

CHRISTMAS IN JULY eBook GIVEAWAY TO BEAT BOREDOM - By Author Sharon Jones-Scaife
THIS GIVEAWAY IS LIVE FROM JULY 22 AND WILL RUN UNTIL MIDNIGHT ON JULY 31.

* See Page 6 for more information.



The Dallas Post Tribune

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VOLUME 73 NUMBER 46

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

July 22 - 28, 2021

Jamaica Seeking \$10.6 Billion in Slave Trade Reparations

"I am doing this because I have fought against this all my life, against chattel slavery, which has dehumanized human life."



State officials of the Caribbean nation said they are asking Great Britain to pay \$10.6 billion (USD) in reparations.

By Stacy M. Brown

NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent @StacyBrownMedia

Jamaica has put a price tag on slavery and is sending the British government the bill.

State officials of the Caribbean nation said they are asking Great Britain to pay \$10.6 billion (USD) in reparations.

That free and inhumane labor greatly enriched the slave owners.

"We are hoping for reparatory

justice in all forms that one would expect if they are to really ensure that we get justice from injustices to repair the damages that our ancestors experienced," Olivia Grange, Minister of Sports, Youth, and Culture, told the Reuters news service.

"Our African ancestors were forcibly removed from their home and suffered unparalleled atrocities in Africa to carry out forced labor to the benefit of the British Empire. Redress is well overdue."

In the U.S., Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee has pushed H.R. 40, a bill to form a commission to study reparations for African American victims of the transatlantic slave trade.

"Has anyone addressed the question of slavery and its comprehensive impact on Black Americans in this country? This is what H.R. 40 will do," Jackson-Lee remarked.

While H.R. 40 doesn't place a specific monetary value on reparations, it does focus on investi-

gating and presenting the facts and truth about the unprecedented centuries of brutal enslavement of African people, racial healing, and transformation.

The bill would fund a commission to study and develop proposals for providing reparations to African Americans.

The commission's mission includes identifying the role of federal and state governments in supporting the institution of

Continue **Slavery** Page 4

Texas Supreme Court extends state program to help tenants avoid eviction until Oct. 1

The extension comes as the federal moratorium on evictions is set to expire on July 31.

BY ALLYSON WALLER

The Texas Supreme Court has extended the state's eviction diversion program, which helps tenants facing eviction — if their landlords agree to participate.

"Texas Supreme Court extends state program to help tenants avoid eviction until Oct. 1" was first published by The Texas Tribune, a non-profit, nonpartisan media organization that informs Texans — and engages with them — about public policy, politics, government and statewide issues.

A state eviction diversion program launched in response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been extended, according to a new emergency order from the Texas Supreme Court released on Monday.

The diversion program was set to expire on July 27. The new order extends it until Oct. 1.

In September, Gov. Greg Abbott announced the creation of the Texas Eviction Diversion Program and said the state would use \$171 million in federal CARES Act funding for rental assistance and legal services for Texans facing eviction. The program originally included 19 counties before expanding statewide in February.

The voluntary program created an alternative to evictions when both tenants and landlords agree to

Continue **Eviction** Page 5

Final Farewell to JOE KIRVEN

Joe Kirven passed away on July 5th, 2021 at the age of 90. He graduated from Booker T Washington High School, attended Wiley College on an athletic scholarship in football and track, and graduated with a Bachelors in Science. After college, Joe started ABCO Maintenance Company with only \$500 and it built into a million-dollar company, acquired J & S Chemical, and invested in real estate.

He was the youngest president of the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce, was appointed to the Dallas City Council, and ran for the Dallas School Board. Joe served as a special assistant to Governor

Clements, a groundbreaking appointment where he steered black candidates to appointments on Texas state commissions. He liaised between the Governor's office and Texas Southern, Prairie View A&M University and all Texas HBCUs. Joe worked on minority business issues for Presidents Nixon and Carter. In 1968, The Texas Chamber of Commerce named him as one of "Five Outstanding Young Texans," and in 1972 Ebony magazine named him as one of the Outstanding Businessmen of the Southwest.

Joe was a trustee and deacon of the St. John Missionary Baptist Church and was involved in many civic activities. He was the first

Black member of the Board of Trustees for the Hockaday School in Dallas and a member of the Board of Regents of University of North Texas. Joe was most proud of his endowed scholarship at Wiley College. He was also a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. Devoted to his family and friends, Joe helped countless people obtain jobs. He was a true pioneer and inspiration to all.

Joe is preceded in death by his parents Lafayette Kirven and Derutha Kirven and siblings Lafayette Kirven, Jr., Howard Kirven, sisters Alverine Taylor

Continue **Kirven** Page 2



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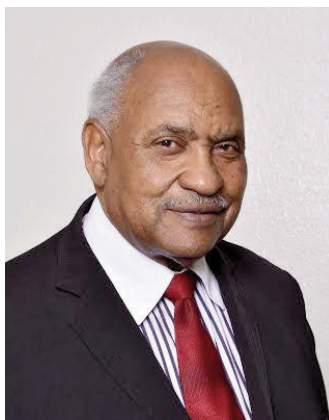
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EDITORIAL PAGE

The President Needs to Pull Out All Stops

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



Dr. John Warren

Last week, Majority Whip Clyburn, Democratic leader in the U.S. House of Representatives, made the observation that the "Filibuster" currently being used in the U.S. Senate to block the Voting Rights Bill as well as the George Floyd Bill, is a matter of tradition and not a part of the U.S. Constitution. There was also a reference to how former President Lyndon Johnson used the full weight of his office as President to secure the needed votes to get the Voting Rights Act passed.

It is a known fact that the President of the United States has far more power

and influence than the Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate in the person of Mitch McConnell. Every Republican member of the Senate at some point is going to need something from either the President or a Cabinet office within his Administration. The passage of the Voting Rights Act by the Senate will undo most of what the States are doing with voter suppression. As suggested by Congressman Clyburn, now is the time to put all power and influence behind getting the Senate to act, not only on Infrastructure as slated for this week, but, by all means, the Voting Rights Act. These items cannot wait and should not be held up.

President Biden needs to remember that without the Black Vote, he would not be in the White House. Without the influence of Congressman Clyburn endorsing him when he did, Biden would not have gotten the nomination of the Democratic Party to run for

President. The Black Vote has to be as important to the President, if not more so, than Donald Trump is to the Republican Party

The Texas Democratic Delegation, fleeing that state and coming to Washington, D.C. to lobby for the Voting Rights Act as a means of stopping voter suppression in that state, has given new meaning to the words, "All Gave Some, But Some Gave All".

President Biden has spent enough years on Capitol Hill to know where the bodies are buried and who placed them. He and Chuck Schumer cannot continue to play "Gentleman Jack" with Mitch McConnell. McConnell must be stopped by any means necessary. That would appear to mean dealing with the Filibuster by any means necessary. This must be done before the end of July when the Congress goes on recess.

One thing should be remembered about Capitol Hill and the Legislative

Process: There is always a loophole and a back door to solve every problem. Politics is never absolute about anything. The Vice President, while doing all she can, is not a substitute for the Office of the President applying full power. To our Civil Rights leaders, your only message can be: Out with the filibuster, and passage of the Voting Rights Act. No in-betweens.

If we did not let the pandemic stop the protest and emergence of our votes to take back the White House, we must not allow the pandemic's resurgence, Republican gerrymandering of the Congressional Districts because of tampering with the Census, or radical Conservative acts of terrorism under the "Big Lie" to stop the salvation of democracy that we all are fighting for. Let's call the Republican offices, their home districts and anyone who supports them and let's make this happen before the end of July 2021.

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Continued Kirven Page 1

Helen Waurine Spencer and Jessie Mae Johnson. Joe is survived by his wife of 63 years, Gloria Kirven, his daughter Josette and her husband Gregory Valtierra III, his grandsons, Gregory Valtierra IV and Michael Valtierra, and many friends and relatives. He will be missed by all. Services will be held July 24, 2021, 2PM at Laurel Land Funeral Home. Visitation will be on July 23, 2021 from 4 PM to 8PM at the same location. Masks are strongly encouraged by the family.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to Wiley College for the Joe Kirven Scholarship Fund. Please make checks payable to Wiley College and note the Scholarship fund in the memo (Mail to: Wiley College, Office of Institutional Advancement, 711 Wiley Ave., Marshall, Texas, 75670) or contribute digitally via <https://www.wileyc.edu/donate> in memoriam to Joe Kirven.



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Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Bible Classes 5:00 p.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
Devotional Service 6:30 p.m.
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY
Bible Class 11:00 a.m.
Support Groups 6:30 p.m.

CREATING GOD

By Oscar H. Blayton

There is an ugly truth why some segments of white American society are so fierce in their defense of creationism. Simply put, that reason is white supremacy. But without a critical examination of creationism within the context of those religious cultures that support and espouse it, one can easily overlook the racism that is at its core and the tribalistic ethos that breathed it into life. If we peer through the

mists of time to the earliest organized societies, we find that tribalism steered religious iconography for millennia. Seemingly alone and frightened in a world they did not understand, ancient humans envisioned a kindly and protective deity that would shelter them and make sense of their world. To make these protective deities relatable and easier to understand, they were given human qualities. Another word for

creating a deity in one's own human image is "anthropomorphism." This word is derived from a combination of two Greek words: *anthropos*, "human" and *morphe* "form." And by creating deities in the form of humans, humans were thus in the form of the gods. Throughout human history, religious iconography often has attributed human qualities to divine beings. But this attribution varied from group to

group, or more concisely, from tribe to tribe, sometimes even creating different versions of the same god. For this reason, across the globe, deities were not generically human, but were attributed qualities of the people in the tribes who worshipped them. So, gods became not only anthropomorphic, but *ethnomorphic* as well. For this reason, representations of the Hindu god Brahma do not resemble Brad Pitt, nor do depic-



century, the devil was portrayed as black in color. The writings of the monk Caesarius of the abbey of Heisterbach from that period contain references to the devil and demons as having black skin.

tions of Olorun, the creator god found in Nigerian culture, look like Charlton Heston. By the Middle Ages, Christianity was securely the dominant religion in Europe, having eliminated the more ancient beliefs such as those held by Druids and worshippers of Isis. And with dominance comes control. God, Christ and the angels all were represented as having European features and pale skin. As far back as the late 13th

The Book of Genesis' account of "In the beginning..." was transformed into a Eurocentric narrative with Adam and Eve as people with light skin giving birth to the human race. This article of faith in its European ethnomorphic form is as much a religious dogma to many Americana Christian creationists as are the Ten Commandments.

(To Be Continued)



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We understand that people may have concerns about the safety of the COVID-19 vaccine. However, these vaccines went through rigorous clinical trials and safety checks needed to be approved.

The more people who receive the vaccine, the quicker we can get back to a more normal life including visiting family and friends, attending worship services, going to sports events, entertainment and other activities. The vaccine will also help stop the spread of the virus in our community and end the pandemic.

Anyone 12 years and older can get a COVID-19 vaccine without an appointment at Parkland's drive-through location, Ellis Davis Field House, 9191 S. Polk St., Dallas, 75232. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Vaccines are at no cost to you.

For more information about how to get the COVID-19 vaccine, visit www.parklandhospital.com/covid19vaccines. You can also call the Parkland COVID vaccine help line at 214-590-7000 for information about COVID testing, vaccine sites and MyChart help. This help line is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday – Friday.



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Continued Slavery Page 1

slavery, forms of discrimination in public and private sectors against freed slaves and their descendants, and lingering adverse effects of slavery on living African Americans and society. Congresswoman Jackson Lee, who sits on numerous House committees, including the Judiciary, Budget, and Homeland Security, has made the reparations legislation her top priority during the 117th Congress. "I think if people begin to associate this legislation with what happened to the descendants of enslaved Africans as a human rights violation, the sordid past

that violated the human rights of all of us who are descendants of enslaved Africans, I think that we can find common ground to pass this legislation," Congresswoman Jackson Lee pronounced. In Jamaica, officials displayed shackles, coffles, slave collars, cotton screws, bear traps, branding irons, and other items used to control slaves as stirring evidence for the case for reparations. "We need a sense of outrage directed at those who could do such things to other human beings," Verene Shepherd, a Jamaican resident, wrote in a petition on the Facebook page of the country's

National Council on Reparations. "Reparations now," Shepherd declared. According to the National Library of Jamaica, about 600,000 Africans landed in Jamaica during the slave trade. "Seized from Spain by the English in 1655, Jamaica was a British colony until it became independent in 1962," the Reuters report noted. "The West Indian country of almost three million people is part of the Commonwealth, and the British monarch remains head of state." Britain prohibited trade in slaves in its empire in 1807 but did not formally abolish the practice of

Dallas resident returns from Nigeria with case of monkeypox

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas resident has been hospitalized in stable condition under isolation after returning from Nigeria with the first-ever Texas case of monkeypox, health officials revealed Friday.

In a statement, federal and state health officials said the traveler arrived at Dallas Love Field on July 9 from Atlanta after an overnight flight from Nigeria.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says the risk to others on the flights and in the airport is low, especially in light of COVID-19-related masking policies. However, efforts are underway to contact his fellow passengers.

Monkeypox is a rare viral pox-like disease from the smallpox family, only milder. It can be transmitted through respiratory droplets, contact with body fluids or contact with an infected animal or animal products.

The first human case of monkeypox was recorded in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The United States saw a large outbreak among humans in 2003 after the virus spread from imported African rodents to pet prairie dogs. Monkeypox symptoms typically begin with flu-like illness and swelling of the lymph nodes, then a widespread rash on the face and body, according to the CDC. Most infections last 2-4 weeks. Infections with this strain of monkeypox are fatal in about 1 in 100 people, but the mortality rate can be higher among those with weakened immune systems.

slavery until 1834. To compensate slave owners, the British government took out a 20-million-pound loan – or \$27.7 million U.S. – and only finished paying off the subsequent interest payments in 2015. Slaves and their descendants have never received compensation. "I am asking for the same amount of money to be paid to the slaves that were paid to the slave owners," Mike Henry, a member of the ruling Jamaica Labour Party, told Reuters. "I am doing this because I have fought against this all my life, against chattel slavery, which has dehumanized human life."

Ex-Dallas Councilman Dwayne Caraway gets sentenced reduced

By FOX 4 Staff

DALLAS - A federal judge reduced former Dallas County City Councilman Dwayne Caraway's prison sentence by five months.

According to the Dallas Morning News, the time was reduced after Caraway helped prosecutors by testifying against Ruel





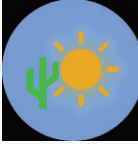


Hamilton, a developer convicted of bribery.

His sentence was reduced from more than four and a half years to just over four years.

Caraway was sentenced in 2019 after he pleaded guilty to taking \$450,000 in bribes over several years.

SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, July 22	Friday, July 23	Saturday, July 24	Sunday, July 25	Monday, July 26	Tuesday, July 27	Wednesday, July 28
 H - 89° L - 76°	 H - 91° L - 77°	 H - 92° L - 77°	 H - 94° L - 78°	 H - 95° L - 78°	 H - 95° L - 77°	 H - 95° L - 78°

Staubach, Pearson connect again in digital Hail Mary project

By SCHUYLER DIXON



FILE - In this Dec. 28, 1975, file photo, Dallas Cowboy wide receiver Drew Pearson (88) nears the end zone on a game-winning 50-yard touchdown pass play in the fourth quarter of an NFL football game against the Minnesota Vikings in Bloomington, Minn. Cowboys quarterback Roger Staubach explained his game-winning throw by saying, "I closed my eyes and said a Hail Mary. Staubach and Pearson have connected again as part of a project to create a digital collectible of their famous Hail Mary for the Dallas Cowboys against Minnesota in 1975. It's part of an emerging product in sports memorabilia called non-fungible tokens, or NFTs. (AP Photo/File)

DALLAS (AP) — Roger Staubach and Drew Pearson are always open to new ways of commemorating their famous Hail Mary touchdown that gave the Dallas Cowboys a playoff victory over the Minnesota Vikings in 1975.

Nothing says “new” quite like a digital collectible known by a term that might sound like a foreign language to folks

old enough to remember Staubach’s 50-yard heave in the final seconds, and Pearson’s on-the-hip catch after his forever-debated contact with defensive back Nate Wright a few yards from the end zone.

The non-fungible token, or NFT, will be on sale through Dallas-based Heritage Auctions on Aug. 21-22 with a starting bid of \$20,000 and estimates that the price tag could

reach \$80,000.

The winning bidder will get a 55-inch monitor to display the collectible, and will join Staubach and Pearson on the field for a re-enactment of the play that gave the Cowboys a 17-14 victory. Dallas lost to Pittsburgh in the Super Bowl that season.

“The Hail Mary has always been a part of my life, and it’s used now for a lot of different ways,”

Staubach told The Associated Press on Tuesday. “But in 1975, it was the first time it was ever used in the NFL.”

That’s because of what Staubach told reporters after the game when asked what he was thinking on the play. In that moment, he had no idea what his answer would create.

“I was a Catholic kid from Cincinnati, Ohio, and you know, it was a

heck of a play,” Staubach said. “I said, ‘I closed my eyes and said a “Hail Mary,”’ instead of saying, ‘I closed my eyes and said a prayer.’ Or I could have said the, ‘Our Father to Glory Be.’ But I said ‘Hail Mary.’”

The collaboration with Ellipsis Digital LLC, designed by Austin-based artist Glitch, comes less than a month before Pearson finally joins Staubach in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. The three-time All-Pro receiver is part of the class of 2021. Staubach was enshrined in 1985.

“When I saw some of the numbers associated with this digital art from other people doing it, I couldn’t believe it,” Pearson said. “And then I realized, ‘Hey, we might have something of value to these folks as well where we can generate the same kind of numbers.’”

Heritage was interested in part because there will be only one digital rendition of the Hail Mary. Other NFTs are more like traditional collectibles such as trading cards, with many more in circulation.

Part of the appeal of NFTs is they can be traded in cryptocurrencies. Heritage’s involvement also means the Hail Mary

item can be purchased with a debit or credit card.

“We think this one is special in that it tells the story of an iconic play, an event, and it showcases two of the greatest players in NFL history,” said Mike Provenzale, Heritage’s production manager. “And the cool thing about this is it offers a tangible aspect as well. You get to meet Roger and Drew and re-enact the Hail Mary.”

Ellipsis president Josh Fagan says he’s a lifelong Cowboys fan who is about the same age as the Hail Mary itself — 45. Though the play was before Fagan’s time, his company connected with Staubach and Pearson through Doug Donley, a friend and investor who was a Dallas receiver late in Pearson’s career.

Fagan says Ellipsis has plans to pursue digital memorabilia for other iconic sports moments.

“We feel and we feel like there’s a big opportunity specifically with these vintage athletes, because, if you think about it, their careers ended before the invention of the internet,” Fagan said. “They never had to do these types of new forms of media memorabilia. And there’s just a huge market for it.”



GOP may boycott Jan. 6 probe after Pelosi blocks members

By Mary Clare Jalonick (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Wednesday rejected two Republicans tapped by House GOP leader Kevin McCarthy to sit on a committee investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection, a decision the Republican denounced as “an egregious abuse of power.”

McCarthy said the GOP won’t participate in the investigation if Democrats won’t accept the members he appointed.

Pelosi cited the “integrity” of the probe in refusing to accept the appointments of Indiana Rep. Jim Banks, picked by McCarthy to be the top Republican on the panel,

or Ohio Rep. Jim Jordan. The two men are outspoken allies of former President Donald Trump, whose supporters laid siege to the Capitol that day and interrupted the certification of President Joe Biden’s win. Both of them voted to overturn the election results in the hours after the siege.

Democrats have said the investigation will go on whether the Republicans participate or not, as Pelosi has already appointed eight of the 13 members — including Republican Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming, a Trump critic — and that gives them a bipartisan quorum to proceed, according to com-

mittee rules.

Pelosi said she had spoken with McCarthy and told him that she would reject the two names.

“With respect for the integrity of the investigation, with an insistence on the truth and with concern about statements made and actions taken by these members, I must reject the recommendations of Representatives Banks and Jordan to the Select Committee,” Pelosi said in a statement.

Pelosi has the authority to approve or reject members, per committee rules, though she acknowledged her move was unusual. She said “the unprecedented nature of January

6th demands this unprecedented decision.”

The move is emblematic of the raw political tensions in Congress that have only escalated since the insurrection and raises the possibility that the investigation — the only comprehensive probe currently being conducted of the attack — will be done almost entirely by Democrats. The House voted in May to create an independent investigation that would have been evenly split between the parties, but Senate Republicans blocked that approach in a vote last month.

McCarthy said Pelosi’s move will damage the institution of Congress.

Continued Eviction Page 1

participate, offering up to 15 months of rental and utility assistance for tenants. Once tenants and their landlords agree in court to pursue state assistance, eviction proceedings can be delayed for up to 60 days.

If the application is approved, the tenant can remain in their home and the landlord will receive lump-sum payments for past-due rent and late fees; at that point, the eviction case is dismissed and doesn’t become a public record. But landlords can decide at any time during the 60-day period to restart the eviction process.

Monday’s order also allows a judge to postpone the eviction for 60 days if a landlord has a pending application for the program on behalf of a tenant or if both parties say they’re interested in participating.

To be eligible for the diversion program, tenants must have an active eviction case and a household income either at or below 80% of the median income in their area. In February, the state introduced a \$1.3 billion statewide rent relief program that also aids tenants with rental assistance to prevent housing instability or potential eviction. A portion of that money also helps to fund the eviction diversion program.

So far, the state’s rent relief program has assisted more than 80,000 households, including more than 10,000 households that have received more than \$90 million in assistance through the eviction diversion program.

“I think it’s inevitable [evictions are] going to rise,” Fuchs said. “I hope I’m wrong, but I see an increase in evictions.”

This story has been edited for length. The article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at <https://www.texastribune.org>

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Extra money for retired teachers in a "13th check" at center of Republican-Democrat shouting match

On Tuesday, the Senate passed Senate Bill 7, which would provide retired teachers, counselors and school staff a one-time payment of up to \$2,400 through the Teacher Retirement System

BY HEIDI PÉREZ-MORENO

"Extra money for retired teachers in a "13th check" at center of Republican-Democrat shouting match" was first published by The Texas Tribune, a nonprofit, nonpartisan media organization that informs Texans — and engages with them — about public policy, politics, government and statewide issues.

Republican officials are sounding the alarm this week over the retired teachers in Texas who are unlikely to receive an extra payment of up to \$2,400 from the state's teacher retirement fund, with Democrats shutting down the special legislative session.

GOP lawmakers held at least three press conferences this week pointing the finger at Democrats who absconded to Washington, D.C., on Monday in an effort to block GOP voting bills.

"There really is no excuse for not being here for the people who have been here for them all of their lives and for their kids' lives and for their constituents," said Sen. Angela Paxton, R-McKinney, at a press conference Friday. "They deserve better than

to have legislators who are skipping class because they don't like the assignment."

But Democrats and teachers groups say Republicans were to blame for the bill failing in the regular legislative session, and are now using retired teachers as a political pawn in the battle playing out over the Democrats' quorum break.

On Tuesday, the Senate passed Senate Bill 7, which would provide retired teachers, counselors and school staff a one-time payment, or "13th check," of up to \$2,400 through the Teacher Retirement System of Texas. It would apply to thousands of ex-educators who stopped working before the start of this year and reach the pockets of retirees no later than January 2022.

Those retirees say assigning blame is less important than getting those checks out the door.

"I want to see that '13th check' in the hands of all the retirees who deserve this," said Rita Runnels, a retired educator. "I want to see them come together and to do this."

The Texas American

Federation of Teachers said on Twitter that the "sudden" interest in passing a 13th check this special session "rings hollow."

"Blaming House Democrats for 'killing' this bill by breaking quorum in order to preserve Texans' voting rights doesn't erase state leaders' longstanding inaction on the issue," the organization said in a tweet.

Rep. Vikki Goodwin, D-Austin, backed a 13th check bill for retired educators during the regular session, House Bill 3507. The bill, which had more than 100 bipartisan members signed on as coauthors, advanced out of a House committee but was never scheduled for a vote by the full chamber.

"It would have passed extensively if it had made it to the floor — so this whole idea that we are keeping teachers from getting a 13th paycheck is ridiculous," Goodwin said. "We had an opportunity during session to make that happen."

The calendars committee, which schedules bills for House votes, is chaired by a Republican.

Rena Eze, spokesperson for Gov. Greg Abbott, said

in a statement Friday that the governor will work to support retired educators.

"Our retired teachers deserve better than Texas Democrats walking out on them and abandoning their duties to those who elected them," Eze said.

Goodwin said it was frustrating that Republicans were weaponizing educators.

"I respect our teachers and retired teachers greatly," Goodwin said. "I would never use them as a pawn in a game to make another group of people look bad."

Republican lawmakers said Thursday that they didn't pass Goodwin's bill in the regular session because the state didn't have the funds needed.

Enrique Marquez, chief of staff for House Speaker Dade Phelan, said in a statement that the economy has since improved following the pandemic and recession, citing a revised biennial revenue estimate from the comptroller's office last week.

"The State has several billion dollars in available general revenue that was not available to use during



Jessica Lemmer went over a fraction problem with her third grade math class Jan. 14, 2018, at Edward Tütche Elementary School in the Pleasant Grove area of Dallas. Photo Credit: Leslie Boorhem-Stephenson for The Texas Tribune

the regular session," Marquez said. "We want to commit a portion of it to a 13th check for retired teachers when House Democrats finally return to work."

This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at <https://www.texastribune.org/2021/07/17/retired-texas-teachers-13th-check/>.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY eBook GIVEAWAY TO BEAT BOREDOM

(DALLAS, TX — July 21, 2021) – Coffee Creek Media Group and Author Sharon Jones-Scaife is excited to announce its "Christmas in July eBook Giveaway".

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