



Kerrie Harper-Howie - see page A-5



Nichol Whiteman - see page D-2

Handcuffed Man Punched in Face by LAPD Officer

Mother of man expresses outrage, while LAPD offers different version of the incident.

CITY NEWS SERVICE

The mother of a handcuffed Black suspect seen on video getting punched in the head by a Los Angeles police officer described the lawman on Tuesday, July 30, as "a time-bomb ticking," while the man's lawyer said the officer "does not deserve to remain on the force" — but the LAPD and the police union offered distinctly differing versions of the now-viral encounter.

The video of the arrest, posted on social media, shows two officers taking Alexander Mitchell into custody on Sunday on 113th Street in Watts. The suspect is at least partially handcuffed, with his hands behind his back, and is heard asking loudly, "What did I do, though?"

At that point, one of the officers punches Mitchell in the chin, eliciting cries of protest from witnesses standing nearby off camera. The officers then continue adjusting Mitchell's handcuffs and takes him into custody.

On Tuesday, LAPD Deputy Chief Blake Chow

told the Police Commission that the department has fast-tracked a use-of-force investigation into the video and the arrest.

Police said previously the officer involved has been removed from field duty while the investigation proceeds.

Mitchell and his mother both attended a news conference Tuesday morning in downtown Los Angeles with their attorney. Mitchell did not speak, but his mother shared her anger.

"I'm outraged. That officer sucker-punched my son while he was in handcuffs," his mother, An'Tneal Harris, said. "It's horrible. I could have been here planning for a funeral. Something has to be done. It has to stop."

She added, "To see my only child handcuffed, punched in the face while he was complying — I have a problem with that. This officer is a time-bomb ticking."

Mitchell's attorney, Brad Gage, said he believes that more than one punch was thrown, and that Mitchell was originally sit-



This screenshot from KABC News shows, from left, Attorney Brad Gage, Alexander Mitchell, and his mother An'Tneal Harris at a news conference.

ting in his car when he was approached by officers.

"It was brutal. It was uncalled for. It was unjustified, and we demand justice, accountability and an investigation," Gage said.

"This officer clearly has anger-management issues. He does not deserve to remain on the force. We're calling on the District Attorney's Office to inves-

tigate."

Following the news conference, the LAPD issued its own statement — prefaced with, "The following information is based on a preliminary and ongoing investigation, which continues to evolve as investigators interview witnesses, review physical and electronic records, and analyze forensic evidence.

The department's understanding of the facts and circumstances may change as additional evidence is collected and analyzed."

According to the LAPD statement, "On July 28, 2024, at around 5:20 p.m., Southeast patrol officers conducted a traffic stop on a double-parked vehicle facing against traffic at the intersection of 113th Street

and Graham Avenue. Initially believed to be unoccupied, the vehicle was later discovered to be occupied upon closer inspection through its heavily tinted windows.

"The officers ordered the occupant, identified as 28-year-old Alexander [See HANDCUFFED MAN PUNCHED BY LAPD on B-6]

Seniors Receive Free Air Conditioners: City's Cool L.A. Heat Relief Event



Lisa Price enjoys her new air conditioner.

COURTESY PHOTO

STAFF AND WIRE REPORT

L.A. resident Lisa Price was among hundreds of seniors receiving portable room air conditioners distributed by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), Los Angeles Department of Aging, and KBLA Talk 1580 free of charge.

Angelenos who attended the giveaway event in Watts were also able to sign up on-the-spot for LADWP financial assistance programs such as EZ-SAVE and Lifeline, and learn about other money-saving programs. LADWP recruiters were also available to talk about job opportunities.

"I love it," said Price about her new air conditioner. "I've been wanting to get one, but I didn't have the extra money to purchase one. So, when the Department of Water and

Power put out on the radio that they were [giving away] free air conditioners, I took that and ran with it!

"I downloaded the information and signed up, and also signed up several other people. So many people need one that are elderly, and they don't always have the money. So to me, it was a blessing," added Price.

Commenting about the heat wave the L.A.-area has been experiencing, Mayor Karen Bass described the air conditioners as "lifesaving resources for our most vulnerable Angelenos."

She also commended the city departments for collaborating to help people in need.

According to LaTanya Bognin, director of Partnership Development for [See SENIORS RECEIVE FREE AIR CONDITIONERS on B-6]

Sewer Service Charge Rates Are Going Up, What You Need to Know

The rates paused in 2020 due to the pandemic but are back and increasing this coming Fall.

BY BRIAN W. CARTER
Contributing Writer

You probably received a notice about the Sewer Service Charge (SSC) increasing its rates this coming Fall. The increase to the SSC rate was paused in 2020 during the pandemic and is currently undergoing public input.

Tonya Shelton, a public information director for the city of Los Angeles, spoke to the Sentinel about what the SSC is, why it's important and more.

"The Sewer Service Charge is a rate included on the LADWP utility bill,"

said Shelton. "The funds support maintenance and repair of the city's aging sewer system and allows for construction of new infrastructure, the development and implementation of new technology in order to meet the service needs of all Angelenos."

The pandemic slowed and stopped many things in 2020 including an increase on the SSC charge. Shelton shared that the current state of affairs required rates to return and increase in order keep an important function of the city safe.

"Rates have remained the same, with no adjust-

ment or increase, for several years," said Shelton. "The steady rate increases were paused in 2020 because of the pandemic."

Shelton continued, "During that time, inflation has nearly doubled the costs of supplies and chemicals have risen while revenues remained flat.

"This proposed increase will ensure that the city can cover growing costs, safeguarding the reliability and resilience of our wastewater system."

For those concerned about cost and maybe be [See SEWER SERVICE RATES GOING UP on B-6]



COURTESY PHOTO

The increase to the SSC rate was paused in 2020 during the pandemic and are currently undergoing public input.



Pastor Cue Jn-Marie

Committee for Racial Justice Host Hybrid Workshop on Voting

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The Committee For Racial Justice (CRJ) will hold its monthly workshop on Sunday, August 4, at 6 p.m., at the Thelma Terry Building in Virginia Avenue Park located at 2200 Virginia Ave., in Santa Monica.

The free hybrid workshop, “A Change is Coming: Are You Ready to

Vote,” can be attended in person or via Zoom at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89x4RDyabab-LWscGwTtUYPI>.

Pastor Cue Jn-Marie, Isabel Storey, and Darrell Goode will address the gathering. Jn-Marie is the founder of The Row LA, also known as The Church Without Walls, which serves

the homeless of Downtown L.A.’s Skid Row. He is also active in Creating Justice.LA and Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE) along with other grass roots organizations.

Storey will update attendees on Proposition 6, one of the recommendations of the California Reparations Task Force on this year’s ballot. She’ll also discuss Proposi-

tion 32 – Living Wage Act, Proposition 33 – Justice for Renters Act, and L.A. county’s proposition on Affordable Housing, Homelessness Solutions and Prevention.

Goode, president of the NAACP Santa Monica/Venice Branch and NAACP Southwest Area Director for branches in L.A. County, will emphasize the importance of the upcoming elec-

tion, threats of voter suppression, and other issues of concern to the NAACP. A retired academic administrator at Santa Monica Community College, he also served as an advisor and consultant to the nationals College Board for Community Colleges.

To learn more, email committee4racialjustice@gmail.com or call (310) 422-5431.

Prominent Californians Appointed Presidential Delegates to Paris Olympic Games

BY LILA BROWN
California Black Media

As the world turns its eyes to Paris for the 2024 Olympic Games this week, four official delegations appointed by President Biden are representing the United States at opening and closing ceremonies.

Several prominent California officials and public figures are among the delegates.

On July 26, Jill Biden, First Lady of the United States, led a delegation to the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games.

Among presidential delegates to that event were California’s Democratic Senior Sen. Alex Padilla; Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass; Casey Wasserman, Chairperson, LA28 Olympic and Paralympic Games; and Brian Boitano, three-time Olympian and

Olympic gold medalist in figure skating. Boitano is from Sunnyvale in Santa Clara County.

“We must continue our

Mayor Bass.

“Together, we will showcase Los Angeles – not just the popular tourist destinations, but each of

local jobs and create lasting environmental and transportation improvements throughout Los Angeles.”

The other two non-Cal-

and head women’s coach, University of South Carolina.

“Mr. Douglas Emhoff, Second Gentleman of the United States, will lead the delegation to the Closing of the Olympic Games,” read a White House Press release dated July 22 announcing the delegations.

Emhoff was a Los Angeles entertainment attorney before moving to Washington when his wife became Vice President of the United States.

Californians appointed to delegation to the Closing Ceremony, which will take place Aug. 11, are Sen. Laphonza Butler, U.S. Rep. Robert Garcia, Denise Bauer, a former Los Angeles TV anchor who currently serves as United States Ambassador to Paris; and Chaunté Lowe, a member of the President’s Council

on Sports, Fitness and Nutrition, four-time Olympian and Olympic bronze medalist, Track and Field. Lowe is from Riverside.

“The Honorable Xavier Becerra, Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, will lead the delegation to the Closing of the Paralympic Games,” read the White House press release. The Closing Ceremony will take place on September 8, 2024.”

Becerra is a Sacramento native and former California Attorney General.

According to the White House, members of each Paralympic Presidential Delegations will be announced at a later date.

Illinois U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth will lead the delegation to the Opening Ceremony of the Paralympic Games on Aug. 28.



First Lady Jill Biden stands with some members of the U.S. delegation to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

urgent work ensuring that Angelenos benefit from the preparation for the Games, as well as in the decades following,” said

our beautiful neighborhoods and communities. Together, we will leverage the Games to help local small businesses, create

ifornia appointees on that delegation were U.S. Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del) and Dawn Staley, three-time Olympic Gold Medalist

Navy Exonerates 256 Black Sailors Accused of Revolt in 1944

BY ANTONIO RAY HARVEY
California Black Media

Three days after U.S. Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro posthumously exonerated the remaining 256 African American Port Chicago defendants who were court-martialed for mutiny in 1944, he visited the historical site to participate in the 80th-year commemoration of the worst homefront disaster in the U.S. history.

Del Toro said the occasion at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine Memorial on the Suisun Bay, 35 miles north of San Francisco in Contra Costa County, was two-fold. According to him, the 90-minute ceremony was organized to honor all who died in the blasts and officially announce the absolving of Black men who were unjustly court-martialed for refusing to load bombs on naval cargo ships during World War II due to safety concerns.

“This event marks a turning point in our nation’s history, a moment when we confront the ghosts of the past and embrace the promise of more justice,” Del Toro said. “For eight decades, the story of Port Chicago has been a stark reminder of a grave injustice. We as a nation will never be able to express our full gratitude to all deceased and their families

for their dedication, service, and sacrifice.”

On July 20, a diverse group of 500 people were shuttled from the Military Ocean Terminal Concord (MOTCO) to the Port Chicago Naval Magazine Memorial where two deadly explosions occurred on the night of July 17, 1944.

The ceremony was hosted in partnership with the National Park Service (NPS), Friends of Port Chicago National Memorial, and the U.S. Army’s 834th Transportation Battalion.

The event also marked the 30th year the site was erected as a memorial.

Along with Del Toro, dignitaries and elected officials in attendance were U.S. Congressmen John Garamendi (D-CA-08) and Thurgood Marshall Jr., whose father, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, sought justice for the Port Chicago 50, the Black men who were wrongfully convicted in the fall of 1944 of insubordination during World War II.

Kelli English, the NPS’s service-wide Program Manager for Cooperating Associations and Partnerships, said tears from colleagues were flowing the day they heard about the exoneration of the men. English is part of the NPS crew that conducts tours of the National Memorial and

shares the history of the tragedy.

“They never should have been court-martialed in some cases and convicted of other cases, but it does provide some closure for the families and descendants of those men,” English told California Black Media. “It’s so important to us. It’s the only amount of justice delivered years after the fact.”

The blasts resulted in the death of 320 sailors, 202 of them Black American sailors who were loading nearly 5,000 tons of munitions from a train into the naval cargo ships. About 400 more people were injured and the cargo train and both ships – SS Quinalt Victory and SS EA Bryan – were destroyed.

The explosion shook the San Francisco Bay and could be felt as far away as Nevada. The blasts damaged many surrounding structures and buildings in the nearby town of Port Chicago. In the mid-1960s, the United States government bought 5,000 acres of land in the Port Chicago area and the town ceased to exist by 1969.

The White officers in command were given hardship leaves while the surviving Black sailors were ordered to clear debris from the blasts and painfully retrieve the appendages of

their fellow servicemen. The treatment of the Black sailors exemplified the racial policies manifested by the Navy.

After threats of disciplinary action, 208 of the Sailors resumed work but it

good Marshall, who was the chief counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the disaster and racism in the Navy led to President Harry Truman desegregating all four branches of the



Carol Cherry, left, was presented with the Stars and Stripes flag by Kelli English, right, from the National Park Service to conclude the ceremony. Her father, Cyril Oscar Sheppard, Jr., was one of the 50 Black sailors convicted of mutiny after the explosions at Port Chicago killed 202 Black sailors.

did not stop the Navy from convicting the men at a summary court-martial for rebellion. Over the years, two sailors had the charges expunged from their records, which left 256 convicted Black men.

Fifty of the Black sailors stood their ground and in September 1944 were found liable for mutiny, a serious offense that tarnished their military record. The 50 sailors were represented by Thur-

military.

Ten years later, Marshall was able to win the monumental Brown v. Board of Education case that ruled separate but equal public schools were unconstitutional.

“It’s deeply moving to me that his work and the work of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund caught the attention of the sailors, and the family involved in Port Chicago,” Marshall Jr. said of his father who later

became a US Supreme Court Justice. “They contacted them for guidance, and he was able to come out here to California to do what he did so well.”

Carol Cherry traveled from Chicago to attend the 80th ceremony. Her father Cyril Oscar Sheppard Jr. is now officially one of the 50 former mutineers. Cherry was presented with the ceremonial U.S. flag by the English.

Rev. Diana McDaniel, President of the Friends of Port Chicago National Memorial was one of the guest speakers. Her uncle Irvine Lowery was one of the surviving Black sailors who was ordered to collect the remains of the deceased after the explosion. McDaniel told CBM that Lowery was injured in the blast when he was in the barracks but was not aware of it.

Other speakers at the event included English, NPS Superintendent K. Lynn Berry, Supervisory Park Ranger, Hilary Grabowska, and Lt. Col. Lauren Cabral, MOTCO Commander of the 834th Transportation Battalion

“I ask that all of you amplify the message so that we can get to many family members that we have not been able to reach to let them know what has occurred,” Del Toro told reporters.

Deputy-Involved Killing of Unarmed Black Woman Sparks Outrage

CALIFORNIA BLACK MEDIA

After seeing a video of a deputy-involved shooting death of an unarmed Black woman in Illinois last week, the vice chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) Sen. Steven Bradford (D-Inglewood) stated that he sees “no appropriate justification for this deputy’s actions.”

Sonya Massey, 37, was shot in the face by a Sangamon County Sheriff’s deputy after she called 911



Sonya Massey in an undated photo provided by the family’s lawyers.

to report a prowler. The deputy who shot Massey reportedly worked for six different law enforcement agencies in four years and had two Driving Under the Influence (DUI) charges.

“SB 2 created a process for peace officers who violate the public trust to be decertified. This law has already protected

the public from at least 80 now-former officers who will never again wear a badge in California,” Bradford viewed the incident within the context of California law.

“Strong police accountability laws increase the public’s trust in our law enforcement by removing those individuals whose actions erode that trust,” he added.

Bradford said The Sangamon County, Illinois case is an “inexcusable tragedy.”

“After looking at the video of the shooting and reading about the case, I see no appropriate justification for this deputy’s actions,” Bradford said in a July 24 statement to California Black Media. “The death of Sonya Massey should never have happened.”

Bradford wrote Senate Bill (SB) 2, the Kenneth Ross Jr. Police Decertification Act of 2021. It created a statewide decertification process to revoke the certification of a peace officer

following the conviction of serious crimes or termination from employment due to misconduct.

SB 2 was signed into law on Sept. 30, 2021, by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

The California bill has no bearing on the case in Illinois, but it puts the spotlight on how rogue cops can move from one jurisdiction to another and land a job. The deputy in Illinois was charged with first-degree murder.

Thus far, SB 2 is effective, Bradford stated.

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² **Additional information about the Down Payment program:** Down Payment program is available with one mortgage product. Program funds can be applied toward down payment only. Borrowers cannot receive program funds as cash back in excess of earnest money deposits. Down Payment Grant program may be considered taxable income and a 1099-MISC will be issued. Consult with your tax advisor. May be combined with other offers. The Bank of America Down Payment Grant program may only be applied once to an eligible mortgage/property, regardless of the number of applicants. Homebuyer education is required.

³ **Additional information about the America's Home Grant program:** The America's Home Grant program is a lender credit. Program funds can only be used for nonrecurring closing costs including title insurance, recording fees, and in certain situations, discount points that can be used to lower the interest rate. The grant cannot be applied toward down payment, prepaid items or recurring costs, such as property taxes and insurance. Borrowers cannot receive program funds as cash back.

⁴ Maximum income and loan amount limits apply. Fixed-rate mortgages (purchases or no cash out refinances), primary residences only. Certain property types are ineligible. Maximum loan-to-value ("LTV") is 97%, and maximum combined LTV is 105%. For LTV >95%, any secondary financing must be from an approved Community Second Program. Homebuyer education may be required. Other restrictions apply.

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Drew League Foundation Sponsors Community Day Event

BY SIMONE GRANT
Contributing Writer

The Drew League Foundation is more than just basketball, and on Saturday, July 29, the 501(C)3 nonprofit organization proved just why they are a staple for the Los Angeles community. The nonprofit hosted a community day filled with games, food, community bonding, special guests, and much more.

Established in 2009, The Drew League Foundation aims to help at-risk youth and the community of South Los Angeles and surrounding areas by beating the odds and stereotypes that have impacted the community for decades. The goal is to change that perception while simultaneously inspiring the desire to succeed. Creating a home away from home and enhancing young lives is the mission of this foundation.

Saturday's heat did not stop guests from enjoying the festivities. Adults and kids of all ages came out to enjoy the festivities. The community day event took place outside of Charles R. Drew University, which is



TIARRA MEJIA/MEJIAXSOL
Foods 4 Less encouraged attendees to consider a career with the company.

across the street from where the Drew League basketball takes place, at King Drew Magnet High School.

Music was provided by KJLH, who brought out their street crew. Children were able to jump for joy in jumpers. LA Southbay Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., were in attendance and hosted a voter awareness booth where they offered voter registration and voter

education. The event featured a plethora of vendors including the Urban League, Michelle Chambers, Metro Go and U passes, New Designs Charter School, Delete and Divide (Internship Program), and work resources from DPSS, LA County Sheriff Recruitment, HACLA, and Food 4 Less.

Other vendors included Carmen Podcast, A New Way of Life (Transitioning), Assist Program (Malory/James Worthy), Foster Grandparent Program, St. Johns Community Health/CBWH, Red Cross, LA County DMH (Department of Mental Health), Painted Brain, Covid-19, STD (Sexually Transmitted Disease), Dental Society, and Drew University Mobile Unit.

L.A. County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell was in attendance where she acknowledged the Drew League Foundation for all of the hard work they put into the community. In an Instagram post she stated,



TIARRA MEJIA/MEJIAXSOL
The community day event had fun activities for kids, health care vendors, voter registration, music, and much more.

"For over 51 years, the Drew League has provided mentorship, community, and a pathway to new possibilities for our young people through the sport of basketball. This organization's love for South Central and tangible support have impacted countless lives and inspired generations of young leaders on and off the court.

"It was a joy to acknowledge co-founder Michael McCaa and the work of the Drew League Foundation at its 2nd Annual Community Day at Charles Drew University and to join in congratulating honorees Sylvia Drew Ivie, Donny Joubert with Watts Gang Task Force, and of course, our champions at King Drew Magnet High School."

L.A. Councilmember Tim McOsker was all smiles in an Instagram post from the event. He posed with a few attendees and vendors, members behind the Foundation's success, and Congresswoman Maxine Waters.

In his post he stated, "Today I attended the Drew



TIARRA MEJIA/MEJIAXSOL
Work Source Center has a big presence at the event.

League Foundation's Community Day, a fun-filled event packed with resources and games for our community members at Charles R. Drew University. Based on the belief that 'when provided an opportunity, you can change the world,' the Drew League Foundation was established in 2009 and has inspired countless youth, offering them a safe place to grow with mentors who help develop their character while empowering their personalities to thrive.

"Thank you as well to the Watts Gang Task Force, President Donnie Joubert, and all the peacemakers for making this league possible through creating a safe, thriving space for youth in our beloved Watts community."

For more information on The Drew League Foundation, visit: <https://www.drewleague-foundation.org/>.

For more information on The Drew League, visit: <https://www.drewleague.com/>.



TIARRA MEJIA/MEJIAXSOL
Job opportunities were available for at the fair.

L.A. Spotlight — How Rita Got Jazzy!

BY KEITH L. UNDERWOOD
Contributing Writer

LaRita Shelby is known popularly by jazz lovers throughout Los Angeles as "Jazzy Rita." In addition to singing jazz for supper, Shelby is also an actor, host, producer, publicist, and a radio and voice-over artist.

Shelby recently completed a lively jazz performance at the Barbara Morrison Performing Arts Center. But oddly, to call a Jazzy Rita show a jazz show would almost be a disservice to what she is doing on stage.

She delivers a full Vaudevillian-style routine,

which is more akin to a one-woman show. From sharing amusing stories and one-liners to encouraging full-on audience participation, a Jazzy Rita show has it all.

Shelby was accompanied at the Barbara Morrison Performing Arts Center by her band, which included her musical director James



COURTESY PHOTO
Jazzy Rita performing at the Barbara Morrison Performing Arts Center.

"DC" Wilson on keys, Michael Wells on guitar, Mike Phillips on bass, Jerroll Ballard on drums, Gerald Spikes on saxophone, Marshella Griffen on supporting vocals, along with special guest Phil Bell.

The show could be a little more polished, but then again, the rawness is a part of its charm. The audience at the Morrison Performing Arts Center was a mature crowd but the performance could easily be enjoyed by all ages.

Shelby is at her vocal best when she sings songs with a comedic or storytelling delivery. Though some of the ballads selected were a little challenging for her at times, she made her way through each song with the confidence of a true pro.

Shelby's audience was fully invested in her performance, and there were several loyal Jazzy Rita fans in attendance.

Besides performing live, Shelby is also a recording artist. Her first album release was "A Date With a Song," and she composed nine of the 10 songs with Willie Daniels.

"I felt it was time to bring this music to life," said Shelby, "and put it out there."

Shelby also released two politically themed, although playful songs, "Mr. President's Girl," which was an anthem to Michelle Obama, and a farewell song to what Shelby described as a "monster of a year" entitled "Goodbye 2020."

Shelby also released a Christmas song called "Real Holiday Love."

"I am planning to record again," said Shelby. "It's time for another jazz-oriented album. It's in the works."

Originally from Memphis, Tennessee, Shelby spent much of her formative years in Washington, DC. She said her mother was a gospel musician, and Shelby fondly called her the original Jazzy Rita.

"She penned many noted gospel songs," said Shelby. "I first heard music in the womb."

Shelby continued, "She was my first music teacher, and music was always in our home." While she was first introduced to gospel by her mother in Memphis, it was

at Rabaut Junior High School in Washington, DC where she discovered jazz.

Musical great Roberta Flack was once a teacher at the school. "She taught there before I went there, but that's the claim to fame there," said Shelby.

Shelby said she moved back to Memphis for high school where she attended Overton High School, which was a performing arts school under the direction of Dr. Lulah McEwen Hedgeman.

From birth, Shelby said the performing arts was something she always wanted to do, and she was particularly enamored with Black actors. "I grew up at a time when you could point out the Black people on television," said Shelby.

Shelby, too, is an actor. She is most well-known for her role as Carole in the urban crime-drama, cult classic film "South Central."

When Shelby is not acting or singing, she enjoys writing and is actively shopping five screenplays.

For more information on Jazzy Rita, visit <http://www.laritashelby.com>.

Kerri Harper-Howie Shares Family Secret to Successful McDonald's Franchise

BY KEITH L. UNDERWOOD
Contributing Writer

Attorney Kerri Harper-Howie recently authored a book, "The Family Secret: The Business and Franchise Owner's Guide to Building Generational Wealth." In partnership with her sister, Nicole Harper Rawlins, Harper-Howie is also a successful McDonald's franchisee.

The road to generational wealth for the sisters Harper-Howie and Harper Rawlins began with their father, William, who was a police officer, and their mother, Patricia, a social worker. Their father was originally from Alabama and their mother from Louisiana.



Kerri Harper-Howie with the Hamburglar and Grimace.

According to Harper-Howie, she has always been very close to her sister. Until Harper-Howie added her husband and two kids to the family unit, she said she was just surrounded by her small nuclear family of four.

Harper-Howie's sister is also now married, but with no children. Harper-Howie said they are now a "community of family."

Harper-Howie is also a member of another community, a community of sisters -- the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

"I am a very proud member of Delta Sigma Theta," said Harper-Howie. "I've always been very close with my sister. And because I have that natural bond with her, it's created pathways for me to figure out how to connect genuinely and deeply with other women."

Harper-Howie's said her life has been deeply affected by sisterhoods, and even extended into her career when she was practicing employment law full time.

"Employment law is this really amazing area of law that is very expansive, and it covers a lot. But over time, it really allows you to develop expertise" she said.

In Harper-Howie's practice, she originally

worked for employers, but then her practice shifted to working part-time with women, and typically women of color, who were leaving their employment.

"So, if they feel that they've been terminated wrongfully, or they feel as though they can't continue to work in a particular environment, and they just want to leave that environment," said Harper-Howie, "then I have worked with them to typically negotiate a settlement or improve the severance terms."

worked for employers, but then her practice shifted to working part-time with women, and typically women of color, who were leaving their employment.



Kerri Harper-Howie, left, and Nicole Harper Rawlins.

When Harper-Howie began working with her mother and sister for their McDonald's franchise, she transitioned to practicing law part-time.

Harper-Howie said her maternal aunt was originally a franchisee back in the 1980s, and Harper-Howie's mother, after observing her sister run the McDonald's franchise, decided to start her own.

"What mom was able to see was that people in non-business careers were able to transition to become franchisees," said Harper-Howie.

"I think the fact that it was a franchise was particularly attractive to my mother because the franchise model allows you to be an entrepreneur."

Harper-Howie said being a part of franchise allows franchisees to connect to a brand like McDonald's that already has systems and practices in place. There is also a support mechanism set within a community of other franchisees.

"Even if there are different circumstances, different markets, different demo-

graphics, different parts of the country," said Harper-Howie, "you can see how you can adapt what they are doing to work well in your environment."

Harper-Howie remembered her mother telling her and her sister that it [the McDonald's franchise] was the right opportunity at the right time. McDonald's was seeking more Black franchisees and her parents were able to take money out of their pensions to buy their first restaurant.

The regional vice president that approved her parent's franchise was a Black man named Reggie Webb, who recently passed.

Harper-Howie said her sister would eventually become involved in the family business, and then she would follow, after the birth of her first son.

"Children create transition in your life," said Harper-Howie. "It prompts you to start thinking differently about the idea of legacy, family legacy, [and] family business."

Harper-Howie said she loved being a lawyer, and before pursuing the McDonald's opportunity she was

working with LA Fitness in the Bay Area. But watching her mother and sister working together moved her to join them in the family business.

Today, sisters Harper-Howie and Harper Rawlins together own 21 McDonald's franchises all over Los Angeles. Unfortunately, according to Harper-Howie, their mother is no longer involved in the day-to-day operations of the family business due to challenges with Alzheimer's disease.

In 2017, Harper-Howie's mother was selected to be the face of McDonald's International Women's Day Campaign.

Unbeknownst to Harper-Howie at the time, those events would lead her to begin writing her first book, "The Family Secret: The Business and Franchise Owner's Guide to Building Generational Wealth."

"Out of all the women operators in all the world, they decided to put my mother at the center of this, which was shocking to us," said Harper-Howie. "She was always highly regarded, but this was a big deal."

Harper-Howie said the McDonald's campaign brought a lot of attention to her mother. "People became interested in our story," said Harper-Howie. "That's when I started writing the book."

Harper-Howie said shortly after the previously mentioned events was when her mother received her first diagnosis with Alzheimer's.

"It became abundantly clear to me that mom would not be able to continue to tell her own stories," said Harper-Howie. "I just took it as a personal responsibility of mine to begin to do that for her."

Harper-Howie said "The Family Secret" is not just about her family's journey to

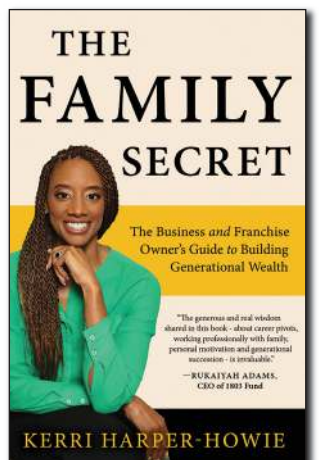
generational wealth. She also interviewed other families for the book as well.

"It was a very slow and not easy process," said Harper-Howie. "But I just kept ticking away at it until it's gotten to this point. Now, it's live on Amazon."

Harper-Howie said a key takeaway she hopes other families can gain from the book is that it is possible to do business as a family successfully, even with complex family dynamics.

Harper-Howie also hopes readers take inspiration from the story of three Black female entrepreneurs, starting with how her mother, who despite all the adversities that come along with being Black, has triumphed.

"Not only did she do it," said Harper-Howie. "But she managed to successfully trans-



The book cover of "The Family Secret" by Kerri Harper-Howie.

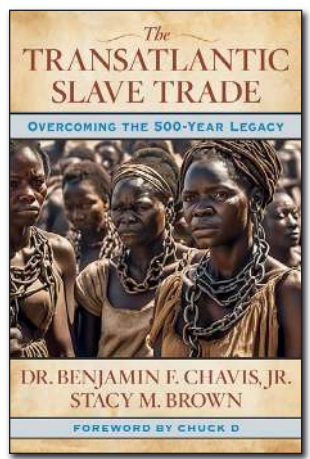
fer her business to her daughters, and you can do that, too. We can continue to thrive, and grow, and inspire as families in our communities."

For more information on Kerri Harper-Howie and her book "The Family Secret: The Business and Franchise Owner's Guide to Building Generational Wealth," visit <https://www.kerriharper-howie.com>.

New Book by Dr. Chavis and Stacy M. Brown Explores Legacy of Transatlantic Slave Trade

SPECIAL TO NNPA

The groundbreaking book, "The Transatlantic Slave Trade: Overcoming the 500-Year Legacy," is scheduled for publication on Oct. 8.



"The Transatlantic Slave Trade" can be pre-ordered at Amazon.com.

Co-authored by Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) president and CEO, and Stacy M. Brown, NNPA senior national correspondent and Let It Be Known News host, this book provides a deep dive into the enduring impact of the transatlantic slave trade from 1500 to 2024.

The transatlantic slave trade represents one of history's most horrific chapters, where millions of Africans were forcibly removed from their homeland, dehumanized, and exploited to build the so-called American dream. This book meticulously examines how the legacies of this era continue to influence American society, laying the foundation for the systemic racism that persists today.

In "The Transatlantic

Slave Trade: Overcoming the 500-Year Legacy," Dr. Chavis and Brown explore the ways systemic social demonization, racial enslavement, geopolitical imperialism, and ethnic cleansing were constructed and perpetuated over centuries. The book sheds light on how the ideology of white supremacy, rooted in the transatlantic slave trade, remains a pervasive force in contemporary racism and inequity.

Chuck D of Public Enemy, who wrote a powerful foreword for the book, underscored its relevance.

"This book isn't just about the past," Chuck stated. "It's about the living, breathing legacy of that past. The chains of slavery may have been broken, but the shackles of systemic racism are still very much intact. From police brutality and mass incarceration to economic disparity and educational inequality, the echoes of the slave trade reverberate through every facet of American life. If you're not angry, you're not paying attention."

Chavis, a stalwart in the civil rights movement and a member of the Wilmington Ten, draws on his extensive experience and insight for this book. His leadership in the NAACP and work in environmental justice and economic empowerment highlight his dedication to combating racial injustice. Chavis's life's work reflects the resilience and resistance that are central themes in the book.

Meanwhile, Brown brings his exceptional reporting skills and profound understanding to the

collaboration, resulting in a comprehensive examination of the transatlantic slave trade as a shared history.

"The Transatlantic Slave Trade: Overcoming the 500-Year Legacy" is available for pre-order at

Amazon.com and will be available for purchase on Oct. 8, wherever books and e-books are sold.

For more information, contact Select Books publishers or visit www.SelectBooks.com.



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• DR. MAULANA KARENGA •

James Baldwin in Critical Conversation with Kamala and Us: Striving to Achieve Our Country and Change the World

On this the centennial anniversary and celebration of the coming into being of Nana James Baldwin (August 2, 1924), beloved writer and teacher of the beautiful, transformative and lie-resistant truth, we find ourselves still struggling and working our way through the awesome responsibilities of what he called the possibility of our being able “to achieve our country and change the history of the world.”

This awesome task is brought into stark relief by the presidential campaign of Vice President Kamala Harris and the hard choices we must make and the difficult work we must do to self-consciously, rightfully and even radically reimagine and complete this task. And at the center of these hard choices must be our conscious and uncompromising commitment to make her campaign not only the support of a person, but also and most important, the support of people-focused and earth-considered policies which she commits to and pursues.

Likewise, this election must move beyond the simple exchange of elites and become a clear and collectively determined and decided way for achieving the truly just and good society and world we all want, struggle for and deserve.

Nana Baldwin rightly senses and reasons that this is a problematic of both possibility and impossibility, and he calls on us, indeed urges and encourages us, especially us Black people, with others so inclined and committed, to dare and do the impossible. It is, he suggests, central and sustaining to who we are and how we understand and assert ourselves in the world.

He says, “I know what I am asking is impossible,” this daring to achieve our country and change the history and hope of the world, “But in our time as in every time, the impossible is the least we can demand – and one is after all emboldened by the spectacle of human

history in general and (African American) history in particular, for it testifies to nothing else than the perpetual achievement of the impossible” (italics mine).

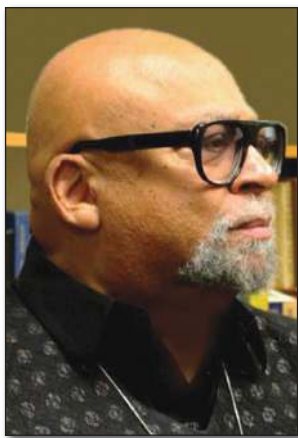
Here, he bears rightful witness to our history of continuously overcoming seemingly unsurmountable obstacles, finding ways out of no way, refusing to be brittle and broken, dispirited or defeated, and reaching inside ourselves and, as Nana Nannie Burroughs taught, demonstrating repeatedly that “we specialize in the wholly impossible.”

We constantly wonder and are humbly amazed, ourselves, about our resilience and resourcefulness, our adaptive vitality and human durability as Black persons and people. And we reaffirm and sing ourselves, declaring with Nana Sister Rosetta Tharpe “My soul looks back and wonder how I got over,” indeed, how we got over. Yes, with bowed heads and uplifted hands, we still wonder how we have endured and prevailed during these long and casualty-laden centuries of brutish enslavement, savage segregation and continuing systemic racist oppression.

When Baldwin calls the USA “our country,” he lays equal claim to a country that does not equally claim him and thus poses a problem for Black people and other marginalized, excluded and oppressed people in terms of both consideration and claim. For he makes us ask ourselves what would make a person or people feel a country is theirs in the face and force of brutal realities of treatment and discourse that argue otherwise.

Clearly, it cannot simply be birth or naturalization alone that gives us this sense of our belonging to the country and the country belonging to us. In such moral and political calculation, it is not only what we have given and continue to give the country, but also what the country must give

us in reciprocal return, i.e., equal respect and treatment and just and equitable conditions that ensure and enhance our capacities for living good and meaning



DR. MAULANA KARENGA

lives rooted in our shared status, wealth and power.

Baldwin defiantly declares possession of this land and equal rights to all its common goods, intangible and tangible, arguing in various writings his people’s investment in this land on virtually every level, i.e., their physical, intellectual and creative labor, their service, sacrifice and underserved, unnecessary and systemically imposed suffering. There are, however, signs in his writings that he concedes prior and unceded claim to Native Americans, especially in his recognition of the European crime of genocide against Native Americans and his rejection of their thuggish, imperialist, and religiously sanctioned “doctrine of the right of discovery,” i.e., the false racial and religious right to pillage and plunder the lives and lands of peoples of color whom they claimed to have discovered. But he will not give an inch or iota of ground to White

supremacy claims of Whites as the lords of the land, sole owners and rulers without any others equal in claim or merit.

Clearly, “to achieve our country,” we must assume and believe that the U.S. is our country in equal measure to others and that there is unfinished work to be done and struggles to be waged. And we must believe and do this in spite of our brutal, barbaric and involuntary insertion into this country, the Holocaust of enslavement, the savagery of segregation imposed on us, and the continued racist ideological, political and institutional denials of our equal rights, equal citizenship, and reciprocal related benefits.

In fact, our Black Freedom Struggle, misnamed the Civil Rights Movement, has been and continues to be at its center, a righteous and relentless struggle to be our ourselves and to free ourselves, reaffirm our inalienable right to this country, and build with others so committed and so inclined the longed and strived for good society and world we all can claim as a truly cooperative and transformative achievement.

Indeed, one of the greatest tasks for VP Kamala Harris in her presidential campaign is to make more of us and others feel this is truly our country, not simply by birth, but also by benefit. That is to say, it is indispensable for each and every one to feel and know through equal rights, equal treatment, equitable participation and equitable benefits that this country is ours as an uncontested right with an

enduring responsibility to not only save it from the monster side of itself, currently represented by the aggressive tragedy of Trump and kind, but also to eventually expand the arc of genuine inclusion, meaningful involvement and shared common good.

There are several inter-related issues that candidate and President Harris must begin to address immediately in platform and policy. They include: economic security and justice especially for the most vulnerable, i.e., secure income, economic initiative opportunities, taxation reform in favor of the people, eliminating student debt, restraining gentrification, and delivering reparations, especially its economic dimension; political rights of voting and participation in governance without discrimination, restraint or repression; women’s reproductive rights and related issues of freedom; social care for the vulnerable and all others in terms of healthcare, childcare, elder care and family leave; housing availability and affordability; new immigration policy reflective of the world, especially with attention to Haiti and Continental Africans as well as others; new directions and approaches in international relations, especially toward Haiti and African countries and particularly urgent, stopping the Israeli-imposed genocide in Gaza, and supporting Palestinian self-determination and security; and environmental justice, acting on pressing climate change issues and the plunder, pollution and depletion of the earth.

Finally, Nana James Baldwin, Nana Dr. Anna Julia Cooper, Nana Haji Malcolm, Nana Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, and other clear-seers and deep thinkers among us urged us to understand and assert ourselves in world-encompassing ways and to link our struggle for freedom and justice and a new world to that of others similarly situated in the world. And thus, he says, “any real commitment to Black freedom in this country would have the effect of reordering all our priorities, and altering all our commitments, so that, for horrendous example, we would be supporting Black freedom fighters in South Africa and Angola . . .” and other parts of Africa as well as freedom fighters in Latin America, Asia and the Middle East (especially Palestine) against racist, imperialist and colonialist interests.

It is, he repeats, an awesome overwhelming task which he and history have assigned us, but this is a vital and actually indispensable way we must template, test and temper ourselves, repair, renew and remake ourselves in the process and practice required “to achieve our country and change the history of the world.”

Dr. Maulana Karenga, Professor and Chair of Africana Studies, California State University-Long Beach; Executive Director, African American Cultural Center (Us); Creator of Kwanzaa; and author of Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture and Introduction to Black Studies, 4th Edition, www.OfficialKwanzaaWebsite.org; www.MaulanaKarenga.org.

• INGLEWOOD MAYOR JAMES BUTTS •

Inglewood Monorail – The Time is Now for Jobs, Mass Transit & Clean Air

There are few places in the country that understand a comeback like the city of Inglewood. When I became its mayor in 2011, this majority-minority city was on the verge of municipal bankruptcy, within six months of not making payroll.

Inglewood’s fiscal health is stabilized, and we’ve created thousands of prevailing wage jobs — the kind that are a gateway for home ownership and upward mobility. We’ve brought the NFL back to Southern California — the Rams and the Chargers play at Inglewood’s SoFi Stadium, where Taylor Swift packed the house on her Eras tour. LA28 will stage the opening and closing ceremonies of the Los Angeles Olympic Games in four years.

The city’s comeback required tough negotiations with partners. We worked with private investors and developers to build SoFi and the surrounding Hollywood Park mixed-use housing, office and entertainment complex. A separate city and private investment brought us the renovated Kia Forum, once again one of the nation’s top concert venues. The brand-new Intuit Dome, is home of the Clippers and will host Usher in September and Bruno Mars in August.

Next year, the three venues collectively will host 400 events, attract over 5 million attendees and continue to provide Inglewood with a strong and steady tax base.

But the comeback is not yet complete. The same venues that bring a multitude of benefits to Inglewood bring a multitude of transportation challenges as well.

Parking fees for sporting events and concerts can range as high as \$50 to \$100. On event days, some parts of town are all but closed off to residents, who must take alter-

nate routes to do basic errands or get to and from work. Local businesses miss out on some sales to regular customers



FILE PHOTO

Mayor James Butts

who won’t contend with event-related traffic.

The observation that people are driving to these events should come as no surprise. Historically, Inglewood has been woefully underserved by transit alternatives. Adjacent to two freeways (and under the LAX flight path), the city is disproportionately burdened by car traffic, noise and air pollution.

Our first Metro rail line, the K line, finally became fully operational only last year. The downtown K line station, at Florence near Market, is the closest Metro train to the new venues, but it is still nearly two miles away, a 30- to 40-minute walk. Shuttle buses are used for some events, but they too get stuck in traffic. The “first/last mile gap” tends to discourage Inglewood visitors and locals from using the transit system.

Inglewood and Los Angeles deserve better, and once again partnerships will make it happen. After extensive planning and coordination within the community, with the venue operators and with LA Metro, we agreed that the best solution was to add a connector to the K line — three new stations that will take people directly to and from the Florence station and the new sports, entertainment and retail district.

The Inglewood Transit Connector’s ridership projections, cost effectiveness and its proposed elevated path through the city have been vetted by the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, the California State Transportation Agency and the Federal Transit Administration. Thanks to the Biden/Harris administration and the support of Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) and Gov. Gavin Newsom, we are on track to secure close to \$2 billion in federal, state and local funding to advance the connector — an unprecedented accomplishment for a city of approximately nine square miles and 107,000 residents.

The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation estimates that the project will support 17,000 jobs, paying an aggregate of \$868,000,000 in wages, and an already executed workforce agreement requires the project to recruit locally, hire union workers and provide entry-level apprenticeships. The ITC connector will encourage the development of transit-oriented housing, reduce congestion, improve air quality and help the city do its part to tackle climate change. It will not displace a single resident; affected businesses will be reimbursed with relocation funds and other assistance.

The ITC Project is anticipated to have 4.5 million riders on opening day and grow

to 7.2 million in 2050. It will significantly increase ridership on the Metro K line, and as seen in recent Taylor Swift and Beyonce concerts, the ITC is anticipated to increase by 25,000 riders per event.

At long last, Inglewood is on the cusp of transit equity and environmental justice. But not everyone sees this positive vision. U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Los Angeles), whose district includes Inglewood, last week partnered with the Republican majority to strike a portion of the connector’s federal funding from a House appropriations bill. However, the final budget requires reconciliation with the U.S. Senate, and Senator Padilla worked across the aisle to advance funding for the project, an indicator of its continued viability. It is my hope the congresswoman will once again support this historic federal investment in Inglewood.

The Los Angeles region must build a transit system that gets people where they want and need to go; safely, affordably and efficiently. The connector will benefit Inglewood residents, all Angelenos and visitors for generations to come.

It should be built now. *James T. Butts is the four-term Mayor of Inglewood, a member of the Metro Board of Directors, former Santa Monica Chief of Police and Deputy Executive Director of LAX.*

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FOR PRESIDENT 2024



HANDCUFFED MAN PUNCHED BY LAPD

{Continued from A-1}

Gofferney Mitchell, to exit the vehicle and attempted to handcuff him. As a crowd began to gather around the scene, additional backup was requested. During the handcuffing process, Mitchell resisted by refusing to place his hands behind his back and

grasping his front waistband/pocket area with his right hand, preventing the officers from securing him. An officer then struck Mitchell on the right side of his face, enabling the officers to complete the handcuffing.”

The statement said Los

Angeles Fire Department paramedics arrived and transported Mitchell to a hospital for medical clearance prior to booking, and that Mitchell was later arrested and booked on suspicion of obstructing/resisting arrest. Mitchell was

released with a misdemeanor citation, police said.

Some 15 speakers called in to the Police Commission meeting on Tuesday, with some asking the department to identify the officers involved in the incident.



The video shows an officer punching Alexander Mitchell.

SEWER SERVICE RATES GOING UP

{Continued from A-1}

struggling financially, Shelton shared there is assistance available for households in need. More information can be found by visiting www.ladwp.com/financialassistance to learn more about the EZ-SAVE and Level Pay programs.

“The decision to rein-

state the annual rate increase was not made in haste or without consideration of our ratepayers,” said Shelton.

“We operate the largest, separate wastewater collection system in the county—with 6,700 miles of sewers, 42 wastewater pumping stations

and four water reclamation systems.

“We appreciate your support and environmental stewardship.”

It’s an increase that might not be well-received right now but is needed according to Shelton. The SSC protects our environment which is a

fragile commodity nowadays. It’s important that we safeguard our waterways, beaches and the ocean.

“We must ensure that this infrastructure represents resiliency, reliability, and innovation now and for generations to come,” said Shelton.

If the public is interested, there is an upcoming webinar where everyone can learn more about what is happening with the SSC charges.

“We encourage those who would like to learn more about the proposed rate adjustment to attend our online webinar on

Tuesday, August 6 at 6:00 p.m.,” said Shelton.

The public is advised to register ahead of time by using the link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cGR2yQ48Rt2yh7xy4HPPQ

For more information, visit www.lacitysan.org/rates for more information.

SENIORS RECEIVE FREE AIR CONDITIONERS

{Continued from A-1}

LADWP, the giveaway stems from the department’s diversity, equity and inclusion efforts and its climate justice campaign.

“We wanted to do something for our highest risk population dealing with extreme heat and so we partnered with the Department of Aging to hold this event,” explained Bognin. And

to those people thinking that running air conditioners would increase their utility bill, Bognin and her team shared information about the variety of LADWP programs to aid residents on fixed incomes.

The department plans to distribute more free air conditioners during August, said Bognin. Giveaway events will be

held in the San Fernando Valley and East L.A.

LADWP CEO and Chief Engineer Janisse Quiñones stated that a commitment to serving every Angeleno and making sure customers are equipped with the tools and resources to manage their bills are core to the utility’s mission.

“This event is part of our Powered by Equity

initiative which ensures that everyone in L.A. can take part in and benefit equitably from the transition to clean energy,” said Quiñones.

“It was important to us to give away air conditioners in Watts and provide information about utility bill discounts because customers need to be able to mitigate the impact of extreme heat.

We want to make sure that the programs we design are inclusive and don’t leave anyone behind.”

As a recipient of the giveaway, Lisa Price said, “I want to thank LADWP again for doing this great service to the community. I really was grateful and thankful that I was able to get my [air conditioning] unit.”



COURTESY PHOTO
LaTanya Bognin

Public Notices	Public Notices	Public Notices	Public Notices	Public Notices	Public Notices	Public Notices
<p>NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: ERIC C. HARRIS AKA ERIC CHRISTOHER HARRIS CASE NO. 23STPB11804 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of ERIC C. HARRIS AKA ERIC CHRISTOHER HARRIS. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by ELIZABETH SYKES in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that ELIZABETH SYKES be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without</p>	<p>obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 08/12/24 at 8:30AM in Dept. 67 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file</p>	<p>your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is</p>	<p>available from the court clerk. In Pro Per Petitioner ELIZABETH SYKES 15828 S NORMANDIE AVE #C GARDENA CA 90247 7/18, 7/25, 8/1/24 CNS-3834231# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL</p> <hr/> <p>LEGAL NOTICES</p> <hr/> <p>ORDER OF PUBLICATION COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104 Case No. CL24001265-00 WILLIAMSBURG-JAMES CITY COUNTY 5201 MONTICELLO AVE SUITE 6, WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23188 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re LOLA MARIE STENNETT The object of this suit is to: CHANGE NAME It is ORDERED that</p>	<p>BRANDON MICHEAL STENNETT appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interest on or before SEPTEMBER 11, 2024 DATE: JULY 22, 2024 /s/ ADEAL, DC JUDGE CLERK'S CERTIFICATION I certified that a certified copy of this Order was: posted at courthouse OR ELIZABETH E. O'CONNOR, CLERK /s/ ADEAL, DC JUDGE 8/1, 8/8, 8/15, 8/22/24 CNS-3837294# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL</p> <hr/> <p>SUMMONS DEPT: TBD CASE NO: D-24-688156-D DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA Hurricane Hugh Turner Plaintiff, vs. Crystal Mora Turner Defendant. NOTICE! YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. THE COURT MAY DECIDE AGAINST YOU WITHOUT YOUR BEING</p>	<p>HEARD UNLESS YOU RESPOND IN WRITING WITHIN 21 DAYS. READ THE INFORMATION BELOW VERY CAREFULLY. To the Defendant named above: The Plaintiff has filed a civil complaint or petition against you. Read that document (or get a copy at the court listed above) to find out the specific relief requested. The subject of this case is: Divorce If you want to defend this lawsuit, you must do all of the following within 21 days after this summons is served on you (not counting the day of service): 1. File a formal written answer to the complaint or petition with the Clerk of Court (whose address is listed below). 2. Pay the required filing fee to the court, or request a fee waiver by filing an Application to Proceed In Formal Pauperis. 3. Serve a copy of your answer on the Plaintiff whose name and address is shown below. If you do not respond, Plaintiff can request a default against</p>	<p>you. The court can then enter a judgment against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition. STEVEN D. GRIERSON CLERK OF COURT By: /s/ illegible Date: 05/03/24 Family Courts and Services Center 601 North Pecos Road Las Vegas, Nevada 89155 Regional Justice Center 200 Lewis Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89155 Issued on Behalf of Plaintiff: Plaintiff's Name: Hurricane Hugh Turner Address: 7777 S. Jones Blvd #1801 City, State, Zip: Las Vegas, NV, 89139 Forms are available, free of charge, at the Family Law Self-Help Center at the Family Courts and Services Center, 601 N. Pecos Road, Las Vegas, Nevada, and on the center's website at www.familylawselfhelpcenter.org 7/11, 7/18, 7/25, 8/1/24 CNS-3832018# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL</p>



LOS ANGELES SENTINEL RELIGION

Bel-Vue Community Presbyterian Presents Play on Homelessness

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

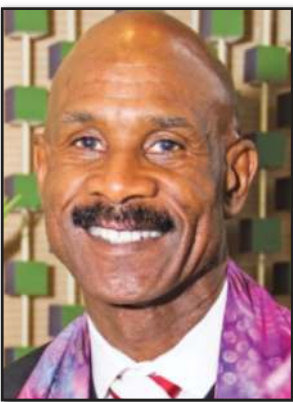
Pastor Oliver E. Buie and the members of Bel-Vue Community Presbyterian Church will present "Shelter," a one-woman play about homelessness, on Friday August 16, at 7:30 p.m., in the edifice located at 675 E. 118th Street in Los Angeles.

Acclaimed writer Renée Westbrook wrote, directs and performs the piece, which is loosely based on her 2009 homeless experience. The story

follows unemployed homeless writer Davina Grey who, by midnight, must find her way to shelter on the #4 Metro Bus.

Westbrook, who doesn't drink or smoke and doesn't suffer from mental illness, along with many of the middle-class homeless men and women she encountered in 2009, is living proof that homelessness can and does happen to people from all walks of life.

Pastor Buie said, "Homelessness is the symptom of a much larger



Pastor Oliver E. Buie



Renée Westbrook

problem and we need to show the community that all homeless people are not

mentally ill and drug addicted."

Westbrook earned an

MFA in Creative Writing from San Diego State University. She is also a screenwriter and her essay "On Vienna Sausage and Being Homeless" is published in the Black Lawrence Press anthology "Mamas, Martyrs, and Jezebels: Myths, Legends, and Other Lies You've Been Told About Black Women" (2024). Her work is published in "Black Warrior Review" and "Callaloo Literary Journal."

Buie, who received his Master of Divinity degree

from San Francisco Theological Seminary, renowned for his strong biblical preaching, teaching, organizational leadership, strategic planning, evangelism, community program development, stewardship, ecumenical and collaborative partnerships. He sits on several boards and is active in social issues such as environmental justice and criminal justice reform.

For information, call (213) 216-4453 or email abundantlife010@gmail.com.

Second AME Marks 116th Anniversary

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Second African Methodist Episcopal Church of Los Angeles, led by Pastor Marvin McKenzie, will hold their 116th Anniversary worship service on Sunday, August 11, at 11 a.m.

The guest preacher will be the Rev. John E. Cager

III, presiding elder of the Midwest North District of the AME Church, and a former pastor of Second AME.

Beginning his ministerial journey over 30 years ago, Presiding Elder Cager led six churches in Southern California. He also served as president of the Southern California Ministerial Alliance of the AME

Church and as president of the Los Angeles Council of Religious Leaders.

Second AME was founded in 1908 and for more than 80 years, the church has been in the Vermont-Slauson corridor serving a diverse and multi-cultural community through ministry programs. A church member reflected,

"What a blessing it is to exist as a station of faith, hope, justice and love for more than a century."

Another congregant said, "This journey of faith reflects God's hand of grace and mercy upon those who are faithful to the body of Christ."

Among those who worshipped at Second

AME and later entered into ministry are retired Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry, her son, the Rev. Dr. Timothy E. Tyler, who is the pastor of Shorter Community AME Church in Denver, Colorado, and the Rev. Kirkpatrick Tyler, pastor of Parks Chapel AME Church in San Fernando, California.



Rev. John E. Cager III

The community is invited to attend the service, which will be held in

the sanctuary located at 5500 S. Hoover Street, Los Angeles.

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Brookins-Kirkland Community

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Virtual Worship Service - Sunday at 9AM

Call the Church Office at (323) 296-5610 for the conference number and code

Website: bcamechurchla.org

Giving Options: Online at www.bcamechurchla.org, Tithe.ly at Brookins-Kirkland Community AME Church, or Mail to: 3719 W. Slauson Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90043

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Email: trinitybaptist@sbglobal.net

Website: trinitybaptistchurchofla.org

Sunday In-Person Worship Service in the Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Virtual Worship @ YouTube trinitybaptistcloud 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Radio Broadcast (KJLH 102.3 FM) 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study via Zoom: 480.271.5449 or call 669.900.6833 7:00 p.m.

Giving Options: PayPal/In Person or mail to the church address

REV. ALVIN TUNSTILL, JR. ~ PASTOR

Grant African Methodist Episcopal Church

Worship Services

Sunday School 8:00 a.m.

Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Bible Study on Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Website: grantamechurch.org

Youtube: Grant AME Church

Giving Options: Online at www.grantamechurch.org

Paypal, Givify, Zelle (grantamelaj@gmail.com)

Mail to: 10435 S. Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90002

Drop Box: 1157 E. 105th St., Los Angeles, CA 90002

Rev. Dr. Timothy D. Coston, Jr.

Phone: 323-584-1151 | Call and leave a message and we will return your call

Please Join Us!

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Wednesday Bible Study: 11:00am and 7:30pm

Thursday Intercessory Prayer: 7:30pm

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(323) 758-3777 | admin@faithdome.org

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REV. JAMES K. MCKNIGHT, SENIOR PASTOR

Worship Service

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ON FACEBOOK @THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

PASTOR'S ENCOURAGEMENT/ PRAYER LINE: TUESDAY & THURSDAY 7:00 AM (310) 372-7549 • CODE: 342408

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SecondBaptistChurchLA.org

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TriumphYouth Expedition 10:30 AM

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Rev. Royce V. Porter Sr.

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truthandlovecc@gmail.com

Sunday Worship (In Person) 10:00 am

Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 pm

View from our website: www.truthandlovecc.net

Prayer Line - Monday - Friday, 6:30 - 8:00 am (720) 527-5842, Access code: 5727194

Giving options: Cash app: \$truthandlovecc

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Brooklyn Moore-Champion Makes History as Ontario Christian High School's First African American Valedictorian

BY SHELBY STEPHENS
Contributing Writer

According to The Black Man Voice, many American high schools honor the tradition of senior superlative awards. Superlatives honor students for their greatest achievements and contributions to their school that represent both the institution and student body. The first superlatives were introduced in the early 1900s and transitioned into recognitions via yearbooks and awards in the 1950s. Senior superlatives commemorate seniors who have made a positive impact during their four years of high school. 18-year-old Brooklyn Moore-Champion made history as Ontario Christian High School's first African American valedictorian, the highest superlative a student can receive.

with her parents Ronald and Beverly, their family are advocates for children exceeding expectations, no



COURTESY PHOTO
Brooklyn Moore-Champion Graduating from Ontario Christian High School.

matter their race or background. In a recent interview with the Los Angeles Sentinel, Champion discussed her collegiate goals for the upcoming school year, her interests outside of academics, and how it felt to become the first Black senior valedictorian at Ontario Christian School.

When asked about that moment, Champion shared, "Ontario Christian is a K-12 school and one percent Black. I knew there hadn't been an African American valedictorian let alone a girl. I was aware of that history, and I wanted that to change. I was qualified to

be valedictorian but didn't know that I was going to receive the award, it felt so good. I'm so glad I was able to encourage younger classmates to strive for that honor. A couple of my friends were motivated after my name was called and they were inspired by my accomplishment. I always remind myself of what matters to me, my goals, and why I started taking my academics seriously. Time management, the support of my parents, and God keeps me focused."

riculars, she enjoys sports and crocheting as a hobby. She plays basketball and is an overall sports fan. She believes having confidence and pushing yourself will grant success. Champion explained, "if you put your mind to it, no matter what other people have to say, you can do it and prove them wrong. Your success will silence the haters."

Champion was accepted and will attend UCLA in the fall to finish her college studies and will major in Labor Studies. With the use



COURTESY PHOTO
Brooklyn Moore-Champion and her parents Ronald and Beverly Moore at Chaffey College Graduation.



COURTESY PHOTO
Champion will attend UCLA this fall.

Champion was also the first Black cheer captain at Ontario Christian, and outside of school and extracur-

of her Social and Behavioral Science degree along with a Sociology degree from community college, Champion

plans to become a family court judge to assist children and families in multiple communities. "I have a passion for kids and helping children in dysfunctional homes. I want to make sure kids are being treated right and put in better homes in safe places." She will minor in Sociology at UCLA while pursuing Labor Studies which will support her efforts in becoming a judge.

Champion's grandfather (mother's father) was named salutatorian in high school, as well as her grandmother (father's mother) was named valedictorian in high school. Her family lineage of educationally gifted individuals gives hope to the future of academia. Eager

students and dedicated changemakers looking to effectively make a difference advances Black excellence and Black history.

Black scholars continue to make incredible progress each year. In 2021, over 2 million Black students were enrolled at a college university. Now in 2024, Champion will join millions of students pursuing higher education with a purpose and commitment to their community. With her many accolades, Champion is an inspiration to so many and aspires to assist families in a meaningful way. She is heavily involved at her home church South Central Los Angeles and continues to make a positive impact.

Tee Divas, Tee Dudes Receive Scholarships for Graduating High School

BY RODD A. AMOS
Contributing Writer

Tee Divas & Tee Dudes Golf Club (TDTD) celebrated the high school graduation of its junior club members on July 26 at Chester Washington Golf Course (CWGC), 1818 Charlie Sifford Dr. in the West Athens community.

pursue their education, and for many, to play golf in college.

"We appreciate the L.A. Sentinel highlighting our extraordinary young people," stated Jenny Bethune, chair of the TDTD Juniors Program.

"We have 36 Juniors in our program ages five to 18. For these young people, we

like Steph Curry's Underrated Junior Golf Tour. They have four of our graduates because they know our kids work hard and deserve the opportunity," she said.

The Juniors Program also works closely with parents, connecting them to scholarship information, training equipment, opportunities, and other resources for their kids.

"Many of our parents and guardians are first-generation golfers," Bethune continued "and we're helping them navigate the juniors program so that their kids can become good golfers, use the resources, and get scholarships to go to college.

"An academic scholarship pays 60% [of education-related expenses]. You're still short 40%, but an athletic scholarship can fill that gap. Most of our kids will attend school on a full-ride scholarship, so the burden is taken off parents from going into debt for sending their kids to college," she said.

TDTD offers a comprehensive program to support junior golfers, including referral to training activities, college preparatory workshops and public speaking skill development.

"[The Program] is a great place to be with golfers that look like me and came from the same experiences," said Monique

Thomas. "Having one of the first Black golf clubs in LA is important to be a part of. I'm a [Southern California Golf Association] scholar, and even though I'm not playing golf for San Diego State University, I was awarded \$4,000 yearly."

"My great-grandfather introduced me to golf," said Dontya Bell, "and it's changed my life. Golf has allowed me to travel and

meet great people with whom I've created lifelong friendships. Recently, I received a \$20,000 golf scholarship to play at Cal State Dominguez Hills. That's what playing golf has done for me."

"[The Program] has given me opportunities to play in tournaments and meet new people," stated Arihanna Esparza, who received a full-ride scholarship to attend the University

of Maryland Eastern Shore. "You don't see many people of color in golf, so the transition from playing softball to golf has paid off."

TDTD partners with the Southern California Golf Association, Professional Golfers Association of America, Southern California Professional Golf Association and more.

For more information, visit <https://teedivas-dudesgolf.com/juniors/>



RODD A. AMOS/ L.A. SENTINEL
Arihanna Esparza, Dontya Bell, and Madison Williams pose with certificates.

CWGC is named for Chester L. Washington, Jr., a noted African American newspaper publisher and the first Black employee at the LA Mirror News. He later owned and operated the Central News-Wave Publications, which carried over a dozen newspapers. Washington also worked as an editor for the L.A. Sentinel, the city's largest Black-owned weekly newspaper.

The grads have been awarded scholarships to

are their aunts and uncles. You need a support system when you are a single parent, divorcée, or grandparent raising your grandchild. We have become that for many of our kids.

"And we're not alone. Our partners at SCGA, APGA, and SCPGA have resources, and they come to our table and share their resources with our kids and our members. Now, our kids have access and opportunities to do many great things,



RODD A. AMOS/ L.A. SENTINEL
The Junior Program students.

Simon Burris: Africana Diaspora Black History Month II Crossword

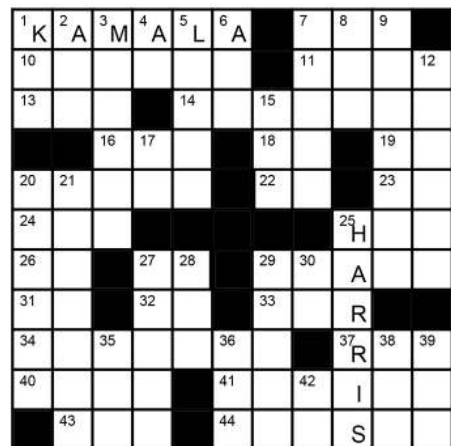
MEET KAMALA HARRIS: V.P.
www.simonburris700.com

Across

- 1. **Theme of this puzzle
- 7. Perform
- 10. A newcomer
- 11. Cleveland Heights, Ohio (abbr.)
- 13. **KH's political party (abbr.)
- 14. Mexican snack
- 16. Corn unit
- 18. *The 'new' Kanye West
- 19. Expression of disapproval
- 20. *Comedian Sykes
- 22. "Be" in Spain
- 23. __ Mesa, California
- 24. **KH's goal: (V__ __TORY)
- 25. **Pronoun re KH
- 26. Charleston, __
- 27. *Shakur's monogram
- 29. Santa Claus feature
- 31. Download, briefly
- 32. * __ from Slavery" (B.T. Washington)
- 33. Occupational ending
- 34. **KH's California home town
- 37. Steal
- 40. *Cicely Tyson's TV role " __ Pittman"
- 41. *Actress Hall or King
- 43. "Give __ __ break!"
- 44. Finishes

Down

- 1. Ky. Rep. Dist. (initials)
- 2. Area of expertise, for short
- 3. * "From This __ On" (Lena Horne song)
- 4. Fairbanks, __
- 5. **VP Harris' Zodiac sign (Oct. 20)
- 6. *Algeria/Egypt/Nigeria (Afr. Union trio (initials)



- 7. *40 __ and a mule' (failed promise made to 4 million freed slaves (1865)
- 8. Democrats convention city locale, 2024 (abbr.)
- 9. One adding things up
- 12. **VP Harris' alma mater (HBCU, 1986)
- 15. "The Catcher in the __"
- 17. *Activist Davis' monogram
- 20. **Kamala's insight, so to speak
- 21. **KH's accolades, for example
- 25. **Theme of this puzzle
- 27. *Black Wall Street massacre locale (1921)
- 28. Health resort
- 29. **VP Harris' chief, informally
- 30. Shoe size
- 35. Abbr. for Kansas State Engineer
- 36. Turmoil (U__ __ST)
- 38. Plus (B__ __S)
- 39. **KH's Christian denomination (abbr.)
- 42. * __AIL __EVERS: Olympics track champion (1992, 1996)

(ANSWERS ON D-1)



ENTERTAINMENT

Jillian Reeves Uses Screen as Platform for Social Change!



BY KEITH L. UNDERWOOD
Contributing Writer

Performing artist and content creator Jillian Reeves was born in Irmo, a small town outside of Columbia, South Carolina. She then moved to Chicago before making her way to Los Angeles.

Reeves began acting in college at the University of South Carolina. She said after doing poorly in her classes one semester, she decided to take some easier classes and acting was one of those classes.

But the instructor in Reeves' acting class saw something in her. She said he encouraged her to consider acting as a serious activity. That same instructor cast Reeves in her first play.

"I just kept doing plays, and ended up changing my major to theatre," said Reeves. "It's a small town, so whenever we did plays it was a huge production, and the whole community came out, and the state newspa-

per would review us."

Today, Reeves said she loves working as an actress, but she also enjoys being a writer, producer, and director of her own independent projects. Her short film "Broken" is one of those undertakings, and it explores the impact of mental illness on a family.

"We're developing [Broken] into a longer form," said Reeves. "It's about a family and how they're grappling – a mother who is grappling with a child who has mental illness, and I just think it's so



Movie poster for the short film "Broken."



Jillian Reeves

relevant to what's going on, and I think it's really relevant to our community."

Reeves said "Broken" was her way to raise awareness about mental health and help Black people to have more open conversations about it. "And how difficult it is to get family members treated [who are] over 18," she said.

Reeves' latest acting role is in the feature film,

"Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot." The movie is currently screening at select theaters. It is based on a true story and brings to light some honest truths about foster care.

"This story is about a community who adopted 77 children out of the foster care system," said Reeves. "So, 22 families adopted 77 kids and changed the trajectory of their lives."

The idea for fostering the children began with Donna and Reverend Martin at their church in East Texas. Reeves said none of the children went back into the system, and they were eventually adopted by the people who were fostering them.

"One of the beautiful things about the story is that we don't sugarcoat the difficulties of fostering kids that have been through a lot," said Reeves. "We show those difficulties, but then we see how the whole community came together and pitched in to help one another."

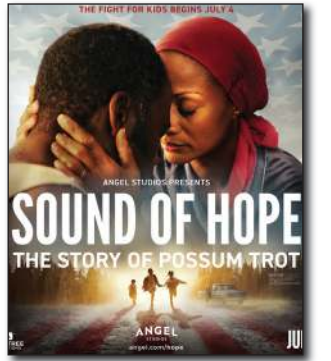
Reeves said the message of people coming together to help each other through difficult times is one she hopes does not get missed in the film. "It is amazing what we can accomplish when we come together as a community," she said.

Reeves plays Diann, who is the sister of Donna Reeves in "Sound of Hope." Diann is the first parent to adopt. She is the single mother of a daughter who welcomes three new sons into her home.

"I found her to be an

amazing woman," said Reeves. "I got to meet her. She is salt of the Earth, just the sweetest woman that you will ever meet. And it was truly an honor, I feel, to bring her character to the screen."

In her future, Reeves



Movie poster for the feature film "Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot."

wants to continue creating her own projects, teaching acting classes, and taking care of her own mental wellness.

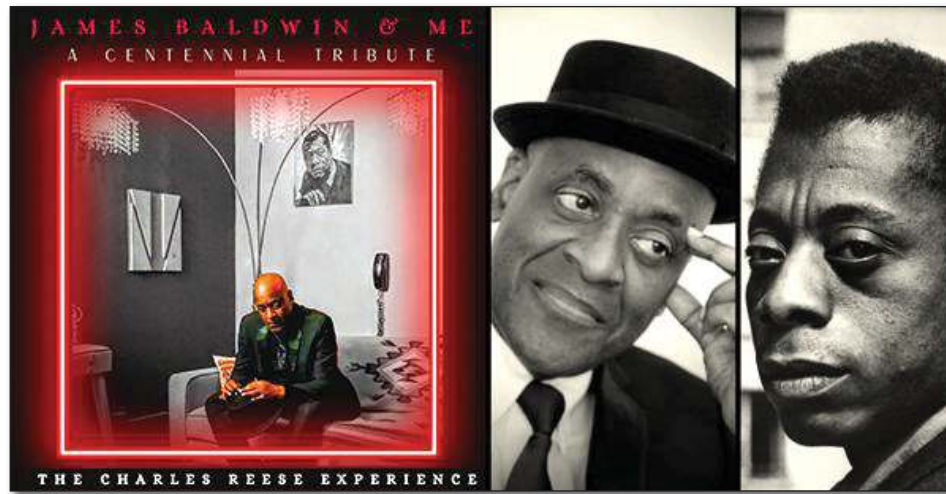
For more on Jillian Reeves and her current projects, visit <https://www.jillianreeves.com>, and for more information on the film "Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot," visit <https://www.angel.com/movies/sound-of-hope-the-story-of-possum-trot>.

Charles Reese Celebrates 100 Years of James Baldwin

BY MYKO LYRIC
Contributing Writer

On August 2, 1924, iconic American writer and civil rights activist James Baldwin was born. Worldwide, people are gathering and creating to commemorate the occasion.

Charles Reese, an L.A.-based American actor, writer, and speaker has celebrated by creating "James Baldwin & Me: A Centennial Tribute," a spoken word album with perspectives interwoven between Reese, Baldwin and Howard B. Simon, the playwright of Off-Broadway show "James Baldwin: A Soul on Fire" where



"James Baldwin & Me" album cover, and side-by-side photos of Reese and Baldwin.

Reese starred as Baldwin.

In an interview with the Sentinel, Reese described himself as a cultural architect of the legacy of Baldwin

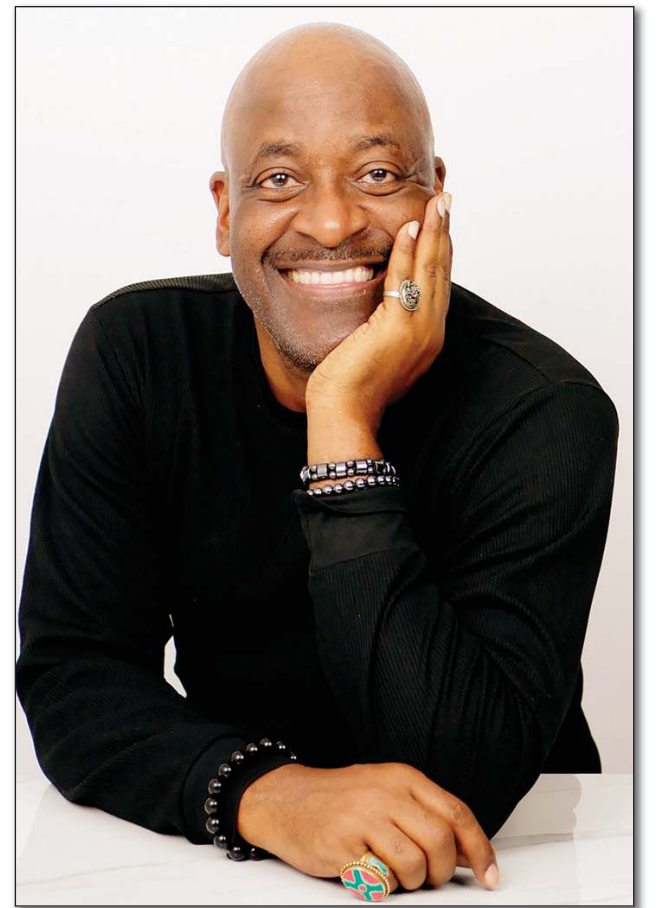
using his gifts to bring people into Baldwin's world. Through this work of studying, embodying and performing Baldwin

globally, Reese has been a significant force deepening various communities' understanding of and relationship to Baldwin.

The entire album was recorded in Los Angeles, at Moon Global Studios in Inglewood.

"I started in March [of 2024] by getting the poems together...the poems were by my late friend and playwright, Howard B. Simon. I call the book of poems he left behind 'The Purple Book.' I chose the poems I wanted to use from that purple journal, then, I started adding narratives," Reese explained.

When choosing which poems he would use for the album, he remarked, "It didn't take me a long time. I had been [performing] some of the poetry, so there



Charles Reese

were some pieces I already knew that felt right."

Each of the poems on the album paint a picture of an instance in James Baldwin's life. "The song, 'A-Train' references his book 'Go Tell It on the Mountain' going from a young preacher to being out in the world," Reese offered. "The 'Eve of Eviction' represents if Baldwin was alive today, he would be

talking about gentrification. But he also left Harlem to be in Paris, and he was always in situations where he was put out or kicked out."

Reese is currently in the process of submitting his album for a Grammy nomination. It is an aptly timed feat; celebrating 100 years of Baldwin and enjoying the possibility of receiving a Grammy as a celebration of his own career where so much of Reese's time and love was poured into keeping Baldwin's legacy alive.

Offering his personal favorite quote of Baldwin's, Reese recited: "Go the way your blood beats. If you don't live the only life that you have, you won't live some other life, you won't live any life at all."

Listen to Reese's album by searching "James Baldwin & Me: A Centennial Tribute" on any music platform.

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D-2

Student Athlete of the Week: Dominic Jackson

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Editor

Dominic Jackson started competing in rugby during his senior year at View Park. Jackson was also ASB vice president of his senior class last year.

The more he practiced the sport, the more he enjoyed it. Jackson played at the scrum half position, which allowed him the freedom to either run the ball or pass.

"It's a physical game and if you're not having the confidence to actually tackle someone, you will get hurt," Jackson said. "Even if you win or lose, you have to have that confidence that

you're going in there strong, head up, shoulders back, strong heart, strong mind."

With the boy's rugby team, Jackson was able to visit Washington DC and Japan. In Washington DC, ICEF rugby competed in the Urban Rugby Championship where the boy's rugby team placed third.

"All of us worked really hard to get there and to win, everyone was super hyped about it. It was amazing," Jackson said. "Throughout the whole entire time, we kept trying to lift each other up, kept saying 'we got this' ... we all had a great time there, great performances."

The Urban Rugby Championship showed Jackson

different styles of playing and coaching. Competing in Japan was a challenge due to the size of the team the ICEF played against.

"That's the hardest competition I've ever played against in my entire life," Jackson said. "I love the competition, it was all fun. We were tackling some big guys."

Traveling has given him a broader perspective on his life. He is intrigued about building bonds with people from different walks of life. For Jackson, being a student athlete displays how he can be well-rounded.

"You always have to keep those grades up but that's just showing that I

can do more than just keep my grades up," Jackson said. "Instead of just being book smart, I can be athletic, I can travel, I can do much more than just read my books and do my schoolwork."

Outside of being a student athlete, Jackson has entrepreneurial experience. He has worked as a gardener and sold baked goods with his siblings and his mother.

"It was easy, it was fun. We had our own schedules," Jackson said. "We could charge them whatever we felt like charging them as long as it's fair."

Jackson has a mindset of helping others; he aspires to



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL

Dominic Jackson helped the ICEF boys rugby team come in third in the Urban Rugby Championship.

be a firefighter.

"You'll stay in shape the whole entire time," Jackson said. "It also helps

people out in life and I think it's gonna be a very interesting and engaging job."

Daren Staley, Nichol Whiteman Honored by LadyLike Foundation

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Editor

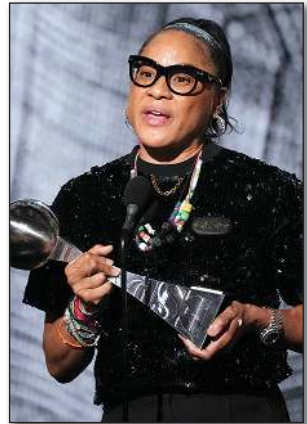
The LadyLike Foundation honored South Carolina Gamecocks women's basketball head coach Dawn Staley and Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation CEO Nichol Whiteman at their 15th annual Women of Excellence Awards luncheon.

The LadyLike Foundation teaches professional and personal development to youth by providing workshops, seminars, and field trips. The non-profit organization was started in 2007 by Leah Cher Pump.

"They have been doing this work for 15 years to uplift young ladies in underrepresented communities who need the support and the tools and the skills to be able to change their life trajectory," Whiteman said. "It's very synonymous with the work of the Dodgers Foundation and the work that we want to support."

The honor comes in the wake of South Carolina

having a 38-0 record and winning the 2024 NCAA national championship. That marks the third national title that the Gamecocks



AP PHOTO/MARK J. TERRILL

South Carolina head coach Dawn Staley speaks after receiving the Jimmy V Award for Perseverance during the ESPY awards on Thursday, July 11, 2024, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

have won with Staley at the helm. She is a four-time Naismith Coach of the Year and a two-time AP National Coach of the Year.

Staley is also a three-time Olympic gold medalist as a player; she was the flag

bearer for Team USA in the 2004 Athens Summer Olympics. She also won a gold medal as a coach for Team USA women's basketball in the 2020 Tokyo Games.

"The uncommon favor that God has given me throughout my entire



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL

Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation CEO Nichol Whiteman at the 15th annual Women of Excellence Awards Luncheon.

career, you couldn't write a better script," Staley said. "I grew up in the church ... those rooms have created what I am today, a faithful woman, a woman that

prays."

Whiteman led LADF to winning an ESPY for Sports Humanitarian Team of the Year in 2020. LADF



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL

LaTanya Jackson (left) poses with Tina Knowles at the 15th annual Women of Excellence Awards Luncheon.

focuses on promoting healthcare and education while battling homelessness. By staying true to those principles, Whiteman has earned the 2020 Visionary Award presented by Southern California Leadership Network, the National Medical Fellowship Leadership in Philanthropy Award and the MOSTE

Motivating Our Students Through Leadership Experience 2020 Lantern Award.

The Women of Excellence Awards was a star-

always been ... the vanguard of making sure that young girls get a proper education and that they are seen," Jackson said. "We are supporting our community and our community moves the world."

The LadyLike Foundation offers a myriad of classes, from college prep to etiquette. One of their more notable events is LadyLike Day at UCLA. Along with classes, the LadyLike Foundation offers scholarships and even sponsors young girls in Ghana who attend boarding school.

The Women of Excellence luncheon included a musical performance by Erica Campbell, a silent auction, a fashion show and dance performances.

"It's incredible to be in a room full of women where it feels like this is the type of energy that you can carry with you for the rest of the week," said ESPN broadcaster Malika Andrews. "Women who are this accomplished who look like me is just incredible."

"Leah Pump, her husband Dana (Pump) have



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(l-r) Toni Breidinger, Angel McCoughtry, Diana Flores, and Dearica Hamby participate in a panel discussion.

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Editor

Before heading to Paris for the Summer Olympics, Sparks forward Dearica Hamby shared her story with young athletes. She was a member of a panel discussion hosted by the Women's Sports Foundation.



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL

During the Ambassador program event, youth participate in a basketball clinic.

The organization recently partnered with Delta Air Lines to create an Ambassador Program event where youth can glean from iconic women in sports and participate in a basketball clinic.

Hamby was on a panel with basketball icon Angel McCoughtry and flag football star Diana Flores.

NASCAR driver Toni Breidinger moderated the panel. The panelist and moderator talked about their backgrounds and gave advice to the youth.

When asked about the transition of going from a student athlete to a pro athlete, Hamby noted how important it is to believe in herself.

"Growing up, I didn't necessarily have these resources. I don't think anybody my age did," Hamby said. "I have a little girl that I'm preaching the same messages to."

Flores talked about the challenges she faced competing in flag football during her formative years.

"I had to play in an all-boys league at the age of 13 or 14 again because we didn't have a lot of girls teams," Flores said to the participants. "Right now, to see how the sport has

Women's Sports Foundation Panel Inspires Youth

grown, all the opportunities that you girls may have to just explore passions ... I'm very, very excited and proud of you."

Both Hamby and McCoughtry explained how basketball can lead to several opportunities, from being able to travel or to work in various careers. The two-time Olympic gold medalist McCoughtry emphasized the importance of not quitting and not listening to naysayers.

"I think these young women are more excited than they ever have been before because of the growth of women's sports," McCoughtry said. "They see that they have opportunity. Now, they can stick with the sport."

After the panel, the youth participated in a basketball clinic that was led by Jr Sparks coach, San Dixon. They ran through shooting, running, and dribbling drills.

McCoughtry and Hamby were teammates when they were on the Las Vegas Aces in 2020 and 2021.

"[McCoughtry] poured a lot into this game," Hamby said. "She's given

back a lot."

Hamby is averaging 19.2 points and 10.0 rebounds per game with the Sparks. She is currently

competing on the Team USA Olympic women's 3v3 team with Rhyne Howard, Hailey Van Lith, and Cierra Burdick.

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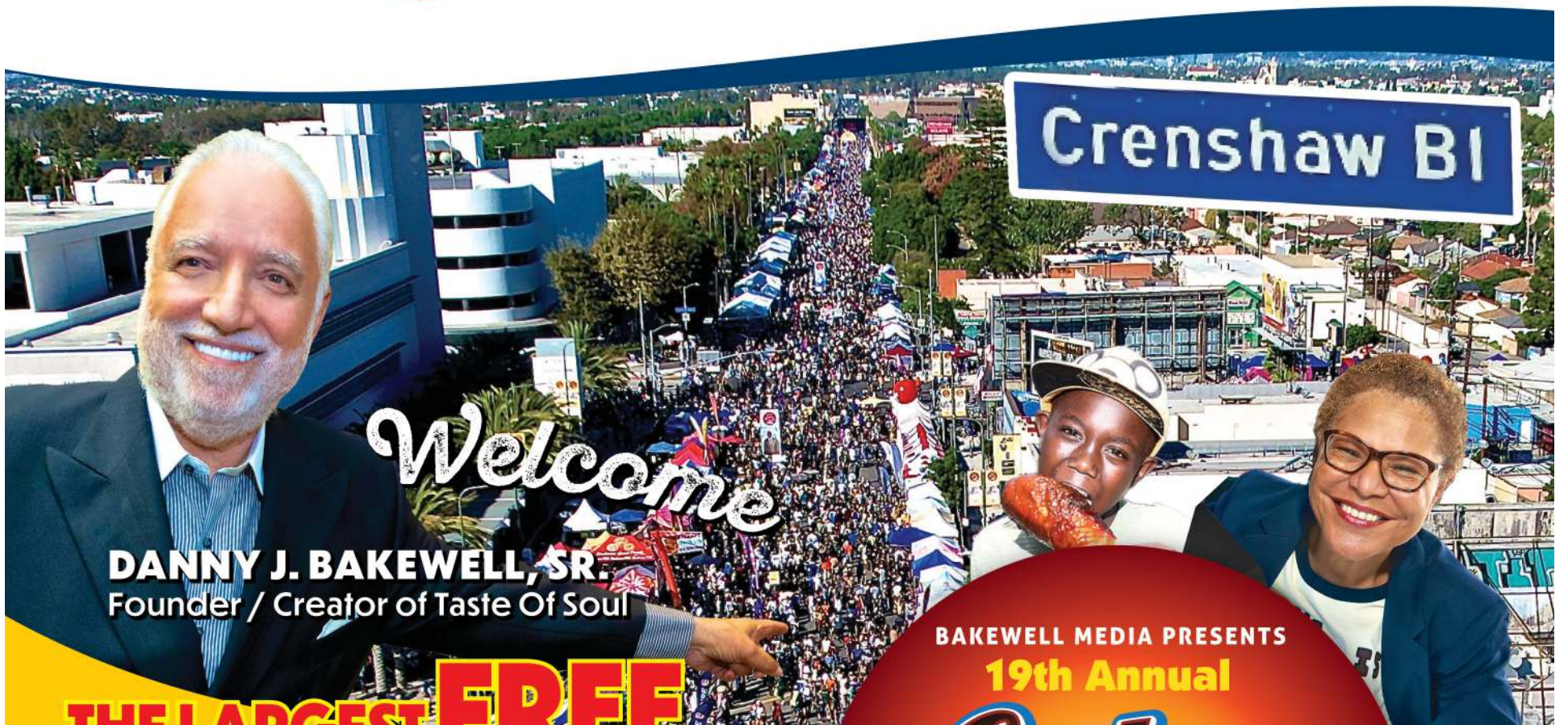
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