

SAN FRANCISCO'S ROAD **CONDITIONS IMPROVE**, **RANKED HIGHEST FOR** LARGE BAY AREA CITIES IN **ANNUAL ROADS ASSESSMENT** 

an Francisco, CA-Mayor London N. **Breed and Public** Works Director **Carla Short announced today** that the City's independently rated Pavement Condition Index (PCI) score increased to 75, a rating deemed "good" by the regional **Metropolitan Transportation** Commission. This rating puts San Francisco at the top among large Bay Area cities.

San Francisco's score, which covered calendar year 2023, was one point higher than the year before. This improvement is more remarkable considering it occurred during a year that San Francisco saw record storms early in the year that increased road repair needs. The score hovered in the mid-60s during the early 2000s. But the City's strong commitment to invest in roadway maintenance over the last 15 years has resulted in a steady rise in the pavement condition score.



San Francisco Pavement Condition Index rating is 75, meaning in "good" condition, according to annual review by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission

"The strategic approach to maintaining our roads has paid off – the streets are safer and smoother for people who drive, bike, walk and take transit," said Mayor Breed. "I want to thank our hardworking crews who are out there doing the work to not only repave our streets, but also to fill potholes for our

residents each and every day. This is a critical City service, and I'm proud of the work we are doing to take care of our streets."

Street Resurfacing Program

Public Works, which oversees San Francisco's Street Resurfacing Program,

Continued on page 7

## **Controller Malia Cohen: Despite \$68 Billion Deficit, California Has Enough Cash to Pay Bills**

Antonio Ray Harvey | California Black Media

ver the next few months, Californians will spend time processing the details of Governor Gavin Newsom's 2024-2025 spending plan, which he is expected to present to the Legislature on Jan. 10 in Sacramento. However, reports of the state's whopping \$68 billion budget deficit — as projected by the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) - have foreshadowed the Governor's announcement with uncertainty.

Despite anticipation of deep budget cuts, State Controller Malia M. Cohen has expressed confidence that California's fiscal cash flow is in the position to withstand any financial challenges caused by forecasted economic downturn.

"Despite reports from various sources indicating a budgetary deficit of approximately \$68 billion, the state's cash position remains strong,



State Controller Malia M. Cohen

and, absent any unforeseen \$53 billion when compared circumstances, the state has sufficient cash to pay its bills and meet its financial obligations through the end of the fiscal year," Cohen said in a Dec. 19, 2023, letter.

Cohen is responsible for accountability and disbursement of the state's financial resources. She has independent auditing authority spend state funds.

According to the LAO, the budget shortfall increased by

to the projections used in the development of the current year budget – up from \$15 billion

when the 2023-24 Budget was signed in June. The LAO faced challenges in providing budget estimates due the IRS delaying tax filings until Nov. 16, 2023.

Regarding personal income, sales and property tax over government agencies that revenues, the state's primary revenues, California entered an economic downturn in 2022

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### Health, Education, **Reparations and Budget Deficit Among Top Black Caucus 2024 Priorities**

Antonio Rav Harvev California Black Media

losing out their 2023 activities and previewing what they intend to focus on this year, members of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) met with Black news media outlets from different parts of the state. During the meeting, held late last month, the lawmakers shared some of their top priorities for the 2024 legislative session, which began Jan. 3.

Issues members stated are their primary concerns for the next legislative session fall into several categories, including health, education, public safety, social services, homelessness, affordable housing, and economics. CLBC is planning to bring immediate attention on creating legislation around the 100-plus recommendations the California Reparations Task Force panel presented to the Legislature in June of last year.



Asm. Lori Wilson, (D-Suisun) chair, CLBC

Wilson (D-Suisun City), Chair of the CLBC, said, because so many of the caucus members have been appointed committee chairs by Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas (D-Hollister), she expects they will leverage their positions to meet the group's goals over the course of the next year.

"It is a pleasure to be in this space where we have a record number of members of the Black Caucus being

Assemblymember Lori D. chairs of key leadership committees as well in the area of budget," said Wilson.

> "Traditionally, what happens is when our members are serving as chairs, they also serve budget subcommittees. All members

are essentially sitting on budget subcommittees for the upcoming new year," she continued.

Seven of the 12 members

Continued on page 7

### Homelessness Surges, Disproportionately Affecting Black and Latino Communities

By Stacy M. Brown NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent (a)StacyBrownMedia

U . S . h e Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has released its 2023 Annual Homeless Assessment Report, revealing a distressing 12% surge in homelessness since 2022. The report, encompassing the Housing Inventory Count, paints a bleak picture of the current state of homelessness, with a staggering 653,104 individuals experiencing homelessness on a single night in January 2023—the highest since the national reporting on the Point-in-Time count began in 2007.

Of significant concern is the disproportionate impact on Black communities, constituting nearly 4 in 10 of those experiencing homelessness. Despite homeless individuals in this comprising just 13% of the total U.S. population, between 2022 and 2023,



Of significant concern is the disproportionate impact on Black communities, constituting nearly 4 in 10 of those experiencing homelessness. Despite comprising just 13% of the total U.S. population, individuals identifying as Black accounted for 37% of the homeless population.

Black accounted for 37% of total increase in homelessness the homeless population.

Equally alarming is the plight of the Latino community, as almost one-third of people experiencing homelessness identified as Hispanic or Latino. The number of demographic surged by 28%

individuals identifying as contributing to 55% of the during this period.

> "Our society is selective on who is worthy enough to receive sympathy and assistance: Black or white, sober, or addicted, mother or father, married or single. We choose according to personal

> > Continued on page 7

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### Sun Reporter



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> Amelia Ashley-Ward Editor/Publisher

## SAN FRANCISCO ENFORCEMENT AND ACTIVATIONS LEAD TO DECREASE IN THEFT CITYWIDE, INCREASE IN VISITORS DURING HOLIDAYS

an Francisco, CA – motor vehicle theft

City leaders today announced that the 2023 holiday shopping season saw the lowest levels of reported theft in San Francisco in years and an increase in visitors to major Downtown destinations, including in Union Square.

Local law enforcement has been conducting ongoing strategic operations to disrupt car break-ins and retail theft citywide, and to heighten safety efforts in shopping areas during the holidays. These efforts have coincided alongside coordinated efforts with the state and federal government to disrupt and shut down drug markets.

Between November 20, 2023, and January 1, 2024, compared to the same time period the year before, San Francisco saw a:

48% reduction in larceny theft (includes retail theft and auto break-ins)

17% reduction in

26% reduction in burglaries These reductions in crimes were paired with increases to people returning to shop and visit in Union Square and Downtown areas. Holiday activations, reliable transit, and safe parking options helped to create an atmosphere to support San Francisco during the holiday season.

From November 20 through the end of December 2023, San Francisco saw increases into major retail areas like Union Square and Downtown compared to the same time last year, with:

58% increase in weekday transit riders exiting Powell and Union Square/Market Street Muni Rail stations

54% increase in weekend transit riders exiting Powell and Union Square/Market Street Muni Rail stations

An 11% increase in unique daily visitors to Union Square Park

Over the course of the 10-day

Winter Walk activation alone, the Union Square Alliance estimates a generated financial boost in the tens of millions of dollars. As the holiday season concludes, the Union Square and Downtown areas are planning for more activity, including welcoming back the 42nd Annual J.P. Morgan Healthcare Conference in Union Square, which begins January 8 and runs through January 11, 2024.

"The holidays in San Francisco are a magical time, and I'm proud of the work we are doing to make our City safer and more welcoming for everyone," said Mayor London Breed. "We have invested in public safety including deploying officers and community ambassadors - and we have invested in making our City more active and vibrant. As we move into 2024, we will continue to focus on doing the hard work to lift up San Francisco, to prevent and deter crime when we can, and to respond quickly with clear accountability when



From November 20 through the end of December 2023, San Francisco saw increases into major retail areas like Union Square and Downtown compared to the same time last year, with:

people do break the law."

"The San Francisco Police Department will continue to enforce the law and protect our residents, businesses and visitors," said Police Chief Bill Scott. "I'm encouraged by the success we've had in reducing retail crime during the holiday season, but this is just a start. We are expanding our efforts as we hire more officers and find ways to better use technology to ensure San Francisco is a safe place for everybody."

"The results are clear. When city leaders coordinate to identify, arrest, and prosecute those who attempt to wreak havoc on our businesses, residents, and visitors, we create a safer city for all," said District Attorney Brooke Jenkins. "I am grateful for the additional investments made by our local and state partners towards public safety, and as we move into 2024, my office will continue to send a strong message that all crime is illegal in San Francisco."

The reductions in larceny theft reached lows not seen in the last five years, including during the pandemic.



# **CEI PACE East Oakland Care for Every Part of You.**

At the **Center for Elders' Independence (CEI)** in East Oakland, seniors aged 55 and above receive all their medical services through a personalized PACE program that adapts to their needs.

We provide transportation to their doctor's appointments and to our health centers, where they can get help with their daily routines, exercise, and even make new friends. Most importantly, our program provides home care so seniors can stay where they feel their best: at home.

Because caring for every aspect of our seniors' health means taking good care of the little things that make them whole.







### Visit **Elders.org** or call **833.802.1150**

## **Jesse Jackson to Lead Emergency Summit in Chicago to Address Escalating Gaza Humanitarian Crisis**

#### By Stacy M. Brown NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent @StacyBrownMedia

Religious leaders and human rights advocates, led by Reverend Jesse Jackson, are preparing for what they call a vital emergency summit for Gaza. The "Call to Action" summit is scheduled at the Rainbow PUSH Coalition Headquarters in Chicago on Friday, January 12, and Saturday, January 13. Jackson told the Black Press the summit would "address the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza, denounce violence against civilians, and urge immediate action to bring an end to the crisis."

Organized by a coalition including the Rainbow Push Coalition, the Arab American Institute, and Cedars Mediterranean Kitchen, the summit will feature a diverse

lineup of influential speakers, including Jackson, Dr. James immediate and permanent Zogby (President of the Arab American Institute), columnist and political commentator Peter Beinart, Congressman Johnathon Jackson, Congressman Chuy Garcia, and others.

The central focus of the summit is to condemn attacks on civilians and call for an immediate, permanent ceasefire. "We are faith leaders and advocates, united in this moment of moral reckoning to affirm the sanctity of all human life," Jackson declared.

The organizers have unequivocally "condemned the coalition have also urged Israeli government's military siege and indiscriminate bombardment of Gaza." They said there's a moral obligation to leverage collective power to end the escalation of death and ongoing humanitarian crises.

The coalition demands an ceasefire and the rapid release of all Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners held without charges or due process, and they are calling on U.S. leadership to facilitate unimpeded UN-supervised humanitarian aid in Gaza.

"I recommend that they let everyone out," Jackson asserted. "The captives should be able to go home under the supervision of the United Nations, and anyone [bought to trial] should be done so in the World Court."

Jackson and the rest of the America to abide by its regulations and condition funding to Israel on its adherence to U.S. law, like requirements for other nations receiving U.S. military financing.

The organizers collectively stressed that a ceasefire is just the beginning. The staggering civilian casualties underscore the belief that there is no military resolution that can bring justice for Palestinians and security for Israelis, Jackson insisted. He said there should be a diplomatic solution to "end apartheid and occupation."

Further, Jackson said the summit aims to build upon historical legacies and current global movements for peace, justice, and liberation. The civil rights legend and other organizers expressed concern about rising anti-Semitic and anti-Arab incidents.

They have emphasized the need for unity. "We gather to build upon the historical legacy and current global movements for peace, justice, and liberation,"



Organized by a coalition including the Rainbow Push Coalition, Arab American Institute, and Cedars Mediterranean Kitchen, the summit will feature a diverse lineup of influential speakers, including Jackson, Dr.

James Zogby (President of the Arab American Institute), columnist and political commentator Peter Beinart, Congressman Johnathon Jackson, Congressman Chuy Garcia, and others.

Jackson emphasized, before earlier. "We do not seek adding what he said in to exchange sufferers, but Lebanon some 40-plus years rather to stop suffering."

### **Congress Working to Avoid Shutdown Inches Close to Deal**

By Stacy M. Brown

ollowing weeks of negotiations and just before Congress reconvened from its holiday recess, key Senate and House members announced their consensus on setting the total spending at nearly \$1.66 trillion. The deal aligns with the agreement struck last year between President Joe Biden and then-Speaker

Kevin McCarthy, a deal that As a compromise, lawmakers faced strong opposition from conservative factions and led to McCarthy's ouster by MAGA Republicans.

The agreement includes a boost in Pentagon spending to \$886.3 billion while keeping nondefense funding unchanged at \$772.7 billion. The figure incorporates an additional \$69 billion agreed upon through an informal arrangement between McCarthy and the White House.

would accelerate \$10 billion in cuts to I.R.S. enforcement and reclaim \$6 billion in unspent COVID funds and other emergency allocations. The agreed framework does not include the additional \$14 billion requested by Senate appropriators from Republican and Democratic sides for increased domestic and military spending.

"By securing the \$772.7 billion for nondefense

discretionary funding, we can protect key domestic priorities like veterans' benefits, health care, and nutrition assistance from the draconian cuts sought by right-wing extremists," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries said in a joint statement.

Describing it as a "favorable arrangement for Democrats and the nation," Schumer and Jeffries, stressed the necessity for a bipartisan

approach in Congress to "prevent an expensive and disruptive shutdown."

In a communication to his GOP colleagues, House Speaker Mike Johnson highlighted the Republicans' achievement in securing spending reductions, particularly the additional money from the I.R.S. He argued that the outcome translates to tangible savings for American taxpayers and genuine reductions in the federal bureaucracy.

Biden acknowledged that the deal "offers a pathway" to fund the government without significant cuts. He urged **Congressional Republicans to** fulfill their responsibilities, cease government shutdown threats, and allocate funding for critical domestic and national security priorities, including his supplemental request for Ukraine and Israel.

### NEW AFFORDABLE HOMES FOR SALE IN SOMA 988 Harrison Street, San Francisco

12 Below Market Rate homes for sale: 1 studio, 6 onebedroom, and 5 two-bedroom homes priced from \$346,899 -

#### HOW TO APPLY

**1** Sign up for a free Program Orientation at **HOMEOWNERSHIPSF.ORG** 2 Complete homebuyer workshops and individual counseling 3 Get pre-approved for a mortgage loan by a MOHCD-approved lender 4 Submit a lottery application before application deadline.

#### \$470,707 without parking, and \$381,208 - \$519,730 with parking.

Applicants must be a first-time homebuyer and earn no more than the income levels listed below:

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	1 person	2 person	3 person	4 person	5 person
MAXIMUM ANNUAL INCOME	\$100,850	\$115,300	\$129,700	\$144,100	\$155,650

Applications must be received by 5PM on Thursday, February 22, 2024. Apply online through DAHLIA, the SF Housing Portal at housing.sfgov.org.

For more information and assistance with your application, contact HomeownershipSF: (415) 202-5464 or info@homeownershipsf.org. For questions about the building and units, contact Loring Racine: (415) 738-2151 or l.racine@js-sullivan.com.

#### OPEN HOUSE DATES

Wednesday, 1/17/24: 5pm - 7pm Thursday, 1/18/24: 9am - 11am Saturday, 1/20/24: 10am - 12pm

#### LOTTERY DATE

Thursday, March 14, 2024, 11:00 am View lottery results at http://housing.sfgov.org

BMR UNIT	BEDROOM COUNT	BATH COUNT	SQUARE FEET	FLOOR	PRICE W/ PARKING	PRICE W/O PARKING	MONTHLY HOA DUES W/O PARKING	MONTHLY HOA DUES W/ PARKING
203	1	1	551	2	\$452,139	\$397,159	\$552.13	\$657.13
207	2	2	849	2	\$518,072	\$469,050	\$591.96	\$686.96
214	Studio	1	401	2	\$381,208	\$346,899	\$535.08	\$630.08
301	2	2	789	3	\$519,730	\$470,707	\$584.13	\$679.13
305	2	2	840	3	\$518,100	\$469,078	\$591.96	\$686.96
309	1	1	619	3	\$450,272	\$408,478	\$560.94	\$655.94
408	1	1	622	4	\$450,263	\$408,468	\$560.94	\$655.94
410	1	1	621	4	\$450,266	\$408,471	\$560.94	\$655.94
413	2	2	835	4	\$518,116	\$469,094	\$591.96	\$686.96
502	2	2	853	5	\$518,060	\$469,037	\$591.96	\$686.96
503	1	1	551	5	\$452,139	\$410,344	\$552.13	\$647.13
511	1	1	615	5	\$450,285	\$408,490	\$560.94	\$655.94



Units are monitored through the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development and are subject to owner occupancy and other restrictions. Visit www.sfmohcd.org for program information.

All adult household members who will be on the title of the BMR unit must complete first-time homebuyer education through one of the City's 5 approved housing counselling agencies in order to apply. Applicants can visit https://homeownershipsf.org/homebuyers for upcoming program orientations and workshops. Please sign up right away, as classes tend to fill up quickly.

Applicants for 988 Harrison must obtain a loan pre-approval from one of the approved participating lenders listed at https://sfmohcd.org/lender-list to apply.

All applicants are encouraged to apply. Lottery preference will be given to: \*Certificate of Preference, \*\*Displaced Tenant Housing Preference holders, \*\*\*Neighborhood Residents and households that currently live or work in San Francisco.

Please contact 415-701-5500 or visit www.sfmohcd.org for more information about lottery preferences.



\*Certificate of Preference (COP) holders are primarily households displaced in Redevelopment Project Areas during the 1960's and 1970's. \*\* Displaced Tenant Housing Preference (DTHP) holders are tenants who were displaced by an Ellis Act eviction, Owner Move In eviction and tenants displaced by fire. \*\*\*Neighborhood Resident Housing Preference (NRHP) are residents living in the same supervisorial district or within 1/2 mile buffer of the project. The specifications are subject to change at any time and should not be relied on as representations, express or implied. Square footage or floor areas shown in any marketing or other materials is approximate and may be more or less than the actual size.



### **EDITORIAL**

We wish to plead our own cause. Too long have others spoken for us. Preedom's Journal. March 16, 1827.

## In the Gap Between **January 6 and MLK** Day, Once Forbidden **History Offers Hope**

#### By Ben Jealous

ven Ron DeSantis had to admit, when pressed a CNN townhall, January 6 was a bad day for America.

Invariably, following this past week's anniversary of the insurrection, we're forced to ask ourselves: Will we ever be able to pull this country back together again?

It's a reasonable question. The fissures run deep

For the answer to that big, terrible question, I turn to history of our country that was long kept out of those books.

In the wake of the Civil War, America was still a tinder keg. In 1867, two years after the Civil War had ended and nine years before another almost erupted, Frederick Douglass laid out the argument for why, as Americans, we should remain optimistic about our future and our ability to come together.

In "Our Composite Nation," Douglass explained, a nation's character is defined by that nation at its best, not its worst.

the history books. And to the And America's character (at our best), our geography, and our already diverse population "all conspire to one grand end" ... to make us the most "perfect national illustration of the unity and dignity of the human family, that the world has ever seen."

> It seemed a tall order in those tough times, as it does now. And yet close to 15 years after he gave that speech, a new movement erupted in Petersburg, Virginia that swept across the old Commonwealth uniting freedmen and former Confederate soldiers in a shared quest to save

the public schools.

The Readjusters Party emerged amid an attempt by the old plantation owner oligarchs to reassert their influence, following the Hayes-Tilden Compromise.

The Compromise – which both prevented the possible outbreak of a second

civil war and unleashed the terror of the Ku Klux Klan - resolved a bitter dispute over the election of 1876 and re-enfranchised former Confederates.

With the Confederates' votes restored, the old oligarchs presumed their political power was assured. But they made a fatal mistake. They tried to dissolve the free public schools created by Black-led Reconstruction governments, claiming war debt made them unaffordable.

With the Readjusters offering a haven, working-class white former Confederates fled the Democratic Party of the plantation oligarchs to defend their children's schools. At the same time, sparked by both President Hayes's betrayal of Black communities in the South and the same concern over public schools, my grandmother's grandfather, Edward David Bland led an exodus of Blacks from the Republican Party to join them.

The math of democracy necessitated that if they were going to save their children's schools, they would have to join up with the white parents



**Ben Jealous** 

who shared their same fears.

The new Readjusters Party quickly took over the state and won the governorship, control of both houses of the legislature, and would appoint both US senators (state legislators still appointed US Senators back then).

In four years, the Readjusters succeeded in saving the free public schools. They radically expanded Virginia Tech to make the college the working white person's answer to the patrician University of Virginia, and aided the creation of what is now called Virginia State University – the first public university for the training of Black teachers. They also abolished the poll tax and the public whipping post, and even pushed the state out of a deficit into a surplus.

However, at the end of the one term any governor is allowed in Virginia, the Readjusters would be swept out of power

by a political movement built on disinformation, ruthless violence, and a call to white supremacy. The new political regime of Jim Crow then took steps to ensure that the history of the Readjusters would never make it into the lessons taught to Virginia school children. Jim Crow politicians knew how much of a threat that example was to their power structure, built on lies and hate.

The story of Frederick Douglass's optimism and confidence in America's destiny, and the Readjusters' courage in pursuing it, is a reminder that the people of our country were always more resilient and greater than most politicians were ever willing to bet on.

It also begs the question: If they could unite then in the interest of all their children, what is actually keeping us from uniting now in the interest of all of ours?

## WHAT DOES DR. CLAUDINE GAY MEAN TO ME?

#### **By JULIANNE MALVEAUX**

hen Dr. Claudine Gay was named the first Black President of Harvard University and only the second woman, I was pleased. Familiar with her record as Dean of the Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences and aware of the rigorous process that narrowed more than 600 applicants or nominees to Dr. Gay, I felt that Harvard could not have selected someone more qualified. Still, I was aware of the pitfall possibilities that Dr. Gay faced.

criticism reached a crescendo, Dr. succumbed to the of answers, to comprehend. inevitable and resigned.

Would she have been able to do anything else? Her detractors had trashed her reputation. How could she possibly fundraise under those circumstances? Many talk of "presidential leadership" in the higher education context, but college presidents are also judged by their fundraising acumen. Many get a significant fundraising boost in their first year when their support is greatest and enthusiasm for them is high. By year two, they will be judged for what they've done "lately." She didn't get a clear first year or even a few months. The attacks on her started as soon as she was selected, and accusations of "antisemitism" were simply fodder in the culture wars.

more criticism. And as the would be too complex for Stefanik, chasing TV instead

> Of course, Gay should have begun her testimony by condemning the Hamas action of October 7. For the likes of Stefanik, it is irrelevant that more than 25,000 Palestinians have been murdered, including as many as 8000 children. Israelis are celebrating the fact that a major Hamas leader is among the victims. Netantu and his

"minor" errors in citations, the conservative press has chosen to blow them into much more. Dr. Gay is guilty of nothing other than attempting to balance an uncomfortable tightrope that has less to do with so-called plagiarism than so-called antisemitism. It's really about racism.

Christopher Rufo, an antiaffirmative action, anticritical race theory, and anti-Black activist, led the effort to topple Dr. Gay. Billionaire hedge fund manager Bill Ackman, who tweeted dozens of times attacking Gay was a visible part of the corrosive cabal. Harvard graduate and congresswoman Elise Stefanik was another of the leaders in the effort to oust Gay. Ackman described Claudine Gay as "a diversity hire," a stigma that too many Black men and women face when they are selected from a large pool that is predominately white. Ironically, Ackman's wife, former MIT Professor Neri Oxman, is accused of plagiarism much more severe than Dr. Gay. Oxman lifted whole paragraphs from Wikipedia. Gay didn't steal anyone's work, she offered improper citations, and she apologized. The Harvard investigation charged her with



Even before she assumed the Harvard Presidency, rabid racists questioned everything about her, from her research record to her attitude. Following her inauguration closely, I was buoyed by her wide smile. Despite the racist abuse, she was enjoying her job!

That didn't last long. The witch hunt that had three female college presidents squirming under the hostile questioning of Dr. Gay's disastrous testimony to Congress attracted even

The Presidents of Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) could have handled Congressional questions more deftly. Or could they have? With the rabidly hostile Congresswoman Elise Stefanik (R-NY) bellowing "yes are no" at people accustomed to nuance, it seems that rising above the multisyllabic

cronies say they will eliminate Hamas by whatever means necessary, no matter how many civilians are killed, starved, or displaced. The Israeli lack of humanity, with their random airstrikes, is astounding.

Dr. Gay defended students' free speech, even when it includes terms like "from the river to the sea," which does not mean the elimination of Israel but rather freedom for Palestine. It does not exclude the twostate solution, as Netanyahu has. Failing to condemn Palestinian free speech is not antisemitic. Criticizing Israel is not antisemitic.

Because she stood up for her students, her prior academic work was scrutinized, and while Harvard found only

"academic malfeasance," not quite grounds for sanctions. Stealing someone's words is far more serious, grounds for sanctions or more. Oxman should be viewed askance, especially given her husband's stance against Dr. Gay. Oxman is under the protection of her billionaire husband. The media has not gone after her with the same vitriol that they've attacked Dr. Gay.

The attacks on Dr. Gay make me want to surround her with support and fight the injustice of everything that she has experienced. Dr. Gay's resignation from Harvard has implications far beyond Harvard. It's about the culture wars and anti-Blackness. Malcolm X once

said, "The most disrespected person in America is the Black woman. The most unprotected person in America is the Black woman. The most neglected person in America is the Black woman."

Malcolm made this statement in the 1960s. Fifty vears later, little has changed. Perhaps Dr. Gay had to leave her presidency. But she didn't have to have the racist abuse. And she didn't have to be attacked with such extreme hostility. Dr. Gay's ouster is personal to me and to many other Black women who experienced joy at her appointment, then horror and sorrow at the way her treatment.

### **CALIFORNIA CONCEALED-CARRY LAW** ... FOR THE SECOND TIME BLOCKED from carrying their concealed the law. This most recent of a different 9th Circuit laws are working.

By Stacy M. Brown

enate Bill (SB) 2, California's controversial conceal-carry permit law that took effect Jan. 1, has been blocked for a second time now.

SB 2 prohibits gun owners

religious institutions, banks, hospitals, parks that blocked the law. and other venues.

Court of Appeals lifted a temporary hold on a lower court injunction that blocked

firearms at most public places decision upholds a Dec. 20 Court Appeal granted and gatherings, including ruling issued by U.S. District Bonta's request, allowing Judge Cormac Carney the law to take effect, at

Before that, on Dec. On Jan. 6, a 9th Circuit 22, Attorney Gen. Rob blocked from taking effect, Bonta filed an emergency motion appealing Carney's decision. A three-judge panel

least temporarily.

The same day, the law was Gov. Newsom's office shared the findings of a new survey that reports California's gun

Conducted by Everytown USA, a gun safety advocacy group, the survey ranks California and New York at the top of its list for having the lowest rates of gun violence.

"We compared gun policy across the country, scoring every state on the strength of its gun laws and comparing it with its rate of gun violence," the introduction to the report reads.

"In states where elected officials have taken action to pass gun safety laws, fewer people die by gun violence," it continues.

#### Dr. Julianne Malveaux

THE SUN-REPORTER RELIGIOUS THE BAY AREA'S CHURCH NEWS & ACTIVITIES

## The Household of God

Lesson Text: Ephesians 2:11-22 Place: from Rome *Time: A.D. 60* 

#### Golden Text: "In Christ all the building fitly framed together growth into an holy temple in the Lord" (Ephesians 2:21). The Apostle Paul introduces this next section of Ephesians discussing there were both Jews and Gentiles in the Ephesians church. For starters, the Jews referred to the Gentiles as uncircumcised. The Jews were in no way complimenting the Gentiles but speaking derogatorily. Cir-

cumcision had been the sign of the Jews' relationship with God as far back from the time of Abraham, and they were proud of their relationship. Although they failed to live according to God's commandments. Paul later explained in Romans 2:25-29, that physical circumcision count for much if their hearts were not right with the Lord God. Truth be told, circumcised Jews deserved God's wrath as did Gentiles. Later, Paul explained just how far the Gentiles had been from

Sunday School

Shunda Criswell

esson

God. Jesus came from a Jewish lineage and the Gentiles had no claim to this whatsoever. The Gentiles hearts were far from God. Five truths are discussed: First, they were without Christ. They were considered "outside God's family." Secondly, they had no genuine citizenship there. The Greek word translated "aliens" in Ephesians 2:12 means "to be estranged from" or "to be a nonparticipant." Gentiles had no part whatsoever in this nation. Thirdly, the Gentiles were strangers from the covenants of promise. Romans 9:4-5 explains this. Paul mentions the Jews were his Kinsmen (family), "who were Israelites; who pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, this included the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came." Lastly, the Gentiles had no hope. Their condition was pitiful. (Ephesians 2:11-12). The Gentiles were Alienated from Israel. God was not finished with

them. But there was good news for the Gentiles. Although there had not been access to a relationship with God in time past, God now made a way for them to come near and have a relationship with Him. God is a God of second chance. Amen! Why? Paul admitted it happened because of the blood of Jesus Christ. Was the blood of Jesus Christ so important? Scholars recorded, "Jesus' shedding of His blood on the cross made a way for both Jews and Gentiles to have a relationship with God. This reality greatly affected both groups, since they could now enjoy not only peace with God but also unity among both Jewish and Gentile believers. Before they were at odds; now there would be peace. That peace was Jesus Himself, because what Jesus had did was provided a way for two different groups to be unified and become one. Jesus Christ is peace. By his death, Christ ended the angry resentment between Jews and Gentiles, caused by the Jew-

ish laws that favored the Jews

and excluded the Gentiles. Christ died to end the observance of the whole system of Jewish laws. Then he took the two groups that had been opposed to each other and made them parts of Himself. "One new people" means that Christ made a single entity out of the two. Thus, He fused all believers together to become one in Himself. (Life Application Study Bible). (Ephesians 2:15). The Jews were near to God because they already knew of Him through the Scriptures and worshiped Him in their religious ceremonies. The Gentiles were far away because they knew little or nothing about God. Because neither group could be saved by good deeds, knowledge, or sincerity, both needed to hear about the salvation available through Jesus Christ. Both Jews and Gentiles are now free to come to God through Christ. You have been brought near to him (Ephesians 2:13). (Life Application Study Bible). A church building is sometimes called God's house. In reality, God's household is not a build-

ing but a group of people. He lives in us and shows Himself to a watching world through us. People can see that God is love and that Christ is Lord as we live in harmony with each other and in accordance with what God says in His Word. We are citizens of God's Kingdom and members of His household. (Ephesians 2:19-22). Lastly, what does it mean to be built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets? It means that the church is not built on modern ideas but rather on the spiritual heritage given to us by the early apostles and prophets of the Christian church. (Life Application Study Bible). (Ephesians 2:20) Remember, 1) Without Christ, we are spiritual strangers to God (Ephesians 2:11-12); 2) Christ's blood allows sinners to approach God in faith (Ephesians 2:13), and 3) Sin kept sinners away from God, but in Christ He made peace and fellowship possible (Ephesians 2:17-18). Be Blessed!!!!



SUN-REPORTER THE

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Ebenezer

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San Francisco, CA

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10:45: gm

7:30 pm

iunday Schoo

Morning Worship

Evening Worship

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Rev. Lane Hawkins

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

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Rev. Kenneth R. Reece Pastor

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#### SUN-REPORTER, THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024 ■ PAGE 7

#### **Road Conditions** Continued from page 1

follows industry best practices by preserving streets in good condition instead of letting them deteriorate. This approach is the most costeffective. Extending the life of a block in San Francisco that is in good condition can cost as little as \$50,000. By comparison, the price to completely reconstruct a block in very poor condition can be as much as \$500,000 or more.

Public Works uses inhouse Bureau of Building and Street Repair crews and outside contractors to perform the paving work.

503 Last year, blocks were treated

More than 8,000 blocks or more than 60% – of the City's nearly 13,000 blocks have been resurfaced in the last 15 years

When selecting which blocks to repave, the Street Resurfacing Program team considers a number of factors: roadway condition, use - streets with public transit and bike lanes, for example, are prioritized - and whether the paving

project can be combined with other infrastructure projects, such as sewer upgrades. Geographic equity also is considered to make sure the street improvements benefit all neighborhoods.

Storm Response and **Proactive Pothole Strategies** 

San Francisco's higher PCI score in 2023 came despite a series of severe storms that battered the streets early in the year.

Public Works Street repair crews filled 12,358 potholes in 2023, a nearly 18% increase from the year prior.

Even with the spike in

numbers, Public Works crews responded to 91% of the 311 service requests for pothole repairs within 72 hours, besting the 90% service-level target.

The department also runs a proactive operation that rotates street-repair workers through a different supervisorial district month to focus on patching potholes they come across on residential streets. The presence of potholes is one factor considered in determining the PCI score.

"Our streets in San Francisco serve as core infrastructure, connecting communities,

supporting commerce and expanding access," said Jose's latest reported score is Carla Short, the Public Works director. "The improved PCI score demonstrates our commitment to keep the roads well maintained for our residents, visitors and businesses."

#### How PCI Works

San Francisco's Pavement Condition Index score, which is tracked by the independent Metropolitan Transportation Commission, rates roads from 0 to 100, with 0 being the worst, rutted and crumbling, and 100 the best, just freshly paved. The average PCI score

address this challenge. We've

done. This data underscores

the urgent need for support

for proven solutions and

strategies that help people

quickly exit homelessness and

that prevent homelessness in

The report further attributes

the overall increase to a

rise in the number of people

experiencing homelessness

for the first time, with a 25%

the first place."

in the Bay Area is 67. San 71 and Oakland's is 57.

The assessment was based on visual surveys performed by specially trained and certified staff. Each segment is evaluated based on ride quality, cracking and signs that the roadway may be breaking up in places.

The PCI rating represents a cumulative snapshot of all the streets that fall under the city's maintenance responsibility. Looked at individually, the MTC evaluation found that twothirds of San Francisco's

#### Homelessness Continued from page 1

politics who is worthy of stability, who doesn't deserve support, and when it is acceptable for someone to be without shelter," author, poet, and blogger Archuleta Chisolm wrote for BlackGirlNerds.com.

While the latest report indicates progress in addressing homelessness, with HUD projecting to serve 330,000

#### Malia Cohen Continued from page 1

that is affecting the budget. Days before July 1, the start of a new fiscal year, Newsom and legislative leaders agreed to a state budget deal in the form of a \$310 billion spending plan that provided guardrails for essential programs and mitigated what was previously a \$32 billion deficit.

On Dec. 15, Senate Minority Leader Brian W. Jones (R-San Diego) and Senate Budget Vice

of the CLBC joined Wilson

in attending the virtual

news briefing facilitated by

California Black Media (CBM).

They included Sen. Steven

Bradford (D-Inglewood) and

Black Caucus

Continued from page 1

#### people through increased grants to homeless service organizations, challenges persist. The expiration of resources from President Biden's American Rescue Plan (ARP), the largest single-year investment in preventing and ending homelessness in U.S. history, has played a role in the current rise.

The 2023 Point-in-Time Count data underscored the urgency of the situation, revealing increases across

various demographics:

Sheltered homelessness rose by 13.7% Unsheltered homelessness rose by 9.7% Homelessness among individuals rose by 10.8% Homelessness among people in families with children rose by 15.5% Homelessness

among unaccompanied youth rose by 15.3% Homelessness among

reserves." She indicated that

the Newsom administration

has been a step ahead in

anticipating any potential

financial obstacles that would

"The state currently has more

than \$91.4 billion in available

borrowable resources,

due in large part to the

Governor's and Legislature's

foresight in building

prudent rainy-day reserves

in the Budget Stabilization

The budget negotiations

Account," Cohen stated.

disrupt the state budget.

veterans rose by 7.4%

Chronic homelessness among individuals rose by 12%

HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge acknowledged the gravity of the issue. "Homelessness is solvable and should not exist in the United States," Fudge declared. "From day one, this administration has put forth a comprehensive plan to tackle homelessness, and we've acted aggressively and in conjunction with our federal, state, and local partners to

will involve new leaders of the legislature — Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas (D-Salinas) and incoming Senate President Pro tempore Mike McGuire (D-Santa Rosa).

Rivas added California Legislative Black Caucus members Assemblymember Dr. Akilah Weber (D-La Mesa and Assemblymember Corey Jackson (D-Moreno Valley) to the Assembly's budget leadership team in December. Weber will lead Subcommittee 1 on Health while Jackson will guide Subcommittee 2

billion of the budget problem.

better job of focusing and also give the committee more time to offer feedback," Speaker Rivas stated, referring to the

> "Assemblymember Jackson has dedicated his career to social work, and I believe he is the best person to lead this new subcommittee," wrote Rivas.

increase between fiscal years made positive strides, but 2021 and 2022. Data from there is still more work to be the report emphasized the pressing need for sustained, collaborative efforts to combat homelessness and support vulnerable populations nationwide.

> "HUD has substantially invested in addressing the housing needs of those facing homelessness, particularly the most vulnerable populations," officials wrote in a release.

lawmakers begin planning for the 20242025-budget year.

In addition to the deficit, other takeaways in the report included "multiple tools available" the Legislature has to address the budget problem.

Cohen is also a member of numerous public financing authorities, and fiscal and financial oversight entities including the Franchise Tax Board. Cohen serves on the boards of the nation's two largest public pension funds.

Maternity ward closures, educating public about reparations, retail theft, public safety, Medisubcommittee Jackson chairs. Cal reimbursement rates, improving the shortage of public employees, and divestment in oil are some of the issues CLBC members hope to address during the next 12 months.

Chair Roger Niello (R-Fair protected by its "rainy day Oaks) wrote a letter to Gov. Newsom, urging him to "act early" to address the state's worsening fiscal condition.

"This budget deficit will impact every California resident and doesn't matter whether you're a Republican or Democrat," Jones stated. "That's why we must roll up our sleeves and work together to bring spending in line with revenues."

Cohen has been monitoring the state's financial reports and clarified California is

Black caucuses have never had before," said Jackson. "So, I am looking forward to working with the speaker and Chair Wilson to get these things done."

an opportunity that other Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) in to leadership roles in November for the 2023-2024 legislative session.

Wilson is chair of the Transportation Committee; McCarty is chair of the Speaker Rivas created the Public Safety Committee; new Budget Subcommittee on Weber is chair of Budget Subcommittee 1 on Health; and Gipson is chair of the Arts, Entertainment, Sports, and Tourism Committee; Bonta is chair of the Health Committee; and Issac Bryan (D-Ladera Heights), chair of the Natural Resources Committee.

Board of Supervisors.

In the Senate, Bradford chairs the Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee. He is also serving his last term in the Legislature.

Wilson said all the members of the Black Caucus are "excited" and "look forward

on Human Services.

In particular, the state has \$24 billion in reserves to help address the budget problem. In addition, there are options to reduce spending on schools and community colleges that could address nearly \$17

> Each year, LAO publishes the fiscal outlook in anticipation of the upcoming budget season. The goal of the report is to provide the Legislature its independent estimates and analysis of the state's financial condition as

Assemblymembers Corey Jackson (D-Moreno Valley); Tina McKinnor (D-Inglewood); Mike Gipson (D-Carson); Akilah Weber (D-La Mesa), Reggie Jones-Sawyer (D - Los Angeles) and Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento).

The other five members were unable to attend the briefing due to holiday season obligations, Wilson said.

During the 2024 legislative session, Jackson, who will lead Budget Subcommittee 2 on Human Services, said he expects Black Californians will see that the CLBC is "protecting" key issues that concern Black Californians.

"I think it's going to be

Human Services to focus on state funding for programs such as CalWORKs, CalFresh and In-home Supportive Services. Budget Subcommittee No. 1 previously oversaw human services funding, in combination with health.

The new subcommittee Jackson is leading will engage in increased activities on social programs, in addition to interacting

with residents and advocates on issues such as disability rights, low-income jobs, childcare, and aging, Rivas stated in a Dec. 5, 2023, letter. In addition to Jackson's new role, Rivas appointed other members of the California

McKinnor remains as the chair of the Public Employment and Retirement Committee from the previous Legislative session.

Assemblymembers Reggie Jones-Sawyer and Chris Holden (D-Pasadena) are both termed out this year. Jones-Sawyer is running for a seat on the L.A. City Council and Holden is running to serve on the Los Angeles County

to stepping" into their roles. Jackson says he

is excited to be working on issues affecting aging adults in California.

According to the Stanford Center on Longevity, the number of old people in California, those over 65, will double over the next twenty years from 4.3 million in 2010 to 8.4 million in 2030. This will take place as the huge Baby Boomer cohort — the population born between 1946 and 1964 — passes age 65.

"These resources are vital lifelines for many families. By separating out human services and public health committee work, the Legislature can do a

A recurring concern for members as they discussed the issues important to them is the state's \$68 billion budget deficit that the nonpartisan (LAO) projected last month.

"I am so grateful that our Speaker has placed me as chair (Subcommittee 1 on Health)," Weber said. "That not the last time (CLBC is going to be so important not only to tackle our budget crisis right now but also making sure that as stated earlier by Assemblyman Jackson, be creative in ways in looking to see where we are putting our money that's actually working."

Other pressing issues for members are early education, afterschool programs, childcare for African American Legislative Accounting Office parents, criminal justice reform, and finding solutions to end mass incarceration in California's jails and prisons.

> "As a group, this is will meet with the Black Press). We know that the work you do is important, people laud us always for the work that we do, but you really are on the front lines of our communities," Wilson told the Black news publishers and reporters.

## **COVID** in California: Numbers of Infections, Hospitalizations Creep Up

#### By Tanu Henry

lmost a year after California officially ended its State of Emergency declared in response to the outbreak of the Coronavirus in the United States in 2020, COVIDrelated hospitalizations and infections have begun to slightly increase- sometimes

According to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for the week ending Dec. 23, there were 3279 coronavirus-positive patients, which was 14% higher than the week before. That spike is the highest recorded over the last 10 months.

According to the Centers

in combination with the flu. for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there are eight California counties are now in its "Medium COVID-19 Hospitalization" category. They are Los Angeles, Sacramento, Placer, Yolo, El Dorado, Butte, Tehama and Glenn counties.

> Los Angeles County has also reinstated a mask mandate at all license healthcare facilities

after the county's Department of Health reported a 25% increase in hospitalizations.

Based on CDPH data for the last week only, those numbers have begun to decline. There were 3,122 new COVID-19 infections across the state for the week ending Jan. 5.

The statewide "test positivity" rate for the week ending Jan. 5 was 12.3%, up

+0.5% from the week before. From Oct. 1, 2023. to Dec. 30, 2023, there were 1,296 confirmed COVID-19 related deaths in the state. Over the course of the last week only 1.8 percent of all deaths were "COVID-coded," according to the CDPH.

Despite the increase in numbers in some places in California, officials say

the state's overall infection and hospitalization rates are lower than last year. Hospitals are also reporting that there are enough beds in ICUs to accommodate the reported upticks.

Over the last seven days, there was an average of 1,437.1 ICU hospital beds available across the state, according to the CDPH.



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