

Sun-Reporter



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.30¢
BEST BUY IN THE WEST

Critics: S.F. Mayor Breed Oversaw Divisive Redistricting Process, Pitting Blacks And Asians

Antonio Ray Harvey
California Black Media

Last week, when the final supervisorial district maps were presented and approved by the San Francisco Redistricting Task Force, Black activists got what they wanted: the few remaining areas of the city with large Black populations were drawn into the same voting district.



Reverend Arnold Townsend



Mayor London Breed

But before that happy conclusion, the Golden Gate City witnessed a contentious and dramatic redistricting process marred by infighting, name calling and at least one incident when task force members walked out of a meeting.

As the political dust

settles, a number of sources, including some supporters of Shamann Walton, the only Black member and President of San Francisco's Board of Supervisors, say Mayor London Breed contributed to the chaos that ensued during the redistricting process that

pitted Black and Asian voters against each other.

Those critics allege that, at one point, the mayor even supported a draft map that watered down the city's Black

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VP Harris In Town To Promote Maternal Health Care



The Vice President visited the University of California San Francisco Mission Bay as a part of her continued leadership addressing the maternal health crisis. While at the William J. Rutter Center at UCSF, the Vice President will discuss the EMBRACE program, which uses an innovative approach to improving maternal health outcomes, particularly for Black women. She met with expecting families, joined a group perinatal session, and spoke with members of the health care workforce. This visit follows last week, when the Vice President marked Black Maternal Health Week by convening a historic meeting with Cabinet Secretaries and agency leaders to discuss the Administration's whole-of-government approach to addressing maternal mortality and morbidity. The Vice President brought together leaders across the federal government – including agencies that may not have historically taken a leading role addressing the maternal health crisis. Pictured above with VP Harris are UCSF President Dr. Michael Drake, Program Administrator Hope Williams and interim head of OB-GYN Dr. Andrea Jackson. Continued on page 2.

California Attorney General Joins Coalition Pushing Back On “Pay To Pay” Mortgage Fees

Antonio Ray Harvey
California Black Media

Last week, California Attorney General Rob Bonta called on the federal government to outlaw additional fees companies charge homeowners for paying their mortgages.

California is joining 20 other states and the District of Columbia in the effort.

“Some financial service providers charge fees if a consumer decides to use a certain type of payment method, such as making a payment over the telephone, through a website, or through a third-party service,” Bonta and other attorneys general wrote in a letter they co-signed addressed to Rohit Chopra, Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). The Hawaii Office of Consumer Protection also signed the letter.

“While these type of “pay to pay” fees are charged by service providers in several different markets, the issues raised by these fees are particularly insidious in the mortgage industry because, unlike most marketplaces, homeowners have no choice in their mortgage servicer,” the letter continued.



When homeowners decide to take out a mortgage, many believe that they are entering into a long-term relationship with a specific financial institution. That is not always the case, according to the California Department of Justice (DOJ).

After origination “many mortgage loans and their servicing rights are sold in secondary markets,” and could be “sold many times over the course of the loan,” the DOJ states.

“This means that homeowners don't and can't know who will service their mortgage loan and are therefore unable to avoid ‘pay to pay’ fees by taking their business elsewhere,” The DOJ explained.

Bonta said the problem is

critical in California because the state is already facing a housing affordability problem.

“As costs of living continue to rise, the last thing Californians need is mortgage servicers taking advantage of this captive market in order to pad their bottom lines,” Bonta said. “I urge CFPB to put a stop to these abusive junk fees.”

Homeowners and renters in California struggle with the costs of housing costs and taxes. Additional fees companies tack onto payments increase those burdens on consumers in the Golden State, where only about 31 % of households can afford to buy a median priced home, according to the Public Policy Institute of California.

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Calif. Reparations Task Force Is Working To Repair Communications Strategy

Antonio Ray Harvey
California Black Media

Sen. Steven Bradford (D - Gardena) summed up what he viewed as the reason for low turnout and public engagement at the ninth meeting of the California Task Force to Study and Develop Reparations Proposals for African Americans.

“Rudimentary, basic communications of alerting the community about meetings must be mandatory. That's the part where we failed. We have a great story to tell but we are not telling it,” Bradford said April 14 during the second session of the two-day meeting.

“Frankly, I thought we'd have standing-room only these two days. I thought everybody in California wanted to be here. I think we missed the mark in promoting the first in-person meeting. That's where the frustration is and where it is with me.”

Held at the Third Baptist Church in San Francisco, located in the city's historic Fillmore District, the first in-person meeting since the task force convened in June 2021 was hosted by the Rev. Amos Brown, who is vice chair of the task force.



Brown, who is also president of San Francisco's NAACP branch, said the panel's communication's strategy, or lack thereof, “has been compromised.”

The few dozen attending the meeting had no difficulty finding a seat in the large sanctuary of the historic church, which is a city landmark.

Founded 170 years ago, the Third Baptist has been a spiritual and cultural hub for local community leaders and hosted national icons, including WEB DuBois, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, Josephine Baker, Adam Clayton Powell Jr, and Paul Robeson.

Leading up to the April meeting, there were simmering disagreements about the public relations strategy of

the task force. The tensions came to a head when task force chair Kamillah Moore expressed her “concerns” with the firms contracted to handle communications at the March 29 meeting.

For nearly two hours at that meeting, the panel discussed challenges it has experienced with the contracted communications teams.

The Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA); Young Communications Group, a Los Angeles-based PR firm; and A/B Partners, a national social impact

firm — were contracted to run the task force communication shop through the California

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VP Harris In Town To Promote Maternal Health Care

Photos by Amelia Ashley-Ward



VP Harris meets the press in S.F.



VP Harris is back home



Sydel Curry Lee and Ayesha Curry were on hand at UCSF to support the Maternal Health Program. They are talking to Ashley-Ward.



The VP's motorcade on Highway 101



VP Harris chats with members of the hospital's Maternal Health Program.

Sun Reporter



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Carlton B. Goodlett, PH.D., MD., Editor/Publisher 1945-1997

Amelia Ashley-Ward Editor/Publisher



Dr. Theresa Oaklan, shown with her infant, is a member of the OB-GYN's Embrace program at UCSF.



VP Harris is accompanied by Dr. Andrea Jackson.



The VP's plane Airforce Two

Leaders: Asm. Patrick O'Donnell Must Address Black Student Underperformance

Tanu Henry
California Black Media

A coalition of California educators, civil rights groups, religious leaders, parents, students and other concerned citizens are calling on elected officials in Sacramento to do something about the continuing underperformance of Black students on California state standardized tests.

"We are in California, the Golden State, where Democrats hold a supermajority in the Legislature and where the governor is a Democrat. People that call themselves progressive have the authority and license to rectify the wrongs that have been served to African American Californians for generations," said Dr. Margaret Fortune, an education advocate and founder of a network of seven charter schools in Sacramento and San Bernardino that focuses on closing the African American achievement gap and preparing students for college.

Fortune was speaking at a rally the National Action Network (NAN) Los Angeles Chapter held last week

at the L.A. County office



of Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell (D-Long Beach), chair of the Assembly Education Committee.

In the hall outside of O'Donnell's office, Fortune was standing with other advocates, activists, elected officials and students, carrying placards, and punctuating speeches the group's leaders made with chants of "no justice, no peace."

The demonstrators were calling on O'Donnell to schedule an Assembly

Education Committee on Assembly Bill (AB) 2774. The legislation would provide additional funding aimed at improving the scores of the lowest performing subgroup of students on the state's assessment tests, according to the bill's language.

Assemblymember Akilah Weber (D-San Diego) introduced AB 2774 in February. The bill is co-authored by Assemblymember Chris Holden (D-Pasadena), chair of the Assembly

Appropriations Committee. Both Weber and Holden are members of the California Legislative Black Caucus.

Referring to funding requirements included in AB 2774, Fortune said, "this would generate an additional \$400 million a year in perpetuity for the schools that serve Black students – because Black students are the lowest performing subgroup."

Only 18% of Black students in California pass Math on statewide standardized tests

and only 23% meet the English Language Arts requirement, according to data compiled by the California Department of Education (CDE).

There are nearly 310,000 Black students enrolled in California's public schools.

"Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell's continued denial of a hearing for AB 2774 is intentional. It is yet another way the State of California and many of its elected representatives use their authority to hold back and manipulate the resources and conditions that would help our children overcome the racialized cumulative disadvantages in their K-12 Education," said Christina Laster, NAN Western Regional Education Advisor and Liaison.

"We are opposed to such tactics and urge O'Donnell and the State of California to firmly establish their investment into the lowest performing subgroup of students statewide," Laster added.

In California, funding for local educational agencies (called L-E-As for short by state government insiders) is determined by the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), which was first

implemented in 2013.

The LCFF is based on a three-tiered structure. The first provides general funding to all education agencies. The second directs supplemental funding to agencies that meet specified criteria. The third approves concentrated funding, "which is generally required based on persistent performance issues over a specified period of time," according to the CDE.

Approximately, 80,000 Black students in the state do not meet receive any additional funding under the LCFF, according to data compiled by the CDE.

Among the demonstrators at the Long Beach rally were Dr. Tecoy Porter, who serves as California

State President of NAN and the organization's Sacramento chapter president. The Rev. Jonathan E.D. Moseley, Interim President of NAN's L.A. County chapter, also attended and spoke.

"We are going to come back if we don't hear from O'Donnell in the next five to 10 days," said Moseley.

"We will be back because our children's education and future are at stake," he ended.

Military Vets Celebrate Bill That Would Exempt Their Pensions From Taxes

Aldon Thomas Stiles |
California Black Media

Last week, in Redlands -- a San Bernardino County city about 63 miles east of Los Angeles -- U.S. military vets joined Assemblymember James Ramos (D-Highland) at a rally in support of Assembly Bill (AB) 1623.

The legislation would implement a statewide tax exemption for military retirees.

Jeff Breiten, a Marine Corps veteran who lives in Redlands, says this bill would be a way to give back to service members.

"California's military retirees appreciate the fact that Assemblyman Ramos has stepped forward to carry this bill," said Breiten. "This legislation will not only provide a well-earned benefit to those who served our country for 20 years or more, it will also

help retain and attract to California these retirees who will lend their skills during second careers in a variety of key industries and professions across the great state of California."

Ramos, who is the only Native American in the California Assembly, introduced the bill in January along with Assemblymember Kelly Seyarto (R-Murrieta).

"Military retirees bring benefits to our state such as stability, job skills used in second careers, and federal funding," said Ramos. "These men and women have served our nation in a variety of valuable capacities, and they and their families have frequently done so at great personal sacrifice. California needs to acknowledge the contributions more fully they make."

AB 1623 would "require the Legislative Analyst and state Department of Veterans Affairs to produce an analysis of the tax exemption based on the number

of retirees claiming it and to determine whether the tax relief has aided in the retirees' financial security and increased the numbers of retirees choosing to remain in California," according to the bill's text.

Ramos noted that California is one of only nine states that fully taxes the pay of its 146,000 former service members who are military retirees.

Ramos says that he hopes AB 1623 will make California more appealing to vets, incentivizing them to move to the state and boost its economy.

The California Council of Chapters of the Military Officers Association of America (CALMOAA) has

expressed support for the bill.

"Military retirees have a steady income and bring stability to the community," said Fred Green, president of CALMOAA and a retired Navy lieutenant commander. "It should be noted that not all military retirees collect their retirement immediately. Reservists and National Guard

members collect retirement at age 60. Regardless, we continue to support our community and our economy after our retirement from the military."

As the bill is currently written, California Assembly would have until Jan. 2033 to implement the tax exemption.

California's Personal Income Tax Law currently only excludes combat-related compensation.

"We contribute to job growth and boost sales tax revenues. Thirty states understand this and do not tax military retirement income," Green continued. "Most military retirees pursue second careers where they utilize their training, technical skills, leadership, and knowledge. After my service in the Navy as an engineer, I became an elementary school teacher and adjunct college professor to give back to my community.

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The Sun-Reporter

EDITORIAL

We wish to plead our own cause.
Too long have others spoken for us.

Freedom's Journal, March 16, 1827.

Op-Ed: Prostate Cancer Rising In Black America

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., President and CEO, National Newspaper Publishers Association

As the United States continues to grapple with its legacy of systemic racism, debates on issues such as police brutality and racial profiling, the economic gulf between Blacks and Whites, and the dearth of access to affordable educational opportunities, there is one area that has received far less attention: The gap in positive health outcomes that African Americans – and particularly Black men – face.

While the COVID-19 pandemic shined a light on these fissures, its beam barely touched the edges of

the problem. Yet according to government data, Black Americans are generally at higher risk for heart diseases, stroke, cancer, asthma, influenza and pneumonia, diabetes and HIV/AIDS than their white counterparts. Black people also have the highest death rate and shortest survival of any racial/ethnic group in the United States for most cancers.

These are abhorrent figures anyway you look at them, but especially when considering that many of these deadly diseases – at least when detected early – are treatable and survivable. Prostate cancer, for example, has a five-year survival rate for men diagnosed with it of greater than 99 percent if the cancer is

detected during the early stage.

Yet, Black men have a 70 percent higher rate of developing prostate cancer than white men, and research from the American Cancer Society found that Black men are more than twice as likely to die from prostate cancer than their White counterparts.

One of the key reasons for these staggering disparities is the fact that Black men are overall less aware of the threat this form of cancer poses to them and have less resources available to them to receive testing and monitoring for the disease. Thankfully there are members of the Black community like billionaire investor Robert F. Smith, The Today Show Co-host Al Roker, and activist comedians such as



Chris Tucker and Steve Harvey who are raising their voices – and contributing their dollars – to combat this affliction.

Robert Smith, for example, recently donated \$4 million of his own money to New York City's Mount Sinai Medical Center to create the Robert F. Smith Mobile Prostate Cancer Screening Unit. This mobile home-sized bus will tour New York City neighborhoods where men are at a higher risk of developing prostate cancer and offer screenings and educational materials about the disease.

This proactive approach that brings diagnosis tools directly to the communities most at risk is the type of action that our nation needs when it comes to battling a disease that more than 13 percent of African American men are expected to develop in their lifetime. But Smith can't be

the only one doing this and New York City cannot be the only place where this type of outreach is occurring.

Whether it is other philanthropists, local or regional health centers, or state and federal officials, there is a desperate need for creative solutions to getting more people screened and saving more lives. Smith's initiative is an innovative approach, but there are other ways to spread awareness and boost screenings in the Black community.

Whether it be through an advertising and outreach campaign to pop-up health centers and tents, the COVID-19 vaccine push in the Black and other minority communities can serve as a good example of how to quickly and efficiently get more Black men screened for the disease.

For too long, prostate cancer

among Black men – and the disparity in health outcomes within the community overall – has remained relatively low profiled, but now we have a way to resolve this issue. The pioneering Black journalist and one of the effective voices and leaders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Ida B. Wells said it best, "The way to right wrong is to turn the light of truth on them." It is long overdue to turn on a brighter national light on prostate cancer and Black America.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr is President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and Executive Producer/Host of The Chavis Chronicles on PBS TV stations throughout the United States who can be reached at dr.bchavis@nnpa.org

An Extraordinary Life, Linking Past and Present

By Ben Jealous

I was trained to fight by my grandmother, Mamie Bland Todd. She would often remind me, "Pessimists are right more often, but optimists win more often."

"In this life you have to decide what's more important to you." Then she would add, "As for me, I'll take winning."

My favorite optimist died recently at 105.

For our family, she was the last living link to our story of origin in antebellum Southern Virginia. Three of her grandparents were Black and born into slavery. The fourth was white and helped run a plantation.

She and my grandfather made the great migration north to the Up South that is Baltimore. Their love story was the bridge to our family's life in modern America.

She carried lessons from the old world with her. She learned to fight from her

paternal grandfather, Edward David Bland. He was born into slavery in his white uncle's house. He would defeat one of his white cousins to become one of the last Black Reconstruction statesmen in Virginia.

He was also the Black leader of a multiracial populist movement made up of former slaves and former Confederate soldiers. His white counterpart was former Confederate General William Mahone. Theirs was a coalition of working men, Black and white. Most of them were farmers with rough hands and dirty fingernails.

Together they built a movement in the early 1880s that created Virginia State University, expanded Virginia Tech, and secured the future of free public education for every child in the commonwealth. Their common enemy was the far right-wing politicians who said Virginia could not afford the universal free public education that had been created during Reconstruction.

Publicly, these wealthy conservatives said the state could not afford both free public education and paying off Civil War debt. Privately, they feared free universal public education would render both poor whites and poor Blacks ungovernable.

Bland and Mahone's multiracial movement also attacked voter suppression, outlawing the poll tax and several other measures meant to make it harder for Blacks and low-income whites to vote.

When they took control of the state legislature, they made Mahone a U.S. Senator. Without forgetting the sins of the past, the men they led each chose to invest in new-found unity rather than renew old hurts and divisions.

What united those men was their commitment to providing a better future for their children. They recognized that what the children of working families – Black and white – needed more than anything was access to a free

high-quality education. In short, they needed what the children of plantation owners took for granted.

My grandmother was born in 1916. She was a third-generation NAACP member who rebelled against Jim Crow without hesitation.

As a young teacher, she confronted the white man who was the local superintendent of schools. She convinced him that just like white teachers, Black teachers could not teach without adequate supplies. He rectified the problem at her segregated all-Black school the next day.

Two decades later, she would support my mom when at age 12 she signed on as a named plaintiff in one of the feeder cases to Brown v Board of Education. When my mom desegregated her local high school at 15, my grandmother was with her every step of the way.

Ultimately, however, my grandmother, like her grandfather, could not escape



Ben Jealous

the moral imperative that children of every color who are struggling need the same protections and supports. She would go on to found Child Protective Services for the city of Baltimore and lead Maryland's effort to replicate the program statewide.

Like Bland, she built an army of warriors for social change. In her case, it was an army of social workers, who were mostly women. Among them was a young white woman and future U.S. senator named Barbara Mikulski.

Four years ago, when I was the Democratic nominee for governor of Maryland, I bumped into Sen. Mikulski at a women's political event. She looked at me and said, "You're Mamie Todd's grandson."

I said, "I am," and I watched a tear roll down her face.

As I close this week's column, tears are running down mine.

Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way and Professor of the Practice in the Africana Studies Department at the University of Pennsylvania where he teaches leadership. Jealous has decades of experience as a leader, coalition builder, campaigner for social justice and seasoned nonprofit executive. In 2008, he was chosen as the youngest-ever president and CEO of the NAACP. He is a graduate of Columbia University and Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar, and he has taught at Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania.

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RELIGIOUS SECTION

THE BAY AREA'S CHURCH NEWS & ACTIVITIES



Sunday School Lesson

By Shunda Criswell

God's Comfort In Trouble

Lesson Text: 2 (The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty). Troubles (1 Corinthians 1:1-11)

Place: from Macedonia

Time: probably A.D. 58

Golden Text: "God comforteth us in all our tribulation, that he may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God" (2 Corinthians 1:4).

One of the many paradoxes of the Christian life is that the grace of God is most keenly experienced not in the best but in what seem to be the worst of times. However much a Christian longs for exaltation (1 Corinthians 4:8), it is often in humiliation that he finds grace (2 Corinthians 12:9). That theme pervades this letter and finds poignant expression in Paul's thanksgiving.

(The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty). Troubles ("pressures, distresses") are mentioned nine times by Paul in this letter (in verse 4 (twice); sometimes the word is translated "troubles," other times "hardships"). Paul also used the corresponding verb three times in this epistle ("distressed," 1:6; "hard-pressed," 4:8; "harassed," 7:5). Troubles are experienced by all Christians. And the Apostle Paul probably endured more pressures than nearly all his readers. Troubles, Paul said, help Christians shift their perspective from the external and temporal to the internal and external (2 Corinthians 1:9; 4:17-18). The source of all comfort in the midst of troubles is God Himself, to whom Paul gave three titles:

the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (cf. identical wording in Ephesians 1:3; 1 Peter 1:3), the Father (i.e., the Originator) of compassion, and the God of all comfort. This same God had sustained Paul through his suffering (2 Corinthians 1:8-9) and delivered him from it (v. 10). "Compassion" translates the Greek *oiktirmōn*, used only four other times in the New Testament (rendered "mercy" in Romans 12:1 and Hebrews 10:28, and "compassion" in Philippians 2:1 and Colossians 3:12). Just as spiritual gifts are not intended solely for the recipients' benefit but are to be used in turn for the service of others (1 Peter 4:10), so comfort received from God enables believers to comfort others. The comfort of God is channeled through people (see Acts 9:10-19; 2 Cor. 7:6) and by means of prayer (1:11). (The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty). (2 Corinthians 1:3-4). The sufferings Paul experienced were a consequence of his relationship to Christ (read Matthew 5:11; Colossians 1:24). As Paul continued to preach the gospel, he suffered at the hands of men (see, 2 Corinthians 11:23-26) and from privations which were a part of his task. But Paul's sufferings for Christ were accompanied by a comfort that overflowed.

In referring to the sufferings of Christ (2 Corinthians 1:5), sufferings we suffer (v. 6), and our sufferings (v. 7), the apostle probably had in mind either the suffering he experienced in Asia which he referred to next (v. 8) or the pain brought to him by the problems of the Corinthian church. Both kinds may be in mind, but if it was primarily the latter to which he referred (cf. 7:5) then the Corinthians' own suffering was similar. Paul's severe letter (7:8) produced in them a profound sorrow as they understood how their reprehensible behavior had grieved Paul (7:9). It had certainly distressed him to write it, but he did it out of love for them, for their comfort and salvation (2 Corinthians 7:10). The aspect of salvation suggested here is their advance in sanctification, which in fact this letter produced. The Corinthians' response brought comfort to both themselves and Paul and reaffirmed Paul's hope (2 Corinthians 1:7) that God indeed had His hand on their lives (again read Hebrews 12:7-8). In addition, the Corinthians' comfort produced in them patient endurance (*hypomonē*; steadfastness in the face of unpleasant circumstances. (The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty). (2 Corinthians 1:5-7). The hope in God which sustained Paul

in his relationship with the Corinthians was also effective in his own life. Apparently, the Corinthians had some knowledge of this hardship, possibly communicated to them by Titus, but they did not appreciate its severity. Rather than gloss over his feeling of despair and helplessness in this situation Paul underscored it forcefully to illustrate how powerless both he and the Corinthians were apart from God and to stress how important is prayer as a means of effecting God's gracious intervention and aid.

Paul believed he would die. He was under such great pressure far beyond his human ability to endure, so that he despaired even of life and felt the sentence of. Certainly, the Christian life was for him no bed of roses! Some suggest that this experience irrevocably altered Paul's perspective on his own destiny. Before this he expressed the hope that he might be numbered among those who would be alive at the coming of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17). Now his focus was on the resurrection (Philippians 3:10-11).

What was sure was Paul's trust that God would deliver him from the peril of death (2 Corinthians 4:8-14) until his course was run (2 Timothy 4:7), and his task completed. Then later God, he knew,

would deliver him from the dead (see 1 Corinthians 15:55; 2 Cor. 4:14). Paul had a firm hope in the Corinthians and also in the Lord. The prayers of the Corinthians were part of this deliverance, a means ordained by God to fulfill His will among people. (The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty). (2 Corinthians 1:8-11).

This lesson reminds us of these words, "Our hope is set on God, and our faith in Him is fixed. Suffering cannot our peace and joy. We can surrender them by giving in to temptation or negative thinking, but they cannot be stolen from a child of God. Remember that hope in the Lord is not wishful thinking—it is a sure thing. Although Paul was sorely afflicted throughout his years of service to the gospel, he always understood a key divine purpose for his sufferings, namely, to trust in God alone. God's priorities for our good are primarily eternal, not temporal. Let us be reminded the following: 1) Christians help one another endure tough times through steadfast prayer; 2) God gives His people the grace and peace they need to fulfill their purpose; and lastly, 3) God's comfort toward us has multiplied benefit; it is used through us to help other. (Be Blessed)!!!"

THE SUN-REPORTER CHURCH DIRECTORY

Little Zion Baptist Church
1245 Divisadero Street
San Francisco, CA

Sunday School 9:00am
Morning Worship 11:am
Evening Worship 6:pm

El Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Keval L. McNeill,
Pastor

1320 Golden Gate
San Francisco, CA.
921-4850, 921-0878

Church School 9: am
Children's Church 10:am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Bible Study 1-2pm & 6:30-7:30pm
Prayer meeting Wednesday 12:00 Noon

St. Peter's Missionary Baptist Church

1601 Newcomb Avenue
San Francisco, CA.
94124
Rev. Dr. J.P. Alexander

Church School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 11: am
Tuesday Usher meeting 7:pm
Wednesday Bible Study 7: pm
Tuesday Choir Rehearsal 7: pm
Prayer and Teacher meeting Wednesday 7:30PM

Neighborhood Baptist Church

608 Hayes Street
San Francisco, CA
Rev. Lane Hawkins

Sunday School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 11: am
Evening Worship 6: pm
Bible Class Monday 5: pm

Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church

6190 3rd Street
San Francisco, CA.
94124
Phone: (415) 822-4071
Fax: (415) 822-0156

Rev. Kenneth R. Reece
Pastor

Sunday School 9:00 am
Morning Worship 10:25 am
Communion Every 1st Sunday
Baptism Every 2nd Sunday
Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 6:30-8:30 pm Wednesday
Abundant Life Recovery Ministry 6:30 pm Mondays

Evergreen Baptist Church

6270 3rd Street
San Francisco, CA.

Rev. Jackey Wilson
Pastor

Sunday School 9:15 am
Morning Worship 10:40: am
Wendnesday Teacher's Meeting 6: pm
Sr. Mission 5: pm
Children's Bible Study 5: pm
Bible Study 6:45 pm
Saturday Food Pantry 10-11 am

Ascension Baptist Church

1311 Quesada ave.
San Francisco, CA.
94124
(415) 822-9488

Rev. Anthony Anderson

Morning Worship 10:15: am
Bible Study Tuesday 6:30 PM
Church School Wednesday 7: pm
Communion every 1st Sunday

Shekinah Christian Fellowship

790 Tennessee St.
San Francisco, CA.
94107
(415) 646-0747

Ella Henderson, Bishop & Founder of SCF

Tyrone and Demetra Hillman
Pastor
Sunday School - 9:am
Morning worship - 10:15 am
Radio: Sunday 9:30 am KDVA
TV: Tuesday and Friday 8:30am
KTLN Total Living Network

Ebenezer Baptist Church

275 Divisadero Street
San Francisco, CA.

Sunday School 9:15 am
Morning Worship 10:45: am
Evening Worship 7:30 pm

Mount Calvary Baptist Church

4000 Middlefield Rd.
(Cubberly Community CTR)
Palo Alto, CA. 94306
(650) 569-6944
Rev. Roy Northington
Pastor

Sunday School - 10:am
Morning worship - 11:00 am
Wednesday Bible Discussion 7: pm
Come and Listen to Rev. Roy Northington, a gifted speaker, as he delivers the most powerful and timely message of our day and age. Prepare to be changed. Expect to be changed

Providence Baptist Church

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Critics Say Proposal To Shorten Workweek To 32 Hours Is “Job Killer”

Manny Otiko
California Black Media

Some California legislators want to shorten the standard American workweek from 40 hours to 32.

But critics of the proposed law say it will hurt productivity and slash business' revenues.

Assemblymembers Cristina Garcia (D-Bell Gardens) and Evan Low (D-San Jose) introduced Assembly Bill 2932 in February. The legislation aims to limit the work to eight-hour days and 32 hours per week for companies with 500 or employees. However, the bill forbids companies from reducing workers' pay.

If lawmakers approve the legislation, it will

affect 50.4% of California businesses, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration Office of

Advocacy. The other 49.6 % of business in the state have between 1 and 499 employees.

According to the proposed bill, which is currently under review in the Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment, work above 32 hours per week would count as overtime.

“Any work in excess of eight hours in one workday and any work in excess of 32 hours in any one workweek and the first eight hours worked on the seventh day of work in any one workweek shall be compensated at the rate of no less than one and one-half times the regular rate of pay

for an employee,” the bill language reads. “Any work in excess of 12 hours in one day shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the regular rate of pay for an employee.”

Last year, Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA-41) introduced a similar federal bill.

Takano says a 32-hour workweek would improve worker productivity and reduce employer premiums spent on healthcare.

“I am introducing this legislation to reduce the standard workweek to 32 hours because -- now more than ever -- people continue to work longer hours while their pay remains stagnant,” said Takano. “We cannot continue to accept this as our reality.

Many countries and businesses that have experimented with a four-day workweek found it to be an overwhelming success as productivity grew and wages increased.”

“After the COVID-19 pandemic left so many millions of Americans unemployed or underemployed, a shorter workweek will allow more people to participate in the labor market at better wages,” the lawmaker continued.

The 32-hour workweek has been experimented with in Iceland, where it was deemed a success. According to the Association for Sustainable Democracy in Iceland, workers who tried the new workweek format reported less burnout, improved productivity and health, and less stress.

The proposed shorter workweek has also been tried in the U.S. at Kickstarter, a global crowdfunding platform, and D’Youville College, a private school in Buffalo, N.Y.

However, some members of the business community in California have already criticized the proposed law, saying it is one more burden that lawmakers are placing on the back of businessowners in the state.

Ashley Hoffman, a policy advocate with the California Chamber of Commerce, described the bill as “a job killer” in a letter to Low.

“This significant rise in labor costs will not be sustainable for many businesses. Labor costs are often one of the highest costs a business

faces. Such a large increase in labor costs will reduce businesses' ability to hire or create new positions and will therefore limit job growth in California,” said Hoffman.

American workers are infamous for working long hours and taking shorter vacations according to workers in other industrialized nations. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the average American worker put in 1,770 hours a year. OECD also stated that American workers labor longer than all workers living in the world's largest economies.

California Continued from page 1

African American homeowners in California also potentially face increased costs due to documented discriminatory practices common in the homebuying and selling processes.

Last year, Gov. Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 948 after several reports revealed home appraisers

valued homes owned by Blacks and other minorities at much lower prices than ones owned by Whites.

Wells Fargo has come under

fire more than once for its discriminatory lending and banking services. According to findings of a Bloomberg News analysis released last month, the global San Francisco-based financial services company rejected 53 % of Black homeowners who applied for refinancing loans during the pandemic in 2020. It only rejected 28 % of White applicants.

The board of the California-Hawaii State Conference of the NAACP met this weekend to discuss Wells Fargo's record on providing its services to

African American customers.

Among the country's major lenders, Wells Fargo's gap between Whites and Blacks the company approved for loans was the widest.

According to Zillow's Consumer Housing Trends Report released last year, Black and other minority renters pay more in application fees and security deposits when renting apartments. They also fill out

more rental applications, on average, before finding a place to live than White renters.

The multistate coalition's letter says, “There is no uniformity in convenience fees among mortgage servicers. Some charge them and some don't.”

And the charges can add up.

For example, the letter spotlights one servicer that currently charges its borrowers \$7.50 to make an online payment or pay via telephone through an automated service. If consumers want to speak to a live operator to make their payment, they will be charged \$17.50.

Based out of New Jersey, the mortgage company that provides this service calls the process “SpeedPay,” which is one of the “one-time payment options” that a borrower may use to make his or her monthly mortgage payment, as stated on the company's website.

States joining the initiative are Illinois, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of

Columbia, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New

York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Washington.

Bonta agrees, adding that the payments are “one example of junk fees charged to consumers in a multitude of financial products and services” offered by some banks, credit card companies, pre-paid debit card providers and others.

For struggling homeowners trying to make their monthly mortgage payment, ‘pay to pay’ fees only rub salt in the wound,” said the California Attorney General.

Reparations Continued from page 1

Department of Justice.

No representative from the communication firms showed up at last week's meeting, which was attended by six of the nine task force members on the first day. Eight task force members were present the second day.

Due to the high levels of tension that surfaced at the meeting in March, task force member Dr. Cheryl Grills said A/B Partners “resigned,” fearing harm to its reputation and the “vote of no confidence” in the company's work as reflected in the statements of some task force members.

Concerns about the Bunche Center and two communications firms were related to “seven anchor organizations” charged with conducting community listening sessions.

Aside from the task force meetings, the anchor organizations are responsible for hosting public-engagement sessions in April, May, and June.

Grills, a professor of psychology at Loyola Marymount University, defended the Bunche Center,

citing unique structural challenges hindering the organization because it functions under the umbrella state government. Grills said

those problems delayed the center from performing its duties although it was “operating at warp speed” to make good on deliverables.

The bottom line, Grills shared, is that the Bunche Center has to abide by UCLA's snail-paced process of handling contracts. The staff at the center missed two important “deliverables” in January and February waiting for greenlights from higher ups.

“The approval process is not under the purveyance of the Bunche Center,” Grills said. “We must understand that UCLA is a high-level bureaucracy of the state of California, which means that nothing happens quickly.”

Task force member Jovan Scott Lewis, chair of the Department of Geography at UC Berkeley, supported Grills' explanation by providing his experiences with the UC system of schools.

UCLA's Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) review and approve proposals and

contracts before a research project is conducted. And each anchor organization is required to submit applications to be categorized as “vendors” by the university.

“I think that there is something to be said for the complications of getting something out of this process,” Lewis said. “When you add in the actual intellectual

limits of the (anchor organizations), the requirements are typical for IRB. It's quite reasonable to think about the delays. That's the UC system's (process).”

Michael Stoll, professor of public policy and urban planning, the new director of the Black Policy Project, which is housed at the Bunche Center, addressed some of the panel's concerns by phone.

Grill said it has not been a smooth experience but offered assurances that the Bunche Center will respond to the anchor organizations' needs and provide guidance for listening sessions.

“I think we've been fairly responsive,” Stoll said of addressing the anchor organizations' needs. “Our goal was to plan and execute

the listening sessions to their best potential as possible, and I think we are doing it fairly well.”

Young Communications Group (YCG), a Los Angeles-based public relations firm, did not attend the meeting in San Francisco.

While operating without financial resources, Grills said the task force, YCG and A/B partners were in the process of finalizing contracts and were ready to proceed with directions from the nine-member panel.

“Everything came to a halt at our March meeting,” Grills said. “Unfortunately, we may have put a negative spin on the reputations of communications firms that have spent years building credibility.”

Since the start of 2022, national media coverage of the task force has increased, including Moore's appearance on MSNBC's Tiffany Cross Show to discuss the panel's decision to use lineage over race as the factor that determines who is eligible for compensation. That decision squeaked through with a 5-4 majority vote.

Lewis was interviewed

by NBC Nightly News for a reparations-related clip involving Black Gold Rush pioneers who may have lost their land to the state in the 1940s. Other members of the task force have made their media rounds as well.

Members of the task force say they want the community-engaged listening sessions to happen without a hitch.

Seven anchor organizations will host public listening sessions that will help the task force hear various perspectives of Black Californians as it assesses the state's involvement in slavery and Jim Crow discrimination.

Chris Lodgson, a founding member of the Coalition for A Just and Equitable California (CJEC), one of the host organizations, told the task force in San Francisco to add more communications firms.

“I gotta keep it business with you but the performance of the communications firms has been subpar,” Lodgson said. “I want to encourage (the task force) to find additional firms to get the word out to the community.”

Before the April meeting ended, Moore who is listed

on the ballot as a candidate for the 28th District Senate seat, was officially appointed the task force's spokesperson. She and Grills will serve on the “solutions-oriented” Advisory Board Committee working directly with the Bunche Center and Young Communications to “triage” media and public affairs activities, Moore said.

“What we're dealing with can be complex and convoluted,” task force member Monica Montgomery-Steppe said. “And getting that across on a national stage, because we are the example of what we hope for this nation, does need a larger strategy...a level of experience.”

By statute, the task force will issue a report to the Legislature by June 1, 2022, which will be available to the public.

Bradford said the communication shop can be instrumental in writing press releases and speeches, conducting research, problem-solving and disseminating information.

“This (Task Force to Study and Develop Reparations) will sell itself if we get it to the right people,” he said.

Breed

Continued from page 1

vote, ultimately weakening the political power of Walton, who is a political adversary.

Every 10 years, the San Francisco Redistricting Task Force, which is made up of appointed volunteers, is

charged with drawing 11 equally populated supervisorial districts. For this year, the San Francisco's Department of Elections expects to have the new redistricted map by May 2 for the November 2022 general election. Supervisorial districts 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 are on the ballot.

Typically, the redistricting process is quiet and uneventful. But this year it was contentious and dramatic as evidenced when the nine-member task force presented a draft map on April 14.

Black activists and residents pushed back on that draft map, demanding the city's majority Black districts remain in the same voting district. Their main concern was losing their only voice at City Hall if some District 10 neighborhoods are moved to District 9 as proposed on the April 14 draft map presented by the San Francisco Redistricting Task Force.

"We need a fair map that keeps Potrero Hill, Bayview, (and) Sunnydale together," Black community organizer Cheryl Thornton posted on April 14 on her Facebook page. "We are a community of interest, and we will not

be removed from (District 10). We are demanding a fair map that does not dilute the Black Voting voice."

They said it was the only way to ensure they have Black representation on the Board of Supervisors in a city where the African American population has fallen to below 6%.

According to sources, who did not want to go on record, Breed and Walton have a frosty relationship. And Walton is likely to challenge Breed in the upcoming mayoral race.

Theresa Duque, Executive Director of San Francisco Community Empowerment Center (SFCEC), a non-profit community agency, said the Black and Latino communities deserve to have representation on the Board of Supervisors.

SFCEC has been in District 9 since 2006 and prefers to remain there. The agency provides referrals for affordable housing, food stamps, counseling, translation, advocacy, citizenship classes, and ESL classes for adults in San Bruno and San Francisco.

"The reason they want to do this is that they want to control the Asian community in District 10 so that it will overlap the African American community in the Bay View District. That is something that I don't want," Duque told California Black Media (CBM). "We should have a voice (the Asian community) in District 9 and the African

Americans should have a voice in District 10."

The Asian community was split on the issue. While Duque and others want to remain in District 9, another group wants to combine Portola with the Visitacion neighborhood, which is in District 10. The two neighborhoods, with a large Asian population, have been disconnected for 20 years.

On April 14, five members voted to reject the map, including chairperson, the Rev. Arnold Townsend, and

members José María (Chema) Hernandez Gil, Jeremy Lee, J. Michelle Pierce, and Raynell Cooper.

Vice-chair Ditka Reiner, Matthew Castillon, Lily Ho, and Chasel Lee voted in favor of the draft map.

The Task Force missed the April 15 deadline to submit a final plan, which carves out the new supervisorial district lines for the next 10 years.

The Board of Supervisors and the Elections Commission appointed six members of the task force while Breed, the first Black woman elected mayor in San Francisco, appointed three members, including Townsend.

On Tuesday, the redistricting controversies heated up when three people sued the task force for missing its deadline. Depending on how the lawsuit goes, it could be a judge, instead of the task force, drafting the map of the city's supervisorial districts.

If the task force members had approved the redistricting map it rejected last week, Board President Walton would be politically vulnerable, representing a district with less Black voters.

Walton was born in San Francisco. He grew up in Bayview and Potrero Hill public housing projects. He has worked in District 10 neighborhoods for decades. He was first elected as the representative of the district in November 2018.

A former president and member of the San Francisco Board of Education, Walton has a bachelor's degree in

Political Science from Morris Brown College and a master's degree in Public Administration from San Francisco State University.

Walton's challenger for his District 10 seat is Gloria Berry.

"I've shown up every day to lead on the tough issues... the ones that have made a real impact in San Franciscans' lives," Walton states on his re-election website. "I'm ready to continue fighting for our most vulnerable neighbors and working families."

The League of Women Voters of San Francisco and Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus wrote in a letter dated April 6 that the organizations were "alarmed to see draft maps that would diminish" the voting power of low-income, immigrants, renters, LGBTQ+, and people

of color communities.

"Our organizations are deeply concerned that the draft supervisor district maps created so far by the city's Redistricting Task Force fail to adequately reflect the input shared by communities of interest, particularly those made up of the most vulnerable and least represented people in our city," the letter states.

The Asian and Black communities in both districts have clashed during task force meetings. Outbursts at an April 11 meeting at San Francisco City Hall was a clear example of how the redistricting process has divided San Franciscans.

Drew Min, who identifies as Korean, lashed out at Thornton and other members of the Black community. He said during public comment that his community had been called "Nazis, racists, and corporate shells" for its efforts to unify Portola and Visitacion in one district.

Thornton shouted in response, denying Min's accusations, adding that none of the Black organizers would be disrespect their Asian counterparts by calling them Nazis.

Min and other activists asked the Superior Court of California in a letter to "adopt a final supervisorial map" and "hold a hearing the week of April 25" to decide the matter.

"A coordinated effort from politically toxic forces

threatened and intimidated anyone who disagreed with them," Min stated in the April 19 letter. "These bullying, antidemocratic tactics were successful in delaying the passage of the final map, illegally missing the mandated deadline."

Duque said the task force's failure to finalize a map could mean repercussions.

"For whatever reasons we will do whatever we can do," Duque said, suggesting that she and others might file lawsuits.

Before the April 14 vote, Townsend, who was appointed to the task force by Breed, voted twice for the map that places Portola into District 10 and Potrero Hill into District 9.

"It's all political. She is only working for herself and what she wants. Everyone knows about it," Duque said of Breed. "None of this is right. They want to limit the African American voice in District 10. We actually want to work with the African American community and stay diversified."

On April 20, Black and Asian leaders from Little Hollywood, Sunnydale, Bayview and Potrero Hill held a "unity" rally supporting the draft map that was approved. They call it "the healing map" and hailed it for keeping the District 10 neighborhoods together.

CBM reached out to Mayor Breed for comment. We have not received a response from her office.



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