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Falling incarceration rates for Black and Hispanic men and women have reduced racial disparities in prisons

By Chris Barncard

MADISON (WI) (Newsweek) — The risk of incarceration for Black men in the United States was cut nearly in half between 1999 and 2019, according to a new study. The study, which assessed the impact of falling rates of imprisonment in each of the 50 states, finds that incarceration rates have dropped in every state and for every racial, ethnic and gender group (with the exception of white women) on the way to a 20% decline nationally since 2007.

No group's prospects have changed as much as those of Black men. A 2003 report concluded about one in three Black men in the U.S. would go to prison at some point in their lives — compared to 1 in 17 white men. That statistic continues to surface often in news coverage and discussions of criminal and social justice issues.

"That report wasn't wrong, but the premise then was that this was the risk if nothing changes with incarceration rates," says Michael Light, University of Wisconsin-Madison sociology professor and co-author of the new study, published recently in the journal *Demography*. "Even criminologists



Using data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institutes of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the researchers plotted incarceration rates for cohorts of each race and gender group tracked in the statistics who were born each year from 1981-2001. (Nicolas Steave / Unsplash)

have been slow to recognize it, but we know that a lot has changed and that those changes shift the burden of incarceration off of particular groups in significant ways."

Using data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institutes of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the researchers plotted incarceration rates for cohorts of each race and gender group tracked in the statistics who were born each year from 1981-2001 — that is, those who reached adulthood from 1999 through 2019.

"We tabulated all those chances,

the risk, of going to prison for each group as it aged and watched the arc of that risk change for the better for nearly every group," says Jason Robey, who worked on the study as a graduate student at UW-Madison and is now a criminal justice professor at the University at Albany. "For Black men, the risk dropped from one in three going to prison by age 50 to one in five."

The risk for white men fell from a 6.2% chance of imprisonment to 4.1%. Hispanic men fell from

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People In The News ...



Hakeem Jeffries



Rep. Steven Horsford

NDG Quote of the Week: "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair."
—Shirley Chisholm

Hakeem Jeffries

A distinguished figure rises above the ranks in the heart of a bustling and very divided United States Congress. Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), unanimously elected as House Democratic Leader in January 2023, occupies a unique place in American political history.

As the highest-ranking Democrat in the House of Representatives and the first person of color to lead a major party in the U.S. Congress, Jeffries has brought a fresh and vital perspective to the nation's



political landscape.

Unwavering dedication and a steady commitment to his constituents have been hallmarks of Jeffries' journey to this crucial position. Before becoming

the House Democratic Leader, he held positions as Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, Whip of the Congressional Black Caucus, and Co-Chair of the Democratic Policy and Communications Committee.

He was crucial in shaping the successful "For The People" agenda, which played a key role in the Democratic Party's victory in the 2018 midterm election and their regaining of the House, while his role as an Impeachment Manager during the historic first impeachment of President Donald Trump propelled

him into the national spotlight. Jeffries made history as the first African American man to hold such a position.

By paying homage to his roots in Brooklyn, he demonstrated both his adeptness in politics and his cultural significance. Jeffries famously quoted the late rapper, The Notorious B.I.G., to argue against Trump.

During Trump's second impeachment hearing, he clearly stated that he abused his power and tried to hide it. "And we are here, sir, to follow the facts, follow the law, be guided by

the Constitution, and present the truth to the American people. That is why we are here. And if you don't know, now you know," Jeffries declared—the last bit being a lyric from the Biggie song, "Juicy."

A Champion for Safer Communities and Affordable Housing, Jeffries persists as a tireless advocate for policies that impact everyday Americans, including reducing costs for American families. Jeffries was pivotal in guiding Central and South Brooklyn toward recovery during the pandemic, securing funding for state and local

governments, and advocating for emergency unemployment benefits. He also played a crucial role in passing important laws like the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act, laws that seek to create jobs and enhance the lives of everyday people.

According to colleagues, Jeffries' exceptional ability to listen sets him apart as a true leader. Rep. Steven Horsford of Nevada, Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, explained Jeffries

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Rep. Steven Horsford

Congressional Black Caucus Chair Steven Horsford (D-Nevada) said his commitment to marginalized communities, Black America, and his Democratic colleagues have always been unwavering. The 2023 National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) Leadership Award recipient's leadership and tireless efforts in a divided and near-broken Congress have served as a beacon of hope for countless individuals, particularly people of color.

On Friday, Sept. 22, 2023, Horsford and other recipients of the Leadership Award were honored



as NNPA, the trade association of the Black Press of America, honored his contributions to the pursuit of social justice and equity which have garnered recognition and ignited meaningful change across the nation.

Prior to the ceremony and

the kickoff of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference, Horsford, in a private gathering, told the Black Press that the 2023 Leadership Award counts as a significant acknowledgment he wouldn't take for granted. The Nevada leader emphasized the critical role of a free press in safeguarding democracy, especially amid escalating tensions on Capitol Hill.

"Especially at a moment when democracy is under attack, one of the cornerstones of our democracy is a free press, and the role of the Black Press is ensuring that the general public, but particularly Black America,

has access to accurate non-subjective information at a time when people are getting bombarded with misinformation and disinformation, particularly the Black community," Horsford remarked.

He also took the opportunity to extend the honor to the entire Congressional Black Caucus. "This award

speaks to the work of the CBC," Horsford insisted. "I'm honored as chair to be able to receive the award, but I receive it on behalf of the 58 members and the 80 million Americans, 18 million Black Americans we represent who deserve to have a free press that works for them, and that's at stake right now with our democ-

racy being under attack."

Horsford repeatedly emphasized the vital role played by the Black Press in bringing critical issues to the forefront of public discourse, often preceding mainstream media coverage. "The Black press has over time brought issues to

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Usher Raymond IV

Usher Raymond IV, known as "Usher," will entertain hundreds of millions on February 11 as he takes center stage for the 2024 Super Bowl halftime show at Allegiant Stadium in Paradise, just outside the Las Vegas Strip. The iconic halftime show is one of the most sought-after platforms in music.

"It's an honor of a lifetime to finally check a Super Bowl performance off my bucket list. I can't wait to bring the world a show unlike anything else they've seen from me before," Usher said in a statement.

He extended his gratitude, saying, "Thank you to



the fans and everyone who made this opportunity happen. I'll see you real soon."

Grammy-winning artist Usher has sold 80 million records worldwide, making him one of the best-selling music artists of all time. In addition to his 18 awards earned as a musician, Usher is also known for his in-

volvement in humanitarian causes.

Born in Dallas, Usher grew up in Chattanooga, where he joined the local church youth choir at age nine, uncovering an ability to sing. The family later moved to Atlanta Georgia in search of a bigger city to help showcase his talent.

Jay-Z, whose Roc Nation company is returning to produce the halftime show for the fifth consecutive year, also commended Usher. "Usher is the ultimate artist and showman. Ever since his debut at 15, he's been charting his own unique course. Beyond his flawless singing and exceptional choreography, Usher

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Disrespect and Deception: We're looking at you Tim Scott and Eric Johnson

By Claude Cummings Jr.
International President
Communications
Workers of America

As this is being written, I have proudly represented members of Communications Workers of America during the 52nd Annual Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Legislative Conference (CBC). Since its inception, the CBC has passionately supported the interests of the Black community and worked to ensure that we have an equal voice in public policy. And its members, currently all Democrats, have been equally powerful allies of labor unions as vehicles of racial justice.

At the same time, I was deeply disappointed to learn of the actions of two other high-profile Black elected officials: U.S. Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina, a Republican, and Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson, a former Democrat. I have characterized their bad behavior, respectively, as "Disrespect and Deception."

Let's start with the "Disrespect" that Tim Scott exhibited toward members of the United Auto Workers. Scott, one of two Black Senators and the only Republican, is now a

low-polling challenger to frontrunner Donald Trump for his party's presidential nomination.

When asked to comment on the UAW strike, he responded: "You strike, you're fired!" He went on to cite Ronald Reagan's controversial firing of striking air traffic controllers back in 1981. In his decision, Reagan invoked a law prohibiting strikes by federal employees.

Well, Mr. Scott, the UAW strikers, led by President Shawn Fain, are not government employees and are not subject to that law. Their right to strike is protected by the National Labor Relations Act. They are hard-working people who made great concessions almost 15 years ago to help save the American auto industry and keep family-supporting jobs in their communities.

Their sacrifices brought the industry back with record-breaking profits that largely supported very generous salaries and bonuses for their bosses and huge returns for Wall Street investors. But the workers' well-deserved demands to restore their benefits and wages and ensure equal pay for equal work went unmet for years.

That's why I'll be on the

UAW picket line in Detroit on Tuesday when Joe Biden becomes the first American president to join striking workers on the line. Yes, Joe not only talks the talk. He walks the walk of a real "union guy." And we must return that loyalty in the 2024 election.

Now to the blatant "Deception" of Dallas mayor Eric Johnson, who recently switched his party affiliation from Democrat to Republican. As shocking as this may have been to those constituents whom he deceived into supporting him for a second term in a solidly blue city, it was not surprising to me.

As a politically observant Texan, I saw how he had used the Democratic label for years to get elected and then pushed a GOP agenda – espousing their hard line on issues from law-and-order to tax cuts. The party switch just confirmed the way he had been leading for years, while strongly criticizing his former party's governance of cities.

But Houston's Major Sylvester Turner, who was also unaware of Johnson's deception, cites his own record in Houston in reducing crime, homelessness and addressing other urban challenges firmly, but more compassionately. "Demo-

cratic mayors are the boots on the ground," he says. "We are responding to people's needs."

Eric Johnson's betrayal of loyal supporters in Dallas raises a red flag in Houston too. Much like Johnson, a mayoral candidate in Houston appears to be counting on the loyalty of some labor supporters and other mainstream progressives while adding poisonous side elements of anti-worker, anti-justice, and forced birthers funded by pay-to-play partisan Republicans.

So how do we respond to these perpetrators of disrespect and deception? First, we let Senator Scott know that union members across this country will not forget his uninformed and dismissive response to the UAW's legitimate strike for fairness.

As for Mayor Johnson, whatever he plans to do after his tenure is over, we will make sure no one forgets his treachery in Dallas and that he is a politician who can never ever be trusted. And all the while, we must be on guard to make sure Johnson's betrayal in Dallas doesn't serve as a political template in the upcoming Houston Mayoral election or anywhere else.

Dr. King's economic justice movement rekindled

By Barrington M. Salmon
NNPA Newswire Contributor

insidious issue confronting the Black community – economic inequality.

Before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, TN, on April 4, 1968, he was orchestrating a profound shift in the Civil Rights Movement. After achieving significant victories on the political front with the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, King and the Civil Rights Movement focused their attention on another

insidious issue confronting the Black community – economic inequality. In the 60th year following the "March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom," speakers, cheered on by thousands, lined up during an anniversary commemoration on August 26, 2023 and called for a resurgence and continuation of King's aborted call for economic justice. The striking commentary came from civil rights and economic justice advocates alike.

"Dr. King knew that economic rights were key to true equality," said Robert F. Smith, Founder, Chairman and CEO of Vista Equity Partners, LLC and a highly successful investor with intimate knowledge of the economic and financial systems in the U.S.

Standing where King stood in front of the Lincoln Memorial 60 years ago, Smith said, "His moral calls for economic justice are what I want to talk to you about today. Because

as we stand here, the war on diversity and inclusion threatens all of the progress made through the sacrifices of our ancestors."

Well-known and applauded for his having paid the student loan balances of the 2019 graduating class of Morehouse College, Smith told the crowd that the war against economic injustice is not nearly over.

"Yes, there are Black millionaires and a few

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High levels of pollution associated with increased breast cancer incidence

Researchers at the National Institutes of Health found that living in an area with high levels of particulate air pollution was associated with an increased incidence of breast cancer. The study, published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, is one of the largest studies to date looking at the relationship between outdoor air pollution, specifically fine particulate matter, and breast cancer incidence. The research was done by scientists at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI), both part of NIH.

The researchers saw that the largest increases in breast cancer incidence was among women who on average had higher particulate matter levels (PM2.5) near their home prior to enrolling in the study, compared to those who lived in areas with lower levels of PM2.5. Particulate matter is a mix-



NIH researchers combined historical air quality data with breast cancer data from large U.S. study. (This Stoop / Unsplash)

ture of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air. It comes from numerous sources, such as motor vehicle exhaust, combustion processes (e.g., oil, coal), wood smoke/vegetation burning, and industrial emissions. The particulate matter pollution measured in this study was 2.5 microns in diameter or smaller (PM2.5), meaning the particles are small enough to be inhaled deep into the lungs. The Environmental Protec-

tion Agency has a website known as Air Now where residents can enter their zip code and get the air quality information, including PM2.5 levels, for their area.

"We observed an 8% increase in breast cancer incidence for living in areas with higher PM2.5 exposure. Although this is a relatively modest increase, these findings are significant given that air pollution is a ubiquitous exposure that impacts almost

everyone," said Alexandra White, Ph.D., lead author and head of the Environment and Cancer Epidemiology Group at NIEHS. "These findings add to a growing body of literature suggesting that air pollution is related to breast cancer."

The study was conducted using information from the NIH-AARP Diet and Health Study, which enrolled more than 500,000 men and women between 1995-96 in six states (California, Florida, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Louisiana) and in two metropolitan areas (Atlanta and Detroit). The women in the cohort were on average about 62 years of age and most identified as being non-Hispanic white. They were followed for approximately 20 years, during which 15,870 breast cancer cases were identified.

The researchers estimated annual average historical PM2.5 concentrations for each participant's resi-

dence. They were particularly interested in air pollution exposures during a period of 10-15 years prior to enrollment in the study, given the length of time it takes for some cancers to develop. Most previous studies have assessed breast cancer risk in relation to air pollution around the time of study enrollment and did not consider past exposures.

"The ability to consider historic air pollution levels is an important strength of this research," said Rena Jones, Ph.D., senior author and principal investigator of the study at NCI. "It can take many years for breast cancer to develop and, in the past, air pollution levels tended to be higher, which may make previous exposure levels particularly relevant for cancer development."

To consider how the relationship between air pollution and breast cancer varied by the type of tumor, the researchers evaluated

estrogen receptor-positive (ER+) and -negative (ER-) tumors separately. They found that PM2.5 was associated with a higher incidence of ER+ breast cancer, but not ER-, tumors. This suggests that PM2.5 may affect breast cancer through an underlying biologic pathway of endocrine disruption. ER+ tumors are the most common tumors diagnosed among women in the United States.

The authors note that the study was limited in its ability to explore any differences in the relationship between air pollution and breast cancer across the different study areas. They suggest future work should explore how the regional differences in air pollution, including the various types of PM2.5 women that women are exposed to, could impact a woman's risk of developing breast cancer.

This research was funded by the NIEHS and NCI Intramural Program.

Providing iron supplements to medically underserved pre-natal patients improved outcomes

(Newswise)—Giving free prenatal iron supplements to medically underserved pregnant patients significantly reduced anemia and postpartum blood transfusions, compared to only recommending them, found researchers at UT Southwestern Medical Center and Parkland Health, as reported in the study published in *JAMA Network Open*.

"Anemia during pregnancy and the postpartum period can lead to severe health complications. We now have data supporting ways to prevent postpartum anemia on a population level by ensuring normal blood volume during delivery, reducing the need for transfusions, and posi-

tively impacting the health of mothers and their newborns," said Chair and Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology Catherine Spong, M.D. Dr. Spong co-lead the study with Lisa Thiele, M.D., M.P.H., an Obstetrics and Gynecology resident at UT Southwestern.

Research shows pregnant women experience a 15%-20% increase in blood volume and require additional iron to make sufficient hemoglobin, a protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen through the body. Anemia occurs when there are insufficient healthy red blood cells. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, anemia in pregnancy

is linked to adverse health outcomes for mothers and newborns, including blood transfusion, postpartum anemia and depression, premature birth, low birth weight, and perinatal mortality.

Obstetricians routinely recommend iron supplements in pregnancy for anemia prevention. But in 2015, iron was reclassified as a nutritional supplement and no longer covered by insurance as a medicine, leaving many low-income pregnant patients without access to these supplements. While doctors continue to recommend them, Drs. Spong and Thiele and their colleagues tested whether providing free sup-

plements at prenatal visits would improve outcomes.

The team analyzed deliveries at Parkland Memorial Hospital, which is the primary teaching hospital for UT Southwestern and has one of the busiest maternity wards in the country, providing care to patients with fewer socioeconomic resources. One group consisted of 7,075 patients who delivered between January and August 2019 and had received recommendations to take prenatal iron supplements. The second included 7,160 patients who delivered between May and December 2020 and received free supplements with iron throughout their pregnancy.

Researchers assessed

hematocrit levels in both groups at 24 to 32 weeks, upon admission for delivery, before discharge, and during postpartum follow-up. Hematocrit, which reflects the percentage of blood volume composed of red cells, is a standard measurement for prenatal and postpartum anemia.

They found the patients who received iron supplements had consistently higher hematocrit levels at each assessment period compared with patients who received only a recommendation to take them. Notably, maternal anemia at admission was 7% lower among patients provided supplements. Additionally, transfusions for acute blood

loss anemia not related to obstetric catastrophe occurred in 46 deliveries among the group receiving supplements compared with 71 among those who received the recommendation to take iron.

Dr. Thiele, recipient of the Southwestern Gynecologic Assembly Award, said the findings provide a method for reducing patients' barriers to access, helping lead to tangible clinical outcomes.

"We can make a large impact on our patients' health and outcomes by implementing simple interventions," Dr. Spong said. "This study demonstrates

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State Fair of Texas opens this weekend, runs through Oct. 22

Each year, the State Fair of Texas brings the community shows, exhibits, live performances, creative arts session, farm exhibits and a huge variety of foods to sample. Only at the fair, guests can find larger-than-life dinosaurs, a contortionist archer, and the most epic water balloon fight ever seen all under the same roof.

Each fall, the State Fair of Texas is open 24 days, allowing residents almost a full month to enjoy the community event.

This year, guests can enjoy the cooler temperatures while exploring a number of new shows and attractions that the fair has to offer, all included in the fair admission ticket. The State Fair of Texas welcomes



The State Fair of Texas, set to begin Friday, September 29, runs through October 22. (Gabriel Valdez / Unsplash)

four new vendors this year, three new soft spaces, and seven new food stands to join the 2023 State Fair food lineup.

The Fair prides itself on its hand-picked selection of vendors and concessionaires who bring in droves

of fairgoers each year and keep them coming back for more with their delicious foods. The public is invited to enjoy some of the best eats the Lonestar state has to offer at the 2023 State Fair of Texas, themed "Explore the Midway."

The State Fair of Texas is proud to be a family-friendly environment for visitors of all ages, and as an added safety measure, the State Fair is implementing a new after 5 p.m. policy for minors.

During the 2023 State Fair of Texas, starting at 5:00 p.m. daily, all minors, age 17 and under, must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or chaperone (21+) when entering the Fair. Parents, guardians, or chaperones may accompany no more than six minors 17 years of age and under. The State Fair will require all accompanying parents, guardians, and chaperones (21+) to present a valid ID upon entry starting at 5:00 p.m. daily. Once inside the fairgrounds, the parent,

guardian, or chaperone is not required to remain with the minors; however, the State Fair encourages that they stay in communication with each other and be aware of their location on the fairgrounds during their visit.

"Public safety is our top priority. We are committed to providing a safe and welcoming experience for all who attend our annual celebration of Texas," said Jaime Navarro, chief operating officer for the State Fair of Texas. "Comparable policies are being instated industry-wide, and the State Fair of Texas believes this policy is the best course of action to enhance the existing safety measures for all fairgoers, vendors, and employees."

The State Fair of Texas' full Guest Code of Conduct can be found on BigTex.com/CodeofConduct, and will be posted at each State Fair pedestrian entry gate. For more information on the new policy and other State Fair-related questions, please visit BigTex.com/KnowBeforeYouGo.

The 2023 State Fair of Texas is taking place at Fair Park from Friday, September 29 through Sunday, October 22.

Guests can catch DART's Green Line to arrive hassle-free at Fair Park, 3809 Grand Avenue, Dallas 75210. Parking runs \$20-40. For a full listing of shows and other events and activities available at the State Fair of Texas, please visit <https://bigtex.com/>.

HUD awards over \$9.3 million for youth homelessness in Dallas, Collin counties

"Every young person in our country deserves a safe place to call home," said U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Marcia L. Fudge. HUD recently awarded \$60.3 million to build systems to end youth homelessness in 16 communities across the country, including four rural communities. To support a wide range of housing programs, including rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, and host homes, the funding was awarded through HUD's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP). In Dallas, Housing Forward was awarded

\$9,392,854.

Connecting homeless youth with appropriate, targeted housing and services will make an enormous difference in their lives," said Secretary Fudge. "These federal funds will support efforts in communities across the country to provide vulnerable young people with the secure, stable, and supportive housing they urgently need."

"In the most powerful country on Earth, youth homelessness is an unacceptable condition," said Regional Administrator Candace Valenzuela. "This grant, which is the largest HUD is awarding today, will help Housing Forward, the Youth Action Board,

and many local partners deliver prevention services and temporary shelter to young people in desperate need in Dallas and Collin Counties. I'm excited to deliver this award on behalf of the Biden-Harris administration and Secretary Marcia Fudge."

Housing Forward will use this funding for a Youth Resource Center, a youth-focused intervention that will work to reunify youth with family, prevent their homelessness, or divert youth from crisis housing. Additionally, the Youth Resource Center will maintain a real time inventory of crisis bed availability to assist youth in securing safe temporary shelter when

needed, while also connecting young adults to the CoC's Coordinated Access System (CAS) for a match to more permanent housing assistance.

The Department continues to work closely with youth to develop and improve YHDP, relying upon recommendations provided directly by young people who have experienced homelessness. Once again, HUD partnered with youth

with lived experience to assess the applications submitted for funding consideration. Their assessment helped HUD ensure that applicants understood the needs and preferences of the young people they will serve. The Department also worked closely with its federal partners to help develop the program and review applications, including the Department of Health and Human Services, the De-

partment of Education, and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness.

YHDP recipients will use their funding to address youth homelessness that is specifically tailored to their needs, including funding for housing units, wrap-around services, and housing support. YHDP will also support youth-focused performance measurement

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the efficacy of a public health initiative to reduce maternal anemia and the most common cause of severe maternal morbidity and gives other institutions data to implement similar programs in their own populations."

For its findings, the team received the Society of Maternal-Fetal Medicine's Disparities Award for Best

Research on Diversity/Disparity in Health Outcomes.

This research was supported by the Parkland Community Health Plan. Other UTSW researchers in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department who contributed to this study were David B. Nelson, M.D., Associate Professor and Division Chief of Maternal-Fetal Medicine; Donald

McIntire, Ph.D., Professor; and Elaine Duryea, M.D., Associate Professor. Carrie Berge, Pharm.D., Vice President of Pharmacy Services at Parkland Health, also contributed. Dr. Spong holds the Paul C. MacDonald Distinguished Chair in Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Nelson holds the Gillette Professorship of Obstetrics and Gynecology and is a Dedman Family Scholar in Clinical Care.

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Rosemont Upper School and Trinity Heights Talented and Gifted receive National Blue Ribbon awards

Dallas ISD is proud to announce two district schools have earned the 2023 National Blue Ribbon School awards. Rosemont Upper School and Trinity Heights Talented and Gifted were among just 29 schools in Texas and 353 nationwide to receive the prestigious recognition.

"The honorees for our 2023 National Blue Ribbon Schools Award have set a national example for what it means to raise the bar in education," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "The leaders, educators, and staff at our National Blue Ribbon Schools continually inspire me with their dedication to fostering academic excel-



F. Redd / Unsplash

lence and building positive school cultures that support students of all backgrounds to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally."

Rosemont Upper, a magnet school serving the Oak Cliff Community, focuses on fine arts, while offering a professionally designed,

thematic curriculum, to suit the specific interests of its students. Committed to providing enrichment experiences that expose students to an international perspective, the school's dual language program immerses students in a bilingual environment, empowering them

to become global students.

Trinity Heights Talented and Gifted is a premier campus that equips its students with multiple opportunities to be academically and socially equipped as future leaders. The school, committed to providing balanced, focused, and coherent instruction of the highest quality, seeks to develop the hearts and minds of children to pursue college and beyond.

The U.S. Department of Education awards the Blue Ribbon to schools based on their overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private el-

ementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Every year the U. S. Department of Education seeks out and celebrates great American schools, schools demonstrating that all students can achieve to high levels.

With its 40th cohort of awardees, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed more than 10,000 awards to over 9,700 schools, with some schools winning multiple awards. Schools are eligible for nomination after five years. The coveted National Blue Ribbon School award affirms the hard

work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content. The National Blue Ribbon School flag gracing an entry or flying overhead is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning.

Up to 420 schools may be nominated each year. The Department invites nominations for the National Blue Ribbon Schools award from the top education officials in all states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the Bureau of Indian Education.

Historically Black land-grant universities deprived of \$12.6 billion in funding over three decades, Biden Administration reveals

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

The nation's land-grant universities, established in the 19th century, were designed to advance agricultural education and research. While federal law mandates equitable distribution of state funding for all land-grant universities, this has not been realized for many historically Black institutions, as revealed in a comprehensive analysis. Historically Black land-grant universities across 16 states have been denied a staggering \$12.6 billion in funding over the past 30 years, according to the Biden administration.

Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona and Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack announced that they have contacted governors in each affected state, urging them to rectify the funding gap, which has had its most significant impact in Tennessee, according to a news release. Tennessee



Cheyney University was founded in 1837 as the Institute for Colored Youth, making it the oldest HBCU in the nation (Nick-Philly / Wikipedia)

State University has suffered an underfunding deficit of \$2.1 billion.

"Unacceptable funding inequities have forced many of our nation's distinguished historically Black colleges and universities to operate with inadequate resources and delay critical investments in everything from campus infrastructure to research and development to student support services," Cardona emphasized.

Similar letters were dispatched to governors in Al-

abama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Utilizing data from the National Center for Education Statistics, the federal agencies uncovered funding disparities in 16 out of 18 states hosting Black land grants. Only Delaware and Ohio provided equitable funding.

Cardona spoke fervently about the accomplishments

of HBCUs and their impact on various professions. "The Biden-Harris Administration is proud to have made record investments in our HBCUs, but to compete in the 21st century, we need state leaders to step up and live up to their legally required obligations to our historically Black land-grant institutions," Cardona

demand.

Vilsack echoed Cardona's sentiments, recognizing these institutions' pivotal role in agricultural advancements. He emphasized the need for governors to invest in HBCUs at levels commensurate with their contributions to society and the economy.

In a news release, ad-

ministration officials noted that the Second Morrill Act of 1890 mandated that states establishing a second land-grant university for Black students to ensure equitable distribution of state funds between their 1862 and 1890 land-grant institutions. The 1862 land-

See FUNDING, Page 13

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The Corporation shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the employment of its personnel.

Carrollton needs volunteers for 13th annual Festival at the Switchyard

CARROLLTON — Be at the heart and soul of the City of Carrollton's 13th annual Festival at the Switchyard by signing up to volunteer on Saturday, November 4.

The Festival will be held on the Downtown Carrollton Square at 1106 S. Broadway Street from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. The event includes a lineup of varied musical styles, including multi-platinum selling rock band Collective Soul as the headlining entertainment with opener Grammy-nominated alt rockers Fuel.

Volunteers play a vital role in the festival's success by helping during all phases of the event and



The 13th annual Festival at the Switchyard will be held on the Downtown Carrollton Square. (City of Carrollton)

creating a safe, clean, fun, and enjoyable event. Volunteers become members of a unique festival family. Thousands of visitors will benefit from the volunteer service as they enjoy free family fun. Volunteers will receive a volunteer T-shirt, a free lunch, and a great

parking spot close to the event site while volunteering (available on a first-come, first-served basis).

Volunteers ages 16 and older will pass out event programs, greet attendees, provide information, monitor rides and games, and assist with children's

activities and crafts. Ages 14-15 will be accepted with adult supervision if they are part of a school, church, or Scout group. Volunteers must be able to work a minimum of two hours at the outdoor event.

In addition to the exciting free concerts and live entertainment, attendees can grab a bite to eat from a variety of food vendors and Downtown restaurants, as well as browse Festival booths and the eclectic shops surrounding the Downtown Square. Festivalgoers can enjoy free rides and games like bungee trampolines, rock walls, a giant fun slide, and more, in addition to

free face painting, balloon twisting, and caricature art.

The deadline to apply to be a volunteer is Friday, October 20. Volunteers over 18 must pass a background check and volunteers under 18 must have a waiver signed by a parent or guardian.

To fill out a volunteer application form or for more details about the volunteer process and guidelines, visit carrolltonfestival.com/volunteer-opportunities. For more information about the Festival, visit carrolltonfestival.com. You can also follow the Festival on Facebook at facebook.com/CarrolltonFestival and on X (Twitter) at twitter.com/CarrolltonFestival.

carrolltonfest.com for the latest updates.

Sponsors to date include Biomat USA, Courtyard and Carrollton Conference Center, Custom Ink, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), Dallas Morning News, Dan "The Wreck Man" Moore, Frost Bank, iHeartMedia, Integral, Just4Kids Urgent Care, KDAF CW33, Lark Music Loft, Lifetime Windows and Siding, North Dallas Gazette, Pecos Pete's All-Natural Tea & Soda Co., Raising Canes, Republic Services, Renewal by Anderson, Resort Vacations, Sam Pack's Five Star Ford in Carrollton, Texans Credit Union, and Whataburger.

Frisco budget reduces tax rate, increases homestead and adds 74 positions

FRISCO -- The City of Frisco's new budget reduces the property tax rate while raising the homestead exemption. The Frisco City Council last week unanimously approved a \$267 million General Fund budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024.

"We've approved a budget proving our commitment to provide Frisco homeowners tax relief," said Mayor Jeff Cheney. "Dropping the tax rate and raising our homestead exemption are bold decisions. Even so, our city's high growth allows us to make these moves while continu-

ing to deliver quality programs and services."

Frisco's FY2024 property tax rate is .432205 — which is down 1.3%, and the new budget accounts for a higher homestead exemption of 15% — up from 12.5%. The Frisco City Council raised the homestead exemption in June. Residents 65 and older also benefited from a 'senior tax freeze', adopted last year and effective this year.

"Raising the homestead exemption will save our homeowners about \$22 million, collectively," said Mayor Cheney. "Ultimately, our City Council intends

to raise the homestead exemption to 20%, which is the maximum allowed by the state."

"Frisco's budgeting approach continues to earn our city triple-A bond ratings from both S & P and Moody's," said Jenny Hundt, Interim Chief Financial Officer. "This is significant because the higher our bond ratings, the more money we can potentially save our taxpayers."

Utility rates will increase by 10%, which includes a nearly 9% water rate hike imposed by the North Texas Municipal Water District. Increased rates will also

help cover costs to 'change out' meters and maintain cash reserves to meet the city's financial policy.

The FY2024 budget provides for 74 new positions, including 32 new positions for the Police Department.

"We do appreciate the support that we have from our

See FRISCO, Page 11

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A win for Hollywood writers as agreement is reached with producer's alliance

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Hollywood writers have suffered long and hard since May 2 after walking out on the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers. Screenwriters agreed to end the strike this week after the two groups reached consensus and a final agreement. The accord means over 11,000 writers make major gains on all the issues they were fighting for, reports CBS News.

The deal aligns with the demands of the writers, including higher pay for streaming content, at least one human writer be on staff for TV shows, and protections against AI technology affecting writer credits and pay, they report.

The Writers Guild's negotiating committee emailed members, expressing pride in the deal, emphasizing meaningful gains and protections for all



The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, representing studios, had refrained from celebrating prematurely with the tentative deal reached September 24. (Photo via NNPA)

members, according to the New York Times.

The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, representing studios refrained from celebrating prematurely with the tentative deal reached September 24.

Many in the entertainment industry, profoundly impacted by the streaming revolution catalyzed by the pandemic, viewed the accord as crucial to their livelihoods. However, a substantial portion of Hollywood remains at a stand-

still, with tens of thousands of actors continuing their strike with no talks scheduled between the actors, SAG-AFTRA, and the studios.

Only productions devoid of actors, such as late-night shows hosted by Jimmy Fallon and Stephen Colbert and daytime talk shows hosted by Drew Barrymore and Jennifer Hudson, stand poised for a swift restart.

In addition to actors, over 100,000 behind-the-scenes professionals in Los Angeles and New York face con-

tinued idleness, grappling with escalating financial strain. According to Governor Gavin Newsom, the Hollywood shutdown has cost California's economy more than \$5 billion.

SAG-AFTRA has been on strike since July 14, with demands surpassing the Writers Guild's. The studio alliance prioritized talks with the Writers Guild because of SAG-AFTRA's leader, Fran Drescher, who pushed for 2% of streaming show revenue. Studios considered this point non-negotiable.

However, given shared concerns, the agreement

with the Writers Guild could expedite negotiations with the actors' union. Actors, like writers, harbor apprehensions over the potential use of A.I. to create digital likenesses or alter performances without consent or compensation.

Reportedly, artificial intelligence became the crucial factor during the last stage of negotiations. Entertainment company lawyers finalized language that addressed the guild's concerns about artificial intelligence and ownership of old scripts. Senior company leaders, including Robert A. Iger, Donna Langley,

Ted Sarandos, and David Zaslav, directly joined the talks.

Hollywood workers have tapped into over \$45 million in hardship withdrawals from the Motion Picture Industry Pension Plan as the strike persists. Warner Bros. Discovery anticipates a \$300 million to \$500 million reduction in adjusted earnings for the year due to the dual strikes.

The agreement gives hope to Hollywood's recovery, which could prevent billions in losses and financial hardships for workers.

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Film Review: 'Reptile' debuts at Toronto International Film Fest

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(**1/2) Benicio Del Toro doesn't appear in a lot of films. So, his fans need to catch him when they can, even in meandering crime/dramas.

Music video director Grant Singer ("The Weekend," Sam Smith) adds feature filmmaker and screenwriter to his resume. He teams up with co-screenwriters Benjamin Brewer and Del Toro as they tell a story about the aftermath of a murdered female realtor (Matilda Anna Ingrid Lutz). Her body, stabbed multiple times is found in a pool of



Reptile costarring Benicio Del Toro and Ato Essandoh.
(Photo via NNPA)

blood, in an empty house up for sale. It's a haunting crime scene.

The laconic homicide detective Tom Nichols (Del Toro) tracks the case in Scarborough, Maine where

everyone knows everyone. Whodunit? The rich real estate scion boyfriend (Justin Timberlake)? Ex-husband (Karl Glusman)? The boyfriend's arch enemy (Michael Pitt)? Dirty cops?

Clues lead all over town, and Nichols doesn't like what he finds as his leads and suspicions branch out: "Everyone's a suspect."

The baffling crime is about as intriguing as an episode of "Law & Order," a show that neatly wraps up its narratives in 60 minutes. This film noir wears its welcome thin way before the 2h 14 m film ends. To the writers' credit, however, few will guess where the plotline is going for the longest time, as the storyline continues to shed its skin, like a reptile. Even as dread and suspense wanes, viewers will stay hooked to this thriller and its twists and turns that are

far more interesting than the memorable dialogue.

Alicia Silverstone seems affable, personable and inquisitive as Tom's wife. Ato Essandoh (Netflix's "The

Diplomat") is perfect too as the quintessential police partner. The talented ensemble cast also includes Mike

See REPTILE, Page 10

Historic Mesquite, Inc. present 13th annual Mesquite Meander

MESQUITE — Hear voices from the past on the grounds of the Mesquite Cemetery during the annual Mesquite Meander.

The Mesquite Meander, presented by Historic Mesquite, Inc. (HMI), is a living history tour featuring local actors portraying long-since-passed residents whose final resting place is Mesquite Cemetery. HMI uses a variety of primary historical sources to create biographical sketches of the residents highlighted in the Meander.

"Those who attend Mesquite Meander get to see history come alive," said Toyia Pointer, HMI Executive Director. "This event helps people connect in

a unique way to the early residents who helped make our City what it is today."

This year's 13th annual Meander is filled with curious coincidences: opening night is Friday the 13th and Saturday's performance follows a solar eclipse earlier in the day.

"The Meander is not a spooky event, but this year will definitely be interesting," Pointer said. "The number 13 isn't always considered unlucky, and

many believe that solar eclipses signify new beginnings or opportunities. In addition to our program, we plan to include some information about the history of Friday the 13th and the eclipse."

Tickets are \$15 per person. The Meander offers tours starting every 10 minutes that run approximately 45 minutes to an hour. Tour times on Oct. 13 start at 6 p.m. with last tour starting at 7:30 p.m. Tour times on

Oct. 14 will start at 5:30 p.m. with last tour starting at 7 p.m.

Mesquite Cemetery is located at 400 Holley Park Dr. Attendees should note that the Mesquite Meander is an outdoor event in a historic cemetery, so there may be areas of uneven ground and gravel walkways.

To purchase tickets and for more information, call HMI's office at 972-216-6468 or visit www.historicmesquite.org.

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NISSAN

USHER, from Page 2

bare his soul," Jay-Z stated.

He added, "His remarkable journey has propelled him to one of the grandest stages in the world. I can't wait to see the magic." The rapper, 53, and Usher, 44, have previously collaborated on tracks including "Hot Tottie," "Anything," and "Best Thing."

Super Bowl LVIII will be broadcast live on CBS on February 11, 2024.

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City of Dallas

Historic Oscar coming home to Howard University's Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts in honor of Hattie McDaniel

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Howard University plans to host a "Hattie's Come Home" ceremony at its Ira Aldridge Theater in Washington, D.C., on October 1, to honor a longtime wish of classic film star Hattie McDaniel, who, before her passing in 1952, expressed her desire for her Oscar to find a home at Howard University, a revered institution known for nurturing artistic talent within the Black community.

"When I was a student in the College of Fine Arts at Howard University, in what was then called the Department of Drama, I would often sit and gaze in won-



In 1940, McDaniel achieved a historic milestone as the first Black person to be nominated for and win a competitive Academy Award. Her remarkable performance as "Mammy" in the acclaimed film "Gone with the Wind" marked a significant moment in cinematic history and held profound cultural significance for the Black community. (Photo via NNPA)

der at the Academy Award that had been presented to Ms. Hattie McDaniel, which she had gifted to the College of Fine Arts,"

said Phylcia Rashad, dean of the Boseman College of Fine Arts. "I am overjoyed that this Academy Award is returning to what is now

the Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts at Howard University. This immense piece of history will be back in the College of Fine Arts for our students to draw inspiration from. Ms. Hattie is coming home!"

In 1940, McDaniel achieved a historic milestone as the first Black person to be nominated for and win a competitive Academy Award. Her remarkable performance as "Mammy" in the acclaimed film "Gone with the Wind" marked a significant moment in cinematic history and held profound cultural significance for the Black community.

At the 12th Academy Awards, held in the seg-

regated Cocoanut Grove at the Ambassador Hotel, McDaniel and her guests were segregated from the film's other nominees. Despite this, her victory stood as a testament to Black artists' undeniable talent and perseverance in an industry marred by systemic racism.

McDaniel's groundbreaking achievement was, however, met with a mixed reception. While her win was a triumph for Black actors, it also ignited controversy. McDaniel's portrayal of "Mammy" in the film was critiqued for perpetuating stereotypes. In response, McDaniel boldly stated, "I'd rather play a maid than be a maid." Her words encapsulated her commitment to her craft

and her determination to navigate an industry that offered limited opportunities for Black performers, often typecasting them into roles that did not reflect the full scope of their abilities.

The significance of McDaniel's win endures, as it paved the way for future generations of Black actors and filmmakers. It's also underscores the importance and excitement surrounding The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the Academy Museum announcement that they will gift a replacement of McDaniel's 1939 Best Supporting Actress Academy Award to the Howard University Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts.

REPTILE, from Page 2

Pniewski as the police chief, Eric Bogosian as the captain and Domenick Lombardozzi as a fellow cop. The least talent of this lineup is demonstrated by Justin Timberlake, who appears out of his league.

The storyline and pacing

may falter (editor Kevin Hickman), but the visuals don't -- Cinematographer Mike Gioulakis, "Us," production designer Patrick M. Sullivan, "Behind the Candelabra," art director Anthony Bruno; costume designer Amanda Ford and set

decorator Paul Roome. All things audio prevail as well, especially the sound effects -- musical soundtrack (Yair Elazar Glotman) and frequent snippets of the pop hit song "Angel of the Morning."

Over-extended scenes of cars driving down New England roads are either

Graves' particular style or a homage to David Lynch.

Humorous, serious, determined, Del Toro doesn't disappoint. He convinces you early on that Tom won't back off until all responsible are held accountable. And that list grows and grows as the seasoned cop goes

deeper and deeper into an increasingly dirty murder mystery where the culprits would shoot him dead if it would stop the investigation.

The film requires patience to sit through in a theater and may be less of a cri/thr/mys chore when it streams

on Netflix -- Tedious, but hard to dismiss until you find out who has blood on their hands.

For more information about the Toronto International Film Festival go to <https://tiff.net/> and visit Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com.

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Direct air capture facility in Texas helps kickstart nationwide network for largescale carbon removal

WASHINGTON (DOE) — The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently announced up to \$1.2 billion to advance development of two direct air capture facilities in Texas and neighboring Louisiana. Each are large commercial-scale facilities -- the firsts of this scale in the U.S. and the first sites selected for the Regional Direct Air Capture (DAC) Hubs program. The two facilities will kickstart a nationwide network of carbon removal hubs to address legacy carbon dioxide pollution and complement rapid emissions reductions. Already in the atmosphere, emissions are fueling climate change, jeopardizing health and global ecosystems, and fueling extreme



weather. Construction of the two projects began last year and are expected to be completed by 2024. The two hubs will remove more than 2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) annually--equivalent to about 445,000 gasoline-powered cars each year.

Funded by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure law, the hubs will

promote economic growth in each of these communities and contribute to the President's Justice40 Initiative, which set a goal for 40% of certain federal investment benefits to go to disadvantaged communities, marginalized and overburdened by pollution and underinvestment.

The two hubs will create 4,800 good-paying jobs in

Texas and Louisiana, and 2,500 of those jobs will come to South Texas. For this hub near Corpus Christi, 1PointFive, a subsidiary of Occidental, and partners Carbon Engineering Ltd. and Worley, seek to develop and demonstrate a DAC facility designed to remove up to 1 million metric tons of CO₂ annually, with an associated saline geologic CO₂ storage site. The south Texas project, to be located on the King Ranch in Kleberg County, will receive jobs in construction, operations, and maintenance, with existing agreements for local hiring. The selectees will also establish a Citizen Advisory Board to ensure meaningful community engagement surrounding its development.

ing its development.

The DAC Hub program will be the world's largest investment in engineered carbon removal in history. And these first two DAC Hubs will demonstrate the technology to capture and store atmospheric CO₂, helping inform future public and private investments, while jumpstarting climate technology at a global scale. The projects will establish a model for future hub development across the coun-

try and abroad. The project highlights how Bidenomics is driving a manufacturing boom and delivering new economic opportunities, while positioning America to be a global leader in industries of the future. Importantly, the project will accelerate the President's net-zero economy goal by 2050, which would require capture and removal of 400 million to 1.8 billion metric

See DAC, Page 13

FRISCO, from Page 7

community," said Chief David Shilson. "We appreciate residents passing bonds that will allow us to continue building the facilities we need to maintain a safe community." In May, voters approved a \$473,400,000 million bond package that will provide

capital financing for the next five years.

Equipment replacement, such as vehicles for first responders, is an important part of the FY2024 budget. The City of Frisco maintains 47 facilities, spanning two million square feet. Maintenance and upkeep

are priorities while Frisco collaborates to develop its remaining 18-percent of land until 'build-out'.

"Frisco's not a new community, but there is a lot of new in it," said Wes Pierson, City Manager. "There are certainly areas of the community that have been around for a long time. We want to make sure we're

taking care of those areas so people feel like they're in a world-class city whether they're in a new part or in a more established part of the city."

JEFFRIES, from Page 2

is effective because he devotes considerable time to listening to members' perspectives, their concerns, and the feedback from their constituents.

From across the political spectrum, lawmakers consistently highlight his ability to understand the diverse perspectives within the Democratic Party. Even Republicans, like Congressman Garret Graves of Louisiana, have praised Jeffries for being more engaging and creating an environment that values and listens to diverse voices.

Jeffries also straddles the generational divide. Many new members of Congress see Jeffries as a colleague rather than a figure of authority, which makes him more relatable and ap-

proachable than previous leaders. Rep. Joe Morelle of New York contrasts the leadership styles of Jeffries and Speaker Nancy Pelosi, noting that Jeffries is more relatable to their generation compared to the previous era, where Pelosi was seen as being on a pedestal.

Democratic Rep. Gregory Meeks, a close ally of Jeffries, describes him as "the perfect bridge" between generations. He's someone who can seamlessly discuss the music of both "Biggie Smalls and Gladys Knight."

Jeffries' legislative track record reflects his commitment to making meaningful federal laws and program changes. Bills like the FIRST STEP Act and the George Floyd Justice

in Policing Act show his commitment to social and economic justice, as his colleagues have noted.

As the highest-ranking House Democrat, many see Jeffries as a leader for these times. His focus on unity, listening to diverse perspectives, and championing policies that positively impact everyday Americans make him a political force. He remains committed to winning back the House while being a bridge builder.

"Hakeem Jeffries and the leadership know that the ultimate benchmark is winning and that we have to take back the House," Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Calif.) said earlier this year. "That ultimately is the yardstick for judging leadership in the minority."

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Auto workers' strike could impact future labor organizing

ST. LOUIS -- In an unprecedented move, unionized auto workers from General Motors, Ford and Chrysler owner Stellantis joined forces to pressure Detroit's big three automakers into increasing wages and benefits.

Even before September 15, when the United Auto Workers (UAW) initially walked out, a high level of labor activity had already dominated this summer. That's because the persistently tight labor market combined with growing frustration over wage inequality has encouraged workers across industries to fight back and organize, according to Jake Rosenfeld, an expert on labor unions and a professor of sociology in Arts & Sciences at

Washington University in St. Louis.

Also fueling the trend: Support for unions is higher than it has been in nearly six decades. In a 2022 analysis for The Washington Post, Rosenfeld wrote, "The recent successes of organizing drives at Starbucks, Amazon, Trader Joe's and elsewhere suggest unions are capitalizing on worker support and finding ways to overcome the barriers that have diminished their ranks in recent decades. The rising popularity of unions will probably bolster these efforts. After all, labor organizing is impossible if there is no support for unions."

With 13,000 auto workers in Missouri, Michigan and Ohio now on strike and others positioned to

join them — including the union that represents auto-workers in Canada — the outcome of the UAW strike has the potential to impact future labor activity in the U.S., according to Rosenfeld, author of "You're Paid What You're Worth and Other Myths of the Modern Economy" and "What Unions No Longer Do."

"Past research has shown that successful strikes can prove contagious and spread to other industries," he said. "But the strikes have to be successful. It's important to keep in mind we have ongoing strikes out west in Los Angeles with writers, screen actors and hotel workers that unions are also watching closely. If these strikes fail, that could dampen enthusiasm for fur-

ther action just as quickly as a successful strike could increase enthusiasm."

It's hard to know without being privy to the inside negotiations which of the union's demands are bargaining chips and which are non-negotiable, said Rosenfeld. Certainly, they are asking for a lot, but the broader context here is important. For decades, the companies have eroded autoworkers' contracts, claiming doing so was necessary to maintain competitiveness and — in the aftermath of the Great Recession — to stay afloat financially. The union is trying to claw back a lot that was lost during those lean years now that the companies are enjoying record profits.

With the current admin-

istration's focus on EV production, a transition to electric vehicles, which require fewer parts, will also reduce demand for auto workers. Yet, despite a 30% drop in jobs projected after the EV shift, the UAW does not oppose plans to make this transition, reports CNN.

As the auto industry prepares to make the EV transition, auto workers have an incentive to strike now before worker demand falls due to fewer EV part requirements, explains David Ferris of E&E News. The union efforts put auto makers at a disadvantage compared to Tesla, which is not unionized, Ferris points out.

And while a longer strike might potentially al-

low time for the industry to work out some issues surrounding the EV transition, Ferris warns that a prolonged strike could cost the industry money and limit its ability to fund EV efforts. Still, incentives to manufacture EVs here in the U.S. gives auto makers more reasons to make them here at home, he said.

Considering the President's active role in preventing a railroad strike last December, which would have devastated the economy, Rosenfeld suggests that whether or not the Biden administration gets involved in the current strike will likely depend on the duration of the strike and the broader devastation a long strike could play in key state economies.

HUD, from Page 5

and coordinated entry systems. The goal of the YHDP is to support selected communities in the development and implementation

of a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness. This community planning approach supports

the foundations outlined in "All In" and will guide communities in designing solutions that match the needs of their community with special attention on creating equitable strate-

gies to assist youth who are most vulnerable, including BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and differently abled youth.

All YHDP communities are required to establish Youth Action Boards, in

which young people with lived experience lead the community effort to design, implement, and improve programs and policies to end youth homelessness in their communities. Includ-

ing these awards, to date HUD has awarded YHDP funding to 110 communities, representing a \$440 million investment to prevent and end youth homelessness.

PRISON, from Page 1

15.4% to 12.8%.

Avoiding prison goes hand-in-hand with marked improvements in the chances of other, more positive life events, the researchers showed. In 2009, 17% of the 25-year-old Black men in the U.S. had gone to prison, while 12% had graduated from college. Just 10 years later, those percentages had re-

versed. In 2019, 17% of the 25-year-old Black men were college grads, and 12% had been to prison.

"College graduates are far less likely to go to prison. So, a huge group of these guys have reached a kind of escape velocity and now they're almost entirely out of the risk pool," Light says. "It's an example of the self-reinforcing

aspects of these imprisonment trends that makes us think they will continue."

Young Americans in general have grown less likely to break the law in recent decades, according to Light and Robey, driving much of the decrease in imprisonment. Some policy changes have contributed as well.

"The reduction has been across basically every category of crime, but states

are putting fewer people in prison for drug crimes in particular," Robey says. "That's one of the areas of most rapid decline."

Falling incarceration rates for Black and Hispanic men and women have made for significant changes in racial disparities in prison populations.

The rate for Black women dipped most of any group during the study period, falling 65%. In

1999, the incarceration rate for Black women was 8.8 times higher than for white women. By 2019, it was down to 1.8 times higher. The racial disparity between Black and white men fell from 9.3-to-1 in 1999 to 6.1-to-1 in 2019.

"Those are still stark inequalities and still very high numbers. And there are states that stand out, like Wisconsin, where the Black male incarceration

rate is still 14 times the white rate," Light says. "But it's important to note that, across the country, this is not getting worse. It hasn't plateaued. It's getting better."

This research was supported by a grant from the National Institutes of Health's Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (T32 HD007014).

JUSTICE, from Page 3

Black billionaires, but our economy is still structured to keep profits and power out of the hands of Black folks," Smith said, pointing out that the average white family has wealth that is 12 times greater than the average Black family."

According to data from Synchrony Bank, the median net worth of a Black family is \$24,100 versus \$188,200 for a White family.

Smith concluded, "As

we honor the legacy of Dr. King, we must expand our focus to include economic justice." He called on Americans of all colors to invest in the Black community.

Smith's speech preceded Martin Luther King III, who asked the thousands, "What are we going to do?" King concluded, "We need all of us to be engaged."

Like Smith and King, the Rev. Al Sharpton concluded the rally portion of

the day before the march by calling for racial unity behind the cause of economic justice. Reflecting on attacks on affirmative action and against businesses and corporations with racial diversity programs, Sharpton announced that he would lead "a fall of economic sanctions against those who bow to this."

Sharpton concluded, "If you think you can take money out of our homes and communities, we are not going to allow that to happen."

While the Great Migration saw approximately six million Black Americans move out of the South into the urban metropolises of the North, Midwest, and West in search of a better life, the economic opportunities many of them hoped for did not materialize.

King knew this all too well, using a 1966 essay for the Nation to paint a portrait of the sprawling urban slums from The Bronx, New York, NY, to the Watts in Los Angeles, CA, and argued that the attainment of

political rights does not end the battle for civil rights.

"The future is more complex," wrote King. "Slums with hundreds of thousands of living units are not eradicated as easily as lunch counters or buses are integrated. Jobs are harder to create than voting rolls."

Dr. King's call for economic justice on the eve of his assassination — when he too called for economic sanctions against opponents of equality — remains unfulfilled. But, decades later in sweltering heat on

the National Mall, King's last vision was echoed by a growing chorus of leaders.

"We must defeat poverty," said National Urban League President Marc Morial before Sharpton lead thousands in a march to the King Memorial. "We call for a national living wage, for the passage of the child tax credit, for an end to gentrification, to redlining, and we will continue to work and fight until hell freezes over. Then we will fight on the ice!"

Find the Blue in You: Carrollton Police entrance exam set for next month

CARROLLTON -- The Carrollton Police Department is accepting applicants for the Saturday, October 28 Civil Service exam.

The exam is a first step in the process of becoming a part of Carrollton's public safety team.

The department provides

extensive, paid training, state-of-the-art equipment designed to protect and serve the community, a starting salary of \$75,000, and numerous resources for its officers.

The exam will be administered at 9 a.m. on Saturday, October 28 at the Carrollton

Senior Center (1720 Keller Springs Road). Those taking the exam must complete the online registration form and will need to bring their driver license or a government ID for identification, a completed notarized waiver of liability emailed with registration confirmation,

and their DD Form 214, if applicable.'

The City of Carrollton has partnered with the surrounding jurisdictions of Addison, Coppell, and Farmers Branch in public safety dispatch and operations since March 2016 at the North Texas Emergency

Communications Center (NTECC), creating a centralized dispatch hub. Dispatchers are able to send the closest police, fire, or medical unit to the scene of an emergency despite city affiliation to significantly decrease response times. The process on a grander scale

helps eliminate duplication of services and minimizes costs.

For more information on serving in Carrollton email policedevelopment@cityofcarrollton.com, or to register for the exam, visit joincarrolltonpd.com.

DAC, from Page 11

tons of CO2 annually by 2050.

"Cutting back on our carbon emissions alone won't reverse the growing impacts of climate change; we also need to remove the CO2 that we've already put in the atmosphere—which nearly every climate model makes clear is essential to achieving a net-zero global economy by 2050," said U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm. And these efforts will transform

local economies and deliver healthier communities along the way, he said.

DAC is a process that separates CO2 from the air, reducing the environmental load of this compound in our air supply. The separated CO2 is then safely and permanently stored deep underground or converted into useful carbon-containing products like concrete that prevent its release back into the atmosphere.

In comparison to direct

air capture, which removes pollution that already exists, carbon capture (point-source capture) removes CO2 at the time of its production, though carbon capture technology is considered more costly than new renewable technology, a Nature Energy study reports.

The developer of the South Texas Hub, 1PointFive, a subsidiary of Occidental, has committed to a Community Benefit Plan, designed to further equity, justice, and quality job cre-

ation. The plan includes meaningful community engagement through a Citizen Advisory Board set up to promote a diverse workforce and other goals and to track Justice 40 Initiative benefits to disadvantaged communities.

1PointFive as hub owner will work with Carbon Engineering Ltd. as the technology provider, while The Worley Group is expected to be EPC contractor. Carbon Direct will advise on coordinated power balance and life cycle, and Law-

rence Livermore National Laboratory will provide workforce analysis and Justice40 tracking. Texas A&M Kingsville, the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, will study the affected environment and protect regional water. Livermore Lab Foundation will provide STEM education to local schools, and the University of Texas at Austin Gulf Coast Carbon Center will provide community education and carbon management outreach.

Through the Bipartisan

Infrastructure Law, Congress appropriated \$3.5 billion for development of four domestic Regional DAC Hubs, and through this initial funding, DOE makes \$1.2 billion available for these two Regional DAC Hubs, as well as 14 feasibility studies and five engineering and design studies. DOE intends to issue a second funding announcement in 2024 or later on added projects, while seeking funding to fully implement the Regional DAC Hubs mandate.

FUNDING, from Page 6

grant universities were established through the First Morrill Act of 1862, which provided states with federal land to support the colleges.

Drawing on data from the National Center for Education Statistics from 1987 to 2020, the departments calculated the amount these institutions would have received if their state funding per student equaled that of 1862 institutions. Officials said the discrepancies in appropriated funding ranged from \$172 million to \$2.1 billion, creating significant financial disparities. Over the past three decades, these funds could have been channeled towards crucial infrastructure and student services, enhancing the universities' capacity to pursue grants and expand educational opportunities.

The Departments of Education and of Agriculture stated they have extended their offer to collaborate with each state's budget office to analyze the funding data and redress the disparities in investments for 1890

HBCUs that have faced chronic underfunding.

Each letter outlined the specific underfunding per student for each state's 1890 HBCUs between 1987 and 2020 and suggested remedies for the situation. "We want to make abundantly clear that it is not necessary to reduce funding to other institutions, nor make a reduction in general fund allocations to (HBCUs) in addressing these disparities," the secretaries wrote. "We are at an inflection point that will determine our place in the world as leaders. We need to solidify our country as the top producer of talent and innovation – demonstrating to the global community that nothing can beat American ingenuity."

They continued:

"The state that serves as our nation's economic engine for the next generation is sure to be one that fully realizes all its assets and is committed to ensuring that opportunity is equally distributed. Given the career opportunities

that will be available due to recent bipartisan federal investments for key industries, strengthening these

universities to provide tomorrow's workforce will enhance your state's economic viability."



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What's the Harm with a Little Treat?

By Dr. James L. Snyder

The last month has been crazy for me and The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Every month has its crazy element, but this past month beats them all.

First, my main computer crashed, and I lost a lot of stuff.

Second, we had a hurricane that came through; fortunately, it was only thunder, rain and loss of electricity.

Third, I came down with what the doctor said was acute bronchitis. I told him I did not think any of this

bronchitis was cute.

Fourth, my next book manuscript is due this month.

That was just the main highlight of the past month, and by the time it was over, I was over the hill. I just felt washed out and needed a little bit of rest.

I resumed working on my book. Then, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came and said she would be gone for the day with one of our daughters—thrift store shopping.

I told her to have a great time, and she said she would be back sometime in

the afternoon and that I had to get my lunch. That was okay with me. I sat back in my chair with my computer and resumed working on my manuscript. I was finally getting caught up and would soon be finished.

Taking a break, I got up, got a fresh cup of coffee, returned to my chair, sat down and relaxed. There was this strange thought in the back of my head that I could not clarify.

After several sips of coffee, I leaned back and looked around to see what was missing. Something was missing, and I just

could not put my finger on it.

After my kind of week, it is no wonder my brain is not working as well as it should. However, I thought I would relax and see if anything came to mind.

The whole day was before me, and I was thinking of what I would do for lunch when I could not get this gnawing thought out of my head. It was like a rat gnawing up in the attic and was so unsettling. It was right before me, but I could not get my focus clear.

Oh well, I sighed, took another sip of coffee, set

my cup down, and was about to go back to work when the thought suddenly jumped out in front of me.

I love it when a plan comes together.

I saw for the very first time what was missing. After a month of all kinds of hectic activity, I needed something to relax me. At first, I could not figure out what it was, but then it came to me.

What I needed was a little treat. What harm is a little treat when you need to relax?

I looked at my watch, saw the time, and realized

that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage would not return for another four hours. That gave me plenty of time to deal with my treat.

You guessed it, that treat was an Apple Fritter. What harm does a little treat like that have when you deserve it? And, boy, do I?

I quickly got into my truck and headed to Publix. I was about to buy one Apple fritter when another thought came to mind. Why not buy two apple fritters? What harm do two little

See TREAT, Page 15

Bob the dog, making his way home

By Daris Howard

Joyce's dog Bob had been in the family for six years. Saving Joyce at the age of five, he had become an integral part of the family. One morning, right after they had finished harvest, Joyce called for Bob, but he never came.

This had never happened before. From out in the pasture, he sometimes might take a little while getting home, but he always eventually came. Joyce had called many times, even going to his favorite places.

The last spot she checked was under the old apple tree. She and Bob had spent hours there. Once Joyce had learned to read, she had read stories to him there, Bob laying with his head on her lap and Joyce gently stroking his fur as she read.

But Bob was nowhere to be found.

After Joyce went to find her father, he called the family together, and they made an exhaustive family search for Bob. Her brothers even rode their horses to the neighbors to ask if anyone had seen him.

Joyce, heartbroken, insisted that "he wouldn't just leave."

Maybe he decided his job was done here, and it was time to move on, her father



Milti / Unsplash

suggested. He had only just wandered in to our home, after all. Assuming the coyotes had killed him, as often happens in the country, her father had simply been trying to comfort her, Joyce later learned.

Joyce went out every morning for several weeks and called out for Bob, hoping for his return before finally giving up and assuming he'd never return.

Then, almost a month after he disappeared, the family was eating breakfast and heard a scratch and a whimper at the back door. Joyce almost knocked her food to the floor in haste trying to get to the door. Opening the door, she saw Bob on the other side, lying there, emaciated and hardly able to move.

Joyce hugged him, but her father patted her aside to gently take Bob in his arms and carry him inside the home. Joyce's mother got an old blanket and made a bed by the fireplace, and suggested that Joyce get Bob some milk and warm it.

With the temperature outside below freezing, Bob was shivering, though he barely seemed to have the energy to do even that.

He tried to stand to drink the milk Joyce had given him, but he couldn't, so her mother soaked a cloth in milk, then drizzled it into Bob's mouth. Joyce observed and soon took over Bob's feeding.

Joyce's father checked Bob for wounds and found the blood was coming from

his feet. So, he cleaned and bandaged Bob's feet, which were blistered and lacerated.

It was days before anyone was sure Bob would live and more than a week before he could stand. But within a month, he was accompanying Joyce up the lane to the mailbox again.

The next fall, when the harvest came, Bob suddenly blocked the path of some of the seasonal farm

workers and growled at them. The father called Bob to back down, and brought him inside.

The family later learned some of the men had admired Bob's cattle-herding abilities and had taken him nearly 2,000 miles to their next harvest. Yet, Bob had disappeared the minute he got a chance.

Considering the distance and the time Bob was gone, Joyce estimated he must

have traveled over seventy miles per day to return home. And taking Bob's 2,000-mile journey into account, Joyce grew to love her dog more than ever.

(To be continued)

Daris Howard, award-winning, syndicated columnist, playwright, and author, can be contacted at daris@darishoward.com; or visit his website at <http://www.darishoward.com>, to buy his books.

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Unforgiveness Hurts



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
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"And when ye stand praying, forgive, if you have aught against any: that your Father also which is in Heaven may forgive you your trespasses."

"But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in Heaven forgive your trespasses."

Mark 11:25-26 (KJV)

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:"

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you".

Ephesians 4:31-32 (KJV).

For a few years, I have been reminded of a statement that a young lady said, "We didn't realize how much that unforgiveness impacted our own lives."

She was making the statement after realizing



how much she had missed in her life because she had been hurt and had not forgiven an individual.

We should become keenly aware that in our world and society, people need people. God created us with a need for fellowship and companionship.

The Bible says, *"And the Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."*

Genesis 2:18.

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion . . ."

"So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them."

Genesis 1: 26-27

No man is an island and can stand alone. Who among us have not made a terrible mistake?

Who among us haven't wished that we could take back something that was spoken in anger to anyone, especially to a loved one or a friend?

Who among us haven't done something that we would be ashamed to confess to others?

whole truth. That got me remembering what Solomon said, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13).

According to Solomon, half a truth is still a lie if it makes the other person believe what is not the whole truth. I knew what I had to do. As much as it pained me, I had to confess to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage that I had two Apple Fritters.

Smiling at me she simply said, "I know."

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnsnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

After a few hours of work, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage finally came home and walked into the kitchen area with a bag of groceries. I noticed on the bag was the word Publix. I hoped she had a different cashier than I did.

"So," my wife said as she entered my room, "I hear you were at Publix this morning."

"Yes, my dear, you told me I needed to get my own lunch for the day and that's why I went to Publix."

"Did you get an Apple fritter?"

Now, my words need to be very precise. "No, my dear. I did not get 'AN' Apple fritter.

The look she gave me made me realize she did not believe me. What I said was true but it was not the

Who among us haven't had to cry out to God for His help? I have read and heard many stories of individuals finally forgiving after long periods of time; they talk about how much they have hurt and missed in their life because they waited so long to forgive.

Life doesn't stop when you don't forgive someone. Perhaps that person asked for your forgiveness and you refused.

When God saw that they were remorseful, He allowed them to move on with their life while you stayed in a state of self-pity, you couldn't see the forest for the trees.

Most people hate road constructions where they encounter them; it's an inconvenience and it takes us longer to get where we are going.

Everything is in a mess, you are caught off guard when things are placed in unusual places and the

natural flow of traffic takes you off the main road on bumpy surfaces.

But what joy when the work is complete, how beautiful the scenery when the work is done. But, we must remember that until we pass from this life to the next, we are all under construction in our walk with God.

Sometimes God takes us through our own life re-construction project, as well as family and friends.

There are times that we may do or say something that is not God-like; yet God still loves and forgives

us.

There are times that someone in your life will say or do something that they need forgiveness from you.

Just as we want God to have patience and forgive us, we need to have patience and forgive others.

At times this is not an easy task; and you need God's love and help to forgive, but if you ask Him, He can give you the love and strength to forgive.

(Editor's Note: This column originally ran in October 2016.)

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TREAT, from Page 14

treats have?

Without hesitation, I got the two apple fritters and took them to the cash register, hoping nobody would recognize me. My bad luck was that the cashier was a friend of my wife and knew about the apple fritters controversy.

"Does your wife know you're getting these apple fritters?"

After stuttering for a few seconds, I said, "Well, she's away for the day and gave me permission to get my own lunch for today." I smiled at her, paid for the apple fritters, left the store and went home.

Getting a fresh cup of coffee, I took that and the apple fritters to my easy chair to sit back and enjoy this little treat. After all, I earned every bite.

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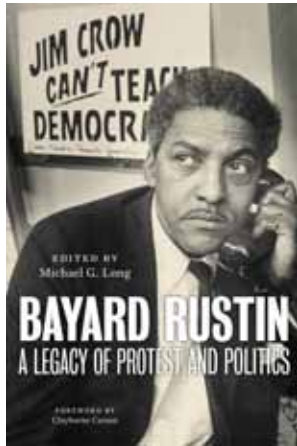
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NDG Book Review: 'Bayard Rustin: A Legacy of Protest and Politics'

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You will never settle. And why should you? If it's not right, you make it right. If it can be better, well, then get at it. You find the solution or you go on to the next thing because good enough is never good enough. As in the new book "Bayard Rustin," essays edited by Michael G. Long, there's always work to do and good trouble.

Somehow, it seems, in the discussion about Martin Luther King and the leadership he brought to the Civil Rights Movement, certain things may be left out. In the case of Bayard Rustin, says



Long, the record needs to be altered. Today, now.

His mother was still a teenager, and unmarried, when Rustin's grandmother helped deliver him in the spring of 1912. The boy's

father refused to acknowledge him, so his grandparents gave him a family name and raised him in their Quaker faith.

Still, alongside the peaceful, gentle mandate of Quakerism, young Rustin experienced Jim Crow segregation. His grandmother left a major impact on him, teaching him compassion, kindness, and generosity — she reared him to do the right thing — but they lived in Pennsylvania, where racism was common and the Klan maintained a nearby presence. As if that wasn't difficult enough, Rustin realized he was gay, which was illegal then.

At that point, though, he had seen many wrongs around him, and he became an activist. He also worked for justice as a speaker and organizer; at one time, he'd embraced communism but eventually became a socialist. By his own admission, Rustin was jailed more than 20 times and served on a chain gang for several months — but even then, his nonviolent Quaker beliefs emerged and he befriended his jailers, gaining their respect.

By the time he met a young preacher named Martin Luther King, Rustin was well-versed on civil rights work. He had direction, con-

tacts, and the organizational skills the movement needed.

And yet, he was willing to let King take the front stage...

Pulled together as a collection of essays, "Bayard Rustin" has one flaw that probably can't be helped: it's quite repetitive. Each of the essayists in this book wrote extensively about Rustin, his work, and his impact, but there just doesn't seem to be quite enough about Rustin himself — perhaps because, as editor Michael G. Long indicates in his introduction, Rustin left a legacy but history left him more in the background. This means that the nearly

two dozen contributors to this book had only what they had to go on, hence, the repetition.

Even so, if you look for Rustin, you'll find abundant tales about him and this book has a good portion of them. Readers will be entertained, confounded, and pleased by what they read here. It's like finding treasure you never knew you needed.

This book needs to sit on the shelf next to everything written about Dr. King. It's an essential companion to any volume about the Civil Rights Movement. If you need history, find "Bayard Rustin" and settle in.

HORSFORD, from Page 2

the fore before the mainstream press brought them," he stated. "They bring perspectives from their own lived experiences, lifting up the voices of Black communities and also other marginalized communities

that don't always get their stories told."

Recognizing the challenges faced by Black journalists and reporters, Horsford highlighted the importance of acknowledging their dedication and

hard work in the field. "Ensuring that Black journalists and reporters are recognized for the representation they bring to their newsrooms," he continued. "Understand this isn't an easy profession, and it's important for us to be able to lift up the people who worked hard to get to

the level and took positions they are in within the press corp."

NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., said the award is a testament to Horsford's steadfast commitment to championing civil rights and justice for all.

"His relentless pursuit of a fairer and more just society has earned him this well-deserved recognition, and his influence promises to continue shaping a brighter future for marginalized communities across the United States," Chavis affirmed.

In addition to Horsford, the NNPA also bestowed the 2023 NNPA Leadership Award to Jasmine Crockett (D-Texas), Niesha Foster of Pfizer Inc., Jessie Woolley-Wilson, President and CEO of Dreambox Learning, and The People's Attorney Ben Crump.

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Valid on new orders only. Not valid on walk-up or daily tickets. Promo code must be applied at the time of purchase. Offer expires 10/22/23.

SEPT. 29 THRU OCT. 22

STATE FAIR OF TEXAS