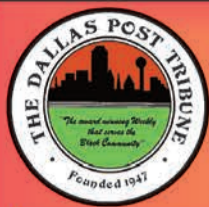


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VOLUME 77 NUMBER 12

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

November 28 - December 4, 2024

~ POLITICS ~



Paul Quinn College Receives \$1.5 Million Grant from T.D. Jakes Foundation and Wells Fargo



Photo Credit: Wells Fargo

Dallas, November 21, 2024 – Paul Quinn College, the originator of the Urban Work College model and the only minority-serving, federally recognized Work College in America, has received a \$1.5 million grant from T.D. Jakes Foundation (TDJF), in partnership with Wells Fargo (NYSE: WFC). This grant will support the creation of an innovative housing model and the planning of a companion mixed-use community on the Paul Quinn campus.

"This is so much more than a traditional real estate development—it's a statement about what higher education can be for all of us – those who attend our schools and those who do not," said Dr. Michael J. Sorrell, President of Paul Quinn College. "We are building a city within our campus walls. It will be a community that inspires, innovates, and invests in its people. This will only be possible due to the vision of our partners at T.D. Jakes Foundation and Wells Fargo. And for that, we are incredibly grateful."

The grant will launch a dynamic campus housing initiative that will eventually be accompanied by a larger mixed-use development that includes stu-

dent and family housing, retail and restaurant spaces, parks, outdoor meeting areas, and classroom facilities—all designed to serve both the campus and the surrounding community. This groundbreaking project will expand Paul Quinn's student housing capacity by 300 percent as Paul Quinn seeks to meet the needs of a growing student body.

"We are proud to support Paul Quinn College in their mission to create a transformative and sustainable campus environment that addresses critical needs like housing, transportation, and food security for students," said Kelley Cornish, CEO and President, T.D. Jakes Foundation. "This \$1.5 million grant will lay the groundwork for an innovative mixed-use development that provides essential services and resources and strengthens the college's long-term vision for community impact. We believe this project will have a profound impact on student success and well-being, empowering them to focus on their education and future."

The development will serve the immediate Paul Quinn College community, including students and their

Continue Grant Page 5

15 Democrats Join Republicans in Backing Bill Critics Call a Dictator's Dream

The Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act (H.R. 9495) grants the Treasury secretary unilateral authority to label nonprofits as "terrorist supporting organizations" and strip them of their tax-exempt status without due process.

By Stacy M. Brown

Donald Trump has openly declared he would rule as a dictator from his first day in office. Astonishingly, 15 House Democrats joined Republicans in passing a bill many say could empower Trump to do just that. The Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act (H.R. 9495) grants the Treasury secretary unilateral authority to label nonprofits as "terrorist supporting organizations" and strip them of their tax-exempt status without due process. The measure passed the House on Thursday, Nov. 21, in a

219-184 vote.

Critics argue the legislation opens the door for abuse, with devastating consequences for free speech and democracy. Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-Texas, called the bill a step toward authoritarianism. "A tyrant tightens his grip not just by seizing power but by demanding new powers and when those who can stop him willingly cede and bend to his will."

The provision has been compared to laws used by authoritarian regimes in countries like Hungary and Nicaragua, where similar measures have silenced

dissent and forced aid organizations to close. Critics say it would allow any president to target nonprofits arbitrarily, bypassing judicial safeguards already in place.

The bill combines unrelated measures and includes tax-relief provisions for Americans held unjustly abroad. Opponents note that those provisions could easily be passed as standalone legislation without granting the Treasury Department new powers.

"This is not about fighting terrorism—it's about handing Donald Trump the

authority to decide who is a terrorist," Doggett said. "Our democracy is under threat."

Democratic Support Sparks Outrage

Despite clear warnings, 15 Democrats supported the measure, joining Republicans to advance what civil rights advocates have described as a "dictator's dream." Reps. Henry Cuellar, D-Texas, and Jared Golden, D-Maine, are among those facing backlash for their votes. Critics have also called out House

Minority Leader Hakeem
Continue Bill Page 6

Bishop T.D. Jakes stable after 'slight health incident' during Sunday service

By Sophia Beausoleil/NBC News



Photo Credit: Mitchell Haddad/TENGA

Sunday morning during an hour long sermon, Bishop T.D. Jakes had "a slight health incident" while on stage during the church service. NBC 5's Sophia Beausoleil has the details.

Dallas Bishop T.D. Jakes is recovering and under medical care Monday after suffering an unspecified "slight health incident" during Sunday's sermon, according to The Potter's House of Dallas.

On Sunday, Jakes, 67, was on the pulpit at the church's main campus in Southern Dallas when he experienced a medical emergency after delivering a "powerful hour-long message."

Part of the service was recorded from the live stream and posted to social media. In the video, Jakes can be heard praying after his sermon: "Oh

Continue Jakes Page 2



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EDITORIAL PAGE

Good Sportsmanship Should Always Happen At Historically Black Colleges And Universities Athletic Events

By James B Ewers Jr. Ed.D



James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D

I keep up with HBCU athletic contests. Football season is almost over, and it has been an exciting season for several teams. I hope that your team, like mine, had a good season. We are already looking forward to next season. HBCU football was more popular this year than in previous years. I believe television has played a big role in its increased popularity. Back in the day, these games were not televised. You either had to go in person or read about the result in the newspaper.

Sportsmanship has always been a big part of HBCU athletics. Leaving the court or field always meant shaking hands with your opponent. I was a tennis player at an HBCU and I always shook hands with my opponent after a match. It did not matter how diffi-

cult the match was or whether I won or lost.

Unfortunately, that is not always the case now. It seems that competition has brought out the worst instead of the best in some student-athletes. This lapse in judgment has created some acrimony among some athletes.

Let's be clear. One fight is too many and there have been a few of them lately. Unwanted publicity has come to some HBCU programs. You know those programs and the embarrassment they are facing.

Some players and coaches have been suspended by their conferences. I have maintained that student-athletes are ambassadors for their schools. There is a responsibility they have to conduct themselves properly. I would opine that all student-athletes today are on scholarships. Many of them are paying zero dollars to attend college.

HBCUs have rich histories of both academic and athletic excellence. These reputations have been earned. Our institutions have made it through tough and turbulent times. Despite these challenges,

they have been successful in educating thousands of young men and women, most of whom are African Americans.

Sports halls of fame are filled with the names and statues of HBCU graduates. The same can be said for HBCU conference halls of fame. Those enshrined have conducted themselves in a manner that made their schools proud of them. I was blessed to have been inducted into an HBCU conference hall of fame. The experience is one that I will never forget.

Parents and love providers attend athletic contests to cheer for our children. We have invested our time, energy and love hoping they will be successful. When a student-athlete is on the playing field or court, they are representing their families.

I can only imagine how those involved in the recent skirmishes are feeling right now. They are ashamed of their behavior. It only takes a minute to lose control, yet the consequences stay with you for quite a while.

Many college athletes want to get NIL (name,

image and likeness) agreements. NIL agreements are the talk of the sports world now. Everyone has one or wants to get one. These deals can make instant millionaires out of these student-athletes.

It is my thinking that companies look at not only athletes on the field or court performance but also look at how they carry themselves. We know that despite what some say that character does count in their assessment. I wonder if those young men thought about character when they decided fighting was better than fortune. Obviously, they did not.

Post-season opportunities will await teams in the coming weeks. It will be interesting to see how the suspensions affect them playing going forward.

Let's hope that those affected will have learned from those momentary lapses and not be repeat offenders. College students in the athletic arena are role models. They are admired by young boys and girls who are just starting to play sports. Our children and grandchildren are watching you. Don't disappoint them.

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Continued
Jakes Page 1

Lord, my strength, my redeemer, let him go in peace." Immediately after, he becomes quiet, lowers the microphone, and begins to shake. People, appearing to be

church elders and staff, rushed the stage to support him before the video cut off.

According to a post on the bishop's social media page, he received immediate medical attention and is in stable condition after the inci-

dent. Further details about the bishop's medical condition have not been released.

The post also thanked the community for its outpouring of love, prayers, and support.

The bishop's daugh-

ter, Sarah Jakes Roberts, and her husband, Toure Roberts, released a statement on Instagram early Monday morning thanking people for their prayers, concern, and support. They said he was recovering well and under medical care.

Quinn Minute

Shopping thoughts for early-season buyers

By Rix Quinn

If you're like me, your mailbox is now bulging with holiday gift catalogs. Yesterday I even got a catalog showing other catalogs I could order.

Many families consider the dog to be part of the family. "What do I buy Rover?" is a common question, especially if Rover is a cousin.

The answer is simple: Dogs don't keep calendars, so they don't know holidays from squat.

Of course, always select non-toxic toys. Sometimes

a dog will eat one, and it is days before you can find and disinfect it.

My history books say that the first Thanksgiving, turkey was skewered on a long solid rod called a spit.

I am a vegetarian. I never cook my vegetables that way, and I never spit on them.

I often have trouble shopping for relatives who show up only occasionally. Each year for the last decade, Uncle Ken has arrived on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, and he has

stayed in our guest room.

He eats a lot, but he doesn't bring any food. He never remembers anybody's names.

So, last week I asked my wife not to invite her Uncle Ken again. "My uncle?" she replied, "I thought he was your uncle."

Finally, activity books make a great gift. Even toddlers can spend hours with crayons if they've got pictures or furniture to color.

Whatever you buy, re-

member it's better to give than to receive. Last year I gave holiday visitors a cold.

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

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

RELIGIOUS/NEWS

The Finality of God's Revelation

Hebrews 1:1-3



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

As many biblical scholars purport, the book of Hebrews is one of the most amazing books of the New Testament; in fact, biblical scholars advance that it is second only to the book of Romans in glory and magnificence. This glorious book was written somewhere between the Ascension of Christ in A.D. 33, and the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple in A.D. 70. A conservative date of Hebrews would be from A.D. 64-68. The author of this book is very debatable. Speaking on the uncertainty of the author's origin, a great forefather wrote: "Only God knows." The anonymity of its author does not distract from the essential message of this book: Jesus Christ is Superior to anything that Judaism has to offer.

The book of Hebrews will present the surpassing superiority of Jesus Christ in His Person and work.

In amazing abruptness, the author drives right into his subject of presenting the supreme glories of the Second Person of the eternal Godhead, Jesus Christ. First and foremost, he contrasts God's revelation through the prophets with His supreme revelation in His Son. The great ministry of the prophets of old was of immense value in the Old Testament. These great servants were God's mouthpiece in dispensing God's truth. A prophet by definition is God's spokesman to mankind. God used prophets of old to communicate His message to mankind. God used diverse ways to communicate His message in visions, dreams, symbols, and also through the law, history, poetry and prophecy. However, at best, the revelation that the prophets presented was only partial and fragmentary! In essence, the revelation that was channeled from

God to the prophets to man was given progressively, but never with a sense of finality.

However, although the channel of communication of the prophets of old was only partial, the author wishes to unveil that Jesus Christ is God's final and consummate revelation to man (v. 2). Jesus Christ is truly God's final revelation to mankind, and He affirmed that fact when He said: "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." In presenting the surpassing greatness of God's Son to the prophets, the writer first presented Him as "Heir of all things."

This universe belongs to Him because He was the active or energetic agent of creation. He created the atmospheric and stellar heavens, the earth, and He created mankind. In verse 3, He is the effulgent or outshining of God's glory. All of

the perfections of God the Father are found in Him. In addition, Jesus Christ is the precise and exact image of God's being. The Son as God precisely reveals to man who God is! In revealing that Christ is the exact reproduction of the essence of God, Colossians 1:15 states: "Who is the image of the invisible God, the first born of every creature." Furthermore, in 3b, the writer states that Christ upholds this marvelous universe by His potent and powerful Word. He who speaks things into existence, has the power to sustain that He has created! Colossians 1:17 supports the fact that the Creator sustains the universe, for this verse states: "And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist." He holds together this marvelous universe and He holds us together also, for Acts 17:28 says: "For in Him we live, and move

and have our being."

Having presented the surpassing Person and work of Christ, the writer presented Christ's most astounding work for mankind - "When He had by Himself purged out sins." The great Creator and sustainer of this vast universe became our Sin-bearer. As the Creator and sustainer of this vast universe, He only had to speak, and in so doing, He maintains perfect order. But in order to expiate and put away our sins, Christ had to die on a rugged hill call Calvary. Yes, in order to put away our sins, Christ had to die, the just for the unjust, in that II Corinthians 5:21 says: "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

Thank God that His work of redemption is finished, for the latter part of verse 3 says that He "sat

down on the right hand of the Majesty on high." Christ, the active agent of Creation and the sustainer, died for our sins. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John said that He died; Paul said that He died, for Christ is the Mediator between God and man. Yes, He died and was buried, but He rose triumphantly from the grave. And now, Christ has been exalted to a position of honor, and His exalted position was attested to by Paul in Philippians 2:9-11 which states: "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

May God Bless!

- Clues -

(Solution to November 21 Puzzle, see page 5)

ACROSS

- 1. Combat vehicle
- 5. Semi
- 8. *Biathlon gear, sing.
- 11. Keiko of "Free Willy"
- 12. *Ashi Waza and jugodi sport
- 13. Audience's approval
- 15. Tandoori bread
- 16. Ned Stark's daughter, "Game of Thrones"
- 17. Röntgen beams
- 18. *Warning track sport
- 20. Monetary "thank you," pl.
- 21. Indigo dye shrubs
- 22. "Arabian Nights" bird
- 23. Destroyer
- 26. Danced to certain Polish music
- 30. Crematorium container
- 31. One without magic powers in Harry Potter stories
- 34. Largest volcano in Europe
- 35. Do nothing (2 words)
- 37. Singer Yoko
- 38. Be at the helm
- 39. Tropical tuber
- 40. *Player who delivers in a crucial sports moment
- 42. Recipe qty.
- 43. Display proudly (2 words)
- 45. Smells
- 47. Lake, in France
- 48. Clean a spill (2 words)
- 50. #8 Across, pl.
- 52. *Cornerback and direct snap sport
- 55. Russian pancake
- 56. Pasta option
- 57. Go cold turkey
- 59. *Reward for multiple sports championships, pl.
- 60. "Breaking Bad" victim
- 61. The Beehive State
- 62. King Kong, e.g.
- 63. Type of lightbulb, acr.
- 64. Spooky

DOWN

- 1. Boatload
- 2. Riyadh native
- 3. *Collegiate sports grp.
- 4. Topeka native
- 5. Not urban
- 6. Short poems of pastoral life
- 7. *Hockey score
- 8. *Powerful shot in hockey
- 9. 11th letter of Roman alphabet, pl.
- 10. Elvis' "___ Now or Never"
- 12. White and black stork
- 13. Glorify
- 14. *Gully and deep mid wicket sport
- 19. Foe
- 22. Fish eggs
- 23. Corrodes
- 24. Heap of "David Copperfield"
- 25. Preface
- 26. Scheme
- 27. Mr. T's TV show "The ___"
- 28. Olden days constipation treatment
- 29. *Bag of nails and baby ton sport
- 32. *Eagle and mulligan sport
- 33. African migrator
- 36. *Turkey and split sport
- 38. Woody perennial
- 40. Chlorofluorocarbon, abbr.
- 41. He gets a flag?
- 44. Reprieve in a desert
- 46. Not light-transmitting
- 48. Dots and dashes code
- 49. Did like goo
- 50. Women's underskirt
- 51. Plural of cow, arch.
- 52. *Sports transgression
- 53. Plucked string instrument
- 54. Pinocchio, e.g.
- 55. Type of undergarment
- 58. Olden day "your"

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle

Theme: SPORTS

CROSSWORD											
1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
11					12				13	14	
15					16				17		
	18			19					20		
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55						56			57		58
59						60				61	
62						63				64	

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

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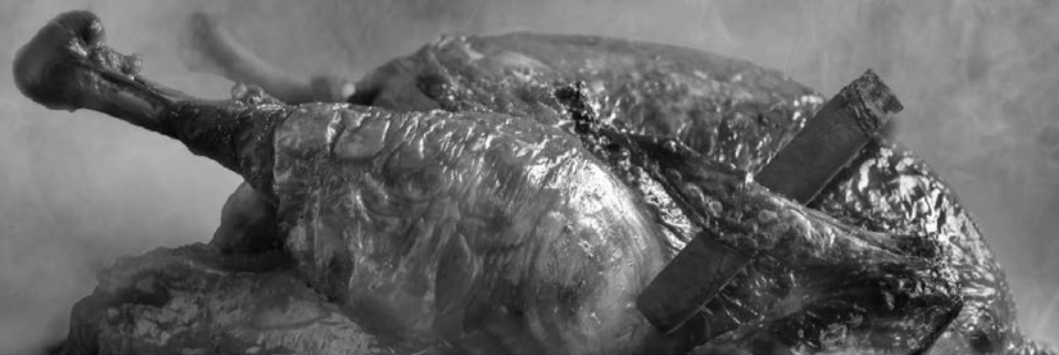


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Have a smoke-free Thanksgiving: The dangers of cigar smoking

As individuals gather with family and friends for a Thanksgiving feast, there are those who push away from the dinner table and light a cigar while they digest. But while puffing on the cigar may be a way to unwind, there are long-term risks associated with the habit.

During November's Lung Cancer Awareness Month, Parkland Health experts outline the serious dangers of cigar smoking. Not only can it lead to lung cancer, but it also raises the risk of heart disease and dental problems.

According to the American Lung Association (ALA), one cigar can contain as much tobacco as a pack of cigarettes. Regular cigar smoking increases the chances of developing cancers in the lungs, liver, pancreas, kidneys, stomach, cervix, esophagus, larynx, and mouth (lips, tongue, mouth, and throat). It can also cause lung diseases such as emphysema and chronic bronchitis.

In addition, family members, especially children are at risk of long-term health issues from inhaling secondhand smoke. Protecting your family means making safe choices during holiday gatherings and year-round.

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death worldwide, according to the ALA. Quitting can greatly improve your health, including:

- Lowering the risk of heart disease
- Improving circulation and lung function
- Reducing shortness of breath
- Decreasing the chances of cancers in the mouth, throat, and lungs

As we gather for the holidays, let's focus on our health and the safety of our loved ones. Be aware of habits that can have serious consequences for everyone.

Thinking about quitting or cutting back on smoking? Parkland offers nicotine cessation services to support you on your journey to quit.

Keep your family safe from secondhand smoke and prioritize your health this Thanksgiving. Ask your primary care provider for a referral and schedule an appointment by calling 214-590-5536 or visiting www.parklandhealth.org/smoking-cessation.

JOB POSTING

Capital Info Group, Inc., Irving, TX has multiple openings for IT professionals to serve clients located throughout the U.S. in the following skill sets: Salesforce/Lightning Development, JO-010; & Salesforce Administration, JO-020. Positions require a B.S. in related field. Some require M.S. Some positions require relevant experience. Entry level positions are available with M.S. and no exp. Sr. level positions are also available. Positions require travel/relocation. Send resume to: rubia@capitalinfogroups.com. Refer to specific JO# for consideration. Applicants must have authority to work permanently in the U.S.



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SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

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NHL Franchise Valuations Surge, Reflecting Unprecedented Growth

This milestone underscores the league's growing economic impact, bolstered by increased revenues, lucrative sponsorships, and strategic cost management that ensures profitability for all 32 teams.

By Stacy M. Brown



The National Hockey League (NHL) is enjoying a financial boom, as CNBC's 2024 NHL team valuations reveal an average franchise value of \$1.92 billion. This milestone underscores the league's growing economic impact, bolstered by increased revenues, lucrative sponsorships, and strategic cost management that ensures profitability for all 32 teams.

NHL's Elite Lead the Pack

At the top of the list, the Toronto Maple Leafs are valued at \$4 billion, followed by the New York Rangers at \$3.5 billion and the Montreal Cana-

diens at \$3.1 billion. These franchises represent hockey's richest markets, leveraging their iconic status to drive record revenues and profitability.

Toronto leads in profitability with an EBITDA (Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization) of \$139.5 million, while Montreal posted \$111.2 million. The Los Angeles Kings and Edmonton Oilers also posted strong EBITDA figures, solidifying their positions among the league's most financially robust teams.

The Factors Behind the Growth

The NHL's financial

success stems from a combination of record-setting revenues and disciplined financial practices:

- **Revenue Growth:** The league reported \$6.3 billion in hockey-related revenue for the 2023-24 season, an 8.6% increase year-over-year.
- **Ticket and Sponsorship Revenue:** Regular-season gate receipts reached \$2.4 billion, while national sponsorship revenue soared to \$250 million.
- **Media Deals and Salary Cap:** Expanding media partnerships and a hard salary cap ensure financial

sustainability and parity across the league.

Market Diversity and Challenges

While traditional markets dominate valuations, emerging teams like the Seattle Kraken (\$1.6 billion) and Vegas Golden Knights (\$1.85 billion) highlight the NHL's ability to thrive in non-traditional hockey cities. However, smaller-market teams like the San Jose Sharks and Columbus Blue Jackets face profitability challenges, posting negative EBITDA figures despite league-wide growth.

The Washington Capitals, valued at \$2.1 bil-

lion, and the Tampa Bay Lightning (\$1.8 billion) exemplify the financial strength of teams operating in competitive sports markets. Meanwhile, teams like the Winnipeg Jets and Ottawa Senators, valued at \$1.1 billion and \$1.18 billion respectively, reflect the league's ability to sustain franchises in smaller markets.

NHL's Rising Status

The NHL is proving its economic resilience with an average valuation rivaling Major League Baseball. Revenue multiples for recent transactions reflect increasing investor interest, while strategic cost controls position the

league for sustained profitability.

Trajectory

The NHL's ascent in financial stature mirrors its growing cultural relevance and market influence. From iconic franchises like the Maple Leafs and Canadiens to dynamic newcomers like the Kraken and Golden Knights, the league's trajectory is a testament to its strategic vision and commitment to growth. As the NHL continues to break financial records, it cements its place among North America's premier sports leagues and sets the stage for an even brighter future.

Continued Grant Page 1

families, the students and families of KIPP Oak Cliff Academy and Dallas Independent School District's Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III Global Preparatory Academy at Paul Quinn College, and the surrounding Highland Hills and Southern Dallas community.

"Having access to reliable, quality housing is an essential element for students so they can earn a degree or certification or improve their income and options long-term," said Kristy Fercho, head of Diverse Segments, Representation and Inclusion at Wells Fargo. "Our work with the T.D. Jakes Foundation and Paul Quinn College on the vision for a new mixed-use development supports our broader commitment to providing increased access to quality, affordable housing for individuals historically underserved in the market."

Wells Fargo continues to build on its relationship with Paul Quinn College. The Wells Fargo Foundation donated \$100,000 to help create scholarships

for the school's Corporate Work Program, which provides workforce opportunities that allow students to develop the needed skills, habits, and experience to be competitive in the job market postgraduation while contributing toward the cost of their education. The program is part of Paul Quinn's commitment to eradicating generational poverty. Additional philanthropic funding helped establish an emergency housing fund to support housing year-round for students who may not have access to housing when class is not in session.

In 2024, through a collaboration between Wells Fargo and T.D. Jakes Foundation, Paul Quinn College received another \$236,000 to fuel the Corporate Work Program and housing security funds. Wells Fargo has continued its relationship with the college and its students by partnering with the Corporate Work program to welcome a cohort of five interns to Wells Fargo's Auto Lending business.

Paul Quinn has partnered with the Jakes Divinity School since 2023 to offer a T.D. Jakes

Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree, the first graduate program in Paul Quinn's history. The T.D. Jakes's MBA program, a distinctive faith-based initiative, is the only accredited MBA program of its kind offered by an HBCU in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. The program provides another pipeline of economic mobility for Paul Quinn students by providing access to corporate mentors and unique professional development opportunities. By integrating the expertise and resources of both institutions, the program is designed to cultivate the next generation of visionary leaders in business and entrepreneurship.

These partnerships amplify Paul Quinn's mission to eradicate generational poverty and further cement the dynamic collaboration between these three organizations to expand opportunities in education, economic mobility, and affordable housing.

For more information or to explore opportunities to partner with Paul Quinn College, please visit www.pqc.edu/invest.

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Skyline culinary students prepare Thanksgiving meals

Photo Credit: Dallas ISD



DALLAS — The aroma of pecan pies in the oven and gravy on the stove fill the kitchens at Skyline High School as culinary students get ready for a busy holiday season.

Whether it's learning how to prep a turkey or making a ganache for a pumpkin pie, students have the opportunity to learn how to create Thanksgiving staples while learning proper technique and giving back to the community.

"For us, a lot of students haven't cooked traditional Thanksgiving meals," said Jason Blackwell, chef and culinary teacher at Skyline. "We plan the menu and introduce it to the kids. The idea is to give them the resources and skills to cook a holiday meal at home."

Blackwell goes through the recipes step-by-step with his students, offering hands-on assistance and guidance as the class takes lead on cooking every item on the menu. Just like in a professional kitchen, students work in different sections of the kitchen and come together to ensure everything is running smoothly and on time.

Serenity R., a sophomore, was assigned to the meat station, working with the turkey. Having always liked to cook, she said she felt right at home.

"I like preparing the food, and I like handling meats," she said. "I don't really eat a lot of Thanksgiving food, but I enjoy cooking it."

Once the food is done, it will be delivered to var-

ious holiday catering events hosted by Dallas ISD. Culinary students then act as wait staff, serving the food they prepared.

On the other side of the kitchen, another group in the culinary arts cluster prepares baked goods, which will be cut and delivered to Walton Inspires, a nonprofit organization in Pleasant Grove, to be handed out during Thanksgiving meal drives.

The dessert menu includes an assortment of pies, including pumpkin and pecan, and sweet potato cheesecake. The menu is inspired by the traditional holiday staples and recipes students want to try, said Danyelle Carpenter, chef and culinary teacher at Skyline.

Carpenter is a volunteer with Walton Inspires, and recently connected them with her students.

"With an attitude of gratitude, we want to be able to give back to – and be of service – to our community," she said.

Her example doesn't go unnoticed.

"It's rewarding to know this is going to a good cause, and we got to help," said Giselle V.

Growing up cooking and baking with her family, Giselle signed up for the culinary arts cluster two years ago and never looked back.

"I love to bake. I love creativity and all the things you can do with it," she said.

Giselle, who wants to work in a restaurant one day, said the program has taught her how to refine

her skillset.

"The cutting skills have been fun, and it's cool getting to perfect it," she said.

Like Blackwell, Carpenter offers hands-on assistance as her students divide themselves into stations and work as a team to get the final product in the oven. She has her sights set for December, and plans to partner with Walton Inspires to provide food and sweet treats for their holiday events.

She said the most rewarding part of the busy holiday time is watching her students progress throughout the year.

"There's a lot of excitement going into the holidays, but they can be uneasy or not very confident in the dishes they want to make," she said. "But when they come back, from the break, they have so much confidence that extends throughout the school year."

"The day after Thanksgiving, students send me pictures of the food they made," he said. "They're always excited to show me what they did."

At home, Serenity likes to make ham and macaroni and cheese for her family's Thanksgiving meal. Her advice to fellow students who are helping out in the kitchen over the holidays is to just go for it.

"Always keep your area clean and if you enjoy it, do what makes you happy," she said.

It's OK if mistakes happen, Giselle added.

"Just do your best – it's fun," she said.

Continued **Bill** Page 1

Jeffries, D-N.Y., for failing to rally his caucus more forcefully against the bill, though he voted against it.

Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., expressed disbelief at the decision to hand such power to an incoming Trump administration. "The road to fascism is paved with a million little votes that slowly erode our democracy and make it easier to go after anyone who disagrees with the government," McGovern remarked.

Broad Criticism of Dangerous Consequences

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), along with over 180 or-

ganizations including Planned Parenthood and the NAACP, issued a scathing rebuke of the bill. They warned it could allow the Treasury to shut down nonprofits and aid organizations with little to no evidence.

Abby Maxman, CEO of Oxfam America, said similar laws in Nicaragua forced humanitarian groups to cease operations within days, leaving thousands without essential aid. "We have policies in place to ensure the assistance we provide gets to those in need," Maxman remarked to reporters. "But all it takes is a sentence or a headline to associate an organization like ours with accusations that could ruin us."

Some of the bill's proponents have even acknowledged the risks. Rep. Brad Schneider, D-Ill., proposed amendments to strengthen safeguards for nonprofits but stopped short of opposing the measure entirely. Critics, however, remain adamant that the bill represents an unnecessary and dangerous expansion of executive power.

"This legislation is not about terrorism," Doggett concluded as the bill now heads to the Senate. "It's about empowering one man to destroy the organizations and voices he dislikes. This bill hands over unchecked power. That's not democracy—it's tyranny."



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