

“HAPPY LABOR DAY!”



ISSN # 0746-7303

The Dallas Post Tribune

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VOLUME 78 NUMBER 49

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

September 3 - 9, 2026

Tarrant County removes 92 polling sites ahead of November election

Cecilia Lenzen, The Texas Tribune



Demonstrators rally outside the Tarrant County Courthouse on Sept. 1, 2026, in Fort Worth.
Photo Credit: **Christine Vo**/Fort Worth Report/ Texas Tribune

Tarrant County commissioners voted 3-2 Tuesday to approve a list of polling sites for the November elections that included 92 fewer sites than the 2022 mid-terms.

The approval came after commissioners heard testimony from more than 100 speakers, the majority of whom were opposed to the site cuts, during a meeting that lasted over eight hours. Voting rights advocates and representatives of 30 civic

groups rallied outside the county courthouse Tuesday morning, demanding that commissioners approve a list with the same number of sites as the 2022 mid-terms.

The adopted list includes 224 sites for Election Day and 47 for early voting. The 2022 list included 316 Election Day sites and 50 for early voting.

“I’m confident that what is proposed is going to give everybody that wants to

vote the opportunity to vote,” said county elections administrator Clint Ludwig, who proposed the reduction.

Commissioners voted along party lines, with Republicans — County Judge Tim O’Hare and commissioners Matt Krause and Manny Ramirez — supporting the list, and Democratic commissioners Alisa Simmons and Roderick Miles Jr. voting against.

“It’s not about cost. This

is about power. This is very political. This is campaigning from the dais,” said Simmons, who is running against O’Hare for the county judge seat.

Ramirez, who is seeking reelection in November, said he asked Ludwig to present a list that included all of the sites used in 2022. Ludwig said several of the sites were unavailable, unwilling or unable under

Continue **Polls** Page 4

Young Men's Leadership Academy at Fred F. Florence Middle School turns around culture and achievement

DALLAS — Principal Cassell Gray still remembers the first question a parent asked him when he arrived at the Young Men’s Leadership Academy at Fred F. Florence Middle School: “Are you going to stay?”

It wasn’t a casual ice-breaker.

It was a reflection of what the school community had endured. There had been years of instability, declining enrollment, and a D rating in 2025 that led to lowered expectations. When Gray stepped onto campus last year, he walked into a building that needed more than policies and programs. It needed belief.

Under his leadership, that belief in the school’s and the students’ potential became a reality. Young Men’s Leadership Academy climbed from a D to a B rating. Gray is proud of that letter, but he’s careful not to let it define the story.

“I love the fact that

we’re a B-rated school now, but for us here, it’s more so about making sure kids recognize within themselves they did the best they could to their ability, and they’re celebrated for that,” he said.

For him, the real turnaround began when the adults in the building raised their expectations — not of test scores, but of themselves and their students. From the start, he made it clear that if the adults demanded excellence and modeled it, the boys would rise to meet it.

That conviction showed up in his non-negotiables. Instructional quality wasn’t left to chance. Teachers rehearsed lessons before they ever delivered them to students. Gray didn’t want the first draft of a lesson unfolding live in front of a classroom. Planning became sharper, questioning became more intentional, and classrooms grew more

Continue **Young** Page 4

Jasmine Crockett’s down-ballot slate starts to take shape as she steers clear of Senate race

Gabby Birenbaum, The Texas Tribune



U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett, D-Dallas, speaks at her election night watch party in Dallas on March 3, 2026.
Photo Credit: **Shelby Tauber** for The Texas Tribune

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett, D-Dallas, said she’s soon planning to endorse several

Democratic candidates running for county judge and the Texas House, marking the first glimpse of her

avowed plans to campaign for down-ballot nominees rather than her former U.S. Senate rival, James Talarico.

Crockett, a second-term congresswoman, lost the Senate Democratic primary to Talarico earlier this year. She quickly announced her support for the Austin lawmaker, but has not campaigned with him and has reiterated in interviews that she intends to focus on other races. Until now, she had not revealed which down-ballot contests she would target, beyond the handful of local candidates she endorsed just before the May runoff.

In a brief interview with The Texas Tribune, Crockett said she’ll announce her general election slate “shortly” and estimated that it includes four state House candidates and three nominees for county judge, the office that functions as county executive in Texas.

The county judge candidates, Crockett said, come from areas where Democrats will need strong turnout.

“They are from some of our largest counties — counties that we need to make sure that they

Continue **Race** Page 5



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EDITORIAL PAGE

Celebrating Labor Day in America is a rich and time-honored tradition

By James B. Ewers Jr., Ed.



Dr. James Ewers

I have fond memories of Labor Day from my coming-of-age years. The kids in my neighborhood were out playing all summer long. The days never seemed to end, and we were as happy as could be.

Celebrating Labor Day in Winston-Salem NC also meant the start of a new school year. That brought on mixed emotions. I was happy to see my friends and teachers at school, but unhappy to stop playing outside as much.

It was a day off work for adults. Some had outdoor activities while others simply relaxed. Life was good, and everybody had joy and happiness.

As I grew older, I understood more about the significance of Labor Day. Through research, I learned it was a meaningful day for the American workforce.

Records show that Labor Day was created as a federal

holiday on June 28, 1894. The president at the time was Grover Cleveland. The first parade was held on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York.

A direct quote about Labor Day says, “The holiday is rooted in the late nineteenth century, when labor activists pushed for a federal holiday to recognize the many contributions workers have made to America’s strength, prosperity and well-being.”

The American economy, in my opinion, has always been the envy of other countries. It was built on vision, fair wages, and a strong workforce. People wanted to work, and employers wanted to hire them.

Our workforce has always had a high degree of pride. It was important that men and women wanted to be with their respective companies.

We will celebrate Labor Day on Monday, September 7th. Celebrations will take place, and speakers will extoll the history of our labor force.

Over time, America has had stalwart labor organizers whose causes resulted

in more jobs and better working conditions. Our history books highlight the accomplishments of men like Samuel Gompers and women like Mary Harris Jones, also known as Mother Jones.

According to published reports, Samuel Gompers was the first president of the American Federation of Labor and Mary Harris Jones was a strong advocate for coal miners and textile workers.

If you are traveling by train for a weekend getaway, you cannot forget A. Phillip Randolph. He led the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. An African American, Randolph led the organization to win a famous collective bargaining agreement.

African American women also played prominent roles in the labor movement. The National Association of Wage Earners, founded by Nannie Helen Burroughs, created an initiative in 1921 to assist African American domestic workers. Addie Wyatt was a part of the United Packinghouse Workers of America and the first

Black woman to hold a major international union office.

As Labor Day comes, the question is: how is our American economy? Some pundits give it an average grade. This is based on average job growth and higher prices for consumer goods and services.

However, Rebecca Christie, senior fellow at the Brussels think tank Bruegel, said, “Americans are very solutions-oriented and much more comfortable with taking a short-term risk in service of a long-term advantage.”

What will be the threats and opportunities for the labor force and the American economy in the coming months? I don’t know if there is a clear answer to that question.

Celebrating and honoring Labor Day is an important tradition in the United States of America. Despite some changes in our economy, our American workers deserve congratulations for a job well done. If you have friends or family members in our workforce, give them a surprise gift or take them out to dinner.

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Making November 3rd The True No Kings Day

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



Dr. John E. Warren

During the last two years, we have seen millions of Americans from all walks of life turn out to participate in the “No Kings Day” protest marches across this nation. The demonstrations have been against the illegal practices and activities of President Trump in violation of the Constitution and all democracy stands for. We have seen the United States Congress surrender its Constitutional authority to President Trump without question. We have seen

people murdered by officials who called their actions all in the line of duty; we have seen American citizens arrested and placed in camps and deported in violation of their citizenship, the law, and due process.

While the demonstrations in and of themselves made statements of protest, the President and his administration were basically unmoved in most instances because there were no forcible actions they could take against the White House. Trump has considered himself King, and the United States Supreme Court has basically reinforced that position.

But on November 3rd, 2026, the Midterm General Election is a day of reckoning if we just get out and vote. Our individual votes can do the following:

- Change the control of the U.S. House of Representatives by

replacing those Republican members who rubber-stamp the President's illegal actions instead of providing oversight, checks, and balances;

- At the local level, we must vote and ensure that candidates who support Donald Trump are not elected to office as they seek to implement his policies at the local level.
- Those persons running for School Board, City Council, Supervisor, Congress, State legislatures, and Governor must not get elected because some of us just refuse to vote. The “my vote doesn’t count” excuse must end. This is how we ensure “NO KING”; This is how we stop ICE, Deportations without due process, troops on our streets, and unautho-

rized military conflicts that put our nation’s security at risk.

If the millions of people who protested “No Kings Days” join those who are already committed to out-voting the Gerrymander Election Districts, overwhelm the President’s efforts to stop the vote or intimidate voters, we can put an end to this would be King before the next two years of his term are up.

We, the people, by getting out our vote and the votes of those around us, can truly make November 3rd, 2026, No Kings Day and take back our lives; our jobs, healthcare, gas prices, food prices, housing, and guaranteed freedoms of speech and movement. Let's be ready to vote, and we won’t have to get ready. Let's vote early and undermine the efforts to delay our vote on Election Day.

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RELIGIOUS/NEWS

The Trumpet Judgments of God

Revelation 8:1-13



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

In chapter 8, we have the opening of the seventh seal which introduces the Seven Trumpet Judgments. We must not be frightened regarding the judgments we have discussed thus far, because from chapter 4 on is the future – “the things that shall be after these things” (Revelation 1:19). We are living in the Church Age; thus, we are living in the “things which are” (present). The “things which are” covered the section dealing with the seven churches of Asia Minor. In chapter 6, we studied the four horsemen of the Apocalypse, and I hope those terrible judgments didn’t frighten you! Remember, the church is gone, for she has been raptured to meet the Lord in the air; and thus, the church has been exempted from the cataclysmic happenings that are taking place on earth (I Thesalonians 1:10). These judgments that God will pour upon the earth will be tremendous, and they are even mind-boggling to read about. We read with interest about the terrible judgments God will pour upon the earth; however, as believers, we know that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30), and we

are assured that He will deliver us to Christ before the Great Tribulation Period! The Seven Trumpet Judgments that we are about to discuss will reveal the terrible tragedy the world will face. As we enter into this study, we should be motivated to share Christ and the gospel to those we meet knowing that if they enter the Tribulation Period, they will be severely tested! Also, the book of Revelation should serve as a means of comfort to believers because we know that God will judge this world rightly, for it is certainly out of control! God will move in judgment against this world and He will straighten out this sin-cursed world. This same Jesus came to die for you, and rose triumphantly for you; if you will not have Him as your Saviour, then nothing short of terrible judgment awaits you! As the seventh seal is opened (Revelation 8:1), there came to pass a silence in heaven of about a half hour. There is a brief cessation of judgment, a great heavenly pause of action. We are instructed from verse 2, that the Apostle John observed that seven

angels were given seven trumpets. The seven trumpets of Revelation chapter 8 are not be confused with “the last trump” of I Corinthians 15. The “last trump” of I Corinthians 15 will be the Lord’s call for the church to meet Him in the air; whereas, the Seven Trumpet Judgments are judgments that the Lord will pour out upon the earth during the Tribulation Period. In verses 3-5, we are introduced to the fact that an angel stood before the Golden Altar with a golden censer. In the Old Testament economy, the censer was used to carry coals from the Brazen Altar outside the tabernacle to the Altar of Incense inside. The Golden Altar is a place where prayer is offered. In heaven, the incense is a type of the prayers of the saints – prayers which beseeched the Lord to revenge them of their persecutors. In answer to the saints’ prayers, God responds to their prayers by casting judgment upon the earth. The people of the earth, who have rejected the death of Christ for the judgment of their sins, must now bear the judgment for their own sins. As the first trumpet sounds

from heaven, a great judgment of fire is poured upon the earth and one-third of the trees are burned up (v. 7). Along with one-third of the trees being burned, there will be the enormous destruction of all green grass. The people of the earth will experience a terrible time because there will be a scarcity of food. Although one-third of botanical life is affected, the judgment upon the earth will still be tremendous. The flood was used by God in His first global judgment; however, God will use fire as His instrument to judge the earth during the Tribulation Period! This is a direct judgment from God. Judgment falls upon plant life, from the grass to the great trees. The earth is to be purified by fire! In the Genesis account, plant life was the first to be created, and it is the first to be destroyed. After order had been brought into the physical globe, God began with the creation of plant life (Genesis 1:11). As the second trumpet sounds, the sea, which occupies most of the earth’s surface was severely affected by God’s judgment (vv. 8-9). The literal mass from the volcanic eruption of this great

mountain falls into a literal sea, with one-third of the sea turning to blood, and one-third of all living creatures dying. Also, one-third of the ships are destroyed. Many biblical scholars believe that the sea mentioned in these verses refers to the Mediterranean Sea. With the sounding of the third trumpet (vv. 10-11), a star shall fall and cause waters to be made bitter. God knows the number of stars and calleth them by their names. The name of this star is Wormwood which shall poison the fountain-head of some great sweet water channel. You will note that one-third of the water is contaminated, however, mankind will still be severely affected. With the sounding of the fourth trumpet (vv. 12-13), the sun, moon and stars shall fail to shine their full strength. An angel (translated an eagle) shall announce some “ominous woes” to the inhabitants of the earth. God is using everything possible to get people to believe! The remaining trumpet judgments will be discussed in chapters 9:1-21; 11:15-19.

“May God Bless!”

LIFE IS LIKE A CAMERA, JUST FOCUS ON WHAT’S IMPORTANT!

~ THEME: SOLAR SYSTEM
(Solution will appear in September 10 edition)

- ACROSS
1. Ancient Peruvian

5. Hit the slopes

8. Bro or sis

11. Thomas the Engine's warning

12. *Sun, e.g.

13. Twist and distort

15. Carpenter's groove

16. *Jupiter's inner "ring"

17. MC Hammer's "2 ____ 2 Quit"

18. *It makes up the majority of Jupiter's mass

20. Narrative poem

21. "When ____ Cry" by Prince

22. Louisville Slugger

23. Chase

26. Puffy cloud

30. Nurses' org.

31. Frozen drink

34. Ricci of fashion

35. Same as climate

37. Buddy Holly's "Peggy ____"

38. Knight's breastplate

39. Flying toy

40. a.k.a. pennant

42. Possesses

43. Appetizer

45. Like certain pine

47. Large edible mushroom

48. ____-Arts, or fine arts

50. Disparaging remark

52. *The largest moon in the Solar System

55. *Jupiter's Great Red Spot

56. Up it in poker

57. Exclamation of disgust

59. Famous diarist Samuel ____

60. Like decorated cake

61. Reply from a tunnel

62. Tarzan's adoptive dad

63. Neither here ____ there

64. Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, acr.
- DOWN
1. It would

2. Master of ark

3. Buffalo Bill's last name

4. In conflict (2 words)

5. Coach-and-four

6. Type of leaf cabbage, pl.

7. *Reason for Mars' redness

8. Kind of palm

9. Author Murdoch

10. Sandwich with acronym name

12. Snow mover

13. Flash of light

14. *Farthest planet from sun in our Solar System

19. Make awake

22. Opposite of vend

23. Gets ready for a trip

24. Dark

25. Indian restaurant yogurt staple

26. ____ Zhen in "Fist of Fury"

27. *The Solar System spans roughly 1.6 ____ - years

28. Uniate church member

29. Impudent

32. ____-friendly

33. *Center of the Solar System

36. *The smallest planet

38. Per ____, or yearly

40. Vigor

41. Approved

44. 4 years for a U.S. President, pl.

46. Daisies

48. Bench in Mexico

49. Larger key on the right

50. Pas in ballet

51. Between trot and gallop

52. Effect of pain?

53. Mussolini, with Il

54. Not counterfeit

55. Relaxation location

58. Ornamental pond dweller

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle
Theme: SOLAR SYSTEM

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4			5	6	7			8	9	10	
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CONTINUED POLLS PAGE 1



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

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statutory requirements to be used this year.

Miles and Simmons suggested several revisions to increase the number of sites, but their Republican colleagues rejected each of them.

Krause described requests for 316 sites as “arbitrary,” questioning why his Democratic colleagues would be satisfied with that total instead of a higher one, such as 400 or even 700. Miles said he wants as many sites as possible.

At the morning news conference and throughout the meeting, speakers urged commissioners to increase, rather than decrease the number of places for voters to cast a ballot. They also asked to reinstate specific sites that Ludwig suggested eliminating, such as the Maverick Activity Center at the University of Texas at Arlington.

“We understand the power of the vote. We are deciding whether to preserve our democracy or continue to crumble it,” said Brianna Brown, executive director of the Texas Organizing Project, a grassroots group aimed at organizing Black and brown communities in Texas.

More than 1.3 million people are registered to vote in Tarrant County. Local Republican and Democratic leaders framed the November midterms as

the “most important of our lifetime.”

Historically a Republican stronghold, Tarrant County has shown occasional signs of trending purple as voters narrowly supported Democratic candidates at the top of the statewide ballot in recent elections. Democratic Sen. Taylor Rehmet’s landslide victory in the northern half of Tarrant County in a special election in January, followed by unusually high voter turnout in the March primaries, spurred Democrats’ hopes of victory in November.

Thirty miles east, Dallas County commissioners also considered a list of polling sites Tuesday. Their proposal includes 85 early voting sites and 448 Election Day sites.

Ludwig told commissioners last week his proposed map of sites concentrates locations “where voters choose to vote” based on past election cycles and where facilities meet operational standards and disability accessibility requirements

Commissioners voted on the list after 5 p.m. Immediately after the vote, attendees still in the room began chanting “shame.”

Several speakers, including Cynnamon Hall, argued that commissioners should increase rather than decrease voting sites on one

of the same premises the court’s Republicans used to justify county redistricting last summer: population growth. Hall also criticized the loss of polling sites in Black and brown neighborhoods across the county, such as the 76104 zip code, which would have no sites under the current proposal.

“If you accept this, you’re basically saying that our votes don’t matter,” Hall said. “All votes matter. Vote ‘no’ on this.

Joan Gonzalez told commissioners she supports the proposal in the name of cutting costs for taxpayers, dismissing concerns about the reduction impacting voters’ ability to cast a ballot.

“My personal feeling is if you can find this commissioners court, you can find a polling place,” Gonzalez said. “You have early voting also for weeks at a time.”

Emeri Callaway, vice president of the Tarrant County Young Democrats, urged commissioners to restore the sites Ludwig proposed cutting, especially the MAC at UTA. They spoke of college students across the county calling the organization “panicking” about where to vote.

“This should not be a controversial issue to add these locations. It should not be partisan,” Callaway said. “Do not make it hard for students of Tarrant

County to vote on their campuses.”

During the meeting, Simmons repeatedly attempted to get UTA added back to the list. Republicans argued that students had easy access to the nearby county subcourthouse in Arlington.

Commissioners were scheduled to finalize voting sites in early August, but agreed unanimously to table the decision until September after agreeing that Ludwig’s first proposal included too few sites. That list included 42 early voting sites and 176 on Election Day.

The Aug. 4 commissioners court meeting drew dozens of speakers, the majority of whom testified against a reduction in polling sites and demanded an increase in sites to accommodate population growth since the 2022 midterms.

During the nearly seven-hour meeting, O’Hare made all attendees leave the courtroom after some speakers continued talking after their allotted time to address the courtroom ran out and others shouted or used profanity. One speaker was arrested and carried out by his ankles and wrists. Another who left voluntarily was arrested a week later.

Continue Polls Page 5

Continued Young Page 1

focused.

At the same time, every student became more than a name on a roster. Gray introduced a “data passport” that each boy carried throughout the year. Inside, teachers recorded whether students met or beat their weekly academic goals. These weren’t dusty binders or spreadsheets only adults saw; students could literally hold their progress in their hands.

“Our community sends their best and their brightest to us every day, and we

have to treat their best investment, which is their kids, with that ultimate care,” he said. “If I got a student that isn’t necessarily where they need to be academically, what is it that we’re doing to make sure that we’re moving them to the next step?”

The data passports turned hallway run-ins into impromptu data conferences. If Gray or an assistant principal asked to see one, it wasn’t to shame a student. It was to talk about what worked, what didn’t, and then how to adjust. Over time, the language on

campus shifted. Boys began seeking him out with a quiet pride.

“The best feeling all year was when students would come up to me after taking an assessment on a Thursday or Friday and say, ‘Mr. Gray, check me out, I beat my goal,’” Gray said. “It became a culture of excellence here because they saw that it was being celebrated.”

That growing sense of agency is, in Gray’s view, the essence of the work. He doesn’t want the boys to succeed only under watchful adult eyes. He wants

them to leave with the internal belief and habits to pursue excellence anywhere.

This mindset also shaped how he approached culture and discipline. Gray is firm, but he refuses to hold grudges against kids. If a student has a rough day and ends up in his office for a difficult conversation, the next morning starts fresh—with a fist bump in the hallway, not a cold shoulder. Over time, students began to understand that consequences came from a place of care, not anger.

Continue Young Page 6

Quinn Simple Scenes

First dates

By Rix Quinn

A young neighbor just asked me if I remembered dating.

I have been married for years, but I recall the excitement of first dates. I had many of them, because few ladies went out with me a second time.

I suggested choosing a good dinner location, something many ladies appreciate. Several fine restaurants require a reservation, and few offer a drive-through window.

My young friend’s date will probably dress nicely. I suggested that my friend wear a nice shirt and

slacks, not a tee-shirt with a tie painted on it.

“When you pick up your date,” I told him, “remember your manners. Open the car door for her. Compliment her dress. If she accidentally burps, do not say ‘Good one!’”

“At dinner, the server will hand you a menu that might be printed in an elegant type. This makes every word look fancy. I once ordered two servings of gratuity.

“Ask the server to recommend his favorite entrée,” I continued. “When he describes it, don’t ask

‘Is it canned?’”

On special occasions, some people order wine. White wine goes with seafood or poultry. Red wine blends with cheese, meat, and nuts.

I once got in trouble asking for a “wine that comes in my school colors.”

I also reminded my friend that after a high-priced dessert (often something the waiter prepares at your table), he will be presented the check. If it’s more than his apartment rent, I guess he could ask for a monthly payment

plan.

Final suggestion: don’t ask the lady to leave the tip.

I tried that once, and my date replied, “Here’s a tip. Don’t call me again.”

Do you like to read very short stories? Here’s one of mine you can get for free:

https://payhip.com/b/HPdR6

Today is the best day to start sharing your life story with family and friends. Want more information? Just click on this link for details:

MEMOIR



SPORTS/NEWS PAGE



7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Sept. 3	Friday, Sept. 4	Saturday, Sept. 5	Sunday, Sept. 6	Monday, Sept. 7	Tuesday, Sept. 8	Wednesday, Sept. 8
 H -87° L -76°	 H 91° L -78°	 H -95° L -80°	 H 96° L -80°	 H -97° L -81*	 H - 97° L -79°	 H -95° L -79°

Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center

OPEN Gym

EVERY
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
11am - 2PM

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Continued Polls Page 4

At the start of the Sept. 1 meeting, O’Hare advised attendees to follow the commissioners court rules of decorum they agree to follow when they sign up to speak during public comment. Those who violate the rules, which he read aloud, could be removed by sheriff deputies and possibly arrested, he warned.

“The last thing I want to see is anybody removed from the chambers. The last thing I want to see is anybody arrested. The last thing I want to see is a cir-

cus,” O’Hare said. “Last month, we had a circus.”

As of 5:30 p.m., O’Hare ordered sheriff deputies to remove three attendees from the meeting. One of them used profanity during his allotted time to speak, and the others spoke from the audience after O’Hare repeatedly ordered them to be quiet.

Robbie Hoy, a spokesperson for the sheriff’s office, told the Report no arrests were made during the meeting. One speaker was given a criminal trespass warning after speaking from the audience and di-

recting a profane word at O’Hare as he left.

The county judge endorsed Ludwig’s new proposal last week shortly after it was released.

“As I’ve said from day one, no Tarrant County voter should ever feel they don’t have enough time to vote,” O’Hare said in a news release. “This is a sensible plan designed to ensure that, and I’m grateful to our elections staff for the work that brought us here.”

From the dais, Miles showed attendees the framed poll tax receipt of

his wife’s great-grandmother, who he described as a housewife and mother of 10 who “understood how important her vote was, and the voice and the power it came along with.” He compared the site reduction to poll taxes, a Jim Crow-era fee voters were required to pay in order to cast a ballot.

“Just know that you are creating poll taxes, modern day poll taxes, for people to go and vote and do what they have the right to do,” Miles said, addressing Republican colleagues. “You may not see it, and I can’t

help you see, but it is what it is.”

Simmons hosted a news conference Sunday with State Rep. James Talarico of Austin, the Democratic nominee for U.S. senator. Both warned that cutting polling sites could reduce access for voters.

Last month, Fort Worth City Council members unanimously approved a resolution opposing a proposed reduction in polling sites. They urged county officials to consider alternatives and ensure that voting sites are evenly distributed across the four

commissioner precincts.

Election Day is Nov. 3, and early voting is Oct. 19-30. The deadline to register to vote is Oct. 5.

Cecilia Lenzen is a government accountability reporter for the Fort Worth Report. Contact her at cecilia.lenzen@fortworthreport.org.

This article first appeared on The Texas Tribune.

<link rel="canonical" href="https://www.texas-tribune.org/2026/09/01/tarrant-county-removes-polling-sites/" />

Continue Race Page 1

maintain their edge, as they did in the primary,” Crockett said.

The Dallas congresswoman started the Fueling Individual Rights Everywhere (FIRE) PAC after her March primary loss, and she has traveled around the country in support of candidates she’s endorsed through the PAC.

In a much-discussed interview with CNN last week, Crockett, asked if she planned to hit the trail with Talarico, reiterated that she would focus on down-ballot Democrats instead. Pressed whether it needed to be an “either-or” decision, Crockett responded that, “for me,

it probably is,” due to the vast size of Texas and the number of candidates she’s supporting.

Additionally, she argued it’s important that voters have a variety of races and candidates to be enthused about, citing Beto O’Rourke’s near-miss in 2018 as a cautionary tale for when Democratic zeal is concentrated on one marquee contest.

“For me, I don’t think that it should be a matter of, there’s just one thing that is getting me to the polls,” Crockett said. “I think it has to be something a little bit more, in a state like Texas. And so for me, making sure that people that maybe are getting overshadowed be-

cause it seems like it’s only about one big race — I think amplifying them, making sure that I can raise their profiles and introducing them to people, that’ll give something more to voters.”

Crockett endorsed five Democrats in Texas after the primaries — all of whom are running for office in the Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston areas and who won their primary runoffs.

Since losing her Senate bid, the Democratic congresswoman has said she does not think Black voters are excited and responded that she is unsure if Talarico can flip Texas, where Republicans have not lost a statewide race since 1994.

Most polls this summer have shown Talarico narrowly leading Republican nominee Ken Paxton, while the Democrat has opened a large fundraising edge and dominated the advertising airwaves.

Crockett has teased her coming endorsements on her Threads page. The congresswoman said Alisa Simmons, a Democratic Tarrant County commissioner running for county judge in Texas’ third-largest county, will be among her endorsees. Simmons is challenging GOP incumbent Tim O’Hare, who spearheaded a push to turn Simmons’ precinct into a solidly Republican seat through mid-decade redis-

tricting.

As for the state House candidates she’s backing, Crockett said she plans to be involved in a race in Harris County on behalf of a Democratic candidate who she’s known for “a very long time.”

“He’s very qualified,” Crockett said. “He’s running against one of my classmates from the state House who’s problematic.”

Her description appears to fit Tyler Smith, who is challenging GOP state Rep. Lacey Hull in a northwest Houston district, one of only a few options in the county that are both under Republican control and seen as competitive. Crockett has praised Smith on her

Threads page as well.

During the primaries, she appeared on the ground to campaign with her endorsed candidates in Texas and around the country. Her PAC also made contributions to the candidates she backed and to a number of congressional colleagues.

Through the end of June, FIRE PAC had raised over \$121,000 and had about \$45,000 in cash on hand.

This article first appeared on The Texas Tribune.

<link rel="canonical" href="https://www.texas-tribune.org/2026/09/01/texas-jasmine-crockett-down-ballot-candidates-endorsements-talarico-senate/" />

Teddy’s Creation

(Answer Key on Page 6)

☆ SUDOKU ☺

Fill in the missing numbers 1-9.

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

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle

Solution: August 27 ~ EMMYS

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

Big Fun for Little Texans: State Fair of Texas Debuts Little Lone Stars Land and Reimagined Kidway

Family-friendly areas bring more rides, food, entertainment, and Texas-sized fun to the 2026 State Fair



DALLAS — September 3, 2026 — Little Texans are getting two new places to play at the 2026 State Fair of Texas. Debuting this year, Little Lone Stars Land offers the Fair’s youngest guests – especially toddlers and young school children – and their families a dedicated area filled with rides, food, entertainment, and attractions designed with little ones in mind. For young Fairgoers ready for their next level of Midway fun, a reimagined Kidway brings an all-new layout, expanded footprint, and additional family-friendly rides and attractions to the State Fair Midway. Both areas offer fun for the whole family,

with experiences tailored to different ages and stages. “We know that some of the most memorable State Fair experiences begin when our youngest Fairgoers see their first ride, meet a favorite character, or discover something that makes them smile,” said Mitchell Glier, State Fair of Texas President. “Little Lone Stars Land and the reimagined Kidway give families even more opportunities to create those memories together, while expanding the ways our youngest guests can experience the Fair.”

LITTLE LONE STARS LAND
Located next to the Gur-

ley Gate and Craft Pavilion, Little Lone Stars Land is designed with the Fair’s youngest Fairgoers in mind, bringing rides, food, entertainment, play, and animal experiences together in one central location. Families can expect:

- Four-coupon kiddie rides and fun houses, with three-coupon kiddie rides on Tuesdays
- 10-Coupon kid-friendly games
- Little Lone Stars Refillable Drinkware for 10 coupons and refills for five coupons
- Additional value-priced food and beverage items

- The Coop, a dedicated kids’ play area specially designed for toddlers and preschoolers to roam, play, and explore
- Oak Farms Dairy® Petting Zoo, offering little animal lovers the opportunity to get up close with some furry and feathered friends
- The Fringe Stage with daily shows from fan-favorite street performers, like strongman, Mighty Mike

Little Lone Stars Land also welcomes two Fair favorites to new homes: the Oak Farms Dairy® Petting Zoo, previously located in the Pan Am Arena, and The Fringe Stage, previously located along Nimitz next to Cotton Bowl® Stadium. Throughout Little Lone Stars Land, Fairgoers will encounter enhanced, cartoon-style imagery of beloved State Fair characters, including Little Big Tex, Amy Dillo, and Champ. Amy Dillo and Champ will also make their debut as roaming characters, joining crowd favorite Little Big Tex in interacting with Fairgoers throughout the area.

THE KIDWAY GETS A MAKEOVER
Located in the heart of the State Fair Midway, the

reimagined Kidway offers an expanded footprint and an all-new layout, giving families another destination to enjoy rides, games, food, and entertainment together.

- Kid-friendly rides and games, with the majority of rides being 5 coupons, dropping to 3 coupons on Tuesdays.
- Dr Pepper® Kidway Stage with daily performances from the Showstoppers!
- Value-priced food and beverage options

“Little Lone Stars Land and the Kidway were created with a simple idea in mind: to make the State Fair feel even more magical for our youngest guests,” said Jason Hays, Senior Vice President of Brand Experience at the State Fair of Texas. “We wanted to create spaces where kids can see themselves reflected in the experience, discover something new around every corner, and, most importantly, have fun with the people they love. From the characters and visual identity to the rides, entertainment, play spaces, and food, every detail was thoughtfully designed to make these areas feel like their own little piece of the State Fair.”

Both areas give families more ways to make the most of their Fair day, with value-priced food, beverages, rides, and entertainment for little Fairgoers to enjoy. Together, these expanded family offerings build on the State Fair of Texas’ broader 2026 goal of providing more value and more ways for Texans to enjoy the Fair. Beyond the rides, characters, and entertainment, the State Fair of Texas is a nonprofit organization committed to making every Fair day count for more. Through the Fair’s support of agriculture, education, and community initiatives, your Fair day helps Texans every day. From scholarships for Texas students to investments in Fair Park and support for communities across the state, the State Fair’s impact extends far beyond the gates of Fair Park.

The countdown is on! Families can experience Little Lone Stars Land and the reimagined Kidway beginning Opening Day, September 25. So, round up your little Texans and get ready for even more rides, entertainment, and Fair-day fun. Daily tickets are now available at BigTex.com/Tickets, and guests can learn more and plan their visit at BigTex.com/PlanYourVisit.

Continued Young Page 4



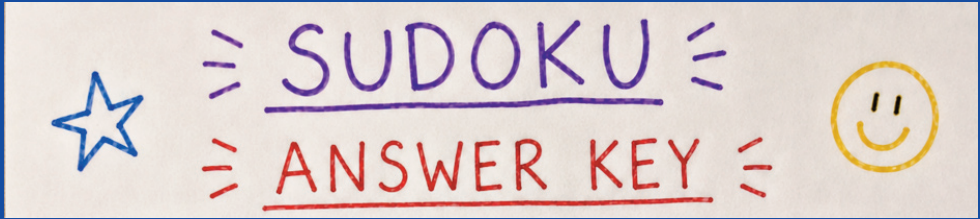
Photo courtesy: Dallas ISD

fuels achievement. Families, too, have felt the difference. Weekly Sunday evening newsletters keep them informed about the coming week. Regular parent meetings and consistent communication have rebuilt trust. Parents now see a school that not only expects more of their sons, but also invites them to be partners in that work. “Parents want to help. They just need to know how they can help,” Gray said. “When you talk to parents and you let them know what we need here at school, one thing our parents will do is they will give us what we need.” For Gray, the B rating is validation, not a finish line. He is already starting successful practices earlier in the year and refusing to let the campus slip backward. If he talks about legacy at all, it’s in terms of the young men he serves. “We’re not going to stop. Yes, we’re a B-rated campus, but we’re not done yet,” he said. “We’re not going to stop until every student is at or above grade level.”

“I think these boys know I care for them,” Gray said. “Even when I have to discipline them, they know it’s coming from a spirit of love.” Physical routines on campus quietly reinforced that message. Something as simple as walking on the right side of the hallway or keeping shirts tucked in wasn’t about control. Gray used them as life lessons: order over chaos, pride over indifference, preparation over passivity. When

students look sharp and move with purpose, he believes, it’s easier for them to see themselves as capable of excellence. Inside classrooms, Gray pushed for student voices to carry the learning. Through structured discussion routines, he ensured that boys were talking through ideas, not just listening passively. He expects to hear students more than teachers because participation builds confidence, and confidence

Teddy’s Answer Key



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

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