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Democrats take to the steps of the U.S. Capitol to speak against expected GOP budget cuts

By Lauren Burke

In a show of solidarity against the congressional Republicans and the Trump Administration, dozens of congressional Democratic members of Congress gathered on the steps of the U.S. House of Representatives from sunrise to sunset Sunday, April 27 to speak out against budget cuts.

"The budget is a moral document," said New Jersey Senator Cory Booker as he sat wearing a black shirt and pants next to the Democratic leader in the U.S. House, Brooklyn Congressman Hakeem Jeffries. The two started with only Senator Chris Coons of Delaware at 7:30 am on Sunday.

As the day moved forward many other members, advocates, and curious onlookers joined them in support of their effort to bring attention to what may be a historic budget in terms of cuts to social programs.



Dozens of congressional Democratic members of Congress gathered on the steps of the U.S. House of Representatives from sunrise to sunset Sunday, April 27 to speak out against budget cuts. (Jeremy Poland via NNPA)

Throughout the day, lawmakers took turns sharing personal stories and reading testimonies from constituents whose lives have been transformed by government assistance. But since Trump took office for his second term in January, his focus has been on cutting the federal government and the jobs and programs associated that assist millions of Amer-

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The Strategic Resistance

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Get active, stay sharp as you age

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Rev. Barber stages protest in U.S. Capitol

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T.D. Jakes names new leadership

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Cowboys win big at the NFL Draft

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'Havoc' may be good pick for Netflix

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People In The News ...



April Ryan



Kamala Harris

NDG Quote of the Week:

"You have to believe in yourself when no one else does -- that makes you a winner right there."

- Venus Williams

April Ryan

This year, the White House Correspondents' Association (WHCA) dinner looked much different. Without the presence of the President of the United States, an accomplished comedian, or the traditional crowd of politicians and celebrities, the evening instead became a nationally televised celebration of free speech.

The black-tie event was also a recognition of the benefit of diversity, a tribute to trailblazing journalists, and a major shout-out and acknowledgment to Black Press USA's Washington Bureau Chief and



White House Senior Correspondent, April Ryan. The event took place under the shadow of a second Trump administration that has launched fresh attacks on press freedom, barring the Associated Press from the presidential pool and mov-

ing to shut down the Voice of America broadcaster.

President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly branded the media "the enemy of the people," stayed away from the dinner, just as he did during his first term. Political figures, including Republican former House Speaker Paul Ryan and Maryland Democratic Governor Wes Moore, attended.

In a typical year, the president attends to congratulate journalists, deliver a lighthearted speech, and endure jokes at their expense. With Trump absent, the night focused squarely on the critical role of the press in a democracy and the First Amendment

constitutional protections of freedom of the press.

"We journalists are a lot of things. We are competitive and pushy. We are impatient, and sometimes we think we know everything," said WHCA President Eugene Daniels. "What we are not is the opposition. What we are not is the enemy of people. What we are not is the enemy of the state."

The dinner also honored the contributions of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), with students recognized during the evening for achievements in journalism and public service. The event made clear the association's continuing

commitment to diversity. Daniels, the first openly gay person of color and the second Black president of the WHCA, officially passed the baton to CBS News Senior White House Correspondent Weijia Jiang, who will become the first woman of color to lead the organization.

A highlight of the evening was the tribute to April Ryan, who received recognition as the longest-serving African American White House correspondent in history. Daniels chose to salute Ryan's groundbreaking career during the presentation of an award named for Alice Dunnigan and Ethel Payne—the

first Black women to serve in the White House press corps.

"Many of us are here because they kicked down some doors for us, including Black Press USA's April Ryan," Daniels declared. "This year, April has officially become the longest-serving African American White House Correspondent in history. April—Ms. Dunnigan and Ms. Payne would have been so proud of you, and so are we." Ryan shared her gratitude. "It's an honor to be the longest serving Black White House correspondent in history with

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Kamala Harris

"We the People" is the theme of former Vice President Kamala Harris's speech, which she will deliver Wednesday night in San Francisco. Harris will critique the Trump administration's first 100 days in office and empower the audience to create their version of America. Although she has spoken recently at a few events like the NAACP Image Awards, this address will be her first extensive public remarks at the Emerge 20th Anniversary Gala in San Francisco. Harris will honor the organization's legacy of empowering women in politics with a speech focused on empowering Americans and helping them understand that they can make the



America they want by getting involved. Harris is said to be clear that no one's coming to save us with the idea that collective change can happen. In past speeches, she has used examples of people getting involved in the fight against hate and segregation, which has historically faced tension and a constant dynamic of opposition toward progress.

This speech comes as

President Donald Trump's approval ratings are underwater. According to MSNBC, his current poll numbers have him at a 55% disapproval rate. Track Donald Trump's approval rating: NBC News polls. When it comes to the economy, as it relates to trade and tariffs, the president's poll numbers show a 61% disapproval rate. The economy and the price of eggs weighed heavily on last year's presidential outcome; even though Donald Trump won, his high disapproval numbers on tariffs and trade are significant. The upcoming speech is considered intentional, as she still feels a responsibility from a new and different perch as a former politician who recognizes people want to hear from her.



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The Strategic Resistance: Why Black America is playing the long game

By LaTosha Brown

Muhammad Ali's famous "rope-a-dope" strategy — allowing his opponent to exhaust themselves while conserving energy, then striking with precision when they were depleted — wasn't surrender but calculated patience. Today, Black America is employing its version of a rope-a-dope in response to the current political climate. Black people are resolved in this moment. While many in America seem shocked by what this administration is doing, we have always understood the fragility of democracy — how constitutional rights have been perpetually framed to us as rewards rather than rights. We've grown familiar with watching higher courts strip away civil rights protections. Though today's assault is more aggressive, we've experienced aspects of this rollback of rights in each generation.

The misconception that Black communities are inactive fundamentally misunderstands our sophisticated resistance strategies. Protesting must be strategic. Timing, context, and preparation matter. From Montgomery's carpool systems to Selma's tactical planning, preparation has always been the foundation of sustainable resistance. Protest is only one tool in our resistance fight. When we are under attack, we must use every form of power we have — economic, electoral, political,

communicative, and protest — to build our resistance movement in ways that can neither be ignored nor defeated. Right now, we are doing work that centers our needs. We are moving with purpose, organizing internally, and fortifying our communities.

Black people aren't inactive; we are being strategic. We understand when to speak when to act, and when withdrawal itself becomes power.

Make no mistake: Resistance is happening across multiple fronts. The Target boycott, led by Dr. Jamal Bryant, has demonstrated our collective economic power with a 43% drop in quarterly profits. Our \$1.4 trillion in spending power represents a formidable force when strategically directed. Black legal organizations are filing strategic lawsuits challenging voter suppression. Media platforms like the Black Star Network, Black Press USA, "Contraband Camp," and "Native Land Pod" are taking messages directly to Black audiences. The Black church, historically a cornerstone of resistance movements, continues to serve as both a sanctuary and a strategic headquarters for movement-building. We are organizing rallies across the country through the State of the People Tour, using every tool at our disposal, including becoming ungovernable — but we determine the timeline. We continue to protest on our terms, in ways that feed and

inspire our communities.

This is a moment where Black people expect white people who claim to want to save this country to do exactly that. Many of us have been on that mission for years; we have now turned our attention to saving ourselves. Like the fictional character in Black Panther, who transformed blows into power, we are taking the betrayal of America and the capitulation of our allies as a vehicle that affirms a truth we've always known: Ain't nobody coming to save us. We will save ourselves. But there will come a time when we will pour into the streets in protest. We will not allow this regime to come for us while we sit dormant or paralyzed by fear. That is not our legacy. In this moment that feels quiet, we are taking careful note of those throwing us under the bus. They will all have to come Black around. Like Ali against the ropes, we're fighting back strategically. We're actively studying patterns, identifying vulnerabilities, and preparing for our moment to strike. The appearance of disadvantages is part of the strategy itself.

The absence of visible protest isn't surrender; it's the disciplined patience of a community that has outlasted every attempt to destroy it. Sometimes, the most powerful resistance happens beyond the spotlight, where tomorrow's decisive action is being methodically prepared today.

Black people will sur-

vive. Our existence predates America, predates colonization, predates the very concept of whiteness itself. Black women are the original mothers of humanity. We have weathered the Middle Passage, survived slavery, outsmarted Jim Crow, endured mass incarceration, and continued to thrive despite systems designed for our destruction. Our survival has never been accidental — it has always been forged through strategic organizing and the fierce determination to build our power. We don't just endure; we transform our pain into purpose and our resistance into renaissance.

Black people will survive. But will America? That is the real question that hangs in the balance. Our opponents mistake our strategic patience for weakness — exactly as Ali's opponents once did. And like them, they'll discover their error only when it's too late. Because we are the writers of our own story. And we're not done yet. Many of us are focusing on the nation that exists beyond the white gaze, beyond the nation state, to a Black nation — a nation of people who throughout history have proven that when we work together, we win.

LaTosha Brown is the co-founder of Black Voters Matter, which is dedicated to expanding Black voter engagement and increasing progressive power through grassroots movement-building.

Keep up with the news

O N L I N E

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Move More, Think Sharper: Physical activity boosts brain health in aging

(Newswise) — A brisk walk, a splash of water aerobics, or even a light jog around the block – if your heart rate goes up then so too will your brain health according to new research from the University of South Australia.

Conducted in partnership with the US-based AdventHealth Research Institute, the new study found that staying active through moderate-to-vigorous physical activity is associated with significantly better processing speed, working memory, and executive function in older adults.

Interestingly, the biggest cognitive gains were seen among people who went from doing no moderate-to-vigorous physical activity, to even doing just five minutes, clearly illustrating the power of exercise for the human brain.

Assessing data from 585 older adults (aged 65-80 years) in the USA-based IGNITE trial*, the study examined associations between time spent in sleep,



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sedentary behaviour, light physical activity, and moderate-to-vigorous physical activity across the 24-hr day, and cognitive performance.

Researchers identified a two-way relationship between ‘huff-and-puff’ physical activity and brain health: do more exercise and your brain health improves; but do less and it declines.

UniSA researcher, Dr Maddison Mellow says the study highlights how small changes to your daily activities can have big impacts on your brain health.

“There are three mutually

exclusive lifestyle behaviours in the 24-hour day – sleep, sedentary behaviour and physical activity – and how these interact to influence our health outcomes,” Dr Mellow says.

“For example, we know that being more active can improve our sleep; or having a better night’s sleep could boost our energy levels to perform physical activity the next day. But what we don’t know is the optimal balance of time spent in each of these behaviours to maximise cognitive performance.

“In this study we explored how different uses

of time impact your brain. We found that higher levels of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity – that is, activity performed at higher intensities that increases your heart rate and breathing – was related to better cognitive performance.

“Specifically, ‘huff-and-puff’ physical activity (like aerobic exercise) improves processing speed (how fast your brain thinks), executive function (how well you plan, focus, and multitask) and working memory (your ability to store information for short periods of time).

“Importantly, the opposite was also true: lower levels of this higher intensity physical activity were related to poorer performance on these tests.”

The findings were consistent across different

genetic and demographic backgrounds. Interestingly, the findings did not extend to episodic memory (the what, where and when details of an event) or visuospatial function outcomes (your ability to recognise places and navigate through spaces).

Co-researcher, Dr Audrey Collins, says understanding the interplay between different activities could empower older people to make positive health changes.

“There are only 24 hours in a day, so every day, we make decisions about how we spend our time. For example, if we sleep for eight hours, then there’s 16 hours remaining for waking behaviours like physical activity or sedentary behaviour; that’s the basic

reality,” Dr Collins says.

“Our results show that how we choose to spend our time across the 24-hour day may be differentially related to our brain health.

“Understanding that we need to prioritise physical activity – such as physical activity that gets our heart rates up, according to our findings – is the key.

“With one in six people in the world expected to be 60 years or older by 2030, we need to make sure we are supporting and empowering people to age well.

“In this instance, we hope that knowledge is power: boost your physical activity and boost your brain health to stay fit and well as you age. However, these results are cross-sectional and need to be tested longitudinally and experimentally.”

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icans. “I was on the steps of the Capitol with Leader Jeffries, Sen. Booker, and many others to make the case for what’s at stake with Trump’s budget. Medicaid, food assistance, and social security. It’s all on the line. A moral moment” wrote Senator Amy Klobuchar, who may lead the Democrats as the next Leader of the Party in the U.S. Senate after the criticism of the leadership of Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and the retirement announcement of Senator Dick Durbin on April 23.

Congressman Andre Carson (D-IN) and Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO) also joined the group on the steps during the day. For African Americans in general, cuts to social safety net programs will have a disproportionate impact.

On the same day Democrats sought to bring attention to historic budget cuts, the Governor of Illinois, JB Pritzker called for mass mobilization. Pritzker said the Democratic Party must “abandon the culture of incrementalism” and stop with consultant driven com-

munication strategies.

“Never before in my life have I called for mass protests, for mobilization, for disruption. But I am now,” Governor Pritzker, who is a billionaire as part of the family that owns the Hyatt Hotel chain, said As the sun set behind the Capitol dome in Washington, lawmakers in a party that is in the political minority and out of power appeared to understand that the cuts would eventually take place. But they pledged to continue fighting inside the halls of Congress and for communities across the U.S. they represent.

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Rev. William Barber stages 'Moral Monday' protest in the U.S. Capitol

By Lauren Burke

As congressional Republicans prepare to make \$1.5 trillion dollars in budget cuts, cuts that will include government assistance to low income Americans, Rev. William Barber traveled to the U.S. Capitol to push back against them.

The trip to speak out against what he views as economic injustice and unfairness was not his first to Washington. It is unlikely to be his last. When Donald Trump began his second term as President 99 days



Rev. William Barber traveled to the U.S. Capitol to push back against them. The trip to speak out against what he views as economic injustice and unfairness was not his first to Washington. (Wikipedia via NNPA)

ago he spoke out about Trump's approval ratings are at a record low — lower than any other President

of the United States in the modern era.

In a statement before his arrival, Rev. Barber stated that "his urgent action comes as Congress considers devastating cuts to Medicaid, food assistance, and housing—threatening millions of children, seniors, and people with disabilities." Republicans in Congress are planning to cut one and a half trillion dollars from the budget. One of the obvious targets that would certainly be on the table is Medicaid. Republicans in the U.S. House

in support of Trump's efforts are positioned to cut the program by a never-before-seen amount.

"It's a time for us to first move in any nonviolent type of protest — first of all, you have to get your facts so that you're not focusing on personality, but policy and the real problems. And second of all, you have to make sure, as we did on Ash Wednesday, that your adversary actually knows what's bothering you. You don't just start doing things," Rev. Barber said as he spoke after his

protest in the U.S. Capitol.

Members of the U.S. Capitol Police closed off the Capitol Rotunda and hurriedly told associates with him to exit as Barber and others read scripture and prayed in the Rotunda near a bust of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Their effort to stop over one trillion in cuts in the budget is likely to be unsuccessful.

"You actually have to have the kind of redemptive hope that you believe

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Rowlett invites community to groundbreaking for new municipal complex

ROWLETT — The City of Rowlett invites everyone to a Groundbreaking Celebration for the city's future Municipal Complex, a transformative project that will centralize key city services in one accessible, efficient and inspiring location.

The event will take place Saturday, April 26, at Her-

furth Park, beginning at 11 a.m., with the official groundbreaking ceremony at noon. This free, family-friendly celebration will include live music, food trucks, face painting, community giveaways, and a commemorative keepsake coin for the first 300 attendees.

"This is the largest capi-

tal investment in our city's history and it represents a promise to the people of Rowlett," said Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Winget. "We're building more than just a facility; we're building a legacy that reflects the spirit and pride of this community."

The new Municipal Complex will unify City

Hall, public safety administration, the animal shelter and park amenities at Herfurth Park, all designed to better serve both current residents and future generations.

Project partners participating in the event include design firm Hoefer Welker, construction firm Swiner-

ton, and engineering teams from Lamb-Star, Terracon and SAM — each playing a vital role in advancing the project.

"We are grateful to the City of Rowlett for the opportunity to positively impact the community with these new facilities," said Traci Petersen, project ex-

ecutive at Swinerton. "We look forward to being good neighbors during the process and making Rowlett our home."

"This marks a major step forward in our plans to bring a state-of-the-art municipal complex to

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2536	Millions Club Overall Odds are 1 in 3.36	\$50	6/18/25	12/15/25

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Trump signs new HBCU executive order amid DEI rollback

By April Ryan

A new executive order focuses on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), bringing the initiative back to the White House. During the first Trump administration, the HBCU Initiative was removed from the Department of Education and housed within the White House itself.

This latest executive order from the Trump administration prioritizes private sector partnerships, institutional development,



A new executive order revives the White House HBCU Initiative, but its rollout alongside a DEI rollback has sparked debate over the administration's true priorities. (Photo via NNPA)

workforce preparation in technology, and more.

By contrast, the Joe Biden administration had previously partnered federal government agencies

with HBCUs, working through the Departments of Defense, Transportation, and Energy.

Prior to this executive order, several HBCU presi-

dents had already been developing proposals aimed at strengthening federal cooperation with their institutions.

Now, Trump's Executive Order aims to enhance the capabilities of HBCUs by supporting the implementation of the HBCU Partners Act and promoting research and program excellence. According to sources close to the HBCU community, the Act could yield significant research grants and infrastructure funding for the hundred-plus HBCUs across the country.

Additionally, a portion of the order calls for building "pipelines" to help more students attend HBCUs.

In his first term, President Trump had promised to increase funding for these predominantly Black institutions. However, then-senior advisor Steve Bannon told HBCU presidents it would be unconstitutional to allocate that funding directly. That year, Congress—holding the purse strings—ultimately increased HBCU funding.

On Wednesday, President Trump also signed several

other executive orders in the Oval Office addressing artificial intelligence and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

As he signed the DEI-related order, a staffer presenting the document referred to DEI as a "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion cult." Trump responded, "We are getting out of that, huh, after being in that jungle a long time."

President Trump signed the orders in front of disabled veterans, who were the very definition of DEI when it existed.

Communities Foundation of Texas awards \$7.5 million to local nonprofits advancing education and workforce innovation

Communities Foundation of Texas (CFT) has awarded \$7.5 million in grants to eight organizations supporting local education and workforce innovation, furthering efforts to help Texas students thrive in school, in a career, and in life.

The following organizations received grant awards: Aspire to Learn, AT LAST!, Café Momentum, The Commit Partnership – Dallas County Promise, Paul Quinn College, Texas Woman's University, University of Texas at Arlington, and Year Up United. Funding will help these institutions implement or strengthen learning envi-

ronments, programs, and/or student outcomes.

CFT is dedicated to building thriving communities, inspiring philanthropy, and fostering impactful giving. CFT believes that a healthy, vibrant community is one in which every individual feels valued and cared for, with access to education and meaningful workforce opportunities playing a critical role in our region's growth and prosperity.

"Two out of three young adults in Dallas County don't currently earn a living wage. The local nonprofits we're funding are going above and beyond in innovative and new ways to

equip students for success, ensuring the individuals they serve become strong competitors in a variety of job markets," said Wayne White, CFT's President & CEO. "Each grantee works to make higher education and workforce training accessible, helping more students secure in-demand careers and financial independence."

CFT is committed to solving some of the biggest challenges in education through its statewide Educate Texas (EDTX) initiative. The EDTX team is uniquely positioned to recognize where vital support is needed in real-time

to scale solutions within school districts, colleges, and universities that have the potential to accelerate a strong economic workforce across the state of Texas.

"Our vision is for all Texans to have the education they need to find a purposeful career, and realize the big dreams they have for themselves, their families, and their communities. Partnering with these outstanding organizations furthers our mission to solve the biggest challenges facing our great state of Texas," said Kerri Briggs, CFT's nationally recognized education expert and Executive Director of Edu-

cate Texas. "Educate Texas originated from the mission of CFT to ensure communities thrive, and there is no better path to opportunity than a quality education that prepares you for life," said Briggs.

The grantees serve students across North Texas and offer a variety of innovative learning opportunities. Aspire to Learn provides learning programs for students of all ages – from early childhood to adults pursuing careers. AT LAST! immerses impoverished elementary school-aged kids in educational resources during the home life hours with its "schol-

ar-in-residence" program. Serving justice-involved youth, Café Momentum fosters hands-on opportunities to learn life and industry skills.

CFT's grant to The Commit Partnership supports expansion of the Dallas County Promise, a coalition that helps individuals complete college and begin their careers. As the nation's first and only Urban Work College, Paul Quinn College's mission is to eradicate intergenerational poverty, reduce student debt, and ensure career readiness through its

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Bishop T.D. Jakes announces plan to install Touré Roberts and Sarah Jakes Roberts as next senior pastors of The Potter's House

(PRNewswire) -- In a deeply symbolic Sunday announcement, Bishop T.D. Jakes—globally recognized faith leader, cultural influencer and founder of The Potter's House—unveiled his plans to appoint Pastors Touré Roberts and Sarah Jakes Roberts as senior pastors of the Dallas-based megachurch. This milestone moment signifies a sacred generational handoff within one of the world's most influential churches, while affirming Bishop Jakes' commitment to evolving ministry leadership for the future. Their appointment will happen later in 2025.

"For nearly 50 years, I've had the honor of connecting with and serving the local and global community as a pastor, global faith leader and unwavering truth teller," Jakes said. "As I enter my 50th year in the public spotlight, I recognize the urgent need to address more challenges of our time, particularly the looming threat of a disappearing middle class, social unrest and closing opportunity gaps. This pivotal moment calls me to focus on a legacy of economic empowerment, serving as a bridge between community, culture, and corporate alliances to help position our nation for a stronger future. Elevating Pastor Touré and Pastor Sarah as the new senior pastors of The Potter's House, we will honor our rich history while embracing a future that demands innovative, ministry for the coming age. This elevation is not a departure but a rebirth. I will never stop preaching and will continue to minister. This



Pastor Touré Roberts (left) and Pastor Sarah Jakes Roberts (thepottershouse.org)

moment isn't an ending, it's an expansion. We are not only passing a mantle we are multiplying impact. Leadership is not static, it is dynamic. It demands the courage to evolve."

Bishop Jakes and Pastor Touré and Pastor Sarah released a public letter available here, expressing the spiritual and strategic thought behind the transition.

Sunday's announcement follows a season of profound transition for Jakes, including a widely publicized health emergency he suffered in November 2024, which he spoke about in detail during an exclusive on The TODAY show and the culmination of the International Leadership Summit (ILS), a signature global gathering he launched over two decades ago. Themed "Changing of the Guard," this final ILS served as a prophetic prelude to this very moment. Held April 10–12, 2025, in Orlando, the summit gathered visionaries across industries and generations to address one of the most critical questions of our time: how do we prepare the next generation to lead?

Jakes will remain Chair-

man of the Board and spiritual overseer of The Potter's House, providing vision, counsel, and legacy leadership as the next generation steps into their senior pastoral roles.

Years in the Making

Sunday's announcement reflects the fulfillment of a multi-year strategy designed to ensure the continuity, integrity, and innovation of The Potter's House legacy. Highlights of this journey include:

- 2022: The Roberts family officially relocated from Los Angeles to Dallas, to take on the roles signifying a deep commitment to the ministry's growth.

- 2022: The historic farewell of the annual Woman, Thou Art Loosed conference to continuing the global Woman Evolve movement, led by Pastor Sarah.

- 2023: Pastor Touré and Pastor Sarah were installed as assistant pastors of The Potter's House, taking on significant leadership responsibilities.

Generational Leadership for a New Era

Pastor Touré, visionary leader, entrepreneur and founder of ONE | A Potter's House Church and Pastor Sarah, New York Times

bestselling author, media influencer and founder of Woman Evolve, have emerged as vital voices for this moment. Their leadership model bridges generational divides and reimagines what modern spiritual leadership can look like, faithful to its foundation yet responsive to cultural shifts.

"We are committed to building a ministry that carries the heart of Bishop Jakes into a future that is both faithful and forward-thinking," said Pastor Touré. Pastor Sarah added, "This is not just a call to serve. It's a mandate to lead with compassion, clarity, and courage."

Their elevation reflects the belief that legacy is not something to preserve, it's

something to propel. By entrusting this next chapter to leaders who carry both the heart of the house and a clear-eyed vision for the future, Bishop Jakes affirms what thriving institutions have always known: when successors are prepared with purpose, the mission doesn't just continue, it multiplies.

As they continue to build and foster community throughout the region, Pastor Touré and Pastor Sarah will also look to have presence and activate ministry within North Dallas as well.

Beyond the Pulpit: A Legacy Reimagined

While transitioning daily pastoral duties, T.D. Jakes will expand his global footprint and continue his

work as Chairman of the T.D. Jakes Group, which consists of T.D. Jakes Real Estate Ventures, T.D. Jakes Enterprises and T.D. Jakes Foundation.

Chairman Jakes' businesses, social impact companies and partnerships will amplify his efforts to address critical social and economic issues, including workforce readiness, entrepreneurial investment, and community development. This evolution underscores his lifelong commitment to blending ministry with actionable solutions for systemic change.

Expanding his reach and deepening his impact beyond the pulpit, Jakes will soon speak to millions

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Dallas Cowboys win big in 2025 NFL Draft

By Jamal Baker
NDG Contributing Writer

The Dallas Cowboys entered the NFL Draft with several holes to fill on the roster but walked away with an impressive haul of prospects this past weekend. The Cowboys not only filled positions of need but also drafted the best players available when they were on the clock. Dallas added nine new players to the roster and the team is certainly better than it was before.

In the first round, the Cowboys selected offensive guard Tyler Booker with the No. 12 overall pick. Booker is a tough and high character individual that will immediately step into being the starting right guard for Dallas. Future Hall of Fame guard Zack Martin left massive shoes to fill, but if Booker comes in with a mentality to get better every day, the offensive line will be one of the team's strengths.



Drafting Booker proves the Cowboys are committed to dominating the line of scrimmage and will look to impose its will against opposing defenses.

"I just love the aggressiveness and the tenacity of the game of football. It's legal assault out there," Booker said. "I love football. The brand of football I play, I make guys not love football anymore."

Dallas took defensive end Donovan Ezeiruaku with pick No. 44 in the second round. Ezeiruaku is a prime example of picking the best player available af-

ter he fell in the Cowboys' lap. The Cowboys will have a formidable pass rotation with Micah Parsons, Marshawn Kneeland, and Sam Williams already in the fold. Ezeiruaku is a true outside linebacker who will thrive as a rotational piece in obvious passing situations.

Cornerback Shavon Revel Jr. was drafted by the Cowboys with the No. 76 overall pick in the third round. Projected to be a first or second round draft choice prior to a torn ACL he suffered last season at East Carolina Uni-

versity, Revel could very well be the biggest steal of the entire draft. Standing 6'2", 194 pounds, he is a big and fast corner who can provide a major impact in both man and zone coverage.

The Cowboys used the first of its two fifth round picks on running back Jaydon Blue with the 149th pick. Blue had a productive year with the Longhorns last season, putting up 730 yards and eight touchdowns on the ground while adding 368 yards and six touchdowns through the air. He adds immediate value as a third down back and will eventually develop into a starter.

Linebacker Shemar James came off the board three picks later as Dallas

took him with 152nd overall pick. James is still only 20 years old and physically plays downhill. Defensive coordinator Matt Eberflus is known to be a linebacker guru and will develop James into a plus contributor.

With the 204th pick in the sixth round, the Cowboys selected offensive lineman Ajani Cornelius. Cornelius is a versatile and durable lineman that has the ability to play tackle and guard. At this present stage, Cornelius projects as a backup that competes to take over the swing tackle role.

Dallas had a busy seventh round as they drafted defensive tackle Jay Toia with the 217th overall pick, running back Phil Mafah

with pick No. 239, and defensive tackle Tommy Akingbesote with its final pick at No. 247. Toia and Akingbesote will compete for the same job as the second run stopping one-technique on the roster. Both have high upside and could potentially provide valuable depth along the defensive line. Mafah is a physically imposing running back that can serve as a short yardage back in got-to-have-it situations.

The Dallas Cowboys executed a successful draft and continue to prove they are one of the best organizations at building through the draft. This draft class will look to solidify and build upon the foundations that have been set on both sides of the ball.

RYAN, from Page 2

Black Press USA, the company that started everything with pioneers like Harry McAlpin, Ethel Payne, and Alice Dunnigan," Ryan remarked. "We've done groundbreaking work in the past, and we're forging a new path to keep that lega-

cy of groundbreaking work that informs the public, particularly Black Americans who still have the highest negatives in almost any category in America."

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., president and CEO of the 198-year-old Black

Press of America, called Ryan's recognition a proud moment for the organization. "This recognition as being the longest serving White House correspondent is a tribute and an attribute to the Black Press of America," Chavis said. "April Ryan is an icon of journalism."

ROWLETT, from Page 5

Rowlett," added James Beers, AIA, NCARB, principal at Hoefer Welker. "We're proud to work alongside the city and our project partners to create a space that will better serve the community for years to

come."

The project was made possible through voter approval of the 2023 bond election, as well as the work of the Community Investment Program Task Force, whose members

volunteered their time and expertise to help shape Rowlett's future.

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Film Review: 'Havoc' might be worth a late-night stream

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(**1/2) Bullets will fly. Blood will be shed. When the dust settles, bodies will pile up like garbage on trash day. Who'll be left standing after this havoc? Who?

Crime stories and gangland killings fuel crime/action/thriller movies. Dirty cops wrangling criminals when the line between the law and the lawless is blurred beyond recognition is a staple. Director/writer Gareth Evans' premise, script and filmmaking don't aim high; they go for the bullseye. His former cable series *Gangs of London* (international gangs warring in Britain) and films like *The Raid: Redemption* (A.S.W.A.T. team is trapped inside a tenement) underscore his basic strategy: Heavy on the action, thrills and grimy crime. Light on innovative narratives, character development and perceptive dialogue. Give the audience the mind-numbing violence they crave and all will be well.

Walker (Tom Hardy, Oscar® nominee *The Revenant*), a narcotics detective, has dirty hands. When a local, connected mayoral candidate, Lawrence Beaumont (Forest Whitaker, Oscar® winner *Last King of Scotland*), asks him to find and save his estranged son Charlie (Justin Cornwell, TV's *Bel-Air*), the cop gives him his cold-hearted opinion. "Your son just started a gang war. They want him dead. End of story." But coerced by the powerbroker, he snaps into action, as thugs are hunting down Beaumont's offspring. And no wonder, the



Image via NNPA

dude was involved a messy drug deal. The son of an Asian mafia crime boss named Little Sister (Yeo Yan Yan) was killed. She's pissed!

Nothing about this mission is easy for Walker. Hard to explain it to his rookie cop partner Ellie (Jesse Mei Li). Harder to tell her that some of the mayhem they'll encounter will come from their own direction. From cops caught up in a web of deceit, payoffs and blue on blue animosity. Just how deadly is this quest gonna be? Ask the corpses strewn along the way.

Late night Netflix viewers cruising around for thrills will encounter a neo-noir, high-body count, action film in the vein of Hong-Kong thrillers like John Woo's *The Killer*. They'll experience a viable descendant of that style. A hybrid created by a Welsh-born filmmaker who knows how to turn on the bloodletting spigot they crave. From the git go, he's amped. Opening scenes depict a breakneck car chase, where police pursue a speeding semi-truck filled with washing machines. What's real and what's fake in this sequence isn't the point. Adrenalin is the key.

As plot pieces are disseminated a plethora of characters assemble. Walker's family, cops from his station, Beaumont's associates and the legion of killers sent by the vengeance-seeking crime lady who wants an eye-for-an-eye remedy. Viewers don't need to keep track of who's who. Throw reason out the door and go for the ride. Watch Walker try to rescue Charlie and his lover (Quelin Sepulveda), as he pursues them over hill and dale, down dark streets and into nightclubs and cabins. Until they reach the end of the road and a final piece of exhilarating, balletic gunplay and combat. The climax isn't mindboggling as that in *John Wick: Chapter 4*, but close enough to forget the weak drama that preceded.

Guessing which American city this production is trying to feign is a waste of time. Detroit? Chicago? New York? It doesn't really matter. The direction and production don't leave telltale marks. Many of the sets (production designer Tom Pearce, *Gangs of London*) have a gray/brown tint to them that makes the environment look dirty and lived in. The clothes the crooks, police and innocent

wear fit the people, place and atmosphere well (costume designer Sian Jenkins, *God's Own Country*).

Time rolls by quickly because editors Sara Jones and Matt Platts-Mills cut scenes down to the bone. When moments need to be

accentuated, Aria Prayogi's (*The Raid: Redemption*) score throws gasoline on the fire. Perfect angles, moody lighting, astute composition and a knack for shooting action sequence like a champ is the province of cinematogra-

pher Matt Flannery (*The Raid: Redemption*). A big movie theater screen might expose imperfections. A TV screen does not.

The very moody actor Tom Hardy carries a chip

See FILM, Page 11

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Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. showcases performing arts talent at the 88th District Meeting in New Orleans

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. proudly hosted its 88th District Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, from April 16 to April 20, 2025.

Among the many highlights of this impactful event was the James L. Doss Talent Hunt program, held on the afternoon of Friday, April 18, which celebrated young artistic talent in categories such as instrumental music, voice, dance, and dramatic interpretation.

Eleven (11) contestants from four states—Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas—participated in this prestigious program. The audience was treated to captivating performances that showcased the exceptional talents of these young individuals. After thoughtful deliberation by a panel of four judges, the top performers were announced:

- 1st Place: Zora McCall, Saxophone (Sophomore, Sachse High School, Sachse, TX)



Bro. Rod Delph-Talent Hunt Chair (left), and Bro. Van Newborn - District Rep.(right), join first place winner Zora McCall (center) following the competition. (Courtesy photo)

- 2nd Place: Vir Gandhi, Piano (Sophomore, Liberty High School, Frisco, TX)

- 3rd Place: Jaylen Scott, Flute (Sophomore, Memorial High School, Port Arthur, TX)

First-place winner Zora McCall will now advance to the Omega Psi Phi Leadership Conference, set to

take place in July 23-27 in Detroit, Michigan. There, she will perform alongside contestants from across the nation in a celebration of artistic excellence. All participants of the program will be awarded scholarships, further empowering their educational and artistic journeys.

FILM, from Page 9

on his shoulder that's as big as Denzel Washington's. He brings a strong, inner storm with him wherever he goes. A soul filled with conflict and contradictions breathes life into his Walker portrayal. Ferociousness on one hand, yet sensitive enough to fret over buying a small toy for his daughter. This cop is intriguing. Just like the characters he played in films like Inception, The Dark Knight Rises and Mad Max: Fury

Road. Hardy has perfected a scowl that's engaging.

Whitaker as the dirty-dealing businessman and politician is colorful and braggadocios, "I'm a part of the solution not the problem." There's a coldness in Yan's interpretation of the crime syndicate leader that resonates as she confronts Beaumont, "Your son took the one thing I loved in this world." An innocence in Li's young cop character and a cunningness in the

crooked policeman Timothy Olyphant (Deadwood: The Movie) are equally compelling. Having veteran actor Luis Guzman in a key supporting role provides a great chance to see a master thespian at work.

Theatergoers might have been less receptive. But 'round midnight, Netflix fans will eat this one up. There's enough mayhem and carnage to go around. More or less. Mostly more.

Visit Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com.

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Luxury Brands' use of NFTs as digital twins may undermine the perceived value of physical products, study finds

(Newswise) — In an era where technology and luxury converge, NFTs (Non-Fungible Tokens) have increasingly become part of the marketing strategies for high-end brands. Many luxury companies have adopted digital twinning, linking NFTs to their physical products in an effort to create a seamless connection between the tangible and the digital.

While this practice has been shown to be effective in promoting NFTs, a new study from the School of Business Administration at Bar-Ilan University in Israel and the School of Business and Law at the University of Agder in Norway has revealed surprising results: these digital twins may actually undermine the perceived luxury of the physical products they are tied to.

In a series of eight experiments involving over 2,300 participants, the researchers investigated how the launch of NFTs as digital twins affected the perceptions of the physical luxury products they were associated with. The findings suggest that, while NFTs may elevate the digital product itself, they can harm the perceived value



Courtesy Bar-Ilan University

of the physical counterpart. Specifically, the research indicates that linking a luxury item to an NFT may introduce a sense of “temporariness” to the product, diminishing its image of timelessness—an essential aspect of luxury.

“This study challenges the use of digital twins in the luxury sector. Our findings suggest not only that digital twins fail to enhance the perceived value of the physical product, but also that linked NFTs may introduce a sense of novelty, digitalization, and impermanence that undermines traditional perceptions of luxury,” said Raz Henkin,

a PhD student at Bar-Ilan University and the lead researcher of this study.

“Luxury brands, which have long been known for their ability to convey exclusivity, timelessness, and tradition, now face the challenge of striking the right balance between maintaining their heritage and embracing innovation,” added Prof. Tobias Otterbring, from the University of Agder. Findings of the research showed that the connection between NFTs and luxury items, while innovative, can disrupt this delicate balance and ultimately affect consumer perceptions.

BARBER, from Page 5

if you show the folk the fact they would change, and you can't be frivolous about that they may not but you have to believe in that possibility, because if you give up on humanity, then you're doing the same thing

they're doing,” Barber said.

“Part of what it means to be in a nonviolent movement is that if I didn't believe in the possibility of my worst enemy becoming my best friend, I'd stop preaching. I wouldn't

put on robes and crosses and stuff. Wouldn't be any need. And you say you're naive.”

This week members of Congress are in markups and budget talks as the details on the final proposals of what will be defunded slowly emerge.

The study's findings were recently published in a special issue of the Journal of the Association for Consumer Research focused on Metaverse, Consumer Behavior, and Well-Being.

Early insights from a preliminary follow-up study suggest that NFTs not only raise concerns around the perception of temporariness, but also, among consumers unfamiliar with the technology, they can be seen as lacking authenticity. This further erodes the

luxury status of the linked physical products.

Despite these concerns, the researchers are not advising luxury brands to abandon digital twins entirely. Rather, they emphasize the importance of careful planning and strategic integration when marketing NFTs. By ensuring that NFTs are part of a broader strategy that reinforces the timeless status and the authenticity of their products, luxury brands can mitigate the potential risks of devaluing their physical items.

“We believe that while NFTs have their place in the marketing and digital engagement strategies of luxury brands, their application must be approached with caution,” added Dr. Dikla Perez, from the School of Business Administration at Bar-Ilan University. “Brands should focus on protecting the core values of authenticity, exclusivity and timelessness while incorporating these new technologies in ways that don't undermine them.”



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New study finds flaws in tools used to enforce online ad standards

By Matt Shipman

(Newswise) — A new study finds about 10% of websites that claim to comply with online advertising standards are running ads that violate those standards. The finding tells researchers that the ad-filtering rules browser extensions use to enforce the standards have flaws advertisers can take advantage of to display non-compliant ads.

Online advertising is an essential revenue generator for many websites, but these ads can also disrupt user experience: they can be annoying, slow down run times, and sometimes put privacy of users at risk by collecting user data without consent.

In response to user concerns and the increasing use of ad-blocking web browser extensions, in 2011 a group of advertisers, ad-tech providers, advertising agencies, publishers, and content creators came together to create stan-

dards for online ads that attempted to find a balance between the revenue-generating needs of web creators and the concerns raised by users.

Online ads that comply with these standards – collectively referred to as the Acceptable Ads Standard – are not blocked by most ad blockers, which use the standards to filter out unwanted ads and allow compliant ads through.

“I have some familiarity with the Acceptable Ads Standard, and I continued to see ads that seemed to violate the standard on sites that were purportedly in compliance,” says Ahsan Zafar, first author of a paper on the work and a Ph.D. student at North Carolina State University. “That led me to wonder about the extent to which websites that said they were complying with the standard were actually complying with the standard. And, if these sites are running ads that are not in compliance, what’s go-

ing on?”

For this study, the researchers focused on the 10,000 domains that have agreed to make use of the Acceptable Ads Standard and that have the highest rankings on Tranco’s “top 100K” list of the most popular websites.

The researchers created a custom webcrawler that automated the process of going through the 10,000 targeted websites to find ads that had been designated as complying with the Acceptable Ads Standard.

The researchers found that 991, or 9.91%, of the sites ran at least one ad that violated the Acceptable Ads Standard.

“We found that oversized ads and overlay ads – which covered up some of the content – were the most frequent violators of the Acceptable Ads Standard, though there were also pop-up ads, autoplay media and so on,” says Zafar.

“In theory, these ads should not have been

viewed as compliant and should have been blocked by the ad-blocking browser extension,” says Anupam Das, senior author of the paper and an assistant professor of computer science at NC State. “The fact that these ads were not blocked tells us there are design flaws that allow ad creators to bypass size and format restrictions.

“To be clear, the ad creators may not even know they’re violating the Advertising Ad Standard. They may just make an ad and see if the browser extension allows it. However, it’s also possible they know there’s a loophole and they’re taking advantage of it.”

“After investigating how these ads could be slipping through, we found

that some of the rules used by ad-blocking extensions to determine Ads Standard compliance are simply too permissive or too general – for example, not enforcing size limits on ads,” says Zafar.

To address this, the researchers made relatively modest changes to the Ads Standard compliance rules and tested these modified rules against the noncompliant ads they had already identified.

“We found that our modified rules caught substantially more violating ads, and that 32% of the 991 websites we found running noncompliant ads would actually have been in compliance,” Zafar says. “However, there was also a slight increase in the num-

ber of compliant ads that were blocked.”

“This was preliminary, proof-of-concept work,” Das says. “And we feel it is possible to develop fine-grained exception rules that could replace the overly permissive ones, reducing the number of noncompliant ads without increasing the number of compliant ads that are blocked. That work is moving forward.”

The paper, “Assessing Compliance in Digital Advertising: A Deep Dive into Acceptable Ads Standards,” will be presented May 1 at the ACM Web Conference being held in Sydney, Australia. The work was done with support from the National Science Foundation under grant number CNS-2138138.

NDG is looking for a Journalism Intern for a 6 month assignment to cover community events on site in the Irving area.

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Young Americans are losing faith in the system

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

A new national survey from the Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School finds young Americans facing financial uncertainty, deteriorating mental health, and a growing lack of trust in institutions.

The 50th edition of the Harvard Youth Poll offers a comprehensive look at the attitudes of Americans aged 18 to 29—particularly young Black individuals—who feel increasingly left out of national conversations and underserved by political leadership. Conducted March 14–25, 2025, the poll surveyed 2,096 respondents across the country.

More than four in 10 say they are “barely getting by” financially. Young Black Americans continue to face deep financial stress, with 45% reporting hardship.

Many express concern about limited opportunities, stagnant wages, and the rising cost of education and housing. Among those struggling, 51% believe President Trump’s policies will worsen their finances

in the coming years.

Only 15% of all respondents say the country is headed in the right direction. Just 16% report doing well financially, while economic hardship is more severe for women, young Hispanics, and those without a college degree.

Nearly half of young women (47%) report limited financial security, while 52% of young Hispanics say they are struggling or just getting by. Half of respondents without a degree report hardship, compared to 29% of college graduates.

Approval ratings among young Americans continue to decline. President Trump’s approval stands at 31%, virtually unchanged from earlier years. Approval of Democrats in Congress has dropped to 23%, down from 42% in 2017.

Congressional Republicans remain essentially unchanged at 29%. Among young Black Americans, Trump’s approval has risen to 16%—up from just 6% in 2017—but a strong majority still disapprove.

Social connection has also weakened. Only 17% of young people report

feeling deeply connected to any community, and 18% say they feel no strong sense of belonging.

For Black youth, the sense of isolation intersects with political disengagement and mental health struggles. Those without strong community ties are more likely to report symptoms of depression, with 59% saying they felt down or hopeless for several days in the past two weeks.

The long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic remain evident. Isolation during formative years—especially among those who were entering high school or college in 2020—continues to shape mental health outcomes. Individuals aged 19 and 23 report the highest levels of lasting social isolation, with 38% and 40%, respectively, saying they lost connection with friends and have not reestablished those relationships.

Among those who lost friendships and failed to reconnect, 55% reported depressive symptoms. Views on traditional life milestones are shifting.

Just 48% say having children is important, and 57%

say the same about getting married. While 86% say financial security is a top goal, only 56% are confident they’ll achieve it.

Confidence in reaching life goals is higher among Republicans, who are more likely than Democrats to say marriage, children, and homeownership are important—and achievable.

Distrust in major institutions is widespread. Only 19% of young Americans trust the federal government to do the right thing most or all of the time. Trust in Congress stands at 18%, the presidency at 23%, and the Supreme Court at 29%.

The survey also found that young Black Americans are more likely to say they feel excluded from decisions that affect their lives and communities.

The debate over Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) remains divisive. Just 9% of young Americans say DEI initiatives have helped them personally, while 11% say they have been harmed. Among Democrats, 22% report positive experiences with DEI, compared to only 3% of Republicans.



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GRANTS, from Page 6

Corporate Work Program. Year Up United empowers young people to reach their full potential by offering a rigorous career and workplace readiness program that includes classroom instruction and access to an internship, with students earning a stipend throughout the program.

Texas Woman’s University is the nation’s largest public university primarily for women and is renowned

for its contributions in the fields of healthcare, liberal arts, education, and more. University of Texas at Arlington is known as a comprehensive research, teaching, and public service institution, and CFT’s grant is supporting students who have been part of the foster care system or who have experienced homelessness, to help UTA increase retention for this student population.

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It Was a Snarly Kind of Day

Dr. James L. Snyder

Last week The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage had another one of her girl days with our daughter and granddaughter.

Don't let this get around, but it is one of my favorite days of the year, including my birthday. It's a day on which I can do what I want to do. That doesn't come often; when it does, I cherish it and celebrate with an Apple Fritter or two...

Of course, I had some work to do in my office, so I was rather happy to be alone for the day. Nothing is more important to me than getting my work done.

I planned to catch up on several writing projects in the morning. Getting behind in a project is easy, so setting aside time just to catch up is wonderful.

I kissed The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage goodbye, got a hot cup of coffee from the kitchen, and went to my office to begin the day's work. I was almost singing as I was getting to my desk. I'm not allowed to sing aloud when The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is home. If

you heard me sing, you would understand.

I was getting started, and suddenly realized there was a problem with the Internet and that my computer was not working. I fiddled with it for about 20 minutes and then realized there was nothing I could do but wait for the Internet to return. (Grrr)

Being a little frustrated, I didn't quite know what to do, and then remembered I had something to pick up across town. I don't like driving across town because there are so many idiots with licenses who are driving. How these people get driver's licenses is beyond my curiosity.

I wanted to get there and back as quickly as possible, thinking I could take advantage of this time.

I was becoming frustrated because every traffic light was red. I had to drive and then stop, drive another two blocks, and then stop. I was getting irritated by this kind of nonsense. I was trying to take advantage of my time to get across town and back home.

Have you ever been tempted? At one of the red

lights there was no traffic coming or going, and not even any cars behind me. I sat there for three seconds, and then I was tempted to drive across the highway despite the red light. After all, there's no harm if there's nobody on the street and I won't get caught.

The thought danced in my head as I was about to do that. There is around here somewhere a police officer watching me, and as soon as I cross the line, he's going to pull me over and give me a ticket. Believe it or not, it would not be a ticket for the Policeman's Ball.

I was reminded of a hymn we sing in church: "Yield not to temptation for yielding is sin."

Although frustrated, I waited for the light to turn green, not yielding to temptation.

This was my routine across town.

As I was coming back, I noticed it was lunchtime. This would be a great time to stop at one of my favorite restaurants and have lunch.

The host seated me at my favorite table when I

entered the restaurant. I've been to this restaurant often, so they knew me.

My waitress came, introduced herself, and handed me the menu. Being such a faithful customer I really did not need a menu because I knew what I wanted. I cheerfully gave the waitress my order and then she brought me some coffee as I waited for my order.

I sipped my coffee rather cheerfully and was finally happy that things were going my way. What a day it had been, but now, things will start going my way at my favorite restaurant.

I don't always experience this, but today, I'm going to celebrate that it is finally happening to me.

I was sitting there drinking my coffee and anticipating my cheeseburger

and fries lunch when the waitress came and put a plate on my table.

When I saw that plate, I gasped in horror. I've never seen such a terrible plate of food in my life.

How can my day get any worse?

In the center of that plate before me was some of the worst vegetables I've ever seen—broccoli. The fact that this waitress brought me a plate with broccoli made me realize my day was not improving yet.

While I was gasping, the waitress turned around, started gasping, and said, "Oh, I'm sorry. That's not your plate; that's for the table on the other side of you."

Finally, my real plate came, and as I ate, I thought of what a snarly day this

has been. What is going to happen between now and when I get home?

Where are my Apple Fritters when I need them?

As I was driving home I was reminded of of a verse of Scripture. "He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding; but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly" (Proverbs 14:29).

One of the great challenges for me is patience. I can be patient when everything is going my way, but that is not patience. I need to practice the "slow to wrath" part of my life.

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JAKES, from Page 7

more daily through a new partnership with iHeartMedia, in which he will launch his own slate of shows with iHeartPodcasts.

The slate will kick off with his new podcast "My Next Chapter" where he will explore the shifts happening in our world and our lives and how we, together, can rebuild what's been broken, especially during this time of national uncertainty. T.D. Jakes has

long been at the forefront of this transformation bringing faith into boardrooms, soundstages, underserved neighborhoods, and now, into a future of greater strategic influence.

As part of his continued commitment to building economic opportunity, T.D. Jakes will lead the return of the Good Soil Forum to Dallas this June—a signature forum he founded to convene investors, entre-

preneurs, and cultural leaders to equip small business owners with resources, capital access, and mentorship needed to thrive.

Additionally in August 2025, the T.D. Jakes Group will curate a multi-day global exchange summit designed to catalyze economic empowerment, innovation, and cross-continental collaboration on Martha's Vineyard, known for its historic significance as a safe haven and incubator of cultural excellence.

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Christians Mothers, Beware of Unusual Circumstances



Sister Tarpley
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"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another

divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ." - 1 Corinthians 12:7-12 (KJV)

Whenever something unusual happens in daily life, these are often signs that God is up to something. We must have a heightened sense of awareness of what God may want to do in these situations.

The story is told of a woman and how she was

upgraded on an airline unexpectedly. A woman sat down next to her who was very troubled. She began to quietly pray for the woman and God gave her supernatural insights that the woman's problem related to the fact that she had not forgiven her mother in a family-related issue.

She decided to politely share her insight. The woman was shocked. The lady began to minister to her on the airplane and ultimately led her to Christ.

God is raising the spiritual bar for Christians who want to impact the world for Christ today. He wants to break through into people's lives supernaturally

by giving them insights into the needs of people in order to bring them to Christ.

Jesus often spoke supernaturally into the lives of others based on the circumstance of the moment. He often spoke of their current

condition in life and invited them to make a change.

As you go about your day, there are situations that we can find ourselves in that are open doors for bringing Christ into the circumstance. In fact, He

is the one orchestrating the circumstance!

"And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses

See TARPLEY, Page 16

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NDG Book Review: Mother's Day Books for Kids by various authors

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Every day, your Mom or Grandma does nice things for you.

She fixes your lunch and dinner, makes sure your clothes are clean and that you have a safe place to sleep. Whose cookies are best? Mom's! Who hugs better? Grandma does (but Mom's a close second!) They love you a lot, you know, so why not share one of these great books about Moms, Grandmas, and kids for Mother's Day this year...

The littlest readers – those who are 1-to-3-years-



Terri Schlichenmeyer

old – will love a read-aloud with “My Mama Bear and Me” by Sophie Beer (Dial, \$12.99). Polar bears live in the snow. Grizzly bears live in the mountains. But Mama Bear lives in your house and she's the best

kind of bear. Be sure to grrrrrowl when reading this book for maximum giggles. Bonus: this is a board book, so it's sturdier, and meant for little kids.

Even kids who hate baths or hair-washing day will love to see “Wash Day Love” by Tanisia Moore and Raissa Figueroa (Scholastic Press, \$18.99) and “Wash Day with Mama” by Monica Mikai (Crown, \$18.99). Yes, there are two new books on this subject and both books tell the story of taking care of Black hair, from the special wash to the even more special styling afterward. There are subtle

differences between them, though; one is more humorous; the other, more celebratory. For kids ages four to eight, either or both of them will make them proud of the hair they've got and the Mamas who help make that hair look its best.

You've heard the song. Maybe you've even sang along, so now read “A Thousand Years” by singer-songwriter Christina Perri, illustrated by Joy Hwang Ruiz (Viking, \$18.99) Based on the famous and heart-touching tune, this book shows the love between mother and child as the little girl grows in

both body and bravery. If you love the song, you'll be happy to know that the book is just as beautiful, and perfect for kids ages four to six. Hint: play the song often and this book will become a favorite.

And for the little chatterbox who also loves the outdoors, “A Cup of Quiet” by Nikki Grimes, illustrated by Cathy Ann Johnson (Bloomsbury, \$18.99) is a great book to read out loud. Sometimes, things get too noisy for Grandma, and she asks for a cup of quiet. For her granddaughter, that's the silliest thing ever because you can't put quiet

in a cup. Or can you? This book is perfect for the five to eight-year-old child who likes to garden, especially when the time is spent with Grandma.

And if these Mama-and-Grandma-themed books aren't exactly what you want, if you want more like them, or if you need something good for an older child or teen, be sure to head to your local bookstore or library. You'll find lots of books there, and people who'll help you find the exactly right one for your young reader. Then grab what you need. It'll be a nice thing.

TARPLEY, from Page 15

and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.

And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. - 2 Kings 6:15-17 (KJV)

Elisha was counseling the nation of Israel against the impending attack of the king of Aram. The Lord supernaturally gave Elisha the plans that the king was implementing, and in turn, Elisha warned Israel of each intended attack.

The king could not understand why his plans were continually foiled. It

seemed there was a secret informer in his midst.

He was furious when he was told it was the God of Israel who was to blame for this inside information. The king decided the only way to resolve the situation was to get rid of the problem - kill Elisha.

The king's forces arrived and surrounded Elisha and his servant. Elisha's servant became upset and fearful when Elisha was not upset. Elisha immediately prayed that his servant's eyes might be opened to see that there was no need to be afraid, because the angels were protecting them.

And Elisha prayed, “O Lord, open his eyes so he may see.” Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, “Strike these people with blindness.” So He struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked,

- 2 Kings 6:17-18 (KJV).

Who is the Elisha in your life? Do you have a mentor friend who can see the activity of God in your life when you cannot see it?

We all need to have somebody we can trust to help us see the activity of God. It is often difficult for us to see what God is really doing because we are so consumed by the circumstances of the moment.

Ask God today to help open your spiritual eyes that you might see Him in your circumstances.

It is hard to fight the battles in life. However, it is in the midst of battles that we learn to be truly effective warriors.

Likewise, in the midst of living, let us learn to be

an effective Christian. God will guide and direct you; He will give you wisdom and strength for the day.

Next time an unusual sit-

uation develops, be aware that God may be creating such a circumstance to bring His glory into the situation by opening your

spiritual eyes.

(Editor's Note: This column originally ran in May 2014. It has been edited for space.)

STARTIN' SOMETHIN' IN FORT WORTH



“A RUNAWAY HIT”

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