

We must be free not because we claim freedom, but because we practice it. ~ William Faulkner
 "Happy Independence Day!"



The Dallas Post Tribune



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July 4 - 10, 2024

The Tragedy of Mainstream Media Coverage

By Dr. John E. Warren
 Publisher, The San Diego Voice & Viewpoint



Dr. John E. Warren

First, let it be said that the Black Press of America believes in our democratic process and believes that the record of President Joe Biden is greater than a bad debate night with Donald Trump. Second, the bigger tragedy was the main-

stream media's effort to make their coverage of last Thursday's debate a matter of who did the better "sound bites" and not the substance of the issues put before the American people watching the debate. As the Black Press of America, let it be said

that we are appalled at the Editorial and News Broadcasts calling for the President to step down. It's the media's job to report the news and not initiate an orchestrated campaign to remove the President. Where is the media discussion about the issues, and who said what about them? Where was the major fact-checking of all the lies Trump told? The burden didn't shift to Biden just because he chose not to respond to the issues the media had decided he should have addressed.

It was not the job of the media to take the issue of the President's age or push the issue of whether or not he should withdraw from the November 2024

election. But time and time again, on Fox News and Face The Nation, as well as the Editorial positions of the New York Times and Atlanta Constitution, just to name a few, there was the pushing of the idea that the President was too old and should step down. Then, polling questions were generated to support the withdrawal of the president, which was not the job of the media. Once again, it is the Black Press that emerges as the true "Trusted Messenger," not manipulating the news for ratings. "We, the People," must not allow our silence to give consent to such media coverage.

John E. Warren

60th Anniversary of Civil Rights Act: Reflecting on Progress and Persistent Challenges

The landmark legislation emerged from a period of intense struggle and demand for the fulfillment of the 14th Amendment's promise of "equal protection of the laws."

By Stacy M. Brown



Photo Credit:

As the United States commemorates the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the nation reflects on a transformative law that reshaped American society by prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The landmark legislation emerged from a period of intense struggle and demand for the fulfillment of the 14th

Amendment's promise of "equal protection of the laws." Due to widespread opposition to desegregation and the assassination of civil rights activist Medgar Evers, President John F. Kennedy urged Congress to pass a comprehensive civil rights bill in June 1963. After Kennedy's death, President

Continue Civil Page 2

U.S. Supreme Court Gives Immunity to Trump's Alleged Criminal Acts

By Stacy M. Brown



The courtroom of the Supreme Court of the United States.
 Photo Credit: supremecourt.gov

On Monday, July 1, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that former President Donald Trump has immunity for some of his conduct during his presidency in his federal election interference case. However, other actions may not be protected. This decision adds another layer of complexity to the potential trial proceedings.

In a closely watched case exploring the boundaries of presidential power, the justices voted 6-3 along ideological lines to reject

Continue Court Page 2

Crockett Statement on SCOTUS Presidential Immunity Ruling

WASHINGTON — Today, July 1, Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett (TX-30) released the following statement responding to the decision by the United States Supreme Court in Trump v. United States:

"Today, six Justices handed down a decision that clears the way for a U.S. President to weaponize our executive agencies, weaponize his Vice President, weaponize our military, weaponize state-level officials, and weaponize federal law



Rep. Jasmine Crockett

enforcement officers, without any fear of criminal prosecution if clouded under the guise of official duty. It is a complete repudiation of

Continue Ruling Page 5



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The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from racial and national antagonisms when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color or creed, full human and legal rights. Hating no person, fearing no person, the Black Press strives to help every person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

EDITORIAL PAGE

The Presidential Debate Is Over, However, The Issues Are Still The Same In America

By James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.



James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.

The publicity surrounding the presidential debate between Mr. Biden and Mr. Trump was enormous. It was built like an Ali-Frazier fight or a Yankees and Red Sox baseball game.

The ink wasn't dry before another column was written about this purportedly once-in-a-lifetime test of personalities and wills. You had to be on another planet with no internet to not know about it.

It is truly amazing how the media can call attention to an event. The host, CNN, was in a debate frenzy leading up to Thursday, June 27th. They had every perspective and angle covered. According to reports, over 47 million people watched it.

The question at the podium is why did we tune in to watch it? I suspect the most plausible answer is that we watched for different reasons. So that I am out front, the debate didn't change my mind.

I wasn't undecided before the debate and the results didn't sway me one scintilla. If anything, it only reaffirmed my choice of President Joe Biden. Know that I am voting completely and fully for him. I am all in and leaned in, too.

America, we are faced with a distinct choice. Do not let this debate fool you. On one side, you have Joe Biden, a man of integrity and on the other side you have Donald Trump, a person of convenience. President Biden is a man of principles and Mr. Trump is a person of privilege.

In Raleigh NC on Friday President Biden said, "Folks, I don't walk as easy as I used to. I don't speak as smoothly as I used to. I don't debate as well as I used to, but I know how to tell the truth. I know right

from wrong, and I know how to do this job."

We know the debate wasn't one of the President's best nights. Former President Barack Obama said on a post on X, "Bad debate nights happen. Trust me, I know. But this election is still a choice between someone who has fought for ordinary folks his entire life and someone who only cares about himself. Last night didn't change that, and it's why so much is at stake in November."

One of my childhood friends remarked would you rather have a president with advanced age or a president who is an unmitigated liar? That choice should be easy for all of us.

The dust will settle on this debate yet the challenges that we face as a nation remain. Who are you going to trust?

It is my opinion Mr. Trump has not endeared himself to women. If you are one of the few women who consider him your choice, you should reconsider before it's too late. He has

already abrogated many of your rights.

If you are an independent voter, depend upon President Biden to deliver. He wants to improve the quality of our living. Don't get caught up in Mr. Trump and his friends who are simply talking loudly and saying nothing. He doesn't have one policy of substance that he can talk about and convince us. He is empty when it comes to talking about policies and positions. Our allies know that, too.

If you are Black like me or Brown, wake up, everybody. It's time to think ahead. Joe Biden has a plan. Donald Trump has a plan for himself. Don't let your family and friends steer you in the wrong direction. If so, you'll be on a detour headed for a dead end.

Our vote is a vote for our ancestors who couldn't vote because of the color of their skin. You and I stand on their shoulders. If not for them, where would we be?

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Continued **Court** Page 1

Trump's sweeping immunity claim. The ruling means that charges related to his efforts to overturn the 2020 election results will not be dismissed outright. However, the court indicated that actions closely tied to his presidential duties are off-limits to prosecutors.

Trump has already been convicted on 34 felony charges related to a hush-money scheme to conceal an extramarital affair with an adult film star while Melania Trump was pregnant.

Chief Justice John Roberts, writing for the majority, emphasized the need for lower courts to examine further which actions Trump can be prosecuted for. Specifically, the court determined that Trump's interactions with

Justice Department officials and Vice President Mike Pence in the lead-up to the January 6 Capitol attack by his supporters are considered core presidential powers and thus immune from prosecution.

"The president is not above the law," Roberts wrote. "But Congress may not criminalize the president's conduct in carrying out the responsibilities of the executive branch under the Constitution."

The ruling leaves the future of the case uncertain, requiring further proceedings before U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan. Judge Chutkan will now review other alleged conduct by Trump, including his communications with state election officials, private parties, and members of the public, to determine if they qualify as official acts.

Continued **Civil** Page 1

Lyndon B. Johnson, with crucial support from civil rights leaders Roy Wilkins and Clarence Mitchell, championed the bill's passage.

On July 2, 1964, Congress enacted the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The law prohibited discrimination in hiring, promoting, and firing, extending these protections to public accommodations and federally funded programs. It also strengthened the enforcement of voting rights and mandated the desegregation of schools.

"The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is the nation's benchmark civil rights legislation, and it continues to resonate in America," said Melanie Campbell, president of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation. The Act dismantled "Jim Crow" laws upheld by the 1896 Supreme Court decision in Plessy v. Ferguson, which had deemed racial segregation constitutional under the "separate but equal" doctrine.

The Act's impact has been profound and far-reaching. "It propelled a movement that was able to make major civil rights

The court's liberal justices dissented, with Justice Sonia Sotomayor arguing that the ruling undermines a fundamental constitutional principle that no individual is above the law. "Trump will now be insulated from criminal prosecution. In every use of official power, the President is now a king, above the law," said Sotomayor.

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, in a strongly worded dissent, accused the conservative majority of creating a dangerous precedent by establishing a new model of presidential accountability that grants undue immunity to the highest office.

"With that understanding of how our system of accountability for criminal acts ordinarily functions, it becomes much easier to see that the majority's ruling in this case breaks new and

dangerous ground," Jackson wrote.

"Departing from the traditional model of individual accountability, the majority has concocted something entirely different: A Presidential accountability model that creates immunity — an exemption from criminal law — applicable only to the most powerful official in our Government," she added.

Justice Jackson further warned of the broader implications of the ruling, suggesting that even a hypothetical president who commits grave crimes, such as ordering assassinations of political rivals or instigating a coup, could potentially claim immunity under the new model.

Trump, who faces about 50 other charges related to the 2020 election, has openly discussed executing his rivals.

gains," stated Marc Morial, president of the National Urban League. "It has not only changed the arc for Black people. It has changed the arc for women and for other people of color in a profound way."

Maya Wiley, president and CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, highlighted the tangible benefits of the Act, particularly in healthcare and education. "The Civil Rights Act of 1964 added years, literally about three to four years, onto the life expectancy of Black people when healthcare had to open its once-segregated

doors," Wiley explained. The Act also significantly reduced segregation in Southern schools, benefiting both Black and white students.

Despite these advancements, the 60th anniversary comes amid concerns over recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings perceived as eroding civil rights protections, including affirmative action, legalized abortion, and diversity initiatives. Critics argue that the Court's favorable ruling in former President Donald Trump's immunity case

Continue **Civil** Page 3

RELIGIOUS/NEWS

Standing Firm on the Truth of God's Word

II Thessalonians 2:1-17



By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

In these perilous days of spiritual apostasy, it is essential that believers be fortified with God's word in order to combat the false teachers of our era. Such was the cause with the young converts of Thessalonica who were briefly taught by Paul. These new converts were still confused about end-time events; mainly, the relationship of the imminent event called the Rapture with the present persecution they were experiencing.

Apparently, many believers were saying that the persecutions they were experiencing signaled that the Rapture had occurred and that they were experiencing the beginning of the "Day of the Lord." Such a misunderstanding of the Bible's teaching on the Rapture and the Tribulation Period will stimulate unnecessary, unwarranted worries! To alleviate the fears of these believers, Paul will deal with the error in these believers' theology.

II Thessalonians 2:1-17 may be outlined as follows: I. Paul's Correction to the Believers' Dreaded Misunderstanding – II Thessalonians 2:1-12; II. Paul's Prayer and Exhortation for Believers to Stand Fast in View of False Teachings – II Thessalonians 2:13-17.

*I. Paul's Correction to the Believers' Dreaded Misunderstanding
II Thessalonians 2:1-12*

With warm affection, Paul refers to these believers as his brethren as he refers clearly to the teaching of the Rapture by the expression "by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and

by our gathering together unto Him" (v. 1). In verse 2, the essence of Paul's plea was that the believers at Thessalonica not be "shaken in mind" or be troubled by deceivers' teaching that the Day of the Lord had arrived. The false teaching had arrived "by spirit", that is, by self-proclaimed prophetic utterance; "by word", that is, by oral teaching; "by letter" some spurious letter written from others.

In order to calm the hearts of these believers, Paul offered three reasons why the Thessalonians were not in the Day of the Lord. First, the falling away had not taken place (v. 3). The expression "falling away" means apostasy. There have been many departures from the faith through many centuries; however, this apostasy involves the uniting of all religious groups into one world church – the false church.

Second, the Day of the Lord had not come because the man of sin had not been revealed (v. 3). This person will make a covenant with Israel to commence the Tribulation Period (Daniel 9:27). He is the little horn, the prince, the willful king, the Anti-Christ and the beast that comes out of the sea (Daniel 7:8, 9:26, 11:36; I John 2:18; Revelation 13:1-10). He is called the "man of sin" who will oppose God and set himself up to be worshipped as God in the temple in Jerusalem (v. 4). This is the abomination of desolation referred to in Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15. He will demonstrate power as Christ did, but it will be counterfeit (II Corinthians 11:13-15). He will deceive all

who reject God's truth. His end will be destruction and those believing his lie will share his eternal fate. In verse 5, Paul cites that he had taught this truth.

Paul offered as a third reason that the believers were not in the Day of the Lord because the "Restrainer" had not been taken out of the way (vv. 6-7). The Holy Spirit is the "Restrainer" who is holding back the forces of evil in this world. In verse 8, only after the Rapture of the church will the wicked one be revealed. After the Tribulation Period concludes with the Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 19:11-16) and the personal return of Christ in judgment, the Anti-Christ ("the wicked one") will be dealt with conclusively. The "man of sin" will be destroyed by being cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20) and will remain alive in that place for all eternity (Revelation 20:10).

According to verses 9-10, working according to the energy of Satan, the Anti-Christ will work signs and lying wonders. Just as Christ was attested by miracles (Acts 2:22), so His imitator will be attested by satanic miracles (Revelation 13:4). Unbelievers will be deceived and duped because they did not love truth, and when they heard the gospel, they suppressed the truth! (v. 10). Those who refuse to be saved by the truth of the gospel will be subject to the deceit of Satan and a moral punishment will issue from a "strong delusion from God" (vv. 11-12). Unbelievers would rather believe a lie of Satan rather than believe the truth of God! Unbelievers love

the pleasure of unrighteousness!
*II. Paul's Prayer and Exhortation for Believers to Stand Fast in View of False Teachings
II Thessalonians 2:13-17*

In verses 13-14, Paul rendered thanks unto God for the way the believers had responded to God's work in their lives. He reminded them that God loved them and had chosen, called, and sanctified them. He also would glorify them. The believers, in contrast to unbelievers, were secure from the judgment of God because of their faith. Believers are not appointed unto wrath (I Thessalonians 5:9) as unbelievers are, but are appointed to glory – to share the glories of God with Jesus Christ.

In verse 15, Paul exhorted that the believers "stand fast and hold the traditions" they have been taught. In light of the uncertainty of the time of Christ's return, believers in Him must "stand fast." "Stand fast" means do not move away from the truth of the Gospel. As believers, we must "hold" (v. 15) or grasp firmly the teachings of God's word to stand against sin and Satan.

In verses 16-17, through His word, the Lord Jesus brings comfort and consolation to our hearts. The word "stablish" means that believers are rooted and grounded in the Word so that we are not carried away by every wind of doctrine.

"May God Bless!"

Continued Civil Page 2

further threatens American democracy. The ruling, which rejected Trump's sweeping immunity claim but maintained protections for actions tied to presidential duties, has sparked intense debate about the boundaries of presidential power and accountability.

"Securing our civil rights remains the unfinished fight of our time," President Joe Biden said in a proclamation commemorating the anniversary. "Our country is still facing attacks on some of our most fundamental civil liberties and rights, including the right to vote and have that vote counted and the right to live free from the threat of violence, hate, and discrimination. That is why my administration is remaining vigilant—fighting actively to protect the rights of every American." Biden emphasized his

commitment to reversing the legacy of segregation and creating new opportunities for all Americans. "My administration is investing more money than ever in Black families and Black communities," Biden asserted. "We are reconnecting historic business districts and neighborhoods cut off by old highways, redlining, and decades of discrimination and disinvestment. We have invested over \$16 billion in historically Black colleges and universities, which will help raise the next generation of Black leaders. At the same time, we are creating good-paying jobs on which people can raise a family; making capital and loans for starting small businesses and buying homes more accessible; and making health insurance and prescription drugs more affordable."

In popular memory, the Civil Rights Act of 1964

was seen as a legislative response to the demands of the March on Washington. "Sixty years later, we must be honest: the federal minimum wage, indexed for inflation, is lower than it was in 1964," said Rev. William Barber, president of Repairers of the Breach and co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign. "What's more, because the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act in its 2013 Shelby decision and Congress has failed to remedy it, we have less voting rights protections today than we did on August 6, 1965."

Barber continued, "The celebration of historic wins alongside this egregious decay is a source of discontent among everyday Americans. But we have no time for despair. We are determined to channel discontent for a resurrection rather than an insurrection."

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Quinn Minute

Saturday movies

By Rix Quinn

On a hot summer Saturday when I was a kid, nothing topped a movie marathon in dark air-conditioned comfort.

During the week, we scouted area theaters for the best deals. Usually, those were half-day events that started before noon.

Buy a ticket, and you'd get two movies plus a cartoon, previews of upcoming shows, and even a newsreel.

Some guys liked Westerns. Lots of the girls liked semi-romantic flicks

with big-name stars. But I wanted only scary movies, complete with vampires, zombies, dinosaurs, demons, spacemen, mummies, or robots.

Then, one day, a new fright show came to town, and we all raced to see it. Here's why.

It was advertised as "the most horrifying story ever shown." It was so scary that three early viewers allegedly died of fright while watching the film.

Our theater warned us that before we entered, we

must sign a paper that we swore "our family would not sue the theater if we died of fright while watching the show."

That Saturday, dozens of kids lined up at a card table by the ticket booth. At the table sat a young lady in nurse's uniform, showing us where to sign our names.

Five of us guys signed, then entered the auditorium. We were pretty sure at least one of us would be scared to death. Who would it be?

Then the film started. There were a couple of werewolves, a ghost or two, plus a giant insect. But we were disappointed when – as the movie ended – all five of us were still breathing.

As we exited, that same uniformed lady was making new arrivals sign the contract for the next showing.

"The movie wasn't great," one of my friends yelled to those in line, "and I don't think that's a real nurse, either."

The Dallas Post Tribune
 Premise to Live By

Love of God

Love of Country

Love of Self

Love of Humanity

and

The Will to Serve


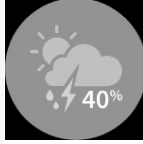







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SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, July 4	Friday, July 5	Saturday, July 6	Sunday, July 7	Monday, July 8	Tuesday, July 9	Wednesday, July 10
 H 98° L -81°	 H - 92° L - 76° 40%	 H - 91° L - 75°	 H - 95° L - 77°	 H - 94° L - 77°	 H - 92° L - 76° 30%	 H - 92° L - 76°

BREAKING: Key Dallas Mavericks Free Agent Agrees to Sign With LA Clippers

By Austin Veazey



Dec 20, 2023; Dallas, Texas, USA; LA Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard (2) controls the ball as Dallas Mavericks forward Derrick Jones Jr. (55) defends during the second half at American Airlines Center. Mandatory Photo Credit: Kevin Jairaj-USA TODAY Sports / Kevin Jairaj-USA TODAY Sports

Well, that was fast. After the Dallas Mavericks agreed to terms with New Orleans Pelicans forward Naji Marshall, it was expected that Derrick Jones Jr. may take his time to weigh his options and had a waiting period since signing a new agent.

Instead, Derrick Jones Jr. has agreed to a 3-year, \$30 million deal with the Los Angeles Clippers, per Shams Charania of The Athletic. While the Mavs have replaced him on the court with Marshall, his

high-flying athleticism and instant chemistry with the locker room will be hard to replace in the minds of fans.

Retaining Jones Jr. was called Priority 1A and 1B by general manager Nico Harrison, but a change in agents made negotiations tough. Jones signed with the Mavericks on a minimum contract last offseason as the final member of the roster and made an impact with his defense and athleticism. He was Dallas' primary defender on the opposing team's best guard most nights and helped turn the Mavericks' defense around this season.

The Clippers are going through a massive change this offseason, as they're

losing All-Star Paul George to free agency (likely to the Philadelphia 76ers) and needed someone to replace him on the wing. Jones Jr. offers similar athleticism and defense but won't have near the same impact offensively. He had his best season this year playing alongside Luka Doncic and Kyrie Irving, averaging 8.6 PPG while shooting a career-high 34.3% from 3-point range.

With Jones Jr. off the board, the Mavericks will fully set their sights on completing a sign-and-trade for Klay Thompson. They do still have around \$4 million remaining in their mid-level exception should they want a veteran player like Nic Batum.

Parkland burn center staff offer campfire, BBQ, fireworks safety tips

Caution campers to 'cool the coals'

DALLAS – Temperatures are at or near the century mark. The days are sweltering and the nights are not much better. About the only thing that offers relief is a cooling dip in a pond or lake. Then as the sun sets on the western horizon, the glow of flickering embers from area campfires begins to illuminate the night sky. Welcome to summer in Texas.

Although camping is a welcome adventure for family and friends, experts with Parkland Memorial Hospital's Regional Burn Center say it is important to talk to children about campfire safety before the trip begins.

But it's not just campfires that individuals need to be cautious around. The same holds true when grilling outdoors whether in the backyard or near the lake.

"Getting out of the house, cooking in the country and sleeping under the stars can be fun," said Sarah Scoins, MSN, RN, CNS, CCRN, ACCNS-AG, Parkland's Burn Outreach and Injury Prevention Educator. "But in the blink of an eye an accident can happen that could change your life forever."

That's what happened in May to Wendy Martin.

Looking forward to grilling an evening meal, Martin realized she was out of lighter fluid for her backyard barbecue. Not deterred, she doused the coals with rubbing alcohol and lit a match. The flame quickly ignited the alcohol burning Martin who was standing nearby on her chest, shoulder, neck, face and hand. She spent six days in Parkland's burn center.

For anyone planning a camping trip, the American Burn Association (ABA) offers some campfire safety dos and don'ts:

- Do build your fire in a designated ring/pit at least 15 feet away (preferably downwind from tent, brush and other flammable objects)
- Do keep the fire small and manageable, with water nearby
- Do completely extinguish the fire and coals by pouring water, stirring, and pouring water again

until it is cool. Never bury a fire.

- Don't leave a fire unattended – ever
- Don't throw anything other than wood into the fire
- Don't build a fire if conditions are dry or if forest fire danger is high
- Don't assume the fire pit is safe when arriving at a campsite. Coals from previous campers can still be hot.

"Seventy percent of campfire burns are caused by embers rather than flames," Scoins said, noting that fire pits retain heat up to 12 hours after being extinguished. "It can be hot enough to cause a severe burn. I always encourage people to be extra careful around a campfire – even if you don't see a flame or fire."

Should a burn injury occur, the ABA recommends a person "stop, drop and roll" if clothing catches fire. Cool the burn with cool (not cold) water, remove all clothing and jewelry from the injured area and cover the area with a clean dry sheet or bandages and seek immediate medical attention.

In addition to summer campfires, as the July 4th holiday nears, some campers may be celebrating Independence Day with fireworks. But if they're not careful, the festivities can quickly turn into emergency room visits.

Last July 4th, a fireworks explosion in east Texas left killed one person and left several others injured, while a firework-related incident also took the life of a teenager in the Texas panhandle. In 2022, at least 11 people died from fireworks-related incidents, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Five of those deaths were associated with fireworks misuse, with victims ranging from 11 to 43 years of age. The CPSC also showed there were 10,200 fireworks-related injuries in 2022. Seventy-three percent of those occurred during the one month surrounding the July 4th holiday.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission offers the following tips

to stay safe:

- Do not allow young children to play with fireworks. Sparklers, a firework often considered by many to be the ideal "safe" device for the young, burn at extremely high temperatures and should not be handled by young children.
- Older children should be permitted to use fireworks only under close adult supervision. Do not allow any running or horseplay.
- Set off fireworks outdoors in a clear area, away from houses, dry leaves, or grass and other flammable materials.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby for emergencies and for pouring on fireworks that fail to ignite or explode.
- Do not try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Soak them with water and throw them away.
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Never light fireworks in a container, especially a glass or metal container.
- Keep unused fireworks away from firing areas.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- Check instructions for special storage directions.
- Observe local laws.
- Never have any portion of your body directly over a firework while lighting.
- Do not experiment with homemade fireworks.

"Burns from fireworks usually involve the hands, face, arms and chest areas," said Scoins. "Fireworks can be dangerous and everyone must remember that they can cause serious and even life-threatening injuries. Accidents can happen, but if we take action to safeguard against them, we can reduce the risk and enjoy the holiday and family gatherings."

For more information on services available at Parkland, please visit www.parklandhealth.org/burn.

Continued Ruling Page 1

the credo etched above the entrance in which these Justices sit: 'Equal Justice Under Law'.

"To quote the Majority's decision, 'the President, unlike anyone else in our country, is comparatively free to engage in criminal acts in furtherance of his official duties,' and 'courts may not inquire into the President's motives.' So what are we, as Americans, left with? As Justice Jackson puts it: 'whether the President will be exempt from legal liability for murder, assault, theft, fraud or any other reprehensible and outlawed criminal act' will turn on a judge's determination.

"Let us be clear: not only is the outcome of today's decision deeply flawed, so too was the judicial process that enabled it to move forward. Make no mistake—Justices Thomas and Alito should NEVER have taken part in determining the outcome of this case. Justice Thomas should have been immediately precluded due to his wife's active involvement with President Trump's Chief of Staff as they worked to overturn the 2020 election, raising a clear conflict of interest in the outcome of this case. Justice Alito's recent remarks and actions also illustrate a clear inability to be unbiased in the outcome of this ruling. Yet, despite these egregious actions, this

Court has enabled itself to be a separate, UNEQUAL branch of government—one which has repeatedly operated without basic judicial ethics, without oversight, and without accountability.

"While today's ruling will leave shocks felt throughout our judicial system, it is the American people and Congress who must check this institution and build back the system of government our Founding Fathers envisioned before it was too late. As a co-chair of the Congressional Court Reform Now Task Force, I am here to say it is time Congress fulfill its constitutional duty to ensure our Court is accountable, transparent, and protects the law and the American people rather than the special interests of wealthy donors. It is time we safeguard our democracy by preventing the appointment of judges who will overturn decades of precedent all due to their own blatantly political biases.

"In his response to the question of whether the fledgling United States will be a republic or a monarchy, Benjamin Franklin responded, "A Republic, if you can keep it." That is the same question being asked of us today, and we are running out of time to answer it. We must reform the Supreme Court now if we are to survive as a republic and a democracy - it is that simple."



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Texas to double \$5 billion state fund aimed at expanding the power grid

The announcement came soon after a new prediction by the state's main grid operator that power demands will nearly double by 2030

BY KAYLA GUO



Corp.'s Midlothian Power Plant. State leaders announced Monday that Texas will double a fund aimed at spurring the construction of more gas-fired power plants as power demand is projected to increase sharply. Photo Credit: Shelby Tauber for The Texas Tribune

<link rel="canonical" href="https://www.texastribune.org/2024/07/01/texas-power-grid-energy-fund/">

The state of Texas plans to double a state fund aimed at expanding the power grid as demand for electricity is expected to nearly double over the next six years.

The state will look to boost the Texas Energy Fund from \$5 billion to \$10 billion, Gov. Greg Abbott

and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick announced on Monday. The fund was approved by voters in November 2023 to offer low-interest loans to incentivize development of new gas-fueled power plants.

The announcement comes soon after a new prediction by the state's main grid operator that said electricity needs will surge in the coming years. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas estimated that the

state's main power grid would have to provide nearly double the amount of power it currently supplies by 2030.

The numbers in the new forecast, Abbott and Patrick said in a press release, "call for an immediate review of all policies concerning the grid."

The state's grid came under intense public and legislative scrutiny after a winter storm in 2021 knocked out its operations, causing dayslong power outages across the state in freezing temperatures that left millions of Texans without lights or heat. Hundreds died.

The Texas Energy Fund set aside \$5 billion to fund 3% interest loans to help construct new gas-fueled power plants that are not dependent on the weather and that could power 20,000 homes or more.

The fund was also designed to pay out bonuses to companies that connect new gas-fueled plants to the main grid by June 2029, and to offer grants

for modernizing, weatherizing and managing vegetation and managing vegetation growth around electricity infrastructure in Texas outside the main electricity market, which meets around 90% of the state's power needs.

The state received notices of intent to apply for \$39 billion in loans — almost eight times more than what was initially set aside, Abbott and Patrick said. They added that the average plant will take three to four years to complete, and new transmission lines will take three to six years to complete.

This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at <https://www.texastribune.org/2024/07/01/texas-power-grid-energy-fund/>.

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Celebrate America's Birthday by Thanking Those Who Teach Our Youngest Learners

Andrew Davis, Chief Operating Officer, Council for Professional Recognition



Andrew Davis, Chief Operating Officer, Council for Professional Recognition, spoke to about 150 students at Florida International University in Miami who completed their Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential coursework.

As we mark America's Independence Day, I'm reflecting on the role education played in my family's journey to this incredible country and the educators who helped make it happen. I was born in Antigua in the Caribbean, where my father's family had lived for many generations. They coped with extreme poverty and many challenges — my grandmother was blind, for instance. Yet, from a very early age, teachers pushed my father to fulfill his potential. Their encouragement led him to attend university in Barbados and eventually earn his doctorate at the University of Sussex in England. Later, we settled in the United States, where my dad is a professor at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

Each step of the way, a mentor encouraged him to keep growing and expanding his mind. Their support not only changed his life but also paved the way for future generations of our family. I was so excited to spend time recently with about 150 students at Florida International University in Miami who completed their Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential coursework through the Professional Development Institute at the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe. Through articulation agreements with higher education institutions in Florida, these students can receive college credits toward an associate or bachelor's degree in early childhood education.

The CDA Credential is

the most widely recognized credential in early childhood education and it's a key steppingstone on the path of career advancement in the sector. The CDA is based on a core set of competency standards that guide early childhood professionals toward becoming qualified educators of young children. Our nonprofit, the Council for Professional Recognition, works to ensure that the nationally transferable CDA is a credible and valid credential, recognized by the profession as a vital part of professional development. CDA educators know how to put the CDA Competency Standards into practice and have an understanding of why those standards help children move with success from one developmental stage to another. Put simply, CDA educators know how to nurture the emotional, physical, intellectual, and social development of children.

It was an honor to recognize and celebrate these scholars, who participated in 120 hours of instruction and at least 480 hours of on-the-job training. They also compiled a professional portfolio and created a center-based capstone project. At the graduation ceremony, I told these students that they should feel proud of their

achievements and be empowered to become advocates for early childhood education. I emphasized the importance of cultivating resilience in the face of challenges and embracing lifelong learning. That lifelong learning can include earning additional degrees as well as serving as CDA Professional Development Specialists, who use their expertise to assess CDA candidates' competencies and facilitate reflective conversations with candidates for the credential.

Most importantly, the CDA scholars I met in Miami and other ceremonies this year are now serving as early childhood educators in communities across the U.S. They're professionals who support safe and healthy learning environments, provide positive guidance, successfully engage, and interact with families and contribute to ensuring an early learning program is well run. I know their work will pay off. Years ago, my dad's teachers had no way of imagining where their influence would lead. Indeed, when I look up to the sky on the Fourth to watch the fireworks, I'll keep in mind the educators who help their students reach higher and higher for spectacular results and the bright futures they create.