

“Remembering the 25th Anniversary of 911 on September 11, 2006!”



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VOLUME 78 NUMBER 50

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

September 10 - 16, 2026

You Can't Fix What You Can't See: Why Eliminating Workplace Diversity Data Threatens Black Workers

By Dedrick Asante-Muhammad and Dr. Gabrielle Smith Finnie

For more than 60 years, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has required all private sector employers with 100 or more employees, and federal contractors with 50 or more employees to report racial, ethnic, and gender demographics of

their workforce through the EEO-1 form. This data — covering more than 50 million employees at 73,000 employers — enhances transparency and reveals employment trends in job categories. The collection and dissemination of detailed workforce demo-

graphic data is essential to fulfilling EEOC's mission of fair and inclusive workplaces with equal opportunity for all.

In July, the EEOC voted to issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

Continue **Data** Page 4

Talarico Announces Additions to Black Engagement Team

Veteran operatives Aisha J. McClendon, Delilah Agho-Otoghile, and Cliff Walker to serve as Senior Advisors

Rebecca Pearcey and Bill Burton at Bryson Gillette, Judy Foston Stanford at Foston International Communications, Inc. and Linda K. Brown at Advantage Communications Media Group to lead paid media

AUSTIN, TX — Today, Talarico for Texas announced new additions to their Black engagement team — and in the coming weeks, the campaign will announce expanded faith

outreach, youth engagement, and organizing efforts targeting Black voters in partnership with the Texas Together Coordinated Campaign.

Three veteran Black po-

litical operatives are joining the campaign as senior advisors to lead these efforts: Aisha J. McClendon, Delilah Agho-Otoghile, and

Continue **Team** Page 3

Texas hospitals say they're losing \$27 million a day in Medicaid funding

Terri Langford, The Texas Tribune



University Medical Center in Lubbock on April 6, 2025. Photo Credit: **Trace Thomas** for The Texas Tribune

As of the start of the fiscal year Tuesday, Texas hospitals are losing \$27 million a day in additional Medicaid funding, according to the Texas Hospital Association.

The shortfall is the result of a decision by the Trump administration to withhold approval from Texas for about \$9.8 billion this fiscal year from three programs, the bulk of which affects the Comprehensive Hospital Increase Reimbursement Program (CHIRP).

This program gives hospitals additional funding to cover the difference between Medicaid rate payments and the actual costs that hospitals incur to provide services to Medicaid patients. Essentially, hospitals, which often are paid less than what they spend on Medicaid patients due to outdated payment rates set by the state, are losing out on their additional reimbursement for 2027.

Local governmental entities collect taxes from hospitals — about \$4 billion a year, according to the Texas Hospital

Continue **Medicaid** Page 6

Grambling State University vs. Prairie View A&M University Saturday, September 26, 2026 – Kickoff: TBD



Since the 1980s, Grambling State Tigers and Prairie View A&M Panthers have traveled to Dallas during the State Fair to go head-to-head on the grass of the historic Cotton Bowl Stadium. The State Fair

Classic is filled with great football for four quarters and a stunning battle of the bands during halftime.

Game tickets are purchased through each university's athletic office.



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Civilian on the Home Front



Edwenia Montgomery Watkins

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ACTIVITY DURING WWII

She was recruited by the government in 1943 as a Federal Civil Service Typist.

Edwenia Montgomery Ward

Celebrates her 103rd Birthday on November 13, 2026

See Page 6



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EDITORIAL PAGE

When Will the High Cost of Healthcare and Prescription Drugs Be Lowered?

By James B. Ewers Jr., Ed.



Dr. James Ewers

The cost of everything is up. There are no exceptions. Going to the store now requires a strict budget and discipline. Anything extra we bought before doesn't happen in these days and times.

Some necessities are non-negotiable. They cost more, but we will pay the extra cost. That is the reality in our country now.

Overall, we know costs for healthcare have increased dramatically. Records indicate that it has reached \$4.9 to \$5.2 trillion. Going to the doctor, paying for insurance, going to the hospital, and paying for prescription drugs are just out of control.

This has resulted in people skipping scheduled doctor appointments. Co-pays have increased or, in some cases, aren't available anymore. Unfortunately,

healthcare isn't a priority anymore when compared to putting food on the table. That's sad, but these are the choices we are having to make.

Confirmed reports say, "Surveys indicate that roughly 15% to 25% of adults skip routine doctor visits or care when sick because of financial strain or limited local access."

Another concerning report focuses on Gen Z. At least 25% of this population do not have primary care physicians. Doctor visits just aren't on their radar screen.

Dr. Leana Wen, an emergency physician and clinical associate professor at George Washington University, said, "An annual visit isn't just about today's health. It helps identify future risks, keeps preventative care on schedule, and gives you a trusted clinician who knows your medical condition and can help navigate medical concerns."

I believe if you assess all demographics and age groups, you will find senior citizens have the greatest need for overall healthcare

and prescription drugs. Increasingly, seniors are being challenged by healthcare costs.

Some in the industry suggest that if you are retired, you'll probably spend around \$185,000.00 during this period in your life. By any measure, that is a lot of money to use for a specific part of one's life.

"Older adults are stuck in a healthcare system that is not responsive to their goals and preferences. Boomers want healthcare that maximizes their health and ability to function, and they want their providers to listen to them," said Terry Fulmer, president of The John A. Hartford Foundation.

In a survey, 82% of older Americans say the U.S. healthcare industry is ill-equipped to understand their needs. Are you a senior citizen who isn't going to see a healthcare specialist?

You're sitting at home, not feeling well and not getting the care you need. Organizations like AARP are trying to provide seniors with resources and information to help them at this

stage of life. Studies show that quality of life matters for retirees.

Being able to do things at a decent level is important for retirees. Getting exercise, eating properly, and being emotionally stable are all important ingredients to aging well with dignity.

Being retired is a privilege. Not everyone gets the chance to close one chapter and open another chapter. Life is far from over so you must live it that way. It is a mindset that you must acquire. Become an unofficial ambassador for senior citizens and spread the word. Becoming sedentary is not a good option.

While federal legislation has intervened in putting caps on spending, it still presents a financial burden. Currently, the cap is \$2,100.00 for Medicare Part D. Some may disagree; however, upcoming midterm elections may lay the groundwork for future changes. Healthcare is an important topic for all Americans. We all need it, and opinions about its direction will not stop.

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Dr. John E. Warren

As we move toward the critical November 3rd General Election, it seems like a good time to remind the Black Church of its history, role, and responsibility in our current struggle.

First, let's be clear about the church's rights and freedoms as guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution. It specifically says:

"Congress shall make no

law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble."

Black people, the church has always been that safe space where we exercised these freedoms. It was in the church that the Civil Rights struggle was planned and executed; it was in the Church where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., gave his final speech before being assassinated. The church not only allowed freedom of worship as guaranteed; the church allowed us to keep God at the center of our struggles, and it played a major role in developing and achieving the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Today, the Black Church is a key stop on the agenda of every political candidate seeking a sure vote. This is why so many of them race to the church to be seen and smiled at, the Sunday before every election.

Now is a good time for all Black and people of color to not only remember our freedom of religion and speech, but to organize and plan voter participation without the usual fear of losing one's nonprofit tax status.

Churches are made up of individuals. Individuals have the guaranteed right to freedom of assembly where discussions can be freely had about our living conditions. We can agree to help each other get to the polls; we can freely agree to vote. We can freely discuss who to vote for. None of

these actions violate a church's IRS tax-exempt status. The church, once again, must not be afraid to get involved as a collection of individuals.

Let's put aside fear and apathy and get involved in saving our hard fought for and earned right to vote, to be free of attempts to place us under an authoritarian form of government because of racism and greed. How do we get involved? Each One Reach One. Each One Teach One. Each One get at least one person registered and to the polls or, where possible, make every effort to vote early.

Now you can participate, make your voice heard, and make your vote known. Let's get started right now as if the election were this week.

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RELIGIOUS/NEWS

The Trumpet Judgments

Revelation 9:1-21



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

As we continue the study of the Trumpet Judgments in chapter 9, these judgments will be severely felt by the ungodly upon the earth. If you are a member of the universal church, you will not have to go through the happenings of this chapter. It is not the “blessed hope” of the church to experience these cataclysmic happenings. The church will have been taken out of the world by this time, and these are the things which will happen in the Great Tribulation Period to a world that has renounced Christ. As verse 1 of chapter 9 opens, our attention is drawn to the fifth trumpet.

When the fifth trumpet judgment begins (vv. 1-12), a star falls from heaven. This star has been given the keys to the bottomless pit. The preferred meaning of “the bottomless Pit” is the long shaft or well of the abyss. In chapter 8, we were introduced to a fallen star by the name of Wormwood (Revelation 8:10-11).

But we have a different kind of star because it is called “him” and acts with intelligence. This star is an unusual person, who is given a key to the bottomless pit! We believe that this star is Satan. There is a passage from Isaiah 14:12, that suggests that the star is Satan, for this verse says: “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!”

In Luke’s Gospel, there is a passage that further suggests that the star is Satan, for Christ said: “And He (Jesus) said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven (Luke 10:18). Furthermore, the Apostle John will state later that Satan was put out of heaven and cast to the earth (Revelation 12:7-9). Because of the reference to “he” in verse 2 and “king” in verse 11, many biblical scholars are in agreement that the fallen star of verse 1 is Satan, who was cast out of heaven

at the beginning of the Great Tribulation (Revelation 12:9), and was given the key to the bottomless pit. As the star (Satan) used his key, there appeared a great smoke that darkened the sky and sun. Emerging from the smoke came creatures called locusts that had the sting of scorpions! (Revelation 9:2-3).

According to verse 4, these locusts were commanded not to inflict harm upon the vegetation and trees, but were permitted to inflict pain upon people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. In verse 5, these locusts were given power to torment people for five months. Since Satan had the power to open the bottomless pit, these locusts may have been demons who appeared in the form of locusts! The home of the Abyss would be the home of demons (Luke 8:31). The pain inflicted upon mankind will be severe; moreover, men will try to take their own lives, but it is of no

avail (v. 6). After the frightful and unusual description of the locusts in verses 7-10, the Apostle John informs us that these uncommon locusts demons are led by a king whose name is Satan. His name is given in both Hebrew and Greek and means “destroyer” (v. 11).

We come now to the sixth trumpet judgment (vv. 12-21). With the sounding of the sixth trumpet, the Apostle John hears a voice coming from the horns of the golden altar that is before God (v. 13). The sixth angel was told to release the four angels bound by the Euphrates River (v. 14). Many biblical scholars advance that these angels are demons, for holy angels are not bound. With the release of these demons, one-third of the world’s population will be slain (v. 15). You will remember that one-fourth of the world’s population was slain with the fourth seal (Revelation 6:7-8). These two judgments taken to-

gether, will result in over one-half of the world’s population being slain! There will be many people who will die during the Great Tribulation Period, and Christ’s Second Coming will bring the Great Tribulation to a close, for Matthew 24:22 says: “And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.” According to verse 16, the loosing of the four angels (demons) will result in the emergence of an army of two hundred million.

In verses 17-19, the Apostle John had a vision of unnatural horses with riders that brought about terrible destruction. With such devastating judgments inflicted on mankind, one would have thought that such judgments would result in mankind’s repentance; however, mankind persists in doing evil (vv. 20-21).

“May God Bless!”

Continued **Team** Page 1

Cliff Walker.

Three Black-owned firms will lead the paid communications program — Bryson Gillette, one of the country’s leading strategic communications firms, will lead on TV and digital; Foston International Communications of Richmond, TX will lead on radio; and Advantage Communica-

tions Group of Houston, TX will lead on print.

Talarico’s Black voter outreach plan is the largest of its kind in modern Texas history. The investment includes our team of experienced Black staff members from every corner of Texas; door-knocking, relational organizing efforts, and in-person community events in Black neighborhoods across the state to reach voters

where they are; paid advertisements produced by Black-owned media firms to reach Black Texans on their TVs, phones, radios, newspapers, and in their mailboxes; partnerships with Black

media; and robust engagement with Black churches, local community organizations, and HBCUs.

“For too long, the Democratic Party has taken

Black voters for granted — these investments show we’re not going to make that same mistake,” said James Talarico. “We’ve brought on some of the most-decorated operatives in Texas politics to lead this voter outreach effort because there is no way to win Texas without listening to, investing in, and showing up for Black Texans.”

“Our investment in

Black voters will be built by Black professionals who know Black communities best,” said Talarico for Texas Political and Coalitions Director Miriam Laeky. “Texas has the highest population of Black folks in the country, and we will continue to put in the work to bring them to the polls.”

“I’ve spent my career working to energize Black

voters across the country, and I know this team has what it takes to get the job done,” said former DNC Chair Donna Brazile. “James Talarico understands that winning in Texas requires major investment in Black engagement statewide. That’s why he’s built a team capable of driving massive Black

Continue **Team** Page 4

~ THEME: MOVIE QUOTES (Solution will appear in September 17 edition)

- ACROSS
- Give benediction
 - World's oldest broadcasting company, acr.
 - Hoodwink
 - H, spelled out
 - Have a cold, e.g.
 - Dogma
 - Raja's wife
 - Shel Silverstein's constrictor
 - Extreme, prefix
 - *"____, my dear, I don't give a damn"
 - *"Why so ____?"
 - "High" beverage
 - Fairytale's second word
 - "Swan Lake" step, e.g.
 - Potassium hydroxide solution, pl.
 - Nincompoop
 - Month of Purim
 - At any time
 - Coastal town in southern England
 - Flick part
 - 4 x 4 race
 - Like most Brothers Grimm stories
 - "Peer Gynt" playwright
 - Actress Campbell
 - Please do not delay, acr.
 - Experienced sailor (2 words)
 - Dispatched
 - a.k.a. Tokyo
 - Window guards
 - Beer faucet
 - *"I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take it ____"
 - *"What we've got here is ____ to communicate"
 - Like United States Capitol
 - Food safety org.
 - Ritual basin
 - Tooth trouble
 - Husk of corn
 - Sharks' domain
 - Fence board
 - Pastrami partner
 - Paper quantities

- DOWN
- Vomit
 - The one with pants on fire
 - Volcano in Sicily
 - *"I can smell the ____ of a woman... Honey oil, lavender, soap"
 - Israeli monetary unit
 - *"Hasta la vista, ____"
 - Life story, for short
 - Fastener
 - Hero shop
 - "Do ____ others..."
 - Paddington Bear's homeland
 - Airport postings, acr.
 - Rutabaga cousin
 - Extra sweatshirt, e.g.
 - Long period of time
 - No-good
 - *"We'll always have ____"
 - Hacienda brick
 - Mexican cuisine staple
 - *"She doesn't ____ go here"
 - Party garb?
 - Not better
 - Homer's famous poem, with The
 - *"Not quite my ____"
 - Donna or Lou
 - Techno dance party
 - Busybody, in Yiddish
 - *"____ puts Baby in a corner"
 - Toothy fish
 - Alterations specialist
 - Mention something
 - *"There's no ____ like home"
 - Contributes
 - Season to be jolly
 - Village People hit
 - Source of protein
 - Cab payment
 - Eye layer
 - #74 Across, sing.
 - Sea eagles
 - *"Go ahead, make my ____"

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle Theme: MOVIE QUOTES

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
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65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

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NEWS

Continued **Team** Page 3

turnout and the coalition needed to take back Texas.”

Latest Additions to Talarico for Texas Black Engagement Team:

Aisha J. McClendon is a Dallas native and third-generation HBCU alumna with more than two decades in Democratic politics. She worked in the Clinton White House, directed national African American outreach for Beto O'Rourke's presidential campaign, served as Regional Constituency Director for Mike Bloomberg's campaign, and led church and HBCU partnerships as National Constituencies Director at VoteAmerica.

SEPTEMBER IS National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO PATIENTS

Kindbody Dallas, located at 8041 Walnut Hill Lane, Unit 870, Dallas, TX 75231, will cease operations effective October 1, 2026.

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Continued **Data** Page 1

(NPRM) to repeal the requirement for private sector employers and federal contractors to file an annual report detailing employees’ race and sex. The proposed rule would eliminate the only federally collected source of business-level data on employment by race, ethnicity, sex, and job category. This data is integral to examining if Black workers are represented in specific job categories which range from service workers to Executive or Senior Level Officials and Managers. If adopted, the proposed rule would make workplace discrimination and occupational segregation harder to detect and prove.

At the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, we know this because our organization has depended on this kind of data for over half a century. Since our founding, the Joint Center has built an extensive body of workforce research that shows why demographic data matters for contextualizing employment and workforce trends. Our State of the Dream 2026 report highlighted that 2025 was a year marked by rising Black unemployment and economic regression. Last year Black unemployment rose to 7.5 percent in December. The unemployment rate and shifts in the workforce were impacted by attacks on policies and institutions historically intended to combat racial inequality.

Without detailed demographic data, occupational segregation and systemic barriers remain invisible. And what remains invisible cannot be addressed. This is precisely why EEO-1 data is irreplaceable. Analyzing if Black workers are in specific job categories like executive, managerial, and other senior leadership roles is critical and provides a broader assessment of representation beyond employment. EEO-1 is one of the few sources that shows whether people of color are underrepresented at the management and leadership level — not just in the workforce overall. According to EEO-1 data submitted by large employers, workers of color make up more than 40 percent of the workforce but hold only one in five executive or senior-level positions. In 2023, Black women and men remained underrepresented in senior roles. The gap between who is employed and who is advancing is an example of workforce opportunity gap that exist for Black workers in America.

Joint Center Senior Fellow Eric Morrisette wrote, "the Civil Rights Act does not require proving that someone is personally racist. It requires proving that a policy creates measurable, disproportionate harm." Without the requirement for employers to file an annual report detailing workforce demographic data, including data by job category and sex and race or ethnicity, fewer measurable patterns of discrimination or occupational segregation being identified. This data collection serves as a crucial part of civil rights infrastructure as it provides essential evidence to enforce civil rights law.

For over 55 years, the Joint Center has believed that data is the precondition for justice. At a moment when Black workers face such acute vulnerability, stripping away the tools to identify occupational segregation and measure discrimination is unconscionable. We urge the EEOC to withdraw the proposed rule to rescind requirements for filing EEO demographic data collection reports, including the EEO-1 form. Reliable economic workforce data helps researchers, policymakers, advocates and industry leaders evaluate if our workforce systems are delivering on the promise of equal opportunity.

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

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L - 80°

Friday, Sept. 11



H 98°
L - 80°

Saturday, Sept. 12



H - 100°
L - 80°

Sunday, Sept. 13



H 99°
L - 80°

Monday, Sept. 14



H - 100°
L - 81*

Tuesday, Sept. 15



H - 98°
L - 81°

Wednesday, Sept. 16



H - 99°
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U.S. Open Influencers Spark Backlash over Ring Lights, Filming as Gauff and Osaka Speak Out

By **Observer Staff**
Source: *Black Press USA Wire*

Photo: **iStockphoto / NNPA**

Tournament Expands Creator Access As Viral Disruptions Prompt New Reminders About Tennis Etiquette

The U.S. Open's effort to bring more social media creators into one of tennis' biggest events is generating plenty of attention — just not always for what is happening on the court.

The tournament nearly doubled its official content creator program this year, growing from 54 creators in 2025 to roughly 100 in 2026. But viral videos showing guests filming content, posing for photos, and using bright lights during matches have triggered criticism from longtime tennis fans and prompted organizers to reinforce rules against disruptive behavior.

The debate has also drawn responses from two of the sport's most recognizable Black stars, Naomi Osaka and Coco Gauff, who say creators can help tennis reach new audiences — as long as they respect the game's traditions.

Viral Videos Put U.S. Open Influencers Under Scrutiny

One of the biggest controversies erupted during Osaka's first-round match against Anastasia Zakharova at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Play was briefly interrupted after a

disturbance from a luxury suite, where a group of women could be seen recording themselves during play. Video of the incident quickly spread across social media.

Another viral clip showed a woman posing for photographs inside Arthur Ashe Stadium while Madison Keys competed against Alina Korneeva below. A bright light was being used as play continued.

@katticuspfinch Tennis etiquette is that you don't even GET UP IN THE MIDDLE OF A POINT but now at @US Open apparently it's ring lights and photo shoots everywhere in the MIDDLE OF A POINT. Listen, I love bringing new people to the open and I'm all for getting more people into tennis because it's such a fun sport to watch but if you're going to disrespect the players, you shouldn't come to the match. And I LOVE content creators bringing tennis to everyone on social media but if you're not going to be respectful of the game being played thats NOT OKAY. Yyou can see ring lights from all over the stadium and the umpire and players made it very clear that it's a HUGE DISTRACT-I-ON and it's now impacting the players ability to play the game we are all here to see. And apparently the us open and USTA are just fine with it because their staff is helping it happen.

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Teddy's Creation

(Answer Key on Page 8)



= SUDOKU =

Fill in the missing numbers 1-9.



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

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle

Solution: August 27 ~ SOLAR SYSTEM

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

Continued Page 1

Edwenia Montgomery Ward

Celebrates 103 Years of Life on November 13, 2026

By Billy Don Montgomery



Edwenia Montgomery Watkins
Photo Courtesy: Family

Edwenia Montgomery Watkins is the daughter of Harold and Alice Humphrey Montgomery, born on November 13th, 1923, in the rural community of Tatum, Rusk County, Texas. Her father, Harold Montgomery, was a farm producer, and her mother, Alice Humphrey Montgomery, was a housewife. Edwenia worked on the farm and attended school and church in the Tatum Harmony Hill community, graduating from high school in 1941. She then moved to Marshall, Texas, and lived with her aunt, Johnnie Humphrey Richardson, while enrolled at Bishop College, where she majored in secretarial science.

In 1943, as a secretarial science student during the WW-11 era, Edwenia was recruited by the U.S. government as a Federal Civil Service Typist and accepted a transfer from Marshall, Texas, to Washington, D.C., to support World War-11 efforts.

She continued her secretarial career, and on June 3, 1951, Edwenia married her Bishop Col-

lege schoolmate, Mr. Forman D. Watkins from Ennis, Texas, a WW-11 veteran. After his service career, Mr. Watkins also became a U.S. government employee.



Mr. Foreman D. Watkins and wife, Edwenia Watkins

With her husband's full support before his passing on December 15th, 2014, Edwenia built an impressive career. She completed her college education at Howard University, where she

earned a degree in Education in 1956, and taught in Washington, D.C., public schools until her retirement on November 14, 1992. She became a life member of The National Council of Negro Women, Inc, a lifetime member of the NAACP, a volunteer at the White House for more than twenty•years, a Deaconess Emeritus at Shiloh Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., and a World War-11 Honoree in August 2026.

Family and friends celebrated the Edwenia World War-11 Honor on September 2nd, 2026 (VJ-DAY). Her sister, Glover Glow Montgomery Brown; her brother, Billy Don Montgomery; and many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends are thrilled with GOD'S BLESSINGS.

ON NOVEMBER 13, 2026, EDWENIA MONTGOMERY WATKINS WILL BE 103 YEARS OLD AND STILL RESIDES IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Continued **Medicaid**
Page 1

Association — and under CHIRP, the federal government matches those funds so that Texas hospitals can then use them to cover the actual costs of providing Medicaid services. Hospitals say those CHIRP dollars are critical and if they lose that funding, they will likely have to cut services to patients. Four million low-income Texans are enrolled in Medicaid, most of them children. “It is impossible for a hospital to take a huge loss

on a Medicaid side of their portfolio and not have that impact services across the board, regardless of what type of insurance a patient has,” said Sara González, a THA vice president of advocacy, public policy and political strategy. In Houston alone, the impact could mean at least \$258 million less for the public healthcare system there known as Harris Health and as much as \$1.4 billion less for the region overall next year. “The impacts would be catastrophic for Texas' safety-net healthcare system,” said Dr. Esmaeil

Porsa, president and CEO of Harris Health. “We are carefully monitoring every dollar and would be forced to make difficult decisions about maintaining critical services if this impasse continues.” The federal government is withholding these critical dollars because they are calling into question how local jurisdictions in Texas calculate the amount of taxes collected from hospitals. Robert Fries, the chief financial officer for Children's Health in Dallas said in a statement that this type of funding is crucial for

children's hospitals like Children's Medical Center. “Delays and uncertainty threaten access to critical pediatric specialty care, behavioral health services and the workforce needed to deliver that care,” Fries said. “If these delays continue, it will become increasingly difficult to maintain the health care safety net that Texas children and families depend on every day.” The impasse, which began quietly last December, has escalated to such an extent that Gov. Greg Abbott sent a pointed letter Aug. 7 to U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Ken-

nedy Jr. in which he stated that there’s nothing wrong with the way Texas hospitals’ local taxes are collected. In it, Abbott refers to the funding holdup as an economic “gun to the head.” “The tax structure previously enacted by the Texas Legislature, and being implemented daily by local governments, fully complies with federal law,” Abbott said in the letter. “What CMS is requesting does not.” If the federal government insisted that Texas must restructure the way local governments tax hos-

pitals, the federal government must first guarantee Texas would not be penalized in the future for doing so, Abbott said. “Any voluntary change that the State makes should be understood as the product of a desire to work collaboratively with CMS and not as any kind of admission about a legal defect in Texas’ broad-based health-care-related taxes,” Abbott wrote, adding that the state estimates the anticipated loss could be as much as \$12 billion in 2027. Continue Medicaid in Sept. 17 Edition

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Teddy’s Answer Key

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

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