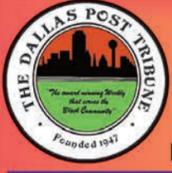


“Daylight saving time will begin ON SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025. The time will SPRING forward by one hour; from 2 a.m. to 3 a.m.”



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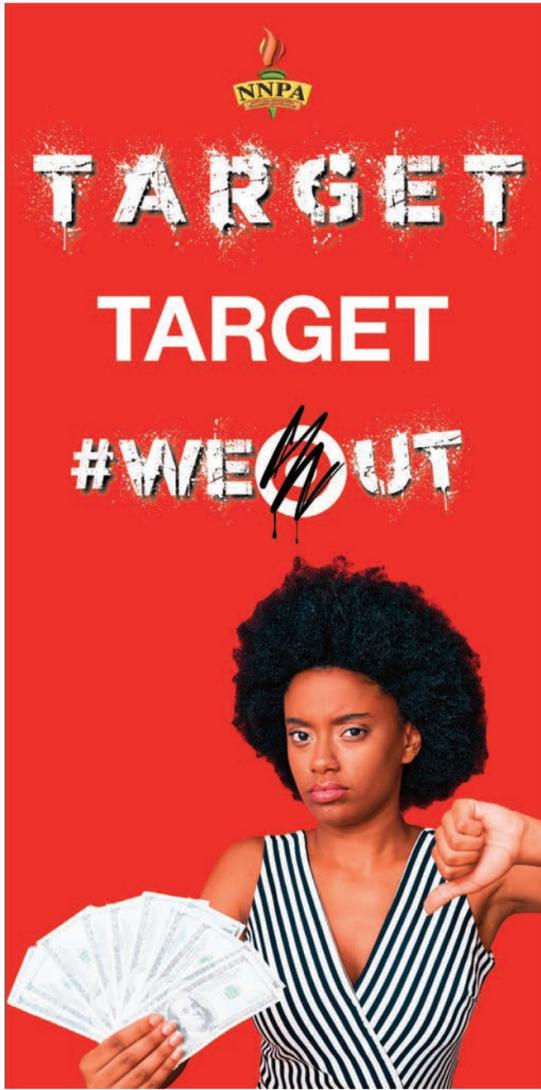
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TARGET TAKES A HIT: \$12.4 Billion Wiped Out

By Stacy Brown

Target Corporation's stock plummeted by approximately \$27.27 per share by the end of February, erasing about \$12.4 billion in market value. The drop came on February 28, the designated economic blackout day, and coincided with mounting backlash over the retailer's decision to abandon its diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) commitments.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association

(NNPA) has taken action through its Public Education and Selective Buying Campaign. NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. said, "Black consumers helped build Target into a retail giant, and now they are making their voices heard. If corporations believe they can roll back diversity commitments without consequence, they are mistaken."

Reverend Jamal Bryant, pastor of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Georgia, has led calls for a

"40-Day Target Fast," urging Black consumers to withhold their spending at the retailer. "Black people spend \$12 million a day at Target," Bryant said. "If we withhold our dollars, we can make a statement that cannot be ignored."

The NAACP also issued a Black Consumer Advisory in response to Target's DEI rollback, warning Black consumers about corporate retreat from diversity initiatives. The advisory urges them to support businesses that remain committed to invest-

ing in Black communities.

Target is also facing legal battles. Shareholders have filed lawsuits challenging the company's DEI policies, arguing that the commitments hurt financial performance. Meanwhile, conservative groups have sued over Target's diversity efforts, claiming they discriminated against white employees and other groups.

"Consumers have the power to demand change, and Target is learning that lesson the hard way," Chavis said.

Dallas City Hall Secures Deed to Parcel of Property Under Downtown Neiman Marcus



Photo Credit: NBC TV Screenshot

DALLAS - The City of Dallas and members of the Dallas Consortium for the Downtown Neiman Marcus plan to meet with executives with Saks Global Properties on Wednesday to discuss the future of the flagship Downtown Neiman Marcus.

Dallas City Manager Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert said the City is now in possession of the deed for the Slaughter property that was at the root of Saks Global's decision to close the store.

"I want to thank the Dallas Consortium for the

Downtown Neiman Marcus for their continued efforts to ensure ongoing operations of the Downtown flagship store. The City of Dallas now officially holds the special warranty deed for the parcel that Saks Global Properties said was needed to keep Neiman Marcus' Downtown store open," Tolbert said.

"I also want to thank the Slaughter family for their donation, and their desire to preserve the prosperity

Continue **Neiman** Page 4

Slotkin Rips Trump's 'Reckless' Agenda in Fiery Rebuttal: He'll Make You Pay'

By Stacy M. Brown

Sen. Elissa Slotkin (D-Ill.) delivered a sharp and relentless rebuttal to former President Donald Trump's chaotic address to Congress on Tuesday night, warning that his economic policies and erratic leadership will leave everyday Americans footing the bill for a billionaire-friendly agenda. Slotkin, the newly elected senator from Illinois—one of the key states Trump flipped in 2024—blasted the former president's approach to governance, calling his economic promises "a reckless and chaotic gamble" that would "walk us



Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons / The United States Congress.

into a recession." "Trump is on the hunt to find trillions of dollars to pass on to the wealthiest of Americans, and to do that, he's going to make you pay," she said, tearing into his

trade policies, rising prescription drug costs, and ballooning national debt.

Slotkin also aimed at the Trump administration's sweeping federal layoffs, which she called a "mind-

less" purge of critical workers. "The firing of people who protect our nuclear weapons, keep our planes from crashing, and

Continue **Fiery** Page 2



Sylvester Turner (D-TX), 119th Congress. Photo: Wikimedia Commons / The United States Congress.

IN MEMORIAM: Former Houston Mayor and Current Congressman Sylvester Turner Has Died at 70

Continue Page 5



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Beloved South Oak Cliff coach bids Farewell after 34 years



Photo courtesy: Dallas ISD

DALLAS — After more than three decades of dedicated service to Dallas ISD and South Oak Cliff High School, legendary basketball coach and athletic coordinator James Mays II is officially retiring.

With 34 years in Dallas ISD, including 32 years at South Oak Cliff, Mays leaves behind an extraordinary legacy of leadership, mentorship, and championship success.

Mays served as the head boys' basketball coach since 1999, guiding the Golden Bears to 26 consecutive UIL playoff appearances. Under his leadership, SOC captured four UIL State Championships (2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008) and made five trips to the state tournament, along with nine regional tournament

appearances.

His remarkable coaching career boasts an overall record of 634-226, earning him countless accolades, including DFW Coach of the Year (2005, 2008) and Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Coach of the Year (2005). He has been named District Coach of the Year 15 times.

More than the trophies and accolades, Mays is most proud of the impact he's made on student-athletes both on and off the court. Throughout his career, he helped hundreds of student-athletes attend college, with many graduating and some reaching the professional ranks in basketball and football.

"This journey has been bigger than basketball. I'm most proud of the young men I've had the

honor to coach — helping them discover their gifts and create better lives for themselves and their families," Mays said.

In addition to his coaching career, Mays served as South Oak Cliff's athletic coordinator for the past 13 years, playing a vital role in shaping the school's athletic programs.

A member of Friendship West Baptist Church and the Dallas Mavericks Academy Coaches Council, Mays has also been a pillar in the Dallas community. As he prepares to retire, he leaves behind a championship legacy — not only in wins but in the lives he's influenced across generations. His impact will continue to be felt far beyond the basketball court.



We're Not Running from Our Own House': CBC Declares War on Trump, Musk, and Project 2025

By Stacy M. Brown

In what might be an unprecedented show of force, a powerful contingent of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) met with African American journalists inside the Democratic Whip's Conference Room at the U.S. Capitol, laying out their battle plan against Donald Trump, Elon Musk and the far-right's dystopian blueprint known as Project 2025. CBC Chair Yvette Clarke, First Vice Chair Troy Carter, Whip Sydney Kamlager-Dove, former Chair Steven Horsford, Reps. Jahana Hayes, Summer Lee, and the ever-outspoken Jasmine Crockett made it clear—while they lack the votes to halt Trump's cruel and life-threatening policies, they are on the offensive with one goal in mind: retaking the House next year to neutralize his agenda.

As Trump prepared to address a joint session of Congress, most CBC members had vowed they would attend—not to validate him, but to "look him in the eye" as he and Musk continue to ravage the country. "Many of us are expecting lies to be told," Kamlager-Dove stated. "We'll be curious to see all of the gaslighting that has

happened on the other side too. We want to facilitate ways in which we can work with [The Black Press]." Rep. Marilyn Strickland was blunt about why she won't be bullied out of attending. "I'm going to this address because this is the People's House, and people elected me to represent them. He's not running me out of my own House," she declared. Maryland Rep. Glen Ivey refused to sugarcoat Trump's economic disaster. "The things he's done are terrible. The tariffs he put in place are terrible. They're taking

money out of people's pockets," Ivey stated, highlighting how federal employees in his district are being sacrificed for what he called a "big grift" benefiting the billionaire class, including Musk. "Trump is pulling money together for a multi-trillion-dollar tax cut for people like Musk," he said. Horsford didn't hold back, slamming Trump's budget-slashing schemes. "That [stuff] is real. We understand. The tax cuts—his ultimate goal—so he can screw America, and Black America is at the top of his list," he warned.

Many members argued that their presence at Trump's address was itself an act of resistance. "If we don't show up, they will have people filling those seats and a room full of sycophants cheering for his ass as he continues to gaslight us," Kamlager-Dove said. "So one oppositional thing to do is to show up and make him look us in the face and lie to our constituents. He's done nothing about the \$15 eggs or a damn thing to keep the planes in the air. An act of resistance is showing up and telling him to his face that he is lying—just like

an act of resistance is not showing up and telling him F— you." Then came Rep. Jasmine Crockett, the CBC's fiercest fighter, ready to take the war to Trump and the far-right machine. She zeroed in on the Black Press and digital media as crucial allies in breaking through the noise. "The [Black Press] is part of that strategy. To make sure you have a message from us to get out," Crockett said. "Everyone wants to pretend things are normal, but they're not. For everyone trying to be prim

Continue CBC Page 7

Continued **Fiery** Page 1 and conduct life-saving research—only to rehire them two days later? No CEO in America could do that without being summarily fired," she said. Speaking from Wyandotte, Michigan, Slotkin positioned herself as a voice for working-class Americans frustrated by rising costs and political dysfunction. She called out Trump's coziness with billionaires like Elon Musk

warning that their unchecked influence could jeopardize everything from Social Security to private financial data. "Is there anyone comfortable with Musk and his gang of 20-year-olds using their own servers to poke through your tax returns, your health information, and your bank accounts?" she asked. Slotkin didn't hold back on foreign policy either, skewering Trump for his embarrassing Oval Office

clash with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. "That wasn't just a bad episode of reality TV," she said. "It summed up Trump's whole approach to the world. Cozy up to dictators like Vladimir Putin, kick our allies like the Canadians in the teeth, and call it strategy." The Illinois senator, a former CIA analyst, framed the stakes as a choice between responsible leadership and reckless upheaval. "America wants change, but

there's a responsible way to make change and a reckless way," she said. "We can make that change without forgetting who we are as a country and as a democracy." Closing her remarks with a call to action, Slotkin urged Americans not to disengage. "Hold your elected officials, including me, accountable," she said. "Go to town halls. Demand action. Doom scrolling doesn't count—I'm putting that on a pillow."

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RELIGIOUS/NEWS

Melchizedek - An Outstanding Type of Christ

Hebrews 7:1-10



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

The superb theme of the great book of Hebrews is the Superiority of Jesus Christ. The writer of this wonderful book has certified and proven that Jesus Christ is supreme in His Person and Work. The author of Hebrews, who is anonymous, has proven convincingly that Jesus is superior (better than) the Prophets (Hebrews 1:1-3) because the Prophets' revelation was only partial and fragmentary; however, God's revelation found its finality with or in Christ. The author presented further that Jesus Christ is superior to Angels (Hebrews 1:4-2:18) for Angels, who were highly revered by the Jews, were mere messengers; however, Christ is the Son who will inherit the Messianic Kingdom! In Hebrews 3:1-6, the author directed our attention to the truth that Jesus Christ is superior to Moses, because Moses was a servant in the house, but Christ is the blessed Son

who made the house. Thus far, the author has declared that there are several warning passages, and they include: 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). Now in chapter 7, the author reverted to the lofty theme of the greatness of Christ's Priesthood, a theme he doubted his readers would comprehend because of their spiritual dullness (Hebrews 5:11). Having concluded his most recent warning in Hebrews 5:11-6:20, he approaches the subject of the Melchizedek Priesthood again with a strong fervor in Hebrews 6:19-20. As the author in Chapter 7 begins to explore the lofty theme of the Priesthood of Christ, let us observe the following: "The Personality of Melchizedek" and "Proof of Melchizedek's Superior Priesthood."

Melchizedek – Hebrews 7:1-3

First of all, all that we know about this historical figure Melchizedek outside of the book of Hebrews is found in Genesis 14:18-20 and Psalm 110:4. The author of Hebrews presents or identifies Melchizedek as a type of Christ. The author presents Melchizedek as king of Salem in verse 1 and Melchizedek's name means "king of righteousness." Melchizedek was not only a "king of Salem", but he is also "priest of the most high God" (v. 1). So, in Melchizedek's name (king of righteousness) and his office of king and priest, Melchizedek is a wonderful picture of Christ. This same historical figure met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed Abraham. In verse 2, the author refers to a resounding victory of Abraham over a coalition of eastern kings. He was returning

home in an overwhelming way with the spoils of war; however, in recognizing the greatness of Melchizedek, Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek. Not only is Melchizedek a wonderful picture of Christ in his name (king of righteousness) and his offices of king/priest, but he is a picture of Christ in his origin. In verse 3, as far as the bible record is concerned, there is no mention of Melchizedek's birth or death. This does not mean the Melchizedek had no parents or that he never died. It means rather that the Old Testament is silent on these matters. Thus, Melchizedek (like Christ) is "without beginning of days or end of life;" thus, his priesthood is eternal. The author was stressing the fact that Christ, like Melchizedek, had an eternal (continual) priesthood. Christ's priesthood did not depend on natural descent, for the high priest that descended from the Aaronic

order died; however, Christ, like Melchizedek, "abideth a priest continually" (v. 3). Having discussed "The Personality of Melchizedek", let us observe "Proof of Melchizedek's Superior Priesthood." II. Proof of Melchizedek's Superior Priesthood – Hebrews 7:4-10

Having identified Christ with the order of Melchizedek, the author presented the fact that Abraham acknowledged Melchizedek's superiority by giving a tenth of the spoils to Melchizedek (v. 4). In verses 5-7, the author presents another proof that Melchizedek, who is a type of Christ, is superior to the Aaronic priesthood, for Aaron, who descended from Abraham, paid tithes to Melchizedek, while yet unborn in the loins of Abraham. And when Melchizedek blessed Abraham, he was blessing Levi as well; and certainly "the less is

blessed of the better" (v. 7). After stressing that Melchizedek's priesthood was not terminated by death (v. 8), the author presented the fact that the Aaronic priesthood is of a lesser order than that of Melchizedek (vv. 9-10). Thus, Christ is a priest, not after the inferior order, but after the order of Melchizedek. In presenting the Superior Priesthood of Christ, every man in Adam needs to know that a bridge of hope has been built. Through Christ's sacrificial offering of Himself on the cross, mankind only needs to accept God's provision for salvation. Jesus Christ is the only remedy for the lost condition of every man in Adam, for Romans 10:9 says: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

May God Bless!

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

- MARCH MADNESS -
(Solution, will appear on page 5, March 13)

- ACROSS**
- Giant Himalayan
 - *M in MAC
 - Bathtub libation
 - Joie de vivre
 - Do like fly fisherman
 - East side of Jersey
 - Tucked in
 - Diva's solo
 - Length of a forearm
 - * ___ Sunday
 - Osiris' wife
 - Freshwater fish
 - Stir fry pan
 - Victorian era overcoat
 - Smallest
 - *Like attending band at the NCAA Tournament
 - Kaa of "The Jungle Book"
 - Great Lake
 - Prep mushrooms for steak, e.g.
 - Cooking fat
 - Bible song
 - Second to last word in some fairytales
 - False
 - Dip oreo into milk, e.g.
 - Tiresome
 - Hoariest
 - NBC's sketch comedy show
 - Misrepresent
 - South American monkey
 - *2025 NCAA Championship game venue
 - Renaissance fiddle
 - "To ___ and to hold"
 - ___-friendly
 - Founding Father Thomas ___
 - Damien's prediction
 - Reunion group
 - Bancroft to Hoffman in "The Graduate"
 - Agreement word
 - Ages and ages

- DOWN**
- Nay opposers
 - River in Bohemia
 - 1.3 ounces, in Asia
 - Owes money (2 words)
 - Angelina Jolie's 2024 singing role
 - "Kick the bucket," e.g.
 - * ___ Smith, coach of 2 champs and 11 Final Four teams
 - Mongolian desert
 - Fleur-de-lis
 - *Cut down at end of last game
 - Like rheumy eyes
 - Descendant
 - *2024 winners
 - Thin pancake
 - * ___ and move on
 - *Cinderella's victory
 - Furlough
 - Spew, past tense
 - Cough syrup balsam
 - Use other end of pencil?
 - Farm structures
 - Dangle a carrot
 - * ___-up or evenly matched game
 - Step on it
 - *2024 Most Outstanding Player Newton
 - Paralyzing disease, for short
 - Afghan monetary unit
 - Neolithic tomb
 - "Riunite ____, that's nice"
 - Figure out
 - Scapegoat's due
 - Roof overhang
 - Salty drop
 - Avian wader
 - Sailor call
 - Capital of Norway
 - Statistics calculation
 - Sea eagles
 - Dashboard acronym

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle
Theme: MARCH MADNESS

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	
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Continued Neiman Page 1

that this iconic brand contributes to Downtown's vibrancy. With the deed documents now in hand, I am looking forward to hosting Saks Global Properties and Investments CEO Ian Putman and his team on Wednesday morning at City Hall," Tolbert added.

Downtown Dallas, Inc. (DDI) President & CEO Jennifer Scripps explained the importance of the property.

"The ground lease matter that was causing complications "beyond (Saks') control" has now officially been resolved. We are thrilled that, in the words of Saks Global CEO Marc Metrick, they see their recent acquisition of Neiman Marcus as being about "growing" and "not about shrinking." Saks Global executives have also said the decision to close the Downtown store was not about operations. Together, we will ensure Neiman Marcus continues to grow and thrive in Downtown Dallas" said Scripps.

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Quinn Minute

Why I carry a business card

By Rix Quinn

When I'm at an event with people I've never seen before, I depend on my business card for salvation.

Even if you don't have a job, a card lets you display credentials to get one. You never get a second chance to make a first engraved impression.

If Bob spends his life daydreaming, he can't brag about that on a resume. But if his business card claims he's a "futurist," you'll

consider him a dude with potential.

Educational titles on cards impress me. If you've got more degrees than a meat thermometer, a calling card is the place to display them.

I've got a business card with both my name and photo on it. It's not a good picture because I look either surprised or confused. But I think that's a good way to get attention.

Pictures help people re-

member you better. Folks tell me I look very much like their ex-husband. That can be either good or bad.

How else do you make your card stand out? How about a card that folds in half?

Or one that's magnetic? If the card sticks on a customer's refrigerator, maybe your name will stick in their memories, too.

What's the most impressive job name? One of my friends started a busi-

ness. He wanted a title both impressive and vague.

His business card reads "Consulting Operations Strategist."

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SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

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Sunday, Mar. 9

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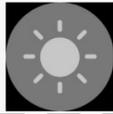
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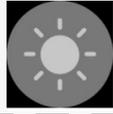
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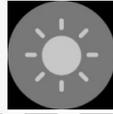
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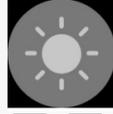
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H - 72°
L - 51°



H - 73°
L - 58°



H - 76°
L - 58°

Only 2 NFL players get the franchise tag after the Vikings let Sam Darnold hit the market

By JOSH DUBOW AP Pro Football Writer

Dallas signed defensive tackle Osa Odighizuwa before the franchise tag deadline Tuesday and Minnesota declined to give the tag to quarterback Sam Darnold, clearing the way for him to hit the open market next week.

Only two players were given the tag for 2025 before Tuesday's deadline with Cincinnati receiver Tee Higgins getting it on Monday and Kansas City guard Trey Smith getting it last week.

This marked a significant downturn in tags handed out from eight last season and an average of more than nine a year over the previous five seasons. The previous time only two or fewer players got tagged was in 1994 when Pittsburgh tight end Eric

Green and Minnesota defensive tackle Henry Thomas were the only players, according to the NFL.

Among the top players other than Darnold who can sign with any other team as free agents starting March 12 after not getting tagged are Tampa Bay receiver Chris Godwin, Miami safety Jevon Holland, Philadelphia defensive standouts Milton Williams, Zack Baun and Josh Sweat, and Baltimore left tackle Ronnie Stanley.

The Cowboys locked up Odighizuwa by agreeing to an \$80 million, four-year contract with \$58 million guaranteed, according to his agent. Agent Sam Leaf Ireifej confirmed the deal to The Associated Press and said it includes a \$20

million signing bonus. A franchise tag would have been worth \$25.1 million for 2025.

Odighizuwa, a third-round pick in 2021, is coming off his best season with career highs with 4 1/2 sacks, 47 tackles and 23 quarterback hits.

Darnold had a breakthrough season in his only year in Minnesota, throwing for 4,319 yards and 35 TDs while posting a 102.5 passer rating. Darnold was drafted third overall by the New York Jets in 2018 but struggled mightily during three seasons with the Jets and two with Carolina.

After spending the 2023 season as a backup in San Francisco, Darnold finally played to his potential for most of the season before posting back-to-back duds

in his final two games: a Week 18 game against Detroit for the No. 1 seed in the NFC and a wild-card loss to the Los Angeles Rams.

His performance in those key games contributed to the decision by the Vikings to pass on the \$40.2 million franchise tag number and turn the team over to J.J. McCarthy, who was drafted 10th overall last season.

McCarthy missed his rookie season with a knee injury but is expected to be the starter on coach Kevin O'Connell's talented offense featuring star receiver Justin Jefferson.

Higgins got the tag for a second straight season with his worth \$26.2 million. Higgins was tied for sixth in the league this past



Minnesota Vikings quarterback Sam Darnold jogs off the field during an NFL football game against the Seattle Seahawks, Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024, in Seattle.

(AP Photo/Stephen Brashear, File)

season with 10 touchdown catches. He also had 73 receptions for 911 yards and averaged 12.5 yards per catch.

Smith, a sixth-round pick in 2021, received a tag worth \$23.402 million. He has missed just one game in four seasons and has helped the Chiefs win Super Bowls following the 2022 and 2023 seasons.

Kansas City lost the

Super Bowl last month to Philadelphia thanks in part to struggles on the offensive line. That contributed to the decision to give the tag to one of their more reliable linemen in hopes of giving better protection to Patrick Mahomes.

Teams can sign players on the franchise tags by July 15, otherwise they will have to play on the tag in 2025.

Continued: Former Houston Mayor and Current Congressman Sylvester Turner Has Died at 70 - Page 1 -

By Lauren Victoria Burke
Independent Investigative Journalist

Sylvester Turner (D-TX), 119th Congress. Photo: Wikimedia Commons / The United States Congress

At the beginning of a city council meeting this morning, Houston Mayor John Whitmire announced that the former

Mayor and current Houston Congressman Sylvester had died — to the shock of many.

During their caucus meeting this morning, members of Congress were also shaken by the news of Sylvester's death.

Sylvester Turner served as the 62nd Mayor of Houston from 2016 to 2024.

Senior staff on Capitol Hill informed Black Press USA that Congressman

Turner became ill sometime after President Trump's address last night.

Today, the Congressional Black Caucus has its weekly Wednesday meeting where it will grapple with its colleague's death and the news of the possible censure by House Republicans of another Texas congressman: Rep. Al Green.

Turner, who was one of

9 children, was born and raised in Houston. He graduated from Harvard Law School with a Juris Doctorate. After law school, Turner returned to Houston and established himself as a lawyer and a hardworking community leader. In 1983, Turner co-founded the law firm Barnes & Turner.

The firm was focused on public service. Turner was elected to the Texas House of Representatives

in 1988. He served for over 25 years and was an influential leader in the legislature. Turner focused on the working-class issues of the era: education, health care, and issues facing the local economy in Houston.

Turner was elected in 2024 to fill the congressional seat of late Congresswoman Shelia Jackson Lee after her death from pancreatic cancer.

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EDITORIAL PAGE

Did You Make a Bad Decision On November 5, 2024?

By James B Ewers Jr. Ed.D



James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D

We see what is going on around us. It is in plain view for everyone to see and to feel. The train of discomfort and deception has left the station.

Many Americans were on that train and thought that it was a gravy train, but now they are realizing that it is a gruesome train. Those on that train bound for nowhere only have themselves to blame. It's too bad and so sad.

The new administration in Washington, DC, has come in and turned back the clock of progress. Each day since the inauguration, pink slips have been the call of the day. A typical scenario is that you walk into your office and are told it is your last day at work.

Now, it is disheartening to be told you are fired for no good reason. Some are told in person, and some are told by email. Of

course, the line being used today is that the organization is undergoing cost-cutting measures.

Cities and states are now being adversely affected by this new regime. If Republican mayors and governors are saying they are not, then they are selling you a bill of goods. In other words, you are being hoodwinked.

Some watchdogs who monitor hirings and firings are wondering out loud what is making corporate and government leaders cave in to this new president. So far, there isn't a clear answer. Fear and intimidation are words being used by some who are on the front lines.

A person who didn't want to be identified said, "I have three children, and I had to sit them down and tell them that I had been fired illegally from my job. Both my son and my daughter are asking me what we are going to do. Will we be able to buy things?"

Another worker said, "They didn't notify us. We found out through no proper channels. They added, "Ten percent to twelve percent of the workforce was cut at the National Science Founda-

tion, which is the heart and soul of science, engineering and R&D in the United States."

If you work in the field of diversity, equity and inclusion, your positions are at risk or are being eliminated. These positions and programs have come to a sudden halt.

For example, the University of North Carolina's Diversity and Inclusion Office has been abolished. The UNC System Board of Governors removed the D&I policy. UNC Student Body President Jaleah Taylor said, "It's not like everything is under one department now, and so either programs have been cut, or they've been moved around."

The sitting president is moving swiftly to get rid of the US Department of Education. Years ago, I was employed during the summers with the US Office of Education.

This mangled cutting of programs is being done by the new president and the shadow president, Elon Musk. Mr. Musk has come to the White House and created a climate of alienation and ostracization. Many are saying these actions are at the be-

hest of the president.

Now, America, we see the turmoil these incoming people are causing. We have a secretary of Health and Human Services who didn't believe that Covid-19 was real and that the vaccines weren't safe. The Kennedy family is in a state of shock as Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is an embarrassment.

These perilous times didn't have to happen had we voted for Kamala Harris for president of this country. Our democracy and the rule of law would have been safe.

As we enter the month of March, we can expect more of the same. However, despite this erosion of respect and trust, better days are ahead.

You see, what is happening today is God's permissive will. He sees it and sees our suffering. Stay strong, and let's keep our heads up.

Reverend Elmon Prier, a minister of the Gospel in Ohio, believes this torment is seasonal and will pass. He says, "Our spiritual walk is never easy, but it will persevere and prevail." His message of resilience must resonate with each of us.

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THE TRUTH CLINIC

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

Part 2

By James W. Breedlove

Boarded-up houses, burned-out buildings, trash, and weeds have taken over. Many residents have fallen into practices that they know are wrong but have difficulty stopping them. They may be addicted to drugs or hooked on tobacco or alcohol. Many have embraced a bitter spirit. Their normal defenses are gone. Hopelessness seems to be the prevailing attitude.

Nehemiah Reacts To the Bad News

Nehemiah was touched when he heard of the terrible situation in Jerusalem. He sat down and wept. "For days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of Heaven" (Nehemiah 1:4 NIV)

Nehemiah clearly has a deep sense of personal concern. He is willing to face the facts, to weep over them, and to tell God about them. He prayed.

Notice the four key elements that define the structure and context of his

prayer.

First, he recognized the character of God:

"Oh LORD, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel." (Nehemiah 1:5b-6a NIV)

The ruin of Black American's personal lives and our communities should make us feel like Nehemiah, and make us want to weep and mourn and tell God about it. That is always the place to start. He gives attention to the prayers of his people. And he is a God of power and ability, and, above all, a God of love.

The second thing Nehemiah did was: he repent of all personal and corporate sins:

"I confess the sins we

Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against you. We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses." (Nehemiah 1:6b-7 NIV)

This is an honest acceptance of his own guilt. Notice the absence of self-righteousness. He does not say, "Lord, I am thinking of those terrible sinners back there in Jerusalem. You be gracious to them because they have fallen into wrong actions." No, he puts himself into this picture, saying, "I have contributed to this problem. There are things that I did or did not do that have made this ruin possible. I confess before you, Lord, the sins of myself and my father's house." There is no attempt to excuse or to blame others for this. It is a simple acknowledgment of wrong.

If you try to excuse

yourself for what is wrong in your life or environment, you block your own recovery. Just admit it, declare it. While this may be contrary to the modern age we live in, it is still God's way, and it is the first step in the process of recovery.

Then, third, Nehemiah reminded GOD of HIS gracious promises:

"Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.'"

"They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand" (Nehemiah 1:8-10 NIV)

Continue Truth -
3/13/2025

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The IRS is drafting plans to cut as much as half of its 90,000-person workforce, AP sources say

By FATIMA HUSSEIN Associated Press



The sign outside the Internal Revenue Service building is seen. May 4, 2021, in Washington. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky, File)

WASHINGTON (AP) — The IRS is drafting plans to cut its workforce by as much as half through a mix of layoffs, attrition and incentivized buyouts, according to two people familiar with the situation.

The people spoke Tuesday on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to disclose the plans.

The layoffs are part of the Trump administration's efforts to shrink the size of the federal workforce through billionaire Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency by closing agencies, laying off nearly all probationary employees who

have not yet gained civil service protection and offering buyouts to almost all federal employees through a "deferred resignation program" to quickly reduce the government workforce.

A reduction in force of tens of thousands of employees would render the IRS "dysfunctional," said John Koskinen, a former IRS commissioner.

The federal tax collector employs roughly 90,000 workers total across the United States, according to the latest IRS data. People of color make up 56% of the IRS workforce, and women represent 65%.

Already, roughly 7,000

probationary IRS employees with roughly one year or less of service were laid off from the organization in February.

The organization also offered IRS employees — along with almost all federal employees across the government — "deferred resignation program" buyouts, though IRS employees involved in the 2025 tax season were told earlier this month that they would not be allowed to accept a buyout offer from the Trump administration until mid-May, after the taxpayer filing deadline.

In addition to the planned layoffs, the Trump administration in-

tends to lend IRS workers to the Department of Homeland Security to assist with immigration enforcement. In a letter sent in February, DHS Secretary Kristi Noem asked Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent to borrow IRS workers to help with ongoing immigration crackdown efforts.

Koskinen and six other former IRS Commissioners wrote in the New York Times earlier this month: "Aggressive reductions in the I.R.S.'s resources will only render our government less effective and less efficient in collecting the taxes Congress has imposed."

According to a White House memo sent to federal agencies in late February, agencies are to develop a report by March 13 on its reduction in force plans — but it is unclear whether the White House will approve the IRS' reorganization plan and over what period of time it would be implemented.

Representatives for the White House, the Treasury Department and IRS did not respond to an Associated Press request for comment. The New York Times first reported the deliberations.

MSNBC's Ethnic Cleansing

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



Dr. John E. Warren

It appears that the leadership of MSNBC has taken the Trump Kool Aide resulting in its move to either purge and or realign people of color as it separates from NBC. The firing of Joy Reid and Katie Phang while consolidating three of the remaining Black hosts into a panel presentation in the time slot of Joy Reid and the addition of an hour, apparently are supposed to soften the blow as to what is really taking place. So if one stops watching the time

slot that Joy Reid was in, then you help MSNBC move toward eliminating the three Blacks on the panel filling Joy's time slot.

Perhaps the most important thing we can do for Joy Reid is to help her get a Podcast going just as Don Lemon did and encourage sponsorship support so that those we spend money with will want to spend money with such a program for Joy. We can not afford to waste time arguing with these racist elements of a racist system. We must instead use our money, time, and talents to finance alternatives that serve both our collective and those who share our views and circumstances. But notice how the new independent MSNBC is handling people of color. Jose Diaz is fired while a Latina woman is moved to prime time. Sounds familiar. Sounds like what just happened to the Joy Reid program and its replacement

with the three-person panel of color. It's interesting that Joy was making three million a year compared to Rachel's reduced salary of \$25 million for the next five years. Clearly, Rachel could afford to speak out and her doing so in support of her friend and colleague, Joy Reid, is appreciated.

Perhaps someone should suggest that Joy Reid bring her business and followers to the Black Press, which already airs a daily radio program with tremendous potential if the right people talk with each other. Let us not forget that the Black press is still one of the most "Trusted Messengers" in this country, and one of the oldest, lest we forget we are celebrating 198 years of service. With this Administration in the White House and its Agents of Destruction on the loose, this is truly the time to circle our wagons of information and options starting with the "SBC" (selective buying cam-

paign) aimed at withholding our dollars from those corporations that are canceling DEI and other elements of fairness and equality based on ability and not color.

We have seen nations engage in efforts to remove whole groups of people based on religion or ethnicity. We have called such efforts by others "Ethnic Cleansing". Now we see the beginning of targeting people in this great nation for removal not only from this country with deportations but also from positions of visibility and authority such as the firing of the Black Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, apparently just because of his color. Yes, the firing at MSNBC clearly comes from the same cup the Administration is serving in its campaign against DEI and Affirmative Action. Just like the Trump Administration's agenda, it looks like "Ethnic Cleansing".

Continued CBC Page 7 to them differently. We will engage in the podcast, we will do the platforms. I'm on every single thing." The CBC told Black journalists they're also launching a bus tour—not just in their districts, but deep into Republican strongholds, bringing the Black Press along to document their fight. They insisted that this is no ordinary resistance. It's a declaration of war.



**DIVERSITY,
EQUITY AND
INCLUSION**

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.