



Elias Valverde II/Staff Photographer

State Fair of Texas employee Faye Thomas, 87, scanned a ticket for a young fairgoer at Gate 5, the Grand Gate to Fair Park, on Tuesday. Some families seek her line every year, skipping others just to be greeted by her familiar face.

THE STATE FAIR OF TEXAS

Move over, Big Tex

For some, gate worker’s welcome is worth the price of admission

By ZARA AMAECHI
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At 10 a.m. sharp, Gate 5 at Fair Park hums to life. The sun cuts through the State Fair of Texas banners, while the smell of turkey legs and fried dough hangs in the air. “Good morning! Y’all have your tickets ready?” calls out 87-year-old Faye Thomas, her voice both warm and firm — the sound of someone who’s been doing this long enough to know that kindness keeps the line moving faster

than impatience ever could. She’s wearing a blue shirt and hat both with the State Fair logo on it. She scans tickets, waves to families and directs child-filled strollers and happy parents to photo ops with people dressed as popular superheroes. Everyone gets the same thing: a smile and a “have a great day.” Thomas has worked at this same gate for 35 years. Her daughter-in-law worked here first and asked her if she wanted to try it.

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“And I did, and I’ve been going back ever since,” she said. Gate 5 is one of seven entrances, and Thomas hasn’t budged when it comes to working anywhere else. “That’s the best gate in the State Fair of Texas,” she says with a grin. “It’s a special gate.” Gate 5 is the Grand Gate to Fair Park, right next to the African American Museum of Dallas and Magnolia Beer Garden. It’s also home to a kind of community that lasts far beyond the

fairgrounds. Ann Taulton has been Thomas’ supervisor for about 18 years. They spent their shifts laughing, teasing their younger co-workers and greeting kids as they walk by. “She’s here when I can’t get nobody else to be here,” Taulton said. “Miss Faye is always on time and she’ll stay as long as I need her. We hang out outside of it, too.” Visitors recognize Thomas, as well. Some families seek her line every year, skipping others just to

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WAR IN UKRAINE

Trump: ‘Let both claim Victory’

As frustration with Putin grows, president renews call for end to conflict after Zelenskyy meeting

By AAMER MADHANI and SEUNG MIN KIM
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Friday called on Kyiv and Moscow to “stop where they are” and end their brutal war following a lengthy White House meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Trump’s frustration with the conflict has surfaced repeatedly in the nine months since he returned to office, but with his latest comments he appeared to be edging back in the direction of pressing Ukraine to give up on re-taking land it has lost to Russia.

“Enough blood has been shed, with property lines being defined by War and Guts,” Trump said in a Truth Social post not long after hosting Zelenskyy and his team for more than two hours of talks. “They should stop where they are. Let both claim Victory, let History decide!”

In recent weeks, Trump had shown growing impatience with Russian President Vladimir Putin and expressed greater openness to helping Ukraine win the war.

After meeting with Zelenskyy in New York on the sidelines of the annual U.N. General Assembly last month, Trump even said he believed the Ukrainians could win back all the the territory they had lost to Russia since Putin launched the February 2022 invasion. That was a dramatic shift for Trump, who had previously insisted that

HUNGARY will ensure that Russian President Vladimir Putin can enter the country for the planned summit. **8A**

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CONGRESS

Lawmakers find bit of common ground

Crockett says she appreciates Greene’s health care stance

By GROMER JEFFERS JR.
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U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett had something nice to say about her GOP colleague Marjorie Taylor Greene. Crockett said she appreciates Greene, R-Ga., for “sounding the alarm” about the looming health insurance premium hikes that could affect millions of Americans. “She’s telling the truth. It’s not a conspiracy theory,” Crockett said during a joint interview Thursday with *The*

Dallas Morning News and KXAS-TV (NBC5). “It may have taken her own sons before she could see the light, but nevertheless, she sees the light, and I appreciate it. I appreciate that she’s not just seeing it in private, but she is ringing the alarm. “Health care, it’s a nonpartisan thing, so the fact that she is speaking out against them, they’re not happy, but she’s telling the truth for once, and I have to give credit where credit is due,” Crockett said. Greene has said her party’s leadership is not prioritizing issues that mattered to average Americans, including her “adult children” and the constituents in her northwest



JASMINE CROCKETT



MARJORIE TAYLOR-GREENE

Georgia district. If Congress doesn’t act, enhanced Affordable Care Act premium tax credits will expire at the end of the year and raise insurance rates for millions of Americans. Democrats say the Affordable Care Act premium tax credit issue must be resolved as a condition for their votes to reopen the government. Republicans want a straight extension and House Speaker Mike Johnson won’t bring the House back into session until Senate Democrats approve a stopgap measure.

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GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

President on sidelines as stalemate continues

GOP wants funding bill; Dems want health insurance guarantees

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI and SEUNG MIN KIM
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is showing little urgency to broker a compromise that would end the government shutdown, even as Democrats insist no breakthrough is possible without his direct involvement.

Three weeks in, Congress is at a standstill. The House hasn’t been in session for a month, and senators left Washington on Thursday frustrated by the lack of progress. Republican leaders are refusing to negotiate until a short-term funding bill to reopen the government is passed, while Democrats say

U.S. COURTS are set to run out of money, begin furloughs as shutdown lingers. **4A**
FLIGHT OPERATIONS at DFW International Airport have remained mostly unaffected. **4B**

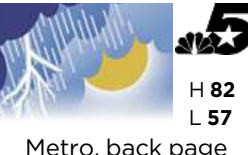
they won’t agree without guarantees on extending health insurance subsidies. Trump has remained on the sidelines. He spent the week celebrating an Israel-Hamas ceasefire deal he led, hosted a remembrance event for conservative activist Charlie Kirk and refocused attention on the Russia-Ukraine war. Meanwhile, his administration has been managing the shutdown in unconventional ways, continuing to pay the troops

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Heavy thunderstorms



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NATION & WORLD

Trump grants Santos release

President Donald Trump said Friday he had commuted the sentence of former U.S. Rep. George Santos, granting his release. **2A**

METRO

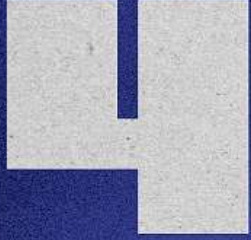
Fall heat breaks record

With no low in the 50s thus far, this year marks the latest arrival of the fall chill ever recorded in North Texas. **1B**

SPORTSDAY

Cowboys Diggs sidelined

Cowboys cornerback Trevon Diggs is out for Sunday’s game after suffering a concussion as a result of an accident at his home. **1C**



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