

# 'Bloody Sunday' 60th anniversary marked in Selma with remembrances and concerns about the future

By KIM CHANDLER and SAFIYAH RIDDLE Associated Press



U.S. Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, D-NY, U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., Rev. Al Sharpton, Rev. Jesse Jackson and NAACP President Derrick Johnson, from left, march across the Edmund Pettus bridge during the 60th anniversary of the march to ensure that African Americans could exercise their constitutional right to vote, Sunday, March 9, 2025, in Selma, Ala. (AP Photo/Mike Stewart)

SELMA, Ala. (AP) — Charles Mauldin was near the front of a line of voting rights marchers walking in pairs across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma,

Alabama, on March 7, 1965. The marchers were protesting white officials' refusal to allow Black Alabamians to register to

vote, as well as the killing days earlier of Jimmie Lee Jackson, a minister and voting rights organizer who was shot by a state trooper in nearby Marion.

At the apex of the span over the Alabama River, they saw what awaited them: a line of state

Continue **Selma** Page 2

## DEBT RELIEF JUST GOT REAL: EXPERIAN ERASES MILLIONS IN BALANCES FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS

By Rev. Mark Thompson

Experian has launched a major debt relief initiative, committing \$5 million to assist 5,000 families in Louisiana and aiming to expand to other locations. The effort, carried out in partnership with public benefit corporation ForgiveCo, seeks to ease the financial burdens of households grappling with credit card and personal loan debt.

Steve Hartmann, vice president of Integrated Marketing at Experian, said in an interview with Black Press USA that the initiative goes beyond advertising and directly helps consumers. “Consumer debt is at an all-time high—credit card balances are soaring, and minimum payments are shrinking. We wanted to do more than just advertise our products. We needed to actively engage with the community and provide real financial relief,” Hartmann said.



Photo Credit: NNPA

ForgiveCo plays a crucial role in the initiative by identifying and purchasing debt in collections on behalf of Experian. “We wanted to focus on credit card and personal loan debt, specifically targeting families in Louisiana who need it the most. ForgiveCo identifies these accounts in collections, purchases the debt on our behalf, and then we notify beneficiaries through direct mail, text, and email,” Hartmann added.

Recipients will not owe taxes on the forgiven debt, an important aspect of the initiative. “They do not have to pay taxes on this,” Hartmann confirmed.

Continue **Debt** Page 5

## A 40-day Target boycott began last week

What to know about the protest and its potential impact

By WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS  
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A 40-day boycott of Target that calls for supporters to give up shopping at the company's stores during the Lenten period kicked off this week, to protest the discount retailer's decision to end some of its diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.

The Rev. Jamal Bryant, senior pastor of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church near Atlanta, organized the “Target Fast” that began Wednesday — the first day of Lent — along with other faith and civil rights leaders. A website for participants points to the spending power of Black Americans and described the boycott as “a spiritual act of resistance.”

“This is a fast for accountability. A fast for justice. A fast for a future where corporations do not bow to pressure at the expense of marginalized communities,” reads a message on [targetfast.org](http://targetfast.org).

“Turn your dollars into data, power, and change.”

Target declined to comment directly on the boycott, which runs through April 17. Here's what to know.

What happened with Target's DEI initiatives?

Target announced in January that it would phase out a handful of DEI initiatives, including a program designed to help Black employees build meaningful careers and promote Black-owned businesses.

The Minneapolis-based company, which operates nearly 2,000 stores nationwide and employs more than 400,000 people, said it long had intended to end the program this year, but its announcement came after other prominent American corporations scaled back their diversity activities.

Target also said it would stop setting hiring and promotion goals for women, members of racial minority

groups and other underrepresented communities.

Conservative activists, and more recently, President Donald Trump's White House, have sought to rid the federal government, schools and private workplaces of DEI policies that were adopted to counter discrimination. Critics maintain the range of goals and programs arising from such policies are themselves discriminatory and counterproductive.

While Target rival Walmart also rolled back its DEI initiatives in November, Target's actions seemed to cause more customer outrage. Numerous calls for boycotts emerged across the country, including from Minneapolis civil rights activists who gathered outside Target's headquarters. The daughters of one of Target's co-founders also expressed shock and

Continue **Boycott** Page 2

## National Newspaper Publishers Association: BLACK PRESS OF AMERICA









RELIGIOUS/NEWS

The Superior Priesthood of Christ

Hebrews 7:11-22



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

The grand theme of the great book of Hebrews is the Superiority of Jesus Christ. The author, who is unknown, has presented a powerful argument that Jesus Christ is superior to anything that Judaism has to offer. In fact, in his cogent argument, he presented the fact that the Christian faith and life as being superior (better than) to Judaism or any other religious system. In a convincing way, the writer is urging his Jewish audience to remain steadfast to their Christian profession and not to abandon Christ because of persecution and troubles they were experiencing. In renouncing the person and work of Jesus Christ, they (his Jewish audience) would be exchanging reality for rituals, substance for symbols! In his superb argument, the writer demonstrated that Jesus Christ is superior to the Prophets (Hebrews 1:1-3) because the Prophets’ revelation was partial and

fragmentary; whereas; the finality of God’s revelation found its completion in Jesus Christ. In Hebrews 1:4-2:18, the author demonstrated that Christ was superior to Angels because Angels were mere messengers of God, but Jesus Christ is the Son of God who will inherit the Messianic Kingdom! In Hebrews 3:1-6, the writer demonstrated that Jesus Christ is superior to Moses, for Moses was a servant in the house; whereas, Christ is the Son over the house! To this point, the author has unfolded several warning passages, and they consist of: the danger of drifting (Hebrews 2:1-4), the danger of hardening the heart (Hebrews 3:7-4:13), and the danger of falling away (Hebrews 5:11-6:20). In an effort to present the superior greatness of Christ’s Priesthood to the Aaronic Priesthood, let us observe: “The Deficiency of the Levitical Priesthood” and “The Declaration of a

Superior Priest in Christ.”

I. The Deficiency of the Levitical Priesthood – Hebrews 7:11-14

Having established the superiority of Melchizedek’s greatness over the Aaronic Priesthood, the author unfolds the fact that the Law and the Levitical system were inadequate in addressing the critical need of mankind; therefore, the old Levitical system had to be changed by a better system. In proving the point of the old Levitical system did not address the critical need of mankind, in verse 11, the author declared that a change was needed because the Law and the Levitical Priesthood could not grant the people perfection (absolute and complete) communion with God. The author proves that the Levitical Priesthood was imperfect, pointing to a new priest arising from an order other than Aaron’s. The thing that characterized the

Aaronic Priesthood is that it never gave redemption and acceptance before God to the people. In addition to the Levitical Priesthood being inadequate, the Mosaic Law had to come to an end also if a change was necessary from the Levitical order to the Melchizedecan order (v. 12). In verses 13-14, the author declared that the Levitical Priesthood was superseded by the fact that our Lord came from the tribe of Judah, and not from the tribe of Levi! Our Lord could not serve as priest after the order of Aaron, but after a new order – the Melchizedecan order. Therefore, the priesthood had to be changed since Christ did not come from Levi. Having discussed “The Deficiency of the Levitical Priesthood,” let us now observe “The Declaration of a Superior Priesthood in Christ.”

II. The Declaration of a Superior Priesthood in

Christ – Hebrews 7:15-22

In verses 15-17, the author stresses the superiority of Christ’s Priesthood by quoting from Psalm 110:4, a psalm that emphasizes Christ’s endless life: “Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.” In viewing verses 18-19, the author presented a stark contrast between Christ’s priesthood and the inherent weakness of the Aaronic Priesthood. The Aaronic Priesthood that was weak and unprofitable was replaced with the Priesthood of Christ. Lastly, in verses 20-22, no Old Testament priest was inducted into office with an oath; however, Christ was inducted into office by a singular oath, for God Himself has sworn that Christ’s Priesthood will last forever. The Lord has become “a surety of a better testament” (v. 22). He is personally pledged to see that His Priesthood works. It is indeed comforting to know as believers, that

we have a Great High Priest who lives perpetually (forever) and that He is accessible. As we sojourn in this ungodly world, we are comforted in knowing that our High Priest is in glory praying for us, and He has promised to never leave us alone, for Hebrews 13:5 says: “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” We need not fear what man might try to do unto us, because we have an eternal helper in Jesus Christ, for verse 6 of Hebrews 13 says: “So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.” As also confirmed by the hymn-writer:

*O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home.*

*May God Bless!*

LIFE IS LIKE A CAMERA, JUST FOCUS ON WHAT’S IMPORTANT!

~ THE 1980s ~  
(Solution, will appear on page 5, March 19 )

ACROSS

1. "Sunday Bloody Sunday" author, with The

5. \*Saget of "Full House" fame

8. Last month

11. "Howdy, \_\_\_\_!"

12. Hurtful remark

13. \*Actor Hudson of Winston Zeddemore fame

15. Give the cold shoulder

16. \*Musical based on 1980s rock "Rock of \_\_\_\_"

17. \*Comedy horror " \_\_\_\_ Hell"

18. \*Transparency, to Gorbachev

20. Slangy "Follow me!"

21. Coffee shop order

22. Pro vote

23. Heart abnormality

26. Act out Civil War battle, e.g.

30. Eisenhower, familiarly

31. Mediterranean island

34. Small island

35. \*Oscar-winning "Tootsie" actress Jessica \_\_\_\_

37. Not hers

38. Dionysus' pipe-playing companion

39. Not on land

40. Water pipe

42. Dog tags, e.g.

43. First lunar phase (2 words)

45. Higher education reward

47. Biblical mother

48. \*What "I love Lucy" did in the '80s

50. Name of the Blue Ox

52. \*Gull-winged sports car

55. Party handout

56. Smoothie berry

57. Clickable image

59. Follows orders

60. Mixed breed canine

61. \*Air Jordan, e.g.

62. \*"Cheers" setting

63. Byron: "Maid of Athens, \_\_\_\_ we part"

64. Dispatched

DOWN

1. Ambulance squad, acr.

2. "Shoot!"

3. Person of French descent

4. Preserve, as in body

5. Prejudiced one

6. Falstaffian in body

7. Cr me de la cr me

8. "Do \_\_\_\_ others as..."

9. Property right

10. \_\_\_\_ Aviv

12. Bridge-like structure

13. Wedding singer, e.g.

14. \*Ceausescu's country

19. Pasta accompaniment

22. "Owner of a Lonely Heart" band

23. \*Arrigo Sacchi's Associazione Calcio \_\_\_\_

24. Tsar's edict

25. Re-establish

26. Zwieback

27. Up and about

28. \*Blinky, Pinky, Inky and \_\_\_\_

29. To the point

32. Sound unit

33. \*Duran Duran's hit

36. \*Hand-held "Tetris" device (2 words)

38. Give sheep a haircut

40. Gardening tool

41. Quick and skillful

44. Sets, in cricket

46. Metamorphic rock

48. Happen again

49. Fill with spirits

50. Rum cake

51. Affirm

52. \_\_\_\_ Maggie Smith

53. Pain

54. "High" time

55. Watch chain

58. Nothing but this in basketball?

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle

Theme: THE 1980s

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4			5	6	7				8	9	10
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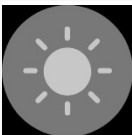

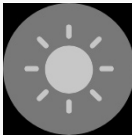
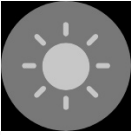

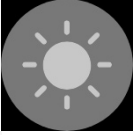




# SPORTS/NEWS PAGE



## 7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Mar. 13	Friday, Mar. 14	Saturday, Mar. 15	Sunday, Mar. 16	Monday, Mar. 17	Tuesday, Mar. 18	Wednesday, Mar. 19
 <div>H - 85° L - 65°</div>	 <div>H - 81° L - 63°</div>	 <div>H - 71° L - 53°</div>	 <div>H - 67° L - 49°</div>	 <div>H - 75° L - 57°</div>	 <div>H - 79° L - 56°</div>	 <div>H - 67° L - 46°</div>

# Chiefs agree to 2-year, \$20 million deal with veteran cornerback Kristian Fulton, AP source says

By **DAVE SKRETTA** /AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City Chiefs have agreed to a two-year, \$20 million contract with former Titans and Chargers cornerback Kristian Fulton, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the deal had not been announced.

The Chiefs entered free agency in search of a veteran cornerback to solidify a defensive backfield that struggled when it lost cornerback Jaylen Watson to an injury last season. Fulton is big and physical

enough to play on the outside, and his versatility would help to free up Trent McDuffie, their All-Pro cornerback and best player in pass coverage.

Fulton helped LSU win the national title before he was picked by Tennessee in the second round of the 2020 draft. He played four seasons for the Titans before spending last season in Los Angeles, where he had 51 tackles and an interception.

That pick was a memorable one for the Chiefs, coincidentally. Fulton was returning it when Patrick Mahomes tried to make a tackle near the sideline,

and his helmet hit the knee of Kansas City wide receiver Rashee Rice, who had also been chasing down the play. Rice wound up needing season-ending surgery to repair the damage to the knee.

The deal with Fulton one day before the start of the new league year came after Kansas City agreed to a two-year, \$30 million contract with offensive tackle Jaylon Moore and a one-year, \$3.5 million pact with running back Elijah Mitchell on Monday.

It has already been a busy offseason for the Chiefs after their blowout loss to Philadelphia in the

Super Bowl.

Last week, the Chiefs traded All-Pro guard Thuney to the Bears for a fourth-round pick in the 2026 draft, which freed up some much-needed salary cap space. They used some of it on a three-year, \$45 million deal to keep linebacker Nick Bolton and an \$11 million contract for wide receiver Marquise Brown, who missed most of last year with a shoulder injury.

The Chiefs also put the franchise tag on right guard Trey Smith, which would amount to a \$23.4 million deal for next season.

## The Education Department was created to ensure equal access. Who would do that in its absence?

By **BIANCA VÁZQUEZ TONESS**/AP Education Writer

As the Trump administration moves to dismantle the Education Department, officials have suggested other agencies could take over its major responsibilities: civil rights enforcement to the Justice Department, perhaps; student loans to Treasury or Commerce; oversight of student disability rights to Health and Human Services.

Less clear is what could happen with a more lofty part of its mission — promoting equal access for students in an American education system that is fundamentally unequal.

The department has cut its workforce in half, including a layoff of 1,300 people announced Tuesday. President Donald Trump pledged dur-

ing his campaign to eliminate the department entirely, calling it wasteful and infiltrated by leftists.

Without the department, advocates worry the federal government would not look out in the same way for poor students, those still learning English, disabled students and racial and ethnic minorities.

"Gutting the agency that is charged to ensure equal access to education for every child is only going to create an underclass of students," said Weadé James, senior director of K-12 education policy for the Center for American Progress, a think tank that advocates for racial equity policies and increased investment in public schools.

Continued **Debt** Page 1

The initiative is linked to Louisiana State University’s basketball star Flau’jae Johnson, an advocate for financial literacy. “Since we had partnered with Flau’jae before and financial education is one of her passions, it made sense to align this effort with her,” Hartmann explained. Johnson will use her platform to spread awareness about financial literacy and debt relief, focusing on communities in Louisiana where she currently plays.

“It’s hard to create a winning financial game plan when you are blocked by debt,” Johnson remarked. “I am excited to partner with Experian to empower families in the state and across the country so they can become financial champions of their future.”

According to Experian, Johnson’s involvement extends beyond promotions. She is actively engaging with students and community members about financial empowerment. “She’s not just putting her

name on this,” Hartmann said. “She’s going out, meeting with students and the broader community, and sharing her own financial journey as a young athlete with NIL deals.”

Beyond the initial \$5 million relief, Experian has added an incentive tied to LSU’s upcoming college basketball tournament performance. The company will contribute an additional \$100,000 for every LSU victory, up to \$500,000.

Beneficiaries will also receive a free one-year pre-

mium membership to Experian, providing access to credit monitoring, FICO® scores, and tools to help them regain financial stability. “One of the most rewarding aspects is hearing the stories of the people impacted. Every story is unique, and it reinforces why this work is so important,” Hartmann exclaimed.

Dacy Yee, president of Experian Consumer Services, said the initiative provides much-needed relief during difficult economic times. “Unmanageable debt prevents consumers from

achieving their goals,” Yee said. “During these challenging economic times, Experian offers resources that can help consumers save time and money as well as improve their overall financial health. We hope this debt relief and access to Experian tools will help beneficiaries in Louisiana move towards a healthier financial future.”

The campaign marks Experian’s second major debt relief initiative, following a previous effort targeting the Hispanic community. “Yes, we want

to expand this,” Hartmann said. “We need to figure out the best way to do this more frequently and target regions or communities that could really use it.”

Hartmann also urged those struggling with debt to seek financial education and understand the impact of credit. “Debt can put you in a tough spot, making it harder to achieve milestones like buying a home or car,” he stated. “Educating people early is key, especially young adults just beginning their financial journey.”

Continued **Focus** Page 4

helmets and protective gear when riding bicycles, scooters or any motorized vehicle such as an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) can help prevent brain injury and even death. Staying hydrated is important, particularly if you're spending time in the sun. Overheating or dehydration can quickly lead to serious conditions like heat exhaustion or heat stroke.

If your family will be visiting somewhere with a focus on water-related activities, either swimming, boating or simply enjoying the view, always practice water safety.

“For families with young children, it’s very important to supervise them at all times near water, even if everyone knows how to swim,” said Courtney Edwards, DNP, MPH, RN, CCRN, CEN, TCRN, NEA-BC, Director of Trauma Community Outreach at Parkland Memorial Hospital’s Rees-Jones Trauma Center. “If you plan to be on

a boat, ensure everyone is wearing life jackets. Even experienced swimmers need to be mindful of their limits and pay attention to water conditions, such as waves or strong currents.”

If a road trip is part of your plans, always make sure everyone in the vehicle is properly buckled up and that children are in the appropriate car seats for their age and size. According to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), during the 2023 spring break period 375 alcohol-related crashes in Texas occurred, resulting in the deaths of nine drivers. If you plan to consume alcohol, know your options in advance and decide whether you’ll take public transportation, use a ridesharing service or carpool with a sober driver.

For families traveling internationally with young children or older adults, it’s also important to be aware of the ongoing measles situation in Texas and across the country. Measles is a

highly contagious viral illness that can have serious complications, especially for vulnerable populations.

“The best way to protect children from measles is to make sure they get all the recommended vaccines at the required ages for school attendance,” said Donna Persaud, MD, MBA, Parkland’s Homeless Outreach Medical Services (HOMES) Medical Director and a board-certified pediatrician. “Adults are considered immune if you were born before 1957, had laboratory confirmed measles at some point in life, or have documentation of receiving a two-dose measles vaccine for school entry. If you are unsure, check with your doctor for guidance as you can either be tested for immunity or receive the vaccine.”


Spring break should be a time for fun but it’s important to remember that a little planning and precaution can go a long way in ensuring you and your loved-one’s safety.

## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

(Solution to March 6 Puzzle ~ MARCH MADNESS)

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EDITORIAL PAGE

It's March But There Is Another Kind of Madness Happening In The United States of America Today

By James B Ewers Jr. Ed.D



James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D

It is March, and the game of basketball is front and center. The college season has been up and running since November and is now ending. Conference tournaments have started, and champions will be crowned.

Fans are excited, and the atmosphere is charged up as teams believe they can make a run to be a conference champion. Has your favorite played in its conference tournament yet? Many people plan their vacations around basketball tournaments.

The phrase, March Madness, was coined by Henry V. Porter in 1939. He was an assistant executive secretary of the Illinois High School Association.

Basketball tournaments, NCAA, and NAIA bids are now on the minds of coaches and players alike. The joy of winning and the pain of losing will

be the focus of everyone.

I have been a basketball fan all my life. Most of the guys in my Winston-Salem, NC neighborhood played basketball, so we watched how the game has evolved. We have seen how new rules and regulations have affected the sport. Rules have changed in both basketball and in life.

Some changes have occurred in life that I will simply call American Madness. Some of these changes have come without warning. It is much like a robber coming in the night and taking all your goods and possessions.

The losers in this are the American people. Our dignity has been destroyed and damaged by demons dressed up to look like leaders.

Just last week, the shadow president, Elon Musk, was seen parading around the Conservative Political Action Conference with a chainsaw. His goal is to slice and dice jobs from the American people.

He is also the head of the Department of Government Efficiency. As we know, he is the richest person in the world. Do

you think he cares a hill of beans about whether you have a job? Do you think it matters to him if you can't feed your family? The answer to both questions is no.

Insensitivity and callousness are two terms to describe his behavior and lack of understanding. So, simply put, he is the wrong man for that position. That's American Madness.

On Friday, February 28th, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky met with the new US president and vice president. The meeting was contentious according to some news outlets. Our country's leaders suggested that Ukraine start the war against Russia.

We know that is false. Mr. Zelensky left the White House abruptly because of the tone and false accusations. The meeting was scheduled to be a starting point to ending the war with Russia. Instead, the meeting ended in confusion.

Of course, the people who believe in the new US president gave him high marks and said that he stood up for America. That is American Madness.

The cost of goods and

services continues to climb despite promises from the administration that they will drop. I remember some years back a song titled, Promises, Promises. Going into a grocery store these days gives us sticker shock. The cost of food keeps us anxious and apprehensive.

We keep waiting for the prices to drop. They aren't going to drop, so we must buy less. That is not a good choice.

Only weeks into his term, the new president began talking about tariffs. Economists, regardless of their political stripes, stated that was a bad idea.

At this moment, the new administration is unclear when it comes to imposing the tariffs. Chuck Dardas, president of AlphaUSA, an auto parts manufacturer in Livonia, Michigan, said, "The can keeps getting pushed, kicked down the road, and we don't know what that means. To make investments and to do the things we need to do, we need certainty. The only thing, I guess, to be certain is that we've got 30 more days to worry about it." This is American Madness.

THE TRUTH CLINIC

Let Us Rise Up and Build (Neh. 2-18)

Part 3

By James W. Breedlove

The fourth thing Nehemiah did was request specific help to begin this process:

"O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this, your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man." (Nehemiah 1:10-11a NIV)

**What man? He goes on to tell us:**

Nehemiah Speaks to the King

Nehemiah got the news in December, but it was not until four months later that an opportunity presented itself for Nehemiah to act:

In response to the King asking, What do you want?... Nehemiah answered, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it."

Observe how tactful is

Nehemiah's presentation. Twice he refers to Jerusalem, not as the capital of Judah, or even by its name, for it had a reputation as a troublesome city and had been the source of revolt in the empire before, but he designates it as "the city where my fathers are buried."

That is an accommodation to the King's own concerns. These ancient kings were greatly concerned about their burial. This king would be immediately sympathetic to Nehemiah's desire to go and restore the city where his fathers were buried. Nehemiah wisely plays upon that interest and presents his case in the best possible light.

This suggests to us that if we are truly concerned about rebuilding parts of our life, we need to think seriously about what it will require. We must assess what we will actually need, what steps we should take, and what may be involved in changing our habits so

that we can be freed to be what God wants us to be. Nehemiah teaches us that we need to face the reality of our situation, no matter how bad it might be.

Nehemiah Travels to Jerusalem

Nehemiah also beseeched the king, "If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah? And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the king's forest, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?" And because the gracious hand of my God was upon me, the king granted my requests. The king also provided army officers and cavalry to travel with me.

Notice that at this point, Nehemiah did not send messengers all over the empire announcing that he was on his way to rebuild

Jerusalem. Nor did he convene any town hall meetings to proclaim how the King had so honored him with safe passage letters and other kingly authorizations. His total game plan was not publicly acclaimed (self-aggrandizement), so his enemies could not undermine the plan even before it started.

With the king's permission, Nehemiah and his entourage embark on the arduous 1,000 mile journey to Jerusalem.

Inspection of Wall

After arrival in Jerusalem, Nehemiah takes three days to recover from the journey, and then he begins to personally examine every aspect of the devastating conditions that exist in Jerusalem. . He viewed the decay, the ashes, the holes in the walls, the burned gates, and the places most vulnerable to attack.

Continue Truth - 3/19/2025



# BREAKING NEWS!

## Trump imposes sweeping 25% steel and aluminum tariffs. Canada and Europe swiftly retaliate

By Elisabeth Buchwald, CNN

(CNN) President Donald Trump imposed sweeping 25% tariffs on all steel and aluminum imported into the United States Wednesday, a policy aimed at leveling the playing field for US manufacturing but a move that threatens to drive up prices on a broad range of consumer and industrial goods for Americans.

It's the latest salvo in Trump's multifaceted tariff plan aimed at correcting perceived trade imbalances and reigniting domestic industry. But it risks igniting a global trade war. The European Union, hit for the first time by higher US tariffs since Trump returned to the White House, retaliated within hours with countermeasures on US goods exports. And later Wednesday, Canada announced over \$20 billion in retaliatory measures as well.

Trump on Wednesday in the Oval Office said the United States would up the ante after the European and Canadian retaliation, but he did not spell out how or when the United States would respond.

"Of course I will respond, Trump said.

The tariffs on steel and aluminum mark the first time in Trump's second

term that a set of tariffs has been applied to all countries.

Imposing steel and aluminum tariffs poses a risky bet: Although it could give America's steel and aluminum industries a boost, it will raise prices on a key ingredient for American manufacturers, which could be passed on to consumers. The costs could outweigh the benefit.

**Canada retaliates**

Before Wednesday, Trump had only enacted tariffs that applied to China, Mexico and Canada this term. In the case of Mexico and Canada, businesses can avoid paying tariffs through April 2 if they comply with the USMCA.

Canada announced a series of retaliatory measures on Wednesday morning that are set to take effect on Thursday, which includes 25% tariffs on \$29.8 CAD billion (\$20.1 billion) imports of US goods such as steel and aluminum products.

Canada also targeted billions of dollars worth of imports from the US of computers, sporting equipment and cast iron products.

## Rally to Save the VA: Veterans and Community Leaders Unite Against Trump Administration's Attack on Veteran Affairs

Dallas, Texas –

**WHAT:** The Dallas County Democratic Party, in collaboration with a coalition of veteran and community organizations, will hold a Rally to Save the VA on March 14, 2025, at 11:00 AM at the Dallas VA Medical Center. The rally is organized in response to the Trump administration's proposal to cut 83,000 VA jobs nationwide. If enacted, these cuts would significantly impact the quality and availability of care provided to U.S. veterans. Texas has 1.4 million veterans, the largest number of veterans in the entire country, with nearly 25% of all Texas veterans calling DFW home.

The Rally to Save the VA will bring together a diverse coalition of activists, veterans, and community leaders to stand united against the proposed cuts to Veterans Affairs. Organization include: Collin County Democratic Party, Dallas Central Labor Caucus, Dallas County Democratic Party, Denton County Democratic Party, DFW Veterans Chamber of Commerce, Funky East Dallas Democrats, Lake Highlands White Rock Democrats, LH Blue, Lone Star Project, Mothers For Democracy (formerly Mothers Against Greg Abbott), Next Generation Action Network, Northeast Tarrant County Democrats, Park Cities Democratic Women's Association, Preston Hollow Democrats, Richardson Area Democrats, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, Texas Coalition of Black Democrats, Texas Democratic Veterans Caucus, and Women of Dallas United for Action.

**WHEN:** Friday, March 14, 2025 | 11 AM - 1 PM

**WHERE:** The rally will take place at the Dallas VA Medical Center (4500 S Lancaster Rd, Dallas, TX 75216), the second-largest VA health system in the country.

**WHO:** Speakers at the rally will include Yolanda Conner of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) and the Dallas County Democratic Party Chair Kardal Coleman. The rally will provide an opportunity for interviews with event speakers, veterans, and local activists in English and Spanish.

### STATEMENT:

Kardal Coleman, Dallas County Democratic Party Chair, issued the following statement:

"As a veteran myself, I know that the VA is a lifeline for our community. Many of us return home with physical wounds and sometimes invisible scars. The threat to cut funding to the VA is a direct assault on critical services, and calls into question who we are as a nation. If we aren't willing to fight for adequate care and treatment of our veterans and their families, what is it that we stand for?

"It's a sad day in America when the commander in Chief launches an attack on the healthcare for our troops. This is the same man who kept wounded soldiers out of military parades, and called our fallen soldiers 'suckers' and 'losers' instead of acknowledging what they truly are: heroes. Instead of cutting services, he should be expanding benefits for our veterans.

"I am calling on Lieutenant Colonel Allen West, Dallas County Republican Party Chair, to stand in solidarity as a fellow Army veteran and demand that we prioritize the needs of our brothers and sisters in arms. Veterans have made sacrifices for our freedom and for our country; they deserve a nation that honors their sacrifice by ensuring that their country cares for them in return, providing the care, support, and resources they've so clearly earned."



Here are some companies that **NO LONGER SUPPORT Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI).**

## WHY ARE YOU STILL SUPPORTING THEM?

A growing number of prominent US companies have announced they have scaled back or eliminated Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives.

Their retreat from DEI began after a June 2023 U.S. Supreme Court ruling against affirmative action in college admissions and accelerated after President Donald Trump's executive orders against all federal diversity initiatives.

Now longstanding programs to improve the hiring and promotion of African Americans and other minority workers in corporate America are now under serious threat.

The attack on diversity has been swift. After taking office on Jan. 20, President Trump issued a series of executive orders aimed at dismantling Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs across the federal government and the private sector. The attack on diversity is bad for a multi-ethnic country and bad for business which needs a diverse workforce. DEI programs seek to ensure fairer representation for groups historically marginalized such as African Americans, women, LGBTQ+ community members, and disabled people.

Diversity helps businesses by boosting innovation, expanding talent pools, and enhancing brand reputation, ultimately leading to improved financial performance and a more competitive edge. A diverse workforce opens

up opportunities to access a wider range of talent and skills, allowing businesses to tap into a broader pool of potential employees with unique experiences and expertise.

A diverse workforce can better understand and meet the needs of a diverse customer base. This allows businesses to tailor their products, services, and marketing strategies to resonate with a wider range of consumers.

However, if companies retreat from committing to the principles and practice of diversity in a multi-ethnic America, why should they be supported? The Philadelphia Tribune's response to the Trump administration's attacks on diversity and democracy begins with reporting the truth and holding those in power accountable.

More specifically, we ask you to strongly consider whether you should continue to spend your dollars with companies who have publicly announced their decision to retreat from diversity. Here's a look at some companies that have retreated from DEI:

### Amazon

Amazon said it was halting some of its DEI programs, although it did not specify which ones. In a Dec. 16 memo to employees, Candi Castleberry, a senior human resources executive, said the company has been "winding down outdated programs and materials, and we're aiming to complete that by the end of 2024."

### Target

The retailer said in January that it was ending a program it established to help Black employees build meaningful careers, improve the experience of Black shoppers and to promote Black-owned businesses.

Target, which operates nearly 2,000 stores nationwide and employs more than 400,000 people, said it also would bring to an end its diversity, equity and inclusion, or DEI, goals it previously set in three-year cycles.

The goals included hiring and promoting more women and members of racial minority groups, and recruiting more diverse suppliers, including businesses owned by people of color, women, LGBTQ+ people, veterans and people with disabilities.

### Meta

Meta Platforms Inc the parent company of Facebook and Instagram said it was getting rid of its diversity, equity and inclusion program, which featured policies for hiring, training and choosing vendors.

### McDonald's

Four years after launching a push for more diversity in its ranks, McDonald's said that it is ending some of its diversity practices, citing the U.S. Supreme Court decision that outlawed affirmative action in college admissions. McDonald's said on Jan. 6 that it will retire specific goals for achieving diversity at senior

leadership levels. It also intends to end a program that encourages its suppliers to develop diversity training and to increase the number of minority group members represented within their own leadership ranks.

### Walmart

The world's largest retailer confirmed in November that it would not be renewing a five-year commitment for an equity racial center set up in 2020 after the police killing of George Floyd.

### Ford

CEO Jim Farley sent a memo to the automaker's employees in August outlining changes to the company's DEI policies.

### Lowe's

In August, Lowe's executive leadership said the company began "reviewing" its programs following the Supreme Court's affirmative action ruling and decided to combine its employee resource groups into one umbrella organization. Previously, the company had "individual groups representing diverse sections of our associate population."

### John Deere

The farm equipment maker said in July that it will no longer sponsor "social or cultural awareness" events, and that it would audit all training materials "to ensure the absence of socially-motivated messages" in compliance with federal and local laws.

### Tractor Supply

The retailer in June said it was ending an array of corporate diversity. Tractor Supply said it would be eliminating all of its DEI roles while retiring current DEI goals.

Unfortunately the list of companies retreating from diversity is growing. We will post this list in print, online and on social media when available. If new companies announce their withdrawal from diversity we will add them to the list of companies whose practices we are now calling into question.

We must speak out and send a loud and clear message to corporate America that a retreat from diversity means a withdrawal of our support and practices will be documented and provided to our readership.





# More CHOICE EXPO

SATURDAY, APRIL 5 | 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.  
AUTOMOBILE BLDG @ FAIR PARK

## DallasISD.org



# North Texas school district provides a world-class education, more choices for your child

Dallas ISD is where potential turns into purpose. With top-tier programs in fine arts, STEM, dual languages, and more, the district provides students with the tools to discover their passions and build successful futures.

Tinashe M. is a shining example. In 2014, as a second-grader at Thomas L. Marsalis Elementary, he sat at a piano and played effortlessly,

leaving his teachers in awe. But talent alone isn’t enough—it takes the right support system to transform potential into excellence.

Now a senior at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, he has embraced jazz, a genre that allows him to express himself in ways words cannot.

"The thing I love about jazz is you can

never go wrong," he said. "It’s all about expression and playing what’s inside of you."

That passion has taken him to new heights. Tinashe now tours with the prestigious Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz, perfecting his craft while showcasing the power of opportunity. His story is a testament to what happens when talent meets the right support

system.

Every child has a unique gift waiting to be unlocked. Give your child the opportunity to thrive in a district dedicated to excellence.

Explore the possibilities at the More Choice Expo on Saturday, April 5, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Fair Park’s Automobile Building. To learn more, visit [DallasISD.org/More-Choice](https://DallasISD.org/More-Choice).

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Photo Credit: NNPA Files

# Michelle Obama and her brother to launch a podcast with weekly guests

By MARK KENNEDY/AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Michelle Obama and her brother, Craig Robinson, will host a new weekly podcast series starting this month featuring a special guest pulled from the world of entertainment, sports, health and business.

"IMO with Michelle Obama & Craig Robinson" will address "everyday questions shaping our lives, relationships and the world around us," according to a press release. IMO is slang for "in my opinion."

Some of the guests slated to speak to the former first lady and Rob-

inson, the executive director of the National Association of Basketball Coaches, include the actors Issa Rae and Keke Palmer and psychologist Dr. Orna Guralnik.

Other guests include filmmakers Seth and Lauren Rogan; soccer star Abby Wambach; authors Jay Shetty, Glennon Doyle and Logan Ury; editor Elaine Welteroth; radio personality Angie Martinez; media mogul Tyler Perry; actor Tracee Ellis Ross; husband-and-wife athlete and actor Dwyane Wade and Gabrielle Union;

and Airbnb CEO Brian Chesky.

The first two episodes — the first is an introductory one and the second features Rae — will premiere on March 12. New episodes will be released weekly and will be available on all audio platforms and YouTube.

"With everything going on in the world, we're all looking for answers and people to turn to," Obama said in a statement. "There is no single way to deal with the challenges we may be facing — whether it's family, faith, or our per-

sonal relationships — but taking the time to open up and talk about these issues can provide hope."

Obama has had two other podcasts — "The Michelle Obama Podcast" in 2020 and another in 2023, "The Light We Carry." Her husband, Barack Obama, offered a series of conversations about American life between him and Bruce Springsteen.

The new podcast is a production of Higher Ground, the media company founded in 2018 by the former president and first lady.