

California Senator Rod Wright (Ret) – "Harriet" My Choice for Movie of the Year (See page A-6)

LOS ANGELES SENTINEL



The Celebration of Black Cinema Sparks Discussion on Diversity & Inclusion in Hollywood (See page B-2)

VOL. LXXXV NO. 50, \$1.00 + CA. Sales Tax "For Over Eighty Years, The Voice of Our Community Speaking for Itself." THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019

LA City Council Votes to Move Forward with New Office of Racial Equity in Los Angeles



COURTESY PHOTO

Council president Herb Wesson stands at a podium with organizers behind him on City Hall steps.



COURTESY PHOTO

Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson and City Council unanimously approves an initiative calling for the creation of an Office of Racial Equity in the City of Los Angeles.

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The Los Angeles City Council has unanimously approved an initiative calling for the creation of an in the city of Los Angeles. The Office would work to eliminate structural barriers and ensure opportunity and resources are fairly and justly distributed so all

Angelenos are treated equitably, empowered, and can fully participate in the city's democratic processes. The motion was co-introduced by council president Herb Wesson, Councilmembers Mitch O'Farrell and Marqueece Harris-Dawson, and seconded by Councilmember Paul Koretz.

"When this government

was created it was not created to benefit people who looked like me," said council president Wesson. "I am proud that in one of my final acts as the first Black council president, we as a council acknowledge the city's role of structural and institutional racism and its role in righting those wrongs with an Office of Racial Equity (ORE) that looks out for all Angelenos."

The passage of this motion comes on the heels of a month-long phase of the embRACE LA initiative that has engaged community members through 150+ city-wide conversations about race and racism. The initiative was developed by Wesson and O'Farrell

and led by Community Coalition, a grassroots social justice organization in South Los Angeles. This fall, dinners were held with the help of producing partners Advancement Project and Revolve Impact with the purpose of bringing together Angelenos to have conversations about racism and racial equity in the

city of Los Angeles. The information discussed in these conversations was collected with the goal of using this data to help establish the new office.

In surveys about the state of racial equity in Los Angeles, just 21.5% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that

{See EQUITY A-8}

Chef Keith Corbin to Open New Restaurant in 2020

Watts native, Chef Corbin, is set to open a new restaurant while continuing to serve the community at Alta Adams.

SHANNEN HILL
Contributing Writer

Chef Corbin, executive chef at Alta Adams in West Adams, is opening a soul food and grains restaurant in Culver City early 2020.

Growing up in Watts, Corbin learned to cook from his grandmother. He has always loved cooking but didn't think about it as a career until four years ago. As a young adult Corbin didn't get the chance to build a career. His environment almost got the best of him and as a young adult, he spent 10 years in prison. "I grew up in the Jordan



COURTESY PHOTO

Chef Keith Corbin

Downs Housing Projects in Watts, California which is truly an impoverished and underserved community," said Corbin, 37. "You can absolutely become brain-

washed to believe that the circumstances that comes along with living in such environments are normal and a way of life, from the gang culture, violence, po-

lice brutality, drugs, and lack of opportunity and resources."

Being in prison, Corbin really began to think of his future. He reevaluated what was important to him and came home in 2014 ready for a fresh start. Corbin began working at an oil refinery and was soon promoted. With his new position, Corbin had to be cleared to drive the company vehicles. This resulted in the company running a background check which showed the Corbin had been in prison. The com-

{See CHEF A-8}

Congresswoman Bass Forewarns Press of Theories Surrounding Impeachment Hearings



COURTESY PHOTO

Congresswoman Karen Bass

{See FULL STORY A-10}

Democrats' impeachment charges say Trump 'betrayed' US

BY LISA MACARO AND MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

House Democrats announced two articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump on Tuesday, declaring he "be-

trayed the nation" with his actions toward Ukraine as they pushed toward historic proceedings that are certain to help define his presidency and shape the 2020 election.

The specific charges aimed at removing the 45th president of the U.S.: Abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi, flanked by the chairmen of impeachment inquiry committees at the U.S. Capitol, said they were upholding their solemn oath to defend the Constitution. Trump responded angrily on Twitter: "WITCH HUNT!"

Voting is expected in a matter of days by the Judiciary Committee, which begins deliberations Wednesday, and by Christmas in the full House. The charges, if approved, would then be



AP PHOTO/SUSAN WALSH

(L-R) House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Chairwoman of the House Financial Services Committee Maxine Waters, D-Calif., Chairwoman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Eliot Engel, D-N.Y., House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., Chairwoman of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., House Ways and Means Chairman Richard Neal and Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Adam Schiff, D-Calif., unveil articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump, during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019.

sent to the Senate, where the Republican majority would be unlikely move to convict Trump, but not without a potentially bitter trial just as voters in Iowa and other early presidential primary states begin making their choices.

In the formal articles announced Tuesday, the Democrats said Trump enlisted a foreign power in "corrupting" the U.S. election process and endangered national security by asking Ukraine to investigate his political rivals, including Democrat Joe Biden, while withholding U.S. military aid as leverage. That benefited Russia over the U.S., as America's ally

{See DEMOCRATS A-10}



House Passes Voting Rights Measure to Restore Portions of Law Guttled in 2015

By STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

More than four years after sections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 were taken out by the Supreme Court and following four attempts under a House led by Republicans, Rep. Terri Sewell's (R-Ala.) bill to reinstate voting protections has finally passed.

"Voting is personal to me because it was on the streets of my hometown, Selma, that foot soldiers shed their blood on the Edmund Pettus Bridge so that all Americans – regardless of race – could vote," Sewell, who is African American, wrote on Twitter.

"I am so proud the House voted to #RestoreTheVote," she added.

The measure, H.R. 4, passed by a 228-187 margin, with all Democrats voting in favor while Sewell and Pennsylvania Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick counted as the only Republicans to support the legislation.

Many are now calling on the Senate to take up the measure.

Rev. Dr. William Barber, the president and senior lecturer of Repairers of the Breach and the architect of the Moral Mondays Movement in North Carolina, counts among those calling out Senate leaders.

"The U.S. House passed legislation to restore the Voting Rights Act," Barber stated.

"If [GOP Senate Majority Leader] Mitch McCon-

nell refuses to take it up in the Senate, he's confessing that he believes the GOP can't win without voter suppression."

Gerrymandering, unfair voter I.D. laws, and intimidation at the polls are among the tactics being used to prevent voters of color from casting votes, stated Marcela Howell, the founder, and president of In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda.

"Passage of the Voting Rights Advancement Act by the House is a first step toward restoring our democracy. We applaud the House of Representatives for passing the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019," Howell stated.

"The wholesale disenfranchisement of voters threatens our democracy.

Conservative lawmakers across the country are pulling out all the stops to prevent people of color – especially Black people – from exercising our right to vote," she stated.

Howell continued:

"We didn't march and die fighting for our right to vote only to have that right denied us in this new Jim Crow era – fueled by the racist policies of conservative state legislators and the terrible decision in Shelby v. Holder by the Supreme Court that reinforced these oppressive laws.

"We call on Sen. Mitch McConnell to follow the leadership of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to stop the assault on voting rights by scheduling a Senate vote

on the Voting Rights Advancement Act as soon as possible.

"We encourage voters across the country to unite in resistance by holding their elected representatives accountable and, most of all, by exercising their right to vote in local, state, and federal elections."

Sewell's bill initially would cover 11 states, including nine in the South, and also California and New York.

The bill would require all states to get federal approval for election changes known to disproportionately affect voters of color, like strict voter I.D. laws, tighter voter registration requirements, and polling place closures in areas with large numbers of minority voters.

The Voting Rights Act is perhaps the most significant piece of civil rights legislation in U.S. history, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer stated.

For more than 50 years, the law stood as a powerful force to prevent the type of racial discrimination in voting that marred America's history before the bill's passage, Schumer stated.

"The Supreme Court's disastrous decision in Shelby County v. Holder gutted this critical legislation and unleashed a surge of pernicious Republican-led voter suppression laws," he continued.

"The House of Representatives passed H.R. 4, the Voting Rights Advancement Act. This is a critical step towards restoring



Rep. Terri Sewell's (R-Ala.)

COURTESY PHOTO

the protections of the Voting Rights Act and beating back the scourge of voter suppression," Schumer added.

He continued:

"The right to vote is the very wellspring of our democracy. Generations have organized, protested,

marched, and died to extend the franchise to all Americans.

"It is incumbent upon every member of Congress to continue to fight to increase, rather than impede, access to the ballot box and ensure that every eligible American can have their

voice heard. I urge Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to bring this legislation to the floor of the Senate. Voting rights are simply too important to be banished to Leader McConnell's legislative graveyard."

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A Letter to the Community

from Phillip A. Washington, Chief Executive Officer, Metro

Dear Crenshaw and South Los Angeles Communities,

I recently attended a Sunday service at the West Angeles Church of God in Christ and had the opportunity to speak with many community residents who were happy to share their thoughts and opinions on Metro; and for that I am grateful. I also spoke to many of you at the Taste of Soul – one of my favorite events of the year. Based on those conversations, I wanted to take a moment to say thanks and to give a quick update on Metro's projects in the community — and to wish you and your families Happy Holidays.

First, I want to thank the Crenshaw Community – and all of South Los Angeles – for your patience during the construction Metro has been doing since 2014 on the Crenshaw/LAX Line. The headline news is that pretty soon you're going to have greater mobility and a lot more options for rail travel. When the Crenshaw/LAX Line opens it will connect Crenshaw and the communities of South Los Angeles to the rest of the Metro Rail system. And when Metro's new airport station for the Crenshaw/LAX and Green Lines is completed at Aviation Boulevard and 96th St, South Los Angeles will be the gateway to LA County for travelers from across the world.

We know it feels like the construction has been going on a long time, and it has, but the Crenshaw/LAX Line is a big, bold and ambitious project with eight new rail stations, including three that are underground. We expect substantial completion to occur in 2020, and we're working with the contractor to deliver a safe, high-quality and world-class project. We're pleased that early train testing on the southern part of the route has begun and that's a big step forward. In addition to greater mobility, the Crenshaw/LAX Line will also provide significant economic and employment opportunities for the community.

I'm pleased that Metro met and exceeded its hiring goals while constructing the project. 60 percent of the total hours worked on the project, for example, were by economically disadvantaged hires — our goal was 40%. We also exceeded Metro's goal of hiring 28% minorities; we actually hired 76%. Many of these hires were also people who lived near the project. Even before going into service, the Crenshaw/LAX Line has begun to confer benefits on local communities it will serve.

Another example is the Expo/Crenshaw joint development project. The development will be required to comply with the county's Local Hire Policy. That means at least 30% of total construction labor hours worked on the project must be performed by a qualified local resident (defined as someone living within five miles of

the site). In fact, the developer has publicly stated they are striving to exceed 30%, and within a three-mile radius. This project was initially slated to have 15% affordable housing units, but in response to community input, that number was increased to 20%. We are still in the exclusive negotiating period with the developer and we'll keep working to create the best project possible. The developer is also actively working with several local businesses to house them in the project's commercial space.

In July, the Metro Board of Directors approved spending up to \$15 million to help create three parks near Crenshaw/LAX Line stations as part of Destination Crenshaw. This innovative project will create 1.3 miles of art along Crenshaw Boulevard that celebrates the culture, history and sense of place of the Crenshaw and African American communities. I'm very pleased to see Metro investing in the kind of infrastructure that will improve the quality of life in communities and enhance our rail line.

One more exciting development is about to get underway at the corner of Vermont and Manchester in South Los Angeles. Metro is partnering with LA County to build a state-of-the-art college preparatory academy and boarding school. The SEED School of Los Angeles County will provide students in grades 9 through 12 with a curriculum that will prepare them for careers in the global infrastructure industry.

The SEED School will be open to all youth in LA County, with a special focus and emphasis on opportunity youth – those who have had experience with local safety nets including the juvenile justice, foster care and child welfare systems. We have already secured funding for the school, acquired the land, hired a consultant and we will break ground next year.

The SEED School will be part of a larger mixed-use development project. The plans include 60,000 square feet of retail space with a grocery store, 180 units of affordable housing, and the Vermont/Manchester Training

Center to develop and train the infrastructure workforce of the future. We think the SEED School and the training center will be a game changer for preparing South Los Angeles youth and adults for careers in construction and infrastructure.

As I reflect on the past year, I am amazed by how much we've accomplished, but I know we have so much more to do – especially in the Crenshaw Corridor and South LA. We are in the home stretch of construction, and I can see the light at the end of the tunnel – literally. So again, thank you for your patience.

On behalf of Metro's 11,000 employees, I wish you and your family the joy of the holiday season.

Sincerely,



Phillip A. Washington
Chief Executive Officer, Metro

CDU and APLA Health Host Rare 'Indoor Ground Breaking' on New Health Facility

Expanding Primary, Dental and HIV Care Services in South L.A.

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU) and APLA Health (APLA) officially announced plans to move forward on a new building located on the CDU campus that would house a new CDU Wellness Center and an APLA clinic during a symbolic "indoor ground breaking" ceremony on Wednesday, December 4, 2019. Plans for the upcoming 10,000 square-foot facility were formalized with a signed agreement between the two organizations in February 2019.

Upon its completion in 2020, the University's Wellness Center will provide urgent care, mental health counseling and wellness programs to CDU students, faculty and staff, while the



Upon its completion in 2020, the University's Wellness Center will provide urgent care, mental health counseling and wellness programs.

APLA clinic will provide primary medical care, dental care and behavioral health services to Service Planning Area (SPA) 6 residents through a Federally Qualified Health Center ("FQHC") model.

CDU currently operates two HIV testing programs in the Drew Center for AIDS Research, Education, and Services (Drew C.A.R.E.S.) and the CDU/OASIS Clinic, the latter of which has been in existence for over 30

years. Throughout the last decade, CDU and APLA Health have developed a longstanding partnership through these programs, collaborating to ensure that HIV patients in SPA 6 and throughout South Los Angeles have access to quality dental care and food assis-

tance. APLA Health's enhanced capacity within the upcoming clinic will create a more robust HIV prevention continuum for at-risk individuals in SPA 6, which still maintains the second highest percentage of HIV/AIDS cases in L.A. County.

"Our goal with this new health center is to reduce the number of new HIV infections in the Willowbrook, Watts and Compton communities by providing culturally competent, convenient and assessable sexual health services, along with general medical, dental and behavioral health services," said Craig E. Thompson, CEO of APLA Health. "We know that the fight to end the epidemic is about tailored local approaches to reducing the number of new infections and particularly addressing the continuing disparities and the issues that create those disparities."

"Drew C.A.R.E.S. is very excited at the prospect of sharing this building with APLA, and we look forward to working together with them to continue to provide much-needed HIV/AIDS care, education and research to this under-resourced community," said Drew C.A.R.E.S. faculty leader Nina Harawa, PhD, MPH.

"The partnership between APLA and CDU will bring another building to our campus, and add much-needed healthcare capacity to our community," said CDU president/CEO David M. Carlisle, PhD, MD. "We are proud to stand with APLA Health in work that so clearly fits in with the mission of CDU, and that is so vital to the LA County HIV Strategic Plan, the statewide 'End the Epidemics' effort, and the National HIV/AIDS Strategy."

Compton Hosts Historical Know Your Rights Legal Forum

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

On Saturday, Dec. 7, the city of Compton hosted a historical Know Your Rights Legal Forum at the Douglas Dollarhide Community Center featuring Compton Mayor Aja Brown, The Cochran Firm's managing partner attorney Brian Dunn, civil rights attorney and O.J. Simpson defense attorney, Carl Douglas and his partner, Jamon Hicks along with Ivie, McNeil and Wyatt immigration attorney, Margarette Mow. The two-hour-long panel was moderated by Compton City Attorney, Damon M. Brown and featured the



(L-R) Compton City Manager Damon M. Brown, The Cochran Firm managing attorney Brian Dunn, with Ivie, McNeill and Wyatt immigration attorney Margarette Mow, Compton Mayor Aja Brown, civil rights attorney and O.J. Simpson defense attorney Carl Douglas and his partner Jamon Hicks.

dos and don'ts of interacting with the police and immigration officers. The forum is first of several

criminal justice reform discussions the city of Compton plans to host to empower its residents.

Dec. 16 is Deadline to Apply for \$1.2 Million in Scholarships from Edison Scholars Program

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

There's still time for high school seniors whose dreams are to power the future and make a difference through the study of science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) to apply for Edison International's \$1.2 million 2020 Edison Scholars Program.

The scholarship application deadline is Dec. 16. To apply and obtain additional eligibility information, visit: edisonscholars.com.

Each year, Edison International, the parent company of Southern California Edison, awards \$40,000 scholarships, paid over four

years, to 30 high school students who plan to major in designated STEM fields at a four-year accredited U.S. college or university. See the list of eligible STEM majors.

Applicants must live in SCE's service area and plan to be a full-time undergraduate student majoring in a STEM field. Eligible students also must be a high school senior, have at least a cumulative 3.0 GPA and demonstrate financial need. Students from underserved communities and ethnic minorities are encouraged to apply. Dependents of Edison International and SCE employees and retirees are not eligible for the Edi-

son Scholars Program.

Scholarship recipients will be announced next spring. They may also be eligible for summer internships at SCE after completing their second year of college.

Since 2006, Edison International has awarded an estimated \$9.9 million in scholarships to 640 students through the Edison Scholars Program.

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Inglewood Unified Receives First \$10M Installment of \$30M in School Improvement Funds from LAWA

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Inglewood Unified on Nov. 14 received the first \$10 million installment from the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) to mitigate the impact of airplane noise on students, part of a \$44 million program launched in 2015 to improve schools along Los Angeles International Airport flight paths.

In October, the Board of Airport Commissioners approved a total of \$30 million to sound insulate three schools by early 2021. The money will reimburse the District for improvements underway at Woodworth-Monroe TK-8 Magnet Academy and Oak Street Elementary School in addition to upcoming projects at Morningside High School.

“This infusion of funding is a welcome addition to Inglewood Unified’s multifaceted program of school

improvement,” county administrator, Dr. Erika Torres said. “Inglewood Unified is investing deeply in creating high quality learning environments that will ensure our students have the tools they need to succeed. These improvements will go a long way toward achieving these goals.”

Projects include replacing heating, ventilation and air condition (HVAC) systems, installing exterior windows, replacing exterior doors, upgrading ceilings with sound-reducing insulation as well as related plumbing and electrical upgrades. The work is expected to achieve interior noise levels at or below 45 decibels – the volume of a quiet conversation – boost natural light in classrooms and cut energy costs.

“Los Angeles World Airports believes our partnership with Inglewood Unified will help to ensure a

positive learning environment for students and teachers, which benefits the entire community,” LAWA chief environmental and sustainability officer, Samantha Bricker said. “Our soundproofing programs for residents and schools in Inglewood demonstrate LAWA’s commitment to be a good neighbor and partner with adjacent communities.”

Inglewood Unified’s first project was at Beulah Payne Elementary School, where improvements were made to seven classrooms and a multipurpose room. LAWA and the District celebrated completion of the \$2.8 million project in 2018.

The Woodworth-Monroe project, which is set to be completed in the next few months, allots \$17.7 million for 63 classrooms, a library and a multi-purpose room. Oak Street School, which is expected to be completed in



COURTESY PHOTO

Inglewood Unified has received \$10 million from the Los Angeles World Airports to reimburse costs soundproofing schools, including Oak Street Elementary. Pictured (l-to-r): Inglewood Unified chief business official, Christine Dacanay, Environmental Programs Group Program manager, South Insulation Program Raha Azarmehr, Inglewood Unified county administrator, Dr. Erika Torres and Inglewood Unified executive director of Facilities, Herlinda Bazan.

will be considered in the future based on funding availability.

Some of the projects coincide with other improvements funded through Measure GG, a 2012 bond measure that generated \$90 million for Inglewood Unified facility repairs and upgrades. These include a new modular classroom building at Woodworth-Monroe, new playgrounds and the planned renovation of an aging science building at Morningside High.

“Our vision for Inglewood Unified is one of steady and significant improvement – not only in our facilities, but in all our efforts to assist our students in achieving success here, in higher education and in their careers,” Torres said. “These facilities improvements are an important element in achieving that vision.”

December 2020, includes 21 classrooms and a library. Improvements are expected to cost \$4.8 million. Morningside High targets 62 classrooms, a library and an auditorium. Improvements are expected to cost

\$17.4 million and be completed in early 2021.

The District is developing a timeline for a Child Development Center project that will span eight classrooms and cost about \$1.5 million. This project

Compton Walmart Unveils First Community Mural in California

Designed by a local artist, the mural is part of new initiative in select Walmart stores

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

This morning, during a community celebration, the Walmart Supercenter in Compton unveiled a new mural to customers, community leaders, and members of the art community. The mural is the first in California to be unveiled by the retailer as part of a new initiative in select Walmart stores.

The mural, titled “Compton Welcomes You,” was designed by local artist, Michael Rangel. Rangel was selected by the Compton Walmart Supercenter’s

associates and was asked to create a piece that represents the store’s associates, customers and the community.

“I’m honored to be a part of this project and create a piece that symbolizes a city I know and love,” said Rangel. “My art is inspired by my surroundings and there’s so much history and vibrance in Compton. From the food, to the people and the cars, there’s a rich culture and a deep sense of community here that makes the city so unique, while constantly changing.”

Store co-manager and Compton native, Gloria

Lujan, was one of the associates who helped select the artist and worked with Rangel to bring the store’s vision to life. “We are excited to have found an artist who had a strong connection to the place where we work and live,” said Lujan. “We are very proud of our city. We wanted a mural that represents where we’re from and shows the history and strength of our community.”

Emma Sharif, Mayor Pro Tem and Compton District 4 Councilwoman attended the mural unveiling and addressed the crowd: “This store is truly a store of

the community and this beautiful gesture is just one of the many ways Compton associates continue to engage with and show their love for Compton. It brings me so much joy to be one of the first cities to have a mural as part of Walmart’s new initiative. It’s much more than a mural: it’s a celebration of who we are as a city. It’s a warm welcome to everyone who walks through the doors of a store that takes pride in being a part of this city we call home.”

Three additional murals by local artists will be



Artist Michael Rangel with Compton Walmart Supercenter Store manager, Che Bartlett, Compton Walmart Supercenter co-manager, Gloria Lujan, and Compton City Councilmember Emma Sharif.

unveiled later this week in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Compton Walmart customers, fans of the artist and members of the community

are invited to view and take pictures of the new mural and join the conversation on social channels using #WalmartMurals.






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• DR. MAULANA KARENGA •

Righteous Reflection On Being African: A Kwanzaa Meditation



DR. MAULANA KARENGA

Kwanzaa is a time of celebration, remembrance, reflection and recommitment. It requires these practices throughout the holiday. But the last day of Kwanzaa is dedicated to deep reflection, meditation on the meaning and measure of being African and how this is understood and asserted for good in the world in essential, uplifting and transformative ways.

During this Kwanzaa, as always and as our ancestors centuries before us, we gather together again to celebrate and share the good we've gained and garnered; to remember in reverence the sacred names, noble deeds and enormous sacrifices of our ancestors; and to recommit ourselves to our highest values and most exalting visions, and to an ongoing practice that proves their worth and brings into being the good they embody and ensure. And we gather too to reaffirm our rootedness in our own culture, to reinforce the bonds between us as African people and to meditate on the expansive meaning and awesome responsibility of being African in the world.

As Kwanzaa draws to an end and the old year meets and merges with the new, we are, as always, obligated and urged by ancient custom and ongoing current concerns to sit down and seriously engage in righteous reflection on being African in the world. To speak of righteous reflection is, in an Ebonics sense of the word righteous, to talk of thought that is real, ethical and excellent. That is to say, thought that is free from the artificial, false and formulaic and comes from the heart as well as from the head. What is aimed at here is thought which is informed by an

ethical sensitivity to the subject under consideration. And this holds true whether in our concern for each other or for the health and wholeness of the world; for the loss of human life or the mutilation of historical memory; and for the deprivation of material needs or the denial of dignity and rights due everyone.

This process and practice of righteous reflection culminates on January 1, Siku ya Taamuli, the Day of Meditation. Here we are to focus even more so and think deeply and continuously about our lives and the world, about critical issues that confront us and the world and our responsibility to understand and engage them. Indeed, we are to measure ourselves in the mirror of the best of our history and culture and ask ourselves where we stand as a representative and embodiment of the best of what it means to be African and human in the fullest sense.

This cultural measurement and mirroring is achieved thru asking and answering three fundamental questions. Building on the insights of Frantz Fanon, these Kawaiida rooted questions are: who am I; am I really who I am and am I all I ought to be? Now to ask who we are is both a personal and communal question which cannot be righteously separated. For we are anchored and embedded in a definite community and culture and reflect the strengths or weaknesses of that community and culture even unintentionally.

To answer the question of "who am I?," we must embrace an expansive conception of our

identity, rejecting racist conceptions that problematize, indict and distort our sense of Blackness or Africanness or diminish or limit its root understanding as an expression of excellence on every level. This means embracing a conception of African that defines our identity way beyond the given names and assigned numbers on our birth certificates, licenses or social security, insurance or other identity cards. It means understanding the personal in the context of the communal and the cultural, for inherent in the history and culture of our community is the source and answer of who we are and must become and be.

However else we see ourselves, our conception of who we are must include at least three foundational identities

forged in the crucible of critical periods of history and struggle. These identities are: fathers and mothers of humanity and daughters of the Holocaust of enslavement; and authors and heirs of the Reaffirmation of the 60's, i.e., Reaffirmation of our Africanness and social justice tradition. And these leave us clear lessons and legacies which pose social struggle; moral grounding; human dignity, durability and adaptive vitality; and a profound commitment to excellence and achievement as indispensable to defining the best of what it means to be African and human in the world.

Now, to ask "am I all I ought to be?" is to recognize the many ways our identity and the excellence it demands are eroded, undermined and otherwise damaged in the fire and furnace of oppression. Indeed, it is Fanon, again, who reminds us that in the belly of the beast of oppression, those less able to withstand the acidic toll it takes on the human person, often go thru four stages of psychological disintegration. Thus, they: doubt themselves; deny themselves, i.e., their identity;

condemn themselves and then mutilate themselves both psychologically and physically. Fanon notes that in such a context of severe and savage oppression, they "wear the mask," desperately seeking relief from the racist reality surrounding us. And he rightly argues there is no relief or remedy except in struggle on a personal and collective level to defend one's humanity and free oneself from oppression and from the pathology it represents in the oppressor and reproduces in the oppressed.

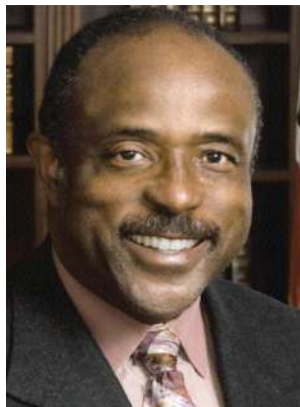
It is knowing who we are in the most expansive sense and reaffirming it in thought and practice that we can answer the question and honor the ethical imperative of being all we ought to be. Indeed, to be all we ought to be is to join in struggle to create a context of freedom, justice, well-being and peace in the world which aids us in realizing the fullness of our humanity and flourishing as persons and a people. To ask and answer the question "am I all I ought to be?" then, speaks to the interrelatedness of our identity as both African and human and the awesome responsibility this places on us to repair and radically

reorder the world. It is clear from the teachings of our ancestors and our long experience in history that how we conceive and conduct our personal lives shapes and even determines the well-being of our families and people, society and eventually the world. Our responsibility, then, is in expanding concentric circles from family to the whole of humanity and the world. It is in this understanding that the Odu Ifa teaches that "doing good worldwide is the best expression of character." And the Husia instructs us that we are morally obligated to seek and speak truth in high and low places; to demand and do justice everywhere; to protect and provide for the poor and vulnerable in every place; to do and spread goodness throughout the land; and to constantly repair and renew the world, making it more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

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.MaulanaKarenga.org.

ROD WRIGHT

'Harriet' My Choice for Movie of the Year



ROD WRIGHT

"Harriet" the movie is a portrayal, based on the life of the legendary African American heroine. It is not, nor is it intended to be a documentary of her remarkable life. At times during the movie, historical facts are noted on the screen. Harriet Tubman lived for 91 years, this movie covers about 8 to 10 years of her life. So we know there is much more to her life that we don't see in the movie. I pray the movie raises interest in Harriet Tubman, particularly among young people, many of whom had unfortunately never heard of Harriet Tubman.

Regrettably, the movie has raised controversy within the African American community. From its historical accuracy to the fact that the lead actor was British. I think we have to be careful that we don't let "The Perfect Become the Enemy of The Good." We can find issues with anyone and anything. "Harriet" is not perfect, but if it inspires young people to learn more about, the real Harriet Tubman, the Underground Railroad and the African Holocaust that is the true history of this country, I'm satisfied and hope it wins the Academy Award for best picture! If "Harriet" provides a context for the current movement for reparations, that's a bonus!

I want to provide my critique of the movie and another perspective to some of the criticisms of "Harriet." First, I thought it was most important that the movie captured the spirituality of Ms. Tubman. I believe Ms. Tubman was anointed by God to do what she did. Just as God chose "little" David to fight Goliath, he choose little five foot Araminta Ross (Her name at birth) to be the Moses (Who Had a Speech Imped-

torically correct, again so what. The producers took some license to fit this story into a two-hour movie. This means many parts of Harriet's story didn't make it into the final production. It was not a "Biopic" about Harriet Tubman.

I've seen the movie THREE times with audiences of young people, virtually all of whom came out with a deep respect for the challenges Ms. Tubman fought through. Many wanted to learn more about the life of Ms. Tubman. Sadly, many of them had not heard of Harriet Tubman or the Underground Railroad, this is a failure of our school system, and the parents who should see to it that our children learn their history, assuming the parents know it. I've heard much criticism and vitriol about the movie from well-intentioned people I respect. In some instances, I believe we must have seen different movies. I don't know anyone who came out of the movie without a newly found or increased respect and admiration for Ms. Tubman. Many

have purchased books or went on line to learn more about the real Harriet Tubman, this is positive to me, much more important than some of the "nit-picking" I've heard. Baseball great Jackie Robinson once said, every time he took the field he carried the hopes and dreams of every little colored boy who ever dreamed of playing major league baseball. Let's not put that kind of weight on the backs of our young film makers.

I applaud the efforts of the African American filmmakers. "Harriet" was written and directed by Kasi Lemmons, an African American woman filmmaker. It was produced by Debra Martin Chase, again, an African American woman. Gregory Allen Howard, an African American man, was also a principal writer of the screenplay. Charles King, another African American man was an executive producer. Movie making is a business, people risk capital to make a profit. For a

[See WRIGHT A-8]

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Celebrate the Holidays at Winter Wonderland in South L.A.

BY L.A. CITY COUNCILMEMBER MARQUEECE HARRIS DAWSON

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in South Los Angeles. The tree is lit on Century and Broadway, Spotify released their zillionth holiday playlist and Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza has become a Winter Wonderland filled with holiday decorations and a melanated Santa Clause. December can quickly become a month-long sprint from store to holiday gathering and everywhere in between. Sometimes we can allow holiday stress to define the holiday season. We try to budget for more gifts or try to squeeze in more holiday house visits than Mr. Claus himself, but our holiday memories are rarely about the stuff. The toys and gadgets, even those most desired, will gather dust before long. How many of these holiday gifts do we remember years later? Our strongest memories are connected to the people we love and as

adults, children remember their family or community traditions more than any gift. Winter Wonderland is a remarkable opportunity to celebrate the simple things that make the holidays in South L.A. so beautiful and start or continue a family tradition and create lifelong memories.

I love to see our community come together and this year's Winter Wonderland promises to be our largest celebration yet. Since its debut in 2011, Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza's annual Winter Wonderland has attracted more than 20,000 attendees and featured past musical performances by GRAMMY-nominated artist, Aloe Blacc and Willow Smith. This year, GRAMMY-nominated singer and songwriter, Marsha Ambrosius will headline Winter Wonderland. Ambrosius, formerly of the R&B duo Floetry, will grace attendees with her Billboard chart-topping singles, as well as holiday favorites we can all sing along to. In

addition to the music performances, the event will be full of free winter activities for the entire family, including sledding and snowman building with real snow, holiday crafts and face painting, as well as hot chocolate and holiday treats.

I grew up in South L.A. and the holidays have always possessed a magical ability to encapsulate what makes our great district so special and unique. I vividly remember riding down Crenshaw Blvd as a kid and soaking up the holiday magic in the form of music, decorations and the overall festive atmosphere. You could literally feel the love around you along with a slight nip in the air. Times were different then. We were better off in some ways and worse in others. After growing up in South L.A., my parents moved my younger brother and me out of South L.A. to keep us safe during the crack cocaine epidemic. Being forced to leave hurt. This disconnect made the holi-



Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson stands in front of the Christmas Tree with the Watt's Primary chorus at the Holiday Tree Lighting in South L.A.

days even more important and crystallized my deep appreciation for family and community. My decision to run for L.A. City Council was motivated by my desire to ensure that South L.A. families and residents can gather and fellowship at safe, fun events here in our community.

Something as simple as a holiday celebration can make a real impact. Winter Wonderland brings the

magic of the holidays to Crenshaw Boulevard and allows every resident to experience the season with their friends and family right here in South L.A. As Councilmember, it's important for families to have opportunities to celebrate the holiday season right here in our community without needing to leave in order to find that same holiday magic I fell in love with as a child.

Winter Wonderland will also include a visit from Santa Claus, along with toy giveaways for children while supplies last. The event returns Saturday, December 14th, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., with opening performances starting at 4:30 p.m. I hope to see many new and familiar faces at Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza's upper deck along Crenshaw Blvd. this Saturday.

Compton deserves to be healthy. This new campaign will help make that a reality.

BY DARIN BRAWLEY AND JIM MANGIA

There are lots of notable things about the city of Compton. It has a rapidly improving school system. It's a stable, multi-racial community with a long history of African American empowerment and a growing Latinx population. Above all, Compton is a city where neighbors take care of each other. That's the spirit behind a newly launched public health campaign, Compton Healthy, that aims to improve the health of the 100,000 people who call Compton home -- because despite the community values which make Compton so strong, there are troubling health trends that must be addressed.

Currently, St. John's Well Child and Family Center operates four health centers in Compton, with another set to open early



Darin Brawley



Jim Mangia

next year. As the largest community health center network serving the city of Compton, and the longest serving health provider here, St. John's has a particular connection to Compton -- and a particular investment in improving the health of its residents.

Compton Unified runs 35 schools serving approximately 23,000 students, and has seen dramatic improvement in education attainment and access in recent years. Although we are

proud of the continuous improvement we are experiencing in education, equally important is the health of our community. That's why St. John's Well Child and Family Center and Compton Unified are working to create synergy through Compton Healthy, providing critical health services that will enable our community to thrive.

Together, we are working to continue improving access to health care and disease indicators through a

full-scale public health campaign that will substantially move the needle on health for Compton families. As we know, access to a doctor is only one part of what a person needs to get healthy.

Right now, life expectancy in Compton is five years below the L.A. County average. There's a lack of recreational and park space which keeps kids and adults alike from living healthy, active lives. Lung cancer deaths in Compton are 70% higher than L.A. County as a whole. Finally, Compton has higher rates of sexually transmitted infections, a higher rate of uninsured residents, and the highest asthma rates of any city in the County.

Compton Healthy aims to combat these health

issues through a number of new programs like hearing and vision checks at local preschools; education, testing and treatment for all high schoolers and college students about reproductive health; mobile clinic days at all Compton schools for students to get screenings and physicals; rotating Compton high school students through our school based health center at Dominguez High School; diabetes classes, education and sustained treatment; and more. We also hosted the 8th annual Compton Walk for a Cure, attended by thousands of people to uplift cancer survivors, provide free breast exams, and raise awareness around reducing the risk of breast cancer.

Overall, the campaign will be a way to show that

public health can be improved by community health centers partnering with other local institutions around a common commitment to population health, building deeper relationships with residents along the way.

At the end of the day, we all believe that every single person has the right to affordable, accessible health care -- and that access to health care is a necessary catalyst for justice and dignity. That's why we're excited to work with Comptonians to build a city we can all be proud of.

Darin Brawley serves as the Superintendent of Compton Unified School District and Jim Mangia serves as the President and CEO of St. John's Well Child and Family Center.

Arts and Cultural Workforce in L.A. County Lacks Diversity

BY CITY NEWS SERVICE

The staff and volunteers serving arts and cultural organizations in Los Angeles County are less diverse than the general population, according to one of three related studies released today.

The Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture highlighted the results of three reports related to diversity, equity and inclusion in the arts:

- 2019 LA County Arts and Culture Workforce Demographics Study;
- From Words to Action: Implementation of the Organizational Grant Program's New Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Requirement; and
- What People Talk about When They Talk About the Arts.

The demographics

study, conducted by Southern Methodist University's National Center for Arts Research, found that the county's cultural workforce is 59% non-Hispanic white, though workers under the age of 34 tend to be more racially and ethnically diverse.

Researchers found that women comprise 63% of the arts and culture workforce.

The DEI study found that grant applicants to the county department define diversity in various ways. Some focus on the diverse makeup of their boards, staff, or artist communities, while others focus on diversity in the communities they serve.

The department's Research and Evaluation Division offered recommendations in that report for how arts organizations can strengthen their commit-

ment to DEI.

A primary focus of the new department is to ensure that every county resident has access to the arts. The final report relies on interviews with deeply committed supporters of the arts from across the county to identify themes that speak to why people participate in the arts.

The report found that people who are highly engaged with the arts do not always call or think about those experiences as "art experiences." People value art they can experience together in shared public spaces and see the benefits as material and tangible, as well as emotional and spiritual.

The full reports can be found at: <https://www.lacountyarts.org/learning/research-evaluation/research-lab>.

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Equity {continued from Pg. A-1}

the city is an equitable and inclusive place to live for people of all races and ethnicities. 85% said that they supported establishing an ORE.

“This focus on fairness and equity will matter to all demographic groups that have been historically discriminated against, including Native Americans and members of our transgender community, who have also faced incredible impediments to equal opportunity and fairness in all aspects of mainstream society,” said Councilmember O’Farrell. “Today, the work that Herb Wesson and I started years ago takes an important step, and the city will staff an office to keep us focused on making sure that we incorporate equity and opportunity into our overall approach

as policymakers.”

The ORE would formalize the city’s commitment to addressing systemic racial disparities. The office would have a number of duties, including working to repair harms from previous policies that created, upheld or exacerbated racial disparities, and correcting disparate outcomes seen in areas such as education, employment, wealth, housing and health. The ORE would analyze city policy and programs for the potential effects on various communities and consult with city departments to establish plans to address racial disparities within individual departments throughout the city.

“Creating the Office of Racial Equity is a critical step towards acknowledging and remediating the ef-



City Council President Herb Wesson speaking in front of City Hall. COURTESY PHOTO

fects of racial bias in Los Angeles city policies,” said Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson. “Disparities across housing, education, wealth, employment, and health are not accidental. They are

the result of historic and systemic factors including biased and discriminatory government decisions, policies, and practices targeting racial and socioeconomic minorities. I’m proud to introduce this mo-

tion and stand with my colleagues committed to creating a more equitable city and hope the Office of Racial Equity will inspire similar endeavors from other legislators.”

“Today marks a re-

newed commitment by the City of Los Angeles to proactively advance racial justice,” said Alberto Retana, president & CEO of Community Coalition. “This vote is the culmination of citizens coming together throughout the city to talk with one another, share their experiences and look for viable ways to address inequity.”

The motion passed with a 14-0 vote. The next step will be for the Chief Legislative Analyst and the City Administrative Officer to develop a study on the steps necessary to create the Office of Racial Equity, consulting with community partners and with the embRACE LA initiative. The report will also include an analysis of the staffing and budget required from the 2020-21 Fiscal Year Budget.

Chef {continued from Pg. A-6}

pany let him go.

Often, there are setbacks for formerly incarcerated men and women when they are trying to find work. Because of this, many people go back to their old lifestyle and end up back in prison. It is a vicious cycle. Fortunately for Corbin, he was able to find another job doing what he loves, cooking. He got a job at Locol Watts where he was again, soon promoted. Within six months he was the research and development chef of the restaurant and the director of operations.

The owners of Locol, Daniel Patterson and Roy

Choi, were very impressed with Corbin and gave him opportunities to work at their fine dining restaurants to get hands on experience on culinary development. This led to them partnering with Corbin to open Alta Adams where Corbin is currently the executive chef. In the creation of Alta Adams, Corbin wanted to make sure to give people the same opportunities that he received. He gives professional jobs and opportunity for growth to formerly incarcerated men and women.

“At ALTA we hire differently than the rest of the culinary industry. We



Watts native and Alta Adams Executive Chef, Keith Corbin is set to open his first solo restaurant project, Louella’s Cali Soul, early 2020. PHOTO CREDIT: KEVIN CORBIN

provide opportunity for underserved communities and the people that come from these communities. I’ve been to prison, our

CDC Chef has been to Federal prison and our General manager has been to prison,” said Corbin. “Alta is one of the hottest new

restaurants in L.A. and is being run and operated by formally incarcerated inmates that have reformed. At any other restaurants we probably wouldn’t have gotten a job any further than dishwasher. Our vibe at Alta is different.”

The vibe at Alta is doing something right as Corbin was offered a chance to open his own restaurant from two diners.

“Two gentlemen came into ALTA for dinner enjoyed the food, service and ambience so much that they asked to speak with the chef,” said Corbin. “When I came to their table, I was handed a business card and was asked to

reach out to them which I did. Sometime later, these two gentlemen gave me an offer that I couldn’t refuse. From there Louella’s Cali Soul was born.”

Corbin named his restaurant after his grandmother Louella, his daughter Cali, and his favorite food Soul. However, it is not the usual take on soul food. The menu will feature grain bowls, with soulfully cooked vegetables and meat. Corbin will bring in some aspects of African cuisine as well and work with local farmers. Louella’s Cali Soul will open early 2020 and Corbin will remain executive chef at Alta Adams.

Wright {continued from Pg. A-6}

movie like this, the risk is great that mass audiences will retreat from slavery related issues. Still others won’t be satisfied that the issues of slavery weren’t addressed sufficiently. There are White folks who would like us to forget the role of their ancestors in the slave trade and African Holocaust in this country. Against these odds, “Harriet” has taken in over \$30 million in the early receipts, more than double the studio projections. Had the studios allotted a proper promotional budget, it would have done even better. This suggests there is clearly a market for more stories about African American history in this country.

I came out of the movie with an even greater respect for the legend of Harriet Tubman. I learned things I didn’t know, which led me to purchase some books on Harriet Tubman to fill in other things I didn’t know. I even bought books for my grandchildren. I take exception to a number of critics of the movie who claimed it was poorly made. I found the movie well-made and acted. I appreciated the dialogue and the quality of the cinematography. Clearly, there were sad depictions of Black people, but these were largely historically accurate. Slaves and free Black People of that day had to give special deference to white people. Given the need for “Black Lives Matter” today some things haven’t changed! Due to extreme poverty, many Black people of the day wore ill-fitting, hand-me-down clothing and were not always well groomed. I don’t know if I ever saw Ms. Tubman in the movie portrayed in a derogatory or degrading manner that was unrealistic.

Again, “Harriet” is not a biography or “BIOPIC” of Harriet Tubman. Ms. Tubman lived 91 years. This movie only covers about 8-10 years of her life. Obviously, since it begins with her as an adult, there

is much of her early life we are not shown in the movie. For some parts of her early life we get as flashbacks. The movie is centered in Maryland, she escapes to Philadelphia via the Underground Railroad, where she is helped by Black businessman, William Still, that’s a historical fact. She is assisted by various people on her way to Philadelphia via the Underground Railroad, again historical fact. She was assisted on her travels by free Black Minister Samuel Green, historical fact. She fought for the United States in the Civil War and led the Combahee River Raid that is a historical fact.

In the Bible, Book of John 21:25 “Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have enough room for the books that would be written. This is a two hour movie, clearly there are events that didn’t make it into the movie. Similarly, we could debate issues of her personality and how she might have approached different things. Unfortunately, we don’t have any living witnesses to ask. The filmmakers did consult a historian and scholar on Harriet Tubman as to how she thought Harriet might have reacted in given situations. The important thing is that no material facts were embellished or denigrated.

I didn’t find the movie Harriet, weak, confused or lacking courage. In the movie, Harriet jumps off a bridge to freedom, (may not have happened) but hardly the act of someone lacking courage. She ran day and night from dogs and slave catchers. I saw a strong powerful woman in this movie. I didn’t see the lack of courage or confidence, some complained about. That little lady who addressed the regiment of men before leading the mission in the Civil War showed courage, confidence, and tactical skills.

Harriet Tubman suffered from what have been referred to as spells. This is again, a matter of historical fact. Some historians speculate she may have had narcolepsy, epilepsy or injuries from having her skull fractured as a teen, we don’t know. This makes her story all the more remarkable. I believe Ms. Tubman was chosen by God. All of the writings on her referred to her deep spirituality. Many critics of the movie make no reference to this important aspect of her life. Psalms 46:10 says, “Be still, and know that I am God.” The spells may have been God’s way of communicating with Ms. Tubman. In the historical writings and in the movie, Ms. Tubman said it was God who led her over the rough terrain and evading the slave trackers when asked how she made her many journeys. I appreciate the fact that her spirituality was a central part of the movie.

Psalms 23:4 says, “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. I will fear no evil for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff they comfort me.” This was the motivation for Ms. Tubman. While she couldn’t read, clearly she had a great memory and we know she was familiar with the Bible as she was close to Rev. Green as a child, again a historical fact.

I know some purists simply reject the movie because they feel it wasn’t scholarly enough. That every item in the life of Ms. Tubman was not done to their satisfaction. I go back to the Bible. In the book of Mark 9:38, “Teacher, said John, we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.” “Do not stop him,” Jesus said. No one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, for whoever is not against us is for us.”

The message of Jesus in this passage is don’t we have enough people challenging us, that we are fighting each other? If “Harriet” made light of the accomplishments of Harriet Tubman, if it claimed reprehensible things about her character, I would be in line with a picket sign in front of

the theater. People complained about the British sister playing Harriet, this is just too silly for reasons too numerous to mention, but Julia Roberts in blackface, oh Hell No! “Harriet” performed the miracle of making Harriet Tubman and the Un-

derground Railroad come alive to many who had no idea. Could it have raised the other brutal aspects of slavery, of course? That’s the next movie!

In the words of my sister from Compton, “The Struggle Continues, To God Be the Glory.”

Roderick “Rod” Wright – Rod is a former California State Senator, and longtime community activist and businessman. He is also a Steward at Ward AME Church in Los Angeles.

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Incidents Like Gabrielle Union's 'Too Black' Hair Will Soon be Protected by New State Law

By CALIFORNIA BLACK MEDIA

On Jan. 1, 2020, California will enact a new law, the CROWN Act or Senate Bill 188, that protects Black women and men from discrimination in the workplace for wearing natural hairstyles.

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed the law, the first of its kind in the nation, in July.

Authorized by state Sen. Holly Mitchell (D-Los Angeles), who is African American, the bill expands the definition of racial discrimination to include hair.

"We believe this is just



Gabrielle Union

COURTESY PHOTO

the beginning of the end to hair discrimination. It's another chink in the armor of racial discrimination in this country and I'm just proud to be part of the movement,"

Mitchell said when the governor signed her bill.

Just weeks before the law takes effect, news broke that SAG-AFTRA, the Los Angeles-based labor union

representing more than 160,000 television and film industry professionals, is investigating the circumstances of popular actress Gabrielle Union's dismissal from her job as a judge on the NBC television series "America's Got Talent," partly because of her rotating natural hairstyles.

Four sources who claim to have insider information about the way decision makers at the television competition series treated Union say the actress received more than six notes describing her hairstyles as "too Black."

Union, known for her roles in more than 25 films



COURTESY PHOTO

and as the star of the long-running BET series "Being Mary Jane," has not made public comment about the incident. But her husband, NBA star Dwayne Wade, has tweeted about her firing.

If Union decides to sue NBC or the show's producers for hair discrimination, she will not be able to stand on the CROWN act, which

stands for Create a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural Hair, because of the timing of her case.

But the show producers have confirmed that they are speaking with Union's representatives to resolve their differences.

Some Twitter users are calling for a boycott of the show.

Millions of Dollars in Homelessness Aid May Be Coming to Your County, City

By CALIFORNIA BLACK MEDIA

Now is the time to start checking in with your city council and county board to inquire how they will allocate millions of dollars in emergency homelessness aid Gov. Newsom has released to counties and cities across the state.

Gov. Newsom said to funnel the \$650 million aid

package to counties and cities, he had to bypass roadblocks set up by the Trump administration to delay the funding. President Trump has been a vocal critic of California's homelessness crisis.

The governor announced the unprecedented \$1 billion investment in fighting homelessness when he released his budget for the 2019-20 fiscal year earlier this year.

The \$650 million emergency spending is a part of it.

"California is doing more than ever before to tackle the homelessness crisis but every level of government, including the federal government, must step up and put real skin in the game," said Gov. Newsom. "California is making historic investments now to help our communities fight homelessness. But we have

work to do and we need the federal government to do its part."

California law requires local allocation of funding to be based on federally-approved 2019 Point in Time homelessness data. Although local governments and Continuums of Care have requested this data from the feds, they have not yet received it.

The governor said coun-

ties and cities can begin applying for and spending 75 percent of the money (\$500 million) while they wait on the numbers from the feds.

The governor has appointed Matthew Doherty, who has over 25 years of experience working on federal solutions to homelessness under the Obama and Trump administrations, as an expert advisor to his office

and state agencies.

"I am excited to work with Gov. Newsom, who has demonstrated national leadership addressing homelessness throughout his career, and be part of California's efforts to tackle the issue head on."

Together, San Bernardino, Kern and Riverside counties, for example, are expected to receive a total of approximately \$36 million.

The Soaring Cost of California Pensions is Hurting Employers and Taking Away Minority Contracts

By CALIFORNIA BLACK MEDIA

Keeping up with the high cost of pensions in California is hurting public sector employers, city budgets and leading to the firing of some minority money managers at CalPERS, the California Public Employee Retirement System, which is valued at \$387 billion, according to Bloomberg News.

In its annual report, released in November,

CalPERS confirmed that it risks falling into "low funding levels." If this happens, the agency responsible for managing the health and pension benefits of more than a million public employees in California may not be able to pay its bills or pay out its commitments.

The League of California Cities, which represents more than 400 municipalities across the state, is alarmed by the growing mandatory payments they

have to cough up to CalPERS for employee pensions and benefits, too, according to CalMatters. Between fiscal years 2016 and 2017, that number skyrocketed by more 8 billion.

In an effort to streamline its own costs, CalPERS announced last week that it is scaling back on its "Emerging" equity fund program. Launched in 1991 to increase diversity among its portfolio managers, the program contracts external

money managers, mostly women and minority-owned firms managing assets worth less than \$2 billion who are charged with investing on behalf of the largest public pension system in the United States.

The returns those "emerging" managers were bringing in fell below the agency's targets by 126 "basis points," according to an agency spokesperson.

The Rev. Al Sharpton, president and founder of the

National Action Network, said CalPERS' decision to cut the minority money managers is "unacceptable" and comes as a surprise to him.

"Last year, the National Action Network and I met with Marci Frost and Ted Eliopoulos from CalPERS in Sacramento, both of whom committed to increasing the utilization of diverse asset managers across all asset classes by creating a level playing field," Sharpton told California Black Media. "It

is clear that Ted is gone and the board has inoculated the new CIO, Ben Meng, from finding and utilizing high performing talented diverse managers that reflect the diversity of the pensioners.

In an October memo, CalPERS CEO, Marci Frost said the agency is "restructuring" its emerging manager program, "reducing" the number of managers, and cutting the assets those investors manage from \$3.6 billion to \$500 million.

What Will California Do With Its \$7 Billion Surplus?

By CALIFORNIA BLACK MEDIA

Next year, expect big fights among state government officials and your representatives in the state legislature about how the huge windfall of cash in the state's savings account should be spent.

California's nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office

(LAO) recently predicted that the state will have a \$7 billion surplus by the end of this fiscal year. The following year, California's savings account is projected to grow to more than \$18 billion.

"As Washington soaks Americans with a trillion dollars in debt to pay for tax cuts that benefit the wealthy and destroys the social safe-

ty net, our state is now doing more than ever before to provide opportunity for all California families, especially those who are not equally sharing in our nation's prosperity," said Gov. Gavin Newsom, responding to the news.

"We are taking important steps so that growth is broadly shared, doing it all while saving record amounts for a rainy day," he added.

The LAO is recommending that legislators commit no more than \$1 billion of the "estimated \$7 bil-

lion surplus to ongoing pur-

poses in 2020/21." Last fiscal year, California had a record-breaking \$21.5 billion surplus of which the state spent about half on paying down the debt and bolstering reserves. It invested about \$4 billion

on ongoing projects and used to rest to fund one-time programs, including initiatives to solve the state's homelessness crisis.

By state law, the governor has until Jan. 10, 2020, to present his initial budget to the legislature.

Black Law Enforcement Speaks Out on Proposed Menthol Ban

Proposed legislation will have drastic and debilitating impact on communities of color.

NNPA NEWSWIRE

Several state legislatures have recently proposed laws which are being directed towards what may only be viewed as a mephitic approach to issues as they relate to youthful use of e-cigarettes and vaping.

We stress the concept that these proposed legislative acts would, in fact, be antithetical to healthy, robust and productive relationships between law enforcement and those they are sworn to protect as these new laws would presumably provide law enforcement officers with the authority, indeed the responsibility, to stop, interrogate and arrest persons on suspicion of selling or being in possession of untaxed cigarettes.

None of these legislative efforts appear to have considered the obvious detrimental impact on communities of color, where the preferred cigarette is menthol, and approximately 80% of all African Americans who do smoke prefer to smoke menthol cigarettes. They as well seem to have totally disregarded the strong recommendations of the 2009

Federal Tobacco Control Act in reaching out to subject matter experts when developing the actual language of their legislation. To date, there has been no known input from law enforcement experts, and specifically none from members of any of the nearly thirty organizations representing African American and Latino criminal justice practitioners in the Northern United States who are infinitely aware of the devastating impact of adverse law enforcement interaction in communities of color.

And we must not forget the deadly result of law enforcement interaction with Eric Garner in New York for exactly what these laws would prohibit-the illicit sale and possession of untaxed cigarettes.

We strongly urge members of the community to revert to their roots as civil rights activists and make their voices heard on this issue. And we demand that legislators reconsider their proposals and the obvious consequences it will have on a community that is now, again, being adversely targeted.

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Congresswoman Bass Forewarns Press of Theories Surrounding Impeachment Hearings

By SAYBIN ROBERSON
Contributing Writer

Congresswoman Karen Bass held a teleconference with the press ahead of the impeachment hearings set for December 4, 2019, and the 90-day government blackout. Following the near long-running investigation and multiple reports put out by various sources, the hearing will add much-needed clarity, an effort Bass was willing to share with the press.

Bass opened the conversation detailing the importance and urgency regarding the timeline the government officials are currently against. As the representative for District 37, Bass promises to update the press with calls and town halls.

"My committee was looking at obstruction of justice volume two of the Mueller Report. The intelligence committee was looking at volume one of the Mueller Report, which is the involvement of the Russians in our election process," she begins. "As we were caring on that investigation, it was interrupted by a whistleblower who came forward and actually brought information forward to the public that said what the president is doing now is actually interfering with the next election."

As she has stated multiple times, the Mueller Report deals with the past, but recently Adam Schiff created a nearly 400-page report regarding the conduct of Trump in 2019, which

discussed two main issues - Trump's misconduct and his obstruction of the House of Representatives impeachment inquiry.

Bass compares the impeachment of President Nixon to that of Trump's, saying "There isn't anything President Nixon did that even comes close to the misconduct and obstruction of President Trump."

In Schiff's report, four points of misconduct are identified. Firstly, his request for a political favor from the president of Ukraine. Secondly, he fired Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch, who was known for fighting corruption and the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine. Thirdly, he picked his agency, which created a shadow policy that investigated Joe Biden and lastly, froze military assistance and put a condition on meeting with him in White House based on a favor transaction.

Bass details various events where Trump implicated himself, including the infamous press conference in which he stated, "we do this all the time, get over it." With that statement, Bass says he essentially admitted to corruption, betrayal of national security in the service of foreign interest and abuse of power on live television.

The second item focused on was the obstruction of the impeachment inquiry by, "essentially preventing us from constitutional authority for congressional oversight an impeachment." "Remember howrepub-



COURTESY PHOTO
Congresswoman Karen Bass details various events where Trump implicated himself, including the infamous press conference in which he stated, "we do this all the time, get over it."

licans keep saying everything is hear-say?" she asks, "but ironically, if you believe the president is innocent, then why don't you bring forward the information?"

"The whole thing that they wanted to know, if he had the information, then why wouldn't he [whistleblower] come forward; we want to see the whistleblower," she said, adding, "I don't think they care about seeing the whistleblower; I think they are doing that so they will intimidate anyone else from being a whistleblower."

Bass then opened the floor for questions, the first

regarding young voters and what should be done to get them in the know and to the polls.

"We're going to have constitutional scholars basically talk about impeachment," she explains Schiff's hearing where they were called "fact witnesses". "They gave us a huge report with a ton of facts, now our job is to evaluate those facts and see if those facts warrant articles of impeachment."

"I am hoping that it will be clear and easy to understand," she says. "I frankly think the only way to deal with voters and young voters is to get out

there and do the grassroots method of reaching out and contacting them."

"I am very worried that this man who is sitting in the White House today is trying to subvert our elections, that's why we all have this sense of urgency," she says regarding President Trump. "We feel that this guy is dangerous; it's not about what he did before, it's about what he's doing now. That's the urgency, and it might result if we're successful in President [Mike] Pence."

Bass, who once believed Pence could become problematic, now says, "I don't think he's a

danger now." "I think that if we're able to remove Trump, we would see a number of Republicans jump in to run, I do not think Pence would go unchallenged."

Regarding Trump finishing his term or allowing Pence to take his position, she stated, "I think we have to move; I think we cannot wait. Even though the election is just a year away, we don't know what this guy is going to do over the next year."

"As impeachment moves forward, I'm worried that he is going to get more and more unstable and do more irrational things."

"One of the dilemmas we are facing right now is how many articles of impeachment should there be," Bass said. "We will have articles of impeachment that are the easiest to understand, the clearest and we are not going to take forever doing this."

"It is not accurate that the judiciary committee is going to do three to four articles of impeachment; we have not even had that discussion yet. But when we get to that point, it will be very clear which ones we are doing and why."

"The reason I believe we have to impeach him now and we have to impeach him quickly, is because I believe he is a clear and present danger to our nation, and I think he is going to continue to try to interfere in the 2020 election if we do not impeach him."

Democrats {continued from Pg. A-1}



AP PHOTO
Democratic leaders say Trump put his political interests above those of the nation in the impeachment hearings.

fought Russian aggression, the Democrats said.

Trump then obstructed Congress by ordering current and former officials to defy House subpoenas for testimony and by blocking access to documents, the charges say.

By his conduct, Trump "demonstrated he will remain a threat to national security and the Constitution if allowed to remain in office," the nine-page impeachment resolution says.

"If we did not hold him accountable, he would continue to undermine our election," Pelosi said later at a forum sponsored by Politico. "Nothing less is at stake than the central point of our democracy - a free and fair election."

Trump tweeted that to impeach a president "who has done NOTHING wrong, is sheer Political Madness."

He later headed to Pennsylvania for a reelection campaign rally, where he called the effort "impeachment lite" and promised it would lead to his reelection in 2020.

The outcome appears increasingly set as the House presses ahead toward impeachment as it has only three times in history against U.S. presidents, a test of the nation's system of checks and balances.

Democrats said they had a duty to act in what is now a strictly partisan undertaking, as Republicans stand with the president because Trump has shown a pattern of behavior that, if left unchecked, poses risks to the democratic process.

Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., the Judiciary chairman, said the president "holds the ultimate public trust. When he betrays that trust and puts himself before country, he endangers the Constitution; he endangers our democracy; he endangers our national security."

"No one, not even the president, is above the law," he said, announcing the charges before a portrait of George Washington.

Chairman Adam Schiff of the Intelligence Committee said, "We stand here today because the president's abuse of power leaves us with no choice."

Trump's allies immediately plunged into the fight that will extend into the new year. White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham said Democrats are trying to "overthrow" the administration. Campaign manager Brad Parscale said Democrats "don't have a viable candidate for 2020 and they know it." The president's son, Eric, embraced his fa-

ther's penchant for name-calling, assailing Pelosi and "her swamp creatures."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said he would be "totally surprised" if there were 67 votes in the chamber to convict Trump, and signaled options for a swift trial. He said no decision had been made whether to call witnesses.

In drafting the charges against the president, Pelosi faced a legal and political challenge of balancing the views of her majority while hitting the Constitution's bar of "treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanors."

Some liberal lawmakers wanted more expansive charges encompassing the findings from special counsel Robert Mueller's probe of Russian interference in the 2016 election. Centrist Democrats preferred to keep the impeachment articles more focused on Trump's actions toward Ukraine as a clearer case.

The final resolution, slim in length yet broad in concept, attempted to find common ground by linking the Ukraine inquiry to the Mueller probe in two separate lines. It said the abuse of power was consistent with Trump's "previous invitations of foreign interference in United States elections," while the

obstruction charge was consistent with his efforts to undermine U.S. government "investigations into foreign interference."

Democratic leaders say Trump put his political interests above those of the nation when he asked Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in a July phone call to investigate his rivals, including Democrat Joe Biden, and then withheld \$400 million in military aid as the U.S. ally faced an aggressive Russia. They say he then obstructed Congress by stonewalling the House investigation.

The articles say Trump "used the powers of the presidency in a manner that compromised the national security of the United States and undermined the integrity of the United States democratic process."

The first article, on abuse of power, says Trump "corruptly" solicited Ukraine to investigate his political rivals.

The second article, Obstruction of Congress, says that Trump directed defiance of the House's ability to conduct its legal oversight like no other president "in the history of the republic."

Trump insisted in a new tweet that when he asked Ukraine's president "to do us a favor" with the investigations, "us" is a reference to USA, not me!" Democrats, however, say Trump's meaning could not have been clearer in seeking political dirt on Biden, his possible opponent in the 2020 election.

Republicans stand with the president even if they don't fully address his actions. House GOP Leader Kevin McCarthy said, the vote would be on impeachment not "whether a call is perfect."

While the impeach-

ment is focused on the Ukraine matter, Trump's actions toward Russia continue to underlie the debate. On Tuesday, Trump met at the White House with Sergey Lavrov, the Russian foreign minister just back from Paris efforts to revive peace talks with Ukraine.

At the same time, a top adviser to the Ukraine president, Andriy Yermak, disputed key impeachment testimony from U.S. Ambassador Gordon Sondland, telling Time magazine the two did not speak of the investigations Trump wanted during a Warsaw meeting.

The next steps are expected to come swiftly after months of investigation into

the Ukraine matter and special counsel Mueller's two-year Russia probe.

In his report, Mueller said he could not determine that Trump's campaign conspired or coordinated with Russia in the 2016 election. But he said he could not exonerate Trump of obstructing justice and left it for Congress to determine.

Even as she pushed ahead with the impeachment proceeding, Pelosi announced an agreement with the White House on a new U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade deal, a top priority for the president as well as many centrist Democrats. It too, could get a vote next week.

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A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

Have you ever known someone whose attitude seems to be too good to be true? Do you know someone who always seems to find the positive in life and wears a smile no matter what they may be experiencing? Over the years I've known a few people that fit this description and I wondered how they could carry on this way day after day. Some people have even thought of me in this fashion, but I know that it is not easy; and it is a choice one makes on purpose every day. It is a practice.

I recently went to the movies to see the film, "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood." The movie gave an insight into the life of Mr. "Fred" Rogers from the perspective of a journalist named Lloyd Vogel who was assigned by Esquire Magazine to do a piece on him being a hero. As Lloyd interviewed Mr. Rogers and spent time with him, he felt that the image he projected was too good to be true. He felt that he must be putting on an act. Lloyd's personal attitude or spirit came across to me as more pessimistic than optimistic. Not really trying to see the positive side of a situation.

Over the course of time, in the various conversations Lloyd and Mr. Rogers had together, the tables began to turn, and Mr. Rogers began to ask Lloyd questions -- making Lloyd a bit agitated

and uncomfortable. Lloyd had no desire to open up and share anything about himself or personal life, but there was something about the sincerity of the way Mr. Rogers spoke to him that made the walls of his hesitation begin to come down. Because of the genuine interest Mr. Rogers showed in Lloyd he allowed himself to become vulnerable, which ultimately began the process of healing for some of the past issues in Lloyd's life. It's amazing how people will open up when they feel someone is genuinely interested in them.

This scenario really spoke to me because Lloyd's main problem centered around his relationship with his father and some issues that were from his childhood. When Mr. Rogers was talking with Lloyd, one of the questions he asked was, "have you forgiven your father?" He shared with him how important forgiveness is and although we may never get to a place where we can forget, it is never too late to forgive someone. This is the same thing I experienced. I had to learn how to forgive both of my parents for what I experienced as a child regarding the way I was treated by both my mother and father. I've never forgotten what happened to me, but I have been able to forgive them and move forward with my life.

In order to have more

good days than bad days and to make them beautiful, we must learn to release some things in our life that continue to hold us back. I'm not saying this is easy because it isn't, but it is possible. We must remember that it is a choice we make every day to practice looking at life as the glass half full verses half empty. We must learn to identify our hot buttons that can send us off into a negative direction and learn to control them so that we have the discipline to make choices that will have better results.

Watching the film about Mr. Rogers, I never paid attention to the "message behind the message" of what he was delivering day after day on his program. He really wanted to touch the lives of children and hopefully have a positive impact on how they dealt with life. Well, I would have to say he did a pretty good job! Thank you Mr. Rogers for helping to make neighborhoods a little more beautiful.

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How Long Is Yours? 'I Got So Tired of Him, I Just Let Him Get Away With It!' Part 2

I left off last week talking about Ike Turner, former husband of famous singer, Tina Turner. He kept coming to my mind even until now, a gifted artist. I wonder about people in general and sometimes specific persons; that is, what are they running after; what are they searching for; what are they seeking; what are they pursuing? Some are pursuing fame, wanting to attain awards in their field. Of course, not everyone has that state of mind. Some artists just have in their heart to be the best they can be and if awards are received, its because it comes to them and not they are pursuing. Some people want to be looked at, adored, acknowledged. Then, I have been thinking on those who search only to find that their search is null and void--all they end up doing is accomplishing-achieving self destruction running after material rewards, unless they accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior for refuge. Nobody gets away with anything. Everything has residuals, consequences. What you sow is what you reap. Someone asked, "What about grace?" About accepting Jesus Christ, He works through the Holy Spirit. And He works per-

sistently by increments and then you wake up so to speak and find you have been freed from some of your problematic habits. That's how He works; quietly sometimes and loudly other times. He's always working, molding and forming to His likeness. Ephesians 4:7 says believers have a measure of grace. Even God, who is gracious and kind gives grace to those who are not in Christ. By that I mean, it is God's great desire that everyone is saved. Everyone is given opportunity to change and receive eternal salvation. That's God's generous free gift. You cannot buy it, nor can you earn it. The free gift cannot be purchased. You can work incessantly, but your bottom line will add up to "zero." Because it is not a wage paid gift. It's about "faith." He pours his blessings on the unsaved too. He rains on the just and the unjust. Everyone gets a chance. The question is: How long is your measure of grace? I would like to think everyone wants Our Lord's free gift; His "charis," undeserved favour. Why do we say, "His undeserved favour?" Because there is only one who is "good." We may think we are the greatest," but no

one can even come close to His grandeur, His magnificence, His glory, His sovereignty--He who performs at the pleasure of His own will. Some people think they are prosperous and famous because of their own selves. The truth of the matter is "nothing happens without Almighty God allowing it to happen. So, one asks, "How is it that so great pain is in the world?" The original sin of Adam and Eve set us behind, thwarted what God had intentionally planned for us and man's own wayward behavior has prevented. But it's not permanent. You know the adversary has only a short time and he will be cut off. Meanwhile, hold fast until He returns and finds us faithfully watching and waiting as He also blesses us, His children. Ask Dr. Jeanette Parker™ Ask Dr. Jeanette™ www.Ask-DrJeanetteParker.com; Articles copyright © "Inquiring Minds Want To Know"

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR CONNECT SOCIAL

Date: December 9, 2019
Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), as Lead Agency, has prepared a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) (SCH# 2019011061) for Connect SoCal (2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Connect SoCal is a long-range regional transportation plan that provides a blueprint to help improve the balance between land use and transportation systems in the region. The SCAG region is comprised of six counties: Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura.

Connect SoCal provides transportation projects and land use strategies to help achieve a coordinated balance of land uses and transportation investments to improve mobility, promote sustainability, facilitate economic development and preserve the quality of life in the region. It envisions future regional growth that is well coordinated with the transportation system improvements, as well as anticipates new transportation projects planned for the region. It also incorporates best practices for increasing transportation choices and transportation infrastructure expenditures; encouraging reduced dependence on single-occupant automobiles; and increasing jobs/housing balance and land use/transit coordination, where feasible, in all parts of the region.

The Draft PEIR evaluates the following resource areas: Aesthetics; Agriculture and Forestry Resources; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Energy; Geology and Soils; Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Land Use and Planning; Mineral Resources; Noise; Population and Housing; Public Services; Recreation; Transportation and Traffic, Tribal Cultural Resources; Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire. Additionally, the Draft PEIR will evaluate three alternatives (No Project, Existing Plans-Local Input, and Intensified Land Use).

The Draft PEIR is available for a **public review and comment period for at least 45-days from December 9, 2019 to January 24, 2020. Written comments will be accepted no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 24, 2020.** A copy of the Draft PEIR is available at: <http://connectsocial.org> and at SCAG's Los Angeles office. CDs are available for review at major libraries in the region (contact SCAG for specific locations). Comments may be submitted using an online form at <http://connectsocial.org> or via email at 2020PEIR@scag.ca.gov. A public workshop will take place at SCAG's Los Angeles office, Room Policy-Meeting-A, located at the address shown above on **Thursday, January 9, 2020, from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.** Video conferencing of the public workshops is available from SCAG's regional offices and videoconferencing sites. For more information on the locations of SCAG's regional offices and videoconferencing sites, please visit SCAG's website at: <https://www.scag.ca.gov/about/Pages/SCAGOffices.aspx>



CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITY
 for Contractors, Subcontractors, Suppliers

The Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County Invite Bids for the Construction of:

JOINT OUTFALL "H" UNIT 5A TRUNK SEWER REHABILITATION PHASE 2

(Bid Opening January 28, 2020 - Estimate \$3,000,000 - \$5,000,000)

Contracting and Supply Opportunities Include:
 FRP Pipe; CIPP Liner; PVC Spiral Wound Liner; Manhole Construction; Manhole Rehabilitation With Arrowlock and Fiberglass; Flow Bypass

The Sanitation Districts encourage participation of minority, women, disadvantaged, disabled veterans, and small business enterprises.

Plans and Specifications may be obtained at the Sanitation Districts' Engineering Counter
 1955 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601
 (562) 908-4288, Ext. 1205
 Visit our Web site at "www.lacsd.org" and click on "New Construction Projects"

CNS-3322138#

FEE WAIVER: If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the clerk for a fee waiver form. The court may order you to pay back all or part of the fees and costs that the court waived for you or the other party.

EXENCION DE CUOTAS: Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario un formulario de exención de cuotas. La corte puede ordenar que usted pague, ya sea en parte o por completo, las cuotas y costos de la corte previamente exentos a petición de usted o de la otra parte.
 1. The name and address of the court are (El nombre y dirección de la corte son): Superior Court of California, County of Ventura, 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009
 2. The name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's attorney, or the petitioner without an attorney, are: (El nombre, dirección y número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante si no tiene abogado, son): Sophia Henrietta Berkley, 860 Laurel Park Circle, Camarillo, CA 93012, (213) 280-3408
 Date (Fecha): April 3, 2019
 MICHAEL D. PLANET, Clerk, by (Secretario, por) KATIE L. MUCKEY, Deputy (Asistente) (SEAL)
 12/12, 12/19, 12/26/19, 1/2/20
 CNS-3320518#
 LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
 Case No. 19CMCP00154
 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
 Petitioner of: James Uriel Sandoval and through mother Yvette Sandoval for Change of Name
 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
 Petitioner James Uriel Sandoval and through mother Yvette Sandoval filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
 James Uriel Sandoval to James Victor Sandoval
 The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
 Notice of Hearing: Date: 01/21/20, Time: 8:30 a.m., Dept.: A
 The address of the court is 200 West Compton Blvd., Compton, CA 90220
 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: L.A. Sentinel
 Date: 11/19/19
 GARY Y. TANAKA
 Judge of the Superior Court
 12/5, 12/12, 12/19, 12/26/19
 CNS-3319188#
 LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
 Case No. 19SMCP00555
 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
 Petitioner of: Sahba Ghiasi Hafezi and Azad Qazi Zade (minor) for Change of Name
 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
 Petitioner Sahba Ghiasi Hafezi and Azad Qazi Zade filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
 Eva Sophia Zazi Zade to Eva Sophia Zade
 The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
 Notice of Hearing: Date: 1/3/2020, Time: 8:30, Dept.: K
 The address of the court is 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA, 90401
 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Angeles Sentinel
 Date: 11/14/19
 LAWRENCE H. CHO
 Judge of the Superior Court
 11/21, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12/19
 CNS-3316226#
 LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
 Case No. 19STCP04855
 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
 Petition of: Johnny Ray Jones for Change of Name
 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
 Petitioner Johnny Ray Jones filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
 Johnnie Ray Jones to Johnny Ray Jones
 The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
 Notice of Hearing: Date: January 21, 2020, Time: 10:30 AM, Dept.: 44, Room: 418
 The address of the court is 111 N. Hill St., LA, 90012
 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: L.A. Sentinel
 Date: Nov. 13, 2019
 Edward B. Moreton, Jr.
 Judge of the Superior Court
 11/21, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12/19
 CNS-3316099#
 LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

NOTICE OF HEARING Request for Order Change Child Custody, Visitation (Parenting Time)
 Case Number: NF009732
 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
 Petitioner: Claudia M. Trujillo Respondent: Tejon Black To: Tejon A. Black, Respondent
 A Court Hearing will be held as follows:
 Date: 7-8-19 Time: 8:30am Dept.: 15 Room: 3300
 Address of court: 275 Magnolia Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90802
 WARNING to the person served with the Request for Order: The court may make the requested orders without you if you do not file a Responsive Declaration to Request for Order (form FL-320), serve a copy on the other parties at least nine court days before the hearing (unless the court has ordered a shorter period of time) and appear at the hearing. (See form FL-320-INFO for more information.)
 (Forms FL-300-INFO and DV-400-INFO provide information about completing this form.)

ORDER ON REQUEST TO CONTINUE HEARING
 Complete items 1,2,3, and 4.
 1.The hearing is currently scheduled for: 3/28/19
 2. Name of party who filed the Request for Order, Order to Show Cause, or other matter is: Claudia M. Trujillo
 3. Name of party asking to continue the hearing is: Claudia M. Trujillo
 4. The request to continue does not include temporary emergency (ex parte) order previously issued.
The court will complete the rest of this form.
6. Order granting request to continue hearing and notice of new hearing
 a. The court hearing is continued to the date, time, and location shown below:
 New Hearing Date: 10/21/19 Time: 8:30 AM Dept.: S15 Room: 3300
 Address of court: Same as noted above
7. Reason for the continuance
 a. The continuance is needed because
 The papers could not be served as required before the hearing date.
9. Service of order
 The documents listed in 10 must be served by: Per Code on Respondent/defendant
 Other orders regarding service: by publication
10. Documents for service
 A filed copy of this order (form FL-307) must be presented as the cover page to the following documents when served:
 A copy of the previously filed Request for Order, Order to Show Cause, or other moving paper
 Date: 11/14/19
 S/ MARIA PUENTE-PORRAS
 11/21, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12/19
 CNS-3315790#
 LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

ORDER ON REQUEST TO CONTINUE HEARING
 Complete items 1,2,3, and 4.
 1.The hearing is currently scheduled for: 8/28/19
 2. Name of party who filed the Request for Order, Order to Show Cause, or other matter is: Claudia M. Trujillo
 3. Name of party asking to continue the hearing is: Claudia M. Trujillo
 4. The request to continue does not include temporary emergency (ex parte) order previously issued.
The court will complete the rest of this form.
6. Order granting request to continue hearing and notice of new hearing
 a. The court hearing is continued to the date, time, and location shown below:
 New Hearing Date: 10/21/19 Time: 8:30 AM Dept.: S15 Room: 3300
 Address of court: Same as noted above
7. Reason for the continuance
 a. The continuance is needed because
 The papers could not be served as required before the hearing date.
9. Service of order
 The documents listed in 10 must be served by: Per Code on Respondent/defendant
 Other orders regarding service: by publication
10. Documents for service
 A filed copy of this order (form FL-307) must be presented as the cover page to the following documents when served:
 A copy of the previously filed Request for Order, Order to Show Cause, or other moving paper
 Date: 11/14/19
 S/ MARIA PUENTE-PORRAS
 11/21, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12/19
 CNS-3315790#
 LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
 Case No. 19SMCP00555
 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
 Petitioner of: Sahba Ghiasi Hafezi and Azad Qazi Zade (minor) for Change of Name
 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
 Petitioner Sahba Ghiasi Hafezi and Azad Qazi Zade filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
 Eva Sophia Zazi Zade to Eva Sophia Zade
 The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
 Notice of Hearing: Date: 1/3/2020, Time: 8:30, Dept.: K
 The address of the court is 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA, 90401
 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Angeles Sentinel
 Date: 11/14/19
 LAWRENCE H. CHO
 Judge of the Superior Court
 11/21, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12/19
 CNS-3316226#
 LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

previously issued.
The court will complete the rest of this form.
6. Order granting request to continue hearing and notice of new hearing
 a. The court hearing is continued to the date, time, and location shown below:
 New Hearing Date: 11/14/19 Time: 8:30 AM Dept.: S15 Room: 3300
 Address of court: Same as noted above
7. Reason for the continuance
 a. The continuance is needed because
 Other good cause as stated below
 awaiting proof of service by publication.
 11. A Responsive Declaration to Request for Order form FL-320 must be filed and served on or before (date):
 Other orders: If Publication POS is Valid, Court finds that @3:20 pm, Respondent had not appeared.
 If publication is invalid the matter shall be continued to a new date with publication 10/21/19 S/ MARIA PUENTE-PORRAS

ORDER ON REQUEST TO CONTINUE HEARING
 Complete items 1,2,3, and 4.
 1.The hearing is currently scheduled for: 2/3/2020
 2. Name of party who filed the Request for Order, Order to Show Cause, or other matter is: Claudia M. Trujillo
 3. Name of party asking to continue the hearing is: Claudia M. Trujillo
 4. The request to continue does not include temporary emergency (ex parte) order previously issued.
The court will complete the rest of this form.
6. Order granting request to continue hearing and notice of new hearing
 a. The court hearing is continued to the date, time, and location shown below:
 New Hearing Date: 2/3/2020 Time: 8:30 AM Dept.: S15 Room: 3300
 Address of court: Same as noted above
7. Reason for the continuance
 a. The continuance is needed because
 Other good cause as stated below
 Awaiting proof of service by publication.
9. Service of order
 The documents listed in 10 must be served by: 1/16/2020 on respondent/defendant
 Other order regarding service: Publication
10. Documents for service
 A filed copy of this order (form FL-307) must be presented as the cover page to the following documents when served:
 A copy of the previously filed Request for Order, Order to Show Cause, or other moving paper
 Date: 11/14/19
 S/ MARIA PUENTE-PORRAS
 11/21, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12/19
 CNS-3315790#
 LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

ORDER ON REQUEST TO CONTINUE HEARING
 Complete items 1,2,3, and 4.
 1.The hearing is currently scheduled for: 3/28/19
 2. Name of party who filed the Request for Order, Order to Show Cause, or other matter is: Claudia M. Trujillo
 3. Name of party asking to continue the hearing is: Claudia M. Trujillo
 4. The request to continue does not include temporary emergency (ex parte) order previously issued.
The court will complete the rest of this form.
6. Order granting request to continue hearing and notice of new hearing
 a. The court hearing is continued to the date, time, and location shown below:
 New Hearing Date: 10/21/19 Time: 8:30 AM Dept.: S15 Room: 3300
 Address of court: Same as noted above
7. Reason for the continuance
 a. The continuance is needed because
 The papers could not be served as required before the hearing date.
9. Service of order
 The documents listed in 10 must be served by: Per Code on Respondent/defendant
 Other orders regarding service: by publication
10. Documents for service
 A filed copy of this order (form FL-307) must be presented as the cover page to the following documents when served:
 A copy of the previously filed Request for Order, Order to Show Cause, or other moving paper
 Date: 11/14/19
 S/ MARIA PUENTE-PORRAS
 11/21, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12/19
 CNS-3315790#
 LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
 Case No. 19SMCP00555
 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
 Petitioner of: Sahba Ghiasi Hafezi and Azad Qazi Zade (minor) for Change of Name
 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
 Petitioner Sahba Ghiasi Hafezi and Azad Qazi Zade filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
 Eva Sophia Zazi Zade to Eva Sophia Zade
 The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
 Notice of Hearing: Date: 1/3/2020, Time: 8:30, Dept.: K
 The address of the court is 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA, 90401
 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Angeles Sentinel
 Date: 11/14/19
 LAWRENCE H. CHO
 Judge of the Superior Court
 11/21, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12/19
 CNS-3316226#
 LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

ORDER ON REQUEST TO CONTINUE HEARING
 Complete items 1,2,3, and 4.
 1.The hearing is currently scheduled for: 8/28/19
 2. Name of party who filed the Request for Order, Order to Show Cause, or other matter is: Claudia M. Trujillo
 3. Name of party asking to continue the hearing is: Claudia M. Trujillo
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 11/21, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12/19
 CNS-3315790#
 LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
 Case No. 19SMCP00555
 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
 Petitioner of: Sahba Ghiasi Hafezi and Azad Qazi Zade (minor) for Change of Name
 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
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 Eva Sophia Zazi Zade to Eva Sophia Zade
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 Notice of Hearing: Date: 1/3/2020, Time: 8:30, Dept.: K
 The address of the court is 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA, 90401
 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Angeles Sentinel
 Date: 11/14/19
 LAWRENCE H. CHO
 Judge of the Superior Court
 11/21, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12/19
 CNS-3316226#
 LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

ORDER ON REQUEST TO CONTINUE HEARING
 Complete items 1,2,3, and 4.
 1.The hearing is currently scheduled for: 8/28/19
 2. Name of party who filed the Request for Order, Order to Show Cause, or other matter is: Claudia M. Trujillo
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 S/ MARIA PUENTE-PORRAS
 11/21, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12/19
 CNS-3315790#
 LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
 File No. 2019315287
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
 ALBERT A. BLACKSHER TRUCKING,LLC, 335 E. ALBERTONI STREET STE 200 548, CARSON, CA 90746
 County of LOS ANGELES
 Registered owner(s): ALBERT A BLACKSHER TRUCKING,LLC, 335 E. ALBERTONI STREET STE 200 548, CARSON, CA 90746; State of Incorporation: CA
 This business is conducted by a limited liability company
 The registrant(s) started doing business on 12/20/19.
 I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)
 ALBERT A BLACKSHER TRUCKING,LLC
 S/ ALBERT A. BLACKSHER, Managing Member
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/06/2019.
 NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form.
 The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
 Original Filing: 12/12, 12/19, 12/26/19, 1/2/20
 CNS-3322546#
 LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
 File No. 2019315294
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
 B L A C K S H E R C O N T R A C T I N G ENTERPRISE,LLC, 3063 FIELD AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA 90016; State of Incorporation: CA
 This business is conducted by a limited liability company
 The registrant(s) started doing business on 12/20/19.
 I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)
 B L A C K S H E R C O N T R A C T I N G ENTERPRISE,LLC
 S/ ALBERT A BLACKSHER, Managing Member
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/06/2019.
 NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
 File No. 2019315294
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
 B L A C K S H E R C O N T R A C T I N G ENTERPRISE,LLC, 3063 FIELD AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA 90016; State of Incorporation: CA
 This business is conducted by a limited liability company
 The registrant(s) started doing business on 12/20/19.
 I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)
 B L A C K S H E R C O N T R A C T I N G ENTERPRISE,LLC
 S/ ALBERT A BLACKSHER, Managing Member
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/06/2019.
 NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
 File No. 2019315294
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
 B L A C K S H E R C O N T R A C T I N G ENTERPRISE,LLC, 3063 FIELD AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA 90016; State of Incorporation: CA
 This business is conducted by a limited liability company
 The registrant(s) started doing business on 12/20/19.
 I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)
 B L A C K S H E R C O N T R A C T I N G ENTERPRISE,LLC
 S/ ALBERT A BLACKSHER, Managing Member
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/06/2019.
 NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form.

The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
 Original Filing: 12/12, 12/19, 12/26/19, 1/2/20
 CNS-3322583#
 LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
 File No. 2019316257
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
 Arservices, 939 E 87th St., Los Angeles, CA 90002, County of LA
 Registered owner(s): Christy Coy, 939 E 87th St. Los Angeles, CA 90002; CA
 This business is conducted by: an Individual
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
 I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)
 S/ Christy Coy, Owner
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on December 9, 2019.
 NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form.
 The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
 Original: 12/12, 12/19, 12/26/19, 1/2/20
 CNS-3322576#
 LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
 File No. 2019312322
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
 GERALDINE WILLIAMS-REAL ESTATE TEAM, 36517 CALICO WAY, PALMDALE, CA 93550 County of LOS ANGELES
 Mailing Address: P. O. BOX 4803, CARSON, CA 90749
 Registered owner(s): GERALDINE WILLIAMS, 36517 CALICO WAY, PALMDALE, CA 93550
 This business is conducted by an Individual
 The registrant(s) started doing business on 09/2019.
 I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)
 S/GERALDINE WILLIAMS, Owner
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on



LOS ANGELES SENTINEL SPORTS

B-1 www.lasentinel.net

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019

Student Athlete of the Week: Troy Dye

By AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Writer

The hard work that linebacker Troy Dye put in during the season paid off for the Oregon Ducks on Friday in their 37-15 upset of the No. 5 Utah Running Utes in the Pac-12 Championship.

The Ducks will battle the Wisconsin Badgers in the Rose Bowl on New Year's Day.

While having a cast on to protect his injured right thumb, he made one interception, eight total tackles and 1.0 tackles for loss for six yards. Although he injured his thumb in the Ducks' October 19 game against Washington state, he only missed one game since the injury.

His defensive efforts helped the Ducks to an 11-2 overall record and an 8-1 Pac-12 record. The Ducks only allowed a total of 85



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL
Oregon linebacker, Troy Dye made eight tackles during the Pac-12 Championship game.

rushing first downs this season. Dye noted that the Oregon defense made stopping the run a priority.

"It's a huge emphasis ... so we try to focus on that and we set up drills, watch film," he said. "We emphasize on stopping the run game, work in the box and different schemes."

Their preparation proved to be advantageous, as they held Utah to 116

rushing yards in the title game.

For the past three seasons, Dye had led Oregon in tackles; he is the second player to make that achievement in the history of Oregon football. He is on the verge of leading for a fourth season, as Dye made 75 total hits and 46 solo tackles.

Dye also has 9.5 tackles for loss for 26 yards. He had a season high of 10 tackles

during the Ducks' season opener against Auburn and versus Arizona State.

Last spring, Dye earned his undergraduate degree in General and Social Sciences with an Emphasis in Crime, Law, and Society. Dye credited the tutoring center at Oregon for helping him excel in his studies.

"If I had a problem with my paper and have somebody help me with my paper, somebody that's qualified that's there that's professional," he said. "I think that's a big key to being able to have that safety net to go to them and know that you're gonna be okay and that you got help."

Getting a degree was a goal for Dye, he noted how relieved and excited he was to complete the accomplishment.

"It's just a surreal moment because you know how much hard work, how



CARLOS GONZALES/T.G.SPORTSTV1/
Dye currently leads the Oregon Ducks in tackles.

much time and dedication goes into getting a degree," he said. "How many late hours, how many times you stay up all night doing papers or doing a reading or have to wake up the next morning, go do a 6:00A.M. lift and you don't want to be there."

Dye took an interest in learning about sociology, and complemented their department at Oregon.

"I like the sociology department as a whole," he said. "I just like how the world works and how people think."

Since his freshman season at Oregon, Dye received recognition for his talent and effort. He was named on the Phil Steele All-Pac-12 second team for two consecutive years and was an ESPN True Freshman All-American in 2016.

Sparks 'Purple Print' Shows the Future of the Franchise

By AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports writer

The Los Angeles Sparks recently hosted The Purple Print: A Courtside View to tell their fans about their vision for the franchise in the 2020 season. The event comes in lieu of the Sparks winning big at the WNBA Team Business Awards.

Los Angeles won Franchise of the Year, Ticket Sales Performance of the Year, and Marketing Performance of the Year in the WNBA.

The league analyzes all 12 franchises for the awards for their ticket sales, partnership, and community engagement.

The Sparks front office wants to build on their victory; Sparks president and COO, Danita Johnson noted how the franchise



AP PHOTO/RINGO H.W. CHIU
Los Angeles Sparks' Chelsea Gray (12) drives against Minnesota Lynx's Odyssey Sims (1) during a WNBA basketball game between Los Angeles Sparks and Minnesota Lynx in Los Angeles, Sunday, Sept. 8, 2019. The Sparks won 77-68.

wants to focus on growth, innovation and community.

"We developed a campaign this year called 'Lead The Charge' and we're gonna take that to 2020 with us as well," Johnson said. "Lead The Charge' is more about not just winning

on the court, but what we do off the court."

Fans were invited to take a tour of the Staples Center to learn about the prices and perks of the 24/7 Membership. The franchise also explained their various group experience packages,

allowing fans to stand with the Sparks players during the national anthem, hi-five the players as they enter the court or rent out the court to conduct activities prior to the game.

A major emphasis during the Purple Print was expanding their fan base. Movie star and L.A. Sparks ambassador, Vivica A. Fox spoke and administrated a Q&A session with head coach Derek Fisher.

Fox noted how the Purple Print is a good way for fans to understand the franchise beyond what they see during games.

"After the game, when it's been a tough fight and they're program to get more stats and things like that, you really don't get to see their sense of humor, how they are and what things makes them tick," she said.

The "Set It Off" star brought awareness of how women's sports gets four percent of media coverage and one percent of sports sponsorship dollars. She asked Fisher a myriad of questions so fans could get a gauge of him and his views on the WNBA as well as the Sparks.

Fisher told the crowd that during his first season as head coach, he learned the importance of listening and being openminded. He sees the importance of gaining input from players, the front office and fans.

"As I'm moving from year one to year two, what I want to take from year one is a lot of the information I've learned, a lot of the things that I've gained," Fisher said. "But also to continue to build and connect to my basketball

instincts and the things that I know to be true in terms of playing."

The Sparks has a diverse group of partners which includes Subway, Cedars-Sinai, Model Atelier, the Vivica Fox Hair Collection, and Metro. In October the Sparks renewed their partnership with Nike.

Earlier this year, the Sparks launched the initiative "Spark the True You" a campaign to help homeless female veterans.

"The Sparks get 11,000 fans to the Staples Center, so we just have to imagine what it would be like if we can get these numbers to grow," Fox said. "I believe going into the 2020 season, we all can be successful together and we can cheer on our Sparks to a 2020 Championship."

L.A. Rams 'Level Up' to Beat the Seattle Seahawks

By AMANDA SCURLOCK,
Sports Writer

After scoring a road victory against the Arizona Cardinals, the Los Angeles Rams put in the effort offensively and defensively to defeat the Seattle Seahawks 28-21.

"We got the job done, so we did a better job than we did last week," said Rams running back, Todd Gurley. "Last week, we came out and put up field goals, this week we came out and put up touchdowns."

Rams quarterback, Jared Goff completed 293 passing yards, two interceptions and two touchdowns. Seahawks signal caller, Russell Wilson survived five sacks to make 245 passing yards.

During this game, Los Angeles partook in the league-wide initiative "My Cause My Cleats" where players wear customized cleats to bring awareness to a cause they support. Linebacker, Ogbonnia Okoronkwo brought awareness to the Brotherhood Crusade.

"When I read up on the Brotherhood Crusade, I saw that their beliefs and things that they do align to what I believe in," he said. "I choose them and this off-season, I plan on doing work with them."

His custom cleats are purple and gold with the Brotherhood Crusade logo on the heel, the Gainesville, Texas native gave a nod to the Los Angeles Lakers with the color scheme.



ROBERT TORRENCE/L.A. SENTINEL
Rams running back, Todd Gurley rushed for 79 yards and earned one touchdown.

"The Lakers are my secondary team, I'm a Rockets [fan] to the day I die, but I'm gonna show love to L.A.," Okoronkwo said.

The Rams defense flexed their muscles early; Ebukam sacked Wilson on the third down, forcing the Seahawks to execute a field goal in the first quarter. Goff made key advances by connecting with wide receiver, Robert Woods and tight end, Tyler Higbee.

Rams head coach, Sean McVay noted how Higbee is a "complete tight end."

"He's going to continue to be a big part of this

offense," McVay said. "Especially when you just look at how vital he's been over the last couple of weeks."

This set up running back, Malcolm Brown to get a touchdown from one yard out. Woods made a scoring rush on the next possession.

The Rams' defense bested the Seattle offense throughout the second quarter, corner Jalen Ramsey forced an incomplete pass on a fourth down to keep the Seahawks from scoring.

The Rams had a better chance of finding first

downs, mainly relying on their passing game. Goff targeted Higbee often for successful outcomes. With 0:59 left in the second quarter, Goff slung from the 10-yard line to Kupp to score.

Ebukam sacked Wilson with seconds left to end the first half, the Seahawks trailed 21-3.

"We didn't play our best game," Wilson said. "There was opportunities out there that we had, it just didn't go our way."

After the half, the Seattle defense challenged the Rams. Safety, Quandre Diggs intercepted two of Goff's slings, one resulting in a pick-6. A few plays

after the second pick, Aaron Donald sacked Wilson on a third down.

Wilson only secured two first downs in the third quarter. For any unsuccessful play Wilson made, the Rams house deejay D.J. Mal-Ski played hit songs of his wife, R&B star, Ciara.

Diggs interception return was the only touchdown Seattle scored. Wilson sent a 35-yard pass to wide receiver, DK Metcalf to reach the Rams' 21-yard line. However, Los Angeles only allowed Seattle one last field goal.

The Rams will travel to play the Dallas Cowboys on December 15 at 1:25 p.m.



COURTESY OF THE L.A. RAMS
Rams linebacker, Ogbonnia Okoronkwo's custom cleats honored the Brotherhood Crusade.



ROBERT TORRENCE/L.A. SENTINEL
The Rams currently have an 8-5 overall record.



The Celebration of Black Cinema Sparks Discussion on Diversity & Inclusion in Hollywood

By BRITTANY K. JACKSON
Contributing Writer

The Critics' Choice Association (CCA) recently held its Celebration of Black Cinema awards to honor some of the biggest names in Black Hollywood for the substantive work they've contributed to the industry and the mark they continue to leave on Black culture. The ceremony itself is inspired by the late Oscar Micheaux, penned as the world's first major Black filmmaker.

Held at the Landmark Annex Theatre in Hollywood, a slew of producers, writers, actors and Black film critics gathered for the remarkable night of celebration. Honorees included legendary actor and comedian, Eddie Murphy, cinematic sweetheart Nia Long, super director, producer and screenwriter, Kasi Lemmons and a true Brit, actor Chiwetel Ejiofor. Presenters included Academy Award-winning costume designer, Ruth E. Carter, Debra Martin Chase and Chaz Ebert. Former president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, Cheryl Boone Isaacs served as the night's hostess.

Prior to the ceremonies, the Sentinel caught up with Academy Award-winning actor Chiwetel Ejiofor, known for his gut-wrenching performance in "12 Years a Slave." We asked about Ejiofor's perspective on the state of Black cinema and he affectionately stated that "Black cinema has such a rich and long history and is not often, in isolation, celebrated." "It's important going forward," he said, "but it's also important in preserving moments in history for future generations to embrace."

Honored for his performance, as well as his directori-



PHOTO BY ROBERT TORRENCE, LA SENTINEL
"12 Years a Slave" actor Chiwetel Ejiofor honored for recent directorial and screenwriter debut in self-starring film, "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind."



PHOTO BY ROBERT TORRENCE, LA SENTINEL
"Harriet" director and screenwriter Kasi Lemmons pictured before receiving an honor for her extensive career in Hollywood at the Celebration of Black Cinema.



PHOTO BY ROBERT TORRENCE, LA SENTINEL
Cinematic sweetheart, Nia Long, attends the Critic's Choice Association Celebration of Black Cinema where she is honored for her longevity in entertainment.



PHOTO BY ROB LATOUR/VARIETY/REX
Legendary actor, comedian and performer, Eddie Murphy accepts the Critic's Choice Association Career Achievement Award at the Celebration of Black Cinema.

referring to him as one who is "authentic and values the audience." "He's one of the few actors who has perfected the art of playing alongside himself," she continued.

Murphy, who's relished as a staple in American film and comedy, says he remembers the days, nearly 40 years ago when "there were no African American film critics." Murphy went on to say that, "actually, there was one, and that n**** was crazy; I used to always want to fight him," he said jokingly. "The Nutty Professor," "Coming to America," and "Beverly Hills Cop" actor went on to express the sparsity of Black hair, makeup and wardrobe departments on to the non-existence of Black producers at the time. "It was rough," he said.

Murphy then sidesplittingly urged the audience to "go look at an old Sidney Poitier movie," saying, "Sidney is such a great actor, he was able to act like his hair was combed." The crowd burst into laughter, but we all knew just how far Black Cinema has come, and how far we must go. Murphy was brief, quick-witted and humbly thanked everyone for their support over the years. "I want to thank you so much, it's always a wonderful thing to be honored and to hear those wonderful things said about you," he said.

Murphy recently starred in the UK released film, "Dolemite is My Name," and is preparing for the highly-anticipated release of "Coming 2 America."

As we celebrate more than 100 years of Black Cinema, let's continue, as the honorees have done, to expand the legacy of Black film and entertainment through action and lead with the unmitigated wherewithal to create change for generations to come. To see exclusive interviews honorees and guests from the evening, head over to www.lasentinel.net.

al and screenwriting debut in the Netflix feature film "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind," Ejiofor says the key to storytelling in Black cinema is to "find your voice by working out who you are." "Shut out the rest of the noise and really listen to your instinct, your gut, what you think of yourself and what you want to bring into the conversation," he added.

Kasi Lemmons made her Rockstar entry into the world of filmmaking back in 1997 with the directorial debut of the Southern classic, "Eve's Bayou" and says continuing the legacy of Black cinema means "not taking no for an answer." As an actress who didn't hesitate to put her own vision to work on the big screen, the "Harriet" mega director and screenwriter says, "now is the time of great opportunity, to use our art as a weapon for justice and for good."

Using freedom fighter Harriet Tubman's life as a testament, Lemmons says "we have to pray we're strong enough to fight, because we have so many fights ahead. We have to fight for our country, for our planet, for our children and their children," she said.

"We have to fight against autocracy and ignorance, against bigotry and oppression in all of its forms, against those who would try to divide us because together, we have the power to change the world, like Harriet," Lemmons proclaimed.

And Lemmons isn't done yet. She'll soon be debuting a mini-series on Netflix documenting the life and works of "Madam C. J. Walker."

Nia Long, known for starring in movies dripped in Black excellence such as "Love Jones," "The Best Man," and "Soul Food," gave quite the emphatic speech about her "beautifully complicated" road as a Black actress in Hollywood. Long effectually detailed the "joy and heartbreak" of speaking truth to power when it wasn't popular just to receive the same respect as her peers on any given film production.

"I've had the audacity to challenge authority and voice strong opinions when I was expected to just be pretty and be quiet," Long said. "I've been paid far less than the men standing next to me and the women who don't look anything like me, when the success in numbers and

dollars are pretty close, more often than most of the time. I cried behind closed doors, moments before action, because of my experiences in the hair and makeup trailer, experiences which have at times, robbed me of my confidence and my peace of mind."

Long even said that for years, she traveled on sets with her own makeup and hair straightening tools to circumvent entering a production set that "wasn't designed to cater" to her beauty needs. As an actress, philanthropist and advocate who's lived her life to affect change, Long summoned all directors and producers in the industry to provide Black actresses with the tools they need to succeed. "Our day starts with hair, makeup and wardrobe. If your cast is Black, then hire a qualified Black support team instead of labeling us difficult or opinionated; we deserve a pleasant experience as we prepare to create," she said.

Also, quite befitting to receiving her honor, Long recalled some of the precious memories with late writer, actor, director and producer, John Singleton and his unwavering belief in

Lula Washington Dance Theatre celebrates KWANZAA

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Lula Washington Dance Theatre is celebrating KWANZAA with four unforgettable holiday dance concerts at the Lula Washington Dance Theatre's Intimate Studio Stage, 3773 Crenshaw Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90016.

In the spirit of the Kwanzaa principle of Kujichagulia, (Self-Determination), the dance company will kick off its Kwanzaa celebrations with the Umoja Circle Dinner and Performance on Friday, Dec. 27 at 6 :00 p.m. at the Lula Washington Dance Theatre. This is a fundraiser to support the on-going work of the dance company and school as it closes out its 39th year and prepares for its year #40.

This event includes dinner, a candle lighting ceremony; a champagne toast to ring in the organizations 40th anniversary in 2020; and a "special" program unique from the other weekend performances.

Our annual Kwanzaa concerts happen as usual on Saturday Dec. 28 at 2:30



p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 29 at 2 :30 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now at Brown Paper Tickets, 800-838-3006; or, online at www.BrownPaperTickets.com. Ticket prices range from \$10 for young children to \$35 for the general public. Groups of 10 or more get a 10% discount.

The shows will feature amazing West African drumming and high energy dancing by some of the most talented young artists in Los Angeles!

"We celebrate Kwanzaa every year because it is a cultural holiday that focus-

es on children, family, and culture," said Lula Washington, artistic director of the dance company. "You will see our tiniest tots to our teens, a reunion of returning college students and company alumni—all dancing with our acclaimed adult touring ensemble. It's beautiful to see the inter-generations of dancers on the stage together, all performing at incredible levels of excellence and passion."

"Kwanzaa is a cultural holiday based on NGUZO SABA, (Seven Principles), which encourages African Americans to know and celebrate their cultural heritage. Kwanzaa aims for



people to recommit to their families and communities; and to remember to be faithful to each other as we go through life," added Tamica Washington-Miller, associate director of the dance company.

This year, we are focusing on self-determination to craft the kind of future that we want for our next 40 years," added Erwin Washington, co-founder and executive director. "We want to be sure that we can continue our good work for the future, and that means we have to build broader support financially so the dance and educational work can continue."

Reviewer Tonya Plank called Lula's Kwanzaa the "The best dance show she's seen in Los Angeles." The New York Times has praised Lula Washington as a "gifted original."

The Kwanzaa performance is sponsored in part by the Los Angeles City Department of Cultural Affairs; Kaiser Permanente; the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture; and Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas.

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LA Wildcats partner with LAUSD and Carson High

BY KHARI JONES
Contributing Writer

The LAUSD, Beyond The Bell, and Carson High recently partnered with the XFL. A big move for the community, as students have the opportunity to witness history in the making. This partnership is essential because the youth have opportunities beyond their wildest dreams, and this shows how powerful having a community behind you will change lives. Also, when kids see athletes from their community who've made it professionally come back to speak and provide resources, it encourages the youth to grow up and do the same thing.

When you have former professional athletes, school administration, and community members invested in the youth, it can change the future of an entire generation of kids. The kids in the community are incredibly intelligent, and they need the guidance of community leaders to help them go in the right direction. This collaboration will strengthen the relationship between people in the neighborhood and the school. The school administration and coaches are extremely excited about what's to come. Former NFL football play-



The LA Wildcats partnered with LAUSD and Carson High School

COURTESY PHOTO

er Mike Wilson, now LA Wildcats Wide Receiver coach, attended Carson High School is now giving back to the young kids in the community. He aspires to create a new beginning for himself and teach the young men life skills, the skills that he has learned throughout his journey as a football player. Wilson says, "It gives me the opportunity to coach and work in the community where I grew up. It allows me to bring my 20-year coaching experience to come back and help the local youth, the LA Unified coaches, and try to create a new beginning. You got to let the kids know it's not about where you start but where you finish. We all have to start somewhere. You give

it your all." Wilson went on to say, "Football teaches you comradery, teamwork, and character. It also teaches you the ability to execute things. More importantly, they will learn to get along with their fellow brothers. They must get the opportunity to enjoy the sport. We are excited about this." Adana Brown, the Community of Schools Administrator, was thrilled about this partnership. Brown believes this was a monumental moment in time, and she and the schools saw a vast need for the students. Brown says, "This allows our students to see what the beauty of community is, and bringing people back to their roots," which is important because students need to see the value

of community. Brown also says, "Allowing Mike Wilson to come back and share

with the students his experience here in the '70s that is still relevant today. It's an amazing historical aspect that we want our students to be able to learn and pay it forward. We want to give our coaches training that would receive at a high level."

This partnership will bring other resources that will impact all involved, says Brown. They wanted to invigorate their athletic community. Sports play a significant role in a child's life, and it creates a sense of discipline, leadership, brotherhood, and sisterhood that won't get anywhere else. Community is family, and this community partnership will demonstrate that for the students. LA Wildcats head coach, Winston Moss says, "This is a great win for our community and our team. We started this partnership back in the summer." Not only will they be coaching, but they will be providing off the field mentorship. Moss says, "Our coaching staff will mentor 100 elementary kids." What a significant win for everyone involved in this partnership. LAUSD, Beyond The Bell, XFL, and Carson High is changing the landscape of the community in Carson.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Carson High School cheer squad

Powerful Book For Young Black Boys Celebrates 25 Years With a Pledge to Get 1 Million New Readers

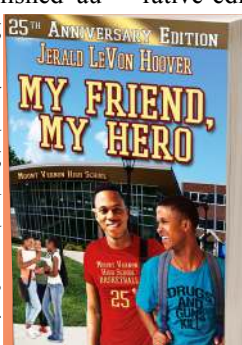


COURTESY PHOTO

Jerald LeVon Hoover released his debut YA title "My Friend, My Hero" in 1992. A year later, he was awarded Best New Male Writer of the Year by the Literary Society in Virginia for this novella.

NNPA NEWSWIRE

Jerald LeVon Hoover became the published author of a Young Adult (YA) title, one of a few books targeted toward young Black and Brown boys ages 12 and up, "My Friend, My Hero." This novella has become a staple, as recommended reading in elementary through high schools across the country and around the world. That is a distinct honor Hoover shares with a short list of African American male YA authors including: Walter Dean Myers, Kevin Powell, Kwame Alexander, and Ralph Burgess.



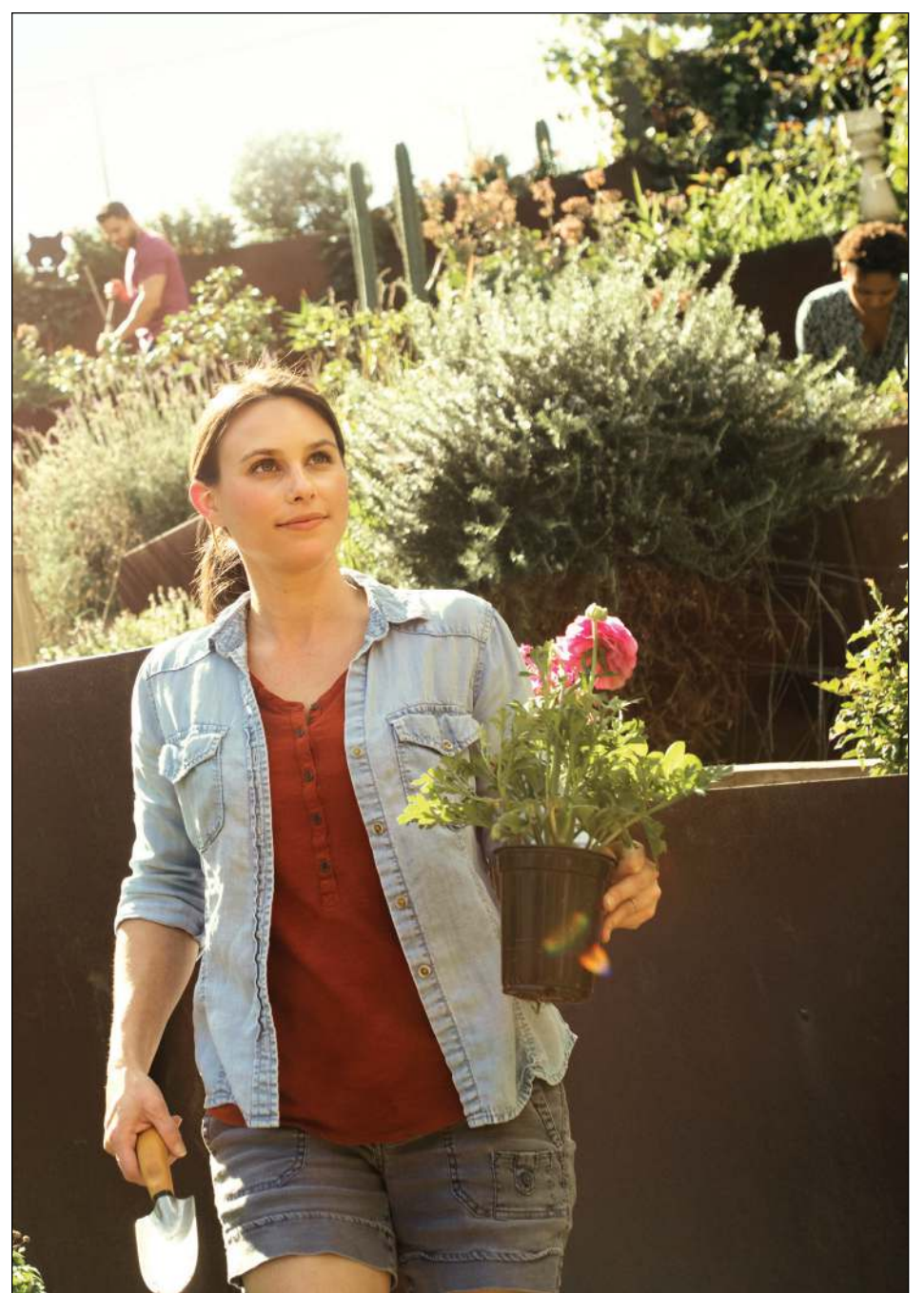
"My Friend, My Hero," is celebrating its 25th Anniversary with a commemorative edition that includes an addendum of book discussion questions and now available; a full curriculum with a companion Student Success Guidebook, Teacher's Guide, and Unit Assessments containing lesson plans. The goal is to promote Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) in the classroom by providing strategies for students to make better choices and gain much needed confidence to support unleashing their inner greatness. Hoover states, "Exposing Black and Brown chil-

dren to a barrage of negative imagery and expecting their positive self-image to remain intact is ridiculous, insensitive, unjust, and unfair."

Hoover then adds, "Young Black and Brown men are focused, gifted, driven, intelligent, and masterful at a host of other talents besides rap music and competitive sports; of which carries no shame, but we have other skill sets of significant influence. We are men of honor and integrity, regardless of whether we are born into poverty or wealth. But how can young Black and Brown men, or men of any race for that matter, define themselves and live up to their full potential if they only receive distorted representations?" Hoover continues, "My Friend, My Hero is intended for ALL YOUTH (races and genders), but I gave the spotlight to young, Black and Brown males because of the dire need for young Black and Brown men to have access to more positive representations of themselves to which they can relate."

Celebrating 25 Years in Print, "My Friend, My Hero," is the first in the acclaimed The Hero Book Series by Jerald LeVon Hoover. Other titles from The Hero Book Series are "He Was My Hero," "Too," "A Hopeful Hero," and "Hoop Hero." The novella took nine years to get published after forty rejections and sixty drafts.

Purchase the book on Amazon or learn more at <https://theherobookseries.com>



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Black Lives Matter Founder Holds Jail Reform Event in Pasadena

By JENNIFER BIHM
Contributing Writer

Activist, public speaker, co-founder of Black Lives Matter Global Network and chair of Reform L.A. Jails Patrisse Cullors, joined by four candidates for L.A. County District Attorney, held a panel in Pasadena Saturday, November 9 aimed at raising awareness around mass incarceration and mental illness. During the festive evening event, the panelists/candidates talked about the importance of redirecting the mentally ill from jail to treatment. Their mission statement has been summed up in the social media hashtags: #REFORMLAJAILS #CARENOCAGES #CARINGEASY.

“L.A. County’s jail system is the biggest in the world and has a history of over-jailing the mentally ill,” said a spokesperson for the campaign.

“Right now, there are 5,000 Angelenos in L.A. County Jails simply because they suffer from mental illness. 65% of prisoners are not receiving the mental health care and addiction support that they need. If RLJ is successful, our ballot measure will require L.A. County to invest in rehabilitation and mental health treatment.”

The campaign has a goal of contacting nearly 300,000 voters in L.A. County before election day, said campaign officials.

“L.A. County has a history of dealing with mentally ill people by incarcerating them,” said D.A. candidate, Richard Cabellos.



Black Lives Matter founder and activist, Patrisse Cullors is joined by a panel of L.A. County District Attorney candidates to discuss the importance of diverting the mentally ill from jails to resources November 9, 2019 in Pasadena.

“That is not the answer. Incarcerating people doesn’t make them better, it makes them worse. We have to change the mentality. We need to sit side-by-side with social workers and say, ‘hey, this [mentally ill] person doesn’t deserve to go to jail, let’s get him into a program...’”

According to a report released by California Health Policy Strategies in January of 2018:

The annual average number of incarcerated individuals receiving psychotropic medication increased by about 25% between March 2012 and February 2017.

Individuals receiving psychotropic medications compose a large share of the total jail population. The population of individuals receiving psychotropic medication represents about 20% of annual Average Daily Population (ADP) statewide, as of February 2017.

The share of the total jail population receiving psychotropic medications is increasing. The percent of



Community members enjoy festivities during the Reform L.A. County Jails event November 9, 2019 in Pasadena.

annual ADP taking psychotropic medications increased by 4 percentage points between March 2012 and February 2017, from 16% to 20%.

“We know the data is staggering and it’s not okay,” said D.A. candidate, Rachel Rossi.

“I come to this with a different perspective from having had to sit next to those people who are churned in and out of the criminal justice system on a daily basis. If I’m elected as district attorney, I would first expand access to diversion programs that already exist.

There are programs that exist to provide treatment instead of jail but there are low acceptance rates into those programs.

“What we need to do is expand the D.A.’s recommendations for people to get into those programs and expand their capacity.”

Rossi said she would also start looking into how to prevent mentally ill patients from entering into the criminal justice system in the first place. Event organizer Cullors herself, began the movement in response to the violence her mentally ill brother suffered at the hands

of law enforcement.

“Nearly two decades ago, my older brother Monte Cullors was incarcerated by Los Angeles County sheriff’s deputies at the Pitchess Detention Center, a county jail complex in Castaic,” Cullors wrote in a Los Angeles Times Op Ed last year.

“He was diagnosed with schizoaffective and bipolar disorders while in jail — and he struck a deputy in the face when he was being transported after a psychiatric evaluation. Four or five more deputies showed up, Monte says, and he got a beating. (According to the deputies’ account in court records, Monte attacked one deputy and lunged at another who came to the first one’s aid.)”

Cullors said her brother was ultimately convicted of battery on an officer in addition to an original charge of evading police, and sentenced to 40 months in state prison.

“There are currently 17,000 people in our county jail,” Cabellos said.

“5300 of them, almost a third, are people who have

mental issues. Those people don’t need to be in jail. They need to be in a community based program to help them. L.A. County Jail is the largest mental health facility in the county. That’s not right.”

Like Cullors, D.A. candidate George Gascon has a more personal reason for his fight.

“I have a brother who, for the past two years has been teetering on mental illness,” Gascon explained to the crowd Saturday night.

“My family and I have been trying to help him out and he’s rejected our help. And, one of the things I really dread is getting that call in the middle of the night from my mother or someone else in my family that he’s been killed. I know deep down that my brother is a good guy but right now he’s struggling.”

“I don’t want to get that call. I want to do any and everything possible to avoid that call. I want him to get the help he so desperately needs. I think we can save a lot of lives if we take a different approach.”

Also joining Cullors at the event were co-founder of BLD PWR Kendrick Sampson, actor and model Jason George, actress Zuri Adele known for “Good Trouble” (2019), “Under the Dome” (2013) and “The Social Worker” (2014), actress Dawn Lyen-Gardner as seen on “Queen Sugar,” rising Compton rapper Boogie, medical director of the Office of Diversion and Reentry Kristen Ochoa and D.A. candidate, Joseph Iniguez.



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Black News Channel In 'The Red Zone' Ready for Launch

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

As the historic launch on January 6, 2020, of the Black News Channel (BNC) approaches, officials can count members of Congress among those eagerly anticipating the new platform.

Congresswoman Karen Bass (D-Calif.), the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, the chair of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, joined a gathering of BNC officials, anchors, and other guests at a reception on December 3 in Washington, D.C., to toast the launch of the network.

"This has been long in the making," said BNC's Vice President of Community Affairs and former

ling channel a necessity for African Americans and others who seek a different perspective than what's available through other news outlets.

"Right now, we have a lot of opinion in the news," Bass stated.

"There are 54 members of the Congressional Black Caucus who want to be a part of this because you don't see us, and you don't hear about us [through mainstream news]," she said.

With a partnership with the National Newspaper Publishers Association's Black-owned newspapers and media companies, the BNC expects to fast become the top destination for all who want to consume African American news in print, on television and mobile devices.

An independent net-



(Left-to-Right): BNC chairman JC Watts and BNC CEO, Bob Brillante (PHOTO: CHERYL BROWNLEE)

The channel is the endeavor of the network's visionaries and co-founders, Chairman J.C. Watts, Jr. and CEO Bob Brillante.

and where they kept African people at the door of no return to never see Africa again. But we also saw clinics, doctors, the building of hospitals, lawyers, and others.

"And [Jefferson] went home and told his 90-year-old granddad that we saw doctors and lawyers and the building of hospitals. And, his 90-year-old granddad said, 'I knew there was more.'

"That is the mission of the Black News Channel. There's more to the African American community than what we see," Watts stated.

During the December 3 reception, Watts participated in a fireside chat with Clarke and Waldo McMillan, the vice president of Legislative Affairs at Charter Communications.

"We don't have as many opportunities to view ourselves and to have our narratives authentically portrayed through those who have similar experiences," Clarke stated during the engaging chat before nearly

200 guests.

"What's significant about the BNC is that it will be a reflection of people of African descent. In my district, I have people from around the world, the [African] continent, the Caribbean, South and Central America.

"They're all seeking knowledge and a viewpoint and lens that speak from their experience. So, I'm excited about this," Clarke stated.

Watts noted that the BNC would be culturally specific.

"Rarely do you hear anyone on any network today talking about Sickle Cell Disease, which is a disease that primarily impacts African Americans," Watts stated.

"And, when we talk about being culturally specific, we just had Thanksgiving. By and large, when we're talking about Thanksgiving dinner, African Americans are talking about cornbread dressing and sweet potato pie.

"By and large, white people talk about stuffing and pumpkin pie. That doesn't mean we can't interchange those dishes, but culturally specific to us would be sweet potato pie and cornbread dressing. We have different cultures, different meals.

"But, it's a lot of things like that we never hear or see in mainstream media when it comes to African American culture."

Watts also said it was important to acknowledge Charter Communications' role in the launch of the BNC.

"If someone thinks you can do this without distribution, it's a pipedream. Charter came along and bought into our vision and understood where we were going," Watts stated.

"They could have seen it as risky, and I suspect that someone sitting at the table said, 'I'm not so sure,' but they did it, and it made us real. Things have fallen into place. We have over 60 people employed in Tallahassee, and we have bureaus in New York, Atlanta, Washington, and other areas."

Watts, who was a star quarterback in college and the Canadian Football League, then used a football analogy to describe where things currently stand with the BNC.

"We're in the Red Zone," he stated. "We're about to raise our hands [signaling a touchdown] on January 6, and I would not be sitting here with Congresswoman Clarke, had it not been for Charter Communications saying, 'We believe in the Black News Channel vision.'"



(left to right) Waldo McMillan from Charter Communications, Congresswoman Yvette Clarke (D-NY), BNC Chairman JC Watts (PHOTO: CHERYL BROWNLEE)

Tallahassee, Florida Mayor John Marks.

"When you see what we've done and what we're going to do, it will knock your socks off," Marks stated.

Bass called the fledg-

work that's minority-owned and operated, BNC will be the nation's only provider of 24/7 cable news programming dedicated to covering the unique perspective of African American communities.

"I remember going to West Africa with a bipartisan delegation that included Democrat William Jefferson," said Watts, the former Republican congressman out of Oklahoma. "We saw the little huts

Rep. Chu Holds Oversight Hearing on SBA's 504/CDC Program



Rep. Judy Chu (CA-27)

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Rep. Judy Chu (CA-27), Chairwoman of the House Small Business Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight, and Regulations, held a hearing on the current state of the Small Business Administration's (SBA) 504/Certified Development Company (CDC) lending program. The 504/CDC program facilitates small business growth by helping firms secure affordable capital for investments in land, buildings, and fixed assets.

"In Fiscal Year 2018, the number of jobs supported by 504 loans dropped slightly compared to previous years. This raised questions about the program's performance and the steps we can take to ensure that the 504/CDC program is creating jobs in our communities," said Chairwoman Chu. "We would like to know what's working, what's not, and what we can do to ensure that this program is performing at full capacity."

Since 1958, the 504/CDC Loan Guaranty program has been backing long-term fixed-rate loans to support investment in fixed assets, like land, build-

ings, heavy equipment, and machinery. The program is administered by local CDCs, private nonprofit corporations that work with private-sector lenders to provide financing to small businesses. In 2019, the SBA approved 6,099 loans equaling \$4.96 billion. The program is also geared toward job creation and requires that borrowers create or retain a minimum of one job per \$75,000 of SBA funds received.

The hearing allowed members to hear directly from witnesses from the CDC community regarding their experience with the program. The hearing covered issues like the lingering impact of the government shutdown, expediting low-dollar loans, streamlining the loan closing process, the SBA's requested increase in the maximum loan amount, and current leasing limitations for 504 businesses.

"By solving these problems [in the 504 program], we will help our small businesses and our economy grow," said Mary Mansfield, President & CEO of Bay Colony Development Corp. in Waltham MA. "As I stated at the beginning of my testimony, 504 borrowers are statutorily required to create or retain jobs for every \$75,000 they receive. The easier it is for responsible small businesses to access this program, the more jobs our country creates."

"As we all strive to make SBA and its loan programs relevant to a dynamic, changing marketplace and business environment, I remain hopeful that we all share the same goal to better

serve America's small businesses with responsive, relevant, and innovative lending solutions," said Wayne Williams, SVP & Senior Lending Officer at Business Finance Group Inc. in Fairfax, Virginia. "Reducing burdensome regulation and streamlining and modernizing program delivery will help improve the SBA 504 Loan Program."

"Small business are the lifeblood of our economy. At the core, small businesses are not inanimate objects – they are people taking ideas and solving problems, people providing meaningful jobs and advancement opportunities to others, people paying taxes to pay for services in our communities, and much, much more," said Elaine Fairman, Executive Director of Business Expansion Funding Corporation in Charlotte, NC. "If we are willing to improve the 504 program by working together, we can expand our reach and impact."

"SBA's loan programs, including the 504 program, are designed to fill the gaps left by the private markets, providing loans to small business owners who cannot afford or obtain loans from conventional lenders," said Chairwoman Chu. "The 504 program takes this one step further by targeting small businesses with unique capital needs – the purchase of major fixed assets such as land, buildings, and equipment. Ensuring this program is effectively reaching and serving small businesses at this critical stage of growth is a priority of this Committee."



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Love for Christ Directs Music Career of The Zion Messengers

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Religion Editor

God has blessed The Zion Messengers beyond measure and He shows no sign of ceasing. Preparing to release their third album, the group has yielded to God's direction and significantly benefitted from all He's enabled them to do.

The L.A.-based quintet consists of Travion Howze, vocals; Anthony Gates, vocals; Chris McFrazier, keyboard and vocals; Jesse Robinson IV, bass guitar; Tarron Overshown, drums; and Charles "Uncle Chucc" Hamilton, lead guitar and vocals.

Unified in their focus, The Zion Messengers readily admit that their relationship with Christ combined with their desire to sing ignited their rise towards the top of a crowded gospel music field. And according

to their manager, Dana Lin, that is the main influence that directs their career.

"Our love for Christ and passion for music, specifically gospel, are the key factors that inspired, and still does inspire, The Zion Messengers to press towards the mark," insisted Lin, who goes by the moniker, Ms. D - the Snoop Dogg of Gospel, in a nod to her 30 years of experience in the field.

"The Bible declares in Matthew 5:16, 'Let your light so shine before me, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven!' We simply want our light for Christ to shine, on-and-off stage," she said.

That mission has guided The Zion Messengers since their founding in 2012 by "Uncle Chucc" Hamilton, who acquired his nickname from the rap



The Zion Messengers delighted the crowd during their performance on the Brenda Marsh-Mitchell Gospel Stage at the 2019 Taste of Soul. From left are Anthony Gates, Jesse Robinson IV, Travion Howze, Chris McFrazier and Charles "Uncle Chucc" Hamilton.

legend, Snoop Dogg. A child prodigy, Hamilton was playing the organ, guitar, bass and drums in his church by the age of five. Nine years later, he started singing with his family as

part of The Zion Travelers.

After studying music at L.A. Southwest College, he became more involved in recording and production. His expertise led to international engagements with

Professor Iris Stevenson-McCullough, the renowned director of the Crenshaw High School choir, as well as work with artists such as The Game, Lupe Fiasco, Faith Evans and Terrace Martin.

In addition, Hamilton has long collaborated with Snoop Dogg on both gospel and secular tracks.

The Zion Messengers singing "Going Home" on Snoop's "Bible of Love" album and Snoop is executive producer of their new project with producer Brody Brown.

"God used a worldly rapper to expose us all over the world and thanks for Snoop's platform, we were the first traditional gospel quintet to make history by performing live on 'The Jimmy Kimmel Show' in April 2018," said Lin.

Keeping Christ at the head of their life is defi-

nately paying off for The Zion Messengers and they recommend that both aspiring and seasoned artists incorporate that philosophy as they journey through life and their gospel music careers.

"As a group, we stand firm on the Word of God and believe in always keeping God first," noted Lin. "One of our favorite scriptures is Ephesians 3:20 - 'Now unto Him that is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.'"

"This verse reminds us how powerful our God is. All we have to do is think of a plan and He can execute and increase that very thought and amaze us with His goodness and favor!"

To contact or book The Zion Messengers, call Dana Lin, a.k.a. Ms. D, at (602) 341-4042.



Bishop Bobby Best



Pastor Bernard Jackson

CMEs Hold SoCal Mid-Winter Council

BY VANILLA P. BROOKS
AND BETTYE F. NICHOLS
Contributing Writers

Bishop Bobby R. Best, presiding prelate of the CME Ninth Episcopal District, will convene the Southern California Region Mid-Winter Council on Friday, December 13, at Phillips Temple CME Church,

973 E. 43rd St., in Los Angeles. The Rev. Bernard Jackson is the host pastor.

The conference begins with registration at 9 a.m., followed by devotion and worship at 9:30 a.m., featuring a message by the Rev. Rodney Wooten. The business session is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., and Attorney Ouida Brown

will present a training session on sexual harassment from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

At 2 p.m., Diana Winton will conduct a training session entitled, "Are You a Good Disciple of Jesus Christ?" At 2:45 p.m., the Rev. Keith Ellison, will present "The Importance of Tithing," followed by, "Are You and Your Church Pro-

viding the Ministries Your Community Needs," facilitated by the Rev. Dr. Mark Hardin, presiding elder of the Los Angeles District.

The conference concludes with a service at 7 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Charlie Hames, Jr., pastor of Beebe Memorial Cathedral CME Church in Oakland, will preach the Word.

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TRINITY PLANS HOLIDAY CONCERT AND BLANKET DRIVE FOR HOMELESS

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Religion Editor



Pastor Alvin Tunstall and Brother Brian Ferguson.

In keeping with the season of giving, Trinity Baptist Church will present two community events to help people enjoy the holidays.

The first program is a Christmas concert entitled, "O Holy Night," set for Sunday, Dec. 15, at 3:30 p.m., in the edifice at 2040 W. Jefferson Blvd., in Los Angeles. According to Pastor Alvin Tunstall, Jr., the combined choirs will sing a wide range of selections under the direction of Roland Hamilton.

On Saturday, Dec. 21, Trinity's Homeless Ministry will sponsor their 12th

Annual Blanket Drive as part of their ongoing mission to aid women, men and children who live on the streets of Los Angeles. Donations of full, king and queen blankets, along with pillows, will be accepted from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., in

the church garage parking lot.

"The need is greater than ever, so we encourage the community to contribute to this worthy cause to help the homeless," said Tunstall.

"Our theme is 'Love Your Neighbor' based on Luke 10:27-37, and Brother Brian Ferguson, our main organizer for many years, is heading up our campaign."

Ferguson, who has been a homeless advocate for over quarter-century, said, "We accept donations all year long, but as the weather turns cold, the gift of warm blankets and pillows is especially needed."

"Of course, our main

goal is to introduce people to Christ in the hope that they will accept Him as their Savior. The blankets pave the way to opening hearts and minds, but the Word of God never fades away."

In support of his ministry, Ferguson has run in more than 50 marathons with all proceeds going to the homeless.

Throughout the year, he arranges several activities to aid homeless individuals including foot washings, pedicures and grooming services, as well as distributing meals, toiletries, hand warmers and tarps.

To learn more about the concert or the Blanket Drive, call (323) 735-0044.

New Antioch COGIC Hosts Christmas Celebrations

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Superintendent Jeffrey and Lady Floetta Lewis extend an invitation to families everywhere to attend the upcoming Christmas services at New Antioch Church of God in Christ.

"Beginning Wednesday, December 18, at 7:30 p.m., we will have a theatrical performance with the theme, 'It's a Wonderful Life,' by the Fine Arts Department, followed by a special Christmas presentation from the Children

and Youth Department at 8 a.m., on Sunday, December 22, and our annual Christmas service at 9 a.m.," said Supt. Lewis.

"Lastly, join us as we close out 2019 and praise our way into 2020 at our Watch Night Service on



Superintendent Jeffrey Lewis

Monday, December 31, at 10 p.m. Come out and be blessed!"

New Antioch Church of God in Christ located at 7826 S. Vermont Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90044. Services are broadcast live on Sundays, at 11:00 am at newantiochcogic.tv.

McCarty Memorial Marks Birth of Christ

STAFF REPORT

McCarty Memorial Christian Church will mark the birth of Christ Jesus with two events, announced Pastor Edward Anderson.

The Christmas worship service takes place on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 10:45 a.m., at 4101 W. Adams Blvd., in Los Angeles. At 5 p.m., a Christmas concert will be held with performances by

the Extended Ensemble and the Dozier Family Singers.

Anderson said the community is invited to attend both events.

To learn more, call (323) 731-4131.

CALL 2 WORSHIP!

by Cora Jackson-Fossett, Religion Editor

Church and community news throughout greater Los Angeles

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

plans the 5th Annual Jingle Jam Toy Giveaway on Dec. 14, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at 2009 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., in Los Angeles, said Bishop Sylvester Washington, pastor. In partnership with Ella's Foundation, the church will distribute toy bags and bikes to 400+ children. Also, music, food, games, a VIP Pamper Pop Up, and interactive Christmas stories will be available. For details, call (323) 293-6448.

First AME Church - L.A.

presents a Christmas musical, "Straight Outta Bethlehem," on Dec. 15, at 4 p.m., at 2270 S. Harvard Blvd., in Los Angeles, said Pastor J. Edgar Boyd. The Sunday School Department sponsors the event. On Dec. 21, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., the annual Christmas Giveaway takes place. Gently used coats, jackets, sweaters, hats, gloves and scarves will be distributed. For information, call (323) 735-1251.

Victory Bible Church

holds their 15th Annual Scholarship Fundraiser on Dec. 15, at 6 p.m., at the Arcadia Performing Arts Center, 188 Campus Drive in Arcadia, said Bishop Milton White, Sr., pastor. Proceeds will benefit the VBC Scholarship Fund, which awards grants to college-bound students. Actors Boris Kodjoe and Nicole Ari Parker Kodjoe will emcee and gospel recording artist Shawn McLemore will appear with a 100-voice community choir. Also, a professional choral ensemble and musicians from Arcadia High School will perform. For concert tickets and sponsorship opportunities, visit vbcpasadena.org.

Miracle Temple Church of God Pentecostal

host their annual Community Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 21, at 1 p.m., at 109 W. Buckthorn St., in Inglewood, said Bishop Johnny Young, senior pastor. The event will be held in the fellowship hall and is open to the public. Call (310) 419-7335 for information.

Brookins-Kirkland Community AME Church

plans a Christmas Musical on Dec. 21, at 3 p.m., at 3719 W. Slauson Ave., in Los Angeles, said Pastor Mary S. Minor. The Music Department, under president Georgia Ghee, sponsors the event. On Dec. 22, at 7:45 p.m., an intergenerational Christmas program, directed by Exhorter Gwen Williams, will be held, followed by Christmas worship at 9 a.m. To learn more, call (323) 296-5610.

First United Methodist Church of Compton

presents musician and composer Charles Barnes in concert on Dec. 29, at 10 a.m., at 1025 S. Long Beach Blvd., in Compton, said Pastor Arneha Inge. Barnes just released a new CD, "You're So Good Thank You Lord." For information, email barnes8711@yahoo.com.

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Prayer Meeting (Wed) 6:30pm
Bible Study (Wed) 7:00pm

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CHURCH OFFICE:
(323) 755-1130 & (323) 755-1139 Fax: (323) 755-8961

Rev. Melvin Hill, Pastor

Peace Apostolic Church Inc.
A Soul Saving Station

SCHEDULE

Monday Night Prayer 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Afternoon Bible Class 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Class 7:30 p.m.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship Service 11:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.

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HOWARD A. SWANCY
Pastor and Founder

SENTINEL

Wishing you and yours
the very best of the
Holiday Season

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"Your capacity to create your life is greater than the life you have created"
- Dr. Arthur Chang