

The Weekly Press

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THURSDAY, NOV. 25 - DEC. 1, 2021

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NEWS PG 2

LA. LEADERS REACT TO BIDEN'S DECISION ON OIL RESERVE

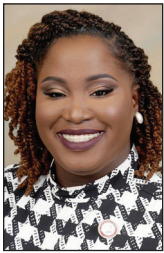
BUSINESS PG 5

EARLY HOLIDAY SHOPPING BOOSTED BY URGE TO 'SPLURGE' IN FACE OF INFLATION

EBR metro council seeks replacement for seat in District 5

BATON ROUGE, La. - Councilwoman Erika Greene (D) recently came out on top in her race for a spot as a judge on the East Baton Rouge Parish Family Court. Now that she's leaving the council, it's up to the rest of the members to fill that spot. The seat for District 5 on the Baton Rouge Metro Council will soon be open. But before the council can appoint a new member to the board, a few things need to happen.

"What will happen is once I issue a resignation letter, then there will be an opportunity for the remaining council members to appoint a council member to replace me in District 5," said Erika Greene.



Erika Greene

See DISTRICT 5, on page 3

Early voting begins Nov. 27 for Dec. 11 election

BATON ROUGE, La. — Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin is reminding voters that early voting for the Dec. 11 election begins Saturday, Nov. 27, and continues through Saturday, Dec. 4, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, excluding Sunday, Nov. 28. Citizens who want to vote early may do so in person at their parish Registrar of Voters Office or at other designated locations.

7 parishes will have local propositions and candidate races: Ascension, Bossier, Catahoula, East

See ELECTION, on page 3

OTHER STORIES ONLINE



WEATHER

MON. 11/29
Sunny
High 63°

TUE. 11/30
Sunny
High 69°

WED. 12/01
Mostly Sunny
High 70°

THUR. 12/01
Partly Sunny
High 71°

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All 3 men guilty

of murder in the killing of Ahmaud Arbery



People outside the Glynn County Courthouse react after the jury reached guilty verdicts on Wednesday in the trial of Travis McMichael, Gregory McMichael and William "Roddie" Bryan in Brunswick, Georgia.

Travis McMichael, Greg McMichael and William 'Roddie' Bryan all face the possibility of life in prison

Three white men were all found guilty of the count of felony murder for killing Black jogger Ahmaud Arbery on Wednesday by a Brunswick, Ga. jury.

Father-and-son duo Gregory McMichael and Travis McMichael, as well as William "Roddie" Bryan, face decades in prison, and in Travis McMichael's case, for the rest of his life.

Travis McMichael was found guilty on all nine counts. Arbery, 25, was killed while



Ahmaud Arbery



Travis McMichael (from left); his father, Gregory McMichael; and William "Roddie" Bryan have been on trial over the killing of Ahmaud Arbery, a Black man who was fatally shot while out for a run last year in Georgia.

jogging in a Brunswick neighborhood in February 2020. He was chased, stopped, confronted and fatally shot by Travis McMichael, which was all captured on video filmed by Bryan.

Travis McMichael, the man who pulled the trigger which took Arbery's life, was found guilty of malice murder, four counts of felony murder, two counts of aggravated assault, false imprisonment

and criminal attempt to commit a felony.

Gregory McMichael, the father of Travis McMichael, who

See GUILTY, on page 2



Ahmaud Arbery's mother reacts to three guilty verdicts for murder of son

Civil Rights Leaders Exhort Black America to 'Never Stop Running for Ahmaud'

After nearly two years of pain, suffering, and wondering if the men who killed Ahmaud Arbery would pay for their heinous crime, the 25-year-old's family finally received justice.



NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson

A Glynn County, Georgia, convicted Travis McMichael, Gregory McMichael, and William Bryan of felony murder.

"Guilty. Guilty. Guilty," civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump exclaimed.

"Nothing will bring back Ahmaud, but his family will have some peace knowing the men who killed him will remain behind bars and can never inflict their brand of evil on another innocent soul," Crump continued.



Florida Congresswoman Val Demings

NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson called the verdicts long overdue.

"Ahmaud Arbery's death was unnecessary and fueled by racist ideologies deeply engrained in the fabric of this nation," Johnson insisted.

"Generations of Black people have seen this time and time again, with the murder of Emmett Till, Trayvon Martin, and many others," he continued.

"The actions and events perpetrated by the McMichaels and William Bryan leading up to Ahmaud's death reflect a growing and deepening rift in America that will be its undoing if not addressed on a systemic level.

"We must fix what is genuinely harming our nation: white supremacy."

The jury found Travis McMichael, who shot Arbery in February 2020, guilty of all nine charges, including malice murder and four counts of felony murder.

The panel found his father, Gregory, not guilty of malice murder but convicted him on felony murder, unlawful imprisonment, and other charges.

Bryan escaped a guilty verdict on malice murder, but the jury found him guilty of three felony murder counts, aggravated assault, false imprisonment, and criminal intent to commit a felony.

The men, who also face federal charges, could spend life in prison when sentenced.

Judge Timothy Walmsley bound the men over and will soon set a sentencing date.

Immediately following the announcement of the first guilty verdict against Travis McMichael, Arbery's father, Marcus Arbery, shouted, "long time coming."

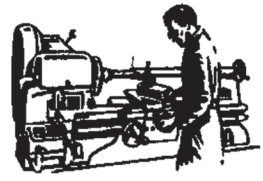
Judge Walmsley asked court officials to remove the senior Arbery.

"Ahmaud Arbery should be alive today. This tragedy should have never happened," said Florida Congresswoman Val Demings, who

See AHMAUD, on page 2

LOCAL & STATE

READER INFORMATION



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Weekly Press

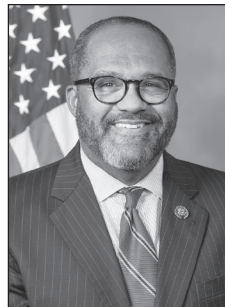
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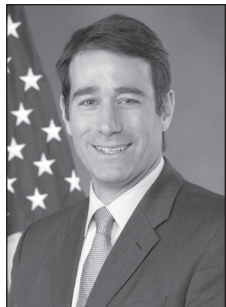
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La. leaders react to Biden's decision on oil reserve



**Congressman
Troy Carter (D)**



**Congressman
Garret Graves (R)**



**Senator
John Kennedy (R)**

BATON ROUGE, La. - The White House announced it will tap into the Federal Emergency Oil Reserve and put 50 million barrels of oil into the market. But will it have much of an impact?

Traditionally our oil reserves are meant for unexpected shortages in oil or significant natural disasters where oil is needed for recovery. But the White House hopes this will provide some relief for those of us who plan on traveling for the holidays.

By mid to late December, the Biden administration plans to put 50 million barrels of oil into the market.

It's mostly a symbolic move and it's unclear if it will even translate to lower prices at the pump. Right now, the average price of gas across the country is about \$3.40 per gallon, that's up 50% from last year. Demo-

crat Congressman Troy Carter said in a statement today he's "glad to see President Biden is taking this important step to help bring down costs for families in Louisiana and across the country".

"I feel pretty good about it. I like that we're trying to do something to bring down the prices. I know a lot of people have been a little upset about it," said Baton Rouge local Grant Wilkinson.

According to the Energy Information Administration, Americans used on average 20 million gallons of oil per day during September. That means the 50 million barrels the White House wants to use is only equal to about two-and-a-half days' worth of additional supply.

"I think it's like filling a bathtub through a straw, I don't think it'll



have a whole lot of impact and I think it's more for show than actually any actual effect, that's my opinion," said Loyd Daniel, another Baton Rouge local.

Other state Representatives in Washington say although the White

House has good intentions, this is not what our reserved oil is for.

"Well, first of all, tapping into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to basically address bad energy policy is an awful precedent. That's not what our oil reserves were set up for. Sec-

ondly, looking at market signals just from today, you've actually seen oil prices go up not down," said Congressman Garret Graves (R).

Sen. John Kennedy (R) says it

See **OIL RESERVE**, on page 3

GUILTY from page 1

grabbed his .357 Magnum pistol and told his son he noticed Arbery running outside, was acquitted on the malice murder charge but found guilty on the felony murder charges, aggravated assault, false imprisonment and criminal attempt.

William "Roddie" Bryan, who filmed Arbery's murder from his truck, was found guilty on three counts of felony murder, one count of aggravated assault, one count of false imprisonment and one count of criminal attempt to commit a felony.

He was found not guilty of malice murder, one felony murder count and one count of aggravated assault.

All three men were each charged with nine criminal counts and as "parties concerned in the commission of a crime," according to The New York Times.

According to Georgia law, the charges in the indictment included:

■ Malice murder (Count 1)

Someone causes a person's death with "deliberate intention unlawfully to take the life of another human being." A conviction on this charge is punishable by death or life in prison.

■ Felony murder (Counts 2, 3, 4 and 5)

A person commits murder while committing a felony "irrespective of malice" and causes the death of a person. Both Travis and Gregory McMichael were found guilty on all four counts of felony murder.

■ Aggravated assault (Count 6)

This charge is for the use of a deadly weapon, which would be the 12-gauge shotgun used in Arbery's death. The charge brings one to 20 years in prison.

■ Aggravated assault (Count 7)

Georgia law also defines aggravated assault as using "any object, device, or instrument which, when used offensively against a person, is likely to or actually does result in serious bodily injury." This charge also brings one to 20 years imprisonment.

■ False imprisonment (Count 8)

A person who doesn't have the legal power to arrest someone falsely imprisons them and violates their personal liberty. A false imprisonment conviction is punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

■ Criminal attempt to commit a felony (Count 9)

According to the law, criminal attempt is when a person "with intent to commit a specific crime, he performs any act which constitutes a substantial step toward the commission of that crime." The three men were all found guilty of criminal attempt.

During the state's closing arguments, attorneys pushed back against claims that the men were attempting a citizen's arrest because they weren't "present when any crime was committed."

"The suggestion that Ahmaud committed a crime is based on what? Not immediate knowledge, but speculation," prosecutor Linda Dunikoski said on Monday.

"Hey, where are you coming from?" They don't know where

See **GUILTY**, on page 3

BREC officials working to improve flood plans at park

BATON ROUGE, La. - BREC officials say they're currently improving its park flood plans to keep water out of folks' homes.

"Water, rain water, storm water is a part of lives here and we need to really work with it as best as possible," says Reed Richard who is BREC's assistant superintendent of system planning. The 2016 flood destroyed Howell Park, BREC is currently rebuilding the park and working on updating its flood prevention plan. "Well basically, our parish was pretty devastated by the flood of 2016. We felt as conservationists as one of our strongest ethics, and we have 660 acres of park land. That acreage can really leverage to increase storing more storm water," adds Richard.

Many of BREC's parks retained billions of gallons of water during the flood, meaning more water in the park and less in people's homes. BREC wants to extend that protection by adding more vegetation like no grow zones and rain gardens. Also, reconstruct park lands to slope downward or outward, and



then expand the lakes so they can hold more water. "Slow down the water that's going through these major drainage ways. That is one of the problems that is one of the things that causes flooding is just the rapid conveyance of storm-water through pipes and through concrete-lined drainage canals," explains Richard.

Richard calls it green infrastructure that they can control, so they don't have to rely solely on one system to prevent flooding in the capital region.

Howell Park is already under construction and is supposed to be finished sometime next year. The first phase of Airline Highway Park and Greenwood Park will be finished by 2024.

AHMAUD from page 1

is a Democrat.

"I am keeping his family in my prayers. But we must move forward together to dispel the shadows of our past and to ensure the safety and civil rights of every American," Demings asserted.

Crump insisted that Black America must keep fighting for civil rights and justice.

"This case, by all accounts, should have been opened and closed," Crump demanded.

"The violent stalking and lynching of Ahmaud Arbery was documented on video for the world to witness. Yet, because of the deep cracks, flaws, and biases in our systems, we were left to wonder if we would ever see justice," Crump remarked.

"[The verdict] indicates progress, but we are nowhere close to the finish line. America, you raised your voices for Ahmaud. Now is not the time to let them quiet. Keep marching. Keep fighting for what is right. And never stop running for Ahmaud."



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Vaccine requirement for Louisiana schools drawing GOP anger

BATON ROUGE, La. — Louisiana's Republican legislative leaders are outraged about a plan by Gov. John Bel Edwards' administration to start requiring some students to get the coronavirus vaccination or submit a written dissent to attend school.

The Advocate reports the mandate, which has not yet taken effect, would only apply to students whose age groups are fully approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to receive the shot. For now, that includes high school students age 16 and older.

But if the FDA eventually grants full backing to the immunizations for younger children, that vaccination requirement would expand to lower grades and daycare facilities, under the health department plan.

Whenever the vaccination requirement begins, parents could opt-out of the requirement by signing a simple statement of exemption.

Still, news of the forthcoming rule aroused anger among high-ranking GOP state lawmakers, who described the proposal as an example of government overreach.

"This is a line in the sand that will not be crossed," House Speaker Clay Schexnayder, a Gonzales Republican, texted lawmakers Saturday, according to the newspaper.

GOP Sen. Bodi White, chairman of the powerful Senate Finance Committee, called the proposal an "intimidation tactic." He threatened

to "take action that will severely affect their budget" if the Louisiana Department of Health moves forward with the vaccine requirement.

It's unclear when the new vaccination requirement would be enforced. Attorney General Jeff Landry, a Republican, is advising lawmakers that he believes the Edwards administration plan does not comply with state law, raising the possibility of a court fight.

The health department submitted public notification to lawmakers in September that it intended to add the coronavirus vaccine to its state-mandated immunization schedule. Under Louisiana law, the House and Senate health committees can only block such a rule from taking effect if they both vote to reject it and the governor agrees with them.

That isn't going to happen. Edwards told The Advocate it would be "inappropriate, unfortunate and dangerous" to keep the coronavirus vaccines available with full FDA approval off the state's immunization schedule.

"Typically, when the FDA gives full licensure or full approval to a vaccine, we will add it to the schedule, and that's what we're doing here through a formal rule-making process," the Democratic governor said after speaking at a vaccination event.

Even if lawmakers can't block the new rule, the House health committee intends to hold a hearing Dec. 6 to register its complaints.

weapons to try and kills us," said Sen. Kennedy.

Both Graves and Kennedy say Congress could and should have a say in when the president can use oil from the reserves. But without a majority hold in Washington, there's almost no chance of that happening.

And although this is meant to help ease the cost of traveling during the holidays, there is typically a lag time between gasoline and changes made to oil prices. So, we'll just have to wait and see what this will bring for everyone during this holiday season.

right person to fill the empty spot. "I'm confident that the council members will do what's best for our district. I'm precluded from supporting any person because of the judicial canons but I am confident in the process," Greene continued.

lize Louisiana's award-winning, free smartphone app, GeauxVote Mobile, to locate parish early voting locations, Election Day voting site, or view their sample ballot. GeauxBot, the virtual voter assistant, is also available to access pertinent election information such as registration deadlines, election dates, polling locations, and hours. GeauxBot is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by visiting voterportal.sos.la.gov or by selecting Elections and Voting on sos.la.gov.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, our polling commissioners will be supplied with personal protective equipment and will regularly sanitize designated areas and wipe down voting machines between each voter. Hand sanitizer will be provided to voters and masks are recommended, although not required.

In addition to a Louisiana driver's license, a Louisiana Special ID or a generally recognized ID with picture and signature, voters may use a digital license via LA Wallet.

For more information, contact the Elections Division at 800.883.2805 or elections@sos.la.gov.

a person and there is risk with that and there are tragic consequences that can come from that," Sheffield said, according to CNN.

Travis McMichael, who testified in his own trial, said crime in the Georgia neighborhood had increased and alleged a series of past vehicle break-ins. He accused Arbery of being responsible for the break-ins and was told by his father to grab his gun with the aim to find out more from Arbery.

Bryan's defense attorney, Kevin Gough, said his client "was armed only with a cell phone" and is not responsible for Arbery's death.

"But Roddie Bryan was not aware of any intention, and could not be a party to the crime of malice murder, because he can't intentionally help commit a crime, he doesn't know it's underway," Gough told the jury during closing arguments.

The men's legal troubles are far from over. In February, the federal trial for Bryan and the McMichaels begins. The men are charged with hate crimes in their federal case.

The Department of Justice said the men "used force and threats of force to intimidate and interfere with Arbery's right to use a public street because of his race," the Associated Press reported.

Gov. Edwards Joins Dept. of Transportation, Development for I-10 Widening Ribbon Cutting



Gov. John Bel Edwards center, was joined by the La. Department of Transportation and Development Secretary Dr. Shawn Wilson, State Sen. Gerald Boudreaux, Rep. Mike Huval, Rep. Vincent Pierre, and Lafayette City-Parish President Josh Guillory

Gov. John Bel Edwards joined Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development Secretary Shawn D. Wilson, Ph.D., as well as state and local officials to celebrate the completion of the Interstate 10 widening between Interstate 49 and La. 328.

Gov. Edwards said, "Since I have been in office, over \$550 million has been invested in transportation projects throughout Lafayette and St. Martin Parish. Projects such as the I-10 widening not only serve as a great benefit to motorists, but also as an invaluable asset to the many businesses along this continually growing corridor. The project involved pavement replacement within the existing lanes for . An additional lane was also added in each direction."

"It's critical that we continue to make investments that will greatly contribute to our infrastructure's resiliency, the safety of motorists and our growing economy," said Wilson. "Investing in our state's infrastructure not only produces quality roads, but it also enhances the quality of life for the people of Louisiana and economic development along the I-10 corridor."

Recognizing the importance of I-10 as critical corridor and hurricane evacuation route in Louisiana and investing in projects to improve I-10 has been a priority for Governor Edwards. Since he took office in 2016, approximately \$945 million has been dedicated to projects on I-10 throughout Louisiana.

"This investment in infrastruc-



Governor John Bel Edwards was in Lafayette to mark the milestone with a ribbon cutting

ture is vital in order to improve safety and significantly reduce traffic congestion along this corridor," said Senator Gerald Boudreaux. "Thank you to Governor Edwards and Secretary Wilson for recognizing this importance and preparing for future economic growth throughout the region."

"Congestion and safety impacts the quality of life for our citizens and the quality of the business environ-

ment for our industries," said Representative Vincent Pierre. "This long awaited expansion will greatly enhance the travel between Lafayette and Baton Rouge. I applaud DOTD and the entire team who have worked to bring this project to fruition."

"Interstate 10 is a critical economic corridor as well as a main vehicular artery for hundreds of thousands of motorists," said Representative Mike Huval. "Once completed, this will provide a more efficient commute, save lives and enhance this economic corridor."

With the help of the FASTLANE grant, awarded in 2016 by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to the state of Louisiana to partially fund this I-10 widening project, the improvements to I-10 in Acadiana will enhance economic development opportunities, provide safer, more efficient travel for motorists, and create a better evacuation route in the event of a hurricane or other natural disaster.

The project was awarded to James Construction Group, LLC of Baton Rouge for \$124.7 million. Construction began in May 2017 and completed in October 2021.

OIL RESERVE from page 2

the president's policies on energy that got us to where we are in the first place. Saying that allowing construction of the Keystone pipeline to continue and letting Louisiana drill its own oil again would be a good place to start.

"His policy seems to be let's destroy American's energy independence and let's force America to buy oil from countries that hate us. So those countries that hate us will have more money to buy

DISTRICT 5 from page 1

As someone who has experience with each of the current members, Erika Greene has faith her former colleagues will pick the

ELECTION from page 1

Baton Rouge, Iberia, Orleans and Rapides.

26 parishes will only have local propositions: Acadia, Allen, Assumption, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bienville, Caddo, Calcasieu, Concordia, DeSoto, Grant, Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Morehouse, Natchitoches, St. Helena, St. Landry, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Tensas, Terrebonne, Union, Washington, and West Carroll.

1 parish will only have candidate races: Vernon.

1 parish will have a local proposition and a recall election: Ouachita.

29 parishes will have no elections: Caldwell, Cameron, Claiborne, East Carroll, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Franklin, Iberville, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, LaSalle, Lincoln, Madison, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, Red River, Richland, Sabine, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John, St. Martin, Vermilion, Webster, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana, and Winn.

Voters are encouraged to uti-

GUILTY from page 2

he's coming from. 'What are you doing?' They don't know what he's doing. Remember Mr. Bryan heard, 'What did you steal?' They don't know what he's done. They don't know why he's out there running. They don't have immediate knowledge. They have no knowledge. They have speculation," Dukowski said to the jurors.

Prosecutors said that Arbery wasn't a threat to anyone and was "just running away" from the men when they caused a dangerous situation.

"You can't be the unjustified aggressor. You can't create the situation and then say that you were defending yourself. You just can't do... you just can't do it," she said.

Each of the men had their own defense attorneys during the trial, who claimed that they did nothing wrong.

Travis McMichael's defense attorney Jason Sheffield told jurors during closing arguments that his client thought Arbery "committed the offense of burglary" and had "the right to perform a citizen's arrest."

"You do have the right to have a firearm when you make an arrest. You do have the right to stop

48th Annual Bayou Classic kicks off; game to feature first coach-to-player electronic communication

NEW ORLEANS - The 48th Annual Bayou Classic kicked off on Monday, Nov. 22 with the news conference previewing the historic rivalry between the Southern Jaguars and Grambling State Tigers.

The Bayou Classic returns to New Orleans after spending last season in Shreveport, Louisiana due to COVID-19. Governmental leaders, tourism leaders, Bayou Classic organizers and representatives from both Southern University and Grambling State University will provide updates on this year's Bayou Classic scheduled for November 26-27.

The Bayou Classic will also be the first game to feature in-game coach to player electronic communication. Southern Athletic Director Roman Banks said the NCAA Football Rules Committee approved the waiver for the game this Saturday.

"This Bayou Classic speaks volumes. It's a historic event," said Southern Athletic Director Roman Banks. "For them to reach down and say, 'Hey, Southern and Grambling, the Bayou Classic, we're going to use you all.' I think it speaks volumes and speaks to the trend of where we're going."

Banks said this could lead to more opportunities and open new doors for other HBCU's. However, Banks said they must go out there and prove that they are worth the investment.

"Just talking about it is not good enough. We're getting the opportunities, now we have to get these opportunities and develop others," said Banks.

This technology waiver will carry the following requirements:

The coach-to-player communications must be switched off by a neutral party designated by game management when the play clock goes below 15 seconds and must stay off through the end of all live ball action.

If there is a total failure of either team's system, the shutoff switch will be used to stop all communications for both teams until the problem is resolved.

Each team will be allowed eight player units, four each for offense and defense. Each team can have only one player with a helmet receiver on the field at one time. During special team plays (free kicks and scrim-

mage kicks), only one player from each team may have a receiver on the field, and it can be designated from the offense or defense.

To denote that a player has a receiver, each team will be required to place an identifying sticker on the back of each helmet that contains a receiver. The sticker should be large enough to be clearly visible to officials. It will be the team's responsibility to manage players and helmets to ensure that only one of their players on the field at a time is wearing a receiver.

The Jaguars are looking to extend their winning streak to four games. Southern has combined for 117 points in the three wins while the Tigers have scored 63 points.

Both Southern (4-6, 3-4 SWAC) and Grambling State (3-7, 2-5 SWAC) are having down years heading into Saturday's game.

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RELIGION

Trusting God in every situation

By Creflo Dollar

Have you ever been in a situation that suddenly imploded on itself and fell apart without warning? Life is unpredictable sometimes, and things can be great one minute and scary the next. If we rely solely on ourselves to accomplish our goals without any guidance from a higher power, we won't get very far without running into real trouble. Thankfully for us, this "higher power" isn't just some fuzzy concept, but a God who knows exactly what we go through every day of our lives.



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When everything goes terribly wrong with no advance warning, we don't have to struggle with it on our own. We have someone in our corner who is God in human form; He's always interceding on our behalf. "Now that we know what we have—Jesus, this great High Priest with ready access to God—let's not let it slip through our fingers. We don't have a priest who is out of touch with our reality. He's been through weakness and testing, experienced it all—all but the sin. So let's walk right up to him and get what he is so ready to give. Take the mercy, accept the help" (Hebrews 4:14-16, MSG). Jesus' promise to help us and deliver us from trouble is something we can confidently believe. Trust-



ing Him when our back is against the wall allows Him to turn failure into success.

The situation may look hopeless, but looks can be deceiving. When Peter saw Jesus walking on water and trusted Him enough to get out of the boat and do the same, he gained the ability to do what looked impossible. That ability came from God, but when Peter became afraid, stopped trusting Jesus, and fell, Jesus still rescued him.

And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, it is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said,

Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? (Matthew 14:26-31).

When the storms of life threaten to drown us—and they will threaten—it takes courage to seek out God's direction on what to do. Having faith means trusting, even if what we hear from Him doesn't make sense at first. When God tested Abraham's faith by telling him to

sacrifice his son, Abraham trusted God (Genesis 22:1-13). God took Abraham out of a nightmarish situation and turned the bad into good; He continues to do this even now.

Disaster can show up unannounced in our lives at any time and in any form, but there's no reason to walk in fear. Jesus has given us His authority over adversity; having faith in this prevents adversity from overcoming us. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5, 6). When we ask Him for help, we'll be amazed at what He can do.



He is my Daddy too

By Dr. Gayle Young, HHP, MA, JD

I am constantly asked why I care so much about men's health and especially the men of God's health. I can't say it in a few words, but here is my truth.

Six days after my 35th birthday, the man that loved me, like no one ever has, my 65-year-old Father, Roosevelt Harrell, Sr., died of a massive heart attack.

He and 7 of his nine siblings, and his parents, who died months apart, died of Cardiomyopathy and Congestive Heart Failure.

Had my precious Daddy lived until March 17, he would have been 66 years young. My Father was my Pastor, Compass, Confidant, Encourager, Life Coach, and Best Friend.

He was the first person to teach me the power of words. He would often say, "Gayle, Baby, remember you get exactly what you say... be careful what you say about yourself."

And my Dad was right. As he began to experience the illness of his ancestors, he began to say, "I pray the Lord lets me live to be 65 years old." And I would remind him what he taught me - our words bring health, life, or death.

That prayer and those words were unhealthy, not life-giving, not the words of a thriver. On October 23, 2001, at 4:00 a.m., my Daddy died.

He was 65 years old! He had only been 65 years old for seven months and nine days. Oh, but words.

That was just too few years for him to hope for and be grateful for.



Dr. Gayle Young

That was just too few years for his only Grandson, my Son Nick, who was just 30 months old at the time of my Father's death. Nick only remembers Daddy from pictures. No memory of those big Granddaddy hugs, wet kisses, and the constant "Paw Paw Loves You, Baby Boy."

My Father's death changed the trajectory of my life. My grief and how it affected my health changed me.

Intentionally, I have dedicated my time, my interest, my prayers, my study, my heart to try to do my part to, the best of my ability, to make sure all guards get to have moments they remember with their grandpa and that girls and boys grow old with their parents.

Please join me monthly at this new column, "He Is My Daddy Too," as I share from my heart and give you, your Daddy, your family a roadmap to health, happiness, and healing. My prayer is that this

See DADDY, on page 5

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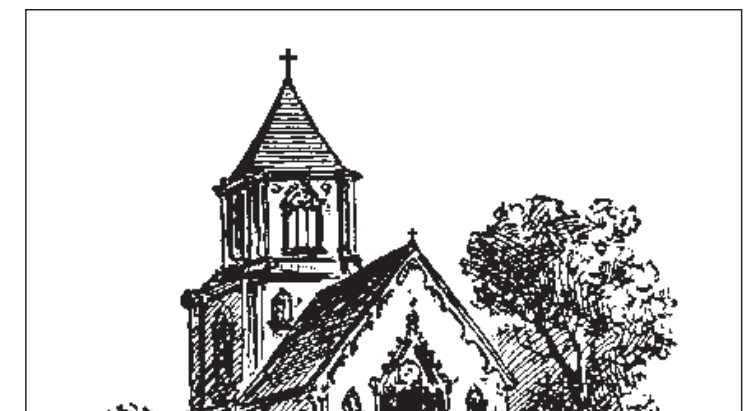
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BUSINESS

Early holiday shopping boosted by urge to 'splurge' in face of inflation, supply issues



People attend the grand opening event of the new Apple store at The Grove on November 19, 2021 in Los Angeles, California.

With fewer COVID-19 restrictions on in-person shopping, data suggests digital commerce revenue is already rising, signaling that economic headwinds aren't slowing the consumer's willingness to spend.

With consumers kicking off the holiday season early given supply chain bottlenecks, revenue from web purchases is up 18% in the U.S. and 8% globally year-over-year, according to Salesforce digital commerce sales data.

"That tells us that consumers have read the headlines about potential issues with product availability and they're shopping early," Rob Garf, VP and GM of Retail at Salesforce, told Yahoo Finance in a recent interview.

Meanwhile, many Americans are suffering from sticker shock after seeing prices rise in recent months. The average selling price (ASP) has soared this holiday season compared to last year, with prices jumping 12% in the U.S. and 11% globally.

"The inflationary concerns are

coming to bear, but there's still a splurge," Garf added. "Consumers are happy, they're feeling good and positive and they're shopping early."

Many Americans began shopping for holiday gifts as early as Halloween — heeding retailers' warnings that supply chain issues could lead to shortages of popular Christmas gifts.

In fact, retailers have pulled back on early-season discounts with rates in the U.S. down 16% and 10% globally, Salesforce data found.

"We're typically seeing an increase at this time of year. I've been calling it this case of discount chicken, where retailers going into the holiday season have this great thought out holiday calendar, and after the first week they rip it up and they call audibles and they discount and they chase the margin," Garf told Yahoo Finance.

"Consumers might not win the game of discount chicken this year," he warned. "Buy early, buy often, especially with product availability

issues."

With inflation — which is at a 31-year record high with prices of goods and services up 6.2% since last year — certain product categories are seeing an uptick in sales this holiday shopping season: luxury handbags is up 59%, furniture 44%, and footwear at 37%.

"What we see is more experimental categories, right? We're going from this last year and a half of needs and we're shifting to wants," Garf said.

Even with sales already in full force at many stores, retailers still expect a big turnout on Black Friday, traditionally among the biggest shopping days of the year.

"For digital in particular, we'll see spikes on Black Friday," Garf said. "Two-thirds of [shoppers] say they will go into the store again. It's really a balance of the digital shopping and the store shopping and really being able to blend that together, creating a seamless experience."

DADDY from page 4

column will bless you and propel you to better health and that your soul will also prosper.

In the next column, I will be sharing how I healed from Cardio-

myopathy, Congestive Heart Failure, tumors, Lupus, Fibromyalgia, Hashimoto's, Depression, Obesity, and 22 medications, and more.

Dr. Gayle Young, an Attorney, and Holistic Health Strategist and Practitioner in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. I use the strategicness of law

along with the skill of a Holistic Practitioner, using all that God created for us to heal and stay in health. I can be reached via email at gayle@laughterinyourbelly.com, 225-421-6772, and <https://one.cards/GayleatLIYBWellness>.

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