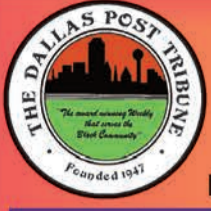


"We prove the human spirit will prevail. We will take what we have to make what we need". ~ Nikki Giovanni



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VOLUME 77 NUMBER 14

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

December 12 - 18, 2024

Nikki Giovanni, Iconic Poet and Voice of the Black Arts Movement, Dies at 81

Giovanni rose to prominence during the 1960s as a fierce voice in the Black Arts Movement alongside literary giants such as Amiri Baraka, Audre Lorde, Ntozake Shange, and Sonia Sanchez.

By Stacy M. Brown



Photo Credit: NNPA Files

Nikki Giovanni, the groundbreaking poet, author, and professor whose work embodied the spirit of the Black Arts Movement and beyond, died on Monday in Blacksburg, Virginia. She was 81. Her wife, Virginia C. Fowler, confirmed the cause was complications from lung cancer.

Born Yolande Cornelia Giovanni Jr. on June 7, 1943, in Knoxville, Tennessee, Giovanni spent her

formative years in Cincinnati, Ohio, but returned to Knoxville every summer with her sister to visit their grandparents. These visits helped shape her sense of identity and belonging, themes that would become central to her work.

Born Yolande Cornelia Giovanni Jr. on June 7, 1943, in Knoxville, Tennessee, Giovanni spent her

Continue Poet Page 6

Mark Cuban Heroes Annual Food Giveaway

Continue Giveaway Page 2

CENTER TABLE

WINTER HARVEST drive-thru

food Giveaway

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024
9 A.M. – 11 A.M.

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One meal box per car. Must show photo ID upon arrival.

MARK CUBAN FOUNDATION



Photo Credit: The HUB/DISD

Dallas ISD prepares students for life after high school

By Jenna Carpenter

Dallas ISD students are exceeding expectations when it comes to college readiness.

"Our job doesn't just stop at the end of graduation," said Ben Mackey, member of the Board of Trustees. "We are preparing our kids to thrive beyond that, and

this is evident in this work."

At the November Board of Trustees briefing, board members heard an update from school leadership regarding student outcome goals, which sets benchmarks for ensuring Dallas ISD high school graduates are prepared for life after

12th grade.

The outcomes are based on the percentage of students who earn certificates and/or an associate degree by the time they finish high school. The district's goal is to increase college readiness from 42% to 67% by June of 2025, and according to the

report, Dallas ISD is well on their way to achieving that goal.

In fact, students are surpassing those benchmarks. For example, the number of students earning certificates increased from 470 in the

Continue Life Page 5

Jay-Z Denies Sexual Assault Allegations, Accuses Lawyer Tony Buzbee of Blackmail

Jay-Z urged Buzbee to pursue a criminal complaint instead of a civil suit if the allegations were genuine.

By Stacy M. Brown

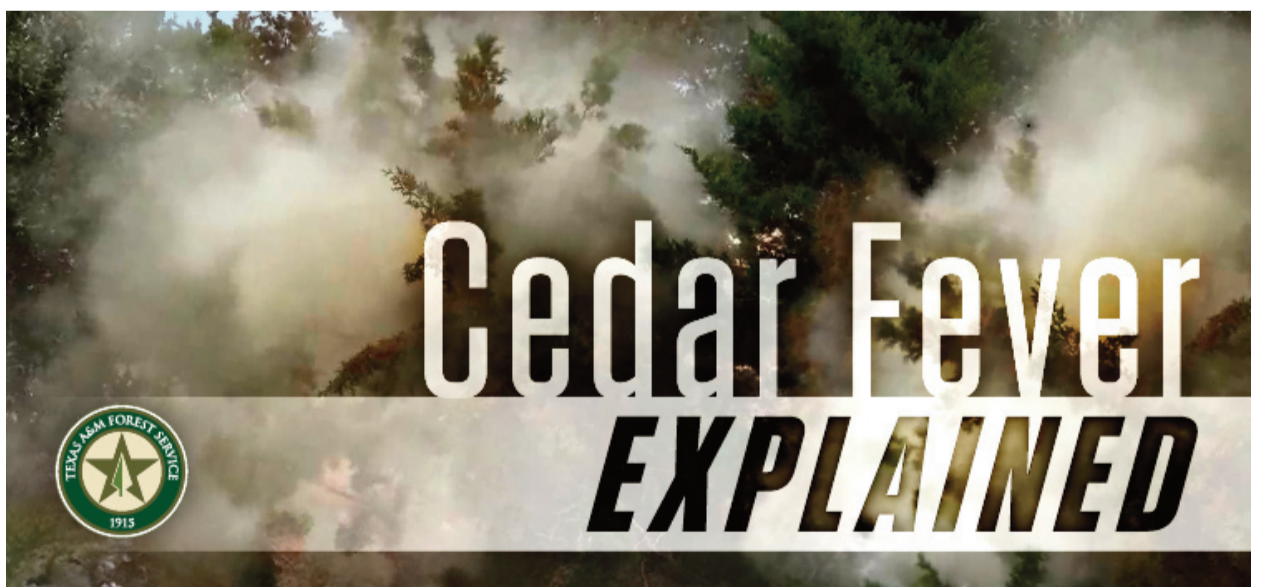
Jay-Z has forcefully denied allegations of sexual assault involving a minor, calling the claims a calculated attempt at blackmail. The accusation emerged from a civil lawsuit filed by an anonymous accuser, who alleges the music mogul, along with Sean "Diddy" Combs, raped her at an MTV Video Music Awards after-party in 2000. The accuser was 13 years old at the time.

In a statement to E! News, Jay-Z, whose real name is Shawn Carter, expressed the personal toll the allegation takes on his family, particularly his children: 12-year-old Blue Ivy and 7-year-old twins Rumi and Sir.

"My only heartbreak is for my family," he said. "My wife and I will have to sit our children down, one of whom

Continue Jay-Z Page 5

Cedar fever season begins in Texas



COLLEGE STATION, Texas – It's time for Texans to brace for cedar fever season once again. Cedar fever is an allergic reaction to the pollen released by mountain

cedar trees, and unfortunately, you don't have to be allergic to the pollen for it to affect you. In Texas, the predominant species of mountain cedar is Ashe

juniper, making cedar fever especially irritating in the Hill Country west of I-35 where there are

Continue Cedar Page 2



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EDITORIAL PAGE

Will The New President Play The Role As A Political Bully?

By James B Ewers Jr. Ed.D



James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D

Have you ever been around a bully? My friends and I saw one on a street corner when we were in elementary school. He spoke to us, and we spoke to him. Upon reflection, he must have surmised that our milk money of ten cents wasn't worth the aggravation.

It wasn't too long before he left the corner. We never found out what happened to him. We think he ran afoul of the law. Usually that is what happens to bullies. They get into trouble and if they don't straighten up, they go to juvenile detention or to jail when they are older.

Some pundits believe that in January, we'll get a bully in the White House. So far, the incoming president is getting anything and everything he wants. The Republicans think they are

in control of the House of Representatives and the US Senate.

Wrong! The incoming president controls the House and the Senate. In the coming weeks and months, he is going to try to impose his will on the GOP. Will they be able to stand up to him? We will be watching as this political drama unfolds.

There is still a level of reason and sensibility in both chambers. We know who they are and their policy philosophies. As Americans, we too, will have to stand up and speak out.

For example, do you think he will be able to dissolve the Affordable Healthcare Act? The answer in my opinion is no. Elected officials from these red states will get an earful if they try to get rid of it. Rest assured, the Affordable Healthcare Act will remain.

Already, one of his supporters, Rep. Matt Gaetz from Florida had to back out of being nominated for the position of attorney general. Why? The short answer is alleged inappropriate behavior. Chalk one up for sensible legislators

who distanced themselves from him. Records show he removed his name from consideration on November 21st. Matt Gaetz has also resigned from Congress.

At this point, Ron DeSantis, governor of Florida is being considered for the post of secretary of defense. It appears that Mr. Trump is growing sour on Pete Hegseth. In other words, the thrill is gone over the Fox News commentator. We know why so there is no need to repeat it here.

I believe Mr. DeSantis will be confirmed if he is nominated. With this turn of events from Hegseth to DeSantis, the Senate is saying to the next president that you can't bully us.

Mr. Trump's nominations are being challenged and so are his conversations with foreign leaders. Just a few weeks ago, the incoming president had a conversation with Mexican president, Claudia Sheinbaum. He claimed it was a wonderful conversation. President Sheinbaum stated that wasn't true. Mr. Trump wants to impose a 25% tariff on Mexico to combat the fen-

tanyl problem.

President Sheinbaum said, "Mexico does not produce weapons. We do not produce synthetic drugs. Unfortunately, what we do have is the people who are being killed by the crime that is responding to the demand in your country." Mexico's president will not be intimidated by him.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada met with Mr. Trump to discuss the relationship between the two countries. Again, Mr. Trump is suggesting a high tariff because of the trade deficit and border issues and if not adhered to wants to make Canada the 51st state. You know what Mr. Trudeau thought of that idea.

I would opine that world leaders are waiting anxiously to see exactly what the new president is going to do. Will his bully tactics and tantrums turn into regulations and laws? That is the question.

Will the Trump administration be desultory lacking a plan or will they be consistent in steering the country in the right direction. Stay tuned.

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Continued **Cedar** Page 1

primarily juniper trees mixed in with oaks and a few other species.

"Cedar fever is irritating to many due to the quantity and density of Ashe junipers in Central Texas that all produce pollen at the same time, which leads to a high concentration of pollen in the air," said Robert Edmonson, Texas A&M Forest Service Biologist and ISA Certified Arborist.

The pollen from Ashe junipers isn't particularly allergenic or harmful, but its concentration is what irritates most because your body perceives it as a threat and begins to fight it.

Since the pollen is spread by wind, cedar fever can even affect individuals who are not near a high concentration of juniper trees. And the source isn't limited to Ashe junipers. In more eastern parts of the state there are also eastern redcedars that pollinate around the same time and can induce a similar response from people's auto-immune systems.

Besides the massive quantity of pollen released,

cedar fever is also problematic because of the timing of the pollen release. Most trees pollinate in the spring when many are expecting to have allergies. Ragweed pollen and mold spores can contribute to allergies in the fall, but very few plants pollinate during the winter. Juniper trees are the exception.

These trees typically begin producing pollen in mid-December, often triggered by colder weather or the passage of a cold front. Pollen production reaches its peak in mid-January, before slowly tapering off toward the beginning of March.

"Cold fronts are marked by very dry and windy conditions with rapid pressure changes which trigger pollen cones to open and release pollen grains," said Edmonson. "In certain conditions, you can even see the pollen blowing off trees."

For people new to the Central Texas region, or unfamiliar with cedar fever as a whole, it can also lead to confusion since the pollination period of mountain cedar trees occurs during the peak of cold and flu season. It's not uncommon for

people experiencing cedar fever to mistake their symptoms for a cold or the seasonal flu, especially given the variety of symptoms triggered by cedar fever. These include fatigue, sore throat, runny nose, partial loss of smell and some people run a slight fever. However, if your fever is higher than 101.5°F, then pollen likely isn't the cause.

You can treat cedar fever by taking allergy medications and antihistamines, but you should consult with your physician or health care professional before taking new medications. You can also try and anticipate the pollen by tuning in to your local news station, many of which will give you the pollen count and can predict when it's going to be a particularly pollen-heavy day. On those days, it's smart to keep windows and doors closed, and to limit the amount of time you spend outdoors. It can also be helpful to install higher MERV-rated air filters in home and auto HVAC systems and invest in home air purifiers.

Removing juniper trees from your property isn't recommended primarily be-

cause the pollen is airborne and—since they often wait to release their pollen until it's cold, dry and windy—that pollen can blow for miles. It's also important to note that only male juniper trees release pollen.

"The male trees have larger pollen cones, while the female trees have much smaller reproductive cones, which are very inconspicuous, but that's what is pollinated from the male trees," said Edmonson.

While cedar fever might sound and seem particularly hostile, Ashe junipers are really just a species like any other, feeling out the conditions and waiting for the perfect moment to release their pollen in order to set their offspring up for success come springtime.

For more information about how to identify Ashe junipers and/or eastern redcedars in your own backyard, check out the Texas A&M Forest Service's Texas Tree ID webpage or the My Tree ID mobile app. You can also see the distribution of junipers, as well as a variety of other tree species across the state, via our Forest Distribution App.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Winter Warm Up
Coat Distribution

Saturday, Dec. 21, 2024
10 A.M.

MLK, Jr. Community Center
2922 MLK, Jr. Blvd., Dallas, TX 75215

Does your child need a new winter coat?
If so, sign up for free at the link below:

bit.ly/WinterWarmup24
Registration Begins November 26 at 10 A.M.

For more information, call 214-670-8418
or visit www.dallasmlkcenter.com.

Official Community Care
Publication No.: FY 24-2512

- Mark Cuban Heroes Foundation Annual Food Giveaway - (continued page 1)

DALLAS (Dec. 11, 2024) – Filling up trunks with holiday joy, fun and food for hundreds of families, Center Table Winter Harvest – presented by The Mark Cuban Foundation, The Dirk Nowitzki Foundation, The Heroes Foundation and the North Texas Food Bank – will take place Wednesday, Dec. 18, from 9-11 a.m. at the Mark Cuban Heroes Basketball Center (1800 Bonnie

View Rd, Dallas, TX 75216). *In its fifth year, the free drive-up holiday extravaganza will provide food boxes for up to 500 families who reside in the Cedar Crest and South Dallas neighborhoods (75215 and 75216 zip codes).*

Music director, producer and pianist Erskine Hawkins III – a University of North Texas graduate who has worked with a slew of stars from Disney's Zen-

daya to Eminem and Rihanna – will perform throughout the morning. Hawkins is also a keyboardist/organist of the Potter's House Church under the direction of Bishop T.D Jakes.

Other festivities will include Santa and Mrs. Claus, stilt walkers, rollerskaters decked out in holiday costumes, music and entertainment provided by DJ Spice, and more.

RELIGIOUS/NEWS

The Danger of Drifting

Hebrews 2:1-4



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

In light of the author's argument in proving the superiority of Jesus Christ to the Prophets (Hebrews 1:1-3) and Angels (1:4-14), we come now to the author's first of six warning passages (Hebrews 2:1-4; 3:7-4:2; 5:11-14; 6:1-20; 10:26-39; 12:15-29). This first warning passage in Hebrews 2:1-4 is indeed a very solemn warning. In view of the author's presentation of the superiority of Christ, over both the Prophets and Angels, it was urgently important that his largely Jewish audience maintain their allegiance to the gospel message. He is warning his Jewish readership to not drift back into Judaism because Jesus Christ is superior to anything that Judaism had to offer. The author had proven

that Jesus Christ is superior to Prophets because He is God's final revelation to man (Hebrews 1:1-3), and that He is superior to the Angels because He is God's Son who will inherit the kingdom and Angels were messengers, who worshipped the Son (Hebrews 1:4-14). These truths that had been presented should be earnestly (sincerely) heeded to. In other words, his Jewish audience needed to strictly heed to the presentation given lest these truths should drift away (v.1)! The word drift means to be carried along by currents of air and water; carry along. As a church, we can slowly drift into error when we allow long-ingrained habits of thought, false teachers, our sinful flesh, and de-

monic forces to pull us away from simple faith in Christ (II Corinthians 11:3). The Jewish audience of whom the author was addressing were guilty of being spiritually dull and sluggish (Hebrews 5:11-12); thus, they were in danger of drifting away from what they had heard! The author is giving them a solemn warning to remain steadfast to the spiritual realities they have in Christ! In relation to us as a church, we need to hold firmly to the truth that we have been taught. Those of us who have heard the great truths of Jesus Christ have a tremendous responsibility. We have an awesome responsibility today because we have the complete word; in relation to the saints of other dispensations, who

had only partial revelation. There is a tremendous danger today of us knowing more and doing less! The danger for us may not be openly rejecting the word, but one of having good intentions that are never carried out because of a lack of trust in God. In verses 2-4, the author argued firmly that if God judged disobedience to the Old Testament law, which came through the ministration of Angels, how much greater will be the judgment on those who reject the salvation that comes through Jesus Christ. God confirmed His word through signs, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit. In a world filled with so much turmoil, confusion and uncertainty, we need to heed to and direct our lives by the words of

Jesus Christ who never changes, for Hebrews 13:8 says: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and for ever." Yes, even in a world filled with trials, tribulation and distress, we can find rest and confident assurance in the words of Jesus - "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30). Yes, there might be one who needs to be directed to the One who saves; and if that is so, listen to the words of Jesus who said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but

by me" (John 14:6). Yes, this same Jesus who is superior to the Prophets, and superior to the Angels, died for our sins according to the scriptures, was buried, and rose triumphantly for our justification. Our sins are covered by the blood of Jesus! The hymn writer penned these words:

I hear the Savior say,
Thy strength indeed is small;
Child of weakness,
watch and pray,
Find in Me thine all in all.

Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.

May God Bless!

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

~ Year-In-Review ~
(Solution to December 5, Puzzle ~ see page 5)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cerberus' domain 6. Chop 9. Mama's husband 13. Unsuitable 14. Adam's partner 15. Echo sounder 16. Sunny prefix 17. Armed conflict 18. In a heated manner 19. *Highest grossing movie based on Broadway musical 21. *Time's 100 World's Most Influential People cover model in 2024 (2 words) 23. "____ and the City" 24. Not exciting 25. Accident 28. Rani's dress 30. Talking points 35. Aflame 37. Spanish sparkling wine 39. Slang for money 40. Velum, pl. 41. *November 5th 2024 winner 43. Short for "and elsewhere" (2 words) 44. Met's offering 46. River in Bohemia 47. Queen of Hearts' pastry 48. *Super Bowl winners in 2024 50. Visi____ or Ostro____ 52. The Alan Parsons Project's "Eye in the ____" 53. ____ of passage 55. *Milton's center 57. *Miley Cyrus' Grammy-winning Record of the Year in 2024 61. *2024 Summer Olympic Games host 64. Cat's nine 65. Lowest or highest card 67. Accustom 69. E-wallet content 70. Backstabber 71. N in RN 72. Whipping mark 73. R&R spot 74. Support person | <p>DOWN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Say what?" 2. All over again 3. *MV ____, cause of 2024 Baltimore bridge collapse 4. Long stories 5. Tends a fire 6. Obscene 7. Spermatozoa counterpart 8. Lost, in Paris 9. *Olympic Gold winner Katie Ledecky's "court" 10. Dead against 11. Explore by touch 12. Maisie Williams' "Game of Thrones" character 15. Hello, in Haifa 20. Dead-on 22. Last month 24. Disclose 25. Wreaked state 26. Bet's predecessor 27. Pileus, pl. 29. Like steak order 31. Maya Angelou, e.g. 32. Itsy-bitsy bits 33. *Caitlin of college basketball 34. Gin and grapefruit juice cocktail, a.k.a. ____ dog 36. Scarlet O'Hara's home 38. Speaking platform 42. Dinklage or Townshend, e.g. 45. Again but differently 49. Elton John's title 51. Shenzi of "The Lion King" 54. Russian rulers, pre-1917 56. Tedium 57. "One ____ Over the Cuckoo's Nest" 58. Classroom pests 59. Elliptical 60. Sunset location 61. Sheep's milk cheese 62. Little Miss Muffet's morsel 63. Gaelic tongue 66. Upper limit 68. Poetic "always" |
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Theme: YEAR-IN-REVIEW

CROSSWORD														
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NEWSPAPER

2726 S. Beckley Ave.
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Parkland named a 2025 High Performing hospital for maternity care

Recognized by U.S. News & World Report as a provider of exceptional care

DALLAS – U.S. News & World Report, the global authority in hospital rankings and consumer advice, has named Parkland Memorial Hospital as a 2025 high-performing hospital for Maternity Care. This is the highest award a hospital can earn as part of U.S. News’ Best Hospitals for Maternity Care annual study.

U.S. News began evaluating maternity care hospitals in 2021, rating hospitals that provide labor and delivery services and submitting detailed data for analysis to the publication. Best Hospitals for Maternity Care assist expectant parents, in consultation with their prenatal care team, in making informed decisions about where to

receive maternity services that best meet their family’s needs.

Parkland earned a high-performing designation in recognition of maternity care as measured by factors such as severe unexpected newborn complication rates, birthing-friendly practices, and transparency on racial/ethnic disparities, among other measures.

“We are honored to receive the distinction of being named a 2025 High Performing Hospital for Maternity Care by U.S. News & World Report. This recognition is a direct reflection of the dedication, expertise, and compassionate care provided by our entire team at Parkland led by Elaine Duryea, MD, and Carmen Bowling, DNP. I

could not be prouder of this team,” said Joseph Chang, MD, Chief Medical Officer at Parkland. “We are committed to ensuring the best possible outcomes for mothers, babies, and families in our community.” U.S. News evaluated 817 hospitals from across the United States. Only half of all hospitals evaluated for U.S. News’ 2025 ratings edition have been recognized as Best Hospitals for Maternity Care.

“The hospitals recognized by U.S. News as Best Hospitals for Maternity Care showcase exceptional care for expectant parents,” said Jennifer Winston, PhD, health data scientist at U.S. News. “These hospitals demonstrate significantly lower C-section

rates and severe unexpected newborn complications compared to hospitals not recognized by U.S. News.”

The U.S. News Best Hospitals for Maternity Care methodology is based entirely on objective measures of quality, such as C-section rates in lower-risk pregnancies, severe unexpected newborn complication rates, exclusive breast milk feeding rates, birthing-friendly practices and reporting on racial/ethnic disparities, among other measures.

For more information, visit [Best Hospitals for Maternity Care](#) and use #BestMaternityHospitals on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and X.

Quinn Minute

Late Greeting Cards

By Rix Quinn

A friend asked me if it was OK to delay sending holiday cards until late December.

I asked two questions: (1) Will you send me a card? (2) Does it contain a gift certificate?

Actually, I believe a late card is a great card. Here are three good reasons -- and two average ones -- to delay mailing:

1. Excited recipients – Before the 25th, your loved ones got greetings from friends, plus people who could sell them

something. The week after, they’ll welcome any card that doesn’t require monthly payments.

2. Longer shelf life – It’s likely those early cards got tossed out with wrapping paper. Not your later arrival, which might sit around until late January. (Money-saving hint: Add heart stickers to the envelope, call it a “Yuletide Valentine.”)

3. Enclose a letter – Between Christmas and New Year, recipients have nothing better to do,

and will love to read letters about folks they met once at either a childbirth class or a school play.

4. Enclose money – Last year, my old football coach got a card containing 25 cents, along with the message, “I heard you needed a quarterback.”

5. Personal delivery – For an interesting night out – and perhaps a free meal – hand-deliver those cards to each door. When I tried this, some of my friends pretended

they weren’t home.

But that’s OK...I hung around until breakfast.

WHAT’S THE BEST IDEA? – I’m writing a series of articles on humankind’s best ideas. Can you help me?

E-mail me the best idea you’ve ever heard, plus your name and phone number. I’ll call you to get more details. E-mail Rix at rix@rixquinn.com with the words BEST IDEAS in the “Subject” line.

SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Dec. 12

Friday, Dec. 13

Saturday, Dec. 14

Sunday, Dec. 15

Monday, Dec. 16

Tuesday, Dec. 17

Wednesday, Dec. 18



H - 61°
L - 51°



H - 64°
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H - 68°
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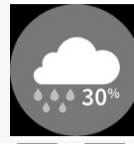
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The South Oak Cliff Golden Bears set to face Argyle in state semifinal

By A'Nease Linnear



Photo Credit: THE HUB/DISD

The South Oak Cliff High School Golden Bears are one win away from securing their fourth consecutive trip to the UIL 5A Division II Football State Championship game. Standing in their way are the Argyle Eagles, a familiar rival, in the state semifinal.

The game kicks off at 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 13 at Southern Methodist Univer-

sity's Gerald J. Ford Stadium.

South Oak Cliff enters the semifinal on a high note after a commanding 56-14 victory over Port Neches-Groves in last week's quarterfinals. Quarterback Carter K. threw for three touchdowns, while running backs Mikail T. and Damond W. totaled 152 yards and three scores on 15 carries. The

Golden Bears have dominated their playoff opponents this year, winning by an average of 34.5 points.

"The only thing that's on my mind right now is to finish," said Jason Todd, head coach.

Kyle Ward, defensive coordinator, agreed.

"We lost the state championship game last year in the last three minutes, so we

can't get too excited about any game until we finish."

SOC and Argyle last clashed in the 2022 state semifinals, with the Golden Bears prevailing 14-6 on their way to their back-to-back state titles. Over the last four seasons, South Oak Cliff boasts a 21-1 record in the playoffs.

Tickets for the game are \$10 and are available for purchase here. Additionally, parking is \$10, and cashless payment is required. A clear bag policy will be enforced, and gates open at 6 p.m., with SOC fans seated on the east side of the stadium, entering through Gate 5.

The winner will advance to the state championship game at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20, at AT&T Stadium, where they will face the winner of the Richmond-Randle Boerne matchup.

For those unable to attend, the game will be streamed live on TSPLiveStream.com and nfhsnet-work.com.

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Continued Life Page 1

2022-2023 school year to 524 in the 2023- 2024. The target for the 2023-2024 school year is 445, with projections for the next school year being 450.

The number of students graduating with an associate degree is also set to exceed expectations. Dallas ISD projected the percentage of students enrolled in P-TECH or ECHS who earn 60 hours or an associate degree to be 62% by 2025. For the 2023-2024 school year, the target percentage is 61%, with the actual percentage coming in at 68%.

Brian Lusk, deputy superintendent of academics and transformation, credits the proactive approach schools are making to en-

sure their students sign up for—and stay on track with their programs.

"There's a pathway manager who makes sure students are in the right courses for the pathway they're in," he said. "We know if we advise students more effectively year over year, the more students sign up for classes."

The district is working to provide real-time data to campuses so schools can monitor students' progress and make any needed adjustments, Lusk added.

"When we find students who are having challenges, it becomes about how do we get them back on track," he said. "We can see it's making a difference already."

Continued Jay-Z Page 1

is at the age where her friends will surely see the press and ask questions about the nature of these claims and explain the cruelty and greed of people."

He added, "I mourn yet another loss of innocence. Children should not have to endure such at their young age. It is unfair to have to try to understand inexplicable degrees of malice meant to destroy families and the human spirit."

Lawsuit and Response

The lawsuit, originally filed in October and refiled in New York last week. The suit claims the girl was taken to the after-party under false pretenses by a limousine driver who said she "fit what Diddy was looking for." After denying her entry to the awards ceremony, the driver allegedly invited her to the party.

Jay-Z vehemently denied the allegations in a statement released via his Roc Nation platform. He specifically called out the accuser's lawyer, Tony Buzbee, for attempting to extort him.

"My lawyer received a blackmail attempt, called a demand letter, from a 'lawyer' named Tony Buzbee," Jay-Z said. "What he had calculated was the nature of these allegations and the public scrutiny would make

me want to settle. No sir, it had the opposite effect! It made me want to expose you for the fraud you are in a VERY public fashion. So no, I will not give you ONE RED PENNY!!"

Jay-Z urged Buzbee to pursue a criminal complaint instead of a civil suit if the allegations were genuine. "These allegations are so heinous in nature that I implore you to file a criminal complaint, not a civil one!! Whomever would commit such a crime against a minor should be locked away, would you not agree? These alleged victims would deserve real justice if that were the case."

Combs' Denial

Diddy's representatives also denied the accusations. "This amended complaint and the recent extortion lawsuit against Mr. Buzbee exposes his barrage of lawsuits against Mr. Combs for what they are: shameless publicity stunts, designed to extract payments from celebrities who fear having lies spread about them, just as lies have been spread about Mr. Combs."

They added, "As his legal team has said before, Mr. Combs has full confidence in the facts and the integrity of the judicial process. In court, the truth will prevail: that Mr. Combs never sexually assaulted or trafficked anyone—man or woman, adult or minor."

Background on Tony Buzbee

Black Virginia News Publisher and BlackPressUSA.com correspondent Lauren Burke reported that Buzbee has a history of filing high-profile lawsuits against wealthy Black entertainers and athletes, including Deshaun Watson, Travis Scott, and now Jay-Z and Combs. He previously represented over 120 clients who sued Scott following the deadly 2021 AstroWorld Festival crowd surge.

Burke also drew attention to Buzbee's political affiliations. Though he ran as a Democrat for the Texas State House in 2002, he supported Republican Rick Perry's 2012 presidential campaign and hosted a fundraiser for Donald Trump in 2016.

Jay-Z concluded his statement by hinting at potential legal action.

"You have made a terrible error in judgement thinking that all 'celebrities' are the same. I'm not from your world. I'm a young man who made it out of the projects of Brooklyn. We don't play these types of games. We have very strict codes and honor. We protect children, you seem to exploit people for personal gain.

"I look forward to showing you just how different I am."

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(Solution to December 5 Puzzle - HAPPY HOLIDAYS)

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The Need For A Counter - Project 2025 Plan

By: **Dr. John E. Warren**, Publisher
San Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper



Dr. John E. Warren

It is a well-known fact that President-Elect Donald Trump is expected to follow the proposed plans for reshaping our American government. Proof of this is evident in many of the Proposed Cabinet nominations he has made so far. We know that the Heritage Foundation has spent time and money planning this re-vamping of government. What many of us don't know or understand is that this process has been used by Presidential Administrations, once out of office, to plan for the next Presidential election.

The Federal government has a program that supports this process called the Inter-governmental Personnel Act. It was created by the

late Congressman Adam Clayton Powell during his Chairmanship of the House Education And Labor Committee. This Act allows an agency to transfer the salary and benefits of an employee to an institute or corporate structure, like the Heritage Institute, where that individual continues to be paid by the government while working on pet projects like Project 2025 for the next Presidential Bid.

There are over 3,300 Trade Associations in Washington, D.C. engaged in getting federal dollars for their particular interest or clients. It often appears that everyone is represented, except the people to elect the members of Congress charged with making laws and allocating dollars. This being said, it would appear that those of us who are really concerned about the agenda of the Trump Administration, should be about the business of planning our own responses to the anticipated actions starting in January 2025.

There is a need for an organized effort to take Project 2025, page by page, and develop a campaign against

the proposed efforts. For example, if there is an effort to fire Federal employees, those who are career Civil Service employees have rights. Not only should they bring lawsuits, but we the people should flood the Courts with Legal briefs in support of such individuals. If the President-Elect issues Executive Orders without publishing them in the Federal Register for the required comment period, such actions should be challenged and if published, then such Orders should receive public comment during the required 45-day comment period. In other words, no action should go unmonitored.

Why is this so important: Because the plan is to attempt to reshape the government during the first 100 days in office.

Those members of Congress who vote with the President to dismantle government, should be reminded that they must stand for re-election in 24 months. Now will be the time to plan their replacements. So, now we see that all is not lost unless we give up. What are your thoughts?

Continued **Poet** Page 1

formative years in Cincinnati, Ohio, but returned to Knoxville every summer with her sister to visit their grandparents. These visits helped shape her sense of identity and belonging, themes that would become central to her work.

She graduated with honors in history from Fisk University, a historically Black college in Nashville and her grandfather's alma mater. While at Fisk, Giovanni's defiant spirit and intellect were evident. Expelled briefly due to issues with authority, she returned after a period of reflection and was readmitted with the help of a supportive Dean of Women. This early experience of rebellion and reconciliation laid the groundwork for her unapologetic approach to life and art.

A Voice of Rebellion and Resilience

Giovanni rose to prominence during the 1960s as a fierce voice in the Black Arts Movement alongside literary giants such as Amiri Baraka, Audre Lorde, Ntozake Shange, and Sonia Sanchez. Her early works, including "Black Feeling, Black Talk" (1968) and "Black Judgement" (1968), were steadfast in their militancy and pride. Her poetry grappled with the injustices faced by Black Americans, including the brutal murder of Emmett Till and the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, which killed four Black girls.

At a time when mainstream publishers showed little interest in the work of a young Black woman writing what they labeled "militant" poetry, Giovanni took matters into her own hands. She self-published her work, founding a company to distribute her collections. "No one was much interested in a Black girl writing what was called

'militant' poetry," she once wrote. "I thought of it as good poetry."

Her boldness paid off. In 1972, at just 29 years old, she sold out Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, reading her poetry to a crowd of more than 1,000 alongside the New York Community Choir. The following year, for her 30th birthday, she filled the 3,000-seat Philharmonic Hall, where the choir joined her again, along with Melba Moore and Wilson Pickett. The audience erupted joyfully when she recited her now-iconic poem, "Ego-Tripping." The piece, a celebration of Black female strength, begins with the lines:

*"I was born in the Congo
I walked to the fertile
crescent and built
the sphinx..."*
And concludes triumphantly:
*"I am so perfect so divine so
ethereal so surreal
I cannot be comprehended
except by my permission
I mean...I...can fly
Like a bird in the sky..."*

A Prolific Career

In addition to her poetry, Giovanni wrote children's books, essays, and a memoir, "Gemini: An Extended Autobiographical Statement on My First Twenty-Five Years of Being a Black Poet (1971)." She was known for her candid reflections on race, gender, and identity, blending the personal with the political in provocative and deeply human ways.

Giovanni's interview with James Baldwin on the television program Soul! in 1971 remains a touchstone in American cultural history. Their two-hour conversation, filmed in London, explored the intersections of race, gender, and societal expectations. At one point, she posed a raw question about the cycle of violence affecting Black families: "What do you

do about a man who is mistreated in the world and comes home and brutalizes his wife? Where does that leave his daughter?" Baldwin's response: "Sweetheart. Our ancestors taught us how to do that."

An Educator and Mentor

In 1987, Giovanni joined the faculty at Virginia Tech, where she became a University Distinguished Professor. She remained there for 35 years, influencing generations of students with her wit, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to truth. Even in academia, her rebellious spirit shone through. Giovanni famously supported her student, Seung-Hui Cho, before he committed the tragic mass shooting at Virginia Tech in 2007. She had him removed from her class when she sensed his troubling nature.

Giovanni earned seven NAACP Image Awards, a Grammy nomination, and the distinction of having three of her books listed as New York Times and Los Angeles Times Best Sellers—a rare feat for a poet.

Giovanni described herself as a dreamer. "My dream was not to publish or to even be a writer," she remarked. "My dream was to discover something no one else had thought of. I guess that's why I'm a poet. We put things together in ways no one else does."

A Legacy of Dreams and Defiance

Giovanni's poetry was a lifeline for many, especially young Black women who saw their power and potential reflected in her verses. She wasn't just a poet but a cultural force who celebrated Blackness, womanhood, and the art of dreaming. "I'm a writer. I'm happy," she demanded.

Nikki Giovanni leaves behind her son, Thomas, and her granddaughter. Her father, mother, sister, and aunt preceded her in death.

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