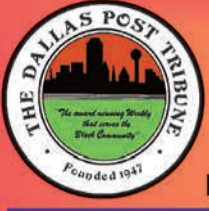


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~ The Dallas Post Tribune Family ~



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VOLUME 77 NUMBER 16

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

December 26, 2024 - January 1, 2025,



MOST HUMOROUS NEWS OF THE YEAR, 2024!

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## House Oversight Committee Meeting Erupts in Personal Attacks and Partisan Disputes

- Featured in May 23, Edition -

By Stacy M. Brown

A nighttime session of the House Oversight Committee intended to discuss a resolution recommending Attorney General Merrick Garland be held in contempt of Congress descended into chaos amid personal attacks and partisan bickering.

The rare evening session took a contentious turn when MAGA Republican

and rabid Donald Trump supporter Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia responded to a question from Rep. Jasmine Crockett (D-Texas) with a personal remark. “I think your fake eyelashes are messing up what you’re reading,” Greene incredulously lashed out.

Democrats immediately reacted negatively to the remark, with Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.)

leading the charge. She demanded that the unhinged Greene retract her comments and offer Crockett an apology. “That is absolutely unacceptable,” Ocasio-Cortez declared amid the cross-talk. “How dare you attack the physical appearance of another person?”

Greene, undeterred, taunted Ocasio-Cortez, asking, “Are your feelings

Continue Erupts Page 4



Rep. Jasmine Crockett

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EXPRESSION OF GRIEF, 2024

## A TRIBUTE TO

*Mrs. Dorothy Evans Lee*

Former Co-Publisher and Vice President of the Dallas Post Tribune

- Featured in August 8, Edition -

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June 30, 1926 - July 17, 2024

Dorothy Evans Lee was born on June 30, 1926, in Morris County, Texas, to the parentage of the late Mr. Perry Evans Sr. and Mrs. Etta Turner Evans. She departed this earthly life on July 17, 2024.

One of eight children, Dorothy graduated from Dangerfield High School in Dangerfield, Texas. She received her Bachelor of Arts

Degree from Jarvis Christian College. After graduating, she began working as a Teacher at Dangerfield Elementary School. Thereafter, she was a Teacher at Ferris Elementary School, then a Teacher at David Crockett Early Education School, and retired from J. N. Ervin Elementary School. She dedicated over 40 years of service to education and re-

tired from the Dallas Independent School District.

During her years of service as an educator, she earned her Master’s Degree in Education from Prairie View A&M University. As an educator, Mrs. Lee was repeatedly recognized as Teacher of the Year, influencing the lives of

Continue Tribute Page 6

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UNBELIEVABLE CRIME OF THE YEAR, 2024

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## Dallas church thief sentenced to 35 years in prison in deed fraud scheme

Author: Tanya Eiserer, Mark Smith/WFAA News

- Featured in May 23, Edition -



Whitney Foster  
Photo Credit: WFAA News

The jury found Foster committed felony theft of \$300,000. The indictment combined the theft of the three churches into a single case.

Foster had earlier rejected a plea offer for a lesser punishment. He testified during the four-day trial in his defense.

“Stealing real estate is just as much a theft as

stealing someone’s purse or car,” prosecutor Phillip Clark told WFAA after the trial. “But it is much more complicated to unwind or fix.”

Although Foster has been convicted, Clark said the churches are still having to untangle issues connected to the deed fraud.

“The Canada Drive Christian Church congrega-

tion was completely booted out of their church building,” Clark said. “In the case of Lancaster, they are still trying to fix all the problems he created. Nineveh and Canada are still in his or his church’s name.”

Besides the three churches, the Dallas County jury heard

Continue Fraud Page 6

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# EDITORIAL PAGE

## Renetta Murray Was a Child Prodigy With a Song To Sing

By James B Ewers Jr. Ed.D



Renetta Murray

Every person has a gift. It makes them unique and special to the world. Brightness and boldness shine upon their lives. Their countenance, courage, and conviction provide them with the will to pursue their dreams.

Talent and timing are inextricably linked together in a tapestry of excellence. It shows forth during a particular season in their life. Usually, everyone sees it before they do. They gently push you and provide you with a platform to excel and to succeed.

The joy and jubilation of having a gift is sharing it with others. Their gift makes us feel better and makes us become better people. They can touch our very hearts and souls.

Renetta Murray was a

child prodigy at the tender age of nine years old. The Franklin Louisiana native started to sing at the Triumph Baptist Church. Those around her said that singing came naturally to her.

Renetta was born into a family of singers so you can imagine the joy and happiness that filled her home each day. She gives much credit to Stacy Howard, Ernestine Bell, and Hartzell Mitchell, all of whom had musical roles at the Triumph Baptist Church. She said, "They put me on a folding chair and the first song that I sang was "Wonderful, oh yes He is".

Her singing talents have allowed her to open for famed gospel singer, Shirley Caesar and to be a featured singer at the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Her selection at the SCLC was Precious Lord. This song was later sung by Mahalia Jackson at the homegoing service of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The humility and sincerity of Renetta Murray were ever present during my conversation with her. She was quick to give praise to her family and mentors. She said, "God

has always kept a hedge of protection around me."

All of us hear the expression, "he or she has it." That expression applies to people who have an extraordinary ability to create an atmosphere that will move us. Renetta Murray has it. She has been told by people that her singing led them to become a part of a church family.

I asked Renetta when she realized she had a gift to sing. She said, "I realized in high school I had a gift and that I could inspire others." It can be said about her that many are called but few are chosen. Renetta was chosen for such a time as this because of the stress and strife we face daily.

Now living in the New Orleans area, she is a lead vocalist for the Franklin Avenue Baptist Church choir. I asked her how she became involved at Franklin Avenue Baptist Church. She said, "My daughter, India was really responsible for me joining FABC."

In addition to her singing prowess, Renetta is also a community advocate in New Orleans. She is the founder of an annual homeless drive that is now

in its 11th year. She has created alliances and partnerships that have helped those in need.

Renetta has had a calling of hope in her life. Her gift of singing has been transformational for untold numbers of people. The richness of her humanity has given folks, once hopeless, newfound hope and purpose.

I am sure she muses at times about her humble beginnings. Her musical journey continues to grow and to accelerate. She is a bridge over troubled waters and a bright light in the human forest. Renetta says each time she sings that she asks God to hide her behind the cross and to use her as a vessel to do His will.

Let's applaud and thank Renetta Murray for the gift that she has so willingly and unselfishly given to us. She has recently shared that she will have some new music in the coming months. If you are interested in talking with her, she can be reached at [RenettaLovesMusic@gmail.com](mailto:RenettaLovesMusic@gmail.com).

Her social media account with Facebook and Instagram is Renetta-MazeMusic

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*My Day*

## Dr. Harry Robinson: SUPERHERO OF THE YEAR

### "The Greatest Gift – Our History"

By Dr. J. Ester Davis



Dr. Harry Robinson

There are sincerely no words to say to Dr. Harry Robinson for his supreme dedication, his meta dream for America, and the special gift designed exclusively for the people of Dallas.

On December 14, 2024, we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the African American Museum and the Retirement of Dr. Harry Robinson. Few people missed the appropriately styled Founder's Ball 50th. In attendance were 850+glamorous citizens gathered in the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton Anatole Hotel for a glimpse of the

'superhero.' A sellout... knockout best-dressed list of who's who. Posted on my social media pages were pictures of 'what I am wearing to the Founder's Ball'.

I vividly remember the earlier days in the Basement of Bishop College (nee Paul Quinn College). Dr. Robinson joined Bishop College's Staff as a librarian and museum director in 1974. The ultimate champion of history in Dallas at that time was one force, Mable Chandler, a renowned history teacher counselor at Lincoln High School. Mable Chandler was also my Sunday School Superintendent. I saw her every Sunday morning as a young church musician, and I might add that she was on time. Chandler was well connected, belonged to several educational organizations surrounding the richness of black history and culture, and was a walking encyclopedia of the Bible and

Dallas History. Dr. Robinson attended graduate school at Atlanta University and majored in Library Science. He was primarily a researcher. When I look back on his career, factoring in a degree in 1965 from Atlanta University and a return to Southern University to continue work as an Archivist, a cataloger at Kentucky State University and a short stay at the University of Florida, it is easy to see where all of these boxes came from. As the news got around, more boxes arrived to catalog and find a home for.

With Mable Chandler and Julia Jordan to guide him....(ooh, let me stop calling names; that is not a good idea), several black librarians, all legends in their fields, came together and formed "this ad-hoc circle" around Dr. Harry Robinson. These were educators from across the spectrum of several churches near

and far. What is most etched in my mind is that this group of 'helpers' for Dr. Robinson brought in a second layer of "junior helpers" to sort through the mounds of papers/boxes assembled by Dr. Robinson for the museum. I was in that category. During these appointed times, there was little conversation and lots of organization in the "midst of a promise-to-be."

Tremendous thanks to those who stayed the course. I have to mention the unstoppable Helen Giddings. (Stop calling names JED). OK! To the teams of professional organizers, splendid sponsors, media professionals, mighty, mighty influencers.

Now, where are the new visionaries? Who are the new innovators? Where are the dedicated 'helpers'?

[Esterdavis2000@gmail.com](mailto:Esterdavis2000@gmail.com)

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# RELIGIOUS/NEWS

## The Great Sacrificial Work of Christ

Hebrews 2:14-18



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

In our great study of the book of Hebrews thus far, we have seen that Jesus Christ is superior to the Prophets in Hebrews 1:1-3 because the Prophets' ministry was partial and fragmentary, however, Christ is superior to the Prophets because He is God's final revelation. Now, the author will prove unmistakably that Jesus is superior to the Angels in Hebrews 1:4-2:18. He has proven that Angels were created and were servants who worshipped Christ, whereas Christ is the Creator, and the Son of God who will rule in the Millennium Kingdom.

Beginning in Hebrews 2:14-15, the author will discuss the fact that as the Son of Man, Christ accomplished a great sacrificial work for man. First of all, as Son of

Man, Christ delivered mankind from the fear of death (Hebrews 2:14-15). In accomplishing this work of redemption for us, it was essential that God would become man in the person of Jesus Christ in order to taste death for us (Hebrews 2:9). The only reason Jesus Christ was even for a little time lower than the Angels, was so He could pursue His loving mission in dying for sinful mankind. The magnitude of Christ's sacrifice for us is priceless and beyond our mental comprehension. He died "for all humanity," meaning that He took upon Himself the penalty due to fallen humanity, for II Corinthians 5:21 states: "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the

righteousness of God in Him."

By identifying with mankind in becoming human, and dying for mankind, Christ broke the power of sin and death. Because Christ paid the ultimate penalty for our sins when He died and rose again from the dead, we should not allow our lives to be controlled and governed by the fear of death. In His victory over sin, death, and the grave, not only did Christ deliver us from the fear of death, but He also deprived Satan of the power he had over us. We have been delivered from Satan's enslavement and have been given eternal life in Christ. Speaking of the deliverance that we now have, the Apostle Paul writes: "Who hath delivered us from

the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son. In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:13-14).

In verses 16-18, another great accomplishment of Christ's sacrificial work is that now He serves as our High Priest (Hebrews 2:16-18). His great redemptive love toward mankind is revealed in that Christ came through the "seed of Abraham, and not through the nature of Angels" (v. 16). In order to meet the need of mankind, Christ became one of the "seed of Abraham." In Genesis 12:3, God had promised that through Abraham "all families of the earth would be blessed." Christ was the offspring

of Abraham who would bring that blessing. Everyone who has faith in Christ, whether Jew or Gentile, is likewise a son of Abraham (Galatians 3:7, 27). In becoming man, being victorious over death, Christ acts as our High Priest. That He would even bother to come to earth as a man shows that He is "merciful" (Hebrews 2:17). And because of what He experienced, He could identify with and understand the struggles that we face!

Yes, Christ knows about our struggles, our pains, sorrows and disappointments. He is not unaware of the temptation that we encounter, for Hebrews 4:15 says: "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities but was

in all pointed tempted like as we are, yet without sin." In Christ's Priestly role, presently, He intercedes for us, but He also gave His life in the past for us. He died on Calvary, was buried, but rose triumphantly from the grave. He paid completely for our salvation, as the hymn writer records:

*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!

~ SCIENCE FICTION ~  
(Solution to December 19, Puzzle - see page 5)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>ACROSS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Le Corbusier's art</li> <li>5. *"The Matrix" protagonist</li> <li>8. Captures</li> <li>12. Funkiness in the air</li> <li>13. Vegetative state</li> <li>14. Capital of Vietnam</li> <li>15. Fairy tale villain</li> <li>16. Beware of these in March</li> <li>17. Spiker and Sponge of "James and the Giant Peach"</li> <li>18. *Bioengineered humanoid in "Blade Runner"</li> <li>20. The Beehive State</li> <li>21. Burn with coffee, e.g.</li> <li>22. Tire meas.</li> <li>23. Sea nymph</li> <li>26. Salad dressing option</li> <li>30. *Pierre Boullé's Cornelius</li> <li>31. Hoity-toity</li> <li>34. Back arrow key</li> <li>35. Covered with sphagnum</li> <li>37. Tiny Tim's guitar</li> <li>38. Allegro _____, in music</li> <li>39. Sign of escape</li> <li>40. Apprehension</li> <li>42. Emergency responder, acr.</li> <li>43. Neuron junction</li> <li>45. Sleeping sickness vector</li> <li>47. *Katniss Everdeen's sister</li> <li>48. Hammerin' Hank</li> <li>50. Tennis "innings"</li> <li>52. *2010 film starring DiCaprio</li> <li>56. Meat of coconut</li> <li>57. Desperate</li> <li>58. Karl of politics</li> <li>59. *1979 film starring Sigourney Weaver</li> <li>60. Fail to mention</li> <li>61. Bo Peep's females</li> <li>62. *"Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep" author</li> <li>63. Was ahead</li> <li>64. *Spock's are pointy</li> </ol> | <p><b>DOWN</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Point of entry</li> <li>2. Side of a ruler, e.g.</li> <li>3. S or C follower, in business</li> <li>4. Two-word threat</li> <li>5. Relating to node</li> <li>6. Make corrections</li> <li>7. Kiln for hops</li> <li>8. *Captain Nemo's submarine</li> <li>9. Tolstoy's Karenina</li> <li>10. This and that</li> <li>11. Bro's sibling</li> <li>13. Droning insect</li> <li>14. Niger and Nigeria language</li> <li>19. In an unfriendly manner</li> <li>22. Parent org.</li> <li>23. "He named _____"</li> <li>24. Strong adhesive</li> <li>25. Pine juice</li> <li>26. Original thought</li> <li>27. Garment enlarger</li> <li>28. *"The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" author</li> <li>29. Neil Diamond's "Beautiful _____"</li> <li>32. *Frank Herbert's famous novel</li> <li>33. "I Like _____" 1950s campaign slogan</li> <li>36. *"Where no man has gone before" TV series</li> <li>38. "The Tortoise and the Hare" author</li> <li>40. "It's no _____!"</li> <li>41. Beale of Memphis, e.g.</li> <li>44. South Korean port</li> <li>46. Main dish</li> <li>48. Japanese cartoon art</li> <li>49. Like thick smoke</li> <li>50. Solo, pl.</li> <li>51. Long narrative poem</li> <li>52. Worshiped one</li> <li>53. Minnesota's southern neighbor</li> <li>54. Last word on radio</li> <li>55. Famed loch</li> <li>56. Rogue or rascal</li> <li>66. Be in the red</li> </ol> |
|--|---|

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle  
Theme: SCIENCE FICTION

**CROSSWORD**

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

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

## HEALTH

### Less holiday stress = more holiday cheer

The holiday season is a time filled with delicious food, joyful moments and cherished family gatherings. However, for many, it can also be a chaotic whirlwind of stress. Between preparing for family visits, organizing festive dinners, buying gifts and decking the halls, the holiday hustle can take a toll—especially on those with hypertension.

But fear not, Parkland Health professionals are here to help you navigate the festive frenzy!

Elevated stress levels can spike your blood pressure and heart rate, which could lead to heart disease, which is the leading cause of death in Dallas County according to the 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA).

So, let's keep the joy in the holidays and the stress at bay with these fun and practical tips:

- Plan like a pro: Set a holiday schedule, create a gift list and stick to a budget.
- Master the art of saying no: Turning down invitations that might add unnecessary stress is perfectly okay. Focus on what truly brings you joy!
- Teamwork makes the dream work: Don't be shy about delegating responsibilities. With friends and family in the mix, you can spread the cheer (and the workload) together!
- Breathe, relax and unwind: Slow down and take time for yourself.
- Embrace connection over perfection: Remember, it's not about having the perfect holiday; it's about making memories with those you love.
- Watch those holiday toasts: While it's tempting to indulge, be mindful of your alcohol intake. The recommended limit is two drinks per day for men and one for women.
- Delicious alternatives await: Looking for festive drink options? Swap traditional cocktails for sugar-free hot cocoa, apple cider, peppermint tea or festive mocktails. Sparkling or flavored water also makes for a refreshing choice.

By staying mindful of your health during the holidays, you can keep your blood pressure in check and truly enjoy the celebrations.

Remember to have fun this holiday season, take care of yourself and let go of the stress. After all, the best gift you can give yourself is a stress-free you!

Find more information about hypertension, visit [www.parklandhealth.org/hypertension](http://www.parklandhealth.org/hypertension).

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## Continued Erupts Page 1

hurt?" Ocasio-Cortez responded sharply, "Oh, girl? Baby girl, don't even play."

Just minutes later, Greene, of all members, attacked Ocasio-Cortez's intelligence, challenging her to a debate and asserting, "You don't have enough intelligence." This prompted audible groans from other members.

Despite agreeing to strike her comments toward Crockett, Greene refused to apologize for her remarks. "You will never get an apology out of me," she declared. Committee Chair James Comer (R-Ky.) ruled

that Greene's insult did not violate House rules, which led to further disputes. When Democratic ranking member Jamie Raskin (D-Md.) attempted to appeal this ruling, Republicans moved to table his appeal.

Following the vote, Crockett sought clarification on the committee's standards regarding personal attacks. "If someone on this committee then starts talking about somebody's bleach blond, bad-built butch body, that would not be engaging in personalities, correct?" she asked, causing another uproar.

## Quinn Minute

# New Year Celebrations

By Rix Quinn

When did people begin to host New Year parties?

Ancient Egyptians celebrated New Year when the Nile River overflowed, usually in June. Then someone suggested, "If we change New Year to January, we won't drown coming home from the party."

Early Romans named their celebration for Janus, a deity with two

faces. One face looked backward, the other forward.

Today, we also reflect on the past, and plan for the future. But we no longer have two faces, because the one in back is too hard to shave.

Another New Year's custom was chimney cleaning. This meant participants planned to "clean up" their faults, and strive to do better the

next year.

Sadly, a few zealous cleaners toppled down the chute into the fireplace below. This was called "coming down with the flue."

The Druids celebrated the New Year on March 1. Unfortunately, that was two months late for bowl games.

But remember, these were ancient civilizations, and they did not yet

worship football.

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# SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

## 7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Dec. 26	Friday, Dec. 27	Saturday, Dec. 28	Sunday, Dec. 29	Monday, Dec. 30	Tuesday, Dec 31	Wednesday, Jan. 1
H - 63° L - 52°	H - 59° L - 63°	H - 71° L - 50°	H - 67° L - 49°	H - 67° L - 57°	H - 62° L - 44°	H - 53° L - 37°

# South Oak Cliff Golden Bears close out another historic season

By A'Nease Linnear /News, News Briefs



Photo Credit: Dallas ISD

The South Oak Cliff Golden Bears' bid for a third UIL Class 5A Division II Football State Championship fell just short Friday night, as they were defeated by the Dr. Thomas E. Randle High School Lions 38-35 at AT&T Stadium.

In a game that pitted one of Texas high school football's most storied programs against a rising force, SOC (14-3) battled

until the final whistle, but the undefeated Lions claimed their first state title.

The Golden Bears, who

entered the game averaging 37.4 points per contest, were stymied at key moments by a relentless Randle defense. Senior quarterback Carter K., who passed for 1,931 yards and 22 touchdowns this season, led a spirited effort, but the Lions' ultimately prevailed.

SOC's playoff run this year was their fourth consecutive trip to the state championship game, a stretch that includes back-to-back titles in 2021 and 2022. The team has gone 23-2 in postseason play since 2021, establishing itself as a Dallas ISD powerhouse and a force in Texas high school football.

"It is something to brag on, to be able to say that your class has been to state four years in a row," he said. "We have never not known the championship game."

Despite the loss, the Golden Bears' season was filled with milestones. Senior running backs Mikail T. and Damond W. combined

for 32 rushing touchdowns, while senior linebacker Jayden S. anchored the defense with 118 tackles.

The loss doesn't diminish SOC's historic run over the past four seasons. The 2021 title broke a decades-long drought for Dallas ISD, and the program's three championship appearances since then have solidified the Golden Bears as a model of success and perseverance.

As the seniors look ahead to their next chapters, the underclassmen and coaching staff remain focused on building upon this year's accomplishments.

"My biggest thing is to show these young men that nothing is impossible," said Jason Tood, head coach. "You can be from South Oak Cliff or similar areas that pull you in different directions, but if you stay locked in and have blind faith at times, you can get to heights you never thought you could achieve."

## Christmas and New Year's drivers urged to move over or slow down for tow trucks and other emergency vehicles

AUSTIN – If you see tow trucks and other emergency vehicles stopped on the side of the road with their emergency lights activated, do you know what to do?

Texas law requires drivers to slow down at least 20 miles per hour under the posted speed limit or, if able, to change lanes when they're passing a first responder stopped on the roadside.

Large numbers of travelers are expected on Texas roads during the Christmas and New Year's holidays and chances are, they may break down, get involved in crashes or be stopped by law enforcement. Pay attention to what's happening around you and be prepared to react quickly.

TDLR regulates tow truck companies and tow truck drivers, driver education and driving safety courses, and motorcycle safety courses, and as always, the agency asks all drivers to please slow down or move over when you see emergency vehicles stopped on the side of the road.

Tow truck drivers work hard every day to help people who are stranded on the side of the road. And, like everyone else, they are anxious to return home safely each night. Holiday memories are made when family gathers. Please do your part to make that happen for all.

### Safety tips for driving this holiday season:

- Slow down and pay attention to what you're doing. If you get tired, pull over in a safe spot and walk around to re-energize.
- Don't drink and drive, even a little bit.
- Designate a (sober) driver.
- Stay off the mobile phone – this includes texting. Designate a "co-pilot" to oversee the phone while you're driving so you can concentrate on the task at hand.
- Buckle up – all occupants of the vehicle, every trip – no matter how short. Most traffic crashes happen close to home.
- Traveling by motorcycle? Wear a helmet.
- Stay weather-aware. If it's snowy or icy, you'll need to slow down significantly so you don't slide on unexpected icy spots. If it's raining heavily, turn around and don't drown if water is running across the road. Only two feet of rushing water can sweep away a vehicle.
- Leave plenty of time to get to your destination. Roadways are likely to be crowded. Drive friendly – the Texas way!

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## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

(Solution to December 19 Puzzle - AT THE RESTAURANT)

A	L	E	P	H		O	R	C			P	L	E	A	
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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

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SCAN FOR INFO



**Continued Tribute Page 1**

thousands of school children. Mrs. Lee was presented with the Jarvis Christian College Alumni Accomplishment Award at the Annual Heritage Scholarship Banquet. Following her retirement from the Dallas Independent School District, she served as Co-Publisher and Vice-President of the Dallas Post Tribune, a premier weekly newspaper serving the African American community in the City of Dallas. In 2003, District 5 of the Dallas Independent School District recognized Mrs. Lee as Community Educator of The Year.

While raising her only daughter, Attorney and Vintner Theodora R. Lee, she was an active member of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. She has volunteered for years for the American Red Cross and the March of Dimes. Mrs. Lee was an active member of the Thorntree Estates Homeowners Association. She was a proud lifetime member of the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., where she has served as Chaplain and Historian. Just recently, The Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. presented Ms. Lee with its Precious Orchid Award.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Continued **Fraud** Page 1

evidence during the punishment phase of the trial that seven other properties – mostly church buildings or lots owned by churches – had similar “hallmarks” of deed fraud.

Prosecutors played jurors a May 2021 story detailing the deed-fraud theft of First Christian Church of Lancaster.

The WFAA story revealed records filed in March 2019 with the Dallas County Clerk showed that an individual claiming to be the church chairman deeded the church over to Foster for \$10.

In a telephone interview in the WFAA story, Foster told WFAA that he believed the building was vacant and said he had been cutting the grass.

He told WFAA investigative reporter Tanya Eiserer that he put a \$10 check in the mail and believed he was within his rights to acquire ownership of the property.

“You can acquire a property for \$10 with nonprofits,” he said. “The church is community property. .... It wasn’t Whitney buying it. Our church was getting it. I was fixing to open up a church there.”

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**Biden Commutes Sentences of 37 Federal Death Row Inmates**

By Stacy M. Brown

The American Civil Liberties Union celebrated President Joe Biden’s historic action in commuting 37 federal death sentences. The group proclaimed that Biden has taken an “unequivocal stand against one of the most flawed and inhumane mechanisms of the U.S. criminal legal system.”

“President Biden took a historic and courageous step in addressing the failed death penalty in the United States – bringing us much closer to outlawing the barbaric practice once again,” said Anthony D. Romero, executive director of the ACLU. “President Biden has reaffirmed the power of redemption over retribution and reminds us that state-sanctioned killing does not make us safer. The ACLU has long advocated against the death penalty and shed light on its fundamental flaws – it is error prone, racially biased, and a drain on public resources. And al-

though we had hoped President Biden would commute all federal death sentences for those reasons, today’s milestone brings us much closer to our goal of outlawing the death penalty once and for all.”

By commuting the sentences of 37 individuals on death row, Biden has taken the most consequential step of any president in our history to address the immoral and unconstitutional harms of capital punishment, the ACLU said in a release. “With a stroke of his pen, the President locks in his legacy as a leader who stands for racial justice, humanity, and morality. This will undoubtedly be one of the seminal achievements of the Biden presidency,” Romero asserted.

On Monday, December 23, Biden commuted the sentences of 37 individuals on federal death row, changing their punishment from execution to life without the possibility of parole. The White House said the latest decision aligns with the ad-

ministration’s ongoing efforts to curtail the federal death penalty, leaving only three individuals still sentenced to death at the federal level.

The commutations exclude cases involving terrorism or hate-motivated mass murder. Among those who remain on death row are Robert Bowers, responsible for killing 11 people at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh in 2018; Dylann Roof, who murdered nine Black worshippers at a Charleston church in 2015; and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, one of the Boston Marathon bombers in 2013.


“Make no mistake: I condemn these murderers, grieve for the victims of their despicable acts, and ache for all the families who have suffered unimaginable and irreparable loss,” Biden said. “But guided by my conscience and my experience... I am more convinced than ever that we must stop the use of the death penalty at the federal level.”

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