

“Honesty is the best policy. If I lose mine honour, I lose myself.”

~William Shakespeare



# The Dallas Post Tribune

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SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

May 23 -29, 2024

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

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 crosstalk. “How dare you attack the physical appearance of another person?”

Greene, undeterred, taunted

Ocasio-Cortez, asking, “Are your feelings 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.

During the contentious exchange, political pundits and others couldn’t help but note the difference between Crockett and Greene, whom many on social media allege is a staunch racist.

The Texas Democrat has routinely demonstrated her passion for justice and the protection of rights and has platformed criminal justice reform. Meanwhile, Greene remains a lightning rod for what’s plaguing government servants. In March of 2022, numerous Georgia voters filed legal challenges to her reelection campaign, alleging that she was disqualified from public office because she helped to facilitate the January 6, 2021, insurrection.

“The way she represents herself

Continue **Erupts** Page 5



## Plans to spend billions on a flood-prone East Texas highway may not solve the problem

BY JESS HUFF/Texas Tribune

LUFKIN — U.S. Highway 59, a major evacuation route from Houston, has been a problem for East Texas for decades. And as flooding rivaling that of Hurricane Harvey inundated the region in April, the highway closed in several places, cutting off a major evacuation route for countless people seeking shelter from the floods.

Plans to upgrade the highway, which stretches more than 600

miles through Texas from Laredo to Texarkana, to interstate standards have been on the books for decades. But the Texas Department of Transportation says it cannot guarantee that the billions of dollars being poured into the project will fix the flooding problem.

“U.S. 59 was one of the issues during [hurricanes] Rita, Ike, and Katrina,” Polk County Judge

Sydney Murphy said. “So you think by now we would be committed to expanding that roadway.”

Texas has poured millions of dollars over the past 30 years into upgrading parts of the highway to interstate standards — an effort known as the I-69 project — with the goal of relieving traffic congestion, supporting economic development, improving safety for travelers, and upgrading a major evac-

uation route for the state’s most populous city.

Thus far, only the part of U.S. 59 that runs through Houston has been upgraded to interstate standards, with a minimum of two travel lanes in each direction, 12-foot lane widths and paved shoulders of a specific width on both sides.

Steps to upgrade the highway in other areas have focused on larger

population centers, such as Lufkin and Nacogdoches.

Portions of U.S. 59 between Cleveland and Shepherd as well as between Shepherd and Livingston saw significant flooding in April. Those stretches of highway were closed multiple times between April 29 and May 4 — then again when more heavy rain came the

Continue **Flood** Page 5



Flooding on U.S. Highway 59 in Livingston on May 2, 2024. Thousands fled their Southeast Texas homes as heavy rains inundated multiple counties. Photo Credit: **Drone Bros LLC**



Whitney Foster  
Photo Credit: WFAA News

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

Author: Tanya Eiserer, Mark Smith/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.

Although Foster has been con-

victed, Clark said the churches are still having to untangle issues connected to the deed fraud.

“The Canada Drive Christian Church congregation was completely booted out of their church building,” Clark said. “In the case with 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 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.

Continue **Fraud** Page 3



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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

## How President Biden and the Democrats Can Lose

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

While the mainstream news media is fixated on the Trial of Donald Trump and his soaring poll numbers in spite of his legal problems, someone needs to have a conversation with President Biden about how he got in office and why he is losing the Black vote in particular, when he and the Democratic Party appear to think they have done enough for Black folks.

The Democratic Party appears to have forgotten that all states are "battleground states" if you are losing where you should be winning. Wake-up call: the Black Vote is not concerned with a speech at Morehouse or a meeting with the "Divine Nine", which does not represent rank-and-file voters in the Black communities.

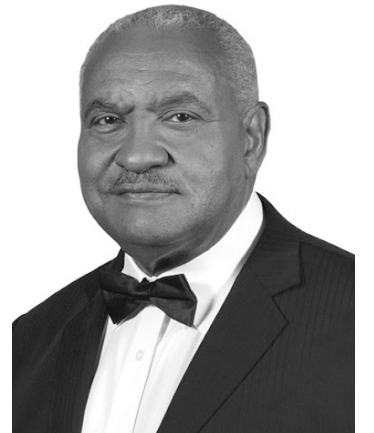
The Democratic Party continues to "Cherry Pick" the Black communities of

this nation and the Black Press along with them. Well, guess where the Black Press is located, in the Black communities. There is an assumption that Black people will vote for Joe Biden because they did the last time. Well, Black people have not forgotten that he did not deliver on the George Floyd Act or the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. Neither did he put the same energy into seeking passage of these two pieces of legislation as he did in trying to find ways, through Executive Orders, to bring relief in the face of the Supreme Court's overturn of Roe vs. Wade.

Vice President Harris is Black and an HBCU graduate, but that does not mean she is in touch with the Black Voter. She is respected for the position she holds, but that will not be enough to keep it.

Donald Trump, on the

other hand, is a known entity that is increasingly appealing to a Black male voter who has no knowledge of the Civil Rights struggle and what we stand to lose under Trump. They are not bothered by the Stormy Daniels affair or any of the other women in Trump's life. Some are out of jail because of Trump actions during his Presidency. They are not concerned about Democrats or Republicans, only higher food and gas and rent and inflation. You reach these men and women through the Black Press. Remember, they don't have to vote. All they have to do is stay home and Trump wins. I think now - and not in September or October - is the time for a media campaign with the Black Press. Without such a campaign, there is no need to go to the Democratic National Convention. The absence of a Black media



Dr. John E. Warren

campaign is the exclusion of the Black Vote.

Black Americans who have lived through less than equality, with all sorts of disparities, will survive under Donald Trump no matter what he does.

*Question: Will it be Biden or Trump? It's up to you, Mr. President, and not your advisors, who have failed you so far.*

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### Quinn Minute

## Short history of long film strips

By Rix Quinn

Not long ago at a class reunion, several of us got to talking about "film strips." If you attended elementary school during the 1950s through 1970s, you may remember these visual learning tools.

Because there were so many of us, states quickly constructed schools to contain us. Educators developed scholarly "film strips" to help instructors explain complicated concepts.

Film strips were like slide shows. Each film strip had an audio record that came with it. The record was put on a record player, which sat next to the film projector. (If you do not know what a

record player is, please consult a history book.)

The teacher displayed the first picture of the film strip, and then started the audio. Usually, the audio narrator had an authoritative voice, so you were convinced he knew everything.

The teacher moved from one picture to the next on the strip each time the record made a beeping sound.

A kid in our class also made random beep sounds. This made the teacher race through the pictures on the film strip, leaving us several minutes of mind-numbing audio about hibernating snakes.

Did you personally ever

see a film strip? Did anybody in your class die from boredom?

My two favorite film strips were "From Caterpillar to Butterfly" and "Mr. Gorilla Learns to Drive." (Actually, I made that last one up, because I never saw a film strip about a gorilla driver, especially one who could pass the written exam.)

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# RELIGIOUS/NEWS

## The Rapture (Introduction)

### I Thessalonians 4:13-18

#### Part 1

By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

We come now to Paul's grand exposition on the subject of the Rapture of the church. It had come to Paul's attention that there was a grave concern on the part of the believers with respect to what would happen to their Christian loved ones who died before the advent of the Rapture. Paul had taught vigorously that Christ's advent (His coming for His saints) could happen at any time. As you would recall, since Paul's departure from them, there had been a number of them who had died before the Lord came. The question that pervaded their minds was: "Will our loved ones experience the bliss of this grand event (Rapture), or would they remain in the heart of the earth?"

Paul certainly had to dispel any doubts that the believers had with regard to their loved ones' relationship to this event by informing them that both groups - the translated saints, as well as the dead in Christ saints - will experience the joy of the event. Paul had to labor hard

to correct the misunderstanding that these believers had regarding their loved ones' inclusion in the Rapture experience. As ministers of God, we are called upon to always be ministering from these perspectives: the ministry of edification, exhortation, and comfort (I Cor. 14:3). Our Christian associates need to know that the Rapture is the next eschatological event on God's calendar, and that all believers since Acts Chapter 2 (the birthday of the church) will participate in that event.

The Rapture will take place before the advent of the Tribulation period (I Thess. 1:10; Rev. 3:10; I Thess. 5:9). By the word, "eschatology," I am referring to the "doctrine of future things." As it relates to the future, the Rapture will take place prior to the Tribulation period, which will last for seven years. It will be a time of unusual punishment the unbelieving world will experience (Amos 5:18-20; Zephaniah 1:15). Thank God that all people - regard-

less of the color of their skin or of their plight in life - can have the blessed assurance that they will experience the Rapture (being caught up in the Mid-Air to meet Jesus) if, and only if, they would believe the simplicity of the Gospel message (I Cor. 15:1-4).

The Gospel message includes the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The moment that any man, woman, boy or girl genuinely accepts the Gospel message in their heart, they are saved (John 3:36, 5:24, Romans 10:9). Accept the Lord, right now in your heart, and I will assure you that based on God's Word, you are saved! And once you are saved, you are saved forever from the wrath to come (Tribulation Period - I Thess. 5:9).

The classic passage on the Rapture of the church (I Thessalonians 4:13-18) begins in verse 13 with Paul referring to the Thessalonian believers as brethren. He refers to these believers as brothers, denoting their equality of standing before

God. Moreover, Paul is not berating these believers for their lack of knowledge on the subject of the Rapture, aware that they were new converts. The major subject matter in verse 13 deals with Christians who have fallen asleep. The figure of sleep is emblematic of death.

The type of death that Paul refers to is the death of the body. This reference to death never refers to the soul or the spirit of man, because the spirit of man does not die. Paul wanted the Thessalonians to be neither ignorant nor grieving like the rest of men, that is, like unbelievers, over the death of fellow believers. Paul never instructs the Thessalonian believers not to grieve over the passing of their loved one; however, we are not to grieve as those who have no hope of being bodily raised to glory with Christ. Again, to grieve as believers is a normal experience, for even our blessed Lord grieved (St. John 11:35).

According to verse 14, there are two reasons why

Christians should not grieve as unbelievers: (1) Christians have a revelation from God that offers them hope; (2) Christians have a blissful future with Christ. Paul states emphatically that the souls of believers who have died will return with Christ when He come for His living saints. Thank God that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are two authentic facts of history. Also, the prophecy of the Rapture of the church is certain to be fulfilled as the prophecies of Christ's death and resurrection.

Paul clearly conveys in verse 15 that there will be saints who will be alive during the Lord's return. Paul believed that the Rapture was imminent, meaning that it could take place any moment (I Thessalonians 1:10). On the subject of the Rapture, Paul wanted these believers to know that their dead loved ones who died before the blissful event of the Rapture will be a part of it!

Paul stated that believers who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (or precede) those believers who have died in Christ. Believers who are alive at the coming of the Rapture will not be going ahead of those who died in Christ.

According to verse 16, Christ's return from His lofty position in heaven (Romans 8:34; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3) for His saints will be dramatic indeed! The dead in Christ of this dispensation of grace will be raised! Believers of

this church age will be raised (believers since Acts Chapter 2 until the Rapture) and not the Old Testament saints who will be raised at the end of the Tribulation Period (Daniel 12:2) to inherit the Millennium.

The great mystery of how God will raise the bodies of people poses a problem to the faith of countless ones. Our God who created the universe out of nothing (ex-nihilo) with a fiat is fully able to reassemble the decayed dead bodies of all His saints in a moment of time (I Corinthians 15:35-58). After the bodies of those who have died in Christ have been raised (v. 16), then those who are alive and remain will be caught up with the dead in Christ to meet the Lord in air (v. 17).

By using the word "we" Paul included himself, thinking that Christ would return during his lifetime. The resurrected or translated bodies of all Christians will be united with Christ and with each other at the Rapture. The Lord will take us to the place He is presently preparing for us (St. John 14:2-3). As lofty as this subject of the Rapture is, Paul wanted these believers to encourage one another with these words (v. 18).

In the midst of the prevailing problems and issues of our present lifetime, it is awfully comforting to know that the Rapture of the church is an imminent event, and that fact should inspire us to say: "Even so, come Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20).

*"May God Bless!"*

### BEWARE OF SCAMMERS

Continued **Fraud** Page 1

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.

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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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"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."

Rev. Melissa Bitting provided WFAA with a copy of the \$10 check. The check was dated March 18, 2019.

The memo line on the check says it's for a "donation."

"I cannot imagine the audacity of this gentleman to come and worship with us like he did one Sunday morning before he stole the property," Bitting said.

The church congregation is more than 170 years old and one of the oldest in North Texas. A historical marker in front of the church goes further: It says the church is "one of the oldest Christian congregations in continuous service in the state."

WFAA's 2022 "Dirty Deeds" special detailed how easy it is for thieves to file documents with the county clerk and take properties they do not own.

## Do Rules And Regulations Matter Anymore In The United States of America

By James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.



James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.

We live according to certain standards. It has always been that way in the country we love. Without them, there would be chaos and bad things would happen. Some years back, Marvin Gaye had a record called, what's going on! Maybe, we should ask that question now.

People stay here and come here because we have rules and regulations. Our beloved America is governed by a set of laws. We have a constitution of long standing that gives us a set of guidelines to follow.

Laws have sustained America over centuries and that is why our nation is respected around the world. Other countries make efforts

to emulate us because of the systems that we have in place.

Reputations of leaders matter when assigning respect and trust to them. It is not automatic. For America, respect and trust have always been our calling cards. It is woven within our fiber called democracy. Some are now calling into question our prominence on the world stage. Do we still have our calling card of respect and trust?

So many things are happening in the world today that impact America. The two wars in Ukraine and Israel are affecting us. Despite vigorous opposition, Congress did approve aid to both of those countries. Will these conflicts end any time soon? I don't think so.

Economic conditions are dicey at best. The jobs report suggests we have more people working now. On the other hand, pocketbook issues like groceries and gas are still challenging for our country. Buying a house for 1st time homebuyers is a struggle as mortgage rates are still high. The mortgage rate is hovering a bit over 7%. This is coupled with the fact

that home insurance rates in some states continue to rise each year.

Border issues and student loans are making citizens contact their elected officials wanting to get answers to these problems. There are no quick fixes. And of course, we are watching as Donald Trump tests the system of justice in America.

I often wonder at times what happened to the good old days? Those were times when we had norms and parameters and enforced them. We did not deviate from right, and it was not compromised. We didn't cheer for people who were doing wrong. Today, it is different.

Our nation back then depended upon a set of mores that was passed down from generation to generation. Somewhere along the way, our country's straight path became a crooked path. Now in 2024, we are in a heap of trouble.

Voices of reason have been muted by meanness and mayhem. There are those in high places who want to divide and to demoralize us. Simple put, we don't trust each other.

A recent poll about trust in

the federal government says that fewer than two-in-ten Americans say they trust the government in Washington. Will it change?

Young people are questioning how business is done in America. This is being played out by demonstrations and canceling graduations. According to reports, 2,200 people have been arrested because of these campus protests. It is important to note that many of those arrested have not been students. These are just troublemakers who travel from city to city inciting riots and protests.

Summer is fast approaching, and our fundamentals of fairness will be tested. Some would argue that right has become an illusion. My view has always been that right will always win out.

While some in America will stumble and fumble with alternative forms of the truth, let them. For those of us who follow rules and regulations, let's keep following those time-honored principles. We won't go wrong. Being on the right side will always pay dividends in our moral bank accounts. Our America calls for us to do so.



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### TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



#### NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN AIR QUALITY STANDARD PERMIT REGISTRATION RENEWAL

AIR QUALITY REGISTRATION NO. 122975

**APPLICATION** Holcim - SOR, Inc., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Registration No. 122975, for an Air Quality Standard Permit for Concrete Batch Plants, which would authorize continued operation of a Concrete Batch Plant located at 10361 Bickham Road, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas 75220. **AVISO DE IDIOMA ALTERNATIVO.** El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/newsourcereview/airpermits-pendingpermit-apps>. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-96.9069,32.8625&level=13>. The existing facility is authorized to emit the following air contaminants: particulate matter including (but not limited to) aggregate, cement, road dust, and particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less.

This application was submitted to the TCEQ on May 13, 2024. The application will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, the TCEQ Dallas/Fort Worth regional office, and the Bachman Lake Branch Library, 9480 Webb Chapel Road, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Dallas/Fort Worth regional office of the TCEQ.

The executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. Information in the application indicates that this permit renewal would not result in an increase in allowable emissions and would not result in the emission of an air contaminant not previously emitted. **The TCEQ may act on this application without seeking further public comment or providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** You may submit public comments, or a request for a contested case hearing to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application. **The deadline to submit public comments is 15 days after the final newspaper notice is published.** After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the TCEQ's jurisdiction to consider in the permit process.

After the technical review is complete the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. If only comments are received, the response to comments, along with the executive director's decision on the application, will then be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or who is on the mailing list for this application, unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING** You may request a contested case hearing. The applicant or the executive director may also request that the application be directly referred to a contested case hearing after technical review of the application. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court. Unless a written request for a contested case hearing is filed within 15 days from this notice, the executive director may act on the application. **If no hearing request is received within this 15 day period, no further opportunity for hearing will be provided.** According to the Texas Clean Air Act § 382.056(o) a contested case hearing may only be granted if the applicant's compliance history is in the lowest classification under applicable compliance history requirements and if the hearing request is based on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application. Further, the Commission may only grant a hearing on those issues submitted during the public comment period and not withdrawn.

**A person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility is entitled to request a hearing. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following:** (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, daytime phone number; (2) applicant's name and permit number; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing;" (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility; and (7) a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period. **If the request is made by a group or association, one or more members who have standing to request a hearing must be identified by name and physical address. The interests which the group or association seeks to protect must also be identified. You may also submit your proposed adjustments to the application/permit which would satisfy your concerns. Requests for a contested case hearing must be submitted in writing within 15 days following this notice to the Office of the Chief Clerk, at the address below.**

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for contested case hearing to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material air quality concerns submitted during the comment period.** Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to consider in this proceeding.

**MAILING LIST** In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list to receive future public notices for this specific application mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk by sending a written request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

**AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION** Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at [www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/](http://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/), or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll free at 1 800 687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Holcim - SOR, Inc., 15900 Dooley Road, Addison, Texas 75001-4243 or by calling Ms. Andrea Childers, Environmental and Land Specialist at (580) 364-2943.

Notice Issuance Date: May 16, 2024

# SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

## 7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, May 23



H 84°  
L -74°

Friday, May 24



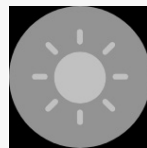
H - 92°  
L - 74°

Saturday, May 25



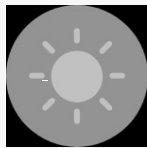
H - 91°  
L - 77°

Sunday, May 26



H - 95°  
L - 75°

Monday, May 27



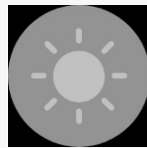
H - 96°  
L - 70°

Tuesday, May 28



H - 87°  
L - 67°

Wednesday, May 29



H -83°  
L -66°

### Diddy in Crisis: Abuse Accusations and a Strange TV Appearance

By Stacy M. Brown

NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent@StacyBrownMedia

Sean “Diddy” Combs’ former head of security, Roger Bonds, revealed he witnessed the hip-hop mogul being violent toward women “four or five times,” expressing no surprise at the 2016 footage of Combs brutally beating then-girlfriend Cassie Ventura.

“It didn’t surprise me when I saw it because I’ve seen things of this nature before,” Bonds said in a televised interview this week. “I’ve gotten in between things like this back in 2012.” He described the 2016 incident where Combs was seen shoving, kicking, stomping and dragging Ventura in a hotel hallway.

When asked how many times he’d seen Combs become violent toward women, Bonds replied, “Around four or five times.” He added, “I’ve seen him [be violent] with Cassie and Kim Porter, his kid’s mother. I’ve seen him

get physical, grabbing them up and getting into wrestling and punching matches.”

Combs apologized for the 2016 incident in a recent Instagram video, calling his behavior “inexcusable” without directly addressing Ventura. “I take full responsibility for my actions in that video. I’m disgusted,” he said.

However, Ventura’s lawyer, Meredith Firetog, criticized Combs’ apology, calling it self-serving. “Combs’ statement is more about himself than the many people he has hurt. He only apologized after his repeated denials were proven false,” she said.

In a separate incident, rapper Cam’ron, also known as Cameron Giles, appeared on CNN with Abby Phillip to discuss the developments surrounding Combs. However, the interview went awry as



Sean “Diddy” Combs  
Photo Credit: NNPA Files

Cam’ron seemed unaware of the topic and focused on promoting his product, an all-natural sexual supplement called HorsePower. After mak-

ing non-committal remarks about the security footage, Cam’ron asked his team off-camera, “Who booked me for this joint?”

Continued Page 1

### Plans to spend billions on a flood-prone East Texas highway may not solve the problem

weekend of May 16 — and are supposed to receive upgrades in the next four years.

Those sections are part of nearly \$6 billion the state plans to pour into the highway over the next decade or more to upgrade the highway to interstate standards, address safety issues and cover basic maintenance. TxDOT says it has allocated \$1.5 billion for projects already underway or that begin soon on U.S. 59. The agency has another \$4.3 billion allocated for future projects scheduled to begin in the next four to 10 years.

“East Texas in general has experienced a large increase in extreme rainfall compared to last century,” Nielsen-Gammon said. “Part of that is due to climate change. Climate change has increased the intensity of very heavy rainfall across the southern U.S. by nearly 20%.”

TxDOT would not say whether current improvement plans take into account warnings from climatologists of even more severe flooding to come due to climate change.

“The projects being developed along the future I-69 corridor are designed to be serviceable for a 100-year flood event, however TxDOT cannot predict the amount of rain or potential flooding our lakes, rivers and streams could see in the future,” said Rhonda Oaks, the public information officer for TxDOT’s Lufkin District, where plans are currently underway to upgrade around a

dozen miles of U.S. 59 to interstate standards.

Laura Butterbrodt, another TxDOT spokesperson, said the agency is currently developing the Statewide Resiliency Plan, “which will specifically target critical routes for the most appropriate design, maintenance and operations to foster resiliency.”

The first draft will be available for review by the Resiliency Steering Committee in June.

When the federal government authorized building 41,000 miles of interstate highways crisscrossing the nation in the 1950s, the federal government paid 90% of the cost, leaving the remaining 10% to the states.

But the I-69 project was not included in the original plans and didn’t receive federal designation until the early 2000s, state Sen. Robert Nichols said. When completed, the interstate will stretch more than 2,600 miles across multiple states from the Texas-Mexico border to the Michigan-Canada border.

But each state along the proposed interstate highway is expected to cover the cost — not the federal government.

“At present, there is no dedicated federal funding for the entire conversion of U.S. 59 to a future I-69 route through Texas,” the Federal Highway Administration said in an email statement. “It is up to the State [Texas Department of Transportation], to move projects forward.”

### Parkland experts remind you to ‘take the moment’ to prioritize mental health

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

DALLAS – Behavioral health concerns affect people across Dallas County, yet stigma often prevents them from seeking the support they need. Parkland Health experts recognize the crucial importance of challenging misconceptions and fostering a culture of acceptance and understanding so people can feel comfortable talking about their mental health and seeking help.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

acknowledges May as Mental Health Awareness Month, an opportunity to address the challenges faced by millions of Americans living with mental health conditions. According to NAMI:

- 1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness each year, and only half of them receive treatment.
- 1 in 20 U.S. adults experience a serious

Continue Mental Page 6

## HEALTH

### All Minds Need Maintenance

Taking care of your mental health is as important as looking after your physical health. However, many people shy away from counseling and only consider visiting a psychologist in times of crisis. But did you know that mental health services can also be preventative?

One of the biggest misconceptions about mental health is that it’s only for people suffering from severe illnesses such as depression, anxiety, or bipolar disorder. However, mental health encompasses a wide range of issues. Whether it’s work or school-related stress, relationship issues, or difficulties adjusting to a new home or job, seeking help from a mental health professional can make a world of difference. Carolina Peña, a Licensed Professional Counselor for Parkland Health, explains, “Mental health can also be about daily things.”

Peña most often counsels cancer patients with complex emotional issues, but she also recommends counseling for people with other issues as well. “Think of it like visiting your doctor for a cold—you can also visit your psychologist for problems like stress, mood changes, or parenting issues,” she adds. These issues may seem small, but they can significantly impact your overall well-being.

Mental illness can affect anyone at any time. Young, old, rich, poor, male, female, one in five of us will experience a mental health issue in any given year.

Mental health professionals at Parkland say there are millions of reasons why mental health matters deeply to them — and why the rest of us should also care:

- 1 in 5 adults in the U.S. lives with a mental health condition.
- 1 in 17 adults in the U.S. lives with a serious mental illness.
- 60 million people in the U.S. face the day-to-day reality of living with a mental illness.
- Nearly 1 million Texas adults have a serious mental illness.
- Each year, about one-half million children and adolescents in Texas experience a serious emotional disturbance.

For more information about Parkland behavioral health services, call 214-590-5536 or visit [parklandhealth.org/behavioral-health](http://parklandhealth.org/behavioral-health).

Continued Erupts Page 1

... seems unhinged to Republicans, but Greene is twice as destructive,” USA Today opinion columnist Nicole Russell wrote. “Greene has a history of incendiary behavior, banned from Twitter and stripped of committee assignments in 2021; she even adopted QAnon conspiracy theories and used violent rhetoric against political foes.”

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.

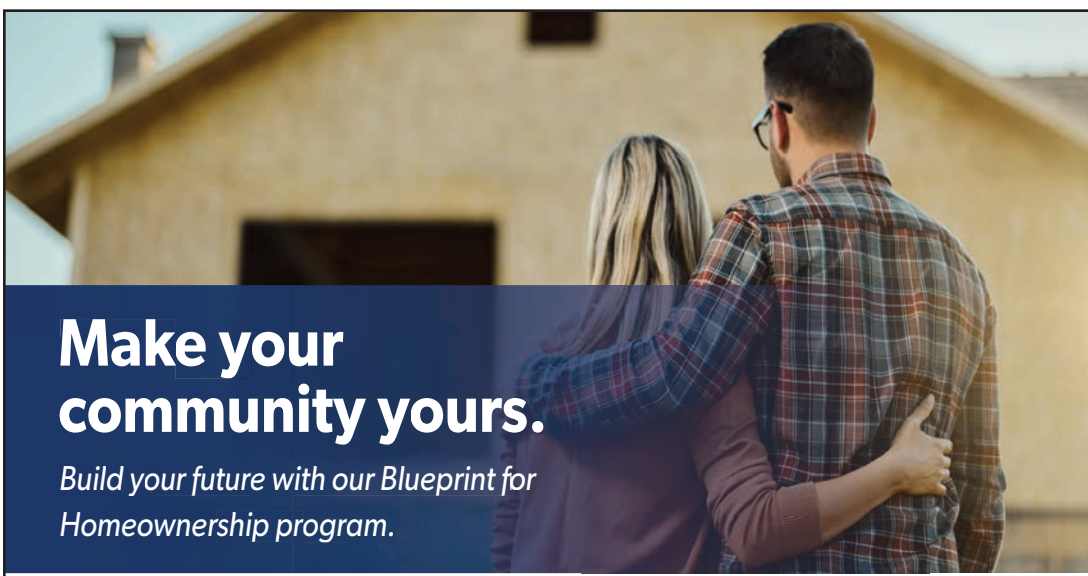
The controversy moved Comer to admit, “I have two hearing aids. I’m very deaf. I’m not understanding — everybody’s yelling. I’m doing the best I can.”

Comer later agreed to strike Greene’s insult of Ocasio-Cortez from the record, and Democrats pushed to enforce rules that would prevent Greene from speaking for the remainder of the hearing. However, Republicans voted to allow her to continue speaking. After a short recess, Comer reminded members to adhere to the House’s standard of decorum. Greene was ultimately

recognized to speak for over four minutes, reiterating her refusal to apologize. “I will not apologize for my words, and I will not change them,” she said.

Nearly an hour after the disruptions began, the committee returned to the original agenda of debating whether Garland should be held in contempt of Congress for not providing audio recordings of President Joe Biden’s interview with special counsel Robert Hur regarding classified documents.

The session had been moved from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. to accommodate members who attended former President Donald Trump’s trial in New York. Despite the turmoil, the committee voted 24-20 along party lines to recommend holding Garland in contempt. House Speaker Mike Johnson’s office has yet to announce when the resolution will be presented to the full House.



## Make your community yours.

Build your future with our Blueprint for Homeownership program.

At Hillcrest Bank, we believe in helping you build your future. That is why we developed our Blueprint for Homeownership program, which provides education and information on mortgage loan options in undeserved areas of our communities<sup>1</sup>.

This program will provide you with the necessary tools and knowledge to make informed decisions when choosing and buying your home. Plus, we will give you **\$1,200 off your closing costs<sup>2</sup>** when you choose to close your mortgage with us.

To learn more about the benefits of our Blueprint for Homeownership program call a mortgage banker listed below or visit [hillcrestbank.com/blueprint](http://hillcrestbank.com/blueprint).

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**Julie Nichols**

Mortgage Banker | NMLS 280620  
214.616.4549

[julie.nichols@hillcrestbank.com](mailto:julie.nichols@hillcrestbank.com)

**Cheri Zaberer**

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**Donna Hambek**

Mortgage Banker | NMLS 396728  
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[donna.hambek@hillcrestbank.com](mailto:donna.hambek@hillcrestbank.com)

**Rick Zaberer**

Mortgage Banker | NMLS 2408656  
972.800.2041

[rick.zaberer@hillcrestbank.com](mailto:rick.zaberer@hillcrestbank.com)

<sup>1</sup>Program available for individuals with income 80% or less of the Area Median Income in Dallas County, Texas. Available for purchase or refinance.  
<sup>2</sup>NOTE: Completion of the Framework does not, by itself, qualify a homebuyer for a Fannie Mae mortgage product nor any other mortgage product. Additional eligibility terms and conditions apply. \$1,200 Lender Credit is a limited time offer and is subject to change at any time. \$1,200 promotional offer cannot be used toward down payment or principal reduction. Standard underwriting guidelines apply. To receive \$1,200 promotional offer the loan must close with us. The \$1,200 credit will appear on your final closing disclosure. Offer is only valid for Blueprint for Homeownership loan program and cannot be combined with other offers. Down payment requirements based on loan program and additional percentage down payment may be required. NBH Bank NMLS 465954.

[hillcrestbank.com](http://hillcrestbank.com)



Continued Page 5

## Parkland experts remind you to ‘take the moment’ to prioritize mental health

• mental illness each year, and only two-thirds receive treatment.  
• 1 in 6 U.S. youth experience a mental health condition each year, and only half of them receive treatment.

Mental health disorders include psychotic disorders like schizophrenia, mood disorders like depression and bipolar disorder, personality disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), substance use, anxiety, and eating disorders, among others.

“Acknowledging your emotions and seeking support are the first steps toward managing your symptoms effectively,” said Natasha Benatti, PsyD, Trauma Psychologist at Parkland Health. “It’s essential to create a safe space where you can express your feelings without judgment. This might involve confiding in a trusted friend, family member, or seeking professional help from a counselor or therapist.”

According to NAMI data, half of all lifetime mental health conditions begin by age 14 and 75% by age 24, and early intervention programs can help. If you have a mental health condition, you’re not alone. As with other illnesses, mental illness is not your fault. With proper treatment, symptoms can be dramatically reduced and many people with mental health conditions will succeed in leading active, fulfilling lives.

In addition to working with a health professional, practicing mindfulness and relaxation techniques can also help significantly alleviate stress and anxiety. Engaging in activities such as deep breathing exercises can help calm the mind and promote inner peace. Carolina Pena, Licensed Professional Counselor, Mental Health Therapist at Parkland Health emphasizes the importance of incorporating these practices into your daily routine. “Consistency is key. Even just a few minutes of mindfulness each day can make a significant difference in managing stress levels,” said Pena.

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle is another important way to prioritize your mental health. Regular exercise not only improves physical health but also releases endorphins, which are natural mood lifters. Additionally, prioritizing nutrition and getting an adequate sleep can help you build resilience against common stressors.

Establishing boundaries and learning to say no when necessary is essential. Overcommitment can lead to burnout and worsen feelings of stress and anxiety. Learning to prioritize tasks and delegate responsibilities when necessary can help alleviate the burden. Pena advises, “Setting boundaries allows you to preserve your energy and focus on activities that truly matter to you.”

Additionally, fostering meaningful connections and engaging in activities that bring joy and fulfillment are vital for maintaining your mental well-being. Whether it’s spending time with loved ones, attending church or spiritual gatherings, or volunteering in your community, developing a support network can provide a sense of belonging. Pena encourages individuals to “Foster relationships that uplift and support you. Connection is a powerful remedy for stress and anxiety.”

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is a 24/7 call, text, and chat service where people can access trained crisis counselors. Those experiencing suicidal thoughts, substance abuse or any emotional distress can receive support, which is especially helpful for people wanting to remain anonymous. The line also offers support to those who are worried about a loved one and need crisis support.

The staff in Parkland’s Behavioral Health Services staff is here to support, offering a range of mental health services provided by trauma-informed psychiatrists, behavioral health providers, clinical social workers, psychiatric nurses and psychologists.

For more information about Parkland mental health services, visit: [www.parklandhealth.org](http://www.parklandhealth.org).

# Potential Hurdles Ahead, but Biden Still Holds Strong Support Among Black Voters

By Stacy M. Brown

Despite endorsements and praise for former President Donald Trump from high-profile African American figures like Stephen A. Smith, Snoop Dogg, and Ice Cube, President Joe Biden continues to enjoy strong support within the Black community. A new Pew Research Center study, “An Early Look at Black Voters’ Views on Biden, Trump, and Election 2024,” highlighted this trend, showing that a majority of Black voters believe Biden possesses the qualities needed for another term.

The study revealed that 77% of Black registered voters prefer Biden over Trump.

However, researchers noted, “Biden’s advantage among this group is not as wide as it was four years ago,” an indication of a slight erosion of support. The study also revealed that 83% of Black registered voters identify with or lean toward the Democratic Party, down from 88% in 2020. The shift is evident across gender and age demographics, with younger Black voters showing a higher tendency to lean Republican compared to their older counterparts.

Trump’s ratings among

Black voters remain overwhelmingly negative. The study found that 72% of Black voters rated his presidency as poor or terrible, and 65% believe the twice-impeached and four-times indicted Trump broke the law in his alleged efforts to overturn the 2020 election. Despite this, 49% of Black voters express a desire to replace both Biden and Trump with different candidates if given the option.

The priorities of Black voters diverge somewhat from those of the general electorate. While the economy is a top concern for 73% of Americans, Black Americans place equal importance on improving the education system (79%) and ensuring the financial stability of Social Security (74%). Other key issues include reducing healthcare costs (72%), addressing poverty (70%), reducing crime (68%), and tackling racial issues (65%).

Biden’s job performance approval among Black Americans has seen some improvement. As of April 2024, 55% approve of his handling of the presidency, up from the near-even split in January 2024. This approval, however, is still below the 87% recorded

early in his term.

Looking ahead to the 2024 election, 55% of Black voters believe the outcome is crucial as Trump’s plans include a dictatorship and a complete erosion of rights for all people of color, according to his biggest supporters’ “Project 2025” plan. Currently, 77% lean towards voting for Biden, while Trump garners support from 18% of Black voters, with younger Black voters more likely to support Trump compared to their older counterparts.

Confidence in Biden’s capabilities remains relatively high among Black voters, with 56% believing he respects democratic values and 50% confident in his ethical conduct. Only a small fraction extends these beliefs to Trump, with no more than 8% attributing similar qualities to him.

However, the Biden campaign could face significant challenges if it fails to engage adequately with the Black Press of America. The Black Press, celebrating its 197th anniversary in Baltimore next month, continues to play a crucial role in reaching Black voters. Reflecting on a similar situation in 1992, President Bill

City of Dallas Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center  
FY 23-24:70

## “50 YEAR Anniversary” JUNETEENTH FESTIVAL

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**Volunteer Opportunities**  
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**“2024 Time to Soar! The Sky is the Limit”**  
Contact us at 214-670-8418 or visit [dallasmlkcenter.com](http://dallasmlkcenter.com) for more information.

Clinton faced backlash for renegeing on a promise to address the Black Press at their annual convention. Ironically, that convention was held in Baltimore, the same city that’s hosting the 2024 conference.

“Clinton later made up for it by inviting the Black Press to the White House for a discussion, a move that helped him secure the presidency,” stated Philadelphia Tribune

Publisher Robert Bogle, who famously led a press conference during that 1992 convention to denounce Clinton’s absence. Bogle and Houston Defender CEO Sonny Messiah Jiles, who also help lead the 1992 presser, told the Black Press’ Let It Be Known morning news show that, if Biden neglects to address the Black Press or invest in significant advertising, his campaign risks alienating a

critical voter base. Overall, Biden still maintains a substantial lead among Black voters, but Jiles and Bogle said his campaign must navigate carefully to maintain and strengthen this support. “Addressing the Black Press and focusing on the community’s unique priorities will be essential steps in securing their votes in the upcoming election,” Bogle asserted.

