration will run from 11 am to 4 pm and feature a performance by the Bishop Dunne Band, opening remarks from Brent and Juan Reaves, photo opportunities with local celebrities, vendor giveaways and activations, a DJ, face painting, and a live musical performance. The day’s centerpiece is the unveiling of a newly commissioned portrait honoring the “Pillars of Smokey John’s” — founder John Reaves, his late wife Gloria Reaves,

Douglas “Rent” Spraglin and Ruth Hauntz — followed by a sweet tea toast to the restaurant’s next 50 years. The block party is presented by Frost Bank with support from the Mark Cuban Heroes Center and the Dallas Stars Foundation, alongside local vendors including Cookie Society, Mama Moore’s Popcorn, Mr. Sugar Rush, Jewels Kombucha and Tish’s Treasures. A portion of the day's proceeds will benefit Helping Hands Open Hearts, which supports seniors with food and everyday necessities, and the Rock Teen Youth Foundation, which promotes positive life choices, leadership, and education. The event is free and open to the public; the restaurant remains open for regular service until 7 p.m.

Teddy’s Creation

(Answer Key on Page 8)

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Dallas ISD and nonprofits launch STEM initiative

By The Hub



Photo Credit: The HUB

Dallas ISD is investing in the people who help students imagine a future in science, technology, engineering, or math.

To help make that happen, the district partnered with the National

Math and Science Initiative and the Texas Instruments Foundation to launch a STEM Leadership Workshop Series that will provide professional development for middle school counselors and

media specialists.

“When students encounter STEM in the library and the counseling office, it reinforces that STEM is a fundamental part of the school’s culture and that it is relevant far

beyond their math or science classrooms,” Elena Hill, Deputy Chief Academic Officer, said. “This partnership is an exciting opportunity to ensure all students know what STEM looks like in the real world, helping them develop the self-confidence that they can be successful in high-level courses and future careers.”

Through the workshops, which begin in the 2026-2027 school year, counselors and media specialists will learn strategies to integrate digital literacy and problem-solving into learning, connect students with diverse STEM professionals, incorporate STEM resources and technology, and encourage students to pursue rigorous coursework, including Advanced Placement and Career and

Technical Education programs.

“Building a STEM identity means helping students truly see themselves as belonging and capable in science, technology, engineering and mathematics,” Hill said.

In practice, that means focusing on three core building blocks:

- Knowledge and Skills: Deepening their understanding of math, science, and technology with workforce-relevant skills.
- Self-Efficacy: Building their confidence in their STEM abilities so they can envision STEM careers and feel welcomed in STEM spaces.
- Opportunities: Providing hands-on experiences, real-world

goals, and connections with real world STEM professionals.

Research shows students’ confidence in STEM often declines during middle school, making those years a critical opportunity to help students stay engaged and see themselves pursuing STEM careers.

By investing in counselors and media specialists, Dallas ISD hopes to reach students at a pivotal point in their academic journey and encourage them to explore opportunities they may not have otherwise considered.

“The opportunities waiting for our students are massive,” Hill said. “Helping our students see themselves as future innovators opens a crucial door for long-term economic mobility.”

Continued **Lawyers** Page 8

West sought support from anti-abortion groups that helped move her fight to Texas, Rose said. Live Action paid for West to travel to Texas from Alaska where she was connected with the Alliance Defending Freedom, a conservative Christian legal advocacy group representing her in the case. In Texas, Attorney General Ken Paxton also intervened on her behalf, but withdrew from the case on Wednesday following confirmation that the baby had received medical care.

West’s case comes as conservative state lawmakers are considering restrictions on commercial surrogacy and IVF, the method that makes gestational surrogacy possible. Earlier this year, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick issued interim charges that directed senators to examine foreign nationals “exploiting” Texas surrogates and the Texas

Republican Party adopted a platform calling for a ban on the practice.

Surrogacy is an exploitative practice that reduces women to their ability to bear children and treats children as commodities subject to negotiation, said Texas Right to Life president John Seago, who supports banning commercial surrogacy. Paying for or creating a contract around a pregnancy can turn a child into something purchased, some conservatives say.

“I think this case really highlights the concerns that pro-lifers and conservatives have been raising about surrogacy, especially about commercial surrogacy,” Seago said.

Surrogacy experts say the case is unusual and does not reflect most gestational surrogacy agreements. However, it could fuel legislative changes in Texas.

“I think it’s being teed up for something much larger,” said Rachel Rebouché, Uni-

versity of Texas School of Law professor who specializes in reproductive law.

Created before any medical process, a surrogacy agreement protects the rights of intended parents and the surrogate, who both hire their own lawyers to spell out their respective terms, said Rebouché. It defines each party’s responsibilities, the financial terms of the agreement and typically, states that the intended parents will have parental rights, including in making medical decisions for the fetus.

West is contesting the entirety of the surrogacy agreement — which was executed in Alaska with the birth parents Omar Ahmed and Nausheen Gilkar, who are from California —

to assert that she should have parental rights over the baby. The Tribune has not been able to obtain a copy of West’s surrogacy agreement with Ahmed and Gilkar.

West has tried to dispute the surrogacy agreement in Alaska and California, but the Alaska court deferred it to the California court to decide since that was where the birth was supposed to take place, and the California court ruled in Ahmed and Gilkar’s favor. Last week, a Dallas County family district court judge also rejected West’s request for a temporary restraining order in the case, recognizing Ahmed and Gilkar’s parental rights and giving them custody once the child was born.

“Surrogacy arrangements are designed to get people to get to a meeting of the minds and to get on the same page, so that conflict doesn’t erupt later in the pregnancy,” Rebouché said.

West hopes that Texas law will still give her parental rights now that she gave birth because Texas family law recognizes the woman who gives birth in Texas as the legal mother of that

child, Rebouché said.

If the court does not recognize the surrogacy agreement and Gilkar and Ahmed’s parental rights, the court would have to apply default parentage rules that generally recognize the person who gives birth as the legal parent, Rebouché said. In this case, that would be West.

Andresen says this ruling would instill fear in couples who want to use a surrogate to have a child because they wouldn’t automatically have rights to their biological child.

“I imagine that it would be scary for Texas’ intended parents if the AG got to decide whether or not they could keep a child that was biologically theirs,” Andresen said.

Pregnancy termination clauses

When West signed a gestational surrogacy agreement, she agreed to an abortion clause commonly

found in surrogacy agreements, Ahmed and Gilkar’s attorney said in Dallas court filings.

The clause typically clarifies situations where an abortion could be requested — if the pregnancy threatens the surrogate’s health or prenatal testing identifies a severe fetal condition that is expected to be fatal or require extensive medical care after birth. The clause might allow the intended parents to ask for an abortion or a surrogate to ask for one. In Texas, abortion clauses were sometimes included in surrogacy agreements until abortions were banned statewide in 2022, said Andresen.

This article first appeared on The Texas Tribune.

<link rel="canonical" href="https://www.texas-tribune.org/2026/08/19/texas-surrogacy-agreement-laws-parental-rights-abortion/" />.

Continued **Aretha** Page 7

popular music’s biggest stars.

The album became a major commercial success, reaching No. 1 on the Billboard 200 and becoming one of the best-selling gospel albums of all time. Its success demonstrated that audiences were willing to embrace Franklin not only as the Queen of Soul but also as a deeply rooted gospel artist. The recording helped reinforce the connection between gospel, soul, R&B, and popular music and showed how much contemporary music owed to the church.

The legacy of Amazing Grace has continued long after its original release. In 2018, the documentary Amazing Grace finally brought the long-awaited concert film to audiences after decades of production challenges. The footage offered viewers an intimate visual record of Franklin at work, surrounded by musicians, singers, family, and worshippers. It provided another opportunity for new generations to understand the extraordinary power of the performances captured on the album.

More than five decades later, Amazing Grace still

stands as an essential document of Aretha Franklin’s artistry. It captures a superstar stepping away from the expectations of fame and returning to the musical language that helped form her identity. The album is simultaneously a gospel recording, a portrait of a remarkable singer, and a celebration of faith and community. Above all, it reminds listeners that before Aretha Franklin became the Queen of Soul, she was a daughter of the church—and on Amazing Grace, she allowed the world to hear just how powerful that foundation truly was.

Teddy’s Answer Key

☆ SUDOKU 😊
ANSWER KEY

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

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