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Will Liberation Day tariffs bring back American manufacturing or eliminate it?

By Lori Lee
NDG Contributing Writer

President Trump in April celebrated a plan to impose tariffs on at least 90 countries, hailing the action as "Liberation Day." His justification—he hopes to acquire revenue from the tariffs and to counter what he calls unfair trading practices. Trump believes the plan will bring back American manufacturing and build up the American labor force.

Will the plan indeed liberate? Will it reposition American trade and help businesses create jobs? The tariffs are certain to generate income for the government, but one might ask, at whose expense? When tariff costs are passed onto consumers, it is called a tariff passthrough. Evidence of a passthrough has surfaced over the past two months, yet it came later than predicted, said Neale Mahoney,



Trump's sweeping tariffs, intended to revive American manufacturing and counter unfair trade, are instead raising production costs, straining small businesses, and dampening consumer demand—raising fears of recession. (ThisIsEngineering / Unsplash)

professor at Stanford University and researcher for the National Bureau of Economic Research, at an August American Community Media (ACoM) briefing.

Businesses wishing to import goods into this country will now pay substantial tariffs to the US gov-

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People In The News ...



Claude Cummings



Evens Charles

NDG Quote of the Week:

"For Africa to me... is more than a glamorous fact. It is a historical truth. No man can know where he is going unless he knows exactly where he has been and exactly how he arrived at his present place."
- Dr. Maya Angelou

Claude Cummings

Claude Cummings has been unanimously nominated by the NNPA Executive Committee to receive the NNPA 2025 National Leadership Award for outstanding leadership and achievement in service of communications workers around the nation.

The NNPA Board of Directors and all its 250 African American member publishers will honor Cummings on September 25, 2025, at the NNPA 2025 National Leadership Awards Reception, themed Saluting Excellence in Leadership.

The reception will be hosted at the Conrad Hilton Hotel, 950 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

Each year during the week of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's



Photo via NNPA

annual Legislative Conference (ALC), the NNPA national leadership award is presented to leaders who have received national recognition for their contributions benefiting the greater community in a specific field or industry.

The scope of Cummings' extraordinary achievement becoming the president and leader of more than 700,000 communications workers is remarkable and appreciated by 50 million

African Americans and others who cry out for equality and justice.

The Black Press is the premier and trusted voice of Black communities as its members report stories from the Black perspective and has done so for the past 198 years. Fast forward, the NNPA trade association for the Black Press is today a repository for Black history from the Black perspective that cannot be matched by any other media organization.

The NNPA daily curates African American news, entertainment, sports, education and public policy matters in all the U.S. major media markets, competing handily with AP, Reuters and other mainstream newswires, and having the most original content.

With 50 million weekly readers of Black newspa-

pers and over 5 million viewers monthly on Black Press USA, NNPA social media platforms and NNPA livestreams combined, NNPA has become a trusted staple for Black legislators and others to deliver their messages to Black America.

The Communication Workers of America (CWA) was founded in 1938 at meetings in Chicago and New Orleans. First known as the National Federation of Telephone Workers, the union became the Communications Workers of America in 1947.

CWA got its start in the telephone industry, but today it represents workers in the United States,

Puerto Rico, and Canada in the communications and information industries, as well as the news media, the airline industry, broadcast and cable television, public service, higher education, health care, manufacturing, high tech fields, and more.

Claude Cummings Jr. was elected president of the Communications Workers of America by delegates to the union's 79th convention on July 10, 2023. Prior to his election as president, Cummings served as an at-large member of the CWA's Executive Board, then as Vice President of CWA District 6, representing workers in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and

Texas. He also led the Human Rights Department for the union.

Cummings began work at Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (now AT&T) in 1973 and worked as a Frame Attendant and Communications Technician, maintaining systems for NASA, among other corporate customers. Prior to his election to District 6 Vice President he was President of CWA Local 6222 representing more than 8,000 members, having served previously in other leadership positions in the local, including Vice President. Cummings was the first Black man elected to all of these positions.

Evens Charles

Frontier Development & Hospitality Group LLC, led by Washington, D.C. native Evens Charles, has officially opened the Hyatt House Washington DC Downtown Convention Center — a modern, 184-room extended-stay hotel in the culturally rich Shaw neighborhood. Managed by Donohoe Hospitality Services, the property sits just two blocks from the Walter E. Washington Convention Center and brings apartment-style accommodations and vibrant community-oriented amenities to one of D.C.'s most dynamic neighborhoods.

For Charles, this milestone is deeply personal. Born in Columbia Heights and raised in Petworth in the 1980s and 1990s, he now returns to his hometown as a leading devel-



Photo via NNPA

oper, shaping the city's future through intentional, community-rooted hospitality projects. "DC raised me. Now I'm raising the city back," said Charles. "This project reflects our commitment to investing in communities that embody culture, creativity, and forward momentum."

The new Hyatt House property is more than just another hotel — it's a model for what modern hospitality can look like when it

honors the cultural fabric of a city. The hotel features apartment-style suites with full kitchens and separate living areas, a 24/7 fitness center, complimentary breakfast bar, lobby bar, and collaborative communal spaces.

Later this fall, Frontier will also debut "REALM", an all-weather rooftop bar and lounge adjacent to the hotel. With 157 seats and breathtaking 360-degree views of the Washington, D.C. skyline, REALM is expected to be one of the city's most exciting new destinations for locals and travelers alike.

Charles explains the broader vision:

"At Frontier, we take traditional hospitality assets in high-demand urban areas and layer in amenities that bring cultural vibrancy

See CHARLES, Page 7

Saving Made Simple

Scan to learn more!

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Published by

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The North Dallas Gazette, formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded
in July 1991, by Mr. Jim Bochum and Mr. Thurman R. Jones. North Dallas
Gazette is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

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Student loan delinquency drops 2.2 million borrower credit scores by 100 points or more

Black student borrowers most likely to struggle with payments

By Charlene Crowell

At least 2.2 million delinquent student loan borrowers have seen their credit scores drop by 100 points or more since loan servicers resumed reporting to credit bureaus in the first quarter of this year.

The end of pandemic relief measures will further reduce affordable credit options for federal student loan borrowers already struggling with rising prices and stagnant wages, making new credit more expensive, if attainable at all. Affected borrowers also will become more susceptible to predatory lenders who exploit their financial difficulties with debt trap business models that worsen – not improve – their financial lives.

According to the New York Federal Reserve's student loan update, delinquency rates surged to a five-year high in early 2025. Further, during the second quarter of this year, one in 10 borrowers were 90 days or more delinquent on their loans. These numbers are likely to rise as more delinquencies are recorded on a rolling basis.

Among newly delinquent borrowers, 2.4 million previously had scores above 620, strong enough for many to qualify for new autos, mortgages, and credit cards. But now, missed federal student loan payments between 2020Q2 and 2024Q4 are now appearing in credit reports.

Of the estimated 2.2 million borrowers who experienced credit score drops of

at least 100 points, 1 million saw their credit score drop by 150 points or more. More interesting – the highest percentages of delinquency by age was among older borrowers: 18 percent by borrowers aged 50 and over and 14 percent by borrowers between 40-49.

Consumer advocates and economists warned of the negative impact of rising delinquencies on consumer finances and national economic activity.

"Being delinquent on student loan debt is difficult for people who are approaching their retirement years," said Lori Trawinski, director of finance and employment at AARP. "People end up having to make extremely difficult choices," Trawinski said.

The Treasury Department recently restarted collection efforts for defaulted loans — including garnishment of wages and tax returns. Legally, officials can garner up to 15 percent of the Social Security benefits of older and defaulted student loan borrowers. A recent CNBC news article reported the Department of Education said it has "paused" that option for now.

"Discussions around wage garnishment could further reduce disposable income, creating additional headwinds for consumer spending," noted Eugenio J. Alemán, chief economist for Raymond James Financial, a leading investment firm. "Although the direct economic impact of student loan defaults may be limited in the short term, the long-

term effects, such as weakened credit profiles and reduced consumer activity, could modestly slow overall economic growth."

These efforts likely will have a disproportionate impact on Black and Latino borrowers, who already suffer from racial disparities in wealth and income. Fewer family financial resources lead to a need for more student loans to finance their education, and then decades of repayment and financial stress.

According to updated data from the Education Data Initiative report, Student Loan Debt by Race:

- Among bachelor's degree holders, 82.9 percent of Black students are the most likely to borrow federal loans.

- Four years after graduation with a bachelor's degree, Black student borrowers owe \$25,000 more than white borrowers.

- Four years after graduation, Black borrowers owe an average of 188% more than whites.

- Black borrowers are most likely to struggle financially due to student loan debt, with average monthly payments of \$258 for undergraduate studies.

The August 1 resumption of interest accrual for the 7.9 million borrowers enrolled in the SAVE repayment program begun under President Joe Biden added to financial stress. This program proposed to shorten the number of years borrower repayments to only 10 years, instead of the 20 or 25 years required under other and

earlier plans.

Despite SAVE's borrower benefits, it was challenged in two lawsuits still pending that together opposed its implementation. These lawsuits were led by Missouri and Kansas officials; and 18 other states joined the legal challenges – many of which have significant Black populations including: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Ohio, South Carolina, and Texas.

According to the Department of Education, when forbearance ends and monthly payments resume, the additional interest from August 1 forward will be added to the resumed payments.

Jennifer Zhang, a Research Associate at the Student Borrower Protection Center, aptly summarized the growing dilemma:

"Borrowers are in a uniquely impossible situation—they must repay their loans with money they do not have, but because of actions by this Administration, they are unable to switch to a more affordable repayment plan. Meanwhile, borrowers' access to credit, rental housing, and key necessities of life will become increasingly expensive to nonexistent the further they fall behind—leaving them more desperate and vulnerable to predatory lenders and, ultimately, creating ripple effects across the economy."

Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

Keep up with the news

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Children's Hospital of Philadelphia researchers link dietary fats to more severe form of asthma

(Newsweek) — PHILADELPHIA — Researchers at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) found that certain lipids, or fats, in obesity-causing foods also cause asthma-like lung inflammation. The findings suggest that in addition to modifying dietary choices, certain existing drugs could be repurposed to help treat this type of asthma. The findings were published online today by the journal *Science Translational Medicine*.

The study was prompted by researchers noticing an association between childhood obesity and neutrophilic asthma, a non-allergic type of asthma triggered by microbial and bacterial proteins. Neutrophilic asthma is more difficult to treat than allergic asthma and more likely to be severe enough to send patients to the hospital, but researchers did not understand the underlying causes of this type of asthma.

To study this in more



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detail, researchers focused on lung macrophages, which are specialized white blood cells that coordinate immune function during inflammation. While metabolic stress can alter macrophage function, the effects of specific dietary components were unclear. In this study, the researchers found that certain dietary fats, including those used in processed foods, shape macrophage activation in the lungs during inflammatory responses.

"Prior to this study, many suspected that childhood obesity was causing this

form of asthma. However, we were observing neutrophilic asthma in children who weren't obese, which is why we suspected there might be another mechanism," said senior study author David A. Hill, MD, PhD, an attending physician with the Division of Allergy and Immunology at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. "What we found in both preclinical work and studies in children was that diets containing certain saturated long chain fatty acids can cause neutrophilic asthma independent from obesity."

The researchers first explored a high fat diet in a preclinical animal model, where they found that lung macrophages accumulated a saturated long chain fatty acid called stearic acid, which is often found in animal fat and processed foods.

Notably, dietary stearic acid worsened airway inflammation without causing obesity. Conversely, oleic acid, a monounsaturated long chain fatty acid, suppressed inflammatory activity.

The researchers also found that blocking the inflammatory cytokine IL-1 β or inhibiting the protein IRE1 — both of which are found in increased levels in

neutrophilic asthma — protected against stearic acid-driven lung inflammation. The study confirmed some of these preclinical findings in a group of obese children with asthma.

"Asthma is one of the most common chronic diseases in children, and different treatments may be needed depending on the subtype of asthma," said study co-author Lisa Young, MD, Chief of the Division of Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. "While there are many risk factors and triggers that are associated with asthma, this study provides evidence about how specific dietary components

are linked to a particularly difficult-to-treat form of asthma. These findings are encouraging because they provide new treatment strategies and suggest that targeted dietary modifications may help prevent this asthma type."

This study was supported by National Institutes of Health grants K08 DK116668, R01 HL162715, 5T32 DK007314-43, K24HL143281, an American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology Junior Faculty Grant, the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute, and the University of Pennsylvania Michael Brown Graduate Research Fellowship.

'Young' immune cells could treat Alzheimer's, aging symptoms

(Newsweek) — LOS ANGELES — "Young" immune cells created by Cedars-Sinai investigators reversed signs of aging and Alzheimer's disease in the brains of laboratory mice, according to a study published in the journal *Advanced Science*. The immune cells, which were produced from human stem cells, could be used to develop new treatments for neurological conditions in humans.

"Previous studies have

shown that transfusions of blood or plasma from young mice improved cognitive decline in older mice, but that is difficult to translate into a therapy," said Clive Svendsen, PhD, executive director of the Board of Governors Regenerative Medicine Institute and senior author of the study. "Our approach was to use young immune cells that we can manufacture in the lab—and we found that they have beneficial effects in both aging mice and mouse

models of Alzheimer's disease."

The immune cells, called mononuclear phagocytes, circulate throughout the body disposing of harmful substances, but become less effective as we age.

The investigators used human induced pluripotent stem cells, which are adult cells that have been taken "back in time" to an early embryonic state, to generate young mononuclear phago-

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Thousands march on Wall Street demanding economic justice and equity

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Sixty-two years to the day after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech, thousands poured into Lower Manhattan on Thursday, linking arms and voices in what was billed as the largest demonstration of its kind since Donald Trump returned to the White House.

Led by Rev. Al Sharpton and the National Action Network, the March on Wall Street drew national civil rights leaders, clergy, activists, and elected officials, all demanding eco-



Rev. Dr. Boise Kimber, President of the National Baptist Convention USA Inc. and Rev. Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) at the March on Wall Street, August 28, 2022, in New York City. (Phot via NNPA)

nomic justice, equity, and fair opportunity at a time when diversity, equity, and inclusion programs have been dismantled by the Trump administration. The march began at Foley Square, paused at the African Burial Ground National Monument, and wound its

way down Broadway to Whitehall Street. Participants spanned generations and professions — labor unions, fraternities and sororities, educators, and teens — all united by the call to defend rights secured in the 1960s and to push back against what they see

as the biggest transfer of wealth in U.S. history.

Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, who was arrested earlier this year while protesting ICE, challenged fellow municipal leaders to act. “We are here because our ancestors demand that we be here, because the times demand that we be here, because every mayor in every city in America should be rising up right now as Donald Trump tries to send the National Guard into our communities — we are here as they create the biggest transference of wealth this country has ever seen,” Baraka declared. The presence of Martin Luther King III and Andrea Waters King

underscored the continuity of the movement. “It’s extraordinarily significant, but in the back of mind, I am thinking about how sad this is, that 62 years after Dad delivered that dream for our nation and world that we are in the position we are in,” King said. “And the goal is to find ways to move this nation forward around economic inequality.” King also posted on social media: “We were proud to join @NationalAction and my good friend, @TheRevAl, for the #MarchOnWallStreet. On the 62nd anniversary of the #MarchOnWashington and in the financial capital of the world, we marched for

economic justice and fair opportunities for ALL.”

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, stood with Rev. Dr. Boise Kimber, president of the National Baptist Convention USA Inc., marking the moment’s deep historical ties. “It marked 62 years after the historic 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, and we continue to march, we continue to speak out, and we continue to demand freedom, justice, equality, and equity,” Chavis said. “Thus, we join the Rev. Al Sharpton

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HBCU rivals team up to launch \$2.2M machine learning project

(PVAMU) – As Prairie View A&M University and Texas Southern University prepared to face off in the Labor Day Classic, the two rivals were also joining forces off the field. Together, they're leading a \$2.2 million research project that uses artificial intelligence to speed up the discovery of new materials — a breakthrough with the potential to transform manufacturing and defense technology.

The project, funded by the U.S. Department of Defense's Air Force Office of Scientific Research, establishes the Center for Scientific Machine Learning for Material Sciences. Texas Southern is leading the grant, with Prairie View A&M receiving \$600,000 to guide a major part of the



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work. They are joined by Texas A&M University and the University of Michigan.

At TSU, the project is led by Dr. Yunjiao Wang, principal investigator, and Dr. Daniel Vrinceanu, co-principal investigator. At PVAMU, the effort is headed by Dr. Noushin Ghaffari, principal investigator, and Dr. Lin Li, co-principal investigator. Together, these scientists are building advanced machine learning

tools to predict, optimize, and simulate new materials with greater speed and accuracy.

So what does this research mean? Materials science is the study of how everyday materials, such as metals, ceramics, and polymers, can be designed or improved for use in products like airplanes, cars, medical devices, and electronics. Machine learning, a type of artificial intelli-

gence, allows computers to recognize patterns in massive sets of data and make predictions. By combining the two, researchers can discover better, stronger, and lighter materials faster than ever before.

At the center of this work is the electron beam powder bed fusion (E-Beam) platform at Texas A&M University, a state-of-the-art 3D printing technology for metals managed in Dr. Mohsen Taheri's lab. By pairing this equipment

with data from sensors and advanced computer models, including deep neural networks, the team aims to predict how materials will behave and perform long before they're ever produced.

Beyond advancing science, the project is designed to open doors for students. Both Prairie View A&M and Texas Southern will provide hands-on research experiences, summer workshops, and mentorship to prepare the next generation

of engineers and data scientists. These opportunities are especially critical for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), where representation in high-tech research fields is growing but still limited.

So, while PVAMU and TSU may battle it out on the gridiron, they're proving that when it comes to innovation and education, they're playing on the same team.

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cytes. When the young cells were infused into aging mice or a mouse model of Alzheimer's disease, investigators noted several important changes.

First, the mice receiving the young cells performed better on memory tests than mice without cell treatment. These mice were also found to have more "mossy cells" in the hippocampus, a brain region critical for learning and memory.

"The numbers of mossy cells decline with aging and Alzheimer's disease," said Alexandra Moser,

PhD, a project scientist in the Svendsen Lab and lead author of the study. "We did not see that decline in mice receiving young mononuclear phagocytes, and we believe this may be responsible for some of the memory improvements that we observed."

Mice receiving the young mononuclear phagocytes also had healthier immune cells, called microglia, in their brains. These microglia use long thin branches to detect and clear debris and damaged cells. The branches shrink and retract due

to aging and Alzheimer's disease, but they remained long and healthy in mice receiving the therapy.

The mechanism behind the effects in the brain remain to be established. As the young mononuclear phagocytes did not appear to enter the brain, investigators believe the cells may have worked indirectly.

The cells could have released antiaging proteins or even tiny particles called extracellular vesicles, which are small enough to enter the brain. Or they could have absorbed pro-aging factors from the blood to keep them out of the brain.

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Women are constrained by gender stereotypes in leadership roles

By Savannah Peat

(Newswise) — Female bosses are often hindered by gender stereotypes, which can directly impact their ability to do their jobs, according to a new University of Georgia study.

The researchers found that women in leadership roles can feel limited in their positions of power because of societal gender norms that pressure them to be more docile than their male counterparts.

Support and affirmation from their direct reports can make a difference in those feelings, however.

“Women are expected to have to behave in a pliant way, so for female leaders, we found it’s more difficult for them to engage in instruction, to set expectations and to tell others what they need to do because of these stereotypes,” said Joanna Lin, lead author of the study and a W. Richard and Emily Acree Professor of Management in the UGA Terry College of Business.



“If we don’t fix this, there will be fewer women leaders and less effective workplaces.”

Gender norms cause conflict in management style

Across four different studies, the researchers found that female bosses feel restricted by their own perceptions of how women should act.

Some of these societal expectations included presenting a nurturing attitude, prioritizing employee well-being over productivity and not giving boss-like directives.

When giving instructions

or clarifying responsibilities these leaders reported feeling like they couldn’t

be as direct in their feedback due to fears of being perceived as rude or demanding.

“There’s inconsistency about what you are supposed to do as a woman in leadership. You’re expected to be warm and friendly, but you also have to be a boss and engage in straightforward behavior that is different from what people expect for women,” Lin said.

Deviating from gender norms made the women

feel incompetent or anxious, they reported.

As a result, the women who engaged in more assertive behaviors often felt depleted, overwhelmed by their workload and more withdrawn as a whole.

“If you are depleted, you are more likely to withdraw from your work or to not care for your employees because you don’t have the energy to do so anymore,” Lin said.

Interestingly, men in the study did not experience

any stress over these gender expectations.

Whether they were kind and focused on their employees’ well-being, or giving stern directives, male bosses deemed their behavior as a “father knows best” approach, both authoritative and benevolent.

But it’s also possible that they viewed this paternalistic leadership style as somehow heroic or chivalrous, which leans into the male hero gender stereotype.

CHARLES, from Page 2

for multiple generations — from millennials to the seasoned business traveler.”

Charles is a proud product of the Marion Barry Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). As a teen, he worked at the 3rd District Police Station, finding mentorship and structure. From the #6 Metropolitan Police Boys & Girls Club to Archbishop Carroll High School, to Temple University, football became his foundation and springboard.

Despite building a na-

tional portfolio, Charles spent nearly a decade pursuing a project in his hometown. Now, after years of persistence, he is finally building in the city that built him — a major moment of reclamation and legacy-building.

“This isn’t just about business,” said Charles. “It’s about ownership, visibility, and leaving something for the next generation — including my daughter — that reflects the best of where we come from.”



Who's In Charge?

By April Ryan

Amid the fight over potentially placing the National Guard in cities with diverse populations where Black mayors lead, the governors have the right to request the deployment of the National Guard.

According to the U.S. Code, Title 32, governors are the commanders-in-chief of the state or territory's militia. Maryland Governor Wes Moore reinforced this by saying, "I am the commander-in-chief!" Maryland's first Black governor said he would only allow presidential National Guard deployment if it is "mission critical" and "mission aligned."

Chicago's Governor, J.B. Pritzker, also resounded "no" to President Trump's threats to deploy



Photo via NNPA

the National Guard in Chicago. Title 32 states that Guard members are under the governor's command, but the federal government funds their duties. However, in this moment of struggle for who controls National Guard deployment, there are concerns about National Guard funding.

Meanwhile, under Title 10, a president can call up the National Guard and put them under federal control, but this is typically done only in specific circum-

stances, such as suppressing rebellions. Washington, DC, which is not a state, is under a presidential dictate for the gun-toting National Guard that is policing and cleaning up trash off the city streets.

Trump's Justice Department now controls the D.C. police, as D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser says the police chief reports to her. On the West Coast, in Los Angeles, in June, President Trump deployed the National Guard to Los Ange-

les in response to anti immigration protests.

"This is the federal seizure of power," according to Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, who emphasizes that the Trump administration has federalized the National Guard, which

has seized power from California Governor Gavin Newsom. She says the administration has "taken his ability to manage the National Guard."

"The LAPD is definitely not in charge."

The first Black woman

mayor of the city told this reporter on the Substack show, The Tea With April. However, ICE, the National Guard, Border Patrol, and the Marines "blend together" policing and ar-

See WHO?, Page 13

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Prince's 'Sign o' the Times' returns in IMAX for limited release

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Nearly four decades after its debut, one of the greatest concert films in music history is returning to theaters. Prince's Sign o' the Times—a dazzling mix of live performance and cinematic spectacle—will screen globally in IMAX theaters for one week only beginning August 29, offering fans a rare chance to experience the Purple One at the height of his powers.

Originally released in 1987, Sign o' the Times was born out of Prince's chart-topping double album of the same name, his first project after disbanding The Revolution. The concert film blended live tour footage with reshoots

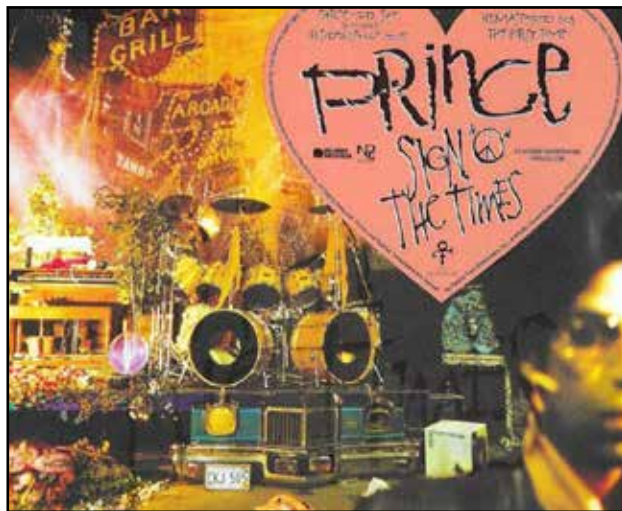


Photo via NNPA

at his Paisley Park Studios, delivering a cinematic performance that critics and fans have since placed among the greatest of its kind. While its initial theatrical run was modest, the film grew into a cult classic on VHS, long before being celebrated as a masterwork

of the genre.

The new IMAX restoration, developed with Mercury Studios, FilmRise, and Paisley Park Enterprises, amplifies the original with enhanced visuals and remastered audio. The format

See PRINCE, Page 13



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Film Review: 'Love, Brookly' is good enough for a streaming evening

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(**1/2) He loves her. He loves her not. She loves him, she loves him not. That's why they broke up.

TV series director turned filmmaker Rachael Holder has love and triads on her mind. That's got to be the reason she's teamed with first time screenwriter Paul Zimmerman to tell this romantic, urban dramedy set on the streets of New York's largest borough, Brooklyn. A place where brownstones dot the avenues and the people inside them each have a unique story.

Roger (André Holland, Moonlight), a writer, bikes around the neighborhood of Fort Green, Bklyn like he's on a mission. He is. He's gathering notes and experiences about the gentrifica-



Photo via NNPA

tion of his old middle-class black community. Roger observes, "The people who like made the neighborhood, who built the culture, can no longer afford to live in the damn neighborhood." He expresses that opinion with friends and lovers. Like his new sweetheart, Nicole (DeWanda Wise). They're friends with benefits and her young daughter Ally (Cadence Reese) is starting to like her single

mom's new best man.

There's a slight complication. The journalist still has a crush on his ex, Casey (Nicole Beharie). She runs an art gallery in the vicinity and hasn't gotten him out of her head. Also, her building is being sought by gentrifiers. But it's an heirloom, once owned by her grandmother. Casey's heart says, "Don't sell," but her bank account screams, "Sell." She's as ambivalent as she

is with Roger's feelings.

Educated, middle-class black people in Brooklyn have been depicted in films before—especially by male directors like Spike Lee. Holder's interpretation of life in BKLYN shows a great sensitivity to men and women's emotions and dreams. Great setup. Believable characters. Dialogue and opinions that feel like they've been ripped from coffee shops along Lafayette and Dekalb Avenues in Fort Green or cafes in Clinton Hill and Bedford Stuyvesant. Gathering places where Black populations are dwindling. Where demographics are changing, just like in other urban centers.

The social aspects of gentrification are not a new film theme. Nothing in this script distinguishes itself

from similar minded movies like The Last Black Man in San Francisco. This depiction is unique because of its poetic love story and relatable characters. The kind prevalent on TV or streaming service series. Something that's a cross between Friends and Prime Video's Harlem.

If this project was in an episodic format, the relatable Roger character would build a fan base. Ditto for the people he hangs with, particularly his married friend Alan (Roy Wood Jr.). Nicole's journey as a single mom, navigating life with a young daughter would attract young female demographics. Oddly, the Casey character might get the most play. She's fascinating, complex, torn by emotions, allegiance and tradition. A troublemaker

who would be fun to follow. Credit Zimmerman for the engaging secondary characteristics and the cast for further developing the personalities. Particularly Holland and Beharie.

Holder creates and sustains an everyday kind of tone. She knows her subjects, their concerns and how to stage them. There's a shot of Roger jogging through a park at the base of a hill, and he spies Nicole and Ally at the top of the crest. As he walks towards them, grass below, sun in sky, a feeling of rebirth and new chances is cast in the most subtle way. That scene typifies Holder's visual style, cinematographer Martim Vian's sense of lighting and costume designer Missy Mickens' knack for

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TARIFFS, from Page 1

ernment to do so, just as American businesses will pay tariffs on their own imports. With roughly half of American imports used in U.S. production to create goods, the new tariffs are sharply increasing the costs of American manufacturing, said Mahoney. With a 50% tariff on copper, for example, businesses that use the metal in production will find making a profit much trickier. These negative impacts work against the pro-business priorities Trump talked about during his 2024 campaign, Mahoney said.

One reason the passthrough is later than predicted may be the record-high profit margins experienced post-pandemic. It appears American businesses have been taking on the added tariffs while avoiding raising prices, he said. The higher margins may have made it easier for businesses to absorb the costs or stock up before the tariffs took effect. Yet, weakening consumer demand and a soft labor market may be other factors making decisions to raise prices difficult for businesses fearful of passing costs onto their customers.

The fears follow recent economic uncertainty surrounding the chain of tariff announcements, which have shocked the market repeatedly since Trump took office. February calls for tariffs on Mexico, Canada, and China, followed by Liberation Day tariffs in April caused significant jolts and rebounds as Trump called for tariffs, then pushed them back.

China now has a 30% tariff. Brazil 10%, and India 25%, according to Dr. Anil

Diolalikar, professor of economics and founding dean emeritus of the University of California Riverside School of Public Policy, who also spoke at the ACoM briefing.

Despite all the pushing and pulling in the market, said Mahoney, we now have the highest tariffs since the 1930s. The Smoot-Hawley Tariffs set in place to protect American businesses from competition during the 30s caused international trade to plummet, worsening the Great depression, Britannica recorded.

Now around the corner, substantial price hikes are expected in time for Christmas, a 1.5% increase, warned Mahoney, given about 10% of what Americans buy is imported, and tariffs are increasing by 15%. Though not catastrophic, prices are definitely headed in the wrong direction, said Mahoney, and as the labor market cools, businesses relying on imports will be particularly hurt.

"The uncertainty is paralyzing, he said. If you're a small business, and you don't know what your costs will be for your inputs, you're going to be reluctant to hire a new worker, to expand your facility.

If you're a consumer, and you don't know whether layoffs are coming around the corner, you're going to hold back on a vacation, on a night out, on a new car purchase."

The impact on small businesses has been tremendous, added Delawar Saeed, former deputy administrator of the Small Business Administration (SBA).

"You need certainty. You need clarity, especially

when you are operating a small business," he said. With forms now required detailing the use of every import, small businesses are now burdened with extra staff and time requirements, impacting their ability to plan and adjust pricing effectively.

The tariff is a small business problem, reminded Saeed. Ninety-seven percent of U.S. importers are small businesses, while two thirds of small businesses export.

From restaurants importing Mexican beef to manufacturers importing fabrics from India, the added costs of the tariffs are being felt by small business throughout the country. The National Small Business Administration in May surveyed 650 American small businesses and found 58% consider themselves worse off today than a year ago. Overall, the survey found small business sentiment at its lowest point in 15 years, this, including the pandemic and the 2008-09 financial crisis.

The federal government has responded by laying off 43% of the SBA workforce, leaving little support or financing help for small businesses. These policies don't consider the needs of business owners, cautioned Saeed.

"I'm really concerned that we're gonna see, unfortunately, a large number of businesses facing closures."

What the U.S. is doing with the tariffs works against American interests in other ways as well, added Dr. Diolalikar. Bringing the large and emerging economies of China, India and Brazil together may increase their trade, Indian Prime Minister Modi last month visiting China for

the first time in seven years. Plus, all three countries face heightened future tariffs with the U.S.

According to Diolalikar, Trump's plan works out well for India, being more focused on IT and software services exempt from the tariffs. A number of carve outs save certain industries or sectors, such as smartphones, computers, and electronic components, Apple getting a special exemption due to their large promised investment in the U.S., added Diolalikar.

The large number of export industries in China, however, mean China could suffer huge impacts, their economy already slowing

down over recent years. Yet, because the U.S. and China are so interdependent, they will be more motivated to come to the negotiating table and work something out.

In the case of India's punitive tariffs to stop its purchase of Russian oil, an agreement is far less likely, he said, while prospects of Brazil negotiating a truce on tariffs with the U.S. is even lower, said Diolalikar. With China its largest trading partner, it will likely encourage Brazil to pivot away from dependence on trade with the U.S, while increasing trade with China itself.

All the while, Mahoney is holding out hope to avoid a recession, recall-

ing a backstory when the economy was the envy of the world. With last year's spending at 3%, consumer spending has now flatlined, said Mahoney. Job growth was steadily increasing. Now, it's cut in half. Payroll growth, at half the rate needed to keep up with the labor force, is now running at a deficit. Further, companies are holding back on hiring, with pockets of layoffs starting to surface. Job growth at this slow a pace has historically signaled significant layoffs ahead and worsening economic conditions. If indicators continue to follow this path, recession may not be far out of sight.



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Billionaires pay lower effective tax rates than average Americans, new data shows

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent



A new study by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) reveals that America's wealthiest billionaires pay a lower share of their income in taxes than most workers and even less than the national average.

The analysis, conducted by economists Akcan S. Balkir, Emmanuel Saez, Danny Yagan, and Gabriel Zucman, used administrative data from 2010 through 2020, matching Forbes' list of the 400 richest Americans with individual, business, estate, and gift tax returns. It found that the top 0.0002 percent of households—roughly the “Forbes 400”—paid an average total effective tax rate of 24 percent from 2018 to 2020. That com-

pared with 30 percent for the overall U.S. population and 45 percent for top labor income earners. The authors define the effective rate as all taxes paid relative to “economic income,” which includes labor income, business profits, and capital gains. The report concludes that billionaires “appear less taxed than the average American” when all sources of wealth are considered.

Why the Wealthiest Pay Less

The findings point to structural features of the U.S. tax code. C-corporations owned by billionaires

distribute relatively little in dividends, which minimizes individual income tax unless the stock is sold. Passthrough businesses—such as partnerships and S corporations—often report negative taxable income despite high profits, further limiting tax bills.

The researchers found that between 2010 and 2017, billionaires' effective tax rates averaged about 30 percent, but that fell to 24 percent in the years after Donald Trump's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. The law slashed the federal corporate rate from 35 percent to 21 percent and expanded

provisions like full expensing of investment, allowing companies to reduce taxable income even with high book profits.

Estate and gift taxes also make little difference. Decedents in the Forbes 400 paid just 0.8 percent of their wealth in estate tax when married and 7 percent when single. Annual charitable giving by the group equaled 0.6 percent of wealth and 11 percent of economic income in 2018–2020.

The Corporate Tax's Outsized Role

Corporate taxes remain

a major source of government revenue from billionaires. About 9 percentage points of the top 400's 23.8 percent effective rate comes from corporate tax. By contrast, their individual income taxes amounted to just 11 percent of economic income. When measured against wealth instead of income, the richest Americans paid only 1.3 percent of their holdings in taxes annually in 2018–2020—down from 2.7 percent in 2010–2013.

International Comparisons

The United States is not

alone in seeing ultra-rich households taxed at lower rates.

Similar studies show billionaires in the Netherlands pay less than 20 percent of economic income, while in France, the top 0.0002 percent paid 26 percent in 2016.

Still, U.S. billionaires' individual income tax rates—about 11 percent of economic income—are higher than those in parts of Europe, where personal holding companies allow greater avoidance.

See TAX, Page 13

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EQUITY, from Page 5

and the National Action Network in the March on Wall Street. The Rev. Boise Kimber and I stood together, shoulder to shoulder, at the March on Wall Street. I was pleased to represent the Black Press of America under the auspices of the NNPA. In the words of publisher-leader Frederick

Douglass, 'Freedom is a constant struggle.'"

Rev. Dr. Christopher Davis, General Secretary at the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., drove home the financial realities confronting communities of faith. "I don't care the size of your church," Davis said. "Whether you

have 10,000 members or 10 members, you can't do ministry without money, so we have to be concerned about the economic plight of the people that fill our pews." Among those addressing the crowd were Michael Eric Dyson, Benjamin Crump, Melanie Campbell, Maya Wiley, and others, each pointing to the urgency of resisting

what they described as attacks on democracy, workers, and Black communities.

"It means we continue the movement 62 years later, marching on Wall Street, raising the issues of income inequity, DEI, and the takeover of cities with Black mayors. The dream is alive," Sharpton told the crowd.

FILM, from Page 10

clothing characters. It's a moment of Brooklyn's magic.

Also, the playlist consistently adds atmosphere at just the right times. Like Leon Thomas's "Breaking Point" playing the night Roger shows up at Nicole's house drunk, looking for some. Or "Colors" by Black

Puma accentuating a scene when Roger has a cathartic moment. You gotta love the music.

However, anyone looking for a story that features a protagonist in a compelling fight against an evil antagonist, will be disappointed. Anyone hoping for deep emotions that put you on a

rollercoaster, will be disenchanted. This is a small, indie slice-of-life tale and character study. Charming, yes. Riveting, no. It's like being invited over to someone's brownstone for a dinner party, sitting around a table and hearing stories you've heard elsewhere. Even the potentially provocative woman-man-woman triad never gets as

torrid as it could be.

There's just enough drama and romance for a series or a streaming service. Not enough to get mobs to run to the local cineplex. That might not be the filmmakers' intention. But that's the probability for this love and not in love affair.

Visit Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com.

PRINCE, from Page 9

accentuates both Prince's unmatched showmanship and the brilliance of his band, which included guitarist Mico Weaver, bassist Levi Seacer Jr., keyboardist Dr. Fink, and horn players Atlanta Bliss and Eric Leeds. But perhaps most striking is the spotlight on the women who shaped the performance: dancer Cat Glover's kinetic energy, Boni Boyer's soaring vo-

cal, and Sheila E.'s explosive drum solo that nearly shakes the screen apart.

Critics once hailed the film with breathless praise, declaring it "the greatest concert movie ever made" and saying it "makes Michael Jackson look nailed to the floor." The IMAX revival confirms why. From Prince's crabwalk across the stage into a split and spin, to intimate piano inter-

ludes and the gospel-tinged finale of "The Cross," the performance captures him as singer, songwriter, instrumentalist, dancer, and conductor all at once.

For longtime fans, the film represents Prince at his creative zenith, the moment when pop instincts and daring innovation aligned perfectly. For those who never witnessed him live, this one-week IMAX run is more than nostalgia, an essential cultural event. As

Prince himself once said of his devotion to sound quality, "You can hear all the humanity in it. This is a top-of-the-line, sonically exquisite piece of work. You hear all the effort."

Sign o' the Times is not just a concert film, it's Prince in full flight, demanding to be seen and heard as he intended. And now, for one week only, audiences can finally do just that, larger and louder than ever before.

WHO?, from Page 8

resting Mexicans, Koreans, Iranians, and Haitians in that city. The city of Los Angeles has 3.8 million people, and almost half the residents are Latino, the majority from Mexico.

Los Angeles, a city with a large minority population, has "parts of Los Angeles that are empty because people can't go to work."

Bass says, "entire indus-

tries in the city of Los Angeles are totally dependent on migrant labor, like the garment district, ethnic restaurants, construction for the housing to rebuild after the fires in the area earlier this year."

The mayor reminds that

there has been an instance when the public sees these arrests, some residents perceive it as "kidnappings." The mayor says there was a "bit of a confrontation with the public, ICE, and the LAPD.

Bass says, "It's a mess."

TAX, from Page 12

The researchers caution that the effective rate at the very top is heavily

dependent on how economic income is defined, but across multiple ap-

proaches, the results remain consistent: the richest households are taxed at lower rates than most Americans.

"Ultra-high-net-worth individuals appear less taxed than the average American," the authors wrote.



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I Didn't Have Google, I Had Granma

By Dr. James L. Snyder

It was Thursday, and as usual, I was busy working on weekend projects. My biggest project, of course, was my Sunday sermon. Most people don't understand the amount of hard work that goes into preparing a Sunday sermon. And I work hard.

I was spending time researching some ideas on Google. I spend a lot of time on Google because it helps with my research. I'm able to find certain subjects very quickly.

Until Thursday, I didn't realize how much time I spent on Google. It's really a blessing in my life.

I had some coffee, and I was resting in my chair, thinking about what I was finding on Google. I thought back to when I was a youngster, and back then, we didn't have Google, nor did we have the Internet. What would young people do today if they didn't have Google, the Internet, or cell phones? I'm not sure they would have a life.

In my younger days, we didn't have any of that, but there was one thing we did have that made all the difference in the world. We may not have had Google, but we had Grandma.

I spent some time with my Grandma, especially during the summer. If I wanted to know anything, all I had to do was ask her, and she always had the answer.

Looking back now, I re-

alize how important my Grandma was to me in that regard. There wasn't a subject that I could bring up that she didn't know something about it. Whether she was making things up or not, I will never know. All I know is, she had an answer for every question I could put in front of her.

Once, I had to do an essay for my science class. I was really stumbling around, and then Grandma stopped by to visit us. When that happened, I had a brilliant idea.

I went to Grandma and asked her about my subject and if she knew anything about it. She said she did, and she began explaining everything to me about that, and I took notes. Looking at those notes afterward, I didn't quite understand everything, but I put them together as best I could and prepared my essay.

That was the first essay I received an A. My teacher took me aside and asked me how I came up with all of these wonderful ideas in my essay. I did not know what to say, I was a little embarrassed. I simply told him I had done research on that subject. He smiled at me, congratulated me, and said, "Well done. Keep up the good work."

I hope that when he said "keep up the good work," he was referring to my relationship with my Grandma on these subjects.

I don't know how my grandmother got so smart.

No matter what the subject

people were talking about, my grandmother had something to say about it. She was known throughout the community as a very wise lady, and I could understand why.

I've always wanted to ask her how she knew all the things she knew. If I had that answer, maybe I could be as smart as she was. But I never dared to ask her why she was so smart about so many things.

Throughout my teenage years, I received advice from my grandmother. Her advice always turned out to be the right advice. I learned to trust her advice, and it helped me out.

One area of my life that I never ask her for advice on was my "Dating Life." Actually, I did not have such a life, but if I had sat down with Grandma, I'm sure she could have given me advice along that line. I'm not sure I would've taken her advice, but it probably would've been good advice.

Looking back, I'm glad I didn't ask her about that. That may have changed my life entirely, and I'm glad my life is the way it is today.

Every once in a while, when I'm searching for something on Google, I think of my Grandma. In my mind, she was Google before Google was even invented. Where she acquired all her wisdom is beyond me, but I was glad to draw on it when I needed to.

I have learned that ask-

ing the right question to the right person will bring you to the right answer. And that sure described my Grandma. Thinking about that lately, I wanted to sit down with my Grandma and go over a list of questions I have today. As I think of it, what would be some of the answers that she would give me?

Over the last few years, I hope I have inherited some of Grandma's wisdom. I'm not sure I have, but I'm going to pretend I did, and pass it on to my grandchildren, just like my Grandma did.

A verse of Scripture came to mind. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask

in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed" (James 1:5-6).

God's wisdom is better than Grandma's. I just need to ask Him. Asking opens the door to the flow of wis-

dom I need in my life.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnsnyderministries.com.

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Happy Grandparents Day (Always the First Sunday after Labor Day)



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

It was in watching my parents, Mr. Lloyd David & Mrs. Cedella Baker Demus with their grandchildren (the happiness from hugs and kisses, hand made cards, etc.) that I saw and realized how important grandchildren are; and the importance that grandparents take their role.

National Grandparents Day is this Sunday, September 7th. Grandparents are a tremendous source of

wisdom, strength, and joy. They are caregivers, teachers, and friends -- windows to the past and guideposts for the future.

They made America what it is today. Grandparents led our Nation through times of war, heralded new ages of innovation and tested the limits of human imagination.

They challenged longstanding prejudices and shattered barriers, both cultural and scientific. In our homes and our communities; grandparents pass down the values that have led generations of Americans to live well and give back.

As a grandparent of one

beautiful granddaughter, Tyanna Lott (my first) and three handsome grandsons (in order of their births): David Lott, Deven Tarpley and Philip Lott, I am especially proud and thankful to God for His blessings to me.

In 1970, a West Virginia housewife, Marian Hernon McQuade, initiated a campaign to set aside a special day just for grandparents. Through concerted efforts on the part of civic, business, church, and political leaders, this campaign expanded statewide.

It is said that her primary motivation was to champion the cause of

lonely elderly people that were in nursing homes. She also hoped to persuade grandchildren to tap the wisdom and heritage that their grandparents could provide.

The first Grandparents Day was proclaimed in

1973 in West Virginia. Also in 1973 a Grandparent's Day resolution was introduced in the United States Senate.

Mrs. McQuade and her team contacted governors, senators, and congressmen in every state. They

sent letters to churches, businesses, and numerous national organizations interested in senior citizens.

President Jimmy Carter, in 1978, proclaimed that National Grandparents

See TARPLEY, Page 16



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NDG Bookshelf: Black Memoirs provide deep insights to the past

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Okay, fun's over.

Summer is done, school's back in session, fall is here, and it's time to get serious. And guess what? You can still do that, and enjoy reading these great history books...

First off, think about your ancestors and all they did. Now read, "The Black Family Who Built America: The McKissacks, Two Centuries of Daring Pioneers" by Cheryl McKissack Daniel with Nick Chiles (Black Privilege Publishing / Atria, \$28.99). The story starts in West Africa, when Moses McKissack I was captured and



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enslaved in North Carolina. He became a craftsman and passed his talents down to his children. Ultimately, this inheritance became a powerhouse business of builders and tradespeople who collectively left their mark on some of America's most iconic buildings,

churches, and more. Readers who love architecture will especially love this book.

And if you enjoy that kind of story, then you'll want "Black Genius: Essays on an American Legacy" by Tre Johnson (Dutton, \$30).

Throughout history, Black Americans been resilient and adaptive, and have always found ways to celebrate their culture. In this book, Johnson calls attention to the sometimes-unnoticed "brilliance" of Black leaders in stories that are personal, profound, and inspirational. Readers will rejoice.

More brilliance is found

in "Positive Obsession: The Life and Times of Octavia E. Butler" by Susana M. Morris (Amistad, \$29.99). The great writer has been gone nearly two decades, but this look at her life will bring her genius back to the forefront. Morris shows how Butler's work was shaped, and from where her stories sprang. There were always important lessons inside her tales, and they are more relevant now than ever. Read this biography, then go back and enjoy Butler's work anew.

Here's an essential read about someone whose life and death embodied change: "Tell Her Story: Eleanor Bumpurs & The

Police Killing that Galvanized New York City" by LaShawn Harris (Beacon Press, \$35) is the story of a much-loved neighborhood grandmother, and her murder in her own home by white police officers. Harris lived across the street from Bumpurs, and he knew her well when he was a child. This is a personal account of her life and her death, and how it spawned a movement. Yes, this book might make you want to stand up and act.

And finally, try "The Strangers: Five Extraordinary Black Men and the Worlds That Made Them" by Ekow Eshun (Harper, \$25).

What do Black men have to do to stand out, to avoid being categorized as a lone member of a whole? In this book, Eshun looks at five Black men who did just that – and his representative choices will surprise you. Truly, each biographical profile is fascinating and impressive, and readers will want to think about their own list of "Extraordinary Black Men."

Want more? Then head to your favorite bookstore or library and ask for help finding the biography or history book you most want to read now. The staff there can show you books to teach, inspire, or that are just plain fun.

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Day would be celebrated day after Labor Day. September was chosen for the

holiday to signify the "autumn years" of life.

Every effort must be made to include shut-ins

and those in nursing homes who are unable to be with their families or have no families in the mainstream

through cards, community projects and visitation at times other than just holidays.

(Editor's Note: This column originally ran in September 2014. It has been edited for space.)

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