

“Peace on earth will come to stay, when we live  
Christmas every day.” ~ Helen Steiner Rice



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# The Dallas Post Tribune

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VOLUME 77 NUMBER 15

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

December 19 - 25, 2024



## Hitting Holiday Sales? Use Tap to Pay When Possible to Avoid Credit Card Skimmers

AUSTIN – When you head out to hit the holiday sales with your credit card, make it harder for criminals to steal your hard-earned money -- remember to tap to pay or use a trusted payment app on a mobile phone when possible, instead of swiping or inserting your card into the payment pad.

The Texas Financial Crimes Intelligence Center (FCIC) and the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) have additional advice for avoiding credit card skimmers at the gas pump and at other payment devices, and they've gathered it into a PSA on the TDLR YouTube channel:

<https://youtu.be/M1bhDP722LU>.

Most skimmers have been placed deep inside the gas pump cabinet and it won't be obvious that something's wrong, but there are still some things consumers can check for before using a credit card at a gas station:

- Look at the gas pump and cabinet – do they look damaged, or look

Continue **Skimmers** Page 4

## Merry Christmas!

To: Our Customers and Readers  
“May your Day be Merry and Bright.”



From: The Dallas Post Tribune Family  
(Photo Courtesy: El Paso Airport, December 31, 2023).



## Trump and Vance Sabotage Bipartisan Funding Bill, Pushing Government Toward Shutdown

By Stacy M. Brown

President-elect Donald Trump and Vice President-elect J.D. Vance torpedoed a bipartisan government funding bill Wednesday, plunging Congress into chaos just days before a looming shutdown. Their joint statement threw the stopgap measure's passage into serious doubt, especially in the Republican-controlled House where Trump's sway remains formidable.

The bill, designed to keep the government funded until March 14, now faces almost certain collapse. Without congressional action, a shutdown will begin at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday. House Speaker Mike Johnson's plan to avert that outcome was already facing fierce opposition from his party's far-right members. Trump and Vance's last-minute intervention may have sealed its fate.

“Republicans must GET SMART and

Continue **Shutdown** Page 5

## Climate-Driven Insurance Crisis Sweeps the Nation as Non-Renewals and Premiums Skyrocket

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent  
@StacyBrownMedia



Photo Credit: NNPA Files

Homeowners across the United States face an escalating crisis as insurance companies abandon high-risk areas driven by climate change. A newly released Senate Budget Committee report reveals that non-renewal rates for home insurance have surged in coastal regions, wildfire-prone communities, and even inland counties. Rising premiums and insurer withdrawals are creating a financial disaster that threatens national property values and economic stability.

### The Scope of the Crisis

The report, which analyzed data from 23 major insurance companies representing 65% of the homeowners' insurance market, highlights the widespread nature of the problem. While states such as Florida, Louisiana, California, and Texas often serve as focal points for insurance instability, the crisis is also spreading to less traditionally vulnerable regions. In 2023, states such as North Carolina, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Hawaii ranked among the highest

for non-renewal rates.

Florida recorded the highest average statewide non-renewal rate, but Texas did not break the top ten. The data shows that severe convective storms, wildfires, and hurricanes drive insurers out of markets, leaving millions of homeowners without coverage.

### Counties Hit the Hardest

Among the 100 counties with the highest non-renewal rates in 2023, 82 were coastal or wildfire-prone. Counties in North Carolina, New Mexico, the Northern Rockies, and Southern New England are experiencing sharp non-renewal increases. The report also identifies several inland counties, including those in Oklahoma and Montana, where non-renewal rates are rising due to the growing threat of wildfires and severe storms.

In North Carolina, 13 inland counties, including Cumberland, Mecklenburg, and Guilford, were among the top 100 for non-renewal rates in 2023.

Continue **Insurance** Page 2



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# The majority of Dallas City Council members skip meetings called by colleagues seeking to speed up city manager's search

By Rachel Snyder/WFAA TV

DALLAS — A majority of the Dallas City Council didn't show up for a meeting called by three of their colleagues who are seeking to speed up the city manager search.

Dallas city council members Paula Blackmon, Gay Donnell Willis, and Jaynie Schultz called the special city council meeting Monday morning after they said last week that they wanted to speed up the search after the timeline for making an offer passed the initially proposed one of this fall.

Only Blackmon, Willis, Schultz, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Adam Bazaldua, and city council member Omar Narvaez attended the Monday morning meeting, though — not enough for a quorum.

"It was our goal to bring the body together and be able to discuss this very important hire for the CEO of the ninth largest city in America and move the process forward. There have been some concerns about the lagging process and the timeline that we just received that had three and a half months added to it," Willis said.

She said they hoped to bring three candidates to the council for interviews.

"The special called meeting scheduled for this morning to in-

terview candidates and officially hire a city manager failed to make a quorum. As city council members, our first responsibility is to show up when called," Bazaldua said in a statement. "Over the past few weeks, much has been said about processes and procedures, yet when a meeting is scheduled, not enough members attend to move forward. This neglect disregards the responsibilities entrusted to us by the city charter and undermines the process of our government."

Monday's meeting conflicted with a city council ad hoc committee on administrative affairs meeting focused on the city manager search at 1 p.m. Monday.

The afternoon meeting happened mostly in executive session -- and afterward, Chair Tennell Atkins did not acknowledge criticism from the five councilmembers who attended the special called meeting earlier in the day.

"I was not here; I will not comment," Atkins repeated when pressed by reporters before walking away.

He would not say why he did not attend the morning meeting, which appeared to be properly

Continue **Skip** Page 4

WELLS FARGO

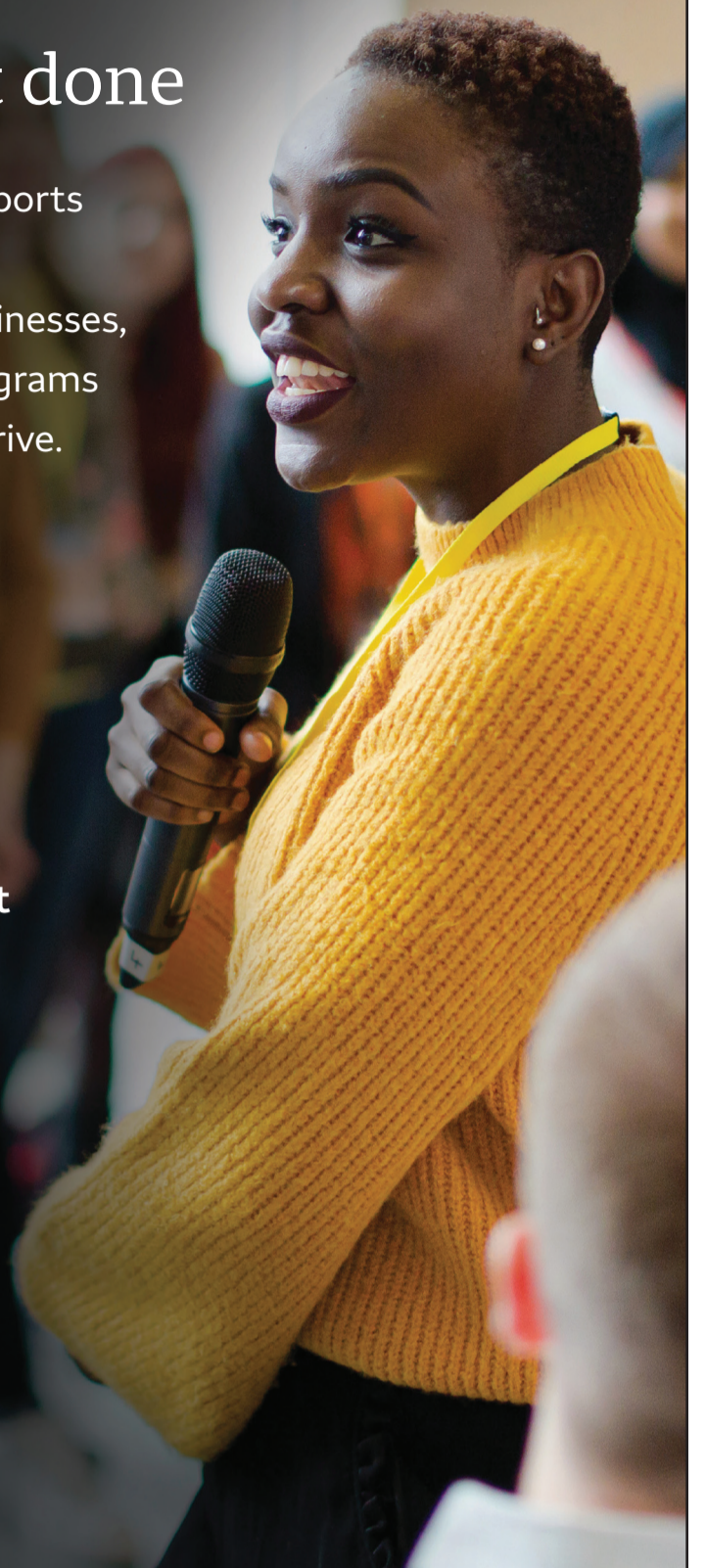
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# COMMENTARY: What We Should Think and Do in This Era - (reprint)



Dr. John E. Warren is publisher of San Diego Voice and Viewpoint Newspaper. (Courtesy photo)

**SAN DIEGO VOICE AND VIEWPOINT** — *Our first order of business during this time must be a return to prayer rather than party politics. We must remember that it was collective prayer by those who came before us that brought us this far. We must learn to act collectively "in spite of" and not "because of" the obstacles in front of us. While this is easier said than done, each of us must start at our own personal level of interaction with those around us, many of whom we may not like.*

Now that the election is over, a number of people are experiencing high levels of uncertainty. We should not think that life as we know it has ended. This is a defeatist attitude. What we should remember, especially as Black people, is that if we survived slavery and past Republican presidents, we can survive four years of Donald Trump. What we must do

is reset our thinking as to what is important and what we must do as a collective people going forward.

Our first order of business during this time must be a return to prayer rather than party politics. We must remember that it was collective prayer by those who came before us that brought us this far. We must learn to act collectively "in spite of" and

not "because of" the obstacles in front of us. While this is easier said than done, each of us must start at our own personal level of interaction with those around us, many of whom we may not like.

Next, we must adopt an attitude of "no permanent friends, no permanent enemies, just permanent interest." This means that we must educate ourselves to how

the government works. We have two years to prepare to take back the House of Representatives which the Republican Party has won by a very small number of seats, perhaps less than five.

While we are looking at retaking national parts of government in terms of what's in our own best interest, we must not ignore local and state issues that will be influenced by the Trump Administration. History has taught us that local attitudes are influenced by national attitudes and the national attitudes have shifted to the extreme right based on Trump's election.

This is not a time for fear, but a time for planning and faith in the fact that we can win even under adverse circumstances.

We must restart our local discussion groups. The Black Press, our most trusted messenger, should play a key role in providing such forums but in conjunction with other organizations and groups in our communities.

*What do you think?*

### Continued Insurance Page 1

Despite being away from the coast, the report revealed that these areas continue to suffer from hurricanes and other extreme weather events.

### The Economic Fallout

The Senate report warns that the rising wave of non-renewals and premium increases could lead to a nationwide collapse in property values. Home insurance is critical for securing mortgages; without it, homeowners are left stranded financially, officials stated in the report, which parallels the 2008 financial crisis.

The report notes that "insured losses from natural disasters in the U.S. now routinely approach \$100 billion a year, compared to \$4.6 billion in 2000." As insurers retreat from high-risk areas, premiums for those with coverage are climbing rapidly. In counties with the highest climate risks, premiums increased by 22% between 2020 and 2023. Nationally, homeowners have seen their premiums rise by 21% since 2015, outpacing inflation by 40%.

### A Growing Threat Beyond Coastal States

The data reveals that the crisis is spreading. Rhode Island, for example, saw a

280% increase in non-renewal rates between 2018 and 2023. Oklahoma, known more for tornadoes than coastal threats, ranked seventh in 2023 for non-renewals, driven by severe convective storms and wildfires.

Even traditionally stable markets are at risk. Counties in New Jersey, New York, and Montana are also seeing rapid non-renewal increases. As insurers pull back, officials said the ripple effects could destabilize housing markets in once-considered safe areas.

### The Warning Signs

The report clearly depicts an insurance market in danger. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell testified earlier this year that "insurance of various different kinds—housing insurance, but also automobile insurance—has been a significant source of inflation over the last few years." Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen echoed the concerns, stating that climate-driven losses are causing insurers to raise rates or exit markets entirely.

"Climate change is no longer just an environmental problem. It is a looming economic threat," the report concluded.

**There are no comments yet.**

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# RELIGIOUS/NEWS

## The Superiority of Christ to the Angels as the Son of Man

### Hebrews 2:5-13



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

In chapter 1 of Hebrews, we saw that Christ is superior to Angels, for Christ is the Son and Angels were subjects; Christ is the Creator and Angels were creatures. The author's presentation in chapter 1 that Jesus is better than the Angels has raised a very poignant question: "How can Jesus be better than the Angels when He assumed a human body? Will the Angels be considered better than He because they have no human body to limit them?" Thus, the author will show that (1) Christ is indeed superior to the Angels despite His humiliation as the Son of Man (Hebrews 2:5-9).

Jesus Christ assumed the position of King at His Father's right hand after His resurrection from the dead (Hebrews 1:3-8). However, His

kingdom rule is not yet manifested (v. 13), but one day it will be when He comes to earth in great splendor. Christ is superior to Angels because the habitable earth in the future (Millennium Kingdom) will be controlled by Christ, not the Angels (v. 5).

Having proven that Christ is superior to Angels because He will be in control during the Millennium, the author explains verses 6-8 by quoting from Psalms 8:4-6. In Psalm 8:4-6 David expressed his gratitude and amazement at how God had honored mankind. Amid all of the glories of God's created order, it is not immediately apparent why He should place such importance on us and come to our aid with such manifest concern. The words

of David in Psalm 8:4-6 find their fullest meaning when applied to Jesus Christ. God gave man glory and honor, as well as authority over the creation. God delegated to man authority over "all things" (Hebrews 2:8).

Why then don't we see everything in subjection to him? The answer is that man lost dominion because of his sin. It was Adam's sin that brought the curse on creation. Docile animals became ferocious. The ground began to bring forth thorns and thistles. Man's control over nature was challenged and limited. However, in verse 9, when the Son of Man returns to reign over the earth, man's dominion will be completely restored.

Jesus as the Son of Man, will restore that

which Adam lost. So while we do not see everything under man's control at the present time, we do see Jesus, and in Him we find the key to man's eventual rule over the earth! Jesus Christ made it possible for man's future dominion through His incarnation; thus, He died and was exalted.

Secondly, the author of Hebrews will prove clearly that Christ's humiliation as the Son of Man served a definite purpose (Hebrews 2:10-13). Christ, as the last Adam, in His death and resurrection, undid all that Adam accomplished when he disobeyed God. For a little while, Christ was lower than the Angels in His descent from heaven to Bethlehem, to Gethsemane, even to Calvary, and eventually

to the tomb. Christ had to assume a body of flesh in order to taste death for the sins of the world. Men crowned Him with thorns on earth; yet now, He has been crowned with glory and honor (II Peter 1:17).

Beginning in verse 10, the author states that there is a new family in the world: Christ is bringing many sons into glory. Adam, through his sin, plunged his family into sin and death; Christ now changes Adam's children into children of God! Christ is our Pioneer (Captain), who made possible our salvation! Because of the salvation He accomplished for us, God is our Father, and Christ is not ashamed to call us His brethren. We are all in the family of God through faith in Jesus

Christ (vv. 11-13).

In summary, yes, Jesus as the Son of Man, assumed a human body and died, for the sins of mankind. However, the gospel story tells us that He was buried, but arose triumphantly from the grave. This same Jesus that experienced humiliation by dying on a cross of shame, has been exalted, for Philippians 2:9-11 says: "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

*May God Bless!*

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

~ AT THE RESTAURANT ~  
(Solution to December 12, Puzzle - see page 5)

**ACROSS**

- 1. Bet's predecessor
- 6. Ogre-like creature
- 9. Attorney's bargain
- 13. Old but in
- 14. \*Restaurant waiting area?
- 15. Located near crannies?
- 16. List of Catholic saints
- 17. Down Under runner
- 18. White heron
- 19. \* \_\_\_ meal, or staff meal
- 21. \*Meat and fish, in Italian restaurant
- 23. Singer/songwriter Yoko
- 24. \*What appetizers do to appetite
- 25. \*Deuce
- 28. Like a reliable move
- 30. Not a desktop
- 35. "My bad!"
- 37. Painter Chagall
- 39. Beyond suburban
- 40. Wisecrack
- 41. \*Nigiri, e.g.
- 43. \*Middle Eastern bread
- 44. Of an arm bone
- 46. That time
- 47. Let it stand, to proofreader
- 48. Swellings
- 50. Chancy
- 52. Between E and NE
- 53. Stomach reflex
- 55. \*Fish eggs
- 57. \*Second C in CDC
- 61. \* \_\_\_ d'hotel
- 64. Not mainstream, as in art
- 65. "To His \_\_\_ Mistress"
- 67. Bracelet add-on
- 69. Covers with gold
- 70. Stiff grass bristle
- 71. Irving of Dallas Mavericks
- 72. Eyelid affliction
- 73. Fairytale princess test
- 74. Winter driving hazard

**DOWN**

- 1. Curved one
- 2. Table extender
- 3. Sicilian erupter
- 4. Movie trailer, e.g.
- 5. Perfecting, as in skill
- 6. Toe the line
- 7. Popular pickup
- 8. Puppy love
- 9. Jumping stick
- 10. Forsaken
- 11. Barely got by
- 12. Spumante-producing town
- 15. Greek god's libation
- 20. Rumpelstiltskin's machine, pl.
- 22. \*Freshwater staple in sushi restaurant
- 24. Idolize
- 25. \*Chef's hat
- 26. Modified "will"
- 27. Offer two cents
- 29. Drawn tight
- 31. Baby porcupines
- 32. Commonplace
- 33. Like Cheerios
- 34. \*Blue-\_\_\_ special
- 36. Unsubscriber's focus
- 38. \* \_\_\_ de partie, or line cook
- 42. \_\_\_ structure or \_\_\_ red
- 45. Cujo's disease
- 49. Ray shooter
- 51. Foxhunter's call to hounds
- 54. Short version
- 56. C2H5
- 57. Marlboros or Camels, slangily
- 58. Army group
- 59. Lazily
- 60. \*Complimentary dish
- 61. Asian starling
- 62. \*Steak choice
- 63. Great Lake
- 66. Be in the red
- 68. Were introduced

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle  
Theme: AT THE RESTAURANT

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
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16						17				18				
	19				20			21	22					
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64						65	66			67				68
69						70				71				
72						73				74				



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# CLASSIFIEDS/NEWS

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## NEWS

Continued **Skip** Page 2

called in accordance with the city charter. Atkins said his ad hoc committee on administrative affairs will meet to interview candidates virtually on December 23 -- but he declined to say which candidates or how many they would invite for interview.

The meetings come after some city council members last week said they were concerned about the number of city manager candidates the city received and wished they could have seen more resumes from among the 50 applicants before the four semifinalists were released last month.

"I was very disappointed to see only four brought forward. It's not what we expected when you proposed and it, looking at them, it seems like it should have been a larger pool," said Dallas city council member Cara Mendelsohn last week. "Jumping ahead to four is a shortcut."

The four semifinalists released Nov. 18 were current interim city manager Kimberly Bizar Tolbert; William Johnson, who's an assistant city manager in Fort Worth; Mark Washington, city manager in Grand Rapids, Michigan; and Zachary Williams, a county manager in Georgia.

On Dec. 17 Tolbert was endorsed by the Dallas Fire Association and the Black

Continue **Skip** Page 6

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Continued **Skimmers**  
Page 1

like they've been tampered with?

- At gas stations and other stores:
- Wiggle the card slot – is it loose?
- Look at the keypad – is it loose or does it look like something has been placed on top of it?

Additional ways consumers can protect themselves:

- Always use a credit card, not a debit card, if you're not going to pay cash – this protects the PIN and prevents access to a bank account
- Set card usage or transaction alerts for bank and credit card accounts. Most major banks offer apps that

allow real-time monitoring of accounts.

- Regularly monitor credit card and bank statements for fraudulent charges or suspicious transactions

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ship between TDLR and the Smith County District Attorney's Office. TDLR regulates motor fuel metering and quality and collects consumer complaints and merchant reports related to credit card skimmers. The Smith County DA aggressively investigates and prosecutes criminals engaging in organized financial crimes such as fraud related to gasoline pump skimmers.

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### Quinn Minute

# Holiday traditions

One of my favorite stories is "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. How many other tales feature a miser, four ghosts, tombstones, and a goose?

Actually, before I read this story I thought it was about somebody named Carol. See, I once had a girlfriend I called Christmas Carol because we broke up every December.

But if you haven't read this fantastic Dickens classic, here's a brief synopsis:

Ebenezer Scrooge is a crotchety old geezer working Christmas Eve

with his clerk, Bob Cratchit. When his nephew Fred invites him to Christmas dinner, Scrooge says it's a waste of a workday, and tells the nephew to leave.

But when Scrooge gets home that night, he's visited by the ghost of his deceased partner Jacob Marley, who also lived a selfish life. He warns Scrooge that he'll soon be visited by three ghosts who might be able to save him.

The Ghost of Christmas Past reminds Scrooge he could have married if he had not chosen money over matri-

mony. The Ghost of Christmas Present transports Scrooge to the Cratchit household, where he sees a happy family enjoying the evening. (Sadly, they couldn't watch television, because 18th century TV offered few channels.)

Next, the scary Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come takes Scrooge to a graveyard, where he views his gravestone and hears negative comments about himself from acquaintances.

Christmas morning finds Scrooge a changed man, who helps Cratchit and suddenly becomes

friendly and generous. This story reminds us that (1) a selfish life is a sad one, (2) it's impossible to find Christmas movies on a 200-year-old TV, and (3) giving money away brings a happier day.

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# SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

## 7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

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H - 58° L - 41°	H - 56° L - 33°	H - 54° L - 40°	H - 58° L - 48°	H - 67° L - 57°	H - 67° L - 54° 30%	H - 67° L - 56°

### Carter High's Aiden A. punches his way to boxing glory



Photo courtesy: Dallas ISD

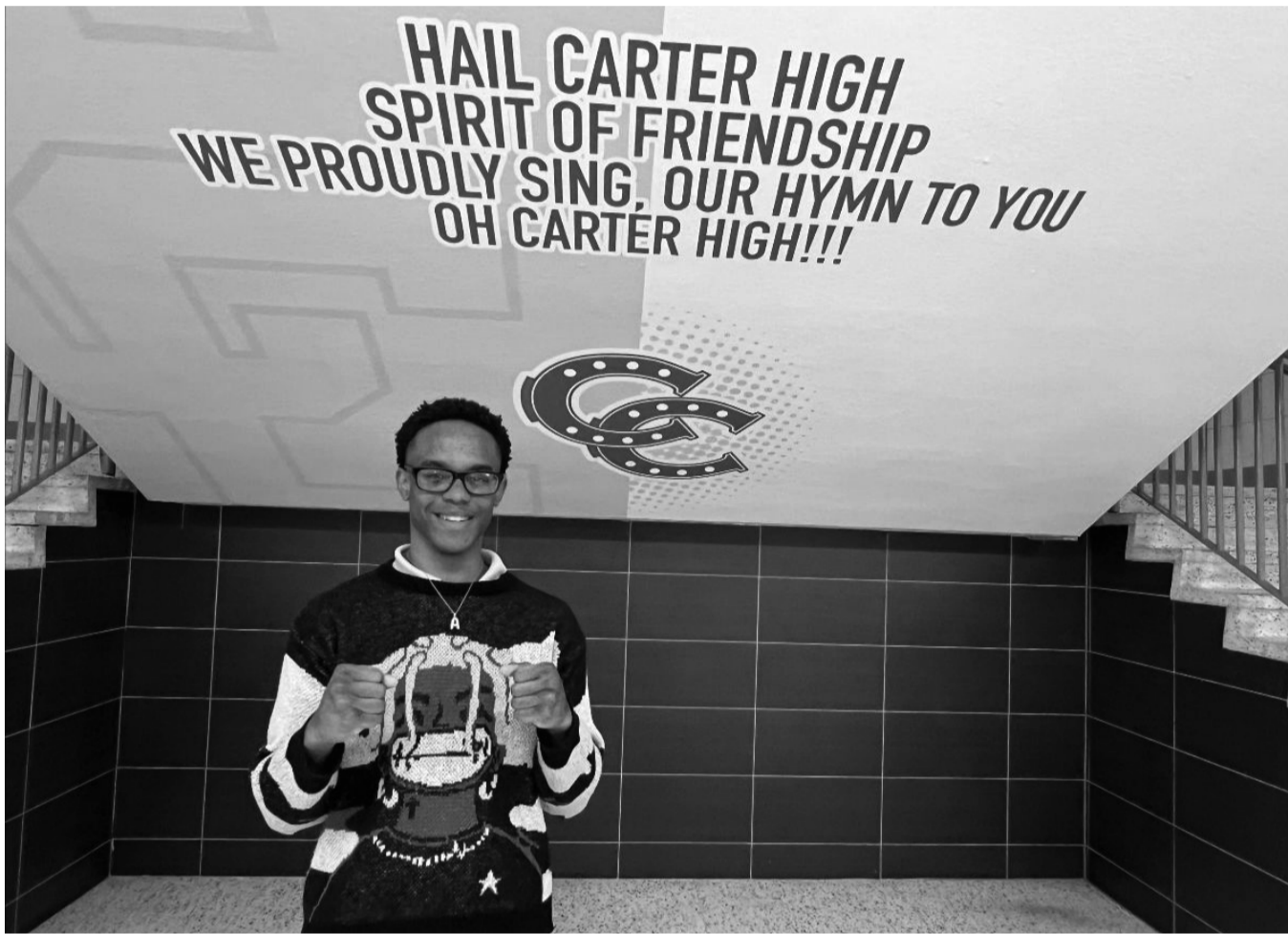


Photo courtesy: Dallas ISD

DALLAS — Aiden A., a junior at David W. Carter High School, has always been a fighter, but he never imagined it would lead him to the top of the Texas boxing scene.

At just 13 years old,

Aiden stepped into the ring for the first time—not out of passion, but necessity.

“I was always getting in trouble for fighting before I started,” he said. “So, on my very first day in the gym, my dad made me

spar, and I’ve loved it since then.”

Now 17, Aiden trains six days a week at Maple Ave Boxing Gym under the watchful eye of his father, Julian A., a Carter High School alumnus. His ded-

ication has paid off in a big way. Aiden recently claimed the title of Texas State Silver Gloves Champion in the 143-pound weight class, earning him the No. 1 ranking in Texas and a spot representing the

state in the regional tournament in Arkansas. A win there would propel him to the national competition in January.

“It felt really good to win Silver Gloves,” he said. “I fought someone with 67 wins to my 23, so I was pretty proud.”

Aiden typically competes in the 138-pound weight class but moved up to 143 for the Silver Gloves Tournament. Despite the challenge, he emerged victorious, showcasing his ability to adapt and persevere.

Boxing wasn’t always part of his life. Before discovering the sport, he had little interest in athletics. That all changed when he realized he not only enjoyed boxing but also excelled at it.

“When that first bell rings, my stomach drops, but as soon as I land that first punch, it all goes away,” Aiden said of his love for competition.

Although Aiden is a quiet presence among his peers, his success hasn’t

gone unnoticed.

“I was so confused and shocked when my friends started sending me screenshots from a social media post about me winning Silver Gloves, but I was still happy about it,” he said.

Aiden credits his father as his biggest inspiration and motivator.

“My dad inspires me to keep going every day,” he said. “He’s in it with me every day. My dad truly believes in me and thinks I can be a world champion too.”

Looking ahead, Aiden has his sights set on going pro and becoming the next big name in boxing to emerge from Dallas. He also encourages others with boxing dreams to stay the course.

“Win or lose, keep practicing and go all out,” he said.

With his dedication, talent, and the unwavering support of his father, Aiden is well on his way to making his dreams a reality—one punch at a time.

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### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

(Solution to December 12 Puzzle - YEAR-IN-REVIEW)

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Continued **Shutdown**  
Page 1

and TOUGH. If Democrats threaten to shut down the government unless we give them everything they want, then CALL THEIR BLUFF,” Trump and Vance declared. They accused Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and President Joe Biden of holding up aid to farmers and disaster relief, laying blame on Democratic leadership.

The statement sparked a wave of fear among GOP lawmakers, with many perceiving Trump’s opposition as the final blow to Johnson’s deal. It also raised questions about whether Johnson, facing a speakership challenge in just over two weeks, still retains Trump’s crucial support.

Johnson unveiled the text of the funding plan Tuesday night, but right-wing Republicans attacked it for accommodating too many Democratic priorities. With conservative defections threatening the bill’s passage, Democratic votes would likely be needed to move it through both chambers.

Trump and Vance’s call for a hardline stance on spending pushed Republicans to demand the inclusion of debt-limit negotiations in the funding bill. “Let’s have this debate now,” they said. “And we should pass a streamlined spending bill that doesn’t give Chuck Schumer and the Democrats everything they want.”

The sudden interruption put months of bipartisan negotiations at risk and es-

calated the likelihood of a shutdown. Democrats swiftly rejected Trump’s demands to strip billions of dollars from the negotiated deal. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries signaled there would be no Democratic lifeline for Johnson’s altered proposal.

“House Republicans have been ordered to shut down the government. And hurt the working-class Americans they claim to support,” Jeffries posted on X. “You break the bipartisan agreement; you own the consequences that follow.”

As the clock ticks toward Saturday, there is no alternative plan in sight. Trump’s influence over his party continues to reshape Capitol Hill, with millions of Americans now bracing for the fallout of a potential shutdown.



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*My Day*

# GRANDPARENTS Raising Grandchildren

(Continued - October 31, 2024)

By Dr. J. Ester Davis



88Year Old Raising an Eight Year Old.  
Photo Credit: Family Album.

It is no secret that grandparents... have been the first choice for childcare, permanently or part-time when parents could not fulfill their lawful and loving obligations. It was quite the norm. We coined a new generational term when 'single mothers' started paying for reasonable daycare while raising their children with grandparents just filling in the gaps. We recognized quite easily the 'sandwich generation', which is three generations in a home.

We, as a nation, kept a strict watch on the decline of two-parent households when the divorce rate climbed to 44%, now holding steady at over 52%. But in the last twenty(20)years, the share of children living with at least one grandparent has increased by 36 %, a substantial increase.

The increase in children living with their grandparents is accompanied by a decline in children living in two-parent households. The situation here is chil-

dren often come into these living situations as a result of negative shocks, such as parental inability to care for a child, death of a parent, incarceration, and many other crises. These children are more likely to be living in poverty and facing multiple hardships.

Last week I organized and attended a 'listening working lunch' with grandmothers raising grandchildren. The focus was on awareness, benefits, guardianship, and legal aid. Some of our friends in the legal world attended as our guests. I was reminded of the time I had to 'step in' with one of my teenage grandsons just to get him through high school. He was 15 years old and wanted to stay "at his school" and play football with his team. We struggled with situations during his freshman and sophomore years. In year three, his junior year, I talked with a counselor at Lamar High School in Arlington, Texas. I knew my situation could not possibly be an isolated case in this school of 4,000 students. The counselor advised that they had a 'location counselor' and this was 8 years ago. Adjustments were

made, and my grandson was placed in a class mates' home with one of the coaches. He graduated from high school, went to Baylor University, and is now an airman in the U.S. Air Force in Omaha, Nebraska. Everything worked out. He is proud of me and I am proud of him. Most of us cannot imagine a preschooler all over again at this point in our lives. Now, to see this situation more transparent, Latino, Black, and Asian grandchildren are more likely to live with black grandparents.

We plan to keep these awareness meetings going. Follow us and stay with us in this space. Many questions were raised. Case situations were shared on how grandparents navigate safety nets now in place that were not designed with grandparents in mind. Then there is obtaining public assistance, legal custody or guardianship, where to go, and multiple complex bureaucracies.

*"Children are Our Greatest Asset!"*

*EsterDavis2000@gmail.com (214.376.9000).*

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## Parkland expert offers advice to prevent your holiday from turning toxic

*Be aware of seasonal poisoning hazards*

DALLAS – While holidays are a joyous time to celebrate, they can also be dangerous if certain precautions are not taken. The risk of poisoning increases when families and children are in unfamiliar settings – particularly those that are not “kid-proofed.” If you’re off to grandmother’s house to celebrate the season, an expert from the North Texas Poison Center (NTPC) housed at Parkland Memorial Hospital shares how to prevent common causes of poisoning this time of year and what holiday items could pose a danger to you or your loved ones.

The NTPC, along with five other accredited regional poison centers, provides emergency treatment information to Texas residents for poisonings or toxic exposures. The NTPC region covers 42 counties and a population of more than 8 million people. Staff members are specialists in poison information (SPI) or certified specialists in poison information (CSPI) who are nationally certified registered nurses, pharmacists, physicians. The NTPC reports receiving higher-than usual call volumes during November, December and January, months often associated with holiday travel or hosting.

“It’s very important to make sure that medications, alcohol and any items containing button batteries are out of reach from little ones,” said Vannia Atao Wrobel, MPH, a public health

educator with the NTPC. “Before traveling be sure to communicate with the family or friends you plan to visit and ask them if they have medications or other harmful substances within reach and make a plan to ensure they are put away.”

According to America’s Poison Centers, common seasonal poisoning hazards in the winter include:

- Carbon monoxide, a very dangerous odorless and colorless gas: The most common symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain and confusion. Carbon monoxide poisoning can lead to serious health concerns, including death. A simple wall mount carbon monoxide detector is an easy tool to help prevent poisoning.
- Alcohol: The holidays are usually marked with celebrating, and that often includes alcoholic beverages. Even small amounts of alcohol can be harmful to children, so be sure to keep wine, beer, liquor and other mixed drinks up and out of reach.
- Button batteries: These coin-shaped, metallic and tiny batteries are found in many household and holiday items, including toys, remote controls, musical greeting

cards and even some holiday décor. If swallowed, they can get stuck in the esophagus, particularly in a child’s narrow esophagus. The battery can cause severe tissue damage, even death. Button batteries may also cause injury if placed in the nose or the ears.

- Holiday decorations: “Bubble” lights contain a toxic liquid that can burn children or pets if spilled. And while most snow globes contain water, some have been found to contain toxic chemicals such as antifreeze.

“The holidays are a time for fun and to celebrate with those you love, but by having a plan and educating your loved ones, you can prevent accidental poisonings this season,” Atao Wrobel said.

Specialists with the North Texas Poison Center are available 24/7 to answer questions for anyone with a poison question by calling 1-800-222-1222. The call is free, confidential and for non-English speaking persons, the Texas Poison Center Network has a translation service available for assistance in more than 160 languages.

*For more information about Parkland, please visit: [www.parklandhealth.org](http://www.parklandhealth.org).*

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### Health Insurance Marketplace

The project described was supported by Funding Opportunity Number CA-NAV-21-001 from the Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services. The contents provided are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HHS or any of its agencies. 10/21



# 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](https://bit.ly/WinterWarmup24)  
Registration Begins November 26 at 10 A.M.

For more information, call 214-670-8418  
or visit [www.dallasmlkcenter.com](http://www.dallasmlkcenter.com).

Office of Community Care  
Publication No.: FY 24-25:12

Continued **Skip** Page 4

received from applicants was about the results of the passage of Dallas city charter amendments in November. Among the most controversial of those were two ballot propositions that passed backed by Dallas HERO, including one that requires the city to hire 900 more police officers and allocate half of the city's new revenue to improving police and fire pensions and another that makes it easier for residents to sue the city.

In addition to the work of overseeing the city's

Fire Fighters Association of Dallas.

"Over the past seven months, Ms. Tolbert has led with clarity, transparency, and an unwavering commitment to public safety and the well-being of Dallas residents," Dallas Fire Fighters Assoc. said in a statement.

Baker Tilly, the firm conducting the city manager search for the city, said the city received 50 applicants. Among the concerns Art Davis with Baker Tilley said they'd

nearly \$5 billion budget, police and fire department and more, the next city manager will have to hire a new police chief to replace Eddie Garcia, who retired from law enforcement earlier this year to take a city administration role in Austin. Garcia followed former Dallas City Manager T.C. Broadnax to Austin. Broadnax and Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson had a sometimes strained relationship before Broadnax moved to become Austin's city manager earlier this year.

# Me & Mentee/Healthy Choice Brunch



**Front Row (Left to Right):** Lady Linda, Lady Rochelle, Teen Kacie, Teen Travis, Lady Kendra, Reen Rhyann, Teen Noemi, Lady Sheterra, Lady Christina, Lady Corrie, Lady Lynette  
**Back Row (Left to Right):** Lady Eugenia, Teen Desiree, Teen Jason, Teen Aaliya, Teen Elishus, Teen Jemir, Teen Jayden, Lady LaCoya, Lady Wylaiia, & Lady Katie

In April 2024, Trinity West TLOD Chapter had 7 Top Teens to attend the Area 1 Conference in Houston, Texas. The Teens participated in various activities and enjoyed meeting Top Teens from the different chapters. One of the things that impressed them the most was the "Me & My Mentee Breakfast" event. Immediately after the program, the Top Teens sought the chapter President, Lady Dorruth Boyd, and asked if they sponsor this type of an event for their chapter. They wanted to show appreciation to the Ladies mentoring them. Seeing their excitement, Lady Dorruth agreed, but gave strict instructions for the Teens to do EVERYTHING! They were to plan, prepare, and implement the entire event. The Teens agreed and started planning for the event while they were in Houston.

During the retreat (Aug 12, 2024), the Top Teens submitted a plan to the chapter. When the plan was approved,

the original date for the "Me & Mentee Breakfast" was set for Oct. 5, 2024; due to school activities and varying schedules, the date was changed to November 3, 2024. Upon this change, a decision was made to add the "Healthy Choice Fair" which would make it a combination program. On November 3rd, 2024, the Trinity West Top Teens held their first "Me and My Mentor Healthy Choice Brunch" at the Singing Hill Recreation Center in Dallas, Tx from 2:30-4:30pm. The Teens planned and executed everything from start to finish! The Teens cooked a delicious brunch for all that attended along with providing information on the following topics: Sick Cell Anemia, March of Dimes, St. Jude, Healthy Relationships, and Mental Health. Special guest presenters were Mrs. Shamonica Wiggins-Mayes (Sickle Cell Anemia) and Ms. Linda Harris (Mental Health).

There were 11 Ladies, 11

Top Teens, family and friends for a total of 43 people that attended the event. The Teens received rave reviews from all that attended the event. They showed true leadership, as well as organizational and management skills. Most of all, they connected with each other as they worked together.

At the next chapter meeting on November 10, 2024, the chapter president and Teens reviewed all the steps involved to make the Me & Mentee Healthy Choice Brunch a successful event. Lastly, the budget was reviewed. There was never a plan for a profit but one was earned. The Teens were given the opportunity to decide how to spend the funds and they voted to use the funds to support their travels to Area and/or Syn-Lod Conference.

This activity has shown the chapter that the Trinity West Teens will be GOOD LEADERS in the future.



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