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JACQUELINE AVANT: A FAMILY/COMMUNITY TREASURE LOSS

Avant family devastated by the tragic death of one of the world's most kind & loving people

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Words cannot express the pain and devastation the Bakewell family and our community of well-wishers and fans feel this morning over the senseless murder of our beloved friend and family member, Mrs. Jackie Avant. Her brutal murder is not only a loss to her entire family but is a terrible loss to everyone who met her. Her warm and kind personality was evident to everyone who came into contact with her, and her loving smile was a blessing to us all.

Clarence Avant, a legendary music executive, who was recently inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and who served for years as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Los Angeles Brotherhood Crusade, and Jacqueline Avant, his wife of 54, were the victims of what appears to be a home invasion robbery at their Trousdale Estates home in Beverly Hills, CA, where Mrs. Avant, age 81, was shot and killed late Tuesday night.



Jacqueline and Clarence Avant COURTESY PHOTO

Clarence Avant, while safe, is currently grieving but resting with his family. Our prayers go out to Clarence, Nicole, and Alex as they try and navigate through what must be the most difficult time in their lives. Jackie Avant was a community advocate in her own right and served as the president of the Neighbors of Watts, a support group that focused on childcare.

She was also on the Board of Directors of UCLA's International Student Center.

Police investigation is ongoing.

"I cannot express how overwhelmingly pained I am at the loss of such a beautiful person as Jackie Avant. For her to be killed in such a senseless way is unfathomable. There are no two more kind and generous people than Clarence

and Jackie, and for their home and their lives to be violated in such a violent manner is unconscionable. My thoughts and prayers go out to them and their children as we all work to get through this most difficult time." - Danny J. Bakewell, Sr. - Chairman of Bakewell Media and a lifelong friend to the Avant



Avant Family COURTESY PHOTO



Danny J. Bakewell, Sr. - Chairman of Bakewell Media and Clarence Avant COURTESY PHOTO

What The Ahmaud Arbery Verdict Means To The Black Community

The continuing battle for equal justice in an unequal society

By Danny Bakewell, Jr. Executive Editor

A Georgia jury made up of nine White women, two White men and one Black man, deliberated for just about 11 hours, returning a verdict of guilty on Gregory McMichael, Travis McMichael, and William "Roddie" Bryan Jr., three White men found guilty of killing Ahmaud Arbery by a jury of their peers.

In the past, all-White juries in trials where Whites are the defendants in the deaths of Black men, result in acquittals, according to scholars and law experts who spoke to CNN about



A Mural of Ahmaud Arbery FILE PHOTO

The unbalanced racial makeup of jurors has historically been seen as a problem for many within the Afri-

the trial of Arbery's murder- can American community, particularly in the South. With the State of Georgia and its racist judiciary past, including the recent implementation of controversial

voter suppression laws, this mostly White jury brought back visions of the Jim Crow South, specifically, the 1955 murder trial of Emmitt Till, where an all-White jury acquitted two Whites of young Emmet's murder.

But unlike the Till trial and the egregious past verdicts from prejudiced jurors, these three White men were all found guilty and on all counts. Although a trial where death and race are interrelated usually targets racist intent, pros-

{See VERDICT A-10}

The Fight Over **Redistricting Moves** to the 2nd **Supervisorial District**



Supervisor Holly Mitchell FILE PHOTO

By Danny Bakewell, Jr. Executive Editor

Every ten years in the United States, new political lines are drawn to create "more equitable districts" at

Hawthorne Hosts Rapper YG

& Rambo House Foundation's

TeleHealth Van Ribbon Cutting

every level of government. In 2020 - 2021, for the first time a Citizens Redistricting Commission is drawing lines for the Los Angeles County Board of Super-

{See DISTRICT A-10}

Infrastructure Improvements Will Upgrade and Beautify **Manchester-Broadway Corridor**





By Cora Jackson-Fossett Staff Writer

A range of infrastructure improvements are planned to beautify the Manchester-Broadway corridor located in Council District 8 in South Los Angeles.

The multi-faceted street project, called Broadway will encompass 2.8-miles on Manchester from Vermont Avenue to Broadway and on Broadway from Manchester to Imperial Highway. The enhancements include protected bike lanes, upgraded access ramps, curb extensions, pe-



Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson {See CD8 A-11}

By Lauren Brazille & E. Mesiyah McGinnis

On November 17, rapper, YG teamed up with Dion Rambo of Rambo House Foundation, the City of Hawthorne, Oracle and UCLA Health to launch his new initiative, the TeleHealth Van. The first fleet of vans were designed to offer free services to low income and unhoused individuals and families. The TeleHealth Vans are



Rapper YG & L.A. Sentinel Staff Lauren Brazile FILE PHOTO

fully equipped to provide mental health screenings, medical insurance submissions, shelter assistance,

jail-diversion programs, and programs to combat local food disparities.

{See RHF A-11}

L.A. Begins Enforcement of Proof-of-Vaccination Law For Indoor Public Spaces

CITY NEWS SERVICE

Los Angeles today began enforcing its law requiring Angelenos patronizing indoor restaurants, gyms, entertainment and recreational facilities, personal care establishments and some city buildings to show proof of full vaccination against COVID-19.

The law went into effect on Nov. 8, but beginning Monday, the Department of Building and Safety can issue administrative citations to businesses that violate the ordinance. The citations will include a \$1,000 fine for a second violation, \$2,000 fine for a third violation and a \$5,000 fine for a fourth and subsequent violations.

The city's SafePassLA ordinance is one of the strictest mandates of its kind in the nation, requir-

12 to show proof of vaccination at several indoor public spaces. Accepted forms of proof of vaccination include:

- · a vaccination card issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or similar documentation issued by another foreign governmental agency;
- a photocopy of a vaccination card or a photograph stored on a phone or electronic device;
- a personal digital COVID-19 vaccination record issued by the stateor similar documentation issued by another state, local or foreign government jurisdiction, or by a private company; and
- documentation of a COVID-19 vaccination from a healthcare provider.

People who appear over the age of 18 will also be ing people over the age of required to show identifica-

COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card

Please keep this record card, which includes medical information about the vaccines you have received.

Por favor, guarde esta tarjeta de registro, que incluye información médica sobre las vacunas que ha recibido.

Last Name		st Name	MI
Date of birth	Pa	tient number (med	lical record or IIS record number,
Vaccine	Product Name/Manufacturer Lot Number	Date	Healthcare Professional or Clinic Site
1 st Dose COVID-19		mm dd yy	
2 nd Dose COVID-19		mm dd yy	
Other		mm dd yy	
Other		mm dd yy	

tion with their proof of vaccination.

People can be exempted from the mandate if they have medical conditions that restrict their ability to

get vaccinated or a "sincerely held religious belief," according to the ordinance. Those exemptions will have to be reviewed by the location

the person is trying to enter. People who are exempt will be able to use outdoor areas of the location, but if unavailable, they may be allowed to enter the indoor area by providing proof of a negative COVID-19 test that was conducted within 72 hours.

The ordinance also requires people to show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test to attend outdoor events with 5.000 or more people, which is stricter than the Los Angeles County requirement, which applies to outdoor events with 10,000 or more people.

Los Angeles County's rules, which are less expansive than the city's, went into effect Nov. 4, requiring people patronizing or working in an indoor bar, winery, brewery, nightclub or lounge in the county to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

For more information on the new city rules, go to https://ewddlacity.com/ind ex.php/recovery/safepass-

City Issues RFP to Develop Marlton Square

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Council District 10 and the city of Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD) released Request for Proposals (RFP) on November 29 for a community-serving development at Marlton Square.

According to the announcement from CD 10, the RFP should meet citywide economic needs, create meaningful well-paying jobs for surrounding residents with a range of educational backgrounds and advancement of South Los Angeles.

Approximately 5 acres in size, the publicly-owned parcels available for development in Marlton Square are conveniently located on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard between Buckingham Place and Marlton Avenue, a block away from the soon-to-open Crenshaw/LAX Line.

"Marlton Square represents an opportunity to reimagine a historically significant former retail site.

contribute to the overall commercial center that will provide 21st century living wage jobs for the Crenshaw community," said EWDD General Manager Carolyn

> Formerly known as the Santa Barbara Plaza, the area was home to over 200 locally owned businesses and major department stores in the 1950s. Over time, investment in the area declined and the properties deteriorated, resulting in severe blight by the 1990s.

In recent years, there have been successful efforts and redefine its future as a to invest in Marlton Square,



The vacant Marlton Square parcels are bounded by Kaiser Permanente on the south and King Blvd. on the north.

New Opportunities to Save on Health **Care Coverage**

Learn about new financial help to keep you and your family healthy!

If you lost your health insurance during the pandemic or have been unable to pay for coverage in the past, you may now be eligible to save money on your health care.

Because of changes in the law, you could now pay as little as \$1 for your premiums, or you could save up to thousands of dollars a year.

You can enroll or change your coverage through the Affordable Care Act Marketplace, an online platform that offers insurance plans to individuals, families, and small businesses.

To learn more call Covered California at 1-800-300-1506 or visit aarp.org/acacalifornia.



Scan the QR code or visit aarp.org/acacalifornia to learn more about the ACA special enrollment period.



including the development of a medical office building by Kaiser Permanente and over 102 units of affordable housing, constructed and operated by Meta Housing. The city of L.A. seeks to build on this progress by creating community-serving development inspired by its original purpose as an economic anchor serving South Los Angeles.

"We are excited about the efforts to revitalize the long-dormant Marlton Square in the heart of our community and hope it will bring more commerce and job opportunities," said Empowerment Congress West Area Neighborhood Development Council (ECWANDC) Chairperson, Gina M. Fields.

"For many years, the empty lots at Marlton Square have been a blight in the community - the effects of which are far reaching. The 10th Council District is committed to ensuring that this publiclyowned property finally uplifts the surrounding community with a meaningful commitment to local job creation and features that truly serve the surrounding community" said Yordanos Gebretatios, deputy for Bioscience, Economic and Workforce Development for Council District 10.

State Senator Sydney K. Kamlager, representing the 30th Senate District expressed her support for the RFP stating: "I am excited to see tangible progress being made to revitalize Marlton Square. Today's call for RFPs marks a critical step in our efforts to infuse the Crenshaw



The city of L.A. issued a request for proposals to develop the empty lots at Marlton Square.

neighborhood with more resources and opportunities, including in the area of bioscience.

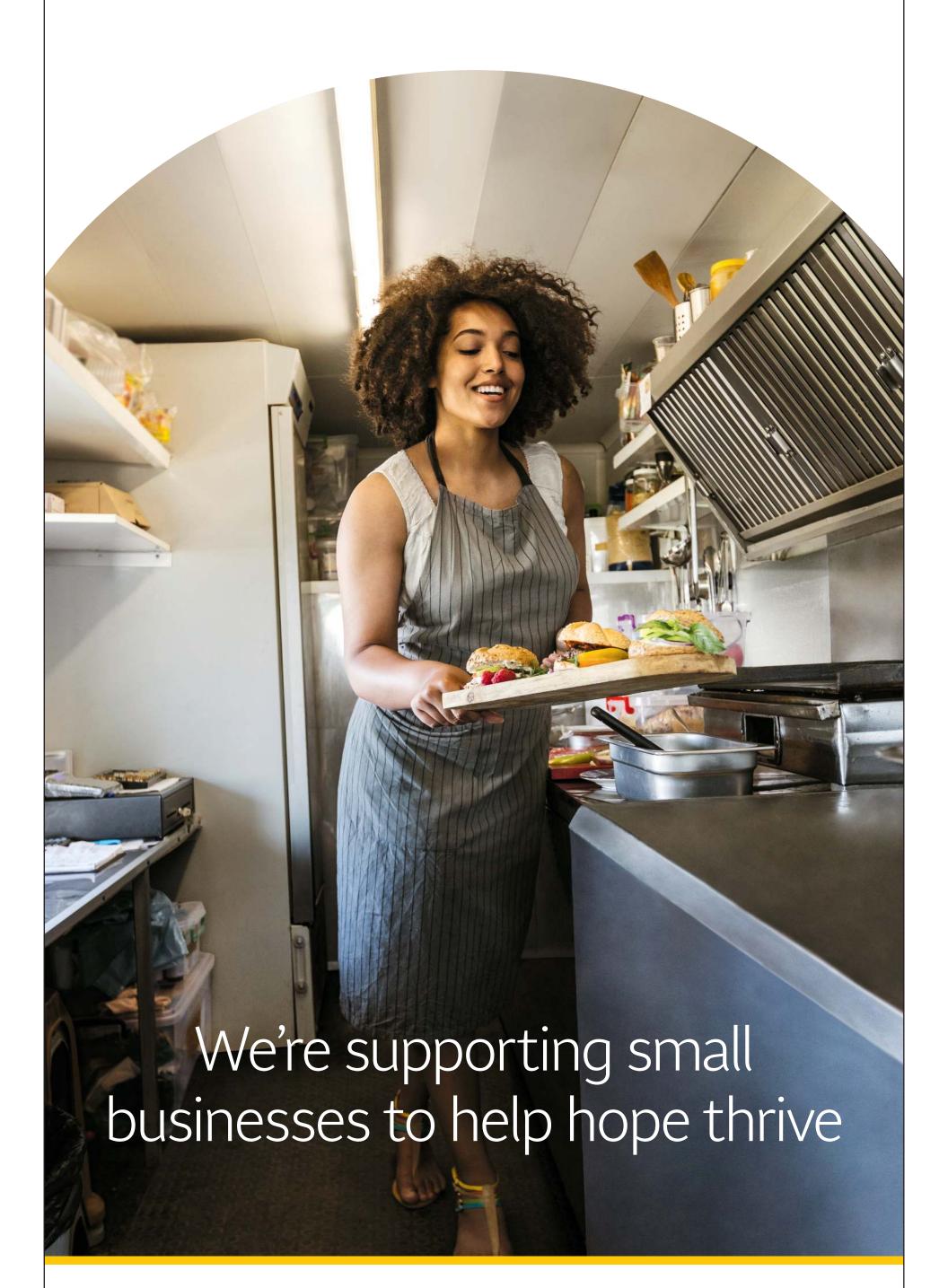
"Ultimately, the Marlton Square opportunity site will support current and future residents, all the while boosting the area's economic vitality. I look forward to hearing the progress being made in this space as we work together to chart a new course for

the Crenshaw community."

The RFP is available online at www.labavn.org, ID 200867. Proposals will be assessed based on team experience and qualifications, development concept, financial strategy and capability, and community engagement and benefits.

Proposals are due on January 24, 2022, and must be delivered to EWDD by 2 p.m. PDT.





Small businesses make neighborhoods. At Wells Fargo, we're championing these mainstays of the community and helping beautify local business districts this holiday season. With our Open For Business Fund, we're helping businesses invest in resources and build equity, to propel them to a brighter and more secure future.

In cities across America, Wells Fargo's Open for Business Fund is providing nonprofits with roughly \$420MM to support small businesses.

Learn more at wellsfargo.com/impact

After Guilty Verdicts, Civil Rights Leaders Exhort Black America to 'Never Stop Running for Ahmaud'

By STACY M. BROWN NNPA Correspondent

After nearly two years of pain, suffering, and wondering if the men who killed Ahmaud Arbery would pay for their heinous crime, the 25-year-old's family finally received jus-

A Glynn County, Georgia, convicted Travis McMichael, Gregory McMichael, and William Bryan of felony murder.

"Guilty. Guilty. Guilty," civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump exclaimed.

"Nothing will bring back Ahmaud, but his family will have some peace knowing the men who killed him will remain behind bars and can never inflict their brand of evil on another innocent soul," Crump continued.

NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson called the verdicts long overdue.

"Ahmaud death was unnecessary and fueled by racist ideologies deeply engrained into the fabric of this nation," Johnson insisted.

"Generations of Black people have seen this time and time again, with the murder of Emmett Till, Trayvon Martin, and many others," he continued.

"The actions and events perpetrated by McMichaels and William Bryan leading up to Ahmaud's death reflect a growing and deepening rift in America that will be its undoing if not addressed on a systemic level.

"We must fix what is genuinely harming our nation: white supremacy."

The jury found Travis McMichael, who shot Arbery in February 2020, guilty of all nine charges, including malice murder and four counts of felony murder.

The panel found his father, Gregory, not guilty

Arbery's of malice murder but convicted him on felony murder, unlawful imprisonment, and other charges.

federal charges, could spend life in prison when sentenced.



Judge Walmsley asked

"The violent stalking and lynching of Ahmaud Arbery was documented on video for the world to witness. Yet, because of the deep cracks, flaws, and biases in our systems, we were left to wonder if we would ever see justice," said Attorney Ben Crump.

Bryan escaped a guilty verdict on malice murder, but the jury found him guilty of three felony murder counts, aggravated assault, false imprisonment, and criminal intent to commit a felony.

The men, who also face

ley bound the men over and will soon set a sentencing

Immediately following the announcement of the first guilty verdict against Travis McMichael, Arberry's father, Marcus Arbery, shouted, "long time com-

"Ahmaud Arbery should be alive today. This tragedy should have never happened," said Florida Congresswoman Val Demings, who is a Democrat.

"I am keeping his family in my prayers. But we must move forward together to dispel the shadows of our past and to ensure the safety and civil rights of every American," Demings

asserted. Crump insisted that Black America must keep fighting for civil rights and

"This case, by all accounts, should have been opened and closed," Crump demanded.

justice.

"The violent stalking and lynching of Ahmaud Arbery was documented on video for the world to witness. Yet, because of the deep cracks, flaws, and biases in our systems, we were left to wonder if we would ever see justice,' Crump remarked.

"[The verdict] indicates progress, but we are nowhere close to the finish line. America, you raised your voices for Ahmaud. Now is not the time to let them quiet. Keep marching. Keep fighting for what is right. And never stop running for Ahmaud."

Ahmaud Arbery's Mom: Thankful for Justice and Son's Legacy

AP NEWSWIRE

Ahmaud Arbery's mother woke up Thursday with a new, very important blessing on Thanksgiving

But there will still be an empty chair at the family's celebrations. It is a reminder that while she feels justice was served when the three white men who helped shoot her son were convicted Wednesday

for cornering and killing him as he ran through a coastal Georgia neighborhood, she will never be made whole again because her son is gone.

"This is the second Thanksgiving we've had without Ahmaud. But at the same time I'm thankful. This is the first Thanksgiving we are saying we got justice for Ahmaud," Arbery's mother, Wanda Cooper-Jones, told The

Associated Press in an interview Thursday.

The three white men who chased and killed Arbery in Brunswick in February 2020 were all convicted of murder Wednesday. They cornered Arbery after finding out he had been seen on a surveillance camera at a nearby house under construction and wanted to question him about recent burglaries in

Arbery ran through the neighborhood and other areas near his home to clear his head. He had nothing in his hands and ran from the men for five minutes before one of them shot three times at him at close range with a shotgun. The men face life in prison when they are sentenced later and a federal hate crimes trial for them is scheduled for February.

the verdicts were read Wednesday, she thought of her son's supporters at the Glynn County courthouse every day who shouted "Justice for Ahmaud!"

to come out of those courtroom doors and say, we did it, we did it together," Cooper-Jones said.

Sitting beside Cooper-Jones as she heard the judge read out guilty 23 times was the mother of Ronald Greene, Louisiana man who died in 2019 after he was beaten and put in a chokehold by state troopers after a high

Cooper-Jones said after Taylor was killed by Louisville, police who burst into her home without knocking while serving a warrant during a drug operation. Taylor's boyfriend fired on "I finally got a chance the group. The officers

> Other mothers who have lost sons and daughters to racial violence or in police shootings also reached out. Cooper-Jones calls them a sorority.

were not charged in her

Nov. 24, 2021, in Brunswick, Ga.

She also spoke with the

Kentucky,

mother of Breonna Taylor.

"We come together. We share our experience and we grow together," she

Cooper-Jones spent the

18," Cooper-Jones said. "I'm gathering my immediate family. We're going to have a small dinner. We've going to be thankful. We're going to give our praises to

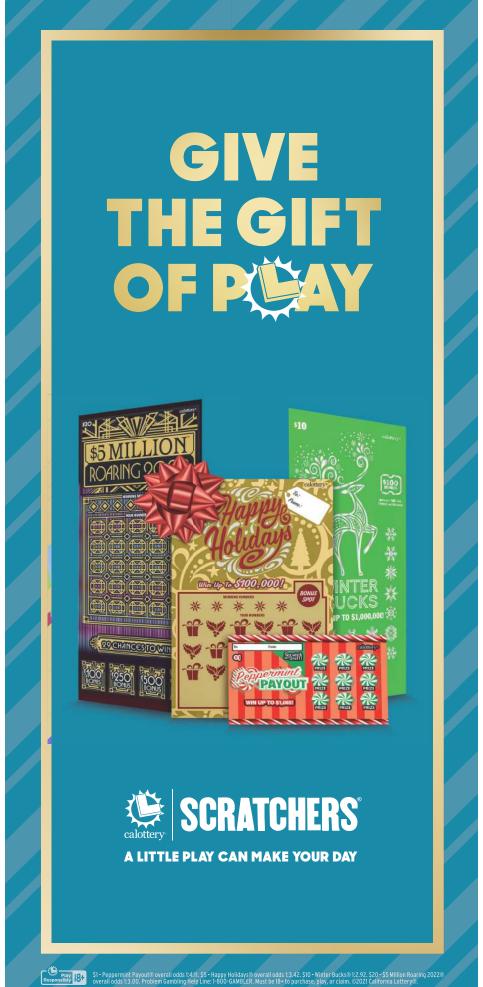
Tears streak down the cheek of Ahmaud Arbery's mother

Wanda Cooper-Jones after the jury convicted Travis McMichael in the Glynn County Courthouse, Wednesday,

> Other relatives are also grateful for the blessing of

> justice. "We're thankful for Ahmaud's life. Thankful for the love that he's shown us, for the years we had him. Thankful for the fight we stayed in for justice. Thankful that now we can start healing," Arbery's aunt Thea Brooks told the

Cooper-Jones is also thankful her son's killers are facing justice and his





Wanda Cooper-Jones, mother of Ahmaud Arbery, holds her granddaughter, Aubrey Nicholson, on Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2021, at a residence on St. Simons Island, Ga., following the the guilty verdict of the three men who killed her son.

speed chase. Troopers said Greene suffered his injuries in a crash, but his doctors reported that didn't appear to be true. A federal civil rights investigation into

munity. Martin was visiting

relatives.

Greene's death continues. In the days after her son was killed. Cooper-Jones got a call from the mother of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed Black teen killed by a man who successfully claimed self-defense during his murder trial after confronting Martin as he walked in his gated com-

past six weeks away from home, since jury selection started Oct. 18. She moved away from Brunswick after her son was killed.

So she plans a quiet Thanksgiving away from home today. She isn't sure if they will make Arbery's favorite — pork chops and butter beans, but if not Thursday, the they will have them soon because she said her son loved them for Sunday dinner.

"Today is actually going to be a day of rest. I've been sitting in that courtroom since October death will make Georgia a safer place.

After Arbery's death, Georgia became the 47th state to pass a hate crimes law. The Legislature also repealed the citizen's arrest law that defense attorneys tried to use to justify chasing him, banning people who aren't officers from detaining people outside of shoplifting.

"When they hear my son's name. they will say, this young man, he lost his life but he did bring change," Cooper-Jones said.

California Health Officials Watching For **Omicron Variant of Coronavirus**

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The county has now reported 1,525,486 cases of COVID-19 and 27,128 fatalities since the pandemic began. Of the 9,402,000 individuals tested to date, 15% have tested positive for the virus, the department said.

Officials are also keeping an eye on the Omicron variant, which has now been detected in Canada after first appearing in Africa and then in Europe.

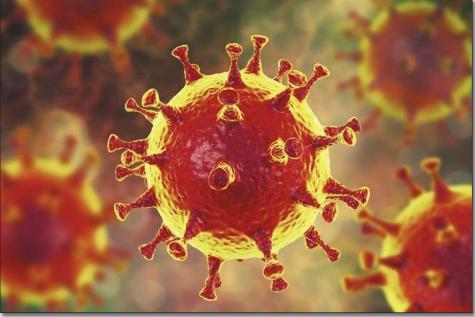
"California is closely monitoring the new Omicron variant, which has not yet arrived in California or the U.S.," state Public Health Director Tomos Aragon said. "Vaccines continue to be our best way through the pandemic by safely protecting us against severe illness from COVID-19 and its variants.

We are doubling down on

our vaccination and booster efforts to ensure that all Californians have access to safe, effective, and free vaccines that can prevent serious illness and death." The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health addressed the new variant on Saturday.

"Although more studies are needed to determine whether the Omicron variant is more contagious, more deadly or resistant to vaccine and treatments than other COVID-19 strains, as with any variant of concern that is found in other countries, there are important steps we all need to take to protect ourselves from COVID-19 and from emerging variants of concern," the department said.

Officials urged anyone at least 5 years old who has not been vaccinated to do so, and those who had their last shot six months ago to



Those numbers came as the county reported 575 new cases of COVID-19 and seven additional deaths associated with the virus, in totals that likely reflect reporting delays over the weekend, according to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

get a booster shot. "The vaccines are effective against the Delta variant and earlier strains of the virus, which allows us to remain hopeful that the

approved vaccines will also provide some protection against Omicron," the statement said.

Officials also reminded people to wear a mask when indoors or at large outdoor mega-events regardless of vaccination status. The rolling daily average rate of people testing positive for the virus in Los Angeles County was 2.0% as of Friday.

During the previous week, 82% of county residents 12 and over had received at least one dose of COVID vaccine, and 73% were fully vaccinated. Of the county's overall population of 10.3 million people, 71% received at least one dose, and 63% were fully vaccinated. Black residents continued to have the lowest vaccination rates, at 54%, followed by Latina/o residents at 59%, whites at 72% and Asians at 80%.

Of the roughly 5.99 million residents who were fully vaccinated as of Nov. 16, 75,249 have subsequently tested positive for the virus, for a rate of 1.26%. Ferrer said. Of the vaccinated population, 2,528 have been hospitalized, for a rate of 0.042%, and 422 have died, a rate of 0.007%.

New Variant Cause for Concern, Not Panic, Biden Tells US

By Zeke Miller AP News

President Joe Biden called the new coronavirus variant omicron a cause for concern but "not a cause for panic" Monday and said he was not considering any widespread U.S. lockdown. He urged Americans anew to get fully vaccinated, including booster shots, and return to face masks indoors in public settings to slow any spread.

shot either when they are House press secretary Jen six months after their initial Pfizer or Moderna series or two months after their initial J&J vaccine," CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said in a state-

Biden was joined by Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert and the president's COVID-19 adviser, who said earlier Monday that scientists hope to know in the next week or two how

Psaki said Monday, "we will continue to assess what steps we need to take to protect the American people."

Some other nations are reinstating severe travel and business lockdowns to prevent the omicron variant from spreading, but Biden indicated the U.S. was not following suit.

"If people are vaccinated and wear their mask, there's no need for lockdowns," he said.

Fauci said earlier on "CBS Mornings" that limiting travel from the countries where omicron was first identified "buys you a couple of weeks because if you can keep things out in force for a couple of weeks you can do a lot of

than waiting for a new formulation.

"I would strongly suggest you get boosted now," he said.

He added that depending on what scientists learn about the omicron variant in the coming weeks "we may not need" targeted boosters to contain that

strain of the virus. Biden said his administration was "sparing no effort at removing all roadblocks to keep the American people safe," including working with drug manufacturers on potential new boosters and testing targeted specifically at the new variant.

Any omicron-specific vaccine probably could not begin to be produced for another two or three months, so getting boosters now is a "very important initial line of defense," Dr. Paul Burton, chief medical officer for the vaccinemaker Moderna, said Mon-

Burton said Moderna and other vaccine companies are testing existing COVID-19 vaccines to determine how effective they are against the omi-

facture an omicron-specific variant, it's going to take some weeks, two to three months is probably what we're looking at to be able to really begin to manufacture," Burton told ABC.

Noting that the new variant, like earlier ones, sprang up overseas in areas with lower vaccination rates, Biden said it was both a moral imperative and in America's self-interest to speed up global vaccinations. He noted that the U.S. has already donated more than 275 million doses — more than the rest of the world combined and is on pace to deliver more than 1.1 billion doses globally by September 2022.

"Now we need the rest

of the world to step up as well," Biden said. "We can't let up until the world is vaccinated."

As the holiday season got underway, Biden tried to reassure shoppers that his administration was working to ease supply chain problems. Businesses are working to overcome lingering effects of COVID-related shutdowns and now issues arising from the strong recovery that has generated more demand than many ports, manufacturers and retailers can handle.

The president spoke Monday with the CEOs of Best Buy, Food Lion, Samsung, Etsy and Walmart, among companies. The corporate leaders reassured Biden.

"While we're all concerned about the supply chain, we have more inventory than we did a year ago, and we have the inventory that we need to be able to support the business," said Walmart CEO Doug McMillon. "And we are seeing progress. The port and transit delays are improving."



President Joe Biden speaks about the COVID-19 variant named omicron, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, Monday, Nov. 29, 2021, in Washington, as Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases listens.

Speaking Monday at the White House, Biden said it was inevitable that the new variant would reach the U.S., but he also said the country has the tools necessary to protect Americans — particularly the approved vaccines and booster shots.

When omicron arrives, and it will, Biden said, America will "face this new threat just as we've faced those that have come before it."

He appealed to the roughly 80 million unvaccinated Americans aged 5 and up to get their shots, and for the rest of the country to seek out booster shots six months after their second dose. He also encouraged everyone to get back to wearing face masks in all indoor public settings a pandemic precaution that has fallen out of use across much of the country.

Separately, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention broadened its recommendation for COVID-19 booster shots to include all adults because of the new variant. The agency had previously approved boosters for all adults, but only recommended them for those 50 years and older or living in long-term care settings.

"Everyone ages 18 and older should get a booster well the existing COVID-19 vaccines protect against the variant, and how dangerous it is compared to earlier strains.

"We really don't know," Fauci told ABC's "Good Morning America," calling speculation prema-

The new variant poses the latest test to Biden's efforts to contain the pandemic, mitigate its impacts on the economy and return a sense of normalcy to the U.S. during the holiday

"This variant is a cause for concern, not a cause for panic," Biden said, as U.S. financial markets rebounded Monday after falling sharply on Friday. The White House said there were no plans to curtail Biden's travel as a result of the new variant.

Biden last week moved to restrict travel from South Africa and seven other countries in southern Africa, effective Monday, in a bid to give scientists time to learn more about the new variant, and for more Americans to get vaccinated before it hits the U.S. South African officials have argued they are being punished for speedily identifying and reporting the new variant.

As omicron spreads across the globe, White

Pharmaceutical companies are already adjusting their existing COVID-19 vaccines to better attack the omicron variant, but Fauci said Americans should make it a priority to get either their first shots or a booster dose now, rather

cron variant.

"If we need to manu-



Are you 55 years or older?

Do you have questions or need help connecting with community resources?

- Transportation
- Mental Health
- Meal Delivery
- Anxiety or Stress
- Medication
- Social Classes
- Caregiver Information
- Technology

If YES, you may be eligible for our no-cost programs! To access services, you must:

1. Be an adult age 55+ or a caregiver to an adult age 55+

2. Reside in one of the following counties:

Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside or San Bernardino



Trailblazing Congresswoman Carrie Meek Dies at 95

By Lauren Victoria Burke

Former U.S. Congresswoman Carrie Meek, who was the first Black person to represent the state of Florida in Congress since Reconstruction, died on November 28. She was 95.

Meek served in Congress from 1993 to 2003. She as the granddaughter of slaves and became a Congresswoman at the age of 66 after serving the Florida House and Senate.

Meek's political career began when Florida state representative Gwen Cherry, Florida's first ever Black woman legislator, was killed in a car crash in 1979. Meek won a special election to succeed Cherry.

In 1992, after courtcongressional redistricting mandated that there would be three minority majority districts in Florida to comply with the federal Voting Rights Act. Former U.S. Representative Corrine Brown and the late Congressman Alcee Hastings, who passed away

seat in Congress and represented parts of Dade County. She focused on middle class issues and the poor. She focused on assisting her district from the devastation of Hurricane Andrew and won over \$100 million



When Carrie Meek retired in 2002 she wanted to focus more of her time to the Miami foundation named after

in April, were also elected in federal assistance after in 1992.

the disaster. Meek also

Meek ran and won a advocated for Haitian

immigrants.

Meek was born in 1926, in Tallahassee. She graduated from Florida A&M College for Negroes, now known as Florida A&M University but in 1946 Blacks could not attend graduate school in Florida. Meek earned a Masters degree from in 1948 from the University of Michigan. She was then hired as a teacher at Bethune-Cookman University.

Meek's son, Kendrick Meek, also served in Congress from 2003 to 2011, in the same congressional seat as his mother. When Carrie Meek retired in 2002 she wanted to focus more of her time to the Miami foundation named after her.

Meek's daughter, Lucia Davis-Raiforde, said her mother focused on making



Former Florida Congresswoman Carrie Meek cracks up Betty Castor, left as she recalls her time serving in the legislature on senate reunion day, March 20, 2008 in Tallahassee, Fla. Meek, the grandchild of a slave and a sharecropper's daughter who became one of the first black Floridians elected to Congress since Reconstruction, died Sunday, Nov. 28, 2021. She was 95.

sure, "her people, no matter where they were in the African diaspora, benefited from the benefits offered by being in the United States."

Cosby Prosecutors Urge Supreme Court to Restore Conviction

AP NEWSWIRE

Prosecutors urged the U.S. Supreme Court to reinstate Bill Cosby's sexual assault conviction, complaining in a petition released Monday the verdict was thrown out over a questionable agreement that the comic claimed gave him lifetime immuni-

They said the Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision in June to overturn Cosby's conviction created a dangerous precedent by giving a press release the legal weight of an immunity agreement.

Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele called the court's

decision "an indefensible predicting rule," onslaught of criminal appeals if it remains law.

"This decision as it stands will have far-reaching negative consequences beyond Montgomery County and Pennsylvania. The U.S. Supreme Court can right what we believe is a grievous wrong," Steele wrote in the filing, which seeks review under the due process clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Cosby's lawyers have long argued that he relied on a promise that he would never be charged when he gave damaging testimony in an accuser's civil suit in 2006. The admissions were later used against him in

two criminal trials.

The only written evidence of such a promise is a 2005 press release from then-prosecutor Bruce Castor, who said he did not have enough evidence to arrest Cosby.

The release included an ambiguous "caution" that Castor "will reconsider this decision should the need arise." The parties have since spent years debating what that meant.

Steele's bid to revive the case is a long shot. The Supreme Court accepts fewer than 1% of the petitions it receives. At least four justices on the nine-member court would have to agree to hear the case. A decision on the

petition, filed Wednesday but only made public Monday, is not expected for several months.

Castor's successors, who gathered new evidence and arrested Cosby Then the seven justices on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court wrote three separate opinions on it.

upheld the conviction.

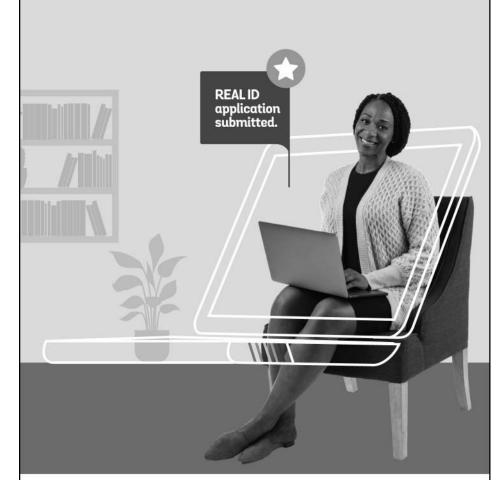
The majority found that Cosby relied on the decicharges.

Cosby, a groundbreaking Black actor and comedian, created the topranked "Cosby Show" in the 1980s. A barrage of sexual assault allegations



Bill Cosby arrives for his sentencing hearing at the Montgomery County Courthouse, Monday, Sept. 24, 2018, in Norristown, Pa. Prosecutors asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review the decision that overturned Cosby's conviction. In a petition filed Monday, Nov. 29, 2021 they wrote that courts should not equate a supposed promise made by a former prosecutor to lifetime immunity.

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made such a deal. Instead, they say Cosby had strategic reasons to give the deposition rather than invoke his Fifth Amendment right to remain silent, even if it backfired when "he slipped up" in his rambling testimony.

Cosby's spokesperson called Steele "obsessed" with the actor and said he only hoped to please "the #MeToo mob." Defense lawyers have long said the case should never have gone to trial because of what they call a "non-prosecution agreement."

"This is a pathetic lastditch effort that will not prevail. The Montgomery's County's DA's fixation with Mr. Cosby is troubling the least," say spokesperson Andrew Wyatt said in a statement.

Cosby, 84, became the first celebrity convicted of sexual assault in the #MeToo era when the jury at his 2018 retrial found him guilty of drugging and molesting college sports administrator Andrea Constand in 2004.

He spent nearly three years in prison before Pennsylvania's high court ordered his release.

Legal scholars and victim advocates will be watching closely to see if the Supreme Court takes an interest in the #MeToo

Two justices on the court, Clarence Thomas and Brett Kavanaugh, were accused of sexual misconduct during their bitterly fought confirmation hear-

ings. Appellate judges have voiced sharply different

views of the Cosby case.

An intermediate state court

when he admitted giving a string of young women drugs and alcohol before sexual encounters. The court stopped short of finding that there was such an agreement, but said Cosby thought there was - and that reliance, they said, marred his conviction.

But prosecutors call that conclusion flawed. They note that Cosby's lawyers objected strenuously to the deposition questions rather than let him speak freely.

Cosby himself has never testified about any agreement or promise. The only alleged participant to come forward is Castor, a political rival of Steele's who went on to represent President Donald Trump in his second impeachment trial. Castor said he made the promise to a now-dead defense lawyer for Cosby, and got nothing in return.

He never mentioned it to his top assistant, who reopened the case in 2015 after a federal judge unsealed Cosby's deposi-

At a remarkable pretrial hearing in February 2016, Castor spent hours testifying for the defense. The judge found him not credible and sent the case to trial.

Pennsylvania The Supreme Court, in its ruling, called Cosby's arrest "an affront to fundamental fairness."

Weeks later, the ruling prompted the state attorney general to dismiss charges against a jail guard accused of sexually abusing female inmates, because of an earlier agreement with county prosecutors that let him resign rather than face

in 2015, doubt Castor ever sion not to prosecute him later destroyed his image as "America's Dad" and led to multimillion-dollar court settlements with at least eight women. But Constand's case was the only one to lead to criminal charges.

Five Cosby's of accuser's testified for the prosecution to support Constand's claims, testimony that Cosby's lawyers also challenged on appeal. However, the state's high court declined to address the thorny issue of how many other accusers should be allowed to take the stand in a criminal case before the testimony becomes overkill.

In a recent memoir, Constand called the verdict less important than the growing support for sexual assault survivors inspired by the #MeToo movement.

"The outcome of the trial seemed strangely unimportant. It was as if the world had again shifted in some much more significant way," Constand wrote the book, Moment."

The Associated Press generally does not name alleged victims of sexual assault unless they speak publicly, as Constand has done.

Cheryl Carmel, who served as jury foreperson at Cosby's retrial, said she was glad to see Steele ask for the review.

"I firmly believe that what we decided was correct, or else I wouldn't have made that decision ... with the group. Having it overturned because of something that was outside of the facts of what we were given is disappointing," Carmel told The AP on Monday.

EDUCATIONAL CENTER TARGETS GAMING INDUSTRY AS THE NEXT FRONTIER FOR MINORITY ENTREPRENEURS

SENTINEL STAFF REPORT

The multi-billion-dollar video gaming industry owes a sizable portion of its success to Black and Brown teen and young adult consumers. Yet, when you look at the percentage of minorities in the industry's senior management and game development ranks, they are under-represented and underpaid in comparison to Whites. That fact, and how to begin leveling the playing field, was the topic of discussion at the Entrepreneur Educational Center's (EECI) 1st Annual "Business Opportunity in Gaming and Animation Summit."

Held at EECI's arles Business Opportunity Center (QBOC) in South Los Angeles, the Summit featured speakers from the gaming and animation industry, and representatives from colleges and universities with gaming curriculums and presentations on entrepreneurial opportunities in the gaming industry. EECI Executive Director Barbara J. Stanton said the Summit was created to introduce future and former students of the organization's Miracle's Entrepreneur Program (MEP) to



(L-R) Wendy Jacquemin, VP City National Bank, EECI CFO Janine Haydel, Actor/ Producer Hawthorne James, and EECI Executive Director Barbara J. Stanton

creative and management

end, the same is true of the video games industry and the images and messages

James, Carles L. Luzang, Owner Abyssinia Media Group and creator of "Ayele Nubian Warrior" comic book, Attys. Daniel J. Alexander, and Tam Vu specialist in entrepreneur startup businesses and cryptocurrency/blockchain issues, and -more.

TARGETS **EECI** GAMING INDUSTRY AS NEXT FRONTIER FOR MINORITIES keynote speaker Jim Huntley, professor & Head of Marketing, USC Games, ald Lawson Endowment Fund (GLEF). The fund is named in honor of the late Gerald "Jerry" Lawson, an African American Pioneer in the Gaming industry as creator of the first game console with interchangeable cartridges and inventor of Coin-Op "Demolition Derby."

Huntley, told the youthful audience that education was key in closing the "Opportunity Gap" for minorities in the Gaming industry and believes the fund, that among other things provides Endowment for Needs/Merit-Based full scholarships for Black USC Games students per year in perpetuity, is a step in the right direction.

"We're seeing that the percentage of African American or Indigenousidentifying game professionals working in the industry consistently has hovered around 3-4% for at least a decade if not longer. That number hasn't changed or moved up at all. So, we see that's where the greatest need is and where we can help is to make sure those students get exposed to our number one games program and have an inroad into the industry," he

During breaks, Summit attendees took advantage of video gaming consoles and enrolled in free MEP classes for the 2022 Spring-Summer Business Plan Development course where they can get certified and readied to enter the lucrative world of gaming and animation. Former MEP student Taylor McIntyre offered this insight into her Summit experience. "It

was a game changer for me. Career options I didn't even know existed became clear to me.

Anyone looking to go into gaming would definitely benefit from Miracle's program." SPON-SORS & SUPPORTERS: Thomas & Dorothy Levy

Foundation, City National Bank, Comerica Bank, Northern Trust Bank, Pacific Western Bank, First Republic Bank, Cathay Bank Foundation, MUFG Union Bank, Citizens Business Bank, First Choice Bank, Pacific Premier Bank, GBC International

Bank, Banc of California, Farmers & Merchants Trust Co., Commonwealth Business Bank, Broadway Federal/City First Bank, Fellman & Associates, Warner Bros. Studios, Local 33, SBA/Los Angeles, Southern California Gas Co., 94.7 THE WAVE.



Entrepreneur C.J. Juzang, creator of Black Illustrated Comic Book "Ayele Nubian Warrior."

yet another field to focus on in search of career

they project. The Summit points to a way to transition from being a gamer to



Professor Jim Huntley, Head of Marketing, USC Games

and animation industry as the next frontier for minorities to explore and diversify," she observed. "Just as Hollywood, a shaper of images and lifestyles, needs more diversity on the

Summit presenters included Jonathan Robert, Lip Sync Supervisor for animated T.V. series "South Park," Actor/Voiceover Specialist Hawthorne



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Los Angeles City Council Bans Possession, Purchase, Sale of Ghost Guns

By Margaret SHUTTLEWORTH City News Service

The City Council today unanimously approved an ordinance to prohibit the possession, purchase, sale, receipt and transportation of "ghost guns" in Los Angeles.

The ordinance was requested by a motion from Councilmen Paul Koretz and Paul Krekorian, which also passed through the council unanimously. It will next go to Mayor Eric Garcetti for his signature.

"There's no question that ghost guns are an epidemic nationwide, but today we have an obligation to protect the lives of Angelenos, and this is one step that we can take to do all that," Koretz said before Tuesday's vote.

The ordinance prohibits the possession, purchase, sale, receipt or transport of a non-serialized unfinished firearm frame or receiver or non-serialized firearm. Such weapons – known as "ghost guns" because they are virtually untraceable can be assembled by unlicensed buyers from legally purchased kits. The unfinished parts are inexpensive and not required under federal law to have serial numto purchase.

According to the gun after the ordinance was

bers or a background check not," Los Angeles Police Chief Michel Moore said



Ghost guns accounted for more than 40% of guns confiscated by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and one-third of crime guns recovered by the Los Angeles Police Department in 2020.

control advocacy organization Everytown For Gun Safety, an AR-15 ghost gun kit and lower receiver can be purchased for

Violation of the city ordinance will be punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 and/or up to six months in jail.

"What this will allow us to do is the simple possession of an unserialized weapon, the lower receiver, the frame or if the entire weapon itself is unserialized, we can make an arrest immediately. We can remove that gun off the street and we can take action that today we canpassed.

"We also recognize that it's not just the guy holding the gun, it's the purveyor of it. It's who is manufacturing it. This legislation is going to allow us to go and pursue those illicit operators because we have to stop the supply chain," Moore added. Krekorian said before the vote that there's now an entire industry involved in ghost gun manufacturing.

"We now have an entire industry of manufacturers, the sole purpose of which is to evade background checks, to manufacture a product that will lead to death, destruction, violence across our country with impunity, because those weapons are available without background checks and without the ability to be traced," Krekorian said.

On Monday, Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla, both D-California, sent a letter to Council President Nury Martinez expressing their support of the ordinance.

"This ordinance is an important effort to help keep unserialized and untraceable firearms, known as 'ghost guns,' off our streets. Similar initiatives have already been implemented in San Diego and San Francisco, and we commend the Los Angeles City Council for considering a similar measure," the letter stated.

Ghost guns accounted for more than 40% of guns confiscated by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and one-third of crime guns recovered by the Los Angeles Police Department in 2020.

On Oct. 19, the LAPD reported to the police commission on the "epidemic" of ghost guns, which department officials say have increased "exponentially over the last year."

"The current trend shows these figures will

gang affiliations, Barger

continue to grow exponentially," according to the LAPD report, which notes that 3D printing allows the components to be more accessible. 'Ghost guns' are replacing firearms people would normally purchase, with no background checks required," according to the report.

Between January and June of this year, 863 ghost guns were recovered, more than the 813 recovered during the entire year of 2020. So far in 2021, nearly 1800 "ghost guns" have been recovered, LAPD Chief Michel Moore said Tues-

"It's dramatically going up, and it is going to eclipse last year's totals, potentially by 1,000 plus guns," LAPD Deputy Chief Kris Pitcher told the police commission on Oct. 19.

Pitcher drew a connection between an increase in ghost guns and an increase in crime. "In 2021, the city has experienced 320 homicides, we're up 15.9%, and in terms of shootings, we've had 1,165 so far, which is an increase of 20%. So, I want to make the connectivity there as 'ghost guns' are being recovered more frequent-

Between January and September, 14 ghost guns were recovered from homicide scenes, 15 from robberies and 50 from assaults with deadly weapons, police said.

Ghost guns were also used during a 2013 shooting at Santa Monica College in which six people, including the shooter, died; during a series of shootings in Tehama County in 2017, in which five people died; and in the shooting at Saugus High School in 2019, in which three students, including the shooter, were killed and three others were injured.

"There are no federal restrictions on who could buy 'ghost gun' kits ... and they're intentionally marketed as unregulated and untraceable to appeal to people prohibited from purchasing firearms locally," Koretz said when the motion requesting the ordinance passed the City Council. "This is absolutely ridiculous to think that the manufacture, sale and marketing of weapons is intended for anything but skirting a loophole in the state and federal gun laws to get firearms into the hands of people who law enforcement and we as a society have deemed as unfit to possess those guns."

Total \$30,000 Reward Offered in Shooting Death of 13-Year-Old Pasadena Boy

CITY NEWS SERVICE

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a \$20,000 reward today for information leading to the gunman who fired a stray bullet into a Pasadena home – killing a 13-yearold boy playing a video

Supervisor Kathryn Barger recommended the reward in the case of Iran Moreno, which will be added to an earlier \$10,000 reward from the city of Pasadena, for a total of \$30,000.

"The senseless murder of Iran has left a painful void in the hearts of his family,

friends, teachers and the fired from a vehicle or was community at large," Barger said in a statement. "I'm hopeful that this monetary reward will help move us closer to finding whoever is responsible and holding them accountable. Justice for Iran must be served."

The eighth-grader was wounded at 6:12 p.m. Nov. 20 in the 900 block of North Raymond Avenue and died later at a hospital, according to the Pasadena Police Department.

The target of the shooting was unknown, but it did not appear to be the boy, police said. Multiple shots were fired, but police did not know whether the shooter

on foot.

Iran was a well-liked

Mayor Victor Gordo

The eighth-grader was wounded at 6:12 p.m. Nov. 20 in the 900 block of North Raymond Avenue and died later at a hospital, according to the Pasadena Police Department.

straight-A student at Blair called for increased police Middle School and had no presence during a news conference held two days after the shooting.

"We can't continue to take the same approach to public safety in this city or in the region and expect different results," Gordo said at the time. "It's not too long ago that we called on more resources for the police department, that we said to the police department, 'we need more enforcement, we need more officers on the street.' And I'm here to renew those calls, to say that we should and we must do things differently."

On Tuesday, Gordo said Iran's family deserves closure and expressed the city's gratitude to Barger and the

"I am hopeful these rewards will encourage witnesses to come forward with any information they may have," the mayor said.

A GoFundMe page for the family had raised \$16,168 as of Tuesday morning. It may be accessed www.gofundme.com/f/fun eral-expenses-for-iranmoreno?qid=3c95b4f6ce7

47883a31a8a0b31d9d9b6. Anyone with additional information about this shooting can call Pasadena Police at 626-744-4241 or Crime Stoppers at 800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at crimestoppers.org.

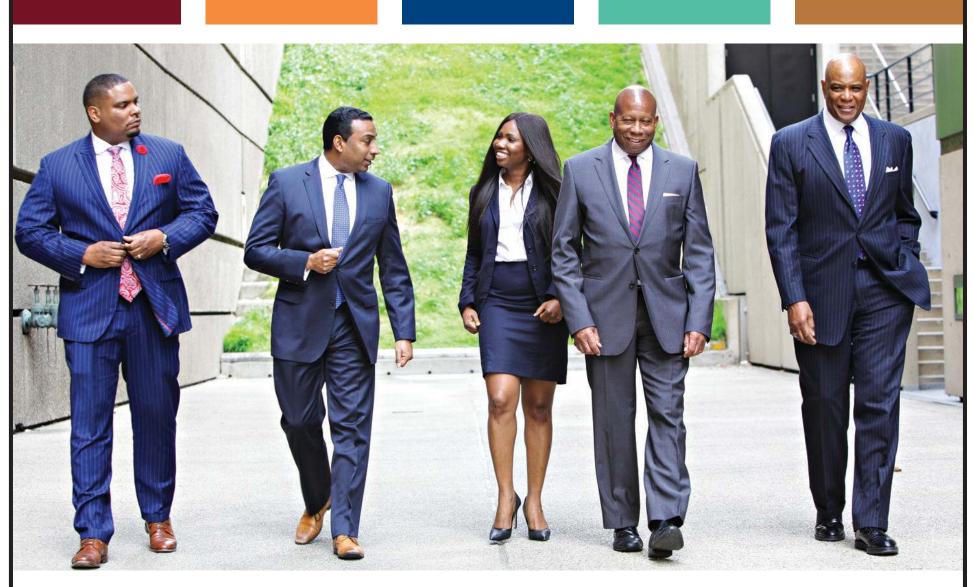


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What The Ahmaud Arbery Verdict Means To The Black Community

{continued from Pg. A-1}

ecutors elected not to play the race card, but relied on the facts of the murder which proved to be a solid legal strategy.

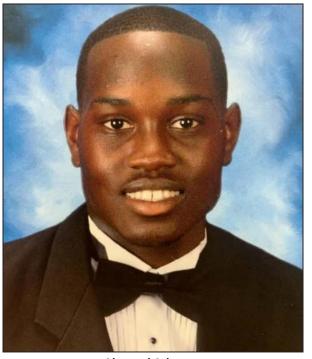
The defense however, did inject racial undertones into the trial's closing arguments, when attorney, Laura Hogue, one of Gregory and Thomas McMichael's lawyers, prompted outrage from the courtroom and all watching the case, by suggesting Arbery's had "dirty toenails."

Hogue stated to jurors, "Turning Ahmaud Arbery into a victim after the choices that he made does not reflect the reality of what brought Ahmaud Arbery to Satilla Shores in his khaki shorts with no socks to cover his long, dirty toenails."

Arbery, a 25-year-old Black man, was out jogging on the outskirts of Brunswick, Georgia, about 250 miles outside of Atlanta, when the McMichaels and Bryan, Jr. cornered him with their vehicles and murdered him in cold blood. Video footage posted on social media and on television news reports across the country sparked outrage and brought forth a heightened awareness of the historical disregard for Black life, a fact understood by Black Americans throughout the nation's scarred history.

Although the video was viewed by millions throughout the world, many Black people still were not confident that justice would be served or that the men would be found guilty and/or convicted for their crimes.

Travis McMichael, the man found guilty of actually shooting Ahmaud Ar-



Ahmaud Arbery COURTESY

bery, was found guilty of the first and most serious count of the indictment, malice murder, and eight other felony charges. William Bryan and Gregory McMichael received split verdicts; they were found guilty on counts of felony murder, aggravated assault, false imprisonment, and criminal attempt to commit a felony.

Arbery is one of hundreds, if not thousands, of Black men and women who have been killed senselessly, and have been seen as the catalyst of the Black Lives Matter movement. After his death and the guilty verdicts, this is but a small demonstration of the BLM movement's significance in the struggle for justice for Black Americans. Still, the decision comes at a time when many activists believe social justice progress is being undone by laws that seek to restrict minority's voting rights access or limit the scope of American history that's taught in schools, while the COV- ID-19 pandemic continues to disproportionately affect historically underserved communities.

Even though the three White men were convicted of murder in the Arbery case, the scales of justice for Blacks remain unbalanced. The defense for the three killers maintained their actions were permissible under the Georgia Citizen's Arrest Law, one that was created in an era of slavery and emboldened citizens to act on their worst biases has now been repealed, and was replaced with a bill that limits who can detain citizens and when.

"This bill makes Georgia the first state in the country to repeal its citizen's arrest statute. Today we are replacing a Civil War-era law, ripe for abuse, with language that balances the sacred right to self-defense of a person and property with our shared responsibility to root out injustice and set our state on a better path forward," said Georgia Governor Gov. Brian

Kemp

But many states still have some version of this law on their books and many civil rights leaders believe "that as long as laws like this remain in effect, outcomes like the murder of Arbery remain an all too real consequence."

"What was at stake in this trial was whether we believed it was even possible for a Black man to get a fair trial in the South or the United States as a whole. Even with indisputable video evidence of a Black man's murder, the Black community pondered



News.
With viral video ad-

in a statement to CNN

dressing the role of race in policing and vigilantism, the high-profile trial of the three men was similar to that of the Derek Chauvin case, where the former Minneapolis police officer was found guilty of murdering George Floyd. But while the guilty verdict for Chauvin or the guilty verdicts for the murderers of Arbery are demonstrations of progress, just a week ago, Kyle Rittenhouse was found not guilty of homi-



Ahmaud Arbery Killers COURTESY

cide on the grounds of self-

if justice would old rule of "White law" for these three White men supersede the very truth all the world witnessed with our own eyes," stated Reverend Eric P. Lee, Former president of the Los Angeles Southern Christian Leadership Council. "This verdict is but a small demonstration of the hopes we have that Black men and women can find justice within the American legal

"I am glad that Georgia has already taken these steps, but it all depends on what ultimately happens, because we can still have people administering the laws in ways that are racist," said Justin Hansford, a professor at the Howard

system."

cide on the grounds of self-defense after fatally shooting two people in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and wounding another during Black-inspired social justice protest in the summer of 2020.

While Rittenhouse was found innocent in the murder of two White men on the grounds of self-defense, one cannot ignore that the so called "threat to his life" was in fact, his own fear, as tensions grew at the rally following the murder of George Floyd.

The trial also reminds us all of the 2012 case regarding George Zimmerman, who shot Trayvon Martin and was found not guilty of murder and manslaughter after claiming self-defense.

that Arbery's murder "is a devastating reminder of how far we have to go in the fight for racial justice in this country," a feeling echoed by many throughout this country.

In the final analysis, and

In the final analysis, and within a reality known far too often, to too many Black people throughout this nation, the three men pursued Arbery "because he was a Black man running down the street." The fact that lawyers were reluctant to introduce the case's racial element mirrors America's unwillingness to confront



racism head on.

Racial bias and racial discrimination remain a major problem in America today, and a fear of confronting or even having an honest dialogue about racism remains a large part of America's reality. While we cannot deny America has made strides in addressing these issues, we still have a long way to go. Black Lives Matter cannot continue to just be a slogan popularized by social and local media, but needs to become a reality that all Americans, but especially White America, actually believes.

The Fight Over Redistricting Moves to The 2nd Supervisorial District

{continued from Pg. A-1}

by the Black HUB. "It provides a district where African Americans have a more likely opportunity to elect a candidate of their own choice." concludes Clayton, who has monitored the redistricting process for over 25 years and submitted a map labeled the Clayton map – Map #4. Look at it as a guide to protecting minority representa-

tion.

To the L.A. County Redistricting Commission members, please listen to the people. Approximately 70% of callers at the meeting on November 29th, residents of South Central L.A. & East LA, pleaded to maintain the potential for minority districts by not placing SE cities in District 2. So, we hope the commission will have the courage and remember the

spirit of the Voting Rights Act by eliminating maps B and B-1 revised.

What can and should we

Attend the Redistricting Commission meetings (only held virtually). They are scheduled for December 1 and Dec. 7, at 6:30 p.m. PST and Dec. 5th and Dec. 12, at

Spread the word by encouraging all stakeholders

in South Los Angeles County to speak during the public comment period. Encourage the PRO-TECTION OF HISTORIC AFRICAN-AMERICAN DISTRICT 2, so that African Americans can be represented "at the table" by electing a candidate of

Go the website to learn more. www.redistricting. lacounty.gov.

their own choice.

Remember, it is our time and it is our watch!

SUBMITTED BY

Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker, former L.A City Redistricting Commission (2000, 2010) and President – Ward EDC, a community faith-based development organization in South L.A.



Supervisor
Holly Mitchell COURTESY

Special "Passage" Contending for Oscar Awards

Hollywood Event Draws LA Mayoral Candidate Karen Bass and Actors Richard Gant, Marla Gibbs, Robert Okumu and Starletta Dupois

{continued from Pg. A-1}

the Museum of the Moving Image in Queens, NY, on November 19, and the second screening took place at Raleigh Studios' Chaplin Theater in Hollywood on November 23.

The Hollywood event drew such notables as U.S. Congresswoman and LA Mayoral Candidate Karen Bass, as well as "Passage" cast member Robert Okumu and the film's screenwriter Mel Donalson. Also in attendance were actors Richard Gant, Marla Gibbs and Starletta DuPois, stars of Massey's earlier 1992 film "Last Breeze of Summer." The New York event included a panel discussion with Massey and Arthur which was led by Ken Meeks, Author and Producer with Black Enterprise Magazine and Black Enterprise Broadcast Television.

"Passage" presents a West African culture that faces an unprecedented challenge in the year 1600. "Passage" is an Official Selection of the 2021 Bronze Lens Film Festival, the 2021 Reel Black Men Film Festival, and the 2021 Run & Shoot Filmworks/ MVAAFF Film Festival and is also an Invited Film for the 2021 Real Sisters of the Diaspora Film Festival & Lecture Series.

Produced by UCE Productions, LLC, and Films With A Purpose," "Passage" is set in 1600 West Africa. The film tells the story of Gamba, a village leader, and begins on a typical day in a coastal Angolan village, where every member of an African culture is busy performing their daily tasks, such as cleaning, building, and food preparation. Suddenly, a new and violent challenge emerges. How will Gamba face this new foe - one that threatens to destroy the very ex-

istence of his family and



village?

Award winning TV Producer and Actress Marla Gibbs, stated "With 'Passage,' David Massey has given us an opportunity to revisit our history in a way that is undeniably empowering. Thank you!"

"Passage' is a unique and memorable film experience. It reveals the historical challenges of African people without losing the important humanity of the characters." Stated Professor Beverly A. Tate, Retired, Pasadena City College,

Regarding the making of "Passage," Filmmaker David Massey says, "My love for history led me to watch a documentary by Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., that explored the interaction of Black African cultures. This historical information revealed some unfamiliar aspects about the relationship among African civilizations on the western part

of the continent that were new to me. My hope with 'Passage' is to provide a film that allows an audience to take a journey into a historical setting that's different from their contemporary world. At the same

time, I hope the audience can find a way to connect with the film's characters and the experiences that so greatly chal-

lenge them."

David M. Massey is an Academy Award-Nominat-

ed filmmaker who has produced and directed several films and television shows. He holds the distinction of being the First African American in the history of the Academy Awards to be nominated in his role as Producer for an Oscar in the "Best Live-Action Short Film" category for the film "Last Breeze of Summer" (1992.)

Sandra J. Evers-Manly

created Films With A Purpose (FWAP) to support the production, completion and distribution of diverse films - films presenting stories that impact the hearts and minds of the viewer. With FWAP she aims to Educate, Inspire and Empower diverse future filmmakers, writers and directors, and to raise the anticipation of audiences for meaningful stories and excellence in filmmaking for generations to come.

Infrastructure Improvements Will Upgrade and Beautify Manchester-Broadway Corridor



Keith Mozee STREETSLA

{continued from Pg. A-1}

destrian refuge islands and improved sidewalks and bus stops.

Billed as a communitydriven project, Broadway South falls under the umbrella of StreetsLA, the L.A. department responsible for the maintenance and improvement of the nation's largest municipal street network. StreetsLA received guidance from Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson and his staff along with input from neighborhood leaders and community members concerning the elements they would like to see in the area. As a result, Broadway South will

provide additional features such as pedestrian lighting, shade trees, street furniture and stormwater capture and reuse components.

"Whenever a project affects the daily lives of people and families in the community, engagement is key to understanding their experiences and ideas for improvement," said Harris-Dawson remarked. "Over 1300 community members have helped shape the future of the Manchester-Broadway corridors. I support this investment along our major thoroughfares; it is long overdue."

Sharing more insight into StreetsLA's intention with Broadway South, General Manager Keith Mozee said, "This project aligns with the 'One Infrastructure' vision that StreetsLA and its city partners are collaborating on, so multiple improvements and enhancements can be done together to maximize infrastructure investments."

Noting the importance of neighborhood involvement, he added, "We have been working with the community extensively to get their input and will continue through the duration of the project."

Expressing her opinion about the upgrade, Joyce Fantroy, chair of the 90th



Pedestrian crosswalks are among the project's improvements STREETSLA

Street Block Club, said, "The Broadway South improvement project will help restore a sense of pride and a ray of hope in a community plagued with inequities and disparities. It will create a friendly environment for families to enjoy and appreciate. The safety components and beautification aspect will attract family strolls and encourage healthy walks for children

Itzel Ronson also offered insight as a community member. An employee of the Alliance Judy Ivie Burton Technology High School, Ronson holds dual positions as the school operations manager and parent engagement specialist. She described her experience of contributing to the improvement project as "an opportunity to highlight the

and seniors."

amazing and talented people in our community."

"Participating in the renovation of the median gives the community a sense of pride since this is something they've worked hard on, they've had a voice, and

continue to improve and demand the same treatment as every other community," insisted Ronson.

"The remodel of Broadway will help alleviate the belief that South Central is a negative place, with

gangs, and violence. It will also help the people of our community feel safe, to take advantage of the facilities, including the bike lanes, and to take pride in all that occurs in our community," she said.

Construction on Broadway South is scheduled to start in December 2023 and be completed by December 2026. A section of the StreetsLA website highlights the planned improvements, including before and after photos, design concepts and upcoming events.

To learn more, visit https://streetsla.lacity.org/ **BroadwaySouth**



The Broadway South project includes new bike lanes, landscaped medians and

Hawthorne Hosts Rapper YG & Rambo House Foundation's **TeleHealth Van Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

{continued from Pg. A-1}

When Rambo and YG were asked the impetus for creating TeleHealth and partnering with the City of Hawthorne, he responded. "To save families, to save lives. We both live in the community, are businesses owners and have our own careers, but we wanted to save as many lives as we could when it comes to the homeless side, but also those being released from jail. That's YG's initiative; how do we keep them out?" said Rambo.

When discussing his community involvement, Keenon Jackson, better known as YG, elaborated on his passion to assist in the rehabilitation of men who have been imprisoned. YG, Rambo, and City of Hawthorne officials agreed



Dion Rambo of Rambo House, Oracle employees, Sweet Alice Harris, rapper YG and mother, Shonee Jackson, UCLA Health employees, Hawthorne City Officials, supporters and partners COURTESY

Rambo thanked Councilmember Reyes English for her vision and efforts in introducing them to the city council. "Thank you

have a need like us, can understand the importance of developing a program like TeleHealth Van."

Reyes English pointed

so much for bringing us in. out that Hawthorne Mayor

Dion Rambo of Rambo House, Oracle employees, Sweet Alice Harris, rapper YG and mother, Shonee Jackson, UCLA Health employees, Hawthorne City Officials COURTESY

that a mobile resource center would have the ability to reach thousands of locals without the need for transportation and red tape.

Hawthorne City Manager Von Norris said he was inspired by the good will of Rambo and the guidance from Hawthorne Councilwoman Angie Reyes English. "It's a great service. In Hawthorne, there are a lot of needs," said Norris, who revealed that Rambo's foundation was ready to provide those needs for the City of Hawthorne's residents. "It's a great partnership; it's a vision, and we are the staple of community in this region. We want to be a city that starts a program like this."

We hope we make Hawthorne happy and can keep this kind of relationship growing and growing, so that [Hawthorne] can be a template that other cities could follow."

Reyes-English agreed. "As a mother of three adult Black women, grandmother of seven Black grandchildren, Latina. It's important for our community to understand that there is a need when it comes to mental health, behavior health services, and much more," she said. "It's my hope that TeleHealth Van, being a minority business, becomes the thrust that we need to push this program forward, so that many other commu-

nities who look like us and

Alex Vargas and the city council, on three separate occasions, provided a 5-0 unanimous vote. "So, if that doesn't tell you something, that definitely has provided for us to be here today, and to provide this launch," said the councilwoman.

According to YG, one of the most unique features of this effort is the dynamic behind-the-scenes partnership between him and his mother, Shonee Jackson. YG shared that his mom is not only an integral part of the planning and execution, but that together, they are relentless when it comes to making positive changes in

underserved communities. With the support of the City of Hawthorne, the

TeleHealth Van fleet has already begun to serve locals by ensuring that they obtain health care with low to no associated costs.

Much more than a 'gangster rapper,' YG has proven to be a philanthropist and liaison between the hip hop and the service community and shared his appreciate for the Black press for covering

these kinds of events. "It's important that Black people ... we need light shed on us. We move and influence a lot of things, actually, everything culture-wise and we're important," said the rapper known for his anti-Trump song. "Black media is very important because some of the stuff coming out of media isn't the real thing; it's twisted and ends up looking crazy. But Black media for our people, for Black people, is very important."

YG acknowledged the lack of positive coverage regarding their philanthropic work. "They're gonna tell all the other stories that will make you look crazy. They'll be glad to tell those stories," he said.

To check out the full interview, see clips from the launch, and listen to YG's views on Black media, visit lasentinel.net.

To learn more about TeleHealth Van, visit https:// telehealthvan.com/

One Bedroom and Two Bedroom Moderate Income **Affordable Apartments**

in Culver City available for move in February 1st 2022. Applications will ONLY be accepted ONLINE between the following dates:

Thursday December 16th 2021 8am - Saturday December 18th 2021 Midnight.

DO NOT SEND APPLICATIONS BEFORE OR AFTER:

Applications will be reviewed on a first come, first served basis. Household Low to Moderate Income limits (gross-before taxes

and other deductions): 1 person....\$41,401 to \$67,200

2 person....\$47,301 to \$76,800

3 person....\$53,201 to \$86,400

4 person....\$59,101 to \$96,000 5 person.....\$63,851 to \$103,700

A preference will be given to Income Qualified households that submit acceptable

documentation showing they are currently a City of Culver City or City of Culver City Unified School district (CCUSD) employee. Complete Applications must provide the required information for all members of the household who are 18 or older, including:

-Birth Certificate for all Household members.

-Valid Government issued ID, such as Driver's License or Passport -Proof of legal, verifiable income, including but not limited to: -Last 2 years of Tax Returns or W2 forms -2 months of most recent payroll stubs -Verification of Employment

-A list of all Assets (real property, checking/savings accounts, stocks, bonds or other forms of capital investment). Retirement accounts with current values. -For adult members of the household who receive public benefits such as TANF, SSI, SAA or other benefits, please complete and sign the Cert of Zero Employment Income or Verification of full time student form provided online. -Proof of any non-employment income (e.g. Social Security, Explanation of Benefits Award letter, unemployment checks, child support) must be submitted. -Proof of Section 8 or CASH vouchers or any other Federal, State or Local Public Housing Assistance voucher. Please provide a copy of

During the application window APPLICANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY ONLINE:

the voucher with an active date, if applicable.

www.culvercity.org/culvervillas

https://culvervillas.com/culvercity

Read all the instructions on the page and complete the application form attached to reserve your spot on the initial wait list. Interested parties without computer access will be able to access the online system using computers available at local libraries or they may call 323-788-9309 to request an emailed or mailed hard copy of the online application. Submitting applications online is the safest way to assure that the application is received during the three day application acceptance window and that income information remains confidential. However, if applicants are unable to access a computer during the application acceptance period, completed applications may be sent by mail and will be considered timely if they are postmarked during the application acceptance period. We will not be liable for lost, damaged or delayed mail.

Applications should be sent to: Attn: Heather Lonsdale 4043 Irving Place #206

Culver City, CA, 90232

An application fee of \$35.00 will be required from the preliminarily approved applicants before the final management approval. If approved by management, application will be sent to the City of Culver City Housing Division for final approval and they may require that you provide additional documents and signatures. Applications for available units will be approved on applicants meeting the property's rental criteria and the City of Culver City's Income Verification and in the priority approved by the Housing Division.

If it is discovered that an applicant has given false information or has not accurately completed the application to avoid negative information to be found, the application will be denied. If a lease has been entered into and such information is discovered, the lease may be voided andlegal action taken to evict.





FAMILY Lifestyle HEALTH

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2021 www.lasentinel.net B-

Mothers In Action and Ward EDC Gather the Village To Feed 1,000 Seniors, Sick And Shut In Residents





Mothers In Action and their partners at Ward EDC facilitated the disbursement of 1,000 Thanksgiving meals with all the trimmings to seniors and sick and shut-in residents in Los Angeles and surrounding communities with the help of their village of volunteers, members, community partners, sponsors and donors at their 26th Annual Thanksgiving Day Senior Feed at Ward Villas, a senior apartment complex.

All meals were picked up or delivered by Door Dash, who received a grant through CARE to deliver up to 1,000 locations. Special thanks to Jade Stevens of Dine Black L.A. for assisting Mothers In Action with the scheduling of the deliveries.

Each tasty meal was assembled in a recyclable MIA bag consisting of a Los Angeles Sentinel newspaper, dinner roll, butter, cranberry sauce, soft drink, bottle of water, pie, cutlery, ppe supplies, and a personalized greeting card made by students and youth groups.

"The outpouring of love shown by the community to make this highly anticipated event a success was nothing but God, and speaks volumes about the relationships that were forged by our founding president, my mother, Marsh-Mitchell Brenda and the legacy of service she left behind," said Tracy Mitchell current president of Mothers In Action. "We are so grateful for our village."

Mothers In Action and Ward EDC intentionally supported Black businesses by contracting with Chef Marilyn to cater the entire meal and purchasing pies from 27th Street Bakery like we have done for so many years in the past. Special thanks to restaurant owners, Rosalyn Pennington of The New Townhouse and Georgette Powell of Mel's Fish Shack for helping with the process.

Turkeys used to feed the seniors and sick and shut-in were donated by Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, L.A. County Supervisor Holly Mitchell, L.A. Regional Foodbank, The Hutt Group, L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti, the L.A. Dodgers and L.A. Dodgers Foundation

As Mothers In Action's media sponsor and community partner, The Los Angeles Sentinel donated 1,000 Sentinel newspapers, newspaper ads and space. Merrill Lynch donated 1,000 soft drinks, Self Help Federal Credit Union donated 1,000 bottles of water, Pat Sanders donated 1,000 dinner rolls, and Pastor Sauls donated 55 pies in honor of his 55th birthday and came to be of service.

Mothers Action is grateful for their community partners and sponsors at Taste of Soul, Bakewell Media, LA Watts Times, Brotherhood Crusade, L.A. Urban League, AAA, KROST, Assemblymember Autumn Burke, Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas, Oscar Joel Bryant Foundation, 7-Eleven and all of our individual and anonymous donors.

Marcus Garvey School, The Girl Scouts & Daisies, The Bakewell School are a few of the schools and youth groups that made personal greeting cards for the seniors. Chloe Jackson, a freshman at Clark Atlanta University, says she has been volunteering with the Thanksgiving Senior Feed since she can remember. "Well, I'm an ex-Girl Scout and Tracy is my Godmother, so I've a part of this event since I was a toddler. It's a good deed; doing this kind of work is the Girl Scout in me and it feels great knowing that our work will impact the seniors who may not have resources during the holidays."

On hand to serve was Inglewood School boardmember, Carliss McGhee, members of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. and sorors of Jackie DuPont Walker. "After 26 years of this, I'm just overjoyed to God that I'm still here. I started this with Miss Brenda when no one would take a hot meal to seniors on Thanksgiving Day," Dupont-Walker said. She went on to say, "I'm blessed to be in the position to serve, even in a pandemic, and I will continue to carry the torch for Brenda and my late husband [Buford Walker].

Also volunteering was Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc., Oscar Joel Bryant Foundation, employees of City National Bank, former Girl Scouts and current students of Howard University, Clark Atlanta University, Fisk University Alumni, Mothers In Action family, members & staff, Ward EDC staff, members of The Mitchell and Walker families and so many other much appreciated volunteers.

Mothers In Action also provided turkeys and 900 food boxes to underserved individual families thanks to the L.A. Regional Food Bank.











B-2 LASENTINEL.NET NEWS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2021

Mothers In Action and Ward EDC Gather the Village To Feed 1,000 Seniors, Sick And Shut In Residents



Eligible for Medicare? Clock is Ticking to Choose 2022 Coverage

BY RICK BEAVIN Desert Pacific Medicare President Humana

Making a list and checking it twice isn't just for the holidays this year. If you're 65 or over or eligible for Medicare due to disability, developing a detailed list of what you have spent on your health care this past year - including hospital expenses and prescriptions – and what you need to have in your health plan next year, is an important step.

The 6.2 million Medicare eligible individuals in California have until Tuesday, Dec. 7 to select their Medicare Advantage or Prescription Drug Plan coverage for 2022.

Medicare or are evaluating plan options for 2022, I encourage anyone who is eligible to take the time now to ensure you have adequate coverage, since the plan you select by the deadline is the plan you'll have for all of next year, with few exceptions.

I know many people with Medicare are already thinking about what matters most in selecting coverage, which is great!

A new national poll from Humana found that when it comes to choosing a health plan, 69% of seniors indicated that their top concern is ensuring a plan has adequate coverage for all their healthcare needs.

In addition, 67% of

Whether you're new to seniors said that having access to all of their healthcare providers will be key in choosing a plan and 64% stated that low, out-of-pocket costs will be a factor in choosing their

While I recognize that everyone's health needs are unique, other key considerations may be if the plan includes vision, hearing and dental coverage, if telehealth services will be covered, if transportation to medical appointments are included, or even if a gym membership is offered as a benefit.

Regardless of what's most important to you, eligible beneficiaries in Los Angeles County should be aware of available options and utilize trusted sources

that can help you with this major decision before the December 7 deadline. For example, the Medicare Plan Finder on Medicare. gov can help you compare plans, benefits and get an estimated cost for each plan based on an average member. If you are interested in Medicare Part D, which helps cover the cost of prescription medications, you can also enter the names of your prescription medications to ensure those medications are covered by the plan you are considering.

Licensed sales agents are also available for oneon-one meetings, whether in-person in the Los Angeles-area or by phone or video chat, on behalf of an insurance company. I enindividuals can get answers to questions and better understand plan options that can help meet your needs, both financially and medically. These conversations will help ensure you have the right Medicare plan for you in place come January 1 of next year.

Medicare eligible individuals can visit www. Medicare.gov 1-800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Additionally, you can learn about Humana Medicare Advantage plans, which are recommended by USAA, by going to www.Humana.com/ Medicare or calling 1-800-213-5286 (TTY: 711) to speak with a licensed sales agent from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

courage these meetings so local time, seven days a week.

Humana is a Medicare Advantage HMO, HMO SNP, PPO, PPO SNP AND PFFS organization with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in any Humana plan depends on contract renewal.

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KICK TOBACCO FOR MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS

By Carol McGruder Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council

It's that time of the year again. During the holiday season, people will start to make their 2022 resolutions, and try to stick to them. While many might wait until New Year's Day to start this process, there's absolutely no harm in getting a head start.

As co-founder of the African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council with decades of experience, I know there are many reasons why people need to stop smoking and vaping. But besides the obvious harmful physical effects, smoking is also bad for your mental health.

Many people who smoke think it relieves stress. Unfortunately, nicotine in tobacco products or vapes can lead to increased stress, anxiety, irritability, and impulsivity, and quitting smoking can improve your mental health and well-being. The holidays can be especially chaotic, so taking care of your mental and physical health this time of year is more important than ever.

While it might be easy to reach for that cigarette, know there is a better way to manage stress and kick the habit. Kick It California, formerly the California Smokers' Helpline, has been helping people to quit using tobacco products for more than 30 years.

With more than half of

the people who reach out to Kick It reporting having at least one mental health issue, Kick comprehensive program focuses on behavior change methods that help adjust thinking and build confidence to make new, healthier habits stick.

Three decades of research and results shows that people succeed when they have access personalized programs and support like Kick It.



move forward, now is the time, and Kick it California is here to help. They will meet you where you are in your process. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Kick It California's new mobile friendly website, one-on-one coaching, enhanced tools, and proven methods are available to all Californians, and shown to double a tobacco user's chance of quitting.

I know it takes a village, a support system, to quit tobacco. I also know that it will take many attempts, but the point is to keep trying. So rather than viewing relapse as a failure, people who smoke and their loved ones need to understand that it is part of the process. Or as Donnie McClurkin told us, "we fall down, but we get up!" And participating in Kick it California is one big step to help you eventually get up and stay up!

I encourage everyone who uses tobacco products to make it their resolution to quit tobacco and do it sooner rather than later.

With lung health so important these days, if there was ever a time to quit tobacco, it's now. The resources are free and within your grasp. Our community needs you healthy and strong.

You can start your journey to a smoke free life today by visiting kickitca. org, texting "Quit Smoking" to 66819 or calling 1-800-300-8086. Happy New You!

With Federal COVID Sick Leave Gone, Workers Feel Pressure to Show Up at Work

By RAE ELLEN BICHELL Kaiser Health News

Economists and public health experts alike say paid sick leave is an essential tool — like testing, masks and vaccines — in the effort to prevent covid-19 infection and keep workplaces safe.

Yet the U.S. is in the midst of another covid holiday season, and federal laws that offered covid-related paid sick leave to workers have expired. Colorado, Los Angeles and Pittsburgh are among a small number of places that have put in place their own covid protections, but many sick workers across the country must wrestle with difficult financial and ethical questions when deciding whether to stay home.

"Millions of workers don't have access to paid sick leave, and we're still in a pandemic," said Nicolas Ziebarth, a labor economist at Cornell University.

The U.S. is one of only a few industrialized nations that have no national paid sick leave policy. By contrast, Germany, Ziebarth's homeland, has had one for nearly 140 years.

The coronavirus pandemic led to short-term change. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act mandated paid sick leave nationally, a first in U.S. history, according to Ziebarth. The law included about two weeks of full pay for employees who were quarantined or seeking medical attention for covid-like symptoms and additional weeks at partial pay to care for a child stuck at home because of covid.

But the paid sick leave mandate consistently applied only to employers with 50 to 499 employees and lasted just nine months,



expiring at the end of 2020. After that, employers could decide whether they wanted to continue offering paid sick leave in return for tax credits, though those expired at the end of Septem-

About 5% of U.S. employees used the federal covid sick leave protection, Ziebarth and his colleagues wrote in the journal PNAS, and it appears to have helped flatten the curve of the pandemic initially. But it wasn't enough. The number of people who were sick with any kind of illness but couldn't take time off went from about 5 million per month before the pandemic to 15 million in late 2020 — even with the federal leave in place.

People with the lowest incomes are the least likely to be covered by paid sick leave, said Dr. Rita Hamad, a social epidemiologist and family physician at the University of California-San Francisco.

"We're just left with Long Beach. whatever patchwork of employer and state policies that existed before, which leave the most vulnerable people least covered," she said.

The Build Back Better

Act, which is up for a vote in the Senate after passing the House on Nov. 19, may grant some paid medical and family leave so workers can deal with longerterm illnesses or caregiving, but it does not include time off for recovering from short-term illness.

Jared Make, vice president of A Better Balance, a national legal nonprofit advocating for worker rights, has been pushing federal, state and local lawmakers for years to expand paid sick leave and has drafted model legislation. He said 16 states, Washington, D.C., and about 20 localities have permanent paid sick time laws. One of the most generous, New Mexico's, will take effect in July. Colorado, Massachusetts, Nevada, New York and the District of Columbia provide covid-specific emergency sick leave, as do Pittsburgh and a few cities in California, such as Los Angeles, Oakland and

In some places, employers are taking the initiative to address the problem. A recent KFF survey of about 1,700 employers from across the nation found

that 37% of workers work

in a place that expanded or started paid leave, either to recover from an illness or to help a relative recover from one. Meanwhile, 1% of workers had their paid sick leave reduced or eliminated.

Still, calls to A Better Balance's free legal help line have skyrocketed since the pandemic began, Make said. "Many workers are either risking their job, or they have no choice but to go to work when they're sick, and it's a real public

health concern." In August, local public health departments in California asked state leaders to extend paid sick leave to all workers, saying that failing to do so discouraged people from getting a covid vaccine and disproportionately disadvantaged affected communities.

Many people who have avoided vaccination are afraid they'll suffer side effects that will force them to miss work for a day or two, which they can't afford, Hamad said.

But without federal funds to reimburse employers, California and other states would have to find money to pay for sick leave - and there's little enthubusinesses. our opinion, that the feder-

al government hasn't continued some form of even covid-19 emergency sick leave," Make said. "It's obviously a huge shortcoming given where we are in the pandemic."

Colorado, which is experiencing a covid surge, passed last year what Denver-based Make considers the strongest covid sick leave protections of any state. The law, which allows any employee to earn up to six days of paid sick leave per year and takes effect fully in January, says that when local, state or federal officials declare a public health emergency, employers must supplement workers' accrued leave so an employee can take up to two weeks of paid sick leave for, in this case, covid-related reasons. The emergency leave provision won't expire until at least February.

However, some employers aren't complying. As of early November, Colorado's Division of Labor Standards and Statistics was looking into complaints related to the sick leave law that were filed against 71 employers, according to outreach manager Eric Yohe. That represented about 8% of all its wage complaints under investigation. Yohe said his division had already restored paid time off for "a good number" of employees under the new law.

Colorado's leave law still has limitations. Workers don't get "refills" of covid leave if they get sick again or a relative gets sick — just 80 hours total from January 2021 until the public health emergency ends. And the law allows some

siasm among lawmakers workplaces to force emfor passing the costs on to ployees to use their paid time off instead, as long as "It is a glaring gap, in they notify employees in advance and offer at least two weeks of PTO to fulltime employees.

Jamie Bradt, a specialeducation teacher at a high school in Mead, Colorado, found herself in that situation this month after testing positive for covid. Bradt, who is fully vaccinated, thought she could tap into state-sanctioned covid sick leave. But her employer, St. Vrain Valley Schools, told her she would have to use her PTO, which she had been saving up for about decade.

"It is so frustrating that I'm being punished for accruing my leave," said Bradt, who was isolating at home. The district did not respond to questions.

Policies that push employees to work when they're sick are counterproductive, said Barbara Holland, an adviser at the Society for Human Resource Management, a national trade group. "It's a communicable disease," she said. "You don't want them showing up in the workplace."

Since the federal provisions expired, Cristina Cuevas and her colleagues at a Minnesota school have been required to use their accrued sick and vacation time if they come down with covid.

Recently, a co-worker of Cuevas' went to work sick, assuming it was a cold. "She actually had covid the whole time," Cuevas said. The school had to shut down briefly, Cuevas said, and several students got sick.

California Healthline correspondent Rachel Bluth contributed to this story. This story was produced by Kaiser Health News,

LASENTINEL.NET

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2021

Black Woman StartUp Founder Overcomes Homelessness to Start a Tech-Based Revolution in South L.A.



From VSEDC client to Head of Technology, Cassie Betts inspires disinvested youth to create generational wealth.

PHOTO E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS / L.A. SENTINEL

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Homeless at the age of 19, Cassie Betts has a riveting life story. She shares memories about befriending "questionable characters of the night," with the tech-savvy inner-city youth she trains in her technology academy Made In South L.A. (MISLA), initially launched from the janitor's closet of a South Central Los Angeles charter school.

Betts has evolved, going from sleeping on bus stop benches and cardboard boxes in Honolulu, Hawaii, to acting and modeling in commercials. TV. and film in Los Angeles, to now blazing her own path in tech, while taking

along anyone who believes that South L.A. produces geniuses, high-level entrepreneurs, and leaders who make an impact and change for better.

Born in Inglewood, CA, Betts, who often prefers to go by Cassie, is a charself-proclaimed ismatic, serial "Techpreneur" who dedicates her life to increasing diversity within the tech industry through youth and community training. Betts, the engine behind the company's aggressive and edgy moves, said, "the key to building generational wealth in disinvested communities lies in technology and multimedia."

She heads Technology & Innovation at VerDevelopment Corporation (VSEDC) and is the catalyst and visionary behind VSEDC's South L.A. Best Buy Teen Tech Center, powered by Annenberg Tech. When asked why she fought to have a tech center built in South L.A., she explained, "We have to train our communities to be creators, not just consumers." "We have to teach our youth to own, create, control, and financially benefit from our narratives, as opposed to letting outsiders re-write and profit from our stories."

The road to becoming a Techpreneur was no easy feat. Flashback to 2015, the spark that would ignite the flame that would become VSEDC's ShopLove campaign was ignited. While dining at Truxton's in Westchester with her longtime mentor and now President and CEO of VSEDC Joe Rouzan, Betts was introduced to Renee Moncito.

Rouzan introduced Betts as he always did by saying, "This is Cassie Betts ... the next Black woman billionaire." He asked Renee, who previously owned a \$10 Million company, to help him mentor Cassie.

Flash forward to 2020, VSEDC mobilized to create The Legacy Program. The program was created as a call-to-action to support South LA.'s legacy businesses, along the Crenshaw corridor and throughout the greater South Los Angeles area during the global pandemic.

Through VSEDC's Legacy Program, 30 small businesses received coaching,

resources, and opportuni-

ties to help take their busi-

nesses to the next level. Betts is particularly proud of the digital marketing arm of the Legacy Program in which she oversees. With the support of grant funding from SBA Prime, Chase, LISC, and Pacific Premier Bank, VSEDC

Cassie's creative

Moncito, who is now

VSEDC's Director of Programs, states, "To create a legacy, you have to be intentional. This campaign's intent is to develop the mindset of transmitted, consistent awareness of what's in our community. By shopping Black, Brown, and local, we are shopping with the deliberate intent of building wealth in our communities and therefore,

gift cards at 50% off for a limited time at https://shoplove.vsedc.org, a platform built by MARTY.

With initiatives and partnerships like these, the digital divide will narrow, rewriting the narrative as South Central Los Angeles continues to rise. VSEDC's Best Buy Teen Tech Center plans to have its grand opening in the latter part of January. Currently, the coding bootcamps are vir-



Cassie Betts (R) attributes much of her success to the guidance of mentors, Renee Moncito (L) and Joe Rouzan (c) PHOTO E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS / L.A. SENTINEL

brand agency MARTY, along with numerous local business consultants to service the businesses. MARTY is a South Central-based creative agency co-founded by Josh Sykes. MARTY hires youth and community members from Technology Training Bootcamps to help

grow VSEDC's small busi-

Shopping Love!"

The 14 portfolio businesses of the ShopLove campaign are included in a powerfully poignant promo video starring, Stix of Think Watts. Stix and the business owners recited poem, "Still I Rise." South L.A. holiday shoppers looking to shop locally, can buy

tual. For small businesses interested in participating in VSEDC's next cohort of Legacy Businesses, register at https://vsedc.org/start-

Adult learners looking to participate in MISLA's next lines from Maya Angelou's tech bootcamp can register at https://www.misla.org/ html/bootcamps.html.

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Grant African Methodist Episcopal Church



Virtual Worship Service Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Call: (605) 475-6333, Access Code 34516# Website: grantamechurch.org

Giving Options: Online at www.grantamechurch.org or Mail to: 10435 S. Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90002 Phone: (323) 564-1151

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF hristian Pellowship REV. JAMES K. McKNIGHT, SENIOR PASTOR Virtual Worship Service: Sunday at 10AM on Facebook @ The Congregational Church of Christian Fellowship

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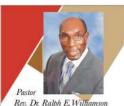
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Ephesians Christian Center Aims to Spread the Gospel

New ministry in Mid-City L.A. focuses on imparting God's wisdom and knowledge

By Cora Jackson-Fossett Religion Editor

Responding to the Great Commission cited in Matthew 28:19, Pastor Art and Minister Amanda Dyson launched Ephesians Christian Center to help others come to know Christ. An ambitious goal to some, but to the Dysons, it was just a matter of following the direction of God.

"The Lord showed Pastor Art that he would start a work in the city of Los Angeles over six years ago and in 2021, the Lord brought that vision to pass," said Minister Amanda, "So, we aim to bring hope to the community and to help others to come to know Christ and to live in the fullness of all that Christ provides."

With that objective in mind, the Dysons co-hosted the grand opening of Ephesians Christian Center on Sunday, November 14, and a sizable multicultural group attended to learn more about the Lord. To fulfill those desires, the worship emphasized the glory of the Almighty.

Spoken word artist Léya Speaks and actor Moses Weathers offered cap-



Léya Speaks

tivating discourses about the power of God while Pastor Benji Cortez led a spirited praise and worship session. Forming the hallelujah band, Cortez played the keyboard accompanied by Robert "Chalo" Ortiz on

guitar, Pastor Richard Salazar Jr. on drums and Pastor Art on bass.

Also, Pastor Art highlighted the service with a message entitled, " A s k . " Basing his topic on Matthew 7:7, Dyson urged listeners to ask God "not only for our needs, but for the

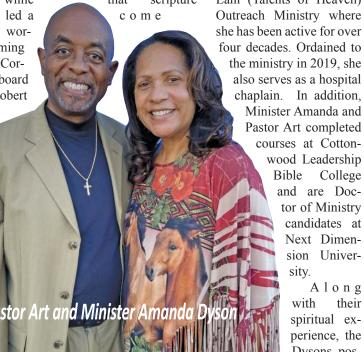
needs of our neighbors and we can be assured that God is able to do exceedingly, above all we can ask or think, according to Ephesians 3:20."

And during his many years of walking with the



Moses Weathers

Lord, Pastor Art has seen scripture that c o m e



true multiple times. Both he and Minister Amanda dedicated their lives to Christ as teenagers and have each worked in various ministerial capacities for more than 40 years.

Pastor Art previously served as an associate pastor at Davar Christian Center in La Palma and in the music ministry at various churches since 1980. A chaplain at Gardena Memorial Hospital, he holds the same position with the Buffalo Soldiers Mounted Cavalry Unit, an organization committed to maintaining the history of the famous Buffalo Soldiers.

Minister Amanda is

the president of Kalena Ka Lani (Talents of Heaven) Outreach Ministry where she has been active for over four decades. Ordained to

> also serves as a hospital chaplain. In addition, Minister Amanda and Pastor Art completed courses at Cotton-

> > wood Leadership Bible College and are Doctor of Ministry candidates at Next Dimension University.

Along with their spiritual experience, the Dysons possess a solid education, which will be an additional asset as they build **Ephesians** CC. Pastor Art earned

Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Informa-

tion Systems and Business Administration, respectively, from the University of Phoenix as well as graduated from the USC Leadership Program. Minister Amanda received her Bachelor's degree in Business from CSU-Long Beach.

Parents of two adult sons, the couple has been married for 36 years and has excelled in their professions as well. Pastor Art has more than 37 years of heading teams in technical services and operations at a major U.S. corporation while Minister Amanda has over 25 years of working for a local municipality. While thankful for their accomplishments, energy is now focused on making Ephesians CC a success.

"Ephesians Christian Center was formed to share Christ and to bring hope to the community. We endeavor to help others grow in the knowledge of God's word and learn about His grace and great love," explained Minister Amanda.

"We also endeavor to teach others to comprehend who they are or can be in Christ. The Word of God says my people are destroyed by a lack of knowledge. We want to impart God's wisdom and knowledge," stressed Pastor Art.

As for the future, the Dysons shared, "Being a new church, we are building a foundation and sowing seeds and praying the Lord would bring the increase and send laborers to join us in the harvest field.

"We are believing God to have a church with thriving seniors, marriage, youth ministries and a praise and worship team with skillful musicians!"

Ephesians Christian Center is located at 4562 W. Washington Blvd., in Los Angeles. Worship services are Sundays at 11 a.m. To learn more, visit ephesianscc.com.



Pastor Art and Minister Amanda Dyson, center, join family and friends at a recent worship service of Ephesians Christian Center, located in the Mid-City district of Los Angeles.

Words of the Week - I'm in the Fight of My Life!

By Rev. Joan Taylor Contributing Writer

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-17

The Apostle Paul's third missionary journey (AD 53-57) centered on Ephesus, located on the western coast of what we now call Turkey. In the days of Paul, Ephesus was the fourth largest city in the Roman Empire, with a pop-

ulation of perhaps 500,000. Paul's concern for Ephesus stems from his insight of the Gentile Christians being inferior (lesser, lower, poorer) to or distinct from the Jewish Christians, and not fully part of God's "New Israel."

Discrimination. This is what Paul had to deal with in the city of Ephesus. There were also other concerns in which Paul had to face with the Gentiles and the Jewish Christians - the lack of awareness that God's people are to live in a distinctly different way from those of the world.

We are called to be examples. We are called to walk in the light of Christ. We are called to live in holiness and righteousness. This means, no cussing each other out. Not lying to anyone. We are different because Jesus Christ is different. And guess what? It's okay!

As all of these issues have arisen in Ephesus, Paul shows us the way to handle the fights and the

battles we will face in our lives; and it's here in our text

V.10, "Finally, brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might." "Be strong," can be

translated, "Be made strong," which says to us, we cannot do anything ourselves and in our own strength and might. We too can "be made

strong," because of "who" is on our side. Beloved, we are "made strong" because of who lives inside of us. For you see, "Greater is He that's within me, within you, within us, than he that is in the world" (1st John

It's not on your own strength, but the One who has strength to conqueror and to move every mountain. "I'm in the fight of my

V.11, "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." God gives the believer a full set of equipment and He sends us out into battle with everything we need to ward off spiritual struggles and temptations.

God requires us to wear the full armor daily. When we don't put on the full armor of God, we can expect to be attacked by the enemy. How can we fight the enemy's flaming darts if we are not equipped properly? Beloved, we are in the "fight of our lives."



Pastor Joan Taylor

V. 12, "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

In my New King James Bible Commentary, it says, "Our real battle is not with cultists, false religionists, atheists, agnostics, and pseudo-Christians, with the demonic beings working through them." When you see or experience those who are acting out of character, it isn't them per se you are fighting with, it's the work of Satan.

Check this out! The disciples had the opportunity to cast out a mute spirit, which took control of a man's son in Mark 9:14-20. The man says to Jesus, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth,

and becomes rigid." There were several things happening with this boy: (1) the mute spirit he possessed was a demon that kept the boy from speaking, (2) this same demonic force also caused him to have seizures. So it's not the boy in which the disciples ought to rebuke, it's the demonic spirit inside of him that has to be cast out of him.

The text says, "For wrestle not against flesh and blood..." Beloved, you got to learn to rebuke, cast out all in the name of Jesus. He has given us the authority to cast out demons in His name. It's only in the name of Jesus that demons tremble. It's only in the name of Jesus that demons must flee.

V.13, "Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Paul reminds us again to take up the whole armor of God; put it on. Don't walk out the door without it. When we do this, we can find ourselves troubleshooting the works of the enemy with prayer and with the Word of God "No weapon formed against us shall prosper" (Isaiah 54:17)

We can troubleshoot, we fight with the Word of God, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God," (2nd Cor. 10:4).

In the midst of the fight, we are given six spiritual pieces of armor to put on to help us conquer the enemy.

We are to gird ourselves with the belt of truth because dishonesty cannot standup against the father of lies, but the truth here refers to integrity, a life of

honesty and practical truth. The breastplate was used to protect not only the chest, but also the back itself. The breastplate of righteousness here speaks of righteous character and deeds of believers.

"Having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace" - the gospel is a firm foundation on which Christians are to stand or that the Christian solider should be ready to go out to defend and spread the Gospel.

The shield of faith is to be used against everything. This same shield is to cover the whole armor. It also protects us from the fiery darts of the wicked one.

The helmet of salvation is the believer's knowledge and hope in Christ, and the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God.

This Word of God is to be spoken to specific situations. To have the precise Word ready, a person must know the Bible intimately. "Your word I will hide in my heart so I will not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11).

This is a battle we are in and we are soldiers in the army of the Lord. "We are soldiers in the army, we have to fight, although we have to cry. We have to hold up the bloodstained banner. We have to hold it up until we die." In the Name of Jesus, Amen!

The Rev. Joan Taylor is the senior pastor of Greater Harvest AME Church in Hesperia.

nber 10, 2021

To:

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The Ahmaud Arbery Verdict and Victory: Notes on Its Message and Meaning

nally hearing the verdict in the trial of the three murderers of Ahmaud Arbery, like that with George Floyd, compelled us to ride a roller coaster of mixed emotions, from relief and rejoicing to reflection and recommitment, and always, whether evident or just below the surface, a righteous anger and sadness at the evil and injustice committed. First, we felt relieved that it didn't go the other way as so many other similar trials have gone against accountability, justice and us. Then, we rightfully rejoiced for a hard-won victory, welldeserved and long overdue.

Somewhere in the midst of it all, we paused and reflected on the meaning of this important, but single trial, single verdict and single victory in our overall struggle for racial and social justice. And it is at this point, our reflection unavoidably led us to our recommitment to continue and intensify the struggle, to keep the faith, to hold the line, and never to leave the battlefield until the struggle is won. Indeed, centuries of serious and sustained struggle have taught us to greatly value the essential teaching of Nana Amilcar Cabral that we should "mask no difficulties; tell no lies; and claim no easy victories."

So, we come to this place of relief, rejoicing, reflection and recommitment, sharing again the great loss and grief of a mother and father for their son and of other family members and friends, righteously angry at the continuing injustice in the country as a whole and vowing to press forward relentlessly and regardless to end it. And we, of necessity, meditate on the meaning and message in life, work and struggle this

verdict and victory have for us. For even a single victory is a contribution to our overall struggle and holds important lessons for us in the way we live our lives, do our work, and wage our struggles.

First, as always, let us give praise to our people, who demonstrated, lobbied, confronted and pressured the system every week since the murder, keeping the issue in front of the city, country and the world. For we know with Nana Frederick Douglass, "Without struggle, there is no progress. Power concedes nothing without demand. It never did and never will." We give due praise also to Ahmaud's mother, Mrs. Wanda Cooper-Jones, his father, Mr. Marcus Arbery, and other family members, and all those activists and activist organizations and institutions, the lawyers, ministers and everyday people who continued the struggle, kept the faith and held the line in pursuit of accountability and justice.

To rightfully appreciate the verdict and victory and benefit from the lessons of struggle, we must also make a clear distinction between accountability and justice. For the verdict was one of accountability, not justice in its essential sense. Sometimes, we call accountability procedural justice as distinct from substantive justice. For it is holding persons accountable, i.e., holding them responsible through established procedures and processes. But we know procedures and processes can be and are often racist and wrong and virtually always in the interest of the system itself which also can be and is unjust and oppressive as well as its controllers. In such a system, we are asked



DR. MAULANA KARENGA

to wait until the process plays out and whatever the results, it is called justice. For justice here is not about the outcome, but about procedure and process.

However, substantive justice is not simply about processes and procedures or the result of a single trial, verdict or victory. It is a condition of society in which it ensures that persons and peoples receive their rightful due as human beings. Substantive justice, both racial and social justice, requires respect for the equal dignity and rights of persons and peoples; equality of treatment and of real access to the necessities of life and opportunities; equity in diversity; effective participation in public life; and rightful relations with the environment. The evidence and outcome of these conditions will be expressed in persons and peoples having the capacity to live lives of dignity, wellbeing and flourishing and to pursue their concepts of the good in relations of mutual respect, mutual caring, shared interests, ongoing cooperation, and sustained

attentiveness to the wellbeing of the world.

It is this societal and world inclusiveness of the principle and practice of justice that enables us to see that the trial of these three racist murderers was not simply to hold them accountable, but also a definitive example of American society on trial itself. Indeed, it is the American system that produced and nurtured them and the sick racist mindset that millions of other White Americans share, nurture and support openly or undercover. As Haji Malcolm X taught, it is not a city, county or state alone, but the U.S. government that has determined how this system was founded and functions, especially against us. As he says, "It is the government itself, the government of America that is responsible for the oppression, exploitation and degradation of Black people in this country." And it is morally imperative that we hold it accountable in our quest for justice through righteous and relentless

Also, if we are to rightfully appreciate and learn the lessons of our struggles, we must always resist the system's self-congratulatory narrative that this and other victories we win in struggle are examples of how well the system works. We are told that a nearly all-White jury (11 Whites and 1 Black) came through and demonstrated their appreciation for justice, etc., etc. But this hides the fact that having a virtually allWhite jury, intentionally discriminatory, in a city of 60% Black and in a county 27% Black, is an injustice

Also, we are constantly told that the system works in spite of its flaws. But for whom does it work? If it had worked for Ahmaud Arbery, there would have been no vigilantes, no death-hunt and cold-blooded killing, no cover up, and no need to wait, hoping and praying for a break in the established racist patterns and practices so that at least accountability could be achieved. Moreover, we would not need to cater to an essentially White jury, concerned that we not mention race and make them uncomfortable and exonerate their White compatriots.

Indeed, the prosecutor should have been able to argue the savage racist reality of the murder. For it was not murder in general, nor was Ahmaud Arbery an accidental victim. He was an intended target, a chosen prey, targeted as a Black man, hunted down, cutoff and cornered as he jogged, and killed coldly by vicious racist predators. But the prosecutor felt she could only briefly mention race after the defense raised it, falling on all four to sow and stoke racist fear and hatred, using even the length and alleged status of Ahmaud's toenails as a source of racist indictment of him for "unforgiveable Blackness." So, we must not let the system hijack the victory, claiming it proves the system works; that Whites on a good day

can be kind and considerate and we must forever depend on their episodic kindness rather than on a just system.

Finally, we are compelled to remember that in the context of systemic racism, it is not the system that willingly and normally does justice or holds accountable police, vigilantes and other violators of Black rights and takers of Black lives. On the contrary, it is our people in struggle and alliance that compel and create the context for both accountability and eventual justice in an expansive sense. Indeed, it is the teaching of Nana A. Philip Randolph, that "Freedom is never granted; it is won. Justice is never given, it is extracted." For it is an ongoing struggle to bring, increase and sustain good in the world, as the Odu Ifa teaches. And to realize this, Nana Fannie Lou Hamer teaches us, "We've got to fight every step of the

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, The Message and Meaning of Kwanzaa: Bringing Good Into the World and Essays on Struggle: Position and Analysis, www.AfricanAmericanCulturalCenter-LA.org; www. OfficialKwanzaaWebsite. org; www.MaulanaKaren-

Preparing for Coming Changes

ing developing court cases and the treatment of Blacks and people of color as both victims and perpetrators in the judicial system, we must not lose sight of the coming changes around us designed to both distract and disable.

I speak specifically of the following: (1) the redistricting or redesigning of all the Electoral Districts in the United States, based on the 2020 Census; (2) the new Voter Suppression laws in over 22 states restricting voting hours, locations, and conduct while waiting to vote; (3) the local campaigns against Critical Race Theory resulting in the removal of books in school libraries and restrictions on how issues of race can be taught; and (4) a very close look at all people running for office in 2022 and where they actually stand on the issues just mentioned.



JOHN E. WARREN

The Conservative Right, with all its Trump supporters, is counting on low voter turnout as a result of the above-mentioned restrictions. They are also putting those who are in agreement with them in key positions within each state's vote count and certification process. The greatest weapon we have is our ability to engage the process at every

rious voter registration; we must now look very closely at the new electoral boundaries and changes in all districts, from Congressional Districts to State Legislative, County, Municipal, and School Board Districts.

We must start now and begin looking at the impact of these proposed changes. In some cases, it is already too late to engage the Redistricting Commissions for final changes. Many of these commissions sought to use the internet as a substitute for outreach and citizen engagement in the process. Many of these commissions, both here and around the country, were appointing and stacking the commissions even before the Bureau of the Census released its report.

As a result of those activities, we must now engage in the five "P's" if we,

as the potential victims, are to overcome the "changes". The "P's" are: Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance. We must start planning now how to make new friends and form new alliances where necessary to get the desired outcomes under changing district boundaries and practices. We must know who is in office, who is running for office and whether their interests are our interest before we rush to commit our votes while others are still bargaining for their agendas.

Changes are coming. The only issue is whether we will be prepared to meet and overcome the changes. Something to think about.

Dr. John E. Warren, Publisher, The San Diego Voice and Viewpoint

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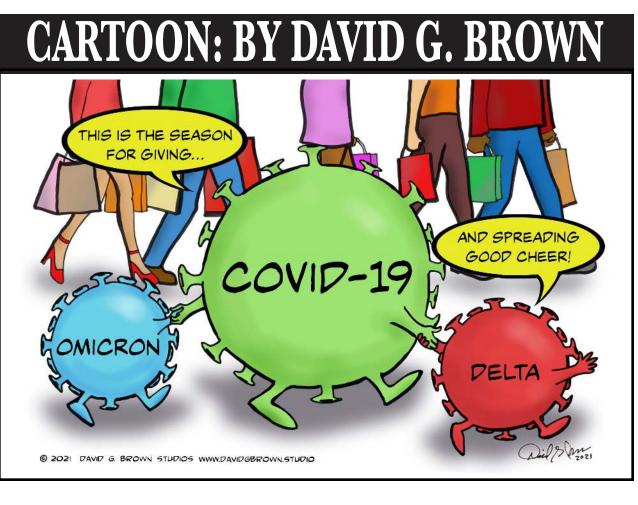
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WINDOW





Don't Miss the Boat

ago prior to COVID, my daughter and I planned and prepared for a trip of a lifetime. We paid for the trip in 2019 with the hopes of embarking for a cruise through the Panama Canal in March 2020. Of course, the pandemic put a halt to that dream. We canceled the trip six days before the cruise ship canceled (because of travel restrictions that were being put in place) which caused us to not be eligible for a refund

A couple of years and forced us to rebook a new trip before the end of 2021. As we surveyed our options, we were not able to go to Panama, so we decided to pick a cruise that sailed through the Mediterranean making stops in Turkey. Our excitement mounted once again, and we were prepared to take an amazing trip that turned out to almost be a disaster.

Since this is the year of my 60th birthday, I decided to do special things throughout the year to celebrate. One of those things included upgrading our flight to have an elevated experience. As we boarded the plane, we were excited to start our journey. The first dilemma was when the plane could not get the door hatch to close and lock. This caused us to have to sit on the tarmac for a couple of hours before they eventually had all of us exit the plane and run through the airport trying to find new flights. As we stood in Customer Service,

we were then told to get back on our original flight to only sit again for almost an hour. Once we finally took off, we were so far behind schedule we missed our connecting flight. This was the pattern all the way to our final destination. We were so far behind time we knew we were going to miss our boat.

As we knew we were going to be late, my daughter began contacting the cruise line to let them know we were running late because of the delays of the airline (that they booked). The gentleman she spoke with told her not to worry that the ship would still be there when we arrived. We finally got to the port over two hours after the boat was scheduled to leave and to our surprise it was still there. We were shocked! Wow, in all the years I have been cruising I never knew of a boat waiting on people for that amount of time. We were the last two people to board the ship and once we were on board, we learned

that the reason the boat was still in port was because of some issues with the next port in Turkey. The cruise was now not going to Turkey, the very reason we were taking this trip in the first place. Disappointing, but the reality is if the Turkey port was not canceled, we would have missed the

The term to miss the boat means, to lose an opportunity to do something because you were too slow to act. Sometimes we can miss the boat because of something that is beyond our control. So, if we do miss the boat or an opportunity in life we may need to step back and look at the bigger picture on why. Was it meant for us in the first place? Could there possibly be something that we were saved from that we are unaware of? My daughter and I did not miss our boat this time, but we did miss the opportunity to see Istanbul and Kusadasi. But maybe there was

something in Turkey that

was not meant for us.

When I reflect over the entire trip, I am grateful that even with all the ups and downs and disappointments, we made it back home safe and sound. Despite having to take COVID tests every couple of days, being delayed in different airports, missing ground transportation connections, not seeing certain locations and almost missing the boat, we still enjoyed the trip. What I learned through this entire process was that it is not so much what happens to us in life, but how we handle what happens to us. God is good all the time.

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Visit www.WendyGladney.com and www.forgivingforliving.org to learn more. Wendy is a life strategist, coach, consultant, author, and speaker.

Success On "The Way"



"Critic of The Mind" Part 5

"A Sword Shall Pierce The Earth" Part 1 "Magi Follow the Messiah's Star"Part 2 "The Sword Of The Spirit Points The Way" Part 3 "The Divine X-Ray Critic" Part 4 "Critic of The Mind" Part 5

What was Joseph thinking about when calculating to quietly divorce Mary, his wife? What was going he was thinking about the functioned in John 8:2through his mind? What rule of the law of Moses 7 when the woman was was the condition of his (Deuteronomy 5:14; 22:24; "caught in adultery." May-

angel gave him comfort. of adultery. Afterall, he His fear was interrupted and disengaged. Perhaps a glimpse of how that law and Numbers 5:11-31; John be he was thinking about 8:5 and other examples of himself also. Deuteronomy his knowledge of the law 22:24-30 where there's the

was a just man. We have

death penalty where both the man and the woman may be subject to death penalty who are caught in adultery with other married ones. Suspicion and fear gripped him. There are other laws which spell out penalties and consequences under several circumstances relating to adultery. It could be when Jesus wrote on the ground in John 8:6, he outlined the law to bring to their consciences of the men's guilt also. Who knows who they had committed adultery with?! Or who was even telling the truth? Jesus is "The Critic of the Mind." He knows what is in man and would not entrust himself to man, because he knew what was in man and about man's inherent sinful nature. I suspect Jesus wrote those laws of Moses to prick their minds and bring them into reality of just who they were. Numbers 5:11-31 speaks of the trial for a woman caught in adultery. The man has penalties too, but seemingly not as condemning as the woman. I suspect when Jesus

stooped down as if He did not hear them and wrote on the ground, those men were guilty too. Remember what Jesus said to them, "He who is without sin, let him be the first one to cast the first stone at her." They all walked away. They too were guilty. Jesus knew their hearts and attempted to free themselves of their own guilt by thrusting it upon the woman. Jesus was quite clever and most knowledgeable of the law of Moses too. He freed her and them too from their condemnation. That's how Jesus is. He gives another chance. He gives another opportunity to do better and turnaround and turn away from the wrong way. Jesus' Mission is not to condemn, but to free. His mission is not to judge any and everybody who does wrong. If that were the case, He could have just thrown His hat in the air and "we all would be condemned." Consider the many things which could have been going on Joseph's mind. I imagine he was trembling and sweating with fear.

Jesus comes with His comforting Holy Spirit to redirect our attention to Him and His way, guiding us to obedience for our welfare for now and our future. Joseph comes to the Holy decision to love his wife and to listen to the voice of the angel. He did the same thing when he was told to take Mary and "Jesus" to safety so that the murderous, vicious Herods could not exercise their hate, venom and vengeance to destroy Jesus. If we would all listen more carefully to the Holy voice, we could make more right decisions for all our lives and that of our families too. Another important aspect too is that Joseph did not allow Jealousy and suspicion rule in his heart. He did not allow the "spirit of jealousy" to reign in his mind and in his heart! He was devout. He had a focused mindset. He listened to the voice of the angel and yielded to obedience. How many times do we miss the voice of divine guidance? If we miss, we

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370 **ANNOUNCEMENTS BODY SCULPTING / CONTOUR-**

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PUBLIC SCOPING NOTICE

Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project Availability of Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Notice of Public Meetings

WHAT IS BEING PLANNED?

WHAT IS BEING PLANNED?
The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation
Authority (Metro) is initiating the preparation of an
Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Sepulveda
Transit Corridor Project (Proposed Project) in Los
Angeles County, California. The goals of the Proposed Angeles County, California. The gloals of the Proposed Project are to improve mobility, improve accessibility and promote equity, support community and economic development, protect environmental resources and support a sustainable transportation system, provide a cost-effective solution and minimize risk, and enhance

The Proposed Project would construct and operate a high-capacity fixed guideway transit option across the Santa Monica Mountains in the vicinity of the Sepulveda Pass. The alternatives under consideration would have a northern terminus station near the Van Nuys Metrolink/Amtrak Station and a southern terminus station near the Metro E Line (Expo) and terminus station near trie Metro L Line (Expo) and include stations that provide connections to the Metrolink Ventura County Line, the East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor, and the Metro G Line (Orange). D Line (Purple), and E Line. The six build alternatives being proposed may be modified as a result of comments received during scoping. A no build" alternative is also being considered. build" alternative is also being considered

Metro is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act. The EIR, a study required Environmental Quality Act. The EIX, a study required by state law, will be prepared and is an assessment of the likely influences that future improvements may have on the environment and communities within and adjacent to the study area. It includes analyses of ways to reduce or avoid possible adverse environmental impacts.

Metro is initiating environmental and engineering studies for this project. Virtual public scoping meetings

will be held to inform you about the project and the proposed alternatives, and to give you an opportunity to provide comments or concerns. Your nts will become part of the public record and will be considered in develop

da Transit Corridor

Study Area

Metro Rail Lines & State

Light Rail Transit Line

WHAT IS AVAILABLE?

tion (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report is available for public review at https://www.metro.net/projects/sepulvedacorridor/.

WHERE YOU COME IN
Public scoping meetings will be held virtually during the public scoping period on December 7, 2021, January 11, 2022, and January 22, 2022. The
purpose of the public scoping meetings is to obtain public feedback on the project's goals and objectives as well as on the range of proposed
alternatives, and the issues to be studied in the EIR. Comments may be submitted during the public scoping period through February 11, 2022 via mail,
email, online via comment form, or by phone. Submit comments by mail to the following address: Peter Carter, Project Manager, Metro, One Gateway
Plaza, Mail Stop 99-22-6, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Submit comments by email to sepulvedatransit@metro.net. Submit comments online at metro.net/sepulvedacorridor. Submit comments via phone at (213) 922-7375. For more information, please visit the project website at https://www.metro.net/projects/sepulvedacorridor/.

The virtual public scoping meetings will be held online on the following dates, times, and meeting links.

Time:	Date:	December 7, 2021
Passcode: 819995 Webinar link: https://bit.ly/SepulvedaDec7 Call in: 669.900.6833 Date: January 11, 2022 Time: 6:00pm - 8:00pm Webinar ID: 964 8792 4301 Passcode: 550195 Webinar link: https://bit.ly/SepulvedaJan11 Call in: 669.900.6833 Date: January 22, 2022 Time: 10:00am - noon Webinar ID: 999 3010 8496 Passcode: 270559 Webinar link: https://bit.ly/SepulvedaJan22	Time:	11:30am – 1:30pm
Webinar link: https://bit.ly/SepulvedaDec7 Call in: 669.900.6833 Date: January 11, 2022 Time: 6:00pm - 8:00pm Webinar ID: 964.8792 4301 Passcode: 550195 Webinar link: https://bit.ly/SepulvedaJan11 Call in: 669.900.6833 Date: January 22, 2022 Time: 10:00am - noon Webinar ID: 999.3010 8496 Passcode: 270559 Webinar link: https://bit.ly/SepulvedaJan22	Webinar ID:	919 0173 3110
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Webinar link: https://bit.ly/SepulvedaJan22	Webinar ID:	999 3010 8496
	Passcode:	
Call in: 669.900.6833	Webinar link:	https://bit.ly/SepulvedaJan22
	Call in:	669.900.6833

CONTACT/SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Spanish translation will be provided at all public scoping meetings. All Metro meetings support needs associated with the Americans with Disability (ADA). ADA accommodations and real-time translations for languages other than Spanish are available by calling 213.922.7375 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting.

CNSB#3531501

0 0

CIVIL

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 21CMCP00147 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles Petition of: Denis Alexander

Xinico Salazar for Change of ALL INTERESTED

PERSONS:
Petitioner Denis Alexander Xinico Salazar filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Alexander Salazar to Alexander Dennis Xinico Salazar 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 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: 1/20/2022, Time: 8:30 am, Dept.: A, Room: 904
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

county: Los Angeles Sentinel Date: Nov 15, 2022 Thomas D. Long Judge of the Superior Court 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16/21 CNS-3533284# LOS ANGELES SENTINFI

newspaper of general circulation, printed in this

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) CASE NUMBER (Número del

Caso): 20NWLC34571 NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): Steve Yu, an individual; Young B. Kong, an individual; and Does 1 through 10 inclusive YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO DEMANDANTE): LCS

Capital, LLC

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be

a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo. ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. legal There are other

requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www. courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court county bar association.

TE: The court has a NOTE:

statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. ¡AVISO!Lo han demandado.

Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.
Tiene 30 DÍAS DE
CALENDARIO después

CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una conia al demandante Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y

la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hav otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www. lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www. sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el

colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso. The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Superior Court of California,

CA 90650 The name, address, and

County of Los Angeles, Norwalk Courthouse, 12720 Norwalk Boulevard, Norwalk,

telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, dirección y el número teléfono del abogado del demandante. o no tiene otrina M. demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Katrina M. Brown, Jenna Moreno-Cortez 755 Baywood Drive, 2nd Floor, Petaluma, CA 94954, 707-210-3020

DATE (Fecha): 12/29/2020 Sherri R. Carter, Clerk (Secretario), by B. Haun,

Deputy (Adjunto) (SEAL) NOTICE TO THE PERSON **SERVED:** You are served as an individual defendant. 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9/21 LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 21VECP00551

Case No. 21/ECP-00001 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles Petition of: Taslima Ahmed and Tarek Ahmed for Change of Name TO ALL INTERESTED

TO ALL PERSONS: Petitioner Taslima Ahmed and Tarek Ahmed filed a petition with this court for a decree

with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Zayden Ahmed Noor to Zayden Noor Ahmed 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. name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the 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 course 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: December 10, 2021, Time: 8:30 A.M., Dept.: W,

Room: 610 The address of the court is Los Angeles Superior Court Northwest District-East Bldg. 6230 Sylmar Avenue, Van Nuys, CA 91401

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: October 21, 2021

Virginia Keeny
Judge of the Superior Court
11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9/21
CNS-3529771#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 21VECP00559

Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles Petition of: Joy Chay Zamzelig

for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Joy Chay Zamzelig filed a petition with this court

for a decree changing names Joy Chay Zamzelig to Joy Zamzelig 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

easons 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

is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: 12/9/21, Time: 8:30, Dept.: T, Room: 600
The address of the court is Los Angeles Superior Court Northwest District-East Bldg., 6230 Sylmar Avenue, Van Nuys, CA 91401

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. 03, 2021

Date: Nov. Us, 2021 Virginia Keeny Judge of the Superior Court 11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2/21 CNS-3529334# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 21VECP00558 AMENDED Superior Court of California,

County of Los Angeles
Petition of: Shirel Aviya
Zamzelig for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner Shirel Aviya Zamzelig filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Shirel Aviya Zamzelig to

Shirel Zamzelig
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

grant the petition without a hearing.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: 12/9/21, Time: 8:30,
Dept.: W, Room: 610
The address of the court is
Los Angeles Superior Court
Northwest District-East Bldg.,

6230 Sylmar Avenue, Van Nuys, CA 91401 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: Nov 03, 2021

Virginia Keeny
Judge of the Superior Court
11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2/21 CNS-3529327# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

SUMMONS (Family Law) CITACIÓN (Derecho familiar) CASE NUMBER (NÚMERO

DE CASO): D394627 NOTICE TO RESPONDENT (Name): AVISO AL DEMANDADO (Nombre): CARMEN LUNA You have been sued. Read

the information below and on the next page. Lo han demandado. Lea la información a continuación y en la página siguiente. Petitioner's name is: Nombre del demandante: JOSE ISABEL SERRATOS

HERNANDEZ You have **30 calendar days** after this Summons and Petition are served on you to file a Response (form FL-120) at the court and have a copy served on the petitioner. A letter, phone call, or court appearance will not protect

you do not file your Response on time, the court may make orders affecting your marriage or domestic partnership, your property, and custody of your children. You may be ordered to pay support and attorney fees and

costs.
For legal advice, contact a lawyer immediately. Get help finding a lawyer at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp), at the california Legal Services website (www.lawhelpca.org), or by contacting your local county bar association.

Tiene **30 días de calendario** después de haber recibido la entrega legal de esta Citación y Petición para presentar una Respuesta (formulario FL-120) ante la corte y efectuar la entrega legal de una copia al demandante. Una carta o llamada telefónica o una audiencia de la corte no basta para protegerlo.

Si no presenta su Respuesta a tiempo, la corte puede dar órdenes que afecten su matrimonio o pareia de hecho. sus bienes y la custodia de sus hijos. La corte también le puede ordenar que paque manutención, y honorarios y costos legales.
Para asesoramiento legal,

póngase en contacto de inmediato con un abogado. Puede obtener información para encontrar un abogado en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (MANY SUROTE CA GOV) (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en el sitio web de los Servicios Legales de California (www. lawhelpca.org) o poniéndose en contacto con el colegio de abogados de su condado. NOTICE—RESTRAINING

ORDERS ARE ON PAGE
2: These restraining orders are effective against both spouses or domestic partners until the petition is dismissed, a judgment is entered, or the court makes further orders. They are enforceable anywhere in California by any law enforcement officer who has received or seen a copy of them.

AVISO-LAS ÓRDENES AVISO—LAS ORDENES
DE RESTRICCIÓN SE
ENCUENTRAN EN LA
PÁGINA 2: Las órdenes de
restricción están en vigencia en cuanto a ambos cónyuges o miembros de la pareja de hecho hasta que se despida la petición, se emita un fallo o la corte dé otras órdenes. Cualquier agencia del orden público que haya recibido o visto una copia de estas órdenes puede hacerlas acatar en cualquier lugar de

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. EXENCIÓN 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):
VENTURA SUPERIOR
COURT, 800 SOUTH
VICTORIA AVENUE,

VENTURA, CA 93009 The name, address, phone nur 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): JOSE ISABEL SERRATOS HERNANDEZ, 4245 FROST DR., OXNARD, CA 93033, 805-616-5032

Date (Fecha): August 22, 2019, Clerk, by (Secretario, por) Michael D. Planet, por) Michael D Deputy (Asistente) [SEAL] STANDARD FAMILY LAW RESTRAINING ORDERS
Starting immediately, you and your spouse or domestic

partner are restrained from:

1. removing the minor children of the parties from the state or applying for a new or replacement passport for those minor children without the prior written consent of the other party or an order of the court:

2. cashing, borrowing against, canceling, transferring, disposing of, or changing the beneficiaries of any insurance or other coverage, including life, health, automobile, and disability, held for the benefit of the parties and their minor children;

3. transferring, encumbering, hypothecating, concealing, or in any way disposing of any property, real or personal, whether community, quasicommunity, or separate, without the written consent of the other party or an order of the court, except in the usual course of business or for the necessities of life; and 4. creating a nonprobate

transfer or modifying a nonprobate transfer in a manner that affects the disposition of property subject to the transfer, without the written consent of the other party or an order of the court. Before revocation of a nonprobate transfer can take effect or a right of survivorship to property can be eliminated, notice of the change must be filed and served on the other party.
You must notify each other of

any proposed extraordinary expenditures at least five business days prior to incurring these extraordinary expenditures and account to the court for all extraordinary expenditures made after these restraining orders are effective. However, you may use community property, quasi-community property, or quasi-community property, or your own separate property to pay an attorney to help you or to pay court costs.

ÓRDENES DE

RESTRICCIÓN ESTÁNDAR

DE DERECHO FAMILIAR En forma inmediata, usted y su cónyuge o pareja de hecho

tienen prohibido:

1. Ilevarse del estado de California a los hijos menores de las partes, o solicitar un pasaporte nuevo o de repuesto para los hijos menores, sin el consentimiento previo por escrito de la otra parte o sin

Public Notices

una orden de la corte: 2. cobrar, pedir prestado, cancelar, transferir, deshacerse o cambiar el nombre de los beneficiarios de cualquier seguro u otro tipo de cobertura, como de vida, salud, vehículo y discapacidad, que tenga como

beneficiario(s) a las partes y su(s) hijo(s) menor(es); 3. transferir, gravar, hipotecar, ocultar o deshacerse de cualquier manera de cualquier propiedad, inmueble o personal, ya sea comunitaria, cuasicomunitaria o separada, sin el consentimiento escrito de la otra parte o una orden de la corte, excepto en el curso habitual de actividades personales y comerciales o para satisfacer las necesidades de la vida; y 4. crear o modificar una

transferencia no testamentaria de manera que afecte la asignación de una propiedad sujeta a transferencia, sin el consentimiento por escrito de la otra parte o una orden de la corte. Antes de que se pueda eliminar la revocación de una transferencia no testamentaria, se debe presentar ante la corte un aviso del cambio y hacer una entrega legal de dicho aviso a

la otra parte.
Cada parte tiene que notificar a la otra sobre cualquier gasto extraordinario propuesto por lo menos cinco días hábiles antes de realizarlo, y rendir cuenta a la corte de todos los gastos extraordinarios realizados después de que estas órdenes de restricción hayan entrado en vigencia. No obstante, puede usar propiedad comunitaria, cuasicomunitaria o suya separada para pagar a un abogado que lo ayude o para pagar los costos de la corte.

NŎTICE—ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE: Do you or someone in your household need affordable health insurance? If so, you should apply for Covered California. Covered California can help reduce the cost you pay towards high quality affordable health care For more information, visit www. coveredca.com. Or call Covered California at 1-800-

300-1506. AVISO - ACCESO A SEGURO DE SALUD MÁS ECONÓMICO: ¿Necesita seguro de salud

a un costo asequible, ya sea para usted o alguien en su hogar? Si es así, puede presentar una solicitud con Covered California. Covered California lo puede ayudar a reducir el costo que paga por seguro de salud asequible y de alta calidad. Para obtener más información, visite www. coveredca.com. O llame a Covered California al 1-800-300-0213. WARNING - IMPORTANT

INFORMATION
California law provides that, for purposes of division of ror purposes of division of property upon dissolution of a marriage or domestic partnership or upon legal separation, property acquired by the parties during marriage

or domestic partnership in joint form is presumed to be community property. If either party to this action should die before the jointly held community property is divided, the language in the deed that characterizes how title is held (i.e., joint tenancy, tenants in common, or community property) will be controlling, and not the community

property presumption. You should consult your attorney if you want the community property presumption to be written into the recorded title to the property.

ADVERTENCIA -IMFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE

acuerdo a la lev California, las propiedades adquiridas por las partes durante su matrimonio o pareja de hecho en forma conjunta se consideran propiedad comunitaria para fines de la división de bienes que ocurre cuando se produce una disolución o separación legal del matrimonio o pareja de hecho. Si cualquiera de las partes de este caso llega a fallecer antes de que se divida la propiedad comunitaria de tenencia conjunta, el destino de la misma quedará determinado por las cláusulas de la escritura correspondiente que describen su tenencia (por ej., tenencia conjunta, tenencia en común o propiedad comunitaria) y no por la presunción de propiedad comunitaria. Si quiere que la presunción comunitaria quede registrada en la escritura de la propiedad, debería consultar con un abogado. 11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2/21 CNS-3529309#

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES

LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2021252829 following person(s) is

(are) doing business as: 1. DIGITALMNSTR, DIGITAL MNSTR, 3. MNSTR CONSULTING, 4. MNSTR HEALTH, 1553 1/2 3RD AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90019 County of LOS ANGELES Registered owner(s): MNSTR LLC, 1553 1/2 3RD AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90019; State of Incorporation:

This business is conducted by

a limited liability company The registrant(s) started doing business 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 Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars S/ YONG JAMES WONG.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/18/2021.

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 Public Notices

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 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 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 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23/21 CNS-3534913#

LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

NAME STATEMENT File No. 2021253005 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: ADULT SCOUTS PINS, 3705 W. PICO BLVD #984, LOS ANGELES, CA 90019 County

ANGELES, CA 90019 County of LOS ANGELES Registered owner(s): INDIRA LEBLANC, 3705 W. PICO BLVD #984, LOS ANGELES, CA, CA 90047 This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant(s) started doing

business on 06/2021. 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 quilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars

(\$1.000)INDIRA LEBLANC. OWNER This statement was filed

with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/18/2021. 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 12/9, 12/16, 12/23, 12/30/21 CNS-3534888#

CNS-3534888# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

File No. 2021251712 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: WRITE ON! PUBLISHING, 5231 ANGELES VISTA BL, LOS ANGELES, CA 90043 County of LOS ANGELES Periotered owner(s):

Registered owner(s): REGINA NELSON, 5231 ANGELES VISTA BL, LOS ANGELES CA 90043 This business is conducted by an Individual

The registrant(s) started doing business on 11/2021.
I declare that all information in this statement is true and 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/ REGINA NELSON, OWNER This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on

11/17/2021 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 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 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23/21

CNS-3534873# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL **FICTITIOUS BUSINESS** NAME STATEMENT File No. 2021246876

following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Universal Hospitalists, PC, 10430 Wilshire Blvd #803, Los Angeles, CA 90024 County of LOS ANGELES

Registered owner(s): Hospitalists Universal Hospitalists Ghalchi, PC, 10430 Wilshire Blvd #803, Los Angeles, CA 90024; State of Incorporation:

This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant(s) started doing business on 09/2021.
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)). Universal

Hospitalists Ghalchi, PC S/ Daniel Ghalchi. Secretary This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/09/2021.

NOTICE-In accordance with

Subdivision (a) of Section

"Critic of The Mind" Part 5

"A Sword Shall Pierce The Earth" Part 1 "Magi Follow the Messiah's Star"Part 2 "The Sword Of The Spirit Points The Way" Part 3 "The Divine X-Ray Critic" Part 4 "Critic of The Mind" Part 5

{continued from Pg. C-3} may also be greatly delayed and deterred from our worthwhile goals. If we fail to listen, be patient and hold on to our faith, we may never reach our desired goals. Yes, it is true that following Jesus might be more difficult, but the rewards are far greater; because He loves us greatly and wants us to have the very best right here on earth. He said when we choose the path of

following Him, we change our thinking to follow Him and the rewards cannot be counted. They are numerous...a hundredfold AND eternal life! The sacrifices are many, but the rewards are greater. Look ahead, things change. What then can we say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? Thanks for reading! Jeanette Grattan Parker is Founder-Superintendent Today's Fresh

Start Charter School 4514 Crenshaw Boulevard, LA 90043 323-293-9826 www. todaysfreshstart.org (Ask Dr. Jeanette TM) Inquiring Minds Want To Know-All articles are copyright. All rights reserved © Askdrjeanetteparker.successontheway@gmail.com . www. todaysfreshstart.org 323-293-9826. 4514 Crenshaw BL, LA 90043 Reference: Bible: The Holy Bible. Any errors? Let me know.



Public Notices

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 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 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16/21 CNS-3533220# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2021234433
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
BANTU BOYZ, 1701 SOUTH
FIGUEROA #1043, LOS
ANGELES, CA 90015 County
of LOS ANGELES

of LOS ANGELES
Registered owner(s):
JULIEN TSHIKUNA, 425
NORTH ALVARADO STREET APT #109, LOS ANGELES, CA 90026 BILEKO AZIZA WISSA JR.,

4338 BERRYMAN AVENUE APT #2, LOS ANGELES, CA 90066

PATRICK GLORY PAIRICK GLORY
DIELUBANZA, 1249 WEST
39TH PLACE APT 313, LOS
ANGELES, CA 90037
This business is conducted by
a General Partnership

The registrant(s) started doing business on 03/2019.
I declare that all information in this statement is the statement.

in this statement is true and

correct. (A registrant who

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/ PATRICK GLORY DIELUBANZA, GENERAL

with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/27/2021. NOTICE-In accordance with

This statement was filed

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 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16/21 CNS-3533218#

LOS ANGELES SENTINEL **FICTITIOUS BUSINESS**

NAME STATEMENT File No. 2021239722

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: wondertrunk & co., 12130, MILLENNIUM DRIVE, Los Angeles, CA 90094 County of LOS ANGELES Registered owner(s): AOT INTERNATIONAL LTD

WHICH WILL DO BUSINESS IN CALIFORNIA AS AOTI LTD., 12130, MILLENNIUM DRIVE, Los Angeles, CA 90094; State of Incorporation: This business is conducted by

a Corporation
The registrant(s) started doing business 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 registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)).
AOT INTERNATIONAL LTD.

WHICH WILL DO BUSINESS IN CALIFORNIA AS AOTI

Marie Pilaud, Vice President This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/02/2021. NOTICE-In accordance with

Public Notices

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 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.

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 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16/21 CNS-3533217# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT File No. 2021255432 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

Tamales y Menudo Gomarca, 605 W 62nd St., Los Angeles, CA 90044, County of Los Angeles; Mailing Address: 605 W 82nd Natinity Address: 505 W 521d St, Los Angeles, CA 90044 Registered owner(s): Marcial Gonzalez Candido, 605 W 62nd St, Los Angeles,

CA 90017 This business is conducted by: an Individual

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/2021

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 registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). S/ Marcial Gonzalez Candido,

Owner
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on November 22, 2021 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 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16/21

CNS-3533213# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2021255478 following person(s) is

(are) doing business as:
Tamales Mexico, 3 W Lucas
St, Los Angeles, CA 90017, County of Los Angeles Registered owner(s): Alberto Padua Casarrubias

62 St, Los Angeles, CA 90044 Hermelinda Marcial Gonzalez, 3 W Lucas St., Los Angeles, CA 90017

This business is conducted by: a Married Couple
The registrant commenced to transact business under

the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/2021 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/ Her Hermelinda Marcial

Gonzalez, Wife This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on November 22, 2021

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

Public Notices

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 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 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16/21 CNS-3533210# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT File No. 2021236362 The Not. 20212-05-02
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Legacy Programs, 20510
Leapwood Ave #33B, Carson,
CA 90746 County of LOS

ANGELES Registered owner(s): Sonja Dawson, 20510 Leapwood Ave #33B, Carson, CA 90746 20510

Tina Schmerber, 16125 Hart Street #113, Van Nuys, CA

This business is conducted by Co-Partners The registrant(s) started doing business on 10/2021.
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/ Tina Schmerber, General Partner This statement was filed

Los Angeles County on 10/28/2021. 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 erk, except, as provided Subdivision (b) of Section in Subdivision (b) 5. 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 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 use in this state of a itious Business Name Fictitious in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Original Filing 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16/21 CNS-3532273# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2021246187 The following person(s) is

Ine following personi(s) is (are) doing business as:
AROMACHAURA, 7521
CRENSHAW BLVD 7, LOS
ANGELES, CA 90043 County of LOS ANGELES Articles of Incorporation of Organization Number: LLC/AI No 201827410489

Registered owner(s): TIZZLE LLC, 7521
CRENSHAW BLVD #7, LOS
ANGELES, CA 90043; State
of Incorporation: CA
This business is conducted by

The registrant(s) started doing business on 09/2021.

I declare that all information 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 S/ L'LIA ERICKA THOMAS,

PRESIDENT statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on

11/09/2021 NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name 1/920, 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

Public Notices

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.

Affidavit of Identity form.
The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize 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 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9/21 CNS-3531069# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2021242612

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
TOTAL ENLIGHTENMENT TOTAL ENLIGHTENMENT HOME CARE, 7314 DALTON AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90047 County of LOS

ANGELES
Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number: LLC/AI No 202122410305

No 202122410305
Registered owner(s):
TOTAL ENLIGHTENMENT
HOME CARE LLC, 7314
DALTON AVE, LOS
ANGELES, CA 90047; State
of Incorporation: CA
This business is conducted by

This business is conducted by

This business is conducted by a limited liability company. The registrant(s) started doing business 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 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)).

TOTAL ENLIGHTENMENT HOME CARE LLC S/ SHAUNDA NORTH MOSS, MANAGER

MANAGER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/04/2021. NOTICE-In accordance with

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 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 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9/21 CNS-3531052# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

NAME STALEMENT
File No. 2021246721
The following person(s) is
(are) doing business as:
GIDGET PR, 4420 ENSIGN
AVE. PH. 2, NORTH
HOLLYWOOD, CA 91602
COUNTY OF ON THE LOS ANGELES County of LOS ANGELES
Registered owner(s):
KELLY CHRISTINA WILSON, 4420 ENSIGN AVE. PH. 2, NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA

This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant(s) started doing business on 11/2016.

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/ KELLY CH WILSON, OWNER CHRISTINA

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on

11/09/2021. 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 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

Public Notices

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). Filing with Changes 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9/21 CNS-3531042# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2021228425 The following person(s) is

(are) doing business as: ICONIC LA, 3819 W. Slauson Ave Ste G, Los Angeles, CA 90043 County of LOS ANGELES Registered owner(s):

Registered owner(s):
Latory Garner, 757 west 131st
Street, Gardena, CA 90247
REGINA CHAVON
CALDWELL, 836 west 108th
st, Los Angeles, CA 90044
This business is conducted by
a General Partnership a General Partnership

The registrant(s) started doing business on 10/2021. 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 registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (e4 000)

(\$1,000)).

S/ REGINA CHAVON
CALDWELL, General Partner
This statement was filed
with the County Clerk of
Los Angeles County on
10/20/2021 10/20/2021.

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 lerk, except, as provided 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 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 11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2/21 CNS-3529318# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS File No. 2021228525

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
NkKai Management Group,
4859 West Slauson Avenue #330, Los Angeles, CA 900 County of LOS ANGELES Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number: LLC/AI No 202125810608 Registered owner(s)

NkKai Properties, LLC, 4859 West Slauson Avenue #330, Los Angeles, CA 90056; State of Incorporation: CA This business is conducted by a limited liability company
The registrant(s) started doing business on 10/2005.
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 quilty of a misdemeanor. is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). NkKai Properties, LLC

SKAR Properties, LLC
S/ Gjenaii Givhan, CEO
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/20/2021.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section

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 the office of the 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 11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2/21

Public Notices

CNS-3529275# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2021234874 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: The Rouge Cosmetics, 4508 Forman Ave, Toluca Lake, CA 91602 County of LOS

ANGELES

Registered owner(s): Tianna Hope, 4815 1/2 Craner Ave, North Hollywood, CA 91601

Nicholas Grutzeck, 4815 1/2 Craner Ave, North Hollywood, CA 91601 This business is conducted by

a Married Couple The registrant(s) started doing business on 09/2021.
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 quilty of a misdemeanor.

is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). S/ Nicholas Grutzeck

Husband This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/27/2021. 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

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 filina of does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business in violation of the rights of another under Federal State

or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Original Filing LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

GOVERNMENT

GENERAL AND

SPECIALITY CONTRACTOR
PRE-QUALIFICATION
OPPORTUNITY WITH LACCD

HEREBY GIVEN that the Los Angeles Community College District ("District") invites Licensed General and Specialty Contractors to submit Statements of Qualification (SOQ) for the following procurement:

Prequalification of A, B and C licensed Construction Contractors for projects under \$5MM

Projects may include but not limited to: demolition of existing buildings and hardscape, removal and repair of existing access barriers building renovations, storm water mitigation, weather water mitigation, weather proofing, swing space prep abatement, central plant improvements, site utility work and new construction.

process will take place in three steps: (1) The instant Request for Qualifications step ("RFQ") (i.e., pre-qualification); then(2) award of a Multiple Award Order Contract for Construction Services; and then (3) a project specific Task Order Request for Bids (TORFB) to the pre-qualified Upon receipt and evaluation of the Statements of

The overall procurement

nents ("SOQ's") Qualifications Qualifications ("SOQ's") submitted in response to this RFQ, the SOQ's will be scored and evaluated using the District's Uniform System of Rating Applicants, and the pre-qualified Applicants will be identified and awarded a Multiple Award Task Order Contract for Construction Services. Thereafter, the District will issue a Request for Task Order Bid(s) to the Pre-Qualified Contractors.

Award of the Task Order
will be made to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. The award of the Multiple Award Task Order Contract(s) and subsequent Task Order will be made pursuant to, without limitation,

Public Notices

District under Public Contract Code section 20651, and other applicable law(s). SOQ Due Date and Request for Qualification Documents, including instructions to Applicants, will be available to Applicants at the Online Vendor Portal at Build-ACCO are seroll down

LACCD.org, scroll down and click on "register with PlanetBids" link and follow the registration instructions. A non-Mandatory Pre-SOQ Teleconference will be held to provide an overview of the RFQ process. Details regarding the date and time

will be posted to the Online Vendor Portal.

Applicants must be registered on the Portal in order to prequalify. The Applicant assumes full and sole responsibility for timely receipt of its SOQ and any other documents required to be submitted with the SOQ, by the District. The District will have no responsibility for SOQ's not submitted in a timely manner, no matter the reason.

Questions shall be directed to the Online Vendor Portal, All questions shall be directed to the Online Vendor Portal.

future opportunities please visit the Online Vendor Portal which can be accessed by visiting the website www.build-laccd. org under "Contractors and Bidders" then clicking the PlanetBids link.

12/2/21 CNS-3533367# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS Notice is given that Statement

of Qualifications for On-Call Coaching Services and Professional Development Program (BRC0000 will be received per instructions listed on (BRC0000256) RFSQ until 5:30pm, Monday, December 27, 2021. There will be no proposers' will be no proposers' conference held for this solicitation. Maximum total annual aggregate program amount is \$250,000 annually. The RFSQ may be obtained by accessing the link at the link and the link by accessing the link at http://pw.lacounty.gov/brcd/ servicecontracts or mailed to you upon request by calling (626) 458-7167 or TDD at (626) 282-7829. 12/2/21 CNS-3531688# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (LACMTA) REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

LACMTA will receive Proposals for PS78835 - I-105 ExpressLanes Roadside Toll Collection System at the 9th Floor Receptionist Desk, Vendor/Contract Management Department, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

All Proposals must be submitted to LACMTA, and be filed at the reception desk, 9th floor, V/CM Department, or via email at bids@metro.net on or before 2:00 p.m. Pacific Time on Thursday, January 27, 2022. Proposals received after the above date and time may be rejected and returned unopened. Each proposal must be sealed and marked Proposal No. PS78835.

For a copy of the Proposal/Bid specification visit our Solicitation Page on our Vendor Portal at https://business.metro.net or for further information email Victor Zepeda at <u>zepedav@</u> metro.net. CNS-3531162# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Notice is given that proposals for On-Call Architectural/ Engineering and Support Services (BRC0000298), will be received by Los Angeles County Public Works. Proposals are due no later than 4:00 p.m., December 20, 2021. An optional virtual conference will be held on December 6, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. An RFP and link to the virtual conference may be obtained by accessing the link at http://dpw.lacounty. gov/general/contracts/ opportunities/ or will be emailed to you upon request by calling (626) 458-5114.

CNS-3531142# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

We Need More Black

Doctors

African Americans know that color matters in regard to almost everything in this country. Medical care is no exception.

The evidence more than bears this out. Two examples stick with me: an Oakland study showed that Black male patients fared better with Black physicians—they were more likely to undergo preventive care and accept flu shots from Black doctors. Another example is even more stark: a study of more than two million birth records in Florida showed that Black infants had significantly higher survival rates when cared for by a Black doctor. This is critically important, because Black infants are three times more likely to die before their first birthday than white infants.

It's clear that when it comes to treating patients of color, the color of the doctor matters. As I've come to terms with this reality--from both the research and my own personal experience with my ailing mother's end-of-life care--I've become more attuned to what needs to change.

Our system of funding healthcare starves communities of color of medical care. Those same systemic forces--of valuing the lives of people of color less than others--have kept people of color from pursuing medical careers. This affects the overall health of communities like South L.A. But when you see a problem clearly, you can do something about it--and we are tackling it head-on.

First, let's be clear on how we got here. The average community has 10 times more doctors than South L.A. We are missing 1,300 doctors, the majority of them specialists-and all of them are needed to address the health conditions of our one million residents.

This deficit of doctors is a result of concentrated

poverty and underinvestment in healthcare for low-income communities for decades. California's Medicaid program has among the lowest provider payments in the country, paying pennies on the dollar compared to Medicare and commercial insurance. This financially punishes doctors working in lowincome neighborhoods, condemning communities of color to fewer providers. Without access to doctors, we see higher rates of unmanaged chronic conditions, and ultimately poorer health, such as South L.A.'s epidemic of untreated dia-

Given these inequities, it's not surprising that trust in our healthcare system is eroded for communities of color, who regularly - and historically - receive subpar treatment. Trust challenges are part of why Covid vaccines still lag in the Black community.

betes.

One way to rebuild patient trust and improve outcomes is to recruit doctors who reflect and understand the communities they serve, but this is too rare. Only 5% of doctors in America are Black, and there are fewer Black men in medical school today than 40 years ago. In 1978, 3.1% of medical students were Black men; in 2019, that number was even lower, at 2.9%. There are many reasons for this, but a significant one is the cost of pursuing a medical degree.

As a hospital and health system, MLK Community Healthcare has been chipping away at this deficit of physicians, especially for doctors of color. We've developed a successful approach that reduces barriers to practicing in our underserved community, but it isn't sustainable without government action to improve provider payment rates in the Medicaid pro-

In 2016, we started our own medical group to bring primary and specialty care providers to South LA. With the help of private philanthropy, we have been able to attract talented physicians, many of them African Dr. Elaine Batchlor

American and Latino, by paving them market compensation. Keeping these physicians will depend on California providing adequate payment for doctors who treat mostly Medicaid patients. Doctors in lowincome communities like ours can't cross-subsidize low-paying Medicaid patients with higher paying commercially insured or Medicare patients, as can be done in more affluent communities.

In July we will welcome our very first cohort of internal medicine interns and residents to train at our hospital. We know that doctors often stay in the areas where they train, so this program is critical

to bringing more doctors to South Los Angeles.

Elected leaders have the responsibility to enact policies to correct inequities. Public insurance programs like Medicaid should not pay less for medical care because someone is poor, and we should educate and train more doctors of color. Raising Medicaid reimbursements to parity with Medicare is a critical step in addressing these inequities. So is subsidizing medical education and training for students of color. Young people shouldn't have to incur hundreds of thousands of dollars of debt in order to pursue a medical career. Ironically, once a student takes on that level of debt, her or she is effectively prevented from practicing in a low-income community where reimbursements are low.

I am determined to close the healthcare gap in South L.A by bringing not just more doctors, but doctors of color. My next step is to convince our elected representatives that people in our communities deserve doctors who are paid the same as in other communities.

Omicron and Other Coronavirus Variants:

What You Need to Know

By Louis Jacobson *PolitiFact*

Americans, already weary of a pandemic nearly two years long, were dealt a new blow during the long Thanksgiving weekend: the announcement that a new coronavirus variant had emerged.

The omicron variant, officially known as B.1.1.529, surfaced in November in several southern African nations. It set off alarm bells worldwide when public health officials in South Africa saw it beginning to outcompete the previous reigning variant, delta. This suggested that omicron could eventually spread widely. Indeed, omicron has since been reported on multiple continents, likely due to international travel by people unknowingly infected.

After the emergence of omicron was announced, several nations imposed travel bans hoping to contain the virus. Whether those bans will effectively slow the spread remains unknown. "Travel bans don't help once the horse is already out of the barn, as we've seen before and are seeing now," said Tara Smith, a Kent State University epidemiologist.

Scientists caution that it's still too early to say whether omicron will prove as dangerous as delta. Other variants that initially seemed worrisome have flamed out.

For now, here's what we know, and don't know, about the omicron variant.

What Is a Variant?

A variant of a virus is one that has mutated in a way that bolsters its spread or severity compared with the original strain that emerged in Wuhan, China. "RNA viruses like the coronavirus can mutate when they replicate, especially when circulating at high rates," said Dr. Monica Gandhi, professor of medicine at the University of California-San Francisco.

Coronaviruses do not mutate as readily as influenza viruses do, but they do mutate over time. The variants generally produce the same range of symptoms as the original strain of the coronavirus. But the mutations may help the virus spread more effectively from person to person, or have an advantage in

sneaking past either natural mutations, 30 of which are or vaccine immunity.

What Variants Were Already Circulating in the **United States?**

To date, public health officials have noted five "variants of concern," plus two "variants of interest" not yet considered as worrisome. So far, no variants have emerged that fit the most worrisome of the three official categories — "variants of high consequence."

The World Health Organization decided early this year to name the variants after Greek letters, both to simplify the discussion and to limit the stigma of having a variant named for a country.

The first four "variants of concern" — alpha, beta, gamma and delta have been circulating in the United States for most of this year. But the most dominant variant has been delta, due to its ability to spread from person to person more quickly than other variants. For months, delta has accounted for more than 99% of coronavirus infections in the U.S.

There were no confirmed cases of omicron in the United States as of midday Nov. 29, but experts warn it's just a matter of time. It could be in the U.S. already, merely undetected.

How Did Omicron Emerge?

Though scientists aren't sure precisely where omicron first surfaced, it was most likely in a southern African nation.

Experts say low vaccination rates in that part of the world probably played a role in creating a favorable environment for the mutations that produced omicron. (It can be pronounced either AH-micrahn or OH-mi-crahn.)

"Many countries in Africa have populations with very low immunity - about 30% in South Africa are vaccinated," Smith said. "In a largely non-immune population, the virus can sweep through, and each new person infected is a chance for the virus to mutate."

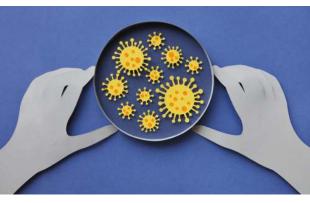
Why Did Public Health Officials React So Urgently to Omicron?

The concern stems from the scope and nature of the new variant's mutations. South African health officials noted 50 notable on the spike protein, a key structure in the virus, New York magazine reported. That's more than previous variants have had.

"If we were looking out for mutations that do affect transmissibility, it's got all of them," University of Oxford evolutionary biologist

said that the early cases be- From Omicron? ing seen among the unvaccinated are mild.

It remains to be seen, however, whether older and unhealthier patients will also see milder symptoms. Another caveat is that it may be too early in omicron's spread to see cases that have seriously



Aris Katzourakis told Science magazine.

Still, what's uncertain at this point is how effectively those mutations will work together in creating a variant that can consistently outcompete delta.

What Do We Know About Omicron's Degree of Infectiousness?

The omicron variant is so new that scientists are just beginning to learn about its characteristics. Because of this, experts urge caution in drawing conclusions, especially from anecdotal evidence.

That said, scientists say they would not be shocked if omicron becomes as easily transmissible as delta.

"The answer is uncertain, of course, but it looks as though it will be at least as infectious as delta," said Dr. William Schaffner, a professor of preventive medicine at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

One complicating factor, Schaffner said, is that the initial areas of fastest spread have been in areas of Johannesburg populated by young adults and college students, who tend to have lower vaccination rates. The vulnerability of these groups to infection may be exaggerating how rapidly omicron seems to be spreading.

What Do We Know About Whether Omicron Makes Patients Sicker?

The early evidence is somewhat conflicting, but there are signs that symptoms from omicron may not be more severe than previous variants. Dr. Angelique Coetzee, who chairs the South African Medical Association, has

progressed.

Will Existing Vaccines Be Effective Against the Omicron Variant?

Scientists are cautiously optimistic that existing vaccines will also be effective against omicron, just as they have been against delta, at least in being able to prevent illness severe enough to require hospital-

ization. "Scientists in South Africa and Israel, where the variant has also been detected, have indicated that they are not seeing severe disease among the vacci-

nated," Gandhi said. Gandhi added that the immunity-providing cells produced by the vaccines have been shown to produce antibodies against variants, and that T-cell immunity, which protects against severe disease, is robust and should not be at risk from the mutations being seen in omicron. The vaccines also produce polyclonal antibodies that work against multiple parts of the spike protein, she said. Finally, booster shots have been shown to be effective in strengthening immunity quickly.

"Most scientists believe we should still have protection against severe disease with vaccinations, and vaccination remains the mainstay of control," Gandhi said.

Bottom line: If you haven't been vaccinated, and especially if you haven't had the disease yet, get vaccinated. And if you've already been vaccinated, get a booster.

How Long Will It Be Before We Have a Better Handle on the Threat

Moderna, Pfizer-BioN-Tech and Johnson & Johnson are all testing the effectiveness of their existing vaccines against omicron in the lab, based on variantanalysis protocols developed early this year. Those results should be available in a week or two.

Other questions - including whether omicron makes you sicker, and whether it's more transmissible — will take longer to answer because they require careful contact tracing and accurate diagnoses of those infected.

To better answer those estions, Smith said, "I think, at a minimum, it will take a month to get some preliminary data, and quite possibly longer to really know the fuller picture. We also won't know about real-world experience in vaccine breakthroughs until that time."

Can We Expect a Specific New Booster to be Developed for Omicron?

It's unknown whether the omicron variant will require a reformulated booster. A newly formulated booster wasn't necessary for delta, because researchers determined that the existing formulation was still effective.

That said, vaccine makers can jump in with a new booster quickly if they have

In the event that such a variant emerges, Pfizer and BioNTech "expect to be able to develop and produce a tailor-made vaccine against that variant" within 100 days, pending regulatory approval, a Pfizer spokesperson told The Washington Post.

Dr. Matthew Laurens, a specialist in pediatric infectious diseases at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, said he's confident boosters could be developed and tested quickly if needed, "likely within a few months."

What Happened to the Other Variants?

Between May 2021, when delta was named a variant of concern, and November 2021, when omicron was given the same label, two other variants were elevated to the lower "variant of interest" status: lambda from Peru and mu from Colombia. Other variants, such as one discovered in Nepal called

"delta-plus," attracted notice during that period as well. But none of these managed to outcompete delta in a consistent way, so they were never elevated to "variant of concern."

This is the most hopeful outcome for omicron. The other variants "all had similar concerns around them, but they didn't expand to any significant degree after the initial reporting," Gandhi said.

Is It Reasonable to Think the U.S. Is in a Better Position to Handle Omicron Than It Was for Delta?

generally Experts agreed that the United States should be better prepared to battle omicron than it was when delta emerged earlier this year.

"We are in a much better position since we have higher rates of vaccination, the availability of boosters for everyone over 18 and vaccine eligibility down to 5 years old," Gandhi said. "We also have higher rates of natural immunity in this country due to the delta variant's spread since July 2021. And we have oral antiviral therapeutics on the horizon. So we have the tools to fight this new variant."

The challenge, Schaffner said, will be to make sure Americans continue to get vaccinated and boosted, and to make use of testing and maintain safe behavior in public.

"All these tools are available," he said. "The big question is how inclined the general public is to use these tools."

Is the Coronavirus Going to Be Around Permanently, Like the Flu?

Experts now believe it's unlikely that the coronavirus will either be eradicated from the globe, like smallpox has been, or even eliminated in the United States, as polio was following near-universal vaccination. The combination of rapid mutations and too-low vaccination rates make it likely that covid-19 won't follow smallpox and polio into submission.

"This will more likely be the influenza model, where we have to track mutations annually and alter the boosters accordingly," Schaffner said. In fact, he said, efforts to create combined coronavirus-flu shots are already underway.

LOS ANGELES SENTINEL LNTERTAINMEN

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2021

www.lasentinel.net

Virgil Abloh: Designing an Unforgettable Legacy

his Transparency Report, he always been, and will

Virgil Abloh gave new meaning to high-end fashion.

By Betti Halsell Staff Writer

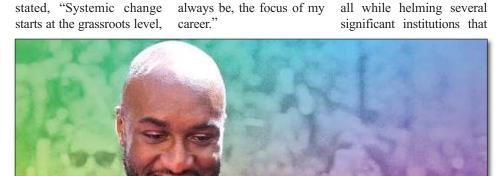
Virgil Abloh gave new meaning to high-end fashion. As a Black designer, he brought a new level of inclusivity into a century fashion label. As the founder and CEO of a luxury streetwear brand, Off-White, Abloh's brand grew into a cult following.

At 41 years old, the luxury designer lost his life to a rare form of cancer, however, his influence and pioneering legacy will be eternal fashion inspiration.

name echoed his designs. He brought in a sense of freedom to menswear that tapped into a future without judgment or rules. At Louis Vuitton, Abloh brought a freshness that attracted a younger demographic.

Tapping into different frequencies of talent, Abloh was also known as an international DJ. He mixed his love for design and music when he began collaborating with Rap Icon, Kanye West. Together, they curated the Donda brand, a fashion label named after West's mother.

He also expanded his



SCREENGRAB FROM INSTAGRAM

Abloh ushered in new ideas about gender through his

throughout the entire apparel industry. Abloh became the first Black art director for the 167-yearold European fashion label, Louis Vuitton in 2018. He was able to continue to grow his reputation with other lucrative brands such as Mercedes Benz, Takashi Murakami, and Nike. However, Abloh made a name for himself before these collaborations with his highly sought-after brand,

designs.

Abloh ushered in new ideas about gender through

Off-White.

reach into furniture design, synergizing with IKEA and creating a concept that funneled people to find their

As a Chicago native, Abloh explored his talents as an artist, architect, designer, musician and DJ, creative director, and artistic director. Among his many disciplines, Abloh kept inclusivity and supporting the Black community at the forefront of his mind.

Abloh was born with a mission of authenticity. In from the collective efforts of people taking action and lifting their communities. I'm committed to helping ensure that this social revolution is not just a moment but a movement - and I am holding myself to the task. Enter my advocacy report: the ongoing progress in uplifting Black voices and showcasing Black talent and achievement."

Abloh continued to illustrate his purpose by stating, "I hope to inspire others to fuel lasting progress in their communities, companies, and industries. With the help of my teams and the brands I work with, I have most recently focused fundraising for Black youth education with the Virgil Abloh "Post-Modern" Scholarship Fund (in partnership with the Fashion Scholarship Fund) and partnering with non-profit change-maker Aleta Clarke for Chicago safe houses. Opening new doors for the Black community

The multi-faceted artist was diagnosed with cardiac angiosarcoma in 2019. According to cedarssinai.org, cardiac angiosarcoma is a type of tumor that blocks blood flow in and out of the chamber. The conglomerate company LVMH and the Off-White brand announced Abloh's death via Twitter.

The Twitter post read, "We are devastated to announce the passing of our beloved Virgil Abloh, a fiercely devoted father, husband, son, brother, and friend. He is survived by his loving wife Shannon Abloh, his children Lowe Abloh and Grey Abloh, his sister Edwina Abloh, his parents Nee and Eunice Abloh, and numerous dear friends and colleagues,"

"For over two years, Virgil valiantly battled a rare, aggressive form of cancer, cardiac angiosarcoma. He chose to endure his battle privately since his diagnosis in 2019, undergoing numerspan fashion, art, and culture."

ous challenging treatments,

Love for Abloh's work and sincere condolences of his passing spread through as a foot soldier but died a general." Music legend, Pharrell Willams stated, "My heart is broken; Virgil you were a

march took him to the top of

luxury fashion. Virgil started

D-1

kind, generous, thoughtful creative genius. Your work as a human and your work as a spiritual being will live forever. Sending love and light to your wife, children, family, and 'day ones,' you're with the Master now, shine ...'

Abloh is survived by his wife and children Shannon, Grey, and Lowe Abloh. In addition to his sister and parents Edwina, Nee, and Eunice Abloh.

Abloh created a new reality of possibilities. Through his discipline, the collective community saw a century-old racial barrier broken. Through his tenaci-



Abloh explored his talents as an artist, architect, designer, musician and DJ, creative director, and artistic director.

all social media platforms. Daniel Day also known as Dapper Dan was captured on Instagram stating, "Virgil's life was a testament to how much Black Lives Matter by showing what Black lives are capable of. His ty and perseverance, the world saw this bigger than life artist sky limit for the dreams of young Black Artists. Abloh will live through the legacy that he designed to change the world.

BHERC Plans African American Film Marketplace & S.E. Manly Short Film Showcase

Entries also being accepted for the 12th Annual BHERC Youth Diversity Film Festival

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Sandra J. Evers-Manly, president of the Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center (BHERC), announced the dates of the 27th Annual African American Film Marketplace & S.E. Manly Short Film Showcase (AAFM SEMSFF).

The hybrid event, which opens Friday, January 14, and continues through Sunday, January 20, will feature more than 100 short films curated from 900 US and international entries. In addition, the festival incorporates online premieres from independent filmmakers, industry panels, special events, and special tributes to industry icons.

Also, the 12th Annual Youth Diversity Film Festival will run concurrently with the AAFM SEMSFF. Log

www.BHERC.TV for a full schedule of live and online events.

Entries also being accepted through December 17 for the 12th Annual BHERC Youth Diversity Film Festival (YDFF). To submit a film, log on to https://bherc.org/festivals/l os-angeles-youth-diversityfilm-festival/.

The YDFF is an opportunity for middle and high school student filmmakers, who study their craft at organizations and schools across the globe, to showcase their work. Films should be 1-to-60 minutes in length and of any genre.

"Young people are an important part of the founding and ongoing work of the BHERC," said

BHERC YDFF Director Billie Green. "This festival, the YDFF, is presented annually to continue the BHERC mission to provide an outlet and opportunity

for young filmmakers, to share their stories about issues, challenges, and successes to a broad audience."

The festival includes post-screening Q and A discussions, panel dialogues and seminars that serve as platforms for emerging young directors and filmmakers at all levels. Participants display their work, skills, talent, and vision with other youth filmmakers while giving the audience a chance to view and discuss the artistry, passion, and sacrifice involved in the independent filmmaking process. The students also receive industry insight through industry panels held by entertainment professionals.

For information about the festival, contact Billie Green at email: billie.jgreen@yahoo.com or by phone: (323) 732-





www.lasentinel.net

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2021

Student Athlete of the Week: Trent McDuffie

By Amanda Scurlock Sports Writer

Washington sophomore defensive back Trent McDuffie is finding his stride on the team. The former St. John Bosco standout has made notable accomplishments during his college career.

McDuffie strives to maintain Washington's "death row defense."

"Basically it's just confident, violent, smart football players," McDuffie explained. "And each and every play, 11 guys are gonna get to the ball."

During this season, McDuffie made 25 solo tackles and 35 total tackles. He also made six pass breakups and four tackles for loss for 12 yards.

This past season, he

was given more of a leadership role. He helped the underclassmen players understand the culture and playing style of the team.

"I've gotten used to the speed of the tempo of the game and the playbook and started to key things faster," he said. "So, it's bringing the younger corners and get them up to speed so that when they get in the game, they will be efficient and productive."

McDuffie finds inspiration and mentorship from his parents who both have a background in athletics.

"My dad does a lot of things with the youth and a lot of camps and a lot of things in that area, so I looked and seeing how that changes people's lives," he said. "My mom, she ran track in college, so she's an athlete and she owns her own firm now."

mindset while his father's camps taught him how to



Washington sophomore Trent McDuffie made 25 solo tackles this season.

His mother also works to give him a business

build a sense a community anywhere he goes.

McDuffie is a sociology major and his favorite class was an African American studies course.

"I'm really interested in my history and what that has to offer and learning about a bunch of cool people that you never hear about that made a big difference in our nation," he

His performance during the 2020 season earned him Pro Football Focus All-Pac-12 first team honors and a spot on the All-Pac-12 second team. It also put him on the 2021 Bednarik award and Jim Thorpe award preseason watchlists.

After playing 28 games for the Huskies, McDuffie has 71 solo tackles out of 94 total hits, two interceptions, 10 pass deflections,

three forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries.

During his time at St. John Bosco, he helped the team win a Southern Section Division I championship and an Open Division State Championship. McDuffie was the no. 13 corner in the country and the no. 17 player in California at the time.

What McDuffie likes the most about living in Seattle is the abundance of love and support the residents have for the Huskies and the unity the residents have among one and anoth-

"I like the diversity of the city and how everybody really comes together," McDuffie said. "I think the support in Seattle for Husky football ... they really care for you."

'Last Chance U: Basketball' Returns to ELAC for Second Season

By Amanda Scurlock SPORTS WRITER

The Netflix series "Last Chance U: Basketball" will once again feature the East Los Angeles College (ELAC) men's basketball team for a second season. Viewers get another chance to witness the dynamic coach John E. Mosley as he leads the second-best junior college program in the

"A lot of people got a chance to see what some of our student athletes are going through," Mosley said. "What are some of the student athletes that are really, really good playing at the highest level."

Mosley sees "Last Chance U: Basketball" as a means to elevate the stories of his student athletes and the issues they face while they contribute to the contending junior college basketball team. As a devout Christian, Mosley attributes his success to a higher power and desired for their

authentic story to be told.

"The core of everything I do, my purpose is for ministry," Mosley said. "I say "Lord, I just allow you to do your work again." I wouldn't say yes unless that was my first inten-

One of the many players that were featured was Joe Hampton, a former division I prep athlete who missed out on an athletic scholarship to Penn State due to injuries. He also had run-ins with the law. Throughout the series, Hampton has emotional outbursts during games or in practice if he faces adversity. Mosley handled him with patience and understanding; his actions were also not a distraction to the team.

"I don't have a problem with whatever baggage or issue any student has that wants to come," Mosley said. "With [Hampton], what's interesting is we saw him act out, we saw the way he was, but every-

body loved him, they loved Long Beach State Univerthe player he was."

Hampton has since earned a scholarship to

sity and recently led the team in scoring with 22 points in their 85-76 victodual-sport athlete at Washington Prep and a star point guard at ELAC, is under-

Mosley, who was a letics as a marketing plan." Because of docuseries, ELAC received a donation of five new uni-



ELAC men's basketball head coach John Mosley stands on the sidelines during a game.





Mosley poses with wife and children during a church service.

ry over Wright State.

Team captain Deshaun Highler competed while grappling with the loss of his mother. His efforts the Sacramento State men's basketball team.

standing to the socioeconomic backgrounds of his players.

The docuseries also showed the lack of earned him a roster spot on resources the basketball program was given. The ELAC men's basketball

forms. Since the airing of "Last Chance U: Basketball," the players have earned a new level of fame and support. The new Name, Image, and Likeness policy for college ath-



Several of the student athletes on the team earned scholarships from four-year univer-

Former Westchester standout Kaelen "KJ" Allen found refuge at ELAC when he did not have the grades for a division I scholarship. He currently competes for the Texas Tech Red Raiders.

COURTESY OF NETFLIX

team had not received new uniforms in five years, according to Mosley.

"The numbers are gonna stay the same for the most part at most community colleges," Mosley said. "They don't use athletes also was an asset.

"Those guys have been able to benefit off of that," Mosley said. "They were able to brand themselves and sell their brands which is unheard of at the junior college level."

Reaction to Death of Lee Elder, 1st Black Golfer at Masters

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

"Lee Elder was a pioneer, and in so many ways. Yes, he was the first Black golfer to play in the Masters Tournament, but that simply underlined the hard work Lee put in to further the cause of everyone who has a dream to play on the PGA Tour and perhaps thinks there were too many barriers before them. It was wonderful that the Masters Tournament and Augusta National paid a well-deserved tribute to Lee by inviting him to be an honorary starter on this last Masters. That morning, you could see the joy in Lee's face, and Gary Player and I were honored to enjoy that moment with him. That memory will remain special for so many, including me, for many years to come."— 18-time major champion Jack Nicklaus.

"It's remarkable to look back on Lee's life and career and realize the hardships he endured and the sacrifices he made to reach golf's highest level. To have the success he had, while paving the way for others to dream big and achieve, is a testament to the type of man he was and how much talent he possessed." — PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Mona-

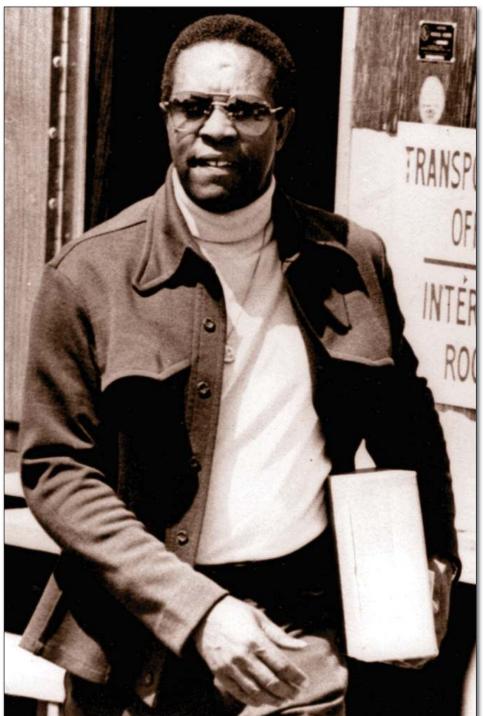
"Look out for the ones coming behind you. Lee Elder was an incredible contribution to golf and made

history because of his talent, not just because he was African-American. I'm fortunate to have had the chance to learn from him." — Harold Varner III, one of the handful of Black players on the PGA Tour.

"While many know Dr. Elder (who received an honorary doctorate from Paine College this year) as the first Black player to compete in the Masters in 1975 and can picture him at the ceremonial opening tee shot at Augusta National earlier this year, we must also remember his unforgettable legacy of resilience, fortitude and love of golf, which cannot be overstated. Throughout his career, Dr. Elder continually gave back to the sport as a mentor for countless young golfers and PGA professionals who followed his footsteps and took up this great game and profession. We cannot thank or credit Dr. Elder enough for his many significant contributions to our sport." — Jim Richerson, president of the PGA of America.

"Today we are saddened by the loss of our teammate and friend, Mr. Lee Elder. A true trailblazer and gentleman, we honor Lee's memory and the lasting impact he made on the game." — Ryder Cup USA.

"The world of golf has lost one of its most courageous figures in Lee Elder. He was an inspiration to all Lee Elder



of us, and his legacy will endure through a commitment to make the game welcoming to all." — Mike Whan, CEO of the USGA.

"We are saddened to learn of the passing of Lee Elder. Lee was the definition of a trailblazer, and his impact on the game of golf will never be forgotten." — LPGA Tour.

"We are deeply saddened to hear that Lee Elder has passed away. Lee's impact on our sport will never be forgotten." — The R&A, organizers of the British Open.

"In 1975, Lee Elder became the first Black golfer to compete in the Masters Tournament. He broke other color barriers as well. A trailblazer, an athlete, and a true gentleman. May he Rest In Peace as his legacy lives on." —Tennis great Billie Jean King.

"Every year since 2015, I have looked forward to seeing Mr. Elder in April during the tournament. The 2021 85th edition of the Masters Tournament was especially poignant because Lee would be an honorary starter, once again breaking barriers and continuing to blaze a trail. Mr. Elder will be missed as he set the bar and reminded us that 'We All Belong.'"— Hardie Davis Jr., mayor of Augusta, Georgia.

"The game of golf lost a hero in Lee Elder." — Jack

Lakers Hold Off Pistons in 110-106 Victory



Los Angeles Lakers guard Russell Westbrook (0) and forward LeBron James (6) during a 110-106 victory over the Detroit Pistons on Sunday, Nov. 28, 2021

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

LeBron James and Isaiah Stewart were on the same court again one week after mayhem broke loose in Detroit. There were no ejections this time around and instead just two teams looking to earn a win after each unit came into the night having lost their previous game.

James did his part in leading his team back to the win column, recording 33 points, nine assists and five rebounds, enabling the Los Angeles Lakers to defeat the Pistons 110-106 on Sunday night at Staples Center.

The Lakers (11-11) improved to .500 with the win, desperately looking to gain some momentum after a disappointing triple-over-

time loss to the Sacramento Kings on Friday. The Pistons (4-16) losing streak increased to six games after falling to Los Angeles for the second time in eight

'We were mad as heck the other night after that Sac loss," James said. "We made it a point to come in today very focused on our game plan, learning from our mistakes, and we got better. Right there lets me know we're a team that cares and wants to get bet-

Russell Westbrook had 25 points and nine assists, and Anthony Davis added 24 points and 10 rebounds for the Lakers. Talen Horton-Tucker had 12 points, eight rebounds and four assists off the bench for

Los Angeles.

"That Sac game lingered with us for a couple of days, giving that game away," Davis said. "I think we did a good job defensively tonight, getting this kick-start to a winning streak." Stewart was booed from start to finish once he took the floor with the spotlight shining on him and James after both players were ejected from the teams' previous meeting at Little Caesars Arena a week ago after a heated altercation.

James was ejected and given a Flagrant-2 foul when he struck Stewart in the face while the two were boxing out each other for rebounding position. Stewart was distraught and immediately went at James

numerous times while being held back by teammates and security, causing an ugly scene that ultimately resulted in James serving a one-game suspension for the strike to the face and Stewart getting a two-game

ban for his response. "It's just basketball," Jerami Grant said. "Things happen on the court, but you've got to get your mind right and get ready to play." The Lakers held a three-point lead through the first 24 minutes of play and outscored the Pistons 58-40 in points in the paint for the game.

Grant led Detroit with 32 points, converting four three pointers, Frank Jackson had 17 and No. 1 pick Cade Cunningham added 15 points and 11 rebounds

for the Pistons. Stewart had five points and six rebounds in 27 minutes of

"We found the open guys and made our shots," Pistons coach Dwane Casey said. "The only concerning part with the offense is our (17) turnovers. That's huge. That's 17 attempts you take away for shooting the ball in a five-point game. Careless passing. We put our finger in one hole, and another one opens up. Nobody gets a participation trophy. Close doesn't count."

Los Angeles jumped out to a 19-point lead in the third quarter behind a 16-0 run, only to see the Pistons rally back to get within six, 97-91 with 5:48 left in the

fourth thanks to a 13-2 run of their own. Grant finished a dunk up to get within three, 109-106 with 2.1 seconds left but Horton-Tucker put the game away with a free throw to give the Lakers a 110-106 victo-

"It's disappointing (to not fully close out games), but at the same time I understand the process," Westbrook said. "Adversity is something that I think is great in life in general. It builds character. It shows who you really are when things aren't going your way."

The Lakers will next travel to take on the Sacramento Kings on Tuesday, followed by returning home to host the Los Angeles Clippers on Friday.

PASADENA TOURNAMENT OF ROSES ANNOUNCES SYCAMORES PROVIDING EMOTIONAL WELLNESS SUPPORT FOR ROYAL COURT

Members of the 2022 Royal Court will be offered tools to maintain mental wellness

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The Pasadena Tournament of Roses® announced partnership Sycamores, a leading behavioral health and child welfare agency based in Pasadena. With a long history of helping children, young adults, and families in Los Angeles County and beyond, they will provide emotional wellness support to members of the 2022 Royal Court. To enhance self-confidence, their Royal Court members have been coached in public speaking and etiquette skills, media and speech training, and guidance in leadership, to prepare for their duties as Ambassadors for the Tournament of Roses.

To enrich the Royal Court experience even more, Sycamores staff members will be available to discuss behavioral health wellness in groups, and individually, to help them develop coping skills throughout the upcoming Rose Parade season. The two highly esteemed Pasadena organizations have shared deep roots in the community, dating back to the creation of Sycamores as Pasadena's first orphanage in 1902.

Training Society, later named Sycamores, was established by Fannie Rowland, the wife of Dr.

The Pasadena Children's Rose Parade is such an important tradition in the Pasadena community, and we are honored to be able to offer wellness support to

Sycamores, their personalized approach with the Royal Court has already been an asset," said Steve Perry, Chair of the Tourna-

young adults, adults and services; psychological families facing serious life challenges. These programs are offered through a network of locations



2022 Tournament of Roses Royal Court: Left-to-right: Jeannine Briggs, Abigail Griffith, Nadia Chung, Jaeda Walden, Swetha Somasundaram, Ava Feldman and McKenzie Street

Francis F. Rowland, a founder of the Tournament of Roses and the first Grand Marshal of the Rose Parade® in 1890. Today the agency provides innovative and effective programs and services through a network of locations throughout Los Angeles County. This is the first time Sycamores has provided support to the Tournament of Roses' Royal Court members.

According Sycamores President and CEO Debra Manners, "The

the members of this year's Royal Court." Manners continued, "It is an exciting time for this impressive group of young women, but we recognize serving on the Royal Court can also be a stressful time."

Between now and their appearance in the Rose Parade on New Year's Day, the group is scheduled to attend numerous community and media events as representatives of the Tournament of Roses.

"We are thankful for the opportunity to partner with ment of Roses' Queen & Court Committee. "We are encouraged that the parents of the court are supportive of the program, together we're helping to create the best experience possible."

About Sycamores

Sycamores is a leading behavioral health and child welfare agency with 10 locations throughout Southern California. For 120 years, Sycamores has been investing in people. We provide innovative and effective programs and services for children, stretching across Los Angeles and the San Fernando, San Gabriel, and Antelope Valleys. Our highly effective behavioral health services impact nearly 16,000 lives annually. Services include residential treatment; transitional shelter care; foster care and adoption; transitional living assistance for young adults currently or at risk of experiencing homelessness; outpatient and school-based mental health services; wraparound/inhome services; psychiatric testing; and educational support services. Sycamores is licensed by the Community Care Licensing Division of the California Department of Social Services, certified by the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, LAHSA funded and accredited through The Joint Commission. To learn m o r e , visitwww.sycamores.org.

About the Pasadena Tournament of Roses® and The Rose Parade® presented by Honda

The Tournament of Roses is a volunteer organization that hosts America's New Year Celebration® with the Rose Parade® presented by Honda, the Rose Bowl Game® and a variety of accompanying events. The Association's 935 volunteer members supply more than 80,000 hours of human power, which will drive the success of the 133rd Rose Parade, themed "Dream. Believe. Achieve.," on Saturday, January 1, 2022, followed by the 108th Rose Bowl Game. For more information, visit www.tournamentofroses.com. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

With Federal COVID Sick Leave Gone, Workers Feel Pressure to Show Up at Work

BY RAE ELLEN BICHELL

Economists and public health experts alike say paid sick leave is an essential — like testing, masks and vaccines — in the effort to prevent covid-19 infection and keep workplaces safe. Yet the U.S. is in the midst of another covid holiday season, and federal laws that offered covid-related paid sick leave to workers have expired. Colorado, Los Angeles and Pittsburgh are among a small number of places that have put in place their own covid protections, but many sick workers across the country must wrestle with difficult financial and ethical questions when deciding whether to stay home.

"Millions of workers don't have access to paid sick leave, and we're still in a pandemic," said Nicolas Ziebarth, a labor economist at Cornell University. The U.S. is one of only a few industrialized nations that have no national paid sick leave policy. By contrast, Germany, Ziebarth's homeland, has had one for nearly 140 years.

The coronavirus pandemic led to short-term change. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act mandated paid sick leave nationally, a first in U.S. history, according Ziebarth. The law included about two weeks of full pay for employees who were quarantined or seeking medical attention for covidlike symptoms and additional weeks at partial pay to care for a child stuck at home because of COVID.

But the paid sick leave consistently mandate applied only to employers with 50 to 499 employees and lasted just nine months, expiring at the end of 2020. After that, employers could decide whether they wanted

to continue offering paid sick leave in return for tax credits, though those expired at the end of September.

About 5% of U.S. employees used the federal covid sick leave protection, Ziebarth and his colleagues

the House on Nov. 19, may grant some paid medical and family leave so workers can deal with longer-term illnesses or caregiving, but it does not include time off for recovering from shortterm illness.

Jared Make, vice presi-

place that expanded or startrecover from an illness or to help a relative recover from nesses. one. Meanwhile, 1% of workers had their paid sick leave reduced or eliminated. Still, calls to A Better Balance's free legal help



GETTYIMAGES

wrote in the journal PNAS, and it appears to have helped flatten the curve of the pandemic initially. But it wasn't enough. The number of people who were sick with any kind of illness but couldn't take time off went from about 5 million per month before the pandemic to 15 million in late 2020 even with the federal leave

in place. People with the lowest incomes are the least likely to be covered by paid sick leave, said Dr. Rita Hamad, a social epidemiologist and family physician at the University of California-San Francisco. "We're just left with whatever patchwork of employer and state policies that existed before, which leave the most vulnerable people least covered," she

The Build Back Better Act, which is up for a vote in the Senate after passing national legal nonprofit advocating for worker rights, has been pushing federal, state and local lawmakers for years to expand paid sick leave and has drafted model legislation. He said 16 states, Washington, D.C., and about 20 localities have permanent paid sick time laws. One of the most generous, New Mexico's, will take effect in July. Colorado, Massachusetts, Nevada, New York and the District of Columbia provide covid-specific emergency sick leave, as do Pittsburgh and a few cities in California, such as Los Angeles, Oakland and Long

dent of A Better Balance, a

In some places, employers are taking the initiative to address the problem. A recent KFF survey of about 1,700 employers from across the nation found that 37% of workers work in a

line have skyrocketed since the pandemic began, Make said. "Many workers are either risking their job, or they have no choice but to go to work when they're sick, and it's a real public health concern."

In August, local public health departments in California asked state leaders to extend paid sick leave to all workers, saying that failing to do so discouraged people from getting a covid vaccine and disproportionately affected disadvantaged communities.

Many people who have avoided vaccination are afraid they'll suffer side effects that will force them to miss work for a day or two, which they can't afford, Hamad said.

But without federal funds to reimburse employers, California and other states would have to find money to pay for sick leave

— and there's little enthusied paid leave, either to asm among lawmakers for passing the costs on to busi-

> "It is a glaring gap, in our opinion, that the federal government hasn't continued some form of even covid-19 emergency sick leave," Make said. "It's obviously a huge shortcoming given where we are in the pandemic."

Colorado, which is experiencing a covid surge, passed last year what Denver-based Make considers the strongest covid sick leave protections of any state. The law, which allows any employee to earn up to six days of paid sick leave per year and takes effect fully in January, says that when local, state or federal officials declare a public health emergency, employers must supplement workers' accrued leave so an employee can take up to two weeks of paid sick leave for, in this case, covid-related reasons. The emergency leave provision won't expire until at least February.

However, employers aren't complying. As of early November, Colorado's Division of Labor Standards and Statistics was looking into complaints related to the sick leave law that were filed against 71 employers, according to outreach manager Eric Yohe. That represented about 8% of all its wage complaints under investigation. Yohe said his division had already restored paid time off for "a good number" of employees under the new law.

Colorado's leave law still has limitations. Workers don't get "refills" of covid leave if they get sick again or a relative gets sick — just 80 hours total from January 2021 until the public health emergency ends.

And the law allows some workplaces to employees to use their paid time off instead, as long as they notify employees in advance and offer at least two weeks of PTO to full-

time employees. Jamie Bradt, a specialeducation teacher at a high school in Mead, Colorado, found herself in that situation this month after testing positive for covid. Bradt, who is fully vaccinated, thought she could tap into state-sanctioned covid sick leave. But her employer, St. Vrain Valley Schools, told her she would have to use her PTO, which she had been saving up for about

decade "It is so frustrating that I'm being punished for accruing my leave," said Bradt, who was isolating at home. The district did not respond to questions.

Policies that push employees to work when they're sick are counterproductive, said Barbara Holland, an adviser at the Society for Human Resource Management, a national trade group. "It's a communicable disease," she said. "You don't want them showing up in the workplace."

Since the federal provisions expired, Cristina Cuevas and her colleagues at a Minnesota school have been required to use their accrued sick and vacation time if they come down with covid.

Recently, a co-worker of Cuevas' went to work sick, assuming it was a cold. "She actually had covid the whole time," Cuevas said. The school had to shut down briefly, Cuevas said, and several students got sick.

California Healthline correspondent Rachel Bluth contributed to this story.