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Target CEO attempts damage control after weeks of silence and mounting backlash

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Target CEO Brian Cornell acknowledged in an email to employees this week that a months-long lapse in communication has created uncertainty. The retailer is grappling with falling foot traffic, public boycotts, and criticism over its retreat from diversity goals.

According to the Minneapolis Star Tribune, Cornell's message to staff admitted it has been "a tough few months."

It said media coverage, social media chatter, and internal conversations "may have left you wondering."

He insisted, however, that Target's values have not shifted. "I recognize that silence from us has created uncertainty, so I want to be very clear: We are still the Target you know and



Target Corporation is an American retail corporation that operates a chain of discount department stores. (Bg Walker via NNPA)

believe in," Cornell wrote.

Since the beginning of the year, the retail giant has faced a storm of challenges. President Donald Trump's tariffs on global imports have squeezed the company's mar-

gins. Target's decision to scale back its diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives prompted widespread backlash from Black leaders

See CEO, Page 13



Sounding
The
Alarm

- See Page 3



Neighborhood
stress and
children

- See Page 4



Race relations
five years
after Floyd

- See Page 5



The state of
early childhood
education

- See Page 7



Keeping up
with the
Joneses

- See Page 8



'Thunderbolts'
gets off to a
slow start

- See Page 9



DBDT hosts
2025 Summer
workshops

- See Page 10



Sister Tarpley:
Christians
Have Power

- See Page 15

Inside...

People in the News	2
Op/Ed	3
Health	4
Community	5
Education	6
Feature	7-8
Entertainment	9
Career Opportunity	12-13
Religion	14-15
Book Review	16

People In The News ...

Rev. Dr. Melva Sampson

Sean 'Diddy' Combs

NDG Quote of the Week:
"Freedom is never given; it is won."
- A. Philip Randolph

Rev. Dr. Melva Sampson

Rev. Dr. Melva L. Sampson didn't inherit a pulpit—she created one. The ordained minister and professor of preaching and practical theology at Wake Forest University has emerged as a leading voice for Black spiritual innovation, communal healing, and radical reimagining of faith—outside of the systems that have long tried to silence people like her.

"I'm a product of the Black church," Dr. Sampson said. "That's where I trace my community involvement—youth ministry, usher board, choir, youth revivals. I learned to



speak extemporaneously before the congregation. We went into the community to volunteer, to collect goods, to visit senior homes. I watched my grandmother as a member of the JD Morton Missionary Society. My mother kept an open house,

always someone boarding with us, always someone in need. This is in my blood. This is in my DNA."

Her theology is rooted in Ubuntu, the Southern African philosophy recognizing shared humanity.

"If I ask you how you slept and you say, 'Not well,' then I didn't sleep well either," she said. "Our lived experiences are inextricably linked."

Dr. Sampson's path to ministry didn't come through family lineage or denominational inheritance.

"I didn't grow up knowing I came from a line of preachers," she said. "Later, I learned I had a great aunt

who was a traveling evangelist in early 20th century South Georgia and North Florida. Her sister was a healer, what we called a fire talker. People brought their sick to her. But I didn't come from a tradition of pulpits being passed down. That's not my legacy."

Instead, she came through the back door of ministry—through community, service, and healing.

"I ended up getting the credentials—seminary, ordination—but it was service that led me," Dr. Sampson related. "I've been very effective, especially for those who've been iced out of traditional systems. Ministry is a system, and it often

marginalizes voices that deserve to be heard."

In 2016, she founded Pink Robe Chronicles, a digital hush harbor that elevates sacred Black wisdom through storytelling, spiritual formation, and liberating faith practices.

"It's a beautiful practice to honor, restore, and elevate Black folks' sacred memory," she stated. "It's rooted in womanist theology and sacred memory. My ministry creates spaces of healing, rest, resistance, joy, and justice." Dr. Sampson also co-founded the One Love Festival, which uplifts African diasporic history and culture through innovation, entrepreneur-

ship, and spiritual wellness.

"I've created new modes of being by stepping away from the traditional path," she remarked. "This is ministry in exile. It's creating something out of nothing. And people have been helped by it."

When asked what message she has for people struggling under what she called an unjust administration, as services are cut and prices rise, Dr. Sampson pointed to ancient wisdom.

"I believe it's Jeremiah 6:16—'Follow the ancient paths.' That's what we need now," she asserted. "While this moment may feel new

See SAMPSON, Page 4

Sean 'Diddy' Combs

Jury selection began Monday in Manhattan in the federal trial of Sean "Diddy" Combs, who faces multiple charges, including sex trafficking, transportation to engage in prostitution, and racketeering conspiracy.

The music and business mogul has been held in custody since his arrest on September 16, 2024, at the Park Hyatt New York. The arrest, caught on hotel surveillance video, was widely circulated.

Combs initially faced three charges, but in April 2025, a superseding indictment added two more, bringing the total to five.

Despite a request from his defense team to delay the trial due to the new charges, U.S. District Judge Arun Subramanian denied the motion. Opening statements are scheduled for May 12.

The trial is at the Daniel Patrick Moynihan U.S. Courthouse in Manhattan.



While open to the public, it will not be televised due to federal court rules.

Federal prosecutors accuse Combs of operating a long-running criminal enterprise within the entertainment, fashion, and music industries. The government alleges that Combs used his influence to lure women into his circle, where they were coerced into commercial sex acts—sometimes under the guise of romantic or professional relationships. Prosecutors argue that the acts meet the threshold of trafficking under federal law, even in cases where the exchange wasn't strictly monetary.

The government's team includes six female prosecutors led by Assistant U.S. Attorney Maurene Comey, daughter of former FBI Director James Comey. The defense is led by Marc Agnifilo and Teny Gera-gos, joined by Brian Steel, Alexander Shapiro, Anna Estevao, and Xavier Donaldson.

Four alleged victims are expected to testify. Only one—singer and ex-partner Cassie Ventura—is publicly named. The others will testify anonymously under pseudonyms.

Ventura filed a civil lawsuit in November 2023 alleging sexual abuse and trafficking, which Combs denied before settling the matter privately the next day. A central piece of evidence in the trial is hotel footage showing Combs physically assaulting Ventura in 2016.

Prosecutors cited the footage as justification to deny bail. Combs' attorney

See COMBS, Page 13

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Sounding The Alarm

By April Ryan

Hands off Our History plans more protests like the Saturday Washington DC rally, where several organizations banded together to draw attention to attempts to remove artifacts from the National Museum of African-American History and Culture.

"Black people built this country, and we will not allow anyone to erase us from the American story because Black History is American History," says Melanie Campbell, president/CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation.

Campbell told Black Press USA that Saturday "was the beginning of our resistance movement to fight to demand our Black history be respected."

In a March 31st article published by the North Carolina Black Alliance, the Smithsonian leader revisits history during an HBCU stop at Shaw University; Smithsonian Secretary Lonnie Bunch said, "I will probably get fired at some point," Bunch said. "But I think the goal would be to, sort of, fight the fight as long as you can."

That fight is in the planning stages with leaders like Marc Morial of the National Urban League, Shavon Arline Bradley National Council of Negro Women, and Professor Kimberle Crenshaw of the African American Policy Forum, who were also part of the weekend demon-

stration for Hands Off Our History.

Referring back to the March 31st published story, "The Smithsonian, with me at the leadership, is considered the best example of DEI leadership — you know, a woke leader," Secretary Lonnie Bunch said. "So they'll come after the Smithsonian. I get it. I think that the most impor-

cuts," Bunch said. "I've done scenarios with budget cuts as much as 40%, which means you have to reimagine the Smithsonian."

This reporter asked the Smithsonian spokesperson, Linda St. Thomas, about the story from the North Carolina Black Alliance. She said, "I have nothing to add. The Secretary speaks

"We have to be concerned about the National Council of Negro Women's Council House because you need more activity to show more engagement."

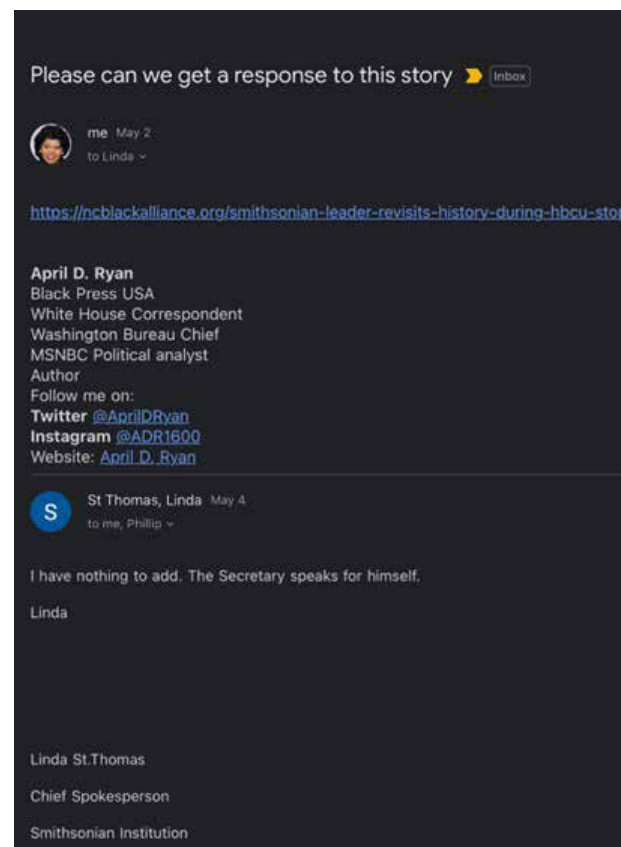
The concern is that the federal government won't see the property as viable if there is not enough foot traffic and tourists there. "so I'm safe to say we should be concerned if we do not see more visitation to the council house," added Arline Bradley.

The building is Mary McLeod Bethune's final home, where she met with then-First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and other high-ranking officials to raise awareness and action on Black issues such as equity, the economy, community development, and education.

When the building was sold to the National Park Service in 1994, the organization thought the federal government would preserve the historic building and "ensure protection and the upkeep."

NCNW Members have asked to repurchase the building. Arline-Bradley says she doesn't know "if it is that simple."

Bradley says, "Protests, marches, and a financial plan are part of the efforts to save Black historic museums and history. Meanwhile, Melanie Campbell reiterates, "Black people built this country, and we will not allow anyone to erase us from the American story because Black History is America's History."



tant thing for me is to help the staff continue to do the work they need to do because the challenge is, with all that's going on, people get paralyzed."

A threat of budget cuts can also cripple the museum, according to Bunch.

"The reality is nobody's immune. We plan every day for significant budget

for himself."

Shavon Arline Bradley, the President of the National Council of Negro Women, is sounding the alarm with concerns over the house once owned by Mary McLeod Bethune that is now owned by the federal agency, the National Park Service. Bradley says,

Keep up with the news

O N L I N E

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Study: Neighborhood stress may impact kids' brains, increase depression risk

Newswise — Children who grow up in disadvantaged neighborhoods — areas with higher levels of crime and deprivation, and lower access to community resources — are at risk of developing depression, and new research led by faculty at Binghamton University, State University of New York, may help to explain why.

Psychologists at Binghamton found that the brains of children from areas containing higher levels of deprivation show less response to reward and loss, but only if they were already at risk for depression based on a family history of the disorder. The team included Binghamton University Professor of Psychology Brandon Gibb, graduate student Elana Is-



rael and former graduate students Cope Feurer and Aliona Tsypes.

“One of my interests is how neural reward processing relates to risk for depression. One thing that we know that impacts that is exposure to stress,” said Israel. “Prior research has looked at stress at the in-

dividual level — people reporting on traumas they’ve experienced or interpersonal stress — but less research has looked at community-level stressors.”

To examine this, the team conducted a study of over 200 children ages 7-11. The researchers conducted interviews to determine if

their parent had a history of major depressive disorder. They also collected each child’s zip code, which provided information about their neighborhood such as risk of crime, levels of socioeconomic disadvantage, and more. The researchers then measured the brain activity of each child via electroencephalogram (EEG) while they completed a simple guessing task where they won or lost money.

Examining the data, the researchers found that children from more disadvantaged areas showed a blunted response to both reward and loss, especially children of parents with a history of depression.

“When something good or bad happens to you, your brain responds and we can measure that brain

activity,” said Gibb. “And how you tend to respond to something good happening or something bad happening can increase your risk for things like depression. What this shows is that it’s not just something happening to you personally, but it’s the context you live in — the levels of stress around you, whether or not it’s directly happening to you.”

Gibb said that growing up in a chronically stressful environment, children may learn not to get too excited when good things happen and not to get too down when bad things happen, especially if they are already at risk because of a family history of depression.

“When you’re chronically stressed, it could dampen

your reaction to anything, whether it is good or bad,” said Gibb. “We want kids to be reactive when good things are happening. You should be excited. That’s what gives you the motivation to engage and do things. So that’s what we think is going on.”

Going forward, the researchers have started a new study that will let them look at what happens to children’s neural responses, and depression risk, when they move to a new neighborhood. The team also wants to expand this work to teenagers and see if similar types of effects are seen for social rather than just monetary outcomes, like peer acceptance and rejection.

See STRESS, Page 14

SAMPSON, from Page 2

for some, for others—like my generation, Gen X—we’ve seen economic hardship before. But my children haven’t. So, we return. We return to the land. We return to cooperative economics, collective work, and responsibility.”

She called on people to organize, pool resources, and resist isolation. “If it happens to one of us, it’s happened to all of us,” Dr. Sampson insisted. “We fight at the policy level while returning to our roots. Grow your own food. Build collective cooperatives. See yourself in others.”

Dr. Sampson also addressed those on the front lines of economic justice movements like the Target boycott.

“Keep your hand on the plow and hold on,” she

said. “These movements take time. Western society has us believing that you protest today, and change comes tomorrow. But a seed planted doesn’t bear fruit immediately. The harvest might not come this season, it might not come for seven generations. But that’s still our work.” She drew on Hebrews 11, referencing the ‘hall of faith’—those who saw the promise but never lived to experience it.

“They saw it in the distance and greeted it,” she said. “Dr. King didn’t see what we now live. Brother Malcolm didn’t see it. But they didn’t stop. They were Afrofuturists. They imagined us.”

Dr. Sampson warned against complacency and what she called “comfort

in captivity,” particularly where corporations profit off the Black community while retreating from equity.

“If it requires a minor discomfort for a collective win, we must choose discomfort,” she offered. “These corporations respond to bottom lines. They take our dollars for granted.”

For those seeking to follow or support her work, Dr. Sampson directs people to www.ilovefestival.com, www.drmelvasampson.com, and on Instagram and Facebook at Pink Robe Chronicles and Melva Sampson.

“We have to consider healing beyond our struggle,” she said. “We honor our pain, but we’re not married to it. Our existence begins in brilliance, not bondage.”

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Five years after George Floyd, racial justice hopes fade

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

As the nation approaches the fifth anniversary of George Floyd’s murder, a new Pew Research Center study reveals a sobering assessment from Americans: the heightened focus on race and racial inequality following the 2020 protests has largely failed to improve the lives of Black people.

In the immediate aftermath of Floyd’s death at the hands of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, who was convicted of murder and manslaughter and sentenced to over 20 years in prison, public attention surged. Millions joined protests across the country.

Support for the Black Lives Matter movement peaked, with 67% of Americans backing the cause, and 52% believed at the time that the national reckoning



Support for Black Lives Matter, which surged in 2020, has dropped to 52%. Favorability has remained highest among Black adults (76%), Democrats (84%), and adults under 30 (61%), while only 45% of White adults and 22% of Republicans express support. (Photo via NNPA)

would result in meaningful change for Black Americans.

Today, only 27% say those changes materialized. Pew’s new survey, conducted February 10–17, 2025, among 5,097 adults, finds that 72% now say the increased focus on racial inequality has not improved life for Black people. Even among Democrats, optimism has waned significantly — just 34% believe the racial reckoning made a difference, down from 70% in 2020.

Support for Black Lives Matter, which surged in 2020, has dropped to 52%. Favorability has remained highest among Black adults (76%), Democrats (84%), and adults under 30 (61%), while only 45% of White adults and 22% of Republicans express support.

Support for Black Lives Matter, which surged in 2020, has dropped to 52%. Favorability has remained highest among Black adults (76%), Democrats (84%), and adults under 30 (61%), while only 45% of White adults and 22% of Republicans express support.

“The justice system is not fair when it comes to Black people,” said a Black Republican in their mid-40s, one of many respondents offering open-ended reflections.

“When convicted of crimes, Black people always get heavier sentences than their White counterparts, even when they have no prior convictions.”

The study also finds that Americans have become more pessimistic about the future of racial equality.

Among those who believe the country hasn’t gone far enough on equal rights, only 51% now say it’s likely that Black people will eventually achieve equality with White people, down from 60% in 2020. Just 32% of Black adults say they believe racial equality is attainable — a stark contrast with 61% of White adults who say the same.

As companies once eager

to embrace diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) now pull back — a trend accelerated by Donald Trump’s executive order banning DEI efforts across the federal government and pressuring private employers to follow suit — public sentiment toward such initiatives has soured. Lawsuits and backlash have contributed to the rollback, even before Trump’s intervention.

Americans are split on whether companies should weigh in on political or social issues: 50% say it’s important, while 50% say it’s not.

However, among those who remember corporate responses to the 2020 protests, 69% believe those statements were made under pressure rather than out of genuine concern. Pew’s findings also show how partisan divides color perceptions of race in America. While 82% of Black Americans say the country has not

gone far enough on racial equality, only 14% of Republicans agree.

A majority of Republicans (66%) say too much attention is paid to racial issues, while 56% of Democrats say there’s too little.

Video footage of police violence continues to shape opinion.

Nearly nine in ten Americans have seen such videos, with 63% saying they help hold officers accountable.

Yet 54% say the videos make it harder for police to do their jobs.

Black adults (65%) and Democrats (68%) are most likely to view widespread sharing of the videos as a good thing.

As the 2020 movement fades in visibility, feelings of exhaustion have risen. Half of Americans, including 54% of Democrats and 48% of Republicans, say they feel extremely or

See PEW, Page 10

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2597	Spicy 9s Overall Odds are 1 in 4.02	\$2	6/18/25	12/15/25
2601	Veterans Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 4.40	\$2	6/18/25	12/15/25
2605	Winter Words Overall Odds are 1 in 4.15	\$3	6/18/25	12/15/25
2602	Wild Side Overall Odds are 1 in 4.09	\$5	6/18/25	12/15/25
2536	Millions Club Overall Odds are 1 in 3.36	\$50	6/18/25	12/15/25

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TEXAS LOTTERY

New research highlights the state of early childhood education

By National Institute for
Early Education Research

A new analysis of state-funded early childhood education programs for three and four-year-olds shows that preschool investments across the United States are at an all-time high. However, the increases in funding and enrollment are skewed by a small number of states making progress — and quality remains highly uneven from state to state. The National Institute for Early Education Research's 2024 State of Preschool Yearbook presents a critical snapshot of preschool education in America.

The 2023-2024 school year set records for state-funded preschool enrollment and spending. Currently, 44 states and DC fund preschool programs. Most state pre-K programs continue to primarily or only serve four-year-olds. Nationally, enrollment reached 37% of four-year-olds but only 8% of three-



Jacob Lund via NNPA

year-olds. States spent more than \$13.6 billion on preschool in 2023-2024, including \$257 million in federal COVID-19 relief dollars. This represents an increase of nearly \$2 billion (17%) over the previous year. However, just four states—California, New Jersey, New York, and Texas—accounted for half (51%) of total national preschool spending.

Preschool investments increased in all but five states with existing programs. Six states—California, Colorado,

Maryland, New Jersey, New Mexico, and Texas—each boosted preschool spending by more than \$100 million. Enrollment grew to 1,751,109 children nationwide, an increase of more than 111,000 from the previous year. Ten states saw enrollment growth exceeding 20%: Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Ohio. California and Colorado alone added more than 30,000 children each, together accounting

for over 60% of the national enrollment increase.

Ominously, several states that have been leaders in universal preschool continued a long-term decline in enrollment, including Florida, Georgia, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin.

“Preschool access in the United States continues to be highly dependent on your zip code. While states as different as California, Colorado, Mississippi, and New Mexico have made remarkable progress in expanding preschool, many

states are trailing further and further behind,” said Allison Friedman-Krauss, Ph.D., lead author of the report.

Alabama, Hawaii, Michigan, Mississippi, and Rhode Island remain the only states nationwide to meet all 10 of NIEER's recommended benchmarks for preschool quality. NIEER's benchmarks measure essential preschool quality indicators, including teacher qualifications, class sizes, early learning standards, and program assessments. Conversely, 21 state-funded preschool programs meet five or fewer of these quality standards—including three of the nation's four largest programs, California, Florida, and Texas. Nationally, more than two-and-a-half times as many children attend lower-quality programs (meeting five or fewer benchmarks) compared to programs meeting nine or all ten benchmarks.

“When states put money into quality preschool pro-

grams, they are investing in children's futures and can expect to see strong returns on their investments,” said W. Steven Barnett, Ph.D., NIEER's senior director and founder. “For those who invest in low-quality programs, it may look like they are saving money, but those programs are not likely to support children's development enough to result in lasting academic and other gains that ultimately deliver savings for taxpayers.”

Additional information about the State of Preschool Yearbook, including individual state profiles and interactive maps, graphs, and state rankings, can be found at www.nieer.org. The National Institute for Early Education Research at the Rutgers Graduate School of Education, New Brunswick, NJ, supports early childhood education policy and practice through independent, objective research and the translation of research to policy and practice.

Dallas ISD students showcase skills at 2025 UIL academic competitions

(Dallas ISD) Students from across Dallas ISD showcased their talents in various subjects, including mathematics, writing, spelling, and science at the annual Elementary University Interscholastic League (UIL) Academic Competitions, sponsored by Student Activities.

“We are proud of each and every student who participated in this year's UIL competition,” said Julian Spearman, Student Activities coordinator. “They spent weeks practicing and preparing for this day.”

This year's event featured two separate competitions, one for schools in the

north region and another for schools in the south, allowing a total of 1,845 students from 108 campuses to participate.

After a full day of competition, the top-performing schools were chosen based on the number of first-, second-, and third-place winners from each contest.

These winners are recognized by their campus at schoolwide award ceremonies for their outstanding performances, highlighting the importance of academic contests.

For more information, visit dallasisd.org/eluil and click on “Elementary UIL Results,” under “Quick

Links.”

UIL NORTH Top Performing Schools

- Lakewood Elementary School
- Mount Auburn STEAM Academy
- S.S. Conner Elementary School
- F.P. Caillet Elementary

School

- Eduardo Mata Montessori School
- Everette L. DeGolyer Elementary School
- George Bannerman Dealey Montessori Academy
- Alex Sanger Preparatory School

See UIL, Page 11



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'Love Must Be Louder Than Hate': NAACP raises over \$340k for Black child targeted in racist verbal attack

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Outrage has turned to action in Rochester after a white woman launched a racist verbal assault on a 5-year-old Black child at a public park—an incident that has sparked national condemnation, a surge of community support, and a flood of donations aimed at helping the young victim heal.

The Rochester Branch of the NAACP said the incident, which occurred on April 30, was a deliberate and threatening act of racial hate—not a misunderstanding or isolated outburst.

According to the organization, the child, who is also reportedly on the autism spectrum, was targeted with repeated racial slurs, including the n-word. The woman did not express remorse and doubled down when confronted by a bystander.

"This was not simply offensive behavior—it was an intentional racist, threatening, hateful, and verbal attack against a child, and it must be treated as such," the Rochester Branch of the NAACP said in a statement. "Public parks should be safe, inclusive spaces for children and families—not sites of hate and trauma."

A widely circulated video of the incident drew sharp backlash, as did the woman's subsequent move to launch a fundraising campaign for herself. She identified herself as Shiloh Hendrix and claimed she needed financial help to



relocate in the aftermath. In less than 24 hours, her campaign raised nearly \$150,000. As of this week, it has surpassed \$600,000, with many of her supporters openly defending her use of racial slurs and demonizing the child.

In response, the Rochester Branch of the NAACP acted quickly, launching a GoFundMe campaign to support the young victim and his family. That campaign has since raised \$341,484 in just two days, thanks to an outpouring of support from across the country and around the world. The NAACP has since closed the fundraiser at the family's request.

"From the beginning, this campaign was rooted in a powerful truth: no child should ever be dehumanized, and love must always be louder than hate," the NAACP said.

According to the organization, 100% of the funds raised—minus standard platform fees—will be placed in a trust account solely managed by the child's parents. "No member of the Rochester Branch of the NAACP has received—or will receive—funds from these donations," the organization clarified.

in Rochester but across the nation.

Over the past year alone, the Rochester NAACP has documented a troubling number of racially motivated acts in the area, including racist slurs painted on a bridge near Century High School, a noose and effigy used to intimidate a Black family, and swastikas and racial epithets spray-painted on the home of a local

representative. Islamophobic and antisemitic acts have also increased.

"This is not an isolated incident," the NAACP said. "It is part of a troubling and painful trend that continues to escalate across the country."

Community members seeking to do more are encouraged to support the NAACP's ongoing work through the Rochester

Branch's Fighting Fund for Freedom at <https://rochesterbranchnaacp.betterworld.org/donate>.

"This is about more than one incident. It's about who we are as a community and what we choose to stand for," the Rochester Branch of the NAACP said. "Help us match the funds raised in defense of hate with an equal force of love, justice, and action."



Keeping Up With the Joneses

For the last 30 years, the Dallas Cowboys have failed to make the NFC Championship game—marking the new longest such streak in the NFC. Admittedly, being one of the final-four teams remaining in the NFL playoffs is not an easy feat but a deeper issue has crippled the legendary organization during their championship drought. Owner, president, and general manager Jerry Jones bought the team in 1989, turning it into a family empire—allowing his kids to all hold prominent roles within the organization. Dallas saw major success during the 1990s, winning three super bowls in the 1992, 1993, and 1995 seasons.

Roster and coaching changes have been consistently predictable since the exits of head coaches Jimmy Johnson and Barry Switzer, resulting in a mediocre football product but flourishing business brand. The question must be asked, is Jones really concerned about winning another super bowl when he already has three and owns the most valuable sports franchise in the world, or is he more invested in maintaining the brand dominance of the Cowboys. An entire generation of Dallas Cowboys fans who never got a chance to see the glory days are ready to give up on a team that does not seem to prioritize winning.

The Family

Jones and his wife Eugenia have three children together, Jerry Jr., Charlotte, and Stephen. Stephen is the eldest son and manages more football related aspects compared to his siblings as the Director of



Keith Allison / Wikimedia

Player Personnel for the Dallas Cowboys. Charlotte serves as the Chief Brand Officer and Jerry Jr. is the Chief Sales and Marketing Officer to oversee business related aspects for the organization.

“I don’t think we realized back in February of ’89 just how much that was going to impact our lives. Just the path the Dallas Cowboys has taken our family on and the visibility and with that visibility, there is obviously a lot of responsibility and there can be a lot of criticism,” Jerry Jr. told the Arkansas Democrat Gazette in 2018.

Jerry Jones is a master salesman and businessman who turned a \$140 million investment in a porous Dallas Cowboys franchise in 1989 into the most valuable sports brand around the world. Jerry has always done things his way and is one of the most prominent and influential NFL owners in the league today.

“Jerry is one of the greatest business disruptors in the history of sports. When he got into the NFL, he looked at the way things were always done, saw a better way [and] made it happen,” Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban wrote to The Dallas Morning

News in an email.

The Team

The Dallas Cowboys have been the epitome of failed expectations and potential rather than production since their last Super Bowl in the 1995 season. With 12 postseason appearances and just five total playoff wins since that season, the head coaching position has been a revolving door. The coaching hires are a story of predictability and conservativeness. Jimmy Johnson delivered two Super Bowls for Dallas, but Jerry Jones let his ego get in the way of a potential unstoppable dynasty.

“Jerry is an authority figure that wants all the credit and why the cowboys have struggled to find success the last 30 years. What other owner holds that many executive titles and has to be in the media’s face after every game,” BGC Sports Network radio host Zack Barlow stated.

Dallas has cycled through a series of coaches that are not given the autonomy of championship level coaches. The apple does not fall far from the tree and Stephen Jones has employed a similar strategy with player personnel decisions. The Cowboys have done an undeniably admirable

job drafting and developing talent with current stars Ceedee Lamb, Micah Parsons, and Tyler Smith on the roster. The issue with roster building is the conservative approach Stephen Jones has towards free agency—leaving many holes on a team that is sometimes too top-heavy. Stephen believes in saving money while building through the draft without paying market price for free agents—a strategy that has not produced playoff success recently. The definition of insanity is doing the same thing but expecting different results according to Albert Einstein and Dallas refuses to change their roster building model.

“Derrick Henry made it known last off-season that he wanted to go to Dallas, but he said they never made

the call. Prime example of the Cowboys getting in their own way. King Henry had a great season in Baltimore, and we saw what Saquon did for the Eagles. You have to take risks sometimes,” BGC Sports Network on-air personality Cedric Bailey said.

The Fan Experience

The team’s legacy is built on stories an entire generation of Cowboys fans never got to witness—their experience has been defined by heartbreak and disappointment.

“It’s gotten to the point where we’re (Dallas Cowboys) honestly a joke. It’s the same story every year, Jerry reels us in to believe in his product but then when it matters most, they let us down every time. I’m tired man,” Cowboys fan

Lorne Glenn said.

Frustration is mounting among younger fans, and some are beginning to question their loyalty to a team that does not prioritize winning. The Dallas Cowboys are no longer “America’s Team” because of their success on the field but because of their cultural relevance.

“It’s bigger than winning football games...Keep ‘em talking, it’s a soap opera 365 days a year,” Jerry Jones said in his unreleased Netflix documentary titled America’s Team: The Gambler and His Cowboys.

Not the ideal rhetoric you want to hear from the general manager whose sole focus should indeed be winning football games, but

See JONES, Page 14



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Film Review: 'Thunderbolts' starts slow, picks up in the second half

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(**1/2) When will the Marvel Universe stop feeding on its own? Never. But at least this time, they're on to something.

The Avengers are out to lunch. Those that have the power are drafting a C-Team, a group of misfits that aren't as showy as the real A-Team. Nor as cool and socially conscious as the X-Men. Nor as frisky and furry as Guardians of the Galaxy. These are outcasts, also-rans, losers in most people's minds. Hence their angst and low-self-esteem feels unique.

That's the hope of screenwriters Eric Pearson and Joanna Calo. Assemble a bunch of bickering, mistrusting, barely controllable and dysfunctional misfits.



Chuck Zlotnick via NNPA

Set them up for defeat and destruction by the cruel mastermind Valentina Allegra de Fontaine (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) and watch them squirm.

For the first half of this 2h 6m (editors Angela M. Catanzaro and Harry Yoon) action hero film it seems like the director Jake Schreier is on auto pilot. His background in music videos (Selena Gomez & Benny Blanco: Younger and Hotter Than Me) and TV (Beef)

might lead audiences to believe he likes fluid filmmaking and might be great with movement. The opposite is true. Initially, the film goes from camera setup to camera setup and fight to fight without a coherent, eye-catching visual style (cinematographer Andrew Droz Palermo, The Green Knight). Don't expect a profound art piece like The Dark Knight, the footage isn't beautiful. Or the funky innovation of Deadpool,

nothing looks dazzlingly depraved. Or the magnitude of Black Panther, social messaging is minimal at best. So why watch any of it?

Yelena Belova (Florence Pugh, Oppenheimer), an assassin, is on a mission.

So are John Walker aka The Agent (Wyatt Russell, 22 Jump Street), a Captain America knock off, Ava Star aka Ghost (Hannah John-Kamen, Game of Thrones) who can phase through objects and Antonia Dreykov, aka Taskmaster (Olga

Kurylenko, Hitman) who can mimic opponents' fighting styles. They all turn up at a fortress/lab on a hill at the command of Valentina. She's the head of the CIA, quite devious and plays

See FILM, Page 12

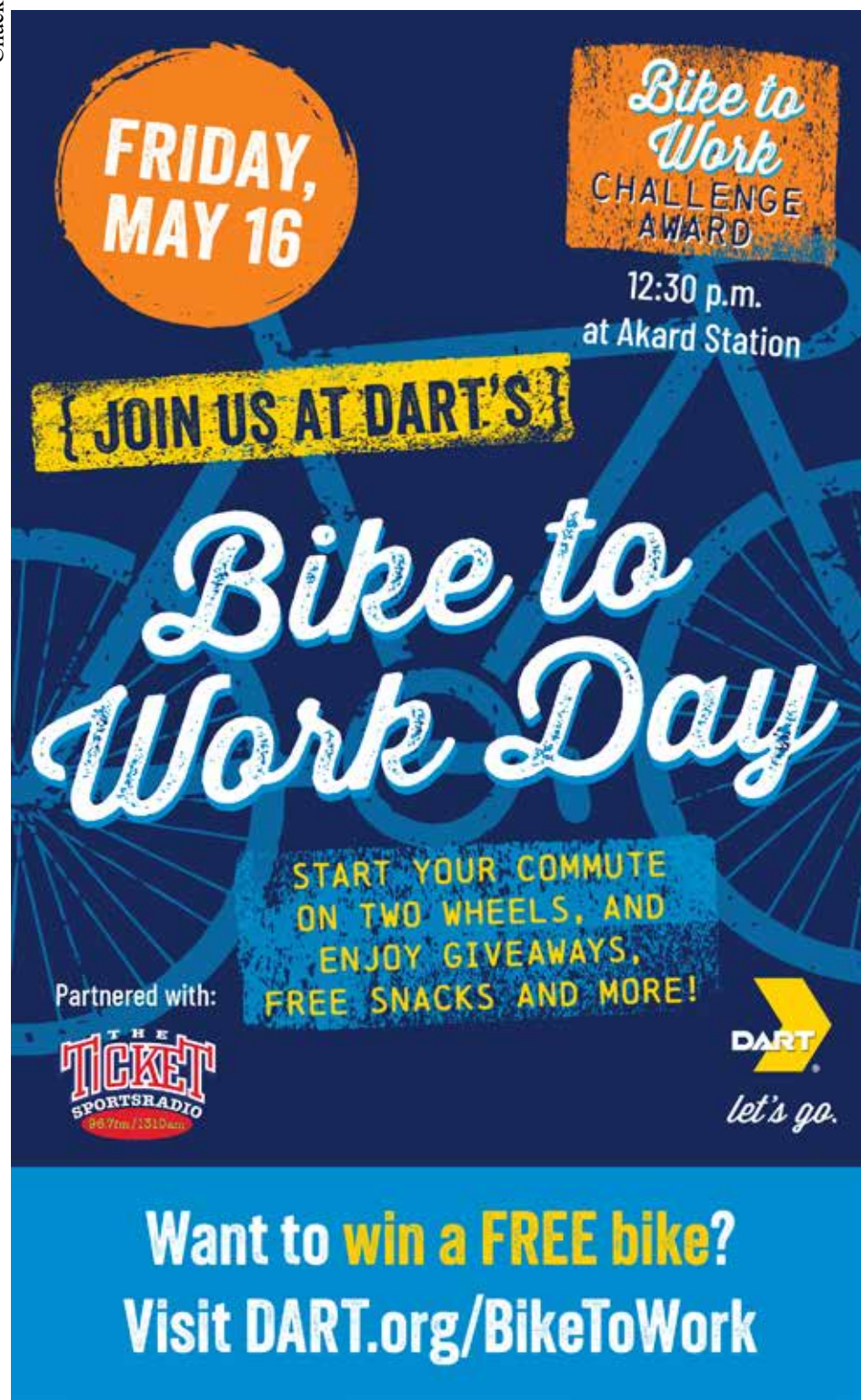


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Dallas Black Dance Theatre announces 2025 Summer Workshop Series

Registration is now open for Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT)'s annual summer workshop series. The comprehensive trio of summer dance programs is designed to inspire and develop dancers of all ages and skill levels throughout the month of June.

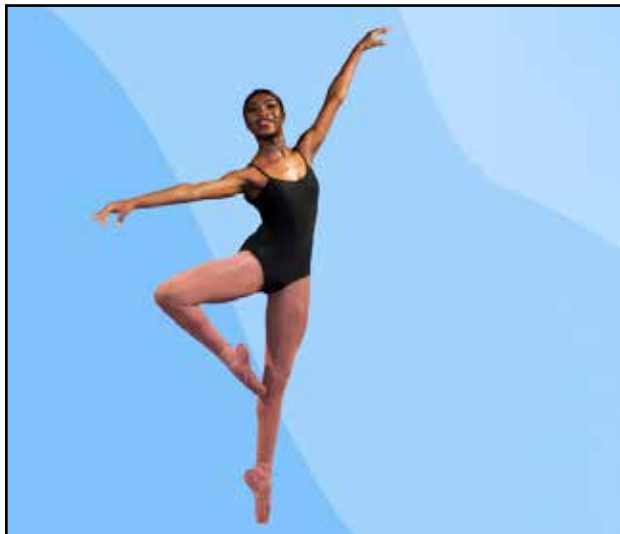
Summer Enrichment Youth Workshop (Ages 9-15)

June 2-14, 2025 | Available In-Person & Virtual

Young dancers with previous experience will receive intensive training directly from DBDT's professional company members, plus special master ballet instructor Stephanie Powell (Long Beach City College). This two-week program offers students the opportunity to refine their technique while learning about the importance of mental and physical health from licensed professionals through a curated speaker series. Available in both in-person and virtual formats to accommodate all participants.

Summer Academy Workshop (Ages 2-Adult)

June 7-28, 2025 | In-Person



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An extension of DBDT's regular academy classes, this inclusive program welcomes dancers of all experience levels – no prior dance training required. Classes include Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Modern, Parent & Me, Hip Hop, and Stretch & Move. This three-week program provides the perfect introduction to dance for beginners and continued development for returning students.

Summer Intensive (Ages 13-Adult)

June 16-27, 2025 | Available In-Person & Virtual

Designed for intermediate, advanced, and profes-

sional dancers, this rigorous program helps participants elevate their skills to the next level. Classes include Horton, Ballet, West African, Jazz and Dunham.

This year's Summer Intensive features an exceptional lineup of certified guest instructors including Tracey Franklin (Dance Conservatory, Chicago High School for the Arts), Alfonsina Treneman (Joffrey Ballet School), T. Ayo Alston (Ayodele Drum & Dance), and Christen Reyes (I.M. Terrell Dance) – bringing diverse expertise and perspectives to this comprehensive training experience.

PEW, from Page 5

very often exhausted when thinking about race in the U.S. Democrats are also more likely to feel angry and fearful, while Republicans are more likely to feel uninterested or satisfied.

In measuring change, the verdict is grim.

Most Americans (54%) say the relationship between Black people and police is no better than it was before Floyd's killing.

A third say it's worse. Just 11% say it's better.

Looking ahead to Trump's second term, 48% of Americans believe he will make racial matters worse, compared to 28% who believe he will improve things.

Party affiliation predicts opinion: 82% of Democrats expect conditions to deteriorate, while 53% of Republicans think they'll

improve.

The Pew Research Center's comprehensive study reveals that what was once hailed as a racial awakening now feels, to many, like a missed opportunity.

"[Black people] still are paid less than Whites when both are performing the same job," said a Black Democrat in their early 70s. "Black people are still looked at as criminals when they haven't committed any crimes."

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Target boycotts and its effect on both sides of the Black Dollar

By Dr. Patrise Holden
Washington Informer
Special to NNPA

Signs in hand, on April 19th, a small crowd of about 10 people gathered in front of the Target at 14th and Columbia Road NW, Washington, DC. Voices raised, as part of a three-day economic blackout from April 18 to April 20, the crowd marched while urging Black and Hispanic shoppers to refrain from purchasing from Target, which has been criticized for its stance on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

Ongoing national boycotts launched as a protest against Target's cessation of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives, have ignited a powerful economic and cultural conversation and corresponding action from Black communities across the nation.

Backed by spiritual and community leaders, including Pastor Jamal Bryant, who initiated a 40-day fast from shopping at Target, the movement has drawn national attention. The goal is to harness the power of Black dollars to demand respect, representation, and equity.

Boycotts Heighten Economic Stress for Many African Americans

While many celebrate the boycott as a bold stand for



Dr. Patrise Holden via NNPA

economic justice, its ripple effects have been complicated, especially for many within the very community that it is meant to empower. Emmy award-winning host, actress, and multi-NAACP Image Award winner Tabitha Brown, who has partnered with Target on several successful product lines, expressed concern in a January 2025 livestream over the long-term effects of the Target boycott on Black-owned businesses.

"As disheartening as it is for me, I am not the only one affected by this. It is for so many of us who worked so very hard to finally be seen. Contrary to what the world might tell you, it has been very hard for Black-owned businesses to hit shelves," said Brown.

Under immense pressure from boycott participants to pull their products from Target and Walmart

shelves, Brown sought to educate the public gently regarding the finances and logistics required to pull products from national stores.

"You have to have a place to store it, another place to sell it, which is almost impossible sometimes. Even if you sell online, it's a process, and everyone does not have the availability or the space to house their own products."

Employees within the company are also feeling the strain. A middle-aged African American female Target worker at the 14th and Columbia location, under anonymity, said,

"Although this location has not seen reduced traffic due to the boycotts, I have colleagues in other Targets that have had their hours cut due to low sales. Some Targets have had to lay off workers, and yes, a high

number of these workers are Black. Black mothers and Black families are trying to work hard to feed their kids. We can't say

we are uplifting the Black dollar and impoverishing working-class people at the same time."

The sentiments of this Target employee highlight a key issue: while boycotts send a clear message to corporations, they can also inadvertently harm small Black businesses and working-class consumers.

African Americans shopping during the active Target boycott expressed frustration, indicating that they cannot afford to buy from multiple independent Black-owned vendors online, each with separate shipping costs and separate

delivery dates and times.

A young African American couple, six-month-old baby in hand, related,

"In theory, I support the boycotts. I'd love to do it because control of Black dollars uplifts our people. But I have two children and limited transportation," said the mother. "I honestly don't have the money to pay online separate shipping fees and lose the savings of Target sales and specials, which would not be available by buying from each individual website."

See **BOYCOTT**, Page 12

UIL, from Page 6

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BOYCOTT, from Page 11

Boycotts: Celebrated Yet Questioned by Small Vendors and Many Consumers

The Target boycott has been undeniably successful in raising awareness and showing the collective power of the Black dollar. However, many African Americans say that it is essential to strategize more to ensure that economic protests do not unintentionally weaken the very ecosystem that it seek to empower.

“For us to move forward, the movement doesn’t start with Target. When we focus within, lasting change from without always follows. I am for the boycotts, however, when we focus on us as a collective internally, I think the path to widespread, sustainable change becomes more attainable. Through it all, faith in God and working on changing the men and women in the mirror is how we continue to advance as a people,”

said Richard B. Lewis, 37, upon exiting Target.

Uniquely located, one block from the Metro, inside a multi-story mall containing a grocery store, a large electronics chain store, two major clothing retailers, and a shoe store, the Target at 14th and Columbia experiences high amounts of diverse shoppers and foot traffic.

Street vendors, exclusively Black and Hispanic, have fought city regulations for years for the right to sell products and retail

along the street in front of the corporate giant. Many vendors expressed worry that decreased foot traffic from sustained boycotting would affect their ability to make a living and possibly put them out of business. Miss Carol of My Virtue, a handbag and accessory vendor, said,

“As entrepreneurs, many of us Black vendors depend on foot traffic and sales from customers shopping at Target. People who don’t even plan to shop with us become return clients be-

cause of the convenience of having so many diverse vendors right here outside the store. Revenue loss from decreased Target sales could mean financial ruin for many vendors out here.”

Understanding the devastating loss of revenue to vendors, small and large, Brown continued in her January livestream,

“Businesses who were affected by DEI, you take all our sales and they dwindle down, and then those companies get to say, ‘oh your products are not perform-

ing,’ and they can remove them from the shelves.”

When sales dip, companies re-evaluate shelf space. If Black-owned brands underperform, they can be quietly pulled from stores. In six months to a year, we could see a white-washed version of Target and Walmart, places where Black retailers fought for decades to get representation, disappear overnight. Brown emphasized, “Sometimes, that is what they want, and in times like this, they are telling us that.”

FILM, from Page 9

them against each other.

After skirmishing and exchanging punches, kicks and hits, the combatants are baffled as they discover they’re in danger. Out of nowhere, a weird dweeb of a dude named Bob (Lewis Pullman, *Top Gun: Maverick*) appears. They next thing you know they’re all fighting for their lives—and then humanity. They’re joined later by the Russian super solider Alexei Shostakov, aka Red Guardian (David Harbour, *Stranger Things*) and Bucky Barnes (Sebastian Stan, *The Apprentice*) aka Winter Soldier. Barnes watches as Valentina is under investigation for her devious schemes by a congressional committee headed by Congressman Gary (Wendell Pierce, *Burning Cane*). Valentina plans to snare the antiheroes and avoid prosecution. Who can stop her?

The beginning is slow, burdened by exposition, excessive talking, inert bodies and a lack of stunning action scenes. It will be hard for viewers to suppress their yawns. The

fighters have middling to ho-hum superpowers. The dialogue is never really clever, minus one guffaw, “The light inside you is dim—even by Eastern European standards.” You get the gist of the plotline, but nothing occurs for the longest time that seems captivating. Certainly not the generic sets (Grace Yun, *Beef*), costumes (Sanja Milkovic, *Captain Marvel*) or music (Son Lux, *Everything All At Once*). None of it awful. None of it great. So why not head for the exits or the fridge for an ice cream break?

During the movie’s second half, a heady, dream-like reality, which was hinted at earlier, takes on a greater measure. A character who seemed the most boring becomes more mysterious and significant. Discovering this transformation and following where it leads pulls this venture out of the disaster arena into a thoughtful, multidimensional head space. As it becomes necessary for this hodgepodge of superheroes to save the day, what ensues become

increasingly fascinating. It stretches the imagination and requires the losers to take their rightful place in the Marvel universe. They must come together for the good of one and ultimately for the good of all. In their darkest hour, Yelena gives words of hope, “You are not alone.” Credit the script for the thoughtful character development and getting deeper just when you think it never would. Also, for those who’ve never seen a Marvel film before, this movie is so cohesive it even works as a standalone.

Schreier’s direction is decent, not genius. It parallels the script, which is alternately ineffective and effective. Achieving any unique greatness is the real test. A test that nets the filmmaking a C+. The fights, chases, attacks and rescues are never as kinetic as they could be. The subterfuge, scheming and confrontations, are just OK. What directors like Christopher Nolan, Ryan Coogler, Patty Jenkins and Tim Miller accomplished with their innovative takes on comic book movies was not an easy lift. There’s no

substitute for style. You have it or you don’t. In this case, the iffy direction is rescued by the heartfelt feelings that surfaces in the final act.

Whatever Florence Pugh was paid for her lead role was not enough. She should get double! She holds weak scenes together, expresses rage, fear, sadness and gladness well. Scenes when she verbally spars with her surrogate dad Red Guardian

are priceless. Pullman as Bob the nerd underplays all his big moments, as he metamorphoses and gains a gravitas. There is something very sneaky about Bucky Barnes that Sebastian Stan wallows in. Pierce plays politics well as the congressman questioning Valentina. Dreyfus seems miscast as the villain, due to her background in comedy. In the back of your mind, you’re waiting for her to crack a joke. She

doesn’t.

Don’t be put off by the first half, which is a snore. Know that Thunderbolts* will find its footing, eventually. Not with a cliché “stop the world from exploding” ending. But with an emotional reckoning that’s a wonderful surprise. One that keeps the Marvel Universe alive long enough to fight another day.

Visit Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrown-Ink.com.

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Black Women Talk Tech presents 9th annual Roadmap to Billions Conference May 15-16

(Black PR Wire) Black Women Talk Tech (BWTT), a collective of Black women entrepreneurs committed to building pathways to funding and success in the tech space, proudly announces the return of its flagship event, the 9th Annual Roadmap to Billions Conference, taking place May 15-16, 2025 in Midtown Manhattan (Times

Square).

After three incredible years in Brooklyn, the move signals a new chapter of visibility, growth, and elevation for the community.

Roadmap to Billions is the only tech conference created exclusively by Black women tech founders for Black women tech founders — and those who support them. “This

new location reflects the expanding influence of Black women in tech and our commitment to elevating their stories on the most visible stages,” said Esosa Johnson, Co-Founder of Black Women Talk Tech.

The 2025 event will bring together 500+ founders, funders, and technologists for two dynamic days of learning, networking,

and growth.

Since its inception in 2017, Roadmap to Billions has empowered over 10,000 attendees, facilitated the rise of dozens of pitch competition winners, and helped generate nearly \$30 million in venture funding for Black women-led businesses.

Register now at www.roadmaptobillions.co.

CEO, from Page 1

and organizations.

“Black consumers helped build Target into a retail giant, and now they are making their voices heard,” said Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA).

The NNPA is a trade association representing the 198-year-old Black Press of America. Earlier this year, the Black Press began a public education and selective buying campaign in response to Target abandoning its commitment to Black America. “If corporations believe they can roll back diversity commitments without consequence, they are mistaken,” Chavis stated.

The company has yet to respond to repeated requests for meetings and comment from The Black Press. Target has lost more

than \$15 billion in revenue this year, seen its stock price fall by as much as \$27.27 per share, and is facing multiple lawsuits tied to its DEI policy changes.

Cornell’s email still struck a tone of reassurance, calling the company’s values of “inclusivity, connection, drive” non-negotiable.

“We’re committed to sharing more of that impact with you and our guests because it reinforces our values and shows the real heart of our team,” he wrote.

Still, retail analysts were sharply critical. Neil Saunders, managing director at GlobalData Retail, said the email fails to address the root causes of public concern.

“They say, ‘Our products and experience are second to none.’ Well, actually, no, they’re not. That’s not true anymore,” he said. According to data from Placer-

ai, foot traffic to Target stores has dropped for 11 straight weeks, with only a slight uptick during the week of April 14 and April 21. Overall, foot traffic declined 3.3% in April.

In recent weeks, Cornell met with Rev. Al Sharpton and leaders of the boycott movement to discuss Target’s DEI pullback. He also met with Trump to outline the damaging impact of tariffs on retailers. Neither meeting was believed to have been mentioned in his message to employees.

Rev. Jamal Bryant, who launched a national Target Fast to protest the company’s direction, has called for continued mobilization and accountability. Retail

consultant Carol Spieckerman said the CEO’s email failed to take responsibility.

“His email acknowledges but doesn’t take responsibility for any of the concerns and controversies surrounding the company,” she said. “The tone implies that things are happening around and to Target that are out of its control.”

Both Spieckerman and Saunders described the message as unfocused.

“It’s a really jumbled email,” Saunders said. “And you know if it’s come from Brian Cornell, it’s probably been through about 30 different people and various PR teams, and it still comes out as this big, jumbled mess.”

COMBS, from Page 2

neys attempted to exclude the video, claiming it was edited and irrelevant to trafficking. The judge rejected that argument and ruled the footage admissible. Marc Agnifilo, Combs’ lead at-

torney, said the video does not prove trafficking. “It’s our defense to these charges that this was a toxic, loving 11-year relationship,” Agnifilo stated during a pre-trial hearing.



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A Tribute To Ms. Gossips-A-Lot

Dr. James L. Snyder

I was sitting in the shopping mall, drinking coffee and taking a break. I don't like going to the mall, but sometimes I have to go and pick up something for The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Sometimes, I think she does it on purpose, knowing how much I dislike it. I try to make the most of it.

While drinking coffee, I watched people pass by. I can't understand why so many people like coming to the mall.

Suddenly, I saw someone I recognized—or at least, I thought I recognized. It was my great-aunt. That would be my grandmother's sister, who passed away about 25 years ago. How could she be in the mall here today? Or, is it her ghost?

Staring at her as she walked by, I couldn't help but believe she was either my great-aunt or an identical substitute. Everything about her reminded me of my great-aunt.

I haven't thought about my great-aunt for many years. She's been deceased now for 25 years. Sitting there thinking about her, many things came to mind.

The first thing was that she was the biggest gossip in the whole town. It was a small town, but she knew everything that was happening there.

Her job was delivering mail, and she would stop at my grandmother's mailbox daily. They would catch up on a lot of things. Together, they both knew everything that ever happened or would happen in that little town.

I couldn't help but chuckle as I thought of the stories associated with her. I never told her or my grandmother that I referred to her as Ms. Gossips-A-Lot. I'm unsure where the name came from; I just made it up. But if anybody knew how to gossip, it was her.

It was always a wonderful time to sit down with my great-aunt and listen to the stories she told. I never knew if those stories were true, but she presented them to me, and at the time, I believed them to be true.

All I had to do was mention a name, and she would go on and on about that person. She knew more about that person than that person probably did. And the critical aspect is that she knew where all the dead bodies

were buried, so to speak. She had dirt on just about everybody in town. She could have been a politician.

Several times she told me, "Son, the more you know about somebody the more you can control them." And believe me, she was a control freak on every level.

Everybody in town feared talking in front of her. They knew whatever they said would be conveyed to other people. They were kind to her and smiled a lot at her, but they did not like sharing any information with her.

The more I got to know my great-aunt, the more I learned how to control her. I'm not a control freak, but sometimes I like to pull pranks on people. Ms. Gossips-A-Lot was a prime subject for some of my pranks.

Sometimes, as we sat and talked, I would calmly say, "Auntie, did you hear what Mr. Smith down the road did the other night?"

That kind of question always gets her undivided attention. She is nervous that somebody will know something about someone she doesn't know. That's not the way she plays her harp.

Looking at me seriously, she would lean toward me and whisper, "No, what did Mr. Smith do the other night? I haven't heard anything."

I didn't live in the town, but about 100 miles away. There's just no way I would know anything about anybody Auntie didn't know. She couldn't take a chance that I knew something she didn't.

Sitting there, I told a story about Mr. Smith, which I had made up. The more I talked about Mr. Smith, the more Auntie's eyes widened. She had a hard time dealing with me knowing something about someone she didn't.

I would say, "Auntie, what I'm about to tell you please do not let anybody else know."

That was the clue I need-

ed to stir her up and spread this gossip for weeks.

Looking back on some of the pranks I pulled on her, I am a little regretful. She was an easy target, and I played her more than I should have.

The problem was that nobody believed what my dear old Auntie said. The only one who really believed her was her sister, my grandmother.

After she passed away, the town gossip quieted as never before. People couldn't get the daily gossip they once did and didn't realize how much they depended upon Auntie's gossip.

Sitting in the mall thinking about Ms. Gossips-A-Lot, I was reminded of what Solomon said in Proverbs 20:19. "He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth se-

crets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips."

I did not know my great-aunt very well. I only saw her occasionally. I did know some of the people around her, and they did not have anything too good to say about her. If my great-aunt had known what the people thought about her, she might have toned down her gossiping a little.

It is so easy to gossip. However, gossip only causes harm and is never good when considering the subject. I want to build people up, not tear them down.

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JONES, from Page 8

this is the current reality of the cards Dallas Cowboys fans were dealt.

The Crossroads

As Jerry Jones continues to balance his roles as owner, president, and general

manager his commitment to building a championship roster must continue to be questioned. Until the Dallas Cowboys organization decides whether winning or branding matters more, the

championship drought and mediocrity will continue. The Cowboys are at a crossroads and unless something changes, the next generation of fans will only know this team as a family business empire and not a legendary football franchise.

Let us hear from you!

If there is any news, events or anything else we need to know about, give us an e-mail at: publisher@northdallasgazette.com

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Christians Have Power



Sister Tarpley
NDG Religion Editor

Christians have power because Jesus had great power; however, He saw Himself as a servant. Jesus said, *“For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many.”* **Mark 10:45.**

Make no mistake, Jesus was not a victim. He was not used, manipulated, coerced, or trapped at any point, even in His death.

He said, *“No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.”* **John 10:18.**

This is important for Christians because we no longer need to live powerlessly. Being a victim is not part of the new life Christ has given us. If we are reigning we are making great choices. With the power of the Holy Spirit inside us, those choices can be made with confidence.

It is in a Christian’s nature to love. We choose loving service as the best way to live our lives. Living a life of love is the wise choice of

a person who has accepted God-given power.

Peace and Happiness Must Come from Within: Whatever a person becomes on the outside must first be believed in the heart. We all become different people as we grow older, with different hopes and dreams, goals and achievements, memories and feelings. No one can ever say that, as a person, they are all they can be, for it is then that they have stopped growing from within.

In a time of new beginnings, continue to grow, to dream, and to make new memories. Whatever gives you peace within yourself will allow others to see the

special person you truly are. –Shirley Vander Pol.

Break the Worry Habit Before It Breaks You: Keep busy. Don’t fuss about trifles. Use the law of averages to outlaw your worries. Co-operate with the inevitable.

Decide just how much anxiety a thing may be worth and refuse to give it more. Don’t worry about the past. Best Techniques in Analyzing Worry: Get all the facts. Weigh all the facts—then come to a decision.


Once a decision is reached, act! Write out and answer the following questions: What is the problem? What are the causes of the problem? What are the possible

See TARPLEY, Page 16

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

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Breakfast in bed, or a nicely-colored picture?

If you're a mother, you'd probably gladly take both. Or flowers, maybe? Or how about settling for two hours of uninterrupted peace and quiet and one of these great books about motherhood and being someone's Mom...

Without a doubt, if you're somebody's mother, your experiences are not the same as any other Mom's in the world – but did you ever wonder how other mothers do it? In "Four Mothers" by Abigail Leonard (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, \$30), you'll read about how mothers in Japan, Kenya, Finland, and here in the U.S. care for their babies, survive, and thrive. This is a fascinating



Terri Schlichenmeyer

first-year account of others' support systems, parental leave, social issues, personal thoughts, and uplifting stories.

Speaking of challenges,

here's a tale of motherhood you don't often see: "Mainline Mama: A Memoir" by Keeonna Harris (Amistad, \$26.99) is the story of motherhood and prison

walls. It's Harris' own story, of teen pregnancy, an incarcerated partner, and raising a child with input that comes with a physical wall between parents. In here, Harris also advocates strongly for help and compassion for mothers who are in her shoes, which is a must-read, if you know how essential community support is to being a Mom.

For the mother who's struggled to have a baby, "Held Together" by Rebecca N. Thompson, MD (HarperOne, \$29.99) will be golden.

After a series of medical issues caused the loss of her pregnancies, Thompson came to understand that being a doctor didn't insulate her from feeling lost and alone in her grief. This book is a result of those emotions; here, more than

a dozen of her patients, friends, and colleagues weigh in on their pregnancies, their troubles, hope, loss, happiness, wishes fulfilled, life with toddlers, and their feelings about the first years of parenthood. The result is a book that seems like a long series of comfort and camaraderie from friends who've been there, which may be a much-needed balm to a new Mom.

And finally, ask any mother about her kids and be prepared for a long conversation. Or a book like "Through Mom's Eyes: Simple Wisdom from Mothers Who Raised Extraordinary Humans" from Today Show host Sheinelle Jones (Putnam, \$29).

Here, Jones asked the mothers of more than a dozen celebrities how they

reared their famous kids, but this isn't just random, wide advice: she interviewed the mother of the Jonas Brothers on self-compassion. She talked to Padma Lakshmi's mother on paying attention to your child. She talked to Lin-Manuel Miranda's mother about nurturing a child's talents, and Tyra Banks' mom discusses setting your child up for the future. This is a fun book to read, great for star-watchers, and informative, too.

If these books aren't quite what you want to read, if you need more instruction, or more topic-focused books, be sure to ask your favorite bookseller or librarian for help. They'll have all kinds of suggestions that are perfect for now, for Mother's Day, for table, sofa, or bedside.

TARPLEY, from Page 15

solutions? What is the best possible solution?

Cultivate a Mental Attitude that will Bring You Peace and Happiness: Fill your mind with thoughts of peace, courage, health and hope. Never try to get even with your enemies. Expect ingratitude. Count your blessings—not your troubles. Do not imitate others. Try to profit from your losses. Create happiness for others. —Dale Carnegie's

Golden Book.

What You Are Doing Takes Real Courage: Courage is the feeling that you can make it, no matter how challenging the situation. It is knowing that you can reach out for help and you are not alone. Courage is accepting each day, knowing that you have the inner resources to deal with the ordinary things as well as the confusing things, with the exciting things as well

as the painful things.

Courage is taking the time to get involved with life, family, and friends, and giving your love and energy in whatever ways you can. Courage is being who you are, being aware of your good qualities and talents, and not worrying about what you do not have.

Courage is having faith that life is a beautiful gift. —Donna Levine Small.

(Editor's Note: This column originally ran in April 2014.)

STRESS, from Page 4

Gibb said that this work highlights the need to address neighborhood characteristics when it comes to mental health. "Just being in these contexts can impact mental health, and these neighborhood char-

acteristics can influence kids, even if they're not touched by it directly. So there are broader implications too, and even more reasons why we should try to improve our communities."

The paper, "Parental History of Major Depressive Disorder Moderates the Relation Between Neighborhood Disadvantage and Reward Responsiveness in Children," was published in Research on Child and Adolescent Psychopathology.

