

Sun-Reporter



A NEWS JOURNAL DEDICATED TO THE CAUSE OF THE PEOPLE 77 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE ENTIRE BAY AREA

(USPS 526-500)

VOLUME 80 - NUMBER 45 • THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025

.30¢
BEST BUY IN THE WEST

From Crisis to Comeback: Mayor Lurie's Vision for San Francisco

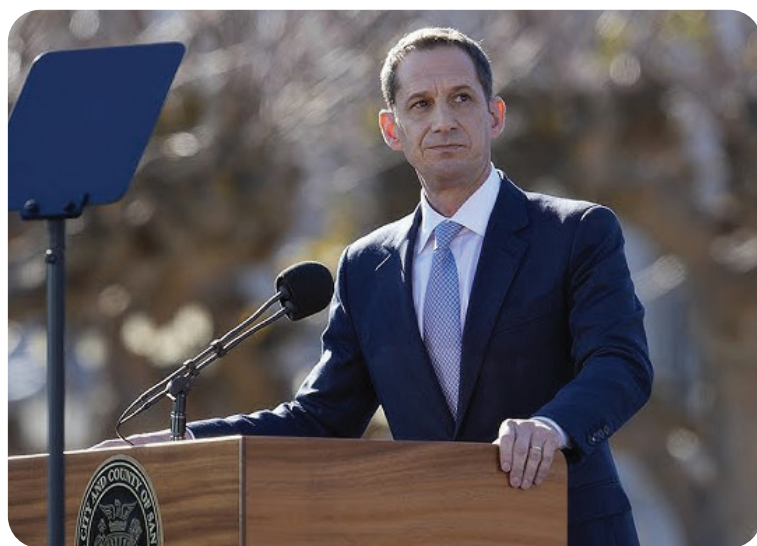
By Evan Ward

Daniel Lurie took the oath as San Francisco's 46th mayor Wednesday. In his first act, he promised swift action in the city's fight against fentanyl, homelessness, and public safety woes. Lurie laid out his 100-day roadmap to recovery in a speech heavy on accountability and urgency.

"This city has hit rock bottom," Lurie said, recounting a sobering visit to San Francisco General Hospital's neonatal unit. There, he saw babies fighting to recover from fentanyl exposure.

"Standing in that nursery, surrounded by tiny lives already burdened by our failures, I made a promise: We will turn this city around," he said. Lurie announced a package of Fentanyl State of Emergency Ordinances to make drug enforcement a round-the-clock priority. "The fentanyl crisis doesn't clock out at 5 p.m., and neither will we."

The San Francisco Police Department and Sheriff's Department will redirect



Nonprofit founder Daniel Lurie was formally sworn in Wednesday as San Francisco's 46th mayor.

resources to tackle open-air drug markets, and a 24/7 "Drop Off Center" will open in spring, offering alternatives to jail or hospital for those battling addiction and mental health crises.

Homelessness in San Francisco, with nearly 8,000 people on the streets, is "a moral failing," Lurie said. "Tolerance doesn't mean turning a blind eye to suffering or letting safety slip away."

He committed to streamlining city services with a single Street Conditions Dashboard to coordinate responses.

Behavioral health specialists will join first-responder units. Lurie's administration also plans to bolster nonprofit service providers and expand programs like The Journey Home, which reconnects homeless individuals with support systems outside the city.

"This isn't about good intentions. It's about results," he said. "The era of scattered efforts is over."

Lurie pledged to rejuvenate the city's downtown core, launching a Hospitality Zone

Continued on page 7

Barbara Lee Eyes Oakland's Revival in Mayoral Bid

By Evan Ward

Barbara Lee, the former Bay Area congresswoman known for her lone vote against the war in Afghanistan after 9/11, has entered the race for Oakland mayor.

Lee, 78, announced her candidacy in a video on social media, pledging to lead an "Oakland renaissance" and address the city's deep-rooted challenges of high crime, homelessness, and business closures.

Lee, the highest-ranking Black woman in House Democratic leadership during her tenure, concluded her 25-year congressional career last week. She opted not to seek re-election, focusing instead on a Senate run, where she finished fourth in last year's primary.

Oakland has been in political flux since voters recalled Sheng Thao in November after less than two years in office. The city, currently led by its second



Barbara Lee

interim mayor, will hold a special election in April to fill the position.

"This is our moment. This is our movement," Lee said in her campaign video, highlighting her decades of experience as a legislator, small-business owner, and Oakland resident.

Lee's candidacy has drawn significant support. In December, an open letter urging her to run was signed by local leaders, including Nikki Fortunato Bas, a former interim mayor, who praised Lee as "someone who can build trust

in government." Bas added that Lee's ability to work across the aisle would be crucial for Oakland's recovery.

Her primary opponent, Loren Taylor, who narrowly lost to Thao in the 2022 mayoral race, welcomed the challenge. Taylor, a former City Council member, emphasized his hands-on approach to local governance. "Years in Congress don't replace rolling up sleeves and working with communities," he said.

The special election winner will complete Thao's term, ending in January 2027.

Final Days: Fillmore Safeway Shuttters Amid Community Outcry

By Evan Ward

The Safeway on Webster Street is in its final days, and shoppers are making the most of it. The store, set to close officially on February 7, has launched a 50% clearance sale, drawing a frenzy of bargain hunters. By Tuesday afternoon, shelves were bare—meat, produce, and frozen goods nearly wiped out.

Since the sale began Monday, bulk items have been flying off the shelves. Shoppers have cleared out 24-packs of bottled water, 130-count boxes of pizza rolls, and 504-count packs of baby wipes. One employee estimated the store might effectively close within two weeks due to the rapid pace of sales. Safeway's statement acknowledged the possibility of an earlier closure, citing overwhelming demand.

The closure of the Fillmore district store has sparked community outrage. Serving a population that includes



The Safeway at 1335 Webster St. was planned to be sold to Align Real Estate, which wants to build a mixed-use development with housing and commercial space. But, now, a San Francisco supervisor is urging the city to use eminent domain to acquire the parcel and build affordable housing.

seniors and disabled residents, it is the only accessible major grocery store in the area. The nearest alternative is a Trader Joe's half a mile away, but there is no direct bus route between the two locations. Another Safeway on Market Street, over a mile away, can be reached via the 22 bus.

Safeway announced the closure in January 2024,

attributing it to theft and safety concerns. Originally slated for March, the shutdown was delayed after negotiations with city officials. The site's buyer, Align Real Estate, plans to replace the grocery store with a mixed-use tower featuring 1,000 housing units and retail space. Community

Continued on page 7

SAN FRANCISCO 2024 CRIME RATES HIT 20-YEAR LOW WITH HISTORIC DROP IN HOMICIDE AND CAR BREAK-INS

San Francisco, CA – Today Mayor London N. Breed and Police Chief Bill Scott announced San Francisco's 2024 crime rates reached numbers not seen in over 20 years as the city made historic gains confronting major crime trends. These results include a 60-year low in homicides and a record decrease in car break-ins.

Property Crime: Down 31% from 2023 and 46% from 2017

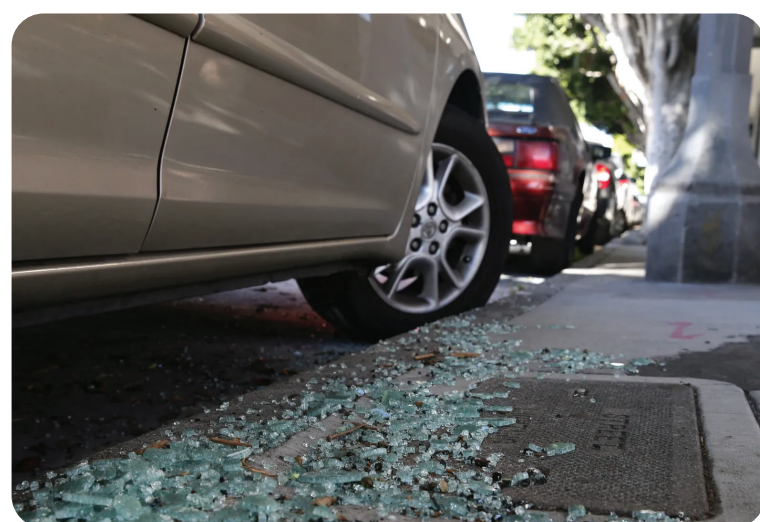
Violent Crime: Down 14% from 2023 and 26% from 2017

In 2024, overall crime was at its lowest point since 2001

Key Highlights include:

Homicides reached a 60-year low, with only 35 murders in 2024, down 35% from 2023

Auto break-ins were down 54% from last year, coming in at under 10,000 for the first



Enhanced strategies to use new technology, disrupt open-air drug markets, and prioritize police staffing and prosecutions will continue to maintain progress

time in nearly 15 years.

Key Enforcement and Investment Tools

San Francisco police officers continued work to patrol, respond to calls for service, and investigate crimes when they are committed was

foundational to the efforts to bring crime rates down. Local law enforcement partners, including the San Francisco Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney's Office, delivered a coordination focus

Continued on page 7

Sun Reporter



(ISSN 0890-0930)

Dedicated to the cause of the people-- that no good cause shall lack a champion and evil shall not thrive unopposed.

Published weekly by Sun-Reporter Publishing Co. 1286 Fillmore Street San Francisco, CA. 94115 Periodicals Postage Paid At San Francisco, California

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to - Sun-Reporter Publishing Co. 1286 Fillmore Street San Francisco, CA. 94115

Phone: (415) 671-1000

Fax: (415) 671-1005

E-Mail address:

SunReporter@SBCglobal.net

Website:

www.TheSunReporter.com

Subscription Rates:

\$20 per year; 30 cents per copy. Member of National Newspaper Publishers Association, Inc., and California Publishers Association. Sun-Reporter has a six-column format, 1.895" per column with .125" between each column.

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

Amelia Ashley-Ward
Editor/Publisher

Black Caucus Members Appointed to Leadership Roles in Calif. Legislature

Antonio Ray Harvey | California Black Media

All twelve members of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) have been assigned leadership roles in the State Senate and the State Assembly, according to separate statements issued by Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire (D-Healdsburg) and Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas (D-Hollister).

On Jan. 3, McGuire announced that Sen. Akilah Weber-Pierson (D-San Diego), Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Los Angeles), and Sen. Laura Richardson (D-San Pedro) are joining several other colleagues as committee heads and as officers of the 2025-2026 Senate Democratic Leadership Team.

"The State Senate is ready to move California forward. Incredibly proud to serve alongside these dynamic Senators, who reflect the best of the Golden State. Let's go to work," McGuire posted on Jan. 3 on the social media platform X.

On Dec. 27, Rivas announced his Assembly leadership team

and the Chairs of all Assembly committees, including CLBC members: CLBC Vice Chair Assemblymember Isaac Bryan (D-Ladera Heights), Chair, Natural Resources Committee; Assemblymember Lori Wilson (D-Suisun City), Chair, Transportation Committee; Assemblymember Corey Jackson (D-Moreno Valley), Chair, Budget Human Services Committee; Assemblymember Rhodesia Ransom (D-Tracy), Chair, Emergency Management Committee; Assemblymember Mia Bonta (D-Oakland), Chair, Health Committee; Assemblymember Tina McKinnor (D-Inglewood), Chair, Public Employment and Retirement Committee; Assemblymember Mike Gipson (D-Carson), Chair, Revenue and Taxation Committee; and Assemblymember LaShae Sharp-Collins (D-San Diego), Assistant Majority Leader for Policy.

"Californians expect us to deliver practical solutions that improve everyday life, like building more housing for families and lowering energy costs," Rivas said in a statement. "I look forward to working with the Assembly's new leaders to

chart a path forward that renews opportunity and innovation in our state."

In the Senate, Richardson was named to the Democratic leadership as Assistant Majority Whip. Sen. Dave Cortese (D-San Jose) is the Majority Whip. As Assistant Majority Whip, Richardson helps the Majority Whip manage and monitor legislation and secure votes for bills.

Richardson will also serve as Chairperson for the Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 5 on Corrections, Public Safety, Judiciary, Labor, and Transportation. Weber-Pierson will serve as Chair of Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Health and Human Services.

According to the State Legislative Process, Budget subcommittees hold hearings on items in the Governor's budget during the spring, then again after staff examine each line item pertaining to their assigned area of the budget.

The Labor, Public Employment, and Retirement Committee (formerly the Labor and Industrial Relations Committee) for the California State Senate will be chaired by Smallwood-Cuevas. She also served in that leadership



On Jan. 3, McGuire announced that Sen. Akilah Weber-Pierson (D-San Diego), Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Los Angeles), and Sen. Laura Richardson (D-San Pedro) are joining several other colleagues as committee heads and an officer of the 2025-2026 Senate Democratic Leadership Team.

position during the 2023-2024 legislative session.

Bills are heard in standing committees, which meet on a regular basis throughout the year.

For the first time in its 58-year history, most CLBC members are women. Nine out of its 12 current members are Black women.

Weber-Pierson, Smallwood-Cuevas, and Richardson were sworn in on Dec. 2, the first official day of the 2025-26 Regular Session, in the chambers of the State Senate by the Hon. Patricia Guerrero, Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court.

On Dec. 2, McGuire gavelled in the First Extraordinary Session called by Gov. Gavin Newsom to protect California values and fundamental rights from the incoming federal administration under Donald Trump.

Wilson, the former Chair of the CLBC, thanked Rivas for reappointing her as Chair of the Transportation Committee.

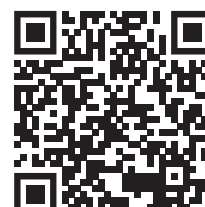
"Grateful for your continued confidence and excited to deliver on building a sustainable, innovative, and equitable transportation future for California," she posted on the social media platform Bluesky.



Get help paying your bill

Choose from many bill payment resources to help manage energy costs this winter.

Learn more at pge.com/billingresources



In Letter, Conservative Org Threatens Mayor Bass, Other Officials, With Imprisonment

Antonio Ray Harvey |
California Black Media

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass is one of 249 officials across the country who have been warned that they could be imprisoned for not supporting federal government efforts to detain and deport people illegally living in the United States.

The conservative non-profit America First Legal sent letters to Bass, Attorney General Rob Bonta Los

Angeles Police Department Chief Jim McDonnell and other California elected officials that they deem could interfere with federal immigration activities after Donald Trump is sworn-in as president on Jan. 20.

America First Legal is run by Trump's incoming deputy Chief of Staff for policy Stephen Miller. After the election in November, Miller confirmed that he will push for the declaration of a national emergency and use the military to carry out mass deportations of undocumented immigrants.

On Nov. 12, Bass said in a written statement that the city of Los Angeles would take swift action to implement protections for immigrant communities.

"Especially in the face of growing threats to the immigrant communities here in Los Angeles, I stand with the people of this city," Bass stated. "This moment demands urgency. Immigrant protections make our communities stronger and our city better."

The America First Legal letter to McDonnell's office

by email was dated Dec. 23. It states that the nonprofit "identified Los Angeles as a sanctuary jurisdiction that is violating federal law."

"Federal law is clear: aliens unlawfully present in the United States are subject to removal from the country, and it is a crime to conceal, harbor, or shield them. It is also a crime to prevent federal officials from enforcing immigration laws. These laws were duly enacted by the people's elected representatives," the letter reads.



The America First Legal letter to McDonnell's office by email was dated Dec. 23. It states that the nonprofit "identified Los Angeles as a sanctuary jurisdiction that is violating federal law."

Gov. Newsom Announces Historic Boost to Paid Family Leave Benefits in California

Edward Henderson | California
Black Media

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced a significant increase in California's paid family leave and disability benefits, effective Jan. 1, 2025.

"Expanded paid family leave benefits are about making it

easier for Californians to care for themselves, bond with a new child, and care for their families without worrying about how they'll pay the bills," said Newsom about the historic change.

This new policy will allow eligible workers earning less than \$63,000 annually to receive up to 90% of their

regular wages while on leave. Workers earning above this threshold will receive 70% of their wages, marking a substantial enhancement in support for workers needing time off to care for a sick family member, recover from an illness, or bond with a new child.

The increase, enacted under

Senate Bill (SB) 951, aims to make it more affordable for California workers to take time off for critical life events such as pregnancy, childbirth, recovery from illness, or caring for a loved one, including during military deployment. First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom emphasized that the policy reflects the

state's commitment to supporting working mothers, parents, and caregivers.

Sen. Maria Elena Durazo (D-Los Angeles), SB 951's author, celebrated the law's passage, highlighting its importance for middle and low-income workers who will now receive up to 90% of their wages while on leave. The

Employment Development Department (EDD) also lauded the policy, noting its role in strengthening California's workforce and improving the lives of millions of workers.

The new benefits apply to claims filed on or after Jan. 1, 2025, while claims filed in 2024 will continue at the 2024 rates of 60% to 70%.

RACIAL DISPARITIES AND YOUTH SENTENCING MARK U.S. LIFE SENTENCING PRACTICES

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

The Sentencing Project, an advocacy organization promoting humane responses to crime, has released its report, "A Matter of Life: The Scope and Impact of Life and Long-Term Imprisonment in the United States."

The report provides a detailed analysis of life sentences, revealing that nearly 200,000 people—one in six individuals in U.S. prisons—are serving life terms. The United States accounts for 40 percent of the world's life-sentenced population but represents only 4 percent of the global population.

Life without parole, often referred to as "death by incarceration," has reached

record levels in the United States. The report found 56,245 individuals serving life without parole in 2024, a 68 percent increase since 2003. Another 41,398 individuals are serving virtual life sentences, which require at least 50 years in prison before release eligibility. Researchers noted that overall crime rates have reached near historic lows, yet incarceration rates persist.

The findings also highlight the racial inequities embedded in life sentencing practices. Nearly half of those serving life sentences and more than half of those sentenced to life without parole are Black. In seven states, including Louisiana, Alabama, and Georgia, more than one in four Black individuals in prison is serving a life sentence. The disparities are particularly stark among younger populations, with 70,000

individuals currently serving life sentences for offenses committed before the age of 25. Among those sentenced to life without parole for crimes committed before the age of 25, 62 percent are Black.

The report also draws attention to the growing number of elderly individuals serving life sentences. Nearly 40 percent of the life-sentenced population is aged 55 or older, many of whom entered prison decades ago. The Sentencing Project's researchers claimed that the aging process in jails, together with the lack of access to healthcare, makes this demographic even more vulnerable. They said the fact that more than half of those serving life sentences in Michigan are older than 55 highlights the structural issues with aging confinement.

Research cited in the report challenges the idea

that extreme sentences serve as a deterrent. The authors assert that the severity of punishment has little impact on reducing crime, noting that most individuals serving life sentences have "aged out" of criminal behavior long before their sentences end. The report argues that resources currently spent on imprisoning elderly and rehabilitated individuals would be better used addressing the root causes of crime, such as poverty and lack of access to education and healthcare.

The Sentencing Project provides several recommendations to address the systemic issues surrounding life sentences, including abolishing life without parole, implementing sentence reviews after ten years of incarceration, capping sentences at 20 years for adults and 15 years for youth, and reforming parole systems



The United States accounts for 40 percent of the world's life-sentenced population but represents only 4 percent of the global population.

to ensure fair evaluations. The report's authors concluded that reducing excessive sentences would promote fairness and redirect public funds toward effective community safety measures.

"Communities will not be safer unless we build stronger public health, education, and services for vulnerable people," said Kara Gotsch, Executive Director of The Sentencing Project. "The release of elderly and rehabilitated people from

prison will not impact crime rates but will reserve public dollars for more effective safety solutions."

The report also critiques the United States' approach to life imprisonment compared to international standards. Life sentences are rare in most countries and typically capped at shorter durations. The study calls on U.S. policymakers to adopt reforms that reflect a more humane and practical approach to justice.

The Sun-Reporter

EDITORIAL

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

Freedom's Journal, March 16, 1827.

In Its Final Days, the Biden Administration Delivers Big Time for America's Coastal Communities

By Ben Jealous

It may be the dead of winter, but when we think about our beaches none of us want to picture them covered in oil. That is true for those of us who live along the water and those who live hundreds of miles from any ocean. Regardless of our generation, we can all picture what it looks like. For some, it is the 1969 oil spill in Santa Barbara, California.

For others, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill by BP in the Gulf of Mexico. No matter what disaster comes to mind, we can all agree on one thing:

we must protect our waters and our coastal communities. President Biden not only agrees, he just took decisive action to prevent future disasters from happening.

This week, in the waning days of his administration, President Biden announced he would use his authority under Section 12(a) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently withdraw 625 million acres from leasing for oil and gas drilling and exploration off our nation's coasts. The protected waters include the entire eastern Atlantic coast, the eastern Gulf of Mexico,

the Pacific coast of California, Oregon, and Washington, and portions of the Northern Bering Sea in Alaska.

This move is the latest chapter in Biden's historic climate legacy. It safeguards coastal communities and economies, marine wildlife, and ecosystems from the threats posed by offshore drilling. It will protect the health of those living closest to the pollution and other negative effects of offshore drilling. And it will bolster the already-underway clean energy transition that ends our reliance on fossil fuels, strengthens our economy

with family-sustaining jobs, and makes our air and water cleaner and safer.

This latest action marks a major stride in the Biden administration's America the Beautiful initiative to conserve, restore, and protect 30% of America's lands and waters by 2030 (often called "30 by 30"). It is one more feather in the cap of an administration that has shown remarkable dedication to conservation with the creation and expansion of national monuments, protections for millions of acres in the Arctic, and priority shifts at key agencies like the Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service.

And it is a move that should be popular with Americans of all political stripes. Strong bipartisan majorities oppose offshore drilling. Sixty percent of Americans opposed efforts by the first Trump administration to lift offshore drilling bans. In the 17 states along the coasts that would have been impacted, 64% opposed lifting the ban. Coastal communities, business groups, and governors of both parties oppose offshore drilling. Presidents of both parties – including every president in the 21st century – have used their Section 12a authority to remove portions of the US coastline from oil and gas drilling. And bills that would ban offshore drilling



Ben Jealous

have enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress.

Despite propaganda from Big Oil and Gas, this is a major win for all Americans and especially those in communities that depend on coastal waters for their livelihoods and local economies. It is a win for every American, as the climate crisis increasingly impacts all of us. Prices at the pump will not go up (the cost of gasoline is determined by global oil prices and consumer demand, not changes to federal leasing policy). There is no evidence that expanded leasing and domestic production in federal waters would lower heating bills. And it is a win for endangered marine mammals, fisheries, and ecosystems along most US coast lines.

No matter what propaganda corporate polluters push, the fact remains there will never be a safe way to desecrate our waters to extract fossil fuels. This is why we must keep pushing to protect the

central and western Gulf of Mexico as well, where oil and gas drilling is already deeply established. The communities, species, and ecosystems of this region continue to shoulder the environmental and health hazards brought on by widespread fossil fuel development. Indeed, another spill catastrophe in this region could lead to devastating public health, economic, and extinction-level impacts.

As we continue our transition to a clean energy economy, we can look forward to a day when all of America's waters and coasts are protected from the harms of offshore drilling. When that day comes, we will look back on this move by President Biden as perhaps the biggest step that got us there.

In the meantime, it is not too early to say: Thank you, President Biden. There are still some crucial remaining days to this president. Let's encourage the president to keep taking bold action until the very last day.

White House Celebrates Record ACA Enrollment Amid Plans to Overhaul Health Care"

By Stacy M. Brown
WI Senior Writer
@StacyBrownMedia

The Biden-Harris Administration has announced a historic milestone: nearly 24 million Americans—including approximately 64,000 District residents—have signed up for Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace coverage for 2025, with one week remaining in the open enrollment period.

The record-breaking figure represents nearly doubling enrollment since President Joe Biden took office. Over 45 million Americans are covered through the ACA's Marketplace and Medicaid expansion, marking an all-time high in health insurance coverage in U.S. history.

Biden hailed the achievement as a direct result of his administration's efforts to make health care more affordable and accessible. "When I took office, I made a promise to the American

people that I would bring down the cost of health care and prescription drugs, make signing up for coverage easier, and strengthen the Affordable Care Act, Medicare, and Medicaid," Biden stated. "I'm proud that my administration delivered—even as Republican elected officials stood in the way. I urge Congress to double down on the progress we have made by extending the ACA premium tax credit this year."

Over the past four years, the administration implemented initiatives contributing to record-breaking enrollment and reduced healthcare costs. Key measures included enhancing ACA premium tax credits, which saved consumers an average of \$800 annually on premiums, and simplifying enrollment processes, particularly for underserved and rural communities. Medicaid expansion in four additional states provided coverage for over one million people while eliminating bureaucratic barriers ensured millions could apply for or renew

coverage seamlessly.

The administration also took aggressive steps to lower prescription drug costs, with the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation program achieving prices 38% to 79% lower than U.S. list prices for the first ten negotiated drugs. Medicare beneficiaries benefited from a \$2,000 annual cap on out-of-pocket costs and a \$35 monthly cap on insulin. The White House said those initiatives put billions of dollars back into the pockets of seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Despite these successes, the ACA faces an uncertain future. President-elect Donald Trump and Republican lawmakers, who will control the House and Senate, have expressed intentions to overhaul the law. During his campaign, Trump criticized the ACA as overly expensive and suggested retooling or repealing key provisions. Republican leaders have signaled plans to prioritize changes, which could result in significant premium increases

and coverage losses.

Officials noted that enhanced premium tax credits are set to expire without Congressional action. If that happens, premiums could skyrocket. For example, a single parent earning \$50,000 annually could see their premiums increase by \$1,600, while a retired couple earning \$85,000 could face an \$18,000 increase. Experts estimate that between three and five million Americans could lose health insurance entirely.

The White House noted that the ACA's impact extends beyond Marketplace coverage. Today, Medicaid covers approximately 80 million Americans, with the administration driving initiatives to simplify enrollment and expand postpartum coverage for hundreds of thousands of new mothers. Other healthcare advancements under the Biden-Harris Administration include a 17% reduction in overdose deaths in the 12 months ending July 2024—the largest decline in U.S.



The record-breaking figure represents nearly doubling enrollment since President Joe Biden took office.

history—and a significant decrease in new HIV infections following the launch of a national strategy to end the epidemic by 2030.

Administration officials said Biden and Harris's comprehensive efforts to improve healthcare access, affordability, and equity have also addressed mental health and maternal health crises. The 988 mental health lifeline, created under Biden's leadership, has answered over 11 million calls, chats, and texts that have provided immediate

support to individuals in crisis. Additionally, 46 states and the District of Columbia extended Medicaid postpartum coverage from two months to 12 months.

While Biden praised the progress made during his presidency, he warned of the risks ahead. "If Republicans in Congress take away the enhanced premium tax credits, premiums will skyrocket, and millions of Americans could lose coverage," he said. "We cannot afford to let this progress slip away."

THE SUN-REPORTER

RELIGIOUS SECTION

THE BAY AREA'S CHURCH NEWS & ACTIVITIES



Sunday School Lesson

By Shunda Criswell

Jesus Seeks Out Zacchaeus

Lesson Text: Luke 19:1-10
Related Scriptures: Ezekiel 18:19-32; Luke 15:1-10; Acts 11:1-8
Place: Jericho
Time: 30 A.D. Golden Tex:
"The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:10)

A second person in Jericho came to faith in Jesus. Zac-

chaeus, like the blind man, was considered outside the normal Jewish system because of his activities for Rome as a tax collector. Zacchaeus responded to Jesus' message in precisely the opposite way the rich ruler had responded (see Luke 18:18-25). Zacchaeus was wealthy (see Luke 19:2), knew he was a sinner. When

Jesus called on him, he responded with a greater enthusiasm than Jesus had asked for. This account is also a commentary on Jesus' words that with God all things are possible (Luke 18:25-27), for Zacchaeus was a wealthy person who found salvation. In Luke 19:1-4, This incident seems ludicrous. Here was Zacchaeus, a wealthy and probably influential man, running ahead of the crowd and climbing a sycamore-fig tree (See Amos 7:14) to get a chance to see ... Jesus. Luke may have been presenting Zacchaeus' actions as a commentary on Jesus' words that unless people become like little children, they cannot enter the kingdom of God (Luke 18:17). Jesus already knew Zacchaeus' name and all about him. He instructed the tax man to come

down immediately for Jesus wanted to stay at his house. This was more than Zacchaeus had hoped for, so he welcomed Him gladly. The word "gladly" is literally "rejoicing." Luke used this verb nine times (Luke 1:14; 8:13; 10:17; 13:17; 15:5, 9, 32; 19:6, 37) to denote an attitude of joy accompanying faith and salvation. (Luke 19:5-6, The Bible Knowledge Commentary). Though Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, he couldn't because the crowd was so big, and he was a short man (19:3). So, he resorted to the only option left: he climbed up a sycamore tree (19:4). His desperation caused him to do something a bit below his dignity. But Zacchaeus was willing to endure some public scorn to see the one everyone had been talking about. When Jesus saw him, he said, Come

down because today it is necessary for me to stay at your house (19:5). Notice, he didn't say, "I'd like to stay at your house." No, this was a divine appointment: "it is necessary." (Tony Evans Commentary, Luke 19:5-6). Zacchaeus was thrilled. He welcomed Jesus joyfully (19:6). But the crowd was in shock: He's gone to stay with a sinful man (Luke 19:7). Some people in the crowd were probably hoping to have Jesus as their own dinner guest. Why had he chosen this sinner instead? Because sinners were the reason he had come in the first place (Luke 19:10). Knowing that he was a sinner and knowing the grace that Jesus was showing to him, Zacchaeus said, I'll give half of my possessions to the poor, Lord. And if I have extorted anything from any-

one, I'll pay back four times as much (Luke 19:8). That's what repentance looks like. Repentance doesn't merely say, "I'm sorry," it makes amends for wrongdoing. The crowds had complained that Jesus went to this wicked man's home. But after Jesus got through with him, Zacchaeus would be a better man for the community and restore what he had taken from them. Jesus observed, Salvation has come to this house (Luke 19:9). **Zacchaeus's outward actions were testimony of an inward transformation. This was why Jesus came—to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10). Be Blessed Saints!!**

SUBSCRIBE

The Sun Reporter

A News Journal Dedicated To The Cause Of The People

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. Keva 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
 Wednesday 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 KDAY
 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

Living Word Church of God In Christ

12 Westlake Ave
 Daly City CA. 94014

Rev. Derrick Lomax
 Pastor

Sunday School - 10:00: am
 Morning worship - 11:30 am
 Wed Bible Class 8:00 pm
 Friday Prayer Service 8:00 pm

Sun Reporter

CLASSIFIED ADS (415-671-1000)

ADOPTIONS

PREGNANT? CONSIDERING ADOPTION? Call us first. Living expenses, housing, medical, and continued support afterwards. Choose adoptive family of your choice. Call 24/7. 1-877-879-4709 (Cal-SCAN)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Place these house ads sporadically throughout your classified sections to promote the network - Thank you!

DID YOU KNOW 7 IN 10 Americans or 158 million U.S. Adults read content from newspaper media each week? Discover the Power of Newspaper

Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email cecilia@cnpa.com (Cal-SCAN)

DID YOU KNOW 144 million U.S. Adults read a Newspaper print copy each week? Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email cecilia@cnpa.com (Cal-SCAN)

EVERY BUSINESS has a story to tell! Get your message out with California's PRMedia Release - the only Press Release Service operated by the press to

get press! For more info contact Cecelia @ 916-288-6011 or <http://prmediarelease.com/california> (Cal-SCAN)

AUTOS WANTED

DONATE YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR BOAT TO HERITAGE FOR THE BLIND. FREE 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care of. Call 800-731-5042 (Cal-SCAN)

Got an older car, boat or RV? Do the humane thing. Donate it to the Humane Society. Call 1-800-743-1482 (Cal-SCAN)

GET CASH FOR CARS/TRUCKS!!! All Makes/Models 2000-2016! Top \$\$\$ Paid! Any Condition! Used or wrecked. Running or Not. Free Towing! Call For

Offer: 1- 888-417-9150. (Cal-SCAN)

AUTOS WANTED/LUXURY KILL AD - DO NOT RUN

WANTED! Old Porsche 356/911/912 for restoration by hobbyist 1948-1973 Only. Any condition, top \$ paid 707 965-9546 (Cal-SCAN)

CABLE/SATELLITE TV

Switch to DIRECTV. Lock in 2-Year Price Guarantee (\$50/month) w/AT&T Wire-

less. Over 145 Channels PLUS Popular Movie Networks for Three Months, No Cost! Call 1-800-385-9017 (Cal-SCAN)

DISH TV - BEST DEAL EVER! Only \$39.99/mo. Plus \$14.99/mo. Internet (where avail.) FREE Streaming. FREE Install (up to 6 rooms.) FREE HD-DVR. Call 1-800-357-0810 (Cal-SCAN)

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS. Unable to work? Denied benefits? We Can Help! WIN or Pay Nothing! Contact Bill Gordon & Associates at 1-800-

966-1904 to start your application today! (Cal-SCAN)

ELIMINATE CELLULITE and Inches in weeks! All natural. Odor free. Works for men or women. Free month supply on select packages. Order now! 844-703-9774. (Cal-SCAN)

HEALTH / MEDICAL NEW AD - OXYGEN - Anytime. Anywhere. No tanks to refill. No deliveries. The All-New Inogen One G4 is only 2.8 pounds! FAA approved!

FREE info kit. 844-359-3976. (Cal-SCAN)

VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! Cut your drug costs! SAVE \$\$! 50 Pills for \$99.00. FREE Shipping! 100% Guaranteed and Discreet. CALL 1-800-624-9105 (Cal-SCAN)

Stop OVERPAYING for your prescriptions! SAVE! Call our licensed Canadian and International pharmacy, compare prices and get \$25.00 OFF your first prescription! CALL 1-800-273-0209 Promo Code CDC201625. (Cal-SCAN)

Got Knee Pain? Back Pain? Shoulder Pain? Get a pain-relieving brace - little or NO cost to you. Medicare Patients Call Health Hotline Now! 1-800-796-5091 (Cal-SCAN)

HELP WANTED

Sales Representativ California Trade Association located in Sacramento is seeking someone with strong knowledge for Advertising, print, digital and social media solutions, great with detail, an amazing attitude, and a passion for selling content and integrated partnerships. 3-5 years experience a plus.

We offer a competitive base salary, commission and bonus plan, along with great benefit package. Email Resume and Salary History to jobs@cnpa.com. EOE (Cal-SCAN)

Protect your home with fully customizable security and 24/7 monitoring right from your smartphone. Receive up to \$1500 in equipment, free (restrictions apply). Call 1-800-918-4119 (Cal-SCAN)

INSURANCE/HEALTH

Lowest Prices on Health & Dental Insurance. We have the best rates from top companies! Call Now! 888-989-4807. (Cal-SCAN)

NORTHERN AZ WILDERNESS RANCH \$236 MONTH - Quiet & secluded 37 acre off the grid self-sufficiency ranch bordering 640 wooded acres of State Trust

lands at cool clear 6,200' elevation. Minutes from historic pioneer town & fishing lake. True wilderness with free roaming wildlife, no urban noise & dark sky nights. Blend of evergreen woodlands & grassy

meadows with sweeping views across surrounding uninhabited wilderness mountains and valleys. Abundant groundwater, rich loam garden soil & maintained road access. Camping and RV use ok. \$27,500, \$2,750 dn. with no qualifying seller financing. FREE BROCHURE with additional property descriptions, prices, photos, topo map, weather chart, area info. 1st United Realty 800.966.6690. (Cal-SCAN)

LEGAL SERVICES

Xarelto users have you had complications due to internal bleeding (after January 2012)? If so, you MAY be due financial compensation. If you don't have an attorney, CALL Injuryfone today! 1-800-425-4701. (Cal-SCAN)

DID YOU KNOW Information is power and content is King? Do you need timely access to public notices and remain relevant in today's hostile business climate? Gain the edge with California Newspaper Publishers Association new innovative website capublicnotice.com and check out the FREE One-Month Trial Smart Search Fea-

ture. For more information call Cecelia @ (916) 288-6011 or www.capublicnotice.com (Cal-SCAN)

MEDICAL SUPPLIES/EQUIPMENT

Safe Step Walk-In Tub! Alert for Seniors. Bathroom falls can be fatal. Approved by Arthritis Foundation. Therapeutic Jets. Less Than 4 Inch Step-In. Wide Door. Anti-Slip Floors. American Made. Installation Included. Call 800-799-4811 for \$750 Off. (Cal-SCAN)

MISCELLANEOUS

SAWMILLS from only \$4397.00- MAKE & SAVE MONEY with your own bandmill- Cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship! FREE Info/DVD: www.NorwoodSawmills.com 1-800-578-1363 Ext.300N (Cal-SCAN)

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SAL

HOME BREAK-INS take less than 60 SECONDS. Don't wait! Protect your family, your home, your assets NOW for as little as 70¢ a day! Call 855-404-7601(Cal-SCAN)

PERSONALS-ADULT

Meet singles right now! No paid operators, just real people like you. Browse greetings, exchange mes-

sages and connect live. Try it free. Call now: 800-945-3392. (Cal-SCAN)

DID YOU KNOW Information is power and content is King? Do you need timely access to public notices and remain relevant in today's highly competitive market? Gain an edge with California Newspaper Publishers Association new innovative website capublicnotice.com and check out the Smart Search Feature. For more information call Cecelia @ (916) 288-6011 or www.capublicnotice.com (Cal-SCAN)

A PLACE FOR MOM. The nation's largest senior living referral service. Contact our trusted, local experts today! Our service is FREE/no obligation. CALL 1-

800-550-4822. (Cal-SCAN)

TAX SERVICES

Do you owe over \$10,000 to the IRS or State in back taxes? Our firm works to reduce the tax bill or zero it out completely FAST. Call now 855-993-5796 (Cal-SCAN)



We're here during your time of need.

It's one of the most difficult times you'll ever face. Whether sudden or somewhat expected, you are never really prepared to deal with the loss of a loved one. There are so many details to take care of. Where do you begin? Who do you call?

As your local funeral home, we will help you incorporate your heritage into a meaningful "going home" celebration. With compassion, sensitivity and integrity, we will listen, counsel, lighten difficult decisions, and handle the smallest of details as you capture memories and honor the life of your loved one.

And while you may prefer not to think about it, you can take comfort in knowing we are here when you need us most.



FDH FDR 768
DOUGAN WELCH
344 17th Street - San Francisco, CA 94118 - 415 671 4991

Vaughn O. Nixon
Sons, Nephew and Staff
"Our Family Serving Your Family"

St. John Missionary Baptist Church
825 Newhall Street
Reverend Mervin Redmond, Pastor
San Francisco, CA 94124
(415) 826-5639 or 550-9324
Sunday
Sunday School 9:00 AM
Morning Worship 10:25 AM
Children's Ministry 10:25 AM
Nurture for Baptist 6:15 PM
Wednesday
Prayer Services/Bible Study
Midday 11:30 AM
Evening 6:45 PM
Communion - 1st Sunday
For information about other activities
Call (415) 826-5639 or visit us at
www.stjohnsf.org

COSMOPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH SF PRESENTS

Sunday **MORNING GATHERING**

EXPERIENCE

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL | 9:30 AM
MORNING WORSHIP | 11 AM

COSMOPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH SF
199 Farallones St., San Francisco, CA 94112
Reverend Dr. A. Ray Gentle, Senior Pastor

(669) 900-9128 Meeting ID 897 8156 8380 [LIVE facebook.com/CosmopolitanBaptistSF](https://www.facebook.com/CosmopolitanBaptistSF)

S.F. Crime Down
Continued from page 1

on accountability.

This work was augmented in 2024 by new tools, strategic initiatives and strengthened partnerships with different law enforcement agencies, including:

New Technology: San Francisco has added new technology tools that have expanded the ability of law enforcement to make arrests and prevent crime. This includes the installation of ALPR cameras at intersections across San Francisco, the deployment of new drones and the deployment of mobile cameras.

Drug Market Interventions: The Drug Market Agency Coordination Center (DMACC) was launched

in 2023 to address the growing fentanyl crisis and deteriorating street conditions. DMACC has brought together agencies across local, state, and federal government to disrupt drug dealing, public drug use, and illegal fencing of stolen goods. To date, DMACC efforts have led to 5,488 drug arrests.

Investing in Violence Prevention: The City's Violence Reduction Initiative identifies individuals at the greatest risk of either engaging in gun violence or being the victims and connects them with ongoing help and resources to disrupt the cycle of violence. These efforts have helped led to a 50% reduction in gun violence in the Bayview.

Key Arrests by Officers: SFPD officers have been making important arrests

across all units and taking repeat offenders off the street. With increased support from City leaders, residents and officers.

This year, San Francisco reported 4,739 violent crimes and 30,991 property crimes. This was the lowest overall crime rate since 2001, when the City recorded 4,528 violent crimes and 24,770 property crimes.

If you remove 2001, which had historic lows in crime rates, there hasn't been a year with these few reported crimes in decades.

"I'm grateful for the hard work by our law enforcement partners and everyone in the community working tirelessly to make our neighborhoods safer," said Mayor London Breed. "This shows that when we give our officers the tools

and support, like we have with new technology, they can deliver incredible results. It also shows the value of how we've brought coordination between our Police Chief Bill Scott, District Attorney Brooke Jenkins, Sheriff Miyamoto and state and federal partners to unprecedented levels. Let's keep supporting our officers, our prosecutors, and our sheriff's deputies in their work to make San Francisco a safer city every day."

"These historically low crime rates are proof that the hard work of our officers is paying off," said Chief Bill Scott. "Our department is short staffed, and many officers were working overtime to meet San Francisco's public safety needs. Even with these challenges, our officers delivered. We will continue working to make San

Francisco one of the safest big cities in the nation in the months and years to come. I want to thank Mayor Breed for supporting our department and helping us to acquire new game-changing technology."

"I would like to thank Mayor Breed and the San Francisco Police Department for their tireless efforts to keep our city safe," said District Attorney Brooke Jenkins. "Although, there is still more work to be done, the improving crime rates show that we're moving in the right direction. My office will continue to do everything we can to ensure the criminal justice system works in our city and there is accountability and meaningful consequences for criminal behavior."

"As we enter my second term as Sheriff, our Office

will continue to support and work with the Police Department in coordinated enforcement efforts," said Sheriff Paul Miyamoto. "Both of our Departments are short staffed, and the combined effort maximizes the continued hard work to keep the community safe and the crime rate historically low. Together, we've put a significant dent into the eradication of drug sales and public drug use and taken illegal guns out of the wrong hands. With the DA, our collaboration ensures that individuals engaging in criminal activity are held accountable. Mayor Breed was committed to our law enforcement collaboration, and I look forward to the same commitment and support from the new administration."

Fillmore Safeway
Continued from page 1

members have called on the developer to lease space to a

low-cost grocery chain to fill the void left by Safeway.

Local activists have also highlighted the broader

role the store played in the community. Beyond groceries, it provided banking and pharmacy services—

essential amenities for many residents. There are calls for any replacement business to address these needs as well.

Staff at the Fillmore Safeway are being reassigned to other locations, and shoppers are bracing for the change. For now, the

sale continues, and the aisles are thinning by the hour. "This is it," said one employee. "It's all over."

Mayor Lurie
Continued from page 1

Task Force to keep Union Square, Market Street, and Moscone Center safe and vibrant year-round. "Not just when a conference is

in town. Every single day."

Small businesses will see relief with fewer bureaucratic hurdles. "The days of a new restaurant navigating 40 inspections and 50 answers are over," he said.

Faced with the city's largest-ever budget deficit, Lurie promised tough choices. Essential services—police, EMTs, firefighters—will see no cuts, but every dollar spent will be scrutinized. "We've

been living beyond our means. That stops now."

Lurie spoke of San Francisco as a beacon for human rights but acknowledged rising hate crimes and threats to LGBTQ+ and immigrant

communities. "This city must remain a safe haven. We'll stand firm against discrimination and fight for dignity for all."

Borrowing Harvey Milk's words, Lurie closed with a rallying cry: "You have to

give people hope. But hope alone isn't enough. Now is the time to act."

San Francisco's comeback, he said, "begins now."

Fierce Wildfires Ravage Los Angeles, Displacing Thousands: How to Help

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

Fierce wildfires are devastating the greater Los Angeles area, claiming at least five lives and forcing 100,000 residents to evacuate. Sparked by dry conditions and powerful winds, these fires have created unprecedented destruction in regions not typically known for such disasters.

The Palisades Fire, the most destructive in Los Angeles history, has scorched over 17,234 acres—nearly 27 square miles—destroying more than 1,000 structures. This massive blaze remains entirely uncontained, with evacuation orders still in place. Meanwhile, the Lidia Fire, covering 80 acres, is at 40% containment, and firefighters have managed to control the 30-acre Woodley Fire. The Sunset Fire, which ignited Wednesday evening in the Hollywood Hills, has rapidly expanded to 60 acres, threatening iconic landmarks.

"These are unprecedented conditions," said Los Angeles Police Chief Jim McDonnell during a Wednesday morning press conference, urging residents to comply with evacuation orders. "This is a tragic time in our history here in Los Angeles, but a time when we're really tested and see who we really are."

P o w e r
Outages and Displacement

The fires have left more than 350,000 energy customers without power, including 200,000 in Los Angeles County, the most populous county in the nation. Businesses and homes in Pacific Palisades have suffered extensive damage, leaving thousands of residents uncertain about their future.

"This is significant," said Joanne Nowlin, Los Angeles regional executive director for the American Red Cross. "It's not just the fire, but you've got wind damage, power outages, trees falling, and deteriorating air quality. This is impacting thousands and thousands of folks in Los Angeles."

State and Local Response

California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency on Tuesday night, deploying more than 1,400 firefighters to combat the blazes. However, with high winds fueling the flames, experts warn that the fires will likely grow further.

How to Help

As Los Angeles faces this catastrophic crisis, several organizations are mobilizing to assist evacuees and first responders.

California Fire Foundation: This organization works with local fire agencies and community-based groups to support communities affected by wildfires. They are currently aiding victims of the Palisades Fire.

World Central Kitchen: Founded by celebrity chef José Andrés, the nonprofit provides meals and water to first responders and evacuees on the ground.

California Community Foundation Wildfire Recovery Fund: This fund targets underserved communities and aims to provide long-term recovery relief for

those most in need.

CAL FIRE Benevolent Foundation: This group offers financial aid to firefighters and their families, supports burn victims, and promotes firefighter health and safety.

American Red Cross: Hundreds of volunteers have been deployed to Los Angeles to operate shelters and provide meals, medical care, and emergency supplies to displaced families.

Airbnb.org and 211 LA: These organizations are collaborating to offer temporary housing for evacuees in Los Angeles County.

How You Can Help

Donations to these organizations can directly support evacuees, first responders, and long-term recovery efforts. Contributions of money, time, or resources are critical as Los Angeles battles this ongoing crisis.

GoFundMe

The online fundraising platform GoFundMe has created a centralized hub of verified fundraising pages on its site. The list is updated



Sparkled by dry conditions and powerful winds, these fires have created unprecedented destruction in regions not typically known for such disasters.

by the platform's Trust & Safety team to ensure that all included fundraisers are authentic. GoFundMe has also launched its own 2025 Wildfire Relief Fund, and says that all money raised will go directly to impacted people who are seeking help through GoFundMe fundraisers, and to nonprofit organizations providing relief on the ground.

C a l i f o r n i a
Community Foundation

The California Community Foundation has been working to strengthen Los Angeles County since 1915. The organization's Wildfire Recovery Fund targets the most underserved and hard

to reach communities in the region, with the goal of helping provide long-term recovery relief.

C A L F I R E
Benevolent Foundation

CAL FIRE Benevolent Foundation provides financial aid to firefighters and their families in the case of injury or loss of life. The organization also helps support burn victims and their families, along with research focused on firefighter health and safety.

In these trying times, Los Angeles Police Chief McDonnell's words echo a collective sentiment: "This is when we see who we really are."

14 New California Laws You Should Know About

Antonio Ray Harvey | California Black Media

Several new laws took effect on Jan. 1 in California that may impact

your job, business, finances, privacy, family, and day-to-day life.

During the last legislative session, lawmakers introduced 4,821 bills (1,530 in the State Senate and 3,291 in the Assembly).

Of those bills, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed 1,017 of them into law and vetoed 189 of them.

Along with the bills the Governor signed into law, other new laws signed in previous years also took effect on Jan. 1.

California Black Media combed through our new state laws and highlighted 14 new laws you should definitely be aware of:

AB 2622 – Assemblymember Juan Carrillo (D-Palmdale). Raises dollar limit from \$500 to \$1000 for home projects that require licensed contractors.

AB 413 – Assemblymember Alex Lee (D-Milpitas). Makes

it illegal to park a vehicle within 20 feet of any unmarked or marked crosswalk or 15 feet of any crosswalk where a curb extension is present.

AB 2017 – Sen. Timothy Grayson (D-Concord). Eliminates extra fees for declined transactions. State-chartered banks and credit unions can no longer charge you a fee for declined transactions because your balance is too low.

SB 1061 – Sen. Monique Limón (D-Santa Barbara). Protects credit scores from medical debt. This law stops credit agencies from including medical debt on an individual's credit report and prevents lenders from considering it in credit decisions.

AB 2863 – Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo (D-Chatsworth). Eliminates subscription traps. Starting July 1, 2025, companies must get clear consent before charging customers after a free trial ends, send annual reminders about recurring charges, and make cancellation as simple as signing up. Customers will receive advance notice of any

price changes, allowing time to decide whether to continue the subscription.

AB 3209 – Assemblymember Marc Berman (D-Menlo Park). Allows retail stores to obtain restraining orders against people sentenced for stealing, vandalizing or assaulting their employees.

AB 1779 – Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin (D-Thousand Oaks). Allows California district attorneys to coordinate with other DAs to consolidate charges for suspects in retail theft crimes that occur across multiple counties.

AB 1955 – Assemblymember Christopher Ward (D-San Diego). Prohibits school districts in the state from enacting policies that could force educators to notify parents if students identify as transgender or request to use a different name.

SB 988 – Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco). Increases protections for independent contractors by requiring workers be paid on or before the date specified in their contract, or no later than 30 days after completion of

services if no date is specified.

Beginning in 2025, the new state minimum wage has increased to \$16.50 an hour. This statewide pay minimum is based on a 2016 law by SB 3 by former Sen Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) signed by Gov. Jerry Brown.

AB 2347 – Assemblymember Ash Kalra (D-San Jose). Allows tenants 10 business days to respond to eviction notices instead of the previously mandated 5 business days.

AB 1825 – Assemblymember Al Muratshchi (D-Torrance). The Freedom to Read Act prohibits public libraries from banning books due to race, nationality, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, socioeconomic status, or political affiliation of a book's subject, author, or intended audience.

SB 1137 – Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Los Angeles). Clarifies that California laws prohibiting discrimination and harassment on the basis of protected characteristics, such as race, gender, age, disability and sexual orientation, also apply



Along with the bills the Governor signed into law, other new laws signed in previous years also took effect on Jan. 1.

to intersectional identities, where two or more of the characteristics result in a unique form of discrimination.

AB 1815 – Sen. Akilah Weber (D-San Diego). Expands civil rights by recognizing multiple forms of discrimination and protecting traits associated with race, including hair texture and protective hairstyles, as defined. Weber introduced this bill last year while she was an Assemblymember representing the 79th District in the greater San Diego area.

Existing law prohibits discrimination because of a perception that a person has one of those protected characteristics or is associated with a person who has, or

is perceived to have, any of those characteristics. The California Fair Employment and Housing Act and public school policy define the term race for purposes of those provisions to include traits historically associated with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles, as defined.

This bill would remove the term historically from the definitions of race, thus defining race to include traits associated with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles, as defined, and would add those definitions for race and protective hairstyle to the Unruh Civil Rights Act.



Special offer

Kick off the new year with gig speeds

Save \$650+ over AT&T and Verizon in your first year

Comparison based upon Xfinity Gigabit Internet and 1 line of Unlimited vs. Verizon Fiber Gig and 1 line of Unlimited Welcome, and AT&T Fiber Gig and 1 line of Unlimited Starter.

Switch to Xfinity Gig-speed Internet

\$25 a month for 12 months with no annual contract when you add a new Xfinity Mobile unlimited line. \$40 internet discount applied to mobile bill.

Equipment, taxes and other charges extra and subject to change. Reduced mobile speeds after monthly data included w/ your data option. Data thresholds may vary. See details below.

Plus, get your choice of FREE 5G phone

with qualifying trade-in, device payment plan, and new mobile line. Select models only.

1-800-xfinity

xfinity.com/gigsavings

Visit a store today

xfinity

Restrictions apply. Offer ends 1/16/2025. Not available in all areas. New residential customers only. Limited to postpaid gig-speed Xfinity Internet and 1 Xfinity Mobile Unlimited line. Offer requires enrollment in both paperless billing and automatic payments with stored bank account. Without enrollment, the monthly service charge automatically increases \$10 (or \$8 if enrolling with credit or debit card information). The discount will appear on your bill within 45 days of enrolling in automatic payments and paperless billing. If either automatic payments or paperless billing are subsequently canceled, the \$10 monthly discount will be removed automatically. Equipment, installation, taxes & fees, and other applicable charges extra, and subject to change during and after promo. After 12 months, or if any service is canceled or downgraded, regular charges apply to all services (currently starting at \$136/mo) and devices. Service limited to a single outlet. May not be combinable with some other offers. Internet: Actual speeds vary and not guaranteed. Mobile: Requires residential post-pay Xfinity Internet service. Line limitations may apply. For Xfinity Mobile Broadband Disclosures visit: www.xfinity.com/mobile/policies/broadband-disclosures. Actual savings vary and are not guaranteed. Call for restrictions and complete details. © 2024 Comcast. All rights reserved. NPA401018-C