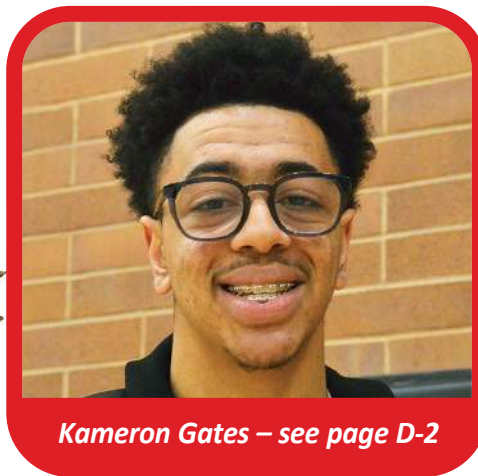




Tatyana Ali – see page A-3



Kameron Gates – see page D-2

Marqueece Harris-Dawson Elected President of L.A. City Council

CITY NEWS SERVICE

The Los Angeles City Council on May 28 confirmed the nomination of President Pro Tem Marqueece Harris-Dawson as the next council president.

In a 14-0 vote, with Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez absent, the council selected Harris-Dawson as the next council president, which he will assume on Sept. 20.

The move comes after council members Katy Yaroslavsky and Heather Hutt nominated Harris-Dawson last week. Council President Paul Krekorian plans to step down from the position by that date in a move to help transition to new leadership. Krekorian is leaving City Hall at the end of this year due to term limits.

“Thank you so much council president, thank you all members of the council, and everybody that was advised, pushed, cajoled, and struggled with us over the past few

months to get to this particular day,” Harris-Dawson said following the vote.

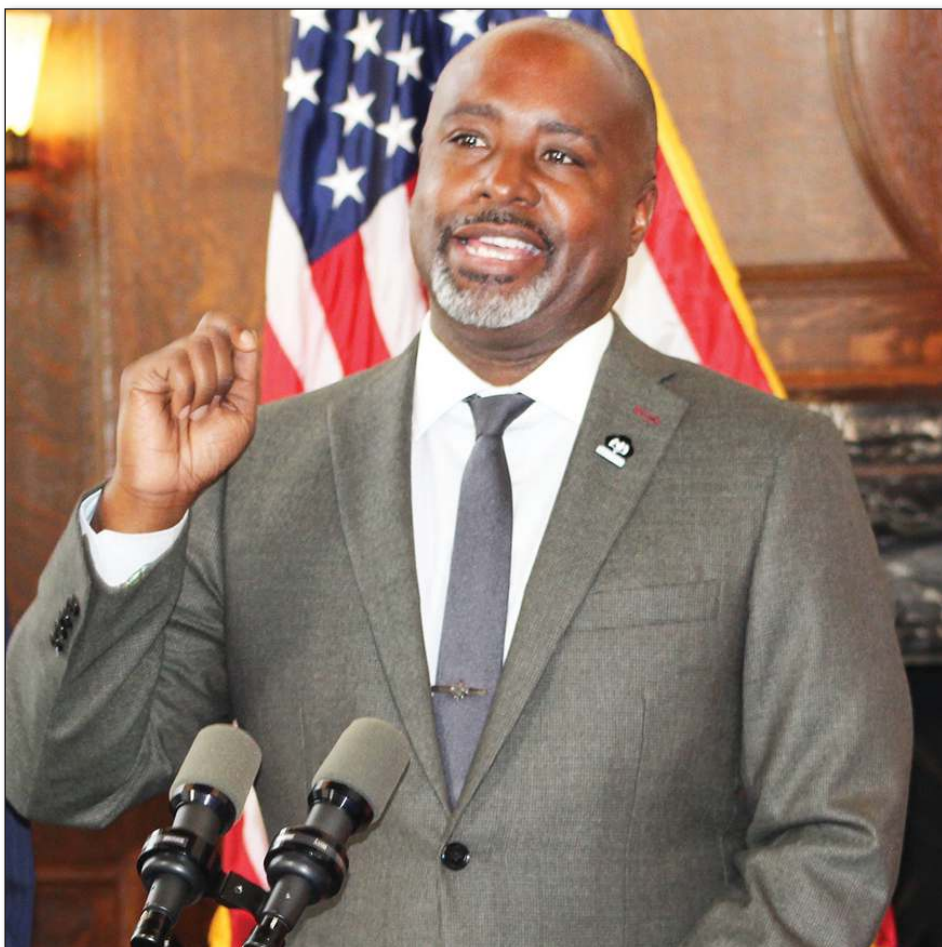
“A special thank you to Council President Krekorian who’s made every resource available so we could have a smoother transition as possible.”

He added, “You’ll hear from us later, and until September, expect to see me with my head down and studying as hard as I can, so that we can be as prepared as possible when I take leadership of this council.”

Mayor Karen Bass issued a statement congratulating Harris-Dawson. She noted that the councilman has a long history in City Hall and beyond of bringing people of all backgrounds and across all sectors together.

“I look forward to continuing to lock arms with Council leadership to bring more unhoused Angelenos inside and make Los Angeles safer for all,” Bass said.

She also thanked Krekorian for his service to



LILA BROWN/L.A. SENTINEL

Council President-elect Marqueece Harris-Dawson

the city. “President Krekorian stepped in at a time of

tumult and turmoil for Los Angeles and for the Council itself. With a steady

hand, he guided the Council during a challenging time while continuing his

push to advance good governance reforms that contribute to President Krekorian’s long legacy of exceptional service here in City Hall,” Bass said.

According to city officials, Harris-Dawson is expected to serve as council president through the middle of December. Following November’s election and once new council members assume their respective offices, another election will take place to elect a council president for a new term.

As president, Harris-Dawson will preside as chair over council meetings, have the power to assign council committees and handle parliamentary duties, such as ruling motions in or out of order.

The 54-year-old politician was born and raised in South Los Angeles. He was elected in 2015 by 62% of voters to represent the Eighth District, covering [See HARRIS-DAWSON L.A. CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT B-6]

LAUL President/CEO Cynthia Mitchell-Heard Urges Black Women to ‘Shoot for the Moon’

BY ALYSSAH O. HALL
Contributing Writer

“So many pivotal moments in my life have informed my practice and my commitment to the community. But it was my parents who first instilled two major lessons: a strong belief in oneself and an even stronger sense of responsibility to my community. ‘Shoot for the moon and grab the stars while you’re up amongst them,’ said Cynthia Mitchell-Heard, president and CEO of the Los Angeles Urban League (LAUL)

Mitchell-Heard has over 30 years of experience in nonprofit executive leadership, philanthropy, government, management, and much more. The LAUL announced the appointment



COURTESY PHOTO

Cynthia Mitchell-Heard with a bust of legendary LAUL leader John Mack.

of Mitchell-Heard as its new president and CEO, effective January 1, 2024.

The LAUL is one of the oldest, premier civil rights organizations in the United States, always at the forefront of great movements that bring about greater opportunity, equality, and equity, according to Mitchell-Heard.

“It certainly is an honor to be named the first female president and CEO of the Los Angeles Urban League in almost 100 years; my hope is that by being the first woman to head this premier civil rights organization [I] will inspire young girls in our community to strive for excellence in their own lives,” said Mitchell-Heard.

In order to create gener-

ational change, the LAUL’s programs center on four pillars: advocacy, education, entrepreneurship, and workforce development. They believe that every person should be given the opportunity to earn a living wage so that they can provide for their families, and that advocating on behalf of them assists in building a more equitable L.A. County, according to Mitchell-Heard.

“My father and mother were my earliest influences. My father, who is a physician, provided health and wellness services to members of the Los Angeles community. But I also pay loving homage to the powerful women mentors who, along with my father, instilled in me everything I’d need to serve the com-

munity,” Mitchell-Heard said.

“My mother taught me that family and unconditional love is where it starts. And there is my Aunt Bernice Crouch who so perfectly demonstrated that presentation should always be impeccable, and taught me to always be prepared.”

Mitchell-Heard is not only encouraged by her family, but also by the work of her staff and volunteers. She said they inspire her each day to do her best and one of her main objectives is also to empower the individuals she works with to be their very best, too.

She is committed to upholding the legacies of influential leaders like [See CYNTHIA MITCHELL-HEARD on B-6]

Kamlager-Dove Awards South LA Community Foundation with \$850,000



LILA BROWN/L.A. SENTINEL

Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove, 2nd from right, poses with Celia and Joe Ward-Wallace and their family.

BY LILA BROWN
Contributing Writer

The owners and founders of South LA Café, Joe and Celia Ward-Wallace, were surprised

with a \$850,000 check presented by Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove.

The presentation occurred during the South LA Community Founda-

tion’s fourth annual Mental Health Block Party held at Browning Blvd., and Western Avenue on May 25. The funds will

[See FOUNDATION DONATION on B-6]

The Black Student Athlete Summit Provides Professional, Personal Development

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Editor

The Black Student Athlete Summit (BSAS) brought together collegiate athletes from across the country to USC to build community and provide them with various resources.

“I like when we can come together and be vulnerable because a lot of people expect for us to be so strong,” said Texas State football player Christian Rorie. “We are, but at the same time, we have to be able to take care of our mental and emotional health.”

This event started nine years ago at the University of Texas with less than 100 people. It has since blossomed to be a resource for student athletes from over

100 universities. Founder Leonard Moore noted how the event is to provide helpful tools to the student athletes so they will have exciting and impactful lives beyond their playing years.

“I would see kids on their recruiting visit, I

would see them during their four years at the university and then I’d see them when the dream is over,” Moore said. “For so many kids, this is the highlight and the highlight of

[See BLACK STUDENT ATHLETE SUMMIT on B-6]



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL

Black Student Athlete Summit founder Leonard Moore speaks with attendees.

LISC LA Celebrates Completion of Its First Leveraging Real Estate Cohort

By LILA BROWN
Contributing Writer

Sixteen BIPOC-led small business owners from South Los Angeles and the Crenshaw District celebrated the completion of Local Initiatives Support Corporation Los Angeles's (LISC L.A.) first-ever Leveraging Real Estate cohort on May 22, at ORA Cafe in Leimert Park.

commercial real estate service providers, Austin Curry, founder of Curry Consulting in Inglewood, and Matthew Gates, CEO of In The Building L.A., facilitated the course. Participants gained valuable insights into the multi-step process of real estate transactions including making offers, navigating escrow, and understanding the terminology used by agents,



LISC LA executives with Leveraging Real Estate cohort program participants and instructors.



Matthew Gates, CEO of In The Building LA (left) and Austin Curry, Founder of Curry Consulting share their vision for tenants to own commercial real estate.

The transformative six-week program was designed to equip small business owners in South L.A., the Crenshaw District, and the Goodyear Tract with the essential tools and knowledge needed to become commercial property owners. The culmination event featured drinks from Leimert Park Wine and bites from Delicious Soul Food, all local Leimert Park businesses.

Experienced investors and Los Angeles-based

lenders, and other stakeholders. They also learned the initial steps to take once acquiring a property. "After a particularly complex acquisition involving four small business owners, millions in grant capital, and a very un-motivated seller, we wanted to create a playbook to empower other small business owners to take the journey to owning commercial real estate," Curry explained to the Sentinel.

"My long-term vision is for my community to be filled with high impact small businesses housed in beautiful physical spaces."

"In The Building L.A. has been doing economic development and real estate-related engagement for several years," said Gates, who resides in South L.A.

"Many of the businesses that participated in the program came through organic relationships we built over time with business owners we thought would be great for the program. As word started to get out about what we were doing, we also received referrals from our resource partners at Destination Crenshaw and Inclusive Action."

As a result, Curry and Gates were connected with a cross-section of area businesses ranging from popular neighborhood brands to obscure companies flying under the radar.

As part of the course, participants were also coached on how to pitch their businesses and during the event, many volunteered to come on stage and share their elevator pitches.

Genelle Brooks-Petty shared her vision of purchasing the property that currently houses her and her husband's business, All Chill, a super-premium ice cream shop. They hope to not only continue growing their business, but also help other value-aligned partners that need an opportunity like their landlord has given them.

Kandee Lewis, CEO of Positive Results Center – an organization addressing trauma from a cultural and age perspective, said that with the skills she's gained, she now feels prepared to move forward with her

vision.

"I'm now on a path where I can talk to a realtor or bank. I'm going into this informed and knowledgeable about successfully securing property and owning it," Lewis said.

The cohort program was largely funded by Kaiser Permanente through a \$1 million grant strictly focused on the South L.A. Economic Inclusion Implementation Plan. Its Façade Improvement Program aims to build more walkable communities, which is linked to increasing life expectancy rates.

"We wanted to create an environment in South L.A. by making storefronts safer and more attractive," said Nicole Williams, executive Director of LISC L.A., who explained the partnership process to

guests in attendance.

"Resiliency looks like ownership. This brought us back to what we really want to do in South L.A., which is to make sure that the tenants that have built their legacies here can become owners and participate in that wealth creation."

Other businesses completing the course included Boketto Cold Brew LLC, Build to Propser LLC, Crenshaw Yoga and Dance, Enchanted Escape Room, Glow + Flow Franchises, Gorilla RX Wellness Co, JTM Academy, Malik Books, Morris Media Studios, Neumascap Studio, Our Own, Sip & Sonder, and TERMINAL B.



LISC LA Executive Director Nicole Williams provided insight on the process and partnerships for the Leveraging Real Estate cohort program.

The LRE participants received certificates in recognition of their dedication and resilience in completing the program.

SFVA Deltas Celebrate Women's Empowerment at International Women's Day Breakfast



(Left to Right) Esteemed TV and event host Kiki Shepard, International Awareness & Involvement Chair, Sheree Solieman, Event honorees actresses Kim Coles and Jenifer Lewis and Fallon Nelms, President of the San Fernando Valley Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The San Fernando Valley Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated (SFVA Deltas) in collaboration with the Delta Research Education Foundation (DREF) presented the International Women's Day Breakfast on Saturday, May 4, at the scenic Castaway Restaurant in Burbank.

Under the theme, "Celebrating Women's Empowerment," the SFVA Deltas honored two icons in entertainment, Kim Coles and Jenifer Lewis. Coles, an actress, comedienne and author, is best known for her roles in "Living Single" and "Days of Our Lives." Lewis is renowned for her performances in "The Upshaws," "Black-Ish," "The Princess & The Frog" and many others shows.

The event was hosted by actress and host Kiki Shepard, a member of the sorority, who is known from the legendary television show, "Showtime at the Apollo." Also, the program raised several thousand dollars which will be used to award scholarships

to high school girls.

Reflecting the spirit of the breakfast, Shepard said, "We understand the struggles and the pains unique to women. Today, we are finding our voices and using them. Today, this morning we are using our voices."

Coles accepted her award with candid and encouraging remarks about the importance of self-love, finding the lessons learned in making mistakes, and describing them as "beautiful oopses." She also joked about her personal life of "finding love again to a man who accepted all her flaws, as well as her strengths." In addition, Coles shared that her new business named 'Haute Coles' has helped to publish 14 New York best-selling authors.

Lewis addressed the audience with a range of emotions describing how her tragic accident flipped into her call of duty for meaning and purpose. She shared her story of falling ten feet into a ravine in Africa, surrounded by wild animals, and hearing a lion's roar a few feet away. She was treated by

Doctors Without Borders and shared that prior to her accident, she made a large donation to the organization because she believed in their cause.

Looking around the room, the lady known as the "Black Mother of Hollywood" declared, "Life comes full circle. I did not want anyone to know that I was down until you could see me back up."

Lewis gracefully walked through the room and closed with a moving serenade to her captivated audience. Everyone rose to their feet with applause, wanting more. According to one attendee, guests left feeling uplifted and encouraged to thrive in their personal lives, work and community.

SFVA chapter president Fallon Nelms commented, "Thank you to all who made this breakfast prosperous."

Proceeds from the event supports SFVA Deltas scholarship programs, social action initiatives, and community programming in the San Fernando Valley, Santa Clarita, and Burbank. To learn more or to donate, visit <https://sfvadelas.org/giving/>.

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Tatyana Ali Launches Maternal Health Brand, "Baby Yams"

Proceeds from the actress' line of quilts will fund training for midwives and doulas.

By ZON D'AMOUR
Contributing Writer

For four decades, actress, singer and producer Tatyana Ali has been a fixture in TV and film. A multigenerational talent, her acting credits include "Sesame Street," "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air,"

tells the L.A. Sentinel that she opted to work with a midwife for her second child, "because I wanted a completely different experience."

She adds, "I started working with reproductive justice advocates and with mom groups trying to find another way. I was terrified



TROKON COURTESY OF TATYANA ALI

Actress, singer and producer Tatyana Ali, founder of "Baby Yams."



TROKON COURTESY OF TATYANA ALI

"Love That Girl," as well as "Bel-Air," and "Abbott Elementary."

Now Ali is using her voice to advocate for maternal health with the launch of her new company, "Baby Yams," a limited-edition series of handmade, heirloom-quality baby quilts.

After enduring a harrowing ordeal during the birth of her first son, Ali

of going to the hospital and doing it the way that I had done before because that put both me and my baby's life in jeopardy."

Ali went on to say, "I've done a lot of work with Black maternal health, advocating every way that I can and I saw a need for more Black and indigenous midwives. Because that's the kind of care that's unbiased, they listen closely



TROKON COURTESY OF TATYANA ALI



TROKON COURTESY OF TATYANA ALI

and it's just a completely different way of thinking about pregnancy and childbirth."

She continued, "And it's well recorded that when a midwife is our first point of care, we're safer in those environments. So, I thought about what more I could do to change things besides speaking out and telling my story?"

Ali, who has sewn since she was a child, was initially drawn to the idea of creating a line of blankets after receiving a plethora of compliments for an Ankara print quilt that she made for her youngest son.

"I thought, what if I make more baby blankets, sell them and give the money to midwives across the country? There are incredible midwifery schools that are run by Black women all across the country, and they're trying to build up a workforce of Black and indigenous midwives," she said.

"They do such incredible work, but they need funding to help build their businesses; to pay for their licensing, the testing, their initial kits, etc. I want there to be more midwives. There are more, but they need help and funding, so that's how 'Baby Yams' was born."

With such a purposeful message behind the brand, it's no surprise that Ali sold out within 72 hours of her initial launch, and she'll be announcing the first recipient of the proceeds soon.

"It's a really happy place. I get to pour in love and joy. This is very much a part of my healing," Ali said. While some may think Ali's foray into maternal health advocacy is a new chapter in her life, she shares that it's still an extension of the work she does on screen.

"At a very young age, I was blessed to work with incredible people in theater [including] August Wilson and Lloyd Richards. Then people at 'Sesame Street' and later on 'The Fresh Prince,' people like James Avery. I also worked with Hattie Winston," recalled Ali.

"I was an apprentice to artists who believed that being an artist has a lot to do with caring about people and, specifically, caring about us and [asking] 'What stories are we telling?' 'How are we crafting it?' and 'Are we feeding our people with the stories that we're telling?'"

"All of those things have always been very important to me as a performer, as an actor, and as a singer because that's how I

was trained, and because that's who I was trained by. While it may seem like a departure on the outside, it's not such a departure from the way I think about the arts or the way I think about my creativity. I was raised [on the mantra] 'to whom much is given, much is expected.' And you can make something, whether it's a play or a song, you can make something that feeds people and does good," she noted.

Ali added, "Art is an offering, it's an act of giving; and I find that through these blankets there are stories that I can express through them and it's really exciting."

Concluding, Ali shares additional ways in which

anyone, not just mothers, can use their platform to advocate for women's rights.

"Maternal care is absolutely connected to reproductive care. When reproductive care is taken away, maternal care will also be taken away, so they're both at risk," she explained.

"Legislatively, in terms of ways to advocate, I would say, get into what's happening locally. Because what's happening nationally takes up most of the conversation [especially] in the news, but the attack on reproductive care is happening at a local level.

"So really look at who the candidates are locally,

and make sure that they are held accountable. Make sure that if they want your vote, they know exactly what you want. This is the time to be active, even through the disappointment and the sorrow that a lot of us feel with what's going on politically, this is the time that we have to be active," said Ali.

"Be knowledgeable of what's going on in your community, who the judges are, and who's running for the state legislature because that's actually the biggest battleground right now."

To learn more about the work Tatyana Ali is doing for maternal health and to purchase a quilt, visit Baby-Yams.com.

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Kwame Brathwaite's ArtCenter College Exhibit Was Well Worth the Wait

By KEITH L. UNDERWOOD
Contributing Writer

Recently, the ArtCenter College of Design presented the "Kwame Brathwaite: Things Well Worth Waiting For" exhibition. The event celebrated the prolific photography of Kwame Brathwaite.

He was an artist whose astounding legacy began during the Civil Rights, Black Arts, and Black Power Movements. In fact, Brathwaite is responsible for devising the inspiring expression "Black is Beautiful!"

Kwame Brathwaite Jr., son of the elder Brathwaite, hosted the ArtCenter College event. He became



COURTESY PHOTO
Kwame Brathwaite, Jr. (left) and musician Keyon Harrold (right)



PHOTO BY KEITH L. UNDERWOOD
Untitled (Muhammad Ali) by Kwame Brathwaite



PHOTO BY KEITH L. UNDERWOOD
Untitled (Bob Marley Performance in Kingston, Jamaica) 1973 by Kwame Brathwaite

with the archive, showing the work, letting people experience it and really learn about him as a photographer, photojournalist, as a thinker, as a media theorist," said Brathwaite Jr. "So, it's really been amazing to get a chance to do that."

Brathwaite Jr. stated his father was artistically driven by themes of equity, justice, and liberation.

He said because his father was of Bajan descent, born and raised in Brooklyn, before moving to the Bronx – the elder Brathwaite knew the world operated on a class system.

"For him experiencing segregation and things like that, he was like, 'That's not right. People are people, and people should be able to enjoy and be able to live the lives they want to live,'" remembered Brathwaite Jr.

Brathwaite Jr. said this introduced his father to the idea of Pan Africanism, which fueled much of his father's work.

Brathwaite Jr. credits his father as the photogra-

pher who captured the visual aspect of the "Black is Beautiful" movement, and it is through his father's collective that Black folks can understand the crusade.

"For him, and one of the things we touch upon in the show is how music is a through-line to his work. It's kind of the heart of it,"



PHOTO BY KEITH L. UNDERWOOD
Untitled (Marvin Gaye) circa 1974 by Kwame Brathwaite

said Brathwaite.

He harkened back to the Civil Rights Movement and the musicians of the time, such as Marvin Gaye, who like his father were using their art as a form of activism.

"When you think about the music, especially at the time when he was coming up from 1966 to 2018, those musicians carried messages of equity, they

carried the messages of equality – speaking out for justice," said Brathwaite Jr.

The idea of music-meets-art manifested at the exhibition with a special performance by jazz trum-

age of 85.

"For me, I never had to question whether or not Black is beautiful, or whether people should be treated equally no matter who they are or what they



PHOTO BY KEITH L. UNDERWOOD
Various album covers, magazine covers, and other journalistic photos by Kwame Brathwaite



PHOTO BY KEITH L. UNDERWOOD
Naturally '68 Photo Shoot by Kwame Brathwaite

peter, vocalist, songwriter, and producer Keyon Harrold.

Sadly, Kwame Brathwaite, Sr. transitioned last year in Manhattan at the

bring," said Brathwaite Jr. He concluded, "So, for me, it was a beautiful thing to watch him [Brathwaite Sr.] be passionate about his art... and uplifting people.

AKA Pasadena/Altadena Chapter Awards Scholarships to 13 College-Bound Students



COURTESY PHOTO
The scholarship recipients display the certificates presented by the AKA Sorority, Pasadena/Altadena Chapter.

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Pasadena/Altadena Chapter held its Annual Scholarship Jazz Brunch Fundraiser on Saturday, May 11, at Le Méridien Hotel in Arcadia. More than 300 people attended to celebrate community icons and scholarship recipients.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of scholarships to deserving college-bound students, recognizing their academic achievements, leadership qualities, and commitment to excellence. This year, the Pasadena/Altadena Chapter, in partnership with the Pasadena/Altadena Ivy Foundation, awarded 13 scholarships to help the students pursue their higher education dreams.

The recipients were Ethan Allen, Asha Bailey, Skye Correy, Lauren Gray, Jaylen Jones, Eloheem Mahone, Megan Milton, Kennedy Mitchell-Egbo, Jae'da Reed, Jae'la Reed, Kimberly Robinson, Mia Walker, and Gabrielle White.

In addition, several civic leaders were recognized for their contributions to the

community. The honorees were the Rev. Dr. Larry E. Campbell, pastor of First A.M.E Church, Pasadena; Brenda Harvey-Williams, City of Pasadena; and Dr. Nancy Gonzalez, John Muir High School. They were all commended and presented awards acknowledging their outstanding commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of others.

Other highlights included a presentation on Black culture by Grand Jeremy, who also served as emcee, and a captivating jazz performance by saxophonist J. Boykins. There was also outdoor shopping available with minority-owned business vendors.

"The dedication and perseverance of these stu-

dents serve as a beacon of hope for our community, and we are proud to stand beside them as they embark on this transformative journey they are the Leaders Of Tomorrow: Champions Of Change," said Dr. Carolyn Ford, president of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, Pasadena/Altadena Chapter.

"We thank both the Pasadena community as well as the greater Los Angeles area for the continued support of our scholarship fundraiser."

For more information or to donate to support the Pasadena/Altadena Chapter and its partnership with the Pasadena/Altadena Ivy Foundation, visit www.the-paif.org/take-action/.



COURTESY PHOTO
The Rev. Dr. Larry E. Campbell, pastor of First A.M.E Church, Pasadena was one of the community honorees.

TOO TOXIC TO TRASH

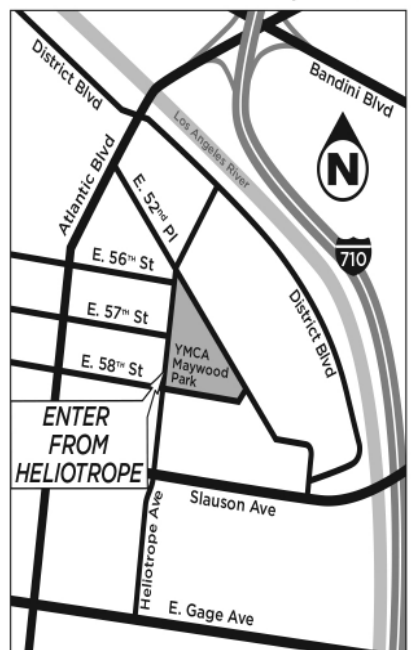
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You can also take your used motor oil to more than 600 oil recycling centers in Los Angeles County. Call 1(888) CLEAN-LA for a complete listing.

The CCC to HBCU Transfer Program: Making Dreams Tangible

By MYKO LYRIC
Contributing Writer

The L.A. Sentinel interviewed Dr. Auzout-Settle, the director of the California Community Colleges (CCC) Transfer Pathway to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), to gain insight into their offerings, successes and new initiatives.

At its core, the CCC to HBCU Transfer Agreement is a partnership between the 116 community colleges in California and nearly 40 HBCUs around the country. The program allows any CCC student with a 2.0 GPA and 30 UC/CSU credits (or an Associate's degree for transfer) a guaranteed acceptance into any partner HBCU.

Some partner HBCUs include Bethune-Cookman University, Clark Atlanta University, Dillard University, Fisk University, Grambling State University, North Carolina Central University, and Texas Southern University.

Besides guaranteed admission, the program boasts a plethora of additional advantages including application fee waivers, pre-transfer advisement, priority consideration for campus housing and priority consideration for scholarships for students with a 3.2 GPA or higher. New legislation (AB1400: Cal-HBCU Transfer Grant, 2023) provides \$5,000 to eligible transfer students, and the Hoffman Agency Scholarship provides a stu-

dent with full tuition and fees for their junior and senior year.

Auzout-Settle recalled the birth of the program and the woman who fought for its inception, Howard

more seamless for these California students who were looking at institutions outside of their home state. She visited HBCUs around the country and developed this transfer agreement

when you have outsiders [like our program] who are trying to engage in partnerships, there is often a bit of skepticism. When [the HBCU representatives] get to know us, they find work-



HBCU representatives during the program's fall caravan.

University alumna Elaine Moore. Roughly around 2010, transfer students were faced with an obstacle plaguing many schools in California: impactation. Impactation occurs when a campus is at enrollment capacity and cannot accommodate the eligible undergraduate applications that it receives.

As a strong proponent of HBCUs, Moore aimed to make the transfer process

with the program's first nine HBCU partner institutions.

Through serendipitous word of mouth and years of hard work, HBCU interest in the program grew into nearly 40 committed partner schools. Dr. Auzout-Settle believes her team was a substantial factor in their success.

"[HBCUs] are sacred intuitions who are protective over their students, so

ing with our team to be very comfortable and familiar," she said.

This relationship has fostered an environment where CCC participants can achieve their dreams—the program successfully transferred 450 students to HBCUs with 150 of them already graduated. Annually, the team participates in and creates hundreds of events (virtual and in-person) for students, CCC



Dr. Auzout-Settle with prospective students.

counselors, and partner HBCUs.

"We present so many virtual webinars, particularly to help students. Students always hear 'do your research' when choosing a school, but they don't always know how. So, we have webinars like 'Funding Your HBCU Education,' 'Transferring with a Family,' and 'Personal Statement Support,'" Dr. Auzout-Settle explained.

The in-person event offerings are similarly vast. Besides participating in most CCC transfer fairs, the CCC to HBCU Program sends representatives to the Umoja Conference, the A2MEND Summit, and the Black College Expo. The program also created two semi-annual events—a fall caravan where partner HBCU representatives and CCC to HBCU Program staff travel throughout California for on-site transfer fairs (offering on-site admission and scholarships), and the second offering is a summer sum-

mit (held in Charlotte, NC this year) to deepen relations with partner HBCUs, host an awards ceremony, inform CCC Counselors about the program, and tour nearby partner HBCUs.

In anticipation of the 10th year anniversary in 2025, Dr. Auzout-Settle and her team are brainstorming how to celebrate the monumental occasion. She acknowledges that the students' success is at the core of the celebration.

"The beauty of the work is really seeing the transformation in these students...from the transfer fair, them applying, going to the HBCU, graduating, to entering their careers or going to graduate school. It really inspires us to do the work and keep doing the work," she said.

Learn more about the program:

<https://www.california-communitycollegehbcu-transfer.com/>

Instagram: @ccctransfer2hbcu

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• DR. MAULANA KARENGA •

African Liberation, South Africa, Palestine and Us: Some Notes on Radically Reordering the World

As we celebrate this year's African Liberation Day (May 25), it is important to note that we are passing through a pivotal and powerful moment in African and human history. And the central sites for this time of radical turning are in Palestine, South Africa, in this country and on countless campuses and elsewhere around the world. And we as African peoples are linked to it in various ways as allies in struggle and as midwives and co-makers of a new unfolding history, not only for Palestine and the Palestinian people, but also for us and indeed, for the world.

For the issues raised and struggled over are issues critical to creating just and free societies and the good and sustainable world we all want, struggle for and deserve. This pivotal struggle around Palestine unites the progressive and radical forces in the world around issues of the right to life, freedom, justice, security of person and people, and the right to all the material and other conditions and capacities essential to life.

It raises the question of whether we are going to have a rule and law governed international order or continue deference to the racial and religious myths and practices of Whites as the elite, the chosen, the superior and divinely anointed to rule, ruin and ravage the lives and lands of the majority others, amorally considered Amaleks and less. Surely, in our ethical and spiritual texts and teachings, we are taught by our honored ancestors in the Odu Ifa that all humans are divinely chosen.

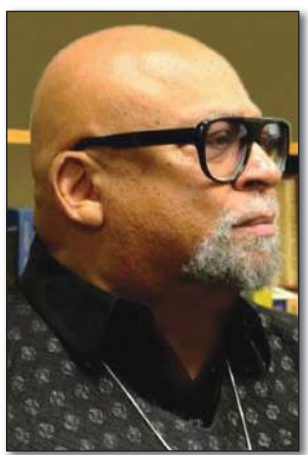
They are chosen, not over and against anyone, but rather chosen with everyone to bring good into the world. And this, the sacred texts teach us, is the fundamental mission and meaning of human life, to bring a shared and

inclusive good in the world, for the world and all in it. For the greatest goods are shared goods: the good of life and love, of family and community, of freedom and justice, of peace and prosperity, of health and happiness and of the well-being of the world and all in it.

As we contemplate this unfolding reordering of the world, let us pay rightful recognition and praise to the Palestinian people for their incredible resilience, their radical refusal to be defeated and their righteous resistance in every way possible, eventually exposing the systemic savagery of the occupation, siege and now open genocide by Israel and its crime partners, and winning new allies in resistance. Let us also recognize and praise the consistent reciprocal support of Palestine liberation and audacious legal and political initiatives of South Africa under the leadership of the highly competent and deeply committed Foreign Minister, Naledi Pandor. Indeed, South Africa added a new dimension to this international struggle, dared against all threats to charge Israel with genocide at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), win a decision of "plausible" commission of genocide and return to win another ruling to order Israel to stop its genocidal attack against Gaza in Rafah Palestine.

In this regard, let us also raise and praise former International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda of Gambia for opening this path to prosecution of European powers including the U.S. and later Israel for war crimes and crimes against humanity directed against the Palestinian people when others, even the current Prosecutor Karim Khan first bowed to pressure. Even before it was revealed that Israeli former head of Mossad (its ver-

sion of the CIA) repeatedly pressured and threatened her, she continued with audacious defiance to open a formal investiga-



DR. MAULANA KARENGA

tion into the issues.

In this country, let us praise also African Americans who from the very beginning supported the Palestinian liberation struggle and know its larger meaning for us and all oppressed and struggling people. Here, let us give rightful praise to the Nation of Islam and its leader, Nana Hon. Elijah Muhammad, who built alliances, employed Palestinian teachers and taught the unity and struggle of the dark peoples of the world. Clearly, central to these initiatives was Nana Haji Malcolm who taught and built the linkage in the NOI and afterwards.

It is he who further influenced the Black conscious community, built alliances with the leaders of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), and wrote his now much referred to essay "Zionist Logic" in which he criticized it as illogical, imperialist, immoral, racist and requiring righteous resistance.

Here also we must raise the name and praise the work of Nana Ethel Miner, former NOI member and SNCC director of

communications. She had studied the history and politics of the Palestinian struggle in college, built friendships with Palestinians, and organized a study group on their struggle inside SNCC. Moreover, she joined the Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU) under the leadership of Haji Malcolm, continued her work, and after Haji Malcolm's martyrdom, joined SNCC where, as mentioned, she organized and led a study group and was principal writer of SNCC's 1967 Statement on Palestine.

In addition, we of the Black Power Period of the Black Freedom Movement who also saw ourselves as descendants of Haji Malcolm along with the OAAU and SNCC, i.e., Us, RAM, BPP, RNA also supported the Palestinian people in their liberation struggle. And this tradition of allied struggle with the Palestinians was continued by the Black Lives Matter Movement and other similar progressive and radical forces in more recent times, especially after the Ferguson Revolt. Indeed, such support also fits well within Black activists' and activist scholars' call for and commitment to Third World (people of color) unity and struggle. It is what Nanas DuBois, Bethune, Muhammad, Malcolm et al called the oppressed and "dark peoples of the world", seeing and embracing our and their struggles as the rising tide of a new history for humankind.

Surely, we also praise the students of all ethnicities and nationalities who reject the current social and world order where lying and war against the vulnerable is a way of life, savagery is defined as self-

defense, the depraved disregard for human life, especially in terms of the peoples of color, is institutionalized internationally, and governments deny and then seek to redefine and justify genocide when they can no longer gaslight the world.

It is important to note again, that Palestinians in Palestine and in the diaspora are at the center of their own struggle which has implications for us all and the world. And it is good to see Jewish students, professionals, intellectuals, and others join in the vanguard of this righteous struggle for a new world and way of life and relating, not equating Judaism or Jews with Israel and any policy it conjures up, and countering the false and much abused charges of antisemitism for criticizing occupation, siege, oppression and genocide.

No one can seriously believe the struggle is even half over, for there is no easy walk or way to freedom, justice and other shared human goods. But certainly new ways and possibilities have been opened. Clearly important is the world-encompassing reach and relevance of this struggle in terms of unity built in struggle for a new world; and the ongoing education in and earnest efforts to reorder this interrelated order of White supremacy and its unrepentantly predatory relatives-racism, racial capitalism, settler colonialism, imperialism and apartheid.

Also, an important achievement of this world-encompassing struggle is the breaching of the wall of immunity from criticism and impunity from accounta-

bility of the state of Israel and its falsified image of victimizer as victim or as Haji Malcolm taught, turning the criminal into the victim and the victim into the criminal.

Indeed, the smoke and mirrors of a compliant media, that Haji Malcolm identified as a central source of this manufacturing and manipulation of imagery, has been challenged by the social media images of the tens of thousands of Palestinian blooded, charred and dead bodies, the scattered limbs, the headless bodies, the indiscriminate and saturation bombing of everyone, everything and everywhere in a land and of a people that refuses to be erased or defeated. And finally we are reaffirmed in our position that we must have a world-encompassing concept of African peoples and the African liberation mission.

It is not a question of freeing ourselves in isolation and alone, but in unity, a world-encompassing unity, realizing the teaching and aspiration of Nanas Garvey, Bethune and Nkrumah for us that we, in being ourselves and freeing ourselves, become a definitive force for a shared, inclusive, enduring and great good in the world.

Dr. Maulana Karenga, Professor and Chair of Africana Studies, California State University-Long Beach; Executive Director, African American Cultural Center (Us); Creator of Kwanzaa; and author of Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture and Essays on Struggle: Position and Analysis, www.MaulanaKarenga.org; www.AfricanAmericanCulturalCenter-LA.org; www.Us-Organization.org.

• MARC MORIAL, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE •

Armed With New Technology And Tactics, Russian Trolls Are Back To Disrupt U.S. Elections

"Russia remains the most active foreign threat to our elections. The Russian government's goals in such influence operations tend to include eroding trust in U.S. democratic institutions, exacerbating sociopolitical divisions in the United States, and degrading western support to Ukraine. Russia relies on a vast multimedia influence apparatus, which consists of its intelligence services, cyber actors, state media, proxies, and social media trolls. Moscow most likely views such operations as a means to tear down the United States as its perceived primary adversary, enabling Russia to promote itself as a great power." – U.S. Director of National Intelligence

In the spring of 2019, the National Urban League's "State of Black America" report was the first to highlight the extent of Russian efforts to deceive, manipulate and exploit Black voters in the 2016 presidential election. Five months later, a Senate Intelligence Committee report confirmed our findings: Russian trolls targeted Black Americans more than any other group to dissuade them from voting.

Now, as the 2024 presidential election approaches, the Russians are at it again, armed with new technology and new techniques. Videos, spewing disinformation, with voices and images manipulated by artificial intelligence, are the medium of choice for Russian operatives. Falsely

represented as the work of independent journalists or whistle-blowers, the videos



Marc H. Morial

are considered more likely than simple blog or social media posts to enter the mainstream discourse.

Though the tactics are new, the goal remains the same: the election of Donald Trump and the implementation of Trump's pro-Russia policies. Trump has said he would encourage Russia to do "whatever the hell they want" to our

NATO allies who don't meet defense spending guidelines. He would end U.S. support for Ukraine in its fight against Russia's invasion.

Key to Russia's disruptive plan is the promotion of racial strife and the suppression of Black votes.

"By far, race and related issues were the preferred target of the information warfare campaign designed to divide the country in 2016," the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee concluded. Of Russian operatives' top 10 Instagram accounts, five were focused on African American issues and audiences. Their Twitter content was "heavily focused on hot-button issues with racial undertones such as the NFL kneeling protests." And 96 percent of their YouTube content was targeted at racial issues and police

brutality. "Some of the videos featured expressly voter suppressive content intended to dissuade African American voters from participating in the 2016 presidential election," the committee found.

Russia continued to target Black Americans through the 2020 presidential election.

Our best defense against disinformation, national security experts say, is identifying and publicizing the propaganda push.

"The great antidote to all of this is being able to shine a light on it," former NSA director Gen. Paul M. Nakasone told the Senate Intelligence Committee. "If they are trying to influence or interfere in our elections, we should make it as hard as possible for them."

Marc Morial is the president and CEO of the National Urban League.

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CARTOON: BY DAVID G. BROWN

Black History
more than just a month!

Theresa Claiborne
Born May 25, 1959

On June 20, 1981, Claiborne was commissioned as second lieutenant in the USAF. She became the first African-American female pilot in the U.S. Air Force after graduating from Laughlin Air Force Base on September 16, 1982.
She left active duty in 1988, served as an instructor pilot and flight commander for the USAF Reserves where she rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel. Claiborne also began working for United Airlines as a first officer in 1990. She would later be promoted to captain. Claiborne retired from the military in January 2003 with over 3000 military flight hours. She flew her final flight then retired on May 23, 2024.

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Coach Wendy

Life Strategist / Consultant
Author / Speaker

Lonely in Your Struggle, But Crowded in Your Success

It is amazing to me how oftentimes when God gives us an idea or dream and we share it with other people, if they cannot imagine it or if it is something they would not necessarily see as a good idea they give you all kinds of grief. They think of every reason why you should not go down that path, even when they lack concrete reasons as to why they do not see it as a

good idea.

This is a perfect example and reason why sometimes it is best to keep your thoughts, ideas, and dreams to yourself and only share with a few select people in your life who you trust. Initially, sometimes our worst dream killers can be those that are the closest to us. When God has given you purpose or a specific dream, do not be afraid that



the path may be lonely at first because as Winter turns to Spring, as soon as you start to succeed, people come out of the woodwork saying they knew you could do it.

I have found that most of us are average. We begin to accept the status quo and as long as we can pay our bills, provide for our families, go out on Friday night, and maybe do a kind thing here or there for someone else we are content. But when you allow yourself to dream and dig deep to see

what you are made of and what is still yet in you to accomplish during your lifetime, you separate yourself from the pack.

Yes, there will be those in your corner that will cheer you on, but there will also be the naysayers. This is the time when you must understand your 'why' and what is motivating you to stand away from the pack. What is making you go that extra mile, get up a little earlier, study a little longer, and go to meetings and training when you would rather stay home and sit on the couch eating ice cream? Dig deep and stay focused on what you want and why you want it.

There are many reasons why it can be lonely in our struggle and yet when we succeed it gets crowded. I recently heard the world loves to root for the underdog, but they follow the lead dog. Most people want the jewels of success, but

they do not want to put in the blood, sweat, and tears. The struggle is real and it is part of the process to achieve the goals you want to accomplish.

Remember, some people in your life want the best for you, but they may experience a little jealousy because they do not want to see you outpace them or leave them behind; when in fact, you would really like to bring them along. Human nature focuses more on self-interest than what is best for others.

If we want to have peace along our journey, it is best we limit our expectations of others. No one can walk our path for us. We must sometimes be willing to walk the road alone or with just a few by our side. However, when we cross the finish line it may be a little crowded, but everyone around us may not necessarily be for us.

Look around and see who was with you when you got started and if they are still there when you get to where you want to go. They are your tried and true. They are your ride-or-die. They will be with you whether you rise or fall, keep them close.

Do not get weary in well-doing because when you least expect it, the victory will be yours. Continue to let your light shine bright and be kind to those who did not believe in you or support you. Remember ultimately, we are in the people business, and we should show love and compassion to everyone.

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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.

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"The Final Judge and Chief Prosecutor"

Who makes the last call on your future here on Earth and in Heaven? Who gives the last word? It's not an earthly judge. That's temporary. What's happening in the heavens? There are seventeen heavenly utterances and the final heavenly utterances are sounded in Revelation 4:8-9.

Revelation 4:8-11 reads: 8 And the four living creatures, (the Zoa described) each one of

them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. 9 And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will

worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

The final heavenly utterances or the fourfold hallelujah is found in Revelation 1.) 9:1-10: 1 After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salva-



tion and glory and power belong to our God; 2.) because his judgements are true and righteous; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and he has avenged the blood of his bond-servants on her." 3.) And a second time they said, "Hallelujah! Her smoke rises up forever and ever.

4.) And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!" 5.) And a voice came from the throne, saying, "Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great." 6.) Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

7.) "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride (the church) has made herself ready." 8.) It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

9.) Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God."

10.) Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." After these things, the final Judge pronounces the judgements as the seals are broken and the judgements are proclaimed. The heavenly utterances are God's

holiness proclaimed prior to judgements. When the Lord returns, He will return in dominion and judgements. His first Advent He came in grace to offer grace the opportunity for all who would believe.

Thanks for reading! Jeanette Grattan Parker is the founder-superintendent of Today's Fresh Start Charter School, 4514 Crenshaw Boulevard, L.A. 90043, 323-293-9826, www.todaysfreshstart.org, (Ask Dr. Jeanette TM) "Inquiring Minds Want to Know." All articles are copyright. All rights reserved © Errors? Or Questions? Please let me know. Join Sundays for music and message at 11:30 a.m. by calling (712) 775-8971, code 266751. Don't stop praying and hoping. References: The Holy Bible, StudyLight.org, New American Standard. "Today is another great day to do good and be successful."

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Political Playback: News You Might Have Missed - May 30

By BO TEFU AND ANTONIO RAY HARVEY
California Black Media

Mayor Bass and SBA Administrator Announce Women's Business Center in South LA

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass and U.S. Small Business Administration Administrator Isabel Guzman joined hands last week to launch of the first federally recognized Women's Business Center at the Vermont Slauson Economic Development Corporation (VSEDC) in South Los Angeles to help small businesses start, grow and develop in the city.

Bass highlighted the partnership Los Angeles has with the federal government and emphasized her administration's work to open Los Angeles for business by making more resources like the new Women's Business Center offers available to more Angelenos.

"This beautifully renovated building will provide a dedicated space for business experts and consultants to meet one on one with entrepreneurs and small business owners to help their business launch, grow and thrive," said Mayor Bass during the ribbon cutting ceremony. She reminded guests that not only the Olympics, but another Super Bowl and All-Star Week is coming to the city and local business owners should be prepared for the opportunities that lie ahead.

"As the business center develops, we need to partner with organizations like Vermont Slauson to make sure that these events don't just come to LA and pass us by, but that these events help serve as a catalyst so that our small businesses become larger businesses and everyone in the area prospers from the world coming to this center," said Bass.

The official opening was among initiatives the mayor led this week to support businesses in Los Angeles through LA Optimized 2.0, a program created to help small businesses build and strengthen their digital presence along with LApreneur, a new online learning platform created to equip entrepreneurs with key skills and information to succeed.

Bass also encouraged residents, small business owners, and other residents who were impacted to apply for the low-interest disaster loans through the U.S. Small Business Administration that were recently made.

"We are committed to investing in women through our Women's Business Centers, where knowledge and connections to capital can be deployed to power that next



37th Congressional District Director Johanna Rodriguez, Wells Fargo Social Impact & Sustainability Jack Oree, SBA Administrator Isabella Guzman, Mayor Karen Bass, VSEDC President/CEO Quentin Strode, and Director of the VSEDC Women's Business Center Tulani Watkins.

generation of founders, said SBA Administrator Guzman following remarks from Mayor Bass. "The SBA is committed to making sure that they have the funding that they need. We have instituted transformations across our policy, loan, investment, and bonding programs to ensure that the \$52 billion that's put out from SBA every year goes to the people who are starting businesses at the highest rates and that our check writers look like the businesses who are starting businesses at the highest rates. We've seen a 70% increase in our lending to women."

"When women-owned businesses succeed, our economy succeeds," stated U.S. Congressman Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D-CA-37) in a press release following the event.

"I am thrilled to celebrate the Vermont Slauson Economic Development Corporation's launch of its Women's Business Center, located here in South LA, which will support women entrepreneurs throughout every step of their business journey," she added.

The South LA Women's Business Center (WBC) is the first women's business center in South LA and Watts. It will offer support to Black and Latino women entrepreneurs.

Marva Smith Battle-Bey founded VSEDC and led the organization for 35 years before her passing in 2016.

Creators: Pan-African Story Telling Academy Will Aid Black Student Success

The Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) launched the Pan-African Immersive Storytelling Academy, an educational initiative tailored toward empowering Black students.

The Black Student and Family Task Force spearheaded the initiative alongside the school district in partnership with the African American Parent Council (AAPC), and Equation 2 Success. The initiative aims to integrate immer-

sive storytelling techniques in core subjects including mathematics, science, and language. The program will help Black students nurture their critical thinking, creativity, and digital literacy skills.

The school district will work with community partners to foster a curriculum and implement educational programs that encompass the history, cultures, and experiences of Africa and people of African descent.

Elizabeth Blanco, Pasadena school district superintendent said the initiative is a framework that gives Black students relevant tools to celebrate African history and cultures.

"It strengthens our students' sense of belonging and creates pathways for Black students to succeed," Blanco said.



John Lynch, chair of the African American Parent Council said the task force gave Black students and their families a framework to, "radically reimagine school."

"We know that an intentionally curated space that centers Black student success is long overdue in PUSD, and once successful, will be a place to draw best practices from and replicate," Lynch said.

The curriculum includes the use of emerging technology to share stories. The program has modules focused on immersive storytelling using virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR). Students will be exposed to hands-on learning experiences, collaborative projects, and experiential activities.

The academy will offer educators professional development opportunities and train them to use digital tools and technology in

their teaching practices.

Patrice McKenzie, a member of the Board of Education recognized that Black students experience unique challenges in the education system that hinder their academic prog-



Patrice McKenzie

ress. "It is our hope that the Pan African Immersive Storytelling Academy is a demonstrative commitment to re-framing, re-imagining, and re-engaging with our community to better serve the needs of Black students in the District," McKenzie said.

The first cohort of sixth-grade students will commence lessons at the academy during the 2025-2026 academic year.

Calif. Senate Passes Landmark Package of Three Reparations Bills

Last week, the California State Senate voted to advance three landmark reparations bills authored by Sen. Steven Bradford (D-Inglewood). The bills aim to redress the economic and social injustices stemming from chattel slavery in the American South and more than a century of state sectioned discriminatory practices that followed the Civil War.

The package of legislation now moves to the State Assembly for consideration.

The historic vote on Senate Bill (SB) 1403, SB 1050, and SB 1331 was held on the Senate floor late in the afternoon on May 21, while supporters representing several reparations advocacy groups observed from the gallery.

"I appreciate my Legislative colleagues who have directly faced this important issue and shown great

courage by passing these historic pieces of legislation," said Bradford. "I look forward to working with the members of the Assembly to similarly pass these bills so we can present them to Governor Newsom for his signature."

SB 1403 establishes the framework for the establishment of the California American Freedmen Affairs Agency (CAFAA), a state-level department that would administer all reparations activities.

SB 1050 would offer compensation to Black Californians who lost homes or had their land taken without fair compensation as a result of the racially motivated misuse of eminent domain.

With a vote of 30-7 on the Senate floor, SB 1331 also passed. It proposes the establishment of an account in the state treasury for the purpose of funding reparations policies approved by the Legislature and the Governor.

Darlene Crumedy, a Bay Area resident and member of the Coalition for a Just and Equitable California (CJEC), is one of the reparations supporters who has shown up at every Senate hearing for Bradford's compensation bills.

She called passage of the bills "historic and special."

"Now the work begins in the Assembly, and they are going to pass there, too," Crumedy said expressing optimism about the bills' future.

Amsterdam-Style Cannabis Cafés Move One Step Closer to Becoming Legal in California

The California Assembly passed a bill that would legalize cannabis cafes, inspired by Amsterdam-style restaurants and clubs where marijuana is openly smoked.

If the bill passes in the Senate and is signed into law by the Governor,

Assembly Bill (AB) 1775 would grant local governments the authority to approve cannabis clubs that make and sell non-cannabis food and non-alcoholic drinks.

Assemblymember Matt Haney (D-San Francisco) said he proposed the bill to benefit small businesses and help them expand their goods and services.

"This is a bill that supports our legal small businesses that just want to diversify their businesses and do the right thing," Haney said.

The bill allows small businesses to compete with the illegal drug market, Haney added.

"The illicit illegal market is continuing to grow and thrive, while our legal cannabis market is struggling," he said.

Gov. Gavin Newsom vetoed an earlier version of the bill last year to "protect smoke-free workplaces." The updated version of the bill, however, separates cannabis consumption from other workspaces.

Haney is confident that Newsom will not veto the updated version of the bill. Under the new bill, consumers are prohibited from smoking cannabis in the back of restaurant kitchens and food prep areas to protect non-smoking employees.

Currently, California has four cannabis cafes in operation -- two of them are in West Hollywood and the other two in Palm Springs. However, it is illegal for food establishments to offer alcohol and cannabis under the same roof.

The bill would give city officials the power to approve the cannabis lounges.

California Could End Donor and Legacy Preferences in College Admissions

The California Assembly approved a bill that bans admissions based on legacy ties and donor preferences at colleges and universities statewide with a 55-0 vote on May 21.

Assemblymember Phil Ting (D- San Francisco) and Tasha Boerner (D-Encinitas) co-authored Assembly Bill (AB) 1780, which will now be considered by the State Senate for approval.

Ting said he introduced the bill in response to last year's U.S. Supreme Court ruling that banned race considerations for college admissions.

"If you work hard, get good grades, and have a well-rounded background, your spot should not be taken by someone else just because their family can write a big check or is a graduate of that school," Ting said.

It is well documented that a number of prominent universities around the U.S. consider legacy and affiliation with donors in the admissions process. At Stanford University, over 13% of admitted students have connections to alumni or donors. More than 14% of newly admitted students at the University of Southern California have similar ties.

If the Legislature approves AB 1780 and Gov. Newsom signs it into law, the state will impose a civil fine equal to the amount of CalGrants the university or college received in the previous year.

"If we value diversity in higher education, we must level the playing field," Ting said.

California is set to join Maryland, Colorado, and Virginia in banning legacy and donor admissions at public and private institutions if the law gets approved.

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Public Notices

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY
IFB No. MTL2405747
Pedestrian Swing Gates
The Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRRA) is seeking quotes for Insulated Joint Rail Plug. Bid documents may be obtained at <https://metrolinktrains.com/doing-business> (free registration). Electronic bids are due at 2:00 P.M. (PT) on 6/20/2024. For further information, contact Arisa Hicks, Contract and Compliance Administrator, at (213) 452-0250 or hicksa@scrra.net 5/30/24 CNS-3815197# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

PROBATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
ALVIN LEE PHYALL, III
CASE NO. 24STPB03199
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of ALVIN LEE PHYALL, III.

Public Notices

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by CEIARA PHYALL in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that CEIARA PHYALL be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 07/29/24 at 8:30AM in Dept. 62 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
IF YOU OBJECT to the

Public Notices

granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code

Public Notices

section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
In Pro Per Petitioner CEIARA PHYALL
809 E. 76TH STREET
LOS ANGELES CA 90047
5/16, 5/23, 5/30/24
CNS-3813277#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: OVARIE SMITH CASE NO. BP156967

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of OVARIE SMITH.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by SHILISE LISA RAMBO AKA LISA BROOKS in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that SHILISE LISA RAMBO AKA LISA BROOKS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

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THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 06/04/24 at 8:30AM in Dept. 99 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and

Public Notices

mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
In Pro Per Petitioner SHILISE LISA RAMBO AKA LISA BROOKS
806 LOVERN STREET
CEDAR HILL CA 75104
5/16, 5/23, 5/30/24
CNS-3812077#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

BLACK STUDENT ATHLETE SUMMIT (Continued from A-1)

your life should not be between 18 and 22.”

BSAS included panels that featured the likes of NBA legend Baron Davis,

“It was a great overall experience and it’s something more Black student-athletes should come to.”

A discussion called



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL

Dr. Nickey Woods of USC Gould School of Law (left) engages in a discussion with BIG CEO and NBA icon Baron Davis.

Atlanta Dream co-owner Renee Montgomery, Olympic silver medalist Teahna Daniels, and rapper Dee-1. Staff and faculty from various universities as well as executives who were once student athletes engaged in discussions about NIL, DEI, and financial literacy.

“I was here last year when it was right here on [USC], it was a mind blowing experience,” said Joshua Emmanuel who recently graduated from Texas State with a degree in psychology.

“More Than an Athlete” resonated with Norfolk volleyball player Adlene Jideofor as she prepares to graduate. She plans to grow her hair styling business and give back to youth in her community.

“That continues to help and empower all of us at the end of the day,” Jideofor said. “That’s also another way that I can talk to athletes ... get their perspective on what they think the NCAA could change.”

BSAS was powered by

the sports marketing company Playfly, other sponsors included Invesco QQQ, Razorfish and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

“In working with the BSAS team over the last three years, I have developed a true understanding of the overall mindset of the Summit leadership and have prioritized that when identifying brand partners for this event,” stated Playfly director of Client Strategy Jillian Forbes. “Brands that activate at the Summit have the unique opportunity to engage with this highly talented and valuable segment of students.”

The Summit also featured a Prolific Impact Lab and Summit Cypher, touching a myriad of topics includ-



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL

Attendees got the opportunity to talk to each other during the ElevateXperience.

ing allyship, gender-based violence, and identity. Student-athletes were able to express their backgrounds and values among each other in the Elevate eXperience.

They also got a chance to learn about the careers of former student-athletes through their Pro Day break out sessions.

“We want to expose them to other professional opportunities and routes, but also who’s delivering that message? A former Black student-athlete who they might be able to identify with,” said BSAS co-



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL

The Pro Day break out sessions allowed former student-athletes to give back.

founder Devin Walker. “Sometimes that message lands a little bit harder.”

In previous years, Randy Paul attended BSAS as a student-athlete and a volunteer. This year, he was a presenter as a content creator at ZIYNX. At his first

tal school student at UCSF and a presenter of his future profession.

“You realize the impact of the Black Student Athlete Summit has had on you and then more broadly realize the impact that you can have on somebody else,” Byrge said. “I try to speak to students the way that I want to be talked to, I try to speak to my young self.”

The Pro Day sessions had former student-athletes who have professions in law, tech, health care, the entertainment industry, and sports.

Current student athletes were also featured in panels; Brown women’s soccer player Layla Shell and Princeton football player Marc-Anthony Prescott participated in a panel of Ivy League student-athletes talking about activism on their campuses.

“It’s a really niche experience and it’s something that we want to keep talking about,” Shell said. “The Ivies, while they’re all similar in terms of academic rigor, we all really go through a lot of different experiences, so we wanted to highlight the diversity in that.”

This marked the second year Prescott attended BSAS to share his experience at Princeton. Going to BSAS taught him to be more confident in his own abilities.

“Before I came to the Summit, my thinking was how to survive at my campus,” Prescott said. “After I went to the Summit last year, I started thinking about ways I could thrive on campus.”

To learn more about BSAS, visit <https://bsasummit.org/>.



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL

BSAS allowed student-athletes to network and share their values with one another.



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL

Student-athletes networked with job recruiters at a career fair.

HARRIS-DAWSON L.A. CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

(Continued from A-1)

neighborhoods of Baldwin Hills, Chesterfield Square, Crenshaw and Jefferson Park, among others.

Yaroslavsky previously said in a statement that “Harris-Dawson’s leadership, vision, and temperament have consistently stood out in

his tenure on the council.”

She added, “His ability to build coalitions across L.A.’s diverse communities demonstrates a commitment to collaboration that is crucial for our city’s future.”

The motion was co-signed by six other council members

– Nithya Raman, Hugo Soto-Martinez, John Lee, Eunisses Hernandez, Monica Rodriguez and Krekorian.

Yaroslavsky also expressed her “deep gratitude and appreciation” for Krekorian, noting that his leadership “steadied” the council

and city through crises and complexities as Los Angeles emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic and several political scandals.

Krekorian had written a letter to his colleagues, including Bass and City Attorney Hydee Feldstein

Soto, notifying them of his plans to step down as council president.

“I want to thank each of you for the trust and support you have extended to me as your council president,” the letter reads.

“Even more, I thank you

for your commitment to serving the people of Los Angeles, and to continuing the vital work of restoring effectiveness, prudence, integrity and decorum to the City Council on which we are privileged to serve. It is my honor to be your colleague.”

CYNTHIA MITCHELL-HEARD (Continued from A-1)

Katherine Barr, John Mack, and Ambassador Michael Lawson. With unwavering dedication, she said she is striving to build upon their accomplishments and lead the LAUL to new heights.

Mitchell-Heard’s first four months leading the LAUL have been a “whirlwind of productivity, community engagement, and creating new partnerships and program offerings.” Mitchell-Heard has been

connecting and aligning with the LAUL’s existing, new, and potential partners to further their mutual investments in change-making programs, advocating on behalf of the community they serve, and spearheading their annual events.

As the first Black woman in this position, her advice to other African American women is to embrace courage, be vigi-

lant, be kind, and give back.

“We must embrace everyone and pave the way for more of us to become the important pillars of American society and then globally. While building for tomorrow, we must honor our past. Know your truth, find your inspiration, your values. Never lose sight of your belief in yourself and your commitment to the community,” said Mitchell-Heard.

“Find your mentors, your list of ‘legendary women,’ seek them out and learn from them. And always remember to shoot for the moon and grab the stars while you’re up amongst them,” she added.

Mitchell Heard wanted to highlight the Intuit IDEAS Program, which provides support to 30 Black and minority-owned entrepreneurs across Los Angeles. It includes connecting

business owners to Intuit experts, professional coaches, and counselors to support business compliance, back-office bookkeeping, tax prep, and marketing.

The program aims to improve business efficiency, earnings, and capital readiness. Participants who successfully complete the 12-month program will receive a \$10,000 grant to continue business growth, explained Mitchell-Heard.

“I will continue to create avenues to economic and social empowerment for the communities we serve with the support of our partners, constituents, and stakeholders,” Mitchell-Heard said.

“Ultimately, my goal is to wake up every day, shoulder to shoulder with them, our partners, and the community, fueled by a passionate dedication and resolve to build a brighter tomorrow for the next generation.”

FOUNDATION DONATION (Continued from A-1)

benefit the organization’s South LA Community Resilience Center.

The South LA Community Resilience Center Project is one of 15 community projects that Representative Kamlager-Dove secured a total of \$12.4 million for through FY24 government funding legislation. The funding will be instrumental in the South LA Community Foundation’s efforts to expand their charitable contributions.

“Although our business is what started this work, the money is actually going to our foundation,” said Joe Ward-Wallace, who resides in South Central and was motivated by local community members that he could provide greater impact as a

non-profit. “It started with just my credit card, and it just turned into this.”

Joe Ward-Wallace retired as a firefighter yet devotes 80 to 100 hours per week in managing both his business and the philanthropic endeavor. He plans to continue enhancing the foundation’s infrastructure, which includes hiring more staff so he can reduce his workload and enjoy retirement.

The couple’s ultimate goal is to establish a new center to serve as a hub for economic and community development activities including resilience programming to help surrounding neighborhoods cope with climate-related environmental and societal

disasters.

The center will also function as a food distribution site and an educational programming hub offering workshops and panels on community preparedness, climate awareness, food nutrition, green technology, circular economy, sustainability, and economic empowerment.

State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, L.A. Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson and Tim Sweeney, executive director of WIN LA were also in attendance to praise the Ward-Wallaces, who opened the first South LA Café in November 2019, less than three months before the economic shutdown resulted from the

COVID-19 pandemic.

Their volunteerism resulted in the Ward-Wallaces providing free groceries and food delivery services to area residents with restricted access and limited mobility. To date, it is estimated the married couple has been able to feed more than 200,000 people with over 2.1 million pounds of food through weekly grocery bag giveaways.

“It is remarkable that we have a small business that is bringing other partners to the table and multiplying our power and resources. I am amazed at all the work they do. We’ve got to protect and support our small businesses in the State of California,” said

Smallwood-Cuevas before highlighting proposed bills and budget cuts that may affect access to quality food and healthcare.

“The largest chunk coming out of the budget cuts will be Health and Human Services if we don’t stand up and do something about it. Cutting CalWORKS, food subsidies, cutting [Housing Assistance Program] HAP, not just the homelessness and housing services, but all the wrap around services. \$1 billion is slated to be cut.”

She went on to stress the importance of the South LA Community Foundation. “We need the foundation and our service organizations. We also need our neighbors and residents to stand up and speak out

against these cuts, and we need you to do it now. This budget has to be balanced by June 15.”

The Mental Health Block Party offered attendees grocery giveaways, healthy cooking demonstrations, health screenings, resource providers, music, yoga and painting for art therapy.

“We’ve got big work to do in our community for making it okay to get help,” urged Harris-Dawson to block party goers for destigmatizing seeking mental health services.

“Our community has experienced much trauma and we need to recover from it, so we don’t pass it on to our children and grandchildren.”



Glow + Flow Beauty Celebrates Grand Opening with a Week of Events

BY LILA BROWN Contributing Writer

Glow + Flow Beauty Supply is officially open for business, launching its newest destination for beauty lovers and explorers.

Glow + Flow Beauty is a chain of beauty supply stores and hosted a series of daily experiences featuring industry giants from the world of cosmetics, wellness, hairstyling, entrepreneurial success and those aiming to reimagine the shopping experience for women.

Glow + Flow is the brainchild of luxury maven, TV host, fashionista and wedding designer Diann Valentine, 53, of Baldwin Hills who ventured into the beauty retail space with Glow + Flow Beauty's original location in Inglewood in 2019.

"When Black and Brown women shop for their beauty products, they should be able to shop in an environment that is warm, inviting, fun, and that makes them feel like they're coming home," Valentine told the L.A. Sentinel.

The overall in-store shopping experience immerses shoppers into VIP, queen treatment complete



Glow + Flow owners Damon Haley and his wife, Diann Valentine.

with a champagne bar and café dining.

"Online shopping is convenient if you know what you want, but so many of us don't necessarily always know what we want and there's always new trends and products. Online there is no counsel, expertise nor service," she noted.

Kim Baker, 55, Somerset, New Jersey is the founder of Glamazon Beauty Cosmetics and joined the grand opening providing a Master Class on makeup application for guests after two years of product development. The celebrity makeup artist recognizes the significance of being a supplier to a beauty supply chain owned by a Black, woman owned store.

"Representation is everything," she explained.

"I have products for everyone, but my sole focus was particularly on women of color, because many times people just didn't get our undertones and our shades right.

"I did this with 12 shades of foundation that I blend out to, that blends out to over 144 variants of skin tone. This line is very simplistic and easy to use," she added. Her products are also sold on television network HSN and digital retailer ShopHQ.

Glow + Flow's grand opening week also featured master classes by Beauty Founders and Celebrity Stylists, product demonstrations, collaborations with influencers and celebrities as well as support from businesses and organizations.

The weeklong extravaganza included the Glamazon Cosmetics Takeover on opening day by Kim Baker, founder of Glamazon Cosmetics. Baker offered a Master Class on makeup application with an exclu-

fitness fanatics in attendance enjoyed a juice bar and healthy snacks afterward.

There was also a day dedicated to all things hair with workshops on styling curls, braids, wigs, and extensions. Celebrity and

founders and celebrities enjoying a happy hour celebration.

BrainTrust Founders Studio joined the weekend festivities to focus on BIPOC beauty entrepreneurs offering insights on business growth, capital



Glow + Flow provides a wide range of products for women of color.



The entrance to Glow + Flow's newest location was festooned with colorful balloons.

sive 'Sip & Shop' event for makeup and beauty experts.

Fitness guru Claudine Cooper led a private workout session and panel discussion on maintaining beauty amid active lifestyles. Local

professional stylists shared their secrets to perfecting any look.

The official opening on May 24, welcomed city officials for a unique shopping experience with

acquisition, and product showcasing.

To learn more about Glow + Flow Beauty in Hawthorne, visit www.glowandflowbeauty.com.

June Brings New Beauty and Fragrance Essentials

BY MAGRIRA Contributing Writer

Fragrance: The MUGLER fragrance team has done it again with their newest perfume, Alien Hypersense Eau de Parfum.



Alien Hypersense Eau de Parfum

This elevated composition introduces the delicious scent of vibrant green mandarin and crisp, juicy pear. Keynotes include Green Mandarin, Pear Accord, Jasmine Sambac, and Cashmeran. Alien Hypersense Eau de Parfum is available at MUGLERUSA.com, Sephora, Sephora.com, Macy's, and Macys.com.

Ellis Brooklyn: Ellis Brooklyn Peaches Fragrance Body Mist evokes the aroma of peaches and is inspired by the 90's with a scent fragrance surrounded by orange flower, orris, and ambrette musk.

Brown Girl Jane: Brown Girl Jane is a fine fragrance brand created by three dynamic African American women, marrying the worlds of beauty and wellbeing through science-backed scent collections designed for mood and beauty. Learn more:

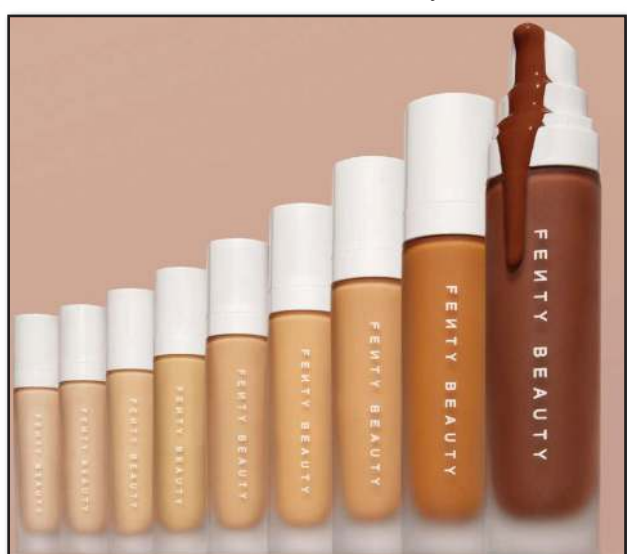


Brown Girl Jane Wanderlust Collection

https://browngirljane.com/collections/all-products

Skincare: Fenty Skin Cherry Dub Triple Action AHA Body Scrub is a body exfoliator that retexturizes and conditions skin for a renewed glow. This cherry-powered scrub exfoliates in three ways to promote smoother, more even-toned skin in just one week.

The formula combines physical exfoliants like sugar, bitter cherry, pumice, and lychee with chemical exfoliants like AHAs and fruit enzymes, plus Barbados cherry to brighten and shea butter to nourish. Designed for all skin types, including sensitive, this formula is clean,



Fenty Beauty's Soft'Lit Longwear Foundation

vegan, cruelty-free, and gluten-free.

Foundation: Fenty Beauty's just-launched Soft'Lit Naturally Luminous Longwear Foundation is available in 50 shades. This luminous foundation never looks greasy and promises to hydrate, brighten, and improve skin tone instantly and over time.

Bronzer: SAIE introduces Dew Bronze, a liquid bronzer that creates a soft-focus finish. A chunky doe-foot applicator allows for a fool-proof application to create subtle definition or an all-over bronze. Its lightweight, blendable formula melts into skin and gives a seamless flush of bronzed color that's never streaky, cakey, or orange. All powered by Saie Science. Learn more: https://saiehello.com/products/sun-melt?variant=39938695594160

Mascara: Brown is the new black, especially for brown eyes! GrandeMas-

cara's conditioning Peptide Mascara promises to condition lashes with each coat while providing extreme volume and length. It's infused with a lash-loving

blend of peptides, panthenols, and natural waxes. Ophthalmologist-tested, suitable for contacts and lash extensions.

Skin-Enhancing Tint-

ed Moisturizer: Ami Cole, an African American brand, offers a medium-coverage, vegan, gluten-free, and cruelty-free tinted moisturizer with a dewy finish.

Simon Burris: Africana Diaspora Black History Month II Crossword

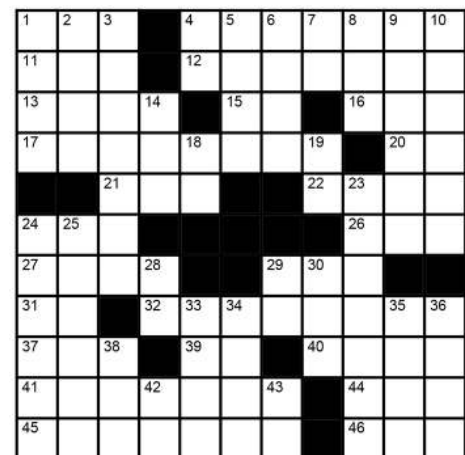
REMEMBER & HONOR: BLACK PATRIOTS www.simonburris700.com

Across

- 1. **Slave rebel leader Turner
4. **Christus ___ first martyr of the American Revolution (1770)
11. *Ic ___ be: Rapper/actor (2 wds.)
12. **Congresswoman/activist Chisholm
13. Comrade in arms
15. England/Scotland/Wales
16. "He rebuked the ___ Sea" (Ps. 106:9)
17. ** ___ Airmen (Black pilots) WW II
20. Te ___ essee
21. *40 Acres ___ a Mule"
22. Spanish American editor (initials)
24. Auto racer Fabi
26. Ant ___ & Cleopatra
27. Upper Manhattan, Kansas, briefly
29. Abbr. for Trademark wire
31. *Comedian Mac's monogram
32. **Buffalo ___: (Black cavalry troops)
37. "Give ___ break!"
39. ___, OR, CA, NV
40. ___ a (Hawaii greeting)
41. **MLK and John Lewis' home town
44. Local Scale item (abbr.)
45. North Troy, ID, so to speak
46. Sticky stuff

Down

- 1. "Cool!"
2. Censorship-fighting org.
3. **1921 Black Wall Street massacre locale
4. "Live ___ free people" (I Peter 2:16)
5. Criminal
6. Small child
7. *Tina T ___ ner famed singer
8. Shade or hue (abbr.)



- 9. *Ivory Wayans of films
10. Australia city
14. 'You Know Nothing' (slang)
18. Boy's nicknane
19. 'Be' in Cancun or Tijuana
23. **General Colin and Rev. Adam Clayton
24. **Underground Railroad leader Harriet
25. **Civil rights martyr Till (1955)
28. **Afro-Roman emperor Severus' monogram
29. *Pastor/author Jakes of TV
30. Per
33. "Do you ___ car or truck?"
34. Homebuilder's strip
35. **Civil rights icon ___ Parks
36. **Slave mutiny vessel, for one (1839)
38. **Muhammad ___ "The greatest!"
42. **Activist Davis' monogram
43. Among others, briefly

(ANSWERS ON D-2)



RELIGION

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2024

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C-2

Gospel Voices of O.C. Juneteenth Celebration Returns to Musco Center

By **SHELBY STEPHENS**
Contributing Writer

Producer and Arts & Learning Conservatory's founder/CEO, **Debra Wondercheck**, is a corporate leader with over 18 years of experience in program management, strategic programming, and workforce development.

This year Wondercheck, Musco Center Presents, and Chapman University's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion will bring back the country's premier showcase for storytelling of the Black experience with the 2024 Gospel Voices of O.C. concert to celebrate Juneteenth on Saturday, June 8.

This year's theme, "Sacred Sounds, Soulful Queens," will honor women who helped shape the nation's creative history. Gospel Voices of O.C., an artistic concert in conjunction with Juneteenth, will return for its third season as a multi-generational presentation by diverse artists highlighting the influence of gospel music as a source of historical impact and resiliency spanning from June 19, 1865, to the present.

With a focus on culturally inclusive art expressive training and education

in over 50 schools throughout Southern California, Wondercheck is a cellist, orchestra conductor, and a professor of music who founded the nationally awarded Arts & Learning Conservatory (ALC) 20 years ago. To commemorate the 20th anniversary on August 24, the ALC theater in Costa Mesa will host its



Debra Wondercheck

COURTESY PHOTO

grand opening. The non-profit provides youth with access to quality arts programs based on the values of accessibility, acceptance, confidence, and creativity. Gospel Voices of O.C. is the organization's largest and most rewarding production because of its strong message and impact.

Wondercheck has a proven track record in

fundraising, executive leadership, non-profit governance, and corporate social re-

sponsibility. Her extensive expertise in arts education, combined with her ability to build strong partnerships across the public and private sector, has delivered powerful results throughout her career.

Gospel Voices of O.C. is a staged event held annually in June. The performance was created and produced by Wondercheck

in 2022 as a response to the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. Church and gospel music have been a heavy influence in Black culture since slavery.

In combination with the voice of theatre, spoken word, acting, instrumental music, dance, Gospel Voices is intended to serve as a historical beacon spotlighting

the pivotal role of African Americans in the arts through the pursuit of justice, and societal transformation.

Under Wondercheck's guidance, the ALC has garnered numerous accolades, including Orange County's Outstanding Arts Organization of the Year award, and the National Youth Arts Award for Best Youth

Production in Southern California. These honors stand as testament to Wondercheck's unwavering dedication to excellence and her profound impact on the community.

Wondercheck works with Orange County school districts in providing over 600 annual scholarships to students in need while offering no-cost musical theatre, band, and string classes. ALC has expanded Gospel Voices to Los Angeles and Riverside County to bridge communities and engage people in seeing African Americans in a positive light. The organization supports 3,800 students annually by bringing arts to their schools where they have been removed.

Orange County has less than 3% of African American residents, ALC and Gospel Voices are combating that statistic with their Juneteenth Celebration with over 70% of African American participation and representation.

The national production highlights all artists and professionals within the country who have made an impact in the performing arts. Led by Artistic Director Lesa Terry and Musical Director/Conductor Duane Benjamin, the 2024 production will feature works by African Ameri-

can and diverse performers in choir, dance, band, theatre, spoken word, digital media, and theatre. Special guests include renown jazz guitarist and vocalist Felicia Collins (performs with Paul Schaffer and the CBS Orchestra on the Late Show with David Letterman) along with vocalists Angie Fischer, Meloney Collins, Deidrick Bonnor and Singers of Soul.

Wondercheck's vision for change and impact has manifested in beautifully crafted performances and programs for youth throughout the United States. As the youngest of seven, she has pioneered her mother's dream for her children to be allowed the right to play instruments and express themselves. Wondercheck believes the support of the community will keep art alive for the new generation.

Gospel Voices of O.C. will take place at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 8, and is appropriate for audiences of all ages. For tickets, visit muscocenter.org and to learn more about the Arts & Learning Conservatory, visit artsandlearning.org. One hour before the show on June 8, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., Jazz on the Green will host a free jazz concert for residents unable to attend Gospel of Voices, located in the same area as the theatre.



2023 Gospel Voices Choir

KAREN TAPIA



Gospel Voices 2022 Performance

DOUG GIFFORD

Love, Peace and Happiness Church Hosts Living Word Conference

STAFF REPORT

Bishop Leon Martin and the Love, Peace and Happiness Family Christian Fellowship Church will host their Annual Living Word Conference starting Wednesday, June 5, through Sunday, June 9. The services take place at the edifice located at 4951 South Figueroa Street in Los Angeles.

The theme is "Boldly



Bishop Leon Martin

FILE PHOTO

Proclaiming Christ in an Age of Distractions." The agenda includes intercessory prayer each day at 6 p.m., followed by the worship service at 7 p.m.

"The conference will be like none other, as it will not be a traditional conference. Rather, it will be an anointed and glorious time of fellowship as the spirit of God flows and rejuvenate the body of Christ," said Bishop Martin.

"An invitation is extended to everyone to be a part of this spirit-filled occasion that is guaranteed to revive your spirit. Each night, the living word of God will be poured forth!"

The conference speakers will be Pastor Carlos Martin of Love, Peace and Happiness in Rialto, CA; Pastor Carlinda Lowery of Prayer International Kingdom Ministries in Starkville, Mississippi; and

Pastor Max Viana of Ark of Salvation in Palmdale, CA.

Shepherd's Day will be celebrated on Sunday, June 9. At 8 a.m., Bishop Lonnie Hogan of Westwood Cathedral of Word & Worship in Toledo, Ohio will preach. At 11 a.m., Pastor Jerry Martin of Light of the World Christian Fellowship in Humble, Texas will bring the message. Also, special guest artists will perform during the confer-

ence along with the Love, Peace and Happiness Mass Choirs.

"We invite you to be our special guests and hear what the Lord has for you and the change that He is ready to make in your life. We look forward to seeing you and your families there," said the bishop.

For more information, call (800) 757-6552 or visit www.lphfamily.org.

CRENSHAW CHRISTIAN CENTER HOLDS WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - HUNDREDS ATTEND FAITH, FOOD AND FUN GATHERING

By **YUMIKO WHITAKER**
Contributing Writer

It's always a blessing for women to come together for a time of refreshment, and

Saturday, May 25 was no exception when over 200 ladies convened on the grounds of Crenshaw Christian Center for engaging exchanges, lively games, breakfast, spiritual edification and more.

More about upcoming events at faithdome.org.



COURTESY PHOTO



COURTESY PHOTO

Above, attendees engage in a thought-provoking activity. At right, Price family members Adrian Evans, Angela Evans, Dr. Betty Price, Cheryl Price, Angel Price, and Stephanie Buchanan.

Audubon Gifted Magnet Celebrates Diversity with Cultural Arts Showcase

By **RODD A. AMOS**,
Contributing Writer

Audubon Middle School and Gifted Magnet presented its talent showcase to South L.A. residents on May 18, at 4309 Leimert Blvd., in a cozy Leimert Park Village creative space along the Crenshaw Corridor.

es in Graphic Arts and Video Production.

“I’m proud of our students for taking an introspective look at themselves to express their feelings, ideas, and experiences through art,” beamed Audubon Principal Deanna Hardemion.

“We chose Leimert Park for our showcase because

“We’re a community school, so we thought it appropriate to connect our eclectic group of students with our community,” she said.

“A Love Letter to Los Angeles” produced an impressive display of painting, sculpting, and both gourd and multimedia art that either aired on video monitors, hung from wall mounts, were partitioned, or supported by end tables. Friends and family were treated to an array of snacks and light beverages while experiencing rhythmic music from computer monitors and the faint smoke of incense wafting through the air.

Audubon Link Learning art teacher Chad Davis shared the goal of CTE program courses.

“Our specific learning pathway is Design Visual Media arts, which leads our students right into local high schools to continue their learning,” said Davis.

“Audubon is in the heart of the African American community. It’s one of the last schools that highlight our inner-city kids for what they do. They aren’t from the valley or different places that are far out. They’re from this community and they’re ready to express that they live in and love L.A.,” he said.

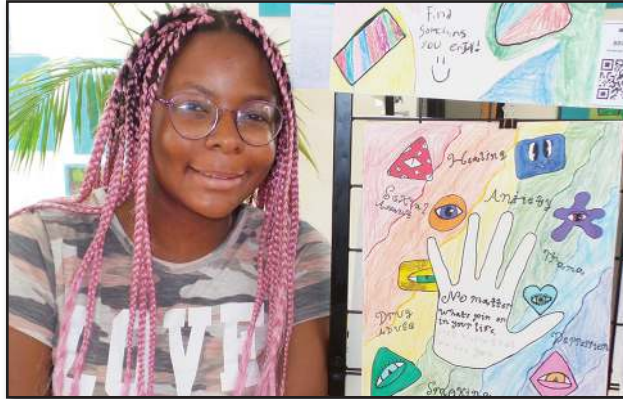
Audubon Cultural Arts Coordinator LaToya Alvarez credited the Los Angeles Unified School District for implementing the cultural arts program.

“It has opened a lot of doors for our students to engage in extracurricular activities, like field trips to [dance theater] Alvin Ailey, [soul musical] The Wiz, and Catalina Island. We’re elim-



Audubon staff and students pose for a photo.

RODD A. AMOS/LOS ANGELES SENTINEL



Student Elora Barley, 13, displays her artwork, “You Have Been Seen.”

RODD A. AMOS/LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

Themed “A Love Letter to Los Angeles,” the presentation served as a platform for Audubon scholars to display their achievements from Career and Technical Education class-

we’re trying to work more collaboratively with the community, where our collective spaces can be used for community events and help patronize the vendors and businesses.

inating the barriers that prevent our students from being exposed to our city by having a gifted program on our campus,” she said.

Audubon Magnet Coordinator Valerie Baccus-Doby mused on the inherent

what inspired her partitioned-mounted art piece, “You Have Been Seen.”

“It lets people who don’t feel seen or heard know that they are not alone on this journey. No matter what you’ve been through, we

she concluded.

The free event was sponsored by Audubon Middle School’s Cultural Arts Program and Community Schools and community partners like Pathways Los Angeles, Connected to Lead, Change the Tune, Harmony Project, Brotherhood Crusade, and G.U.M.P. Nation.

Leimert Park Village is recognized as one of the nation’s historic Black neighborhoods and has become the center of both historical and contemporary African-American art, music, and culture in South L.A. The community can be accessed by the Metro K line, Leimert Park Station.

For more information, visit www.AudubonMS.org.



Assemblymember Isaac Bryan flanked by Audubon CTE instructors Lorne Hollis and Chad Davis.

RODD A. AMOS/LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

qualities she looks for when recruiting students with special abilities.

“Ours is a gifted magnet. We’re trying to identify that our students are not only recognized in intellect, but in the arts. This is a wonderful way to display the work of, especially, students of color who are gifted, and that’s very important to me,” she added.

Audubon gifted magnet student and ASB Secretary Elora Barley explained

see and hear you. There are people who will help you, support you, and won’t give up on you. That’s my art,”



The official Audubon Middle School banner.

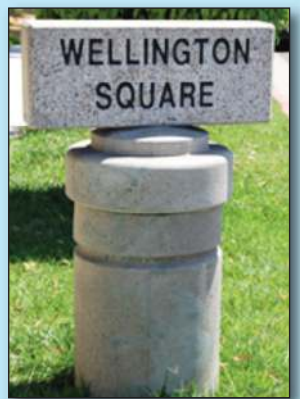
RODD A. AMOS/LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

Wellington Square Residents Plan Community Yard Sale

STAFF REPORT

Clothing, books, tools and more will be available at greatly reduced prices at the Wellington Square Yard Sale. The event takes place on Saturday, June 15, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wellington Square is bounded by Washington Boulevard on the north, 23rd Street on the south, Crenshaw Boulevard on the east and West Boulevard on the west. The public is invited to attend.





WIKIPEDIA

Wellington Square neighborhood is located in the Mid-City area of Los Angeles.

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Derrial Christon: Entertainment Journalist, TV Producer, and Celebrity Wealth Expert



BY KEITH L. UNDERWOOD
Contributing Writer

Derrial Christon is an entertainment journalist, television producer, and celebrity wealth expert.

He is the host and producer of the Los Angeles business guide TV series "Destination L.A.," a co-host of the Canadian entertainment news show "Entertainment Tonight Canada,"



COURTESY PHOTO

Derrial Christon (center)



COURTESY PHOTO

Derrial Christon (center)

and the executive producer of the first African American online broadcast entertainment news network "Black Hollywood Live."

Christon was one of the journalists who evaluated the 2023 Emmy-Award nominations for CBS News, and he was also a special contributor on the "Sherri Show" with its host Sherri Shepherd to discuss the 2024 Oscar Nominations.

Christon said he has an

upcoming project with ABC that he cannot discuss yet. But he did hint that it is a long-running and popular show for the network.

The proud Ohio native said his midwestern upbringing with a strong family, especially the women, taught him the fundamentals of following his goals and dreams.

"Ohio gave me a sense of family values and humbleness, and being able to conquer anything that the world brings to you," said Christon.

He believes those values are partially responsible for his later successes in larger cities like New York and Los Angeles.

One of the other factors Christon attributed to his would-be future accom-



COURTESY PHOTO

Derrial Christon

plishments was knowing he could use his accounting and marketing degree from Ohio State University towards his career in entertainment.

Christon said most journalists have an educational background in journalism or



COURTESY PHOTO

Derrial Christon

communications, but he decided not to go this traditional route.

"The funny thing is the marketing felt like it gave me a sense of the creative, because in marketing you have to be very, very, very creative," said Christon. "And accounting – at the end of the day – I can still do a [film or television] budget, and you need to know how to do a budget working in entertainment."

"So, I feel in all reality," he continued, "those two degrees – marketing and accounting – merged me into the man I am today... and [gave me] a variety of ways to expand my career."

Christon's professional career began as a college intern with Vibe magazine. He said the opportunity surrounded him with multimedia icons like Vibe editor Danyel Smith, music impresario and Vibe

founder Quincy Jones, and television personality Bevy Smith.

Christon described his experience at Vibe as almost unimaginable.

On an early Vibe Awards red carpet, he remembered Mariah Carey kindly encouraging him to fully invest in an entertainment journalism career.

"She was like, 'Baby, you've got what it takes -- follow your dreams,'" said Christon. "That stuck with me, and from that moment on I started to do things that really changed the direction of what my career was, and shortly after that I moved to L.A. to pursue my dreams."

Eventually, Christon would masterfully coin himself a "celebrity wealth expert," which would merge his educational background with his show business pursuits.

He described the title as a financial expert who examines how a celebrity diversifies their wealth into varying streams of income.

He cited singer, businesswoman and actress Rihanna; media personality, former NFL player and television host Michael Strahan; and socialite, actress, and businesswoman Kim Kardashian as persons who could be explored.

One of the most challenging things about Christon's transition from financial specialist to entertainment news authority was being pigeonholed into one space.

"When I first started telling people, 'Hey, I'm going to move to L.A., and I'm really going to pursue

"I'm going to do it, trust me. I'm going to figure it out," he replied. Christon said sometimes it's hard for people to see others outside of their conventional roles.

Nowadays, Christon said it is fulfilling for him to help others achieve their goals in entertainment reporting through media outlets like "Black Hollywood Live (BHL)," which he created.

BHL features inside entertainment news, reviews, and conversations with some of Hollywood's biggest stars and influencers. Christon labeled it as a school with many graduates who have gone on to have their own successful show business careers.

"I look at some of those



COURTESY PHOTO

Derrial Christon on the Sherri Show



COURTESY PHOTO

Derrial Christon (right)

getting in front of the camera,' they were like, 'How are you going to do that -- even some of my family,'" said Christon. "You're great and all, but you have this business degree. Why are you switching?"

students – and I'm going to call them students even though we were all in it together – those students have gone on to do amazing things, and that actually makes me really proud," said Christon.

Malachi McCaskill Stars in 'A Strange Loop' at Ahmanson Theatre

BY KEITH L. UNDERWOOD
Contributing Writer

Actor Malachi McCaskill stars as "Usher" in the critically acclaimed musical "A Strange Loop," which begins its run at the Ahmanson Theatre on June 5. The show is co-produced by the American Conservatory Theater.

McCaskill is originally from Jackson Springs, NC, and he is currently based in Greensboro, NC where he is attending the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

He is a rising senior at UNC in their musical theatre program. "I'm on the



ALESSANDRA MELLO

Malachi McCaskill in "A Strange Loop" at Center Theatre Group's Ahmanson Theatre June 5 through June 30, 2024.

fast track to becoming a professional actor," said McCaskill.

McCaskill said he is

drawn to projects with all-Black casts and not just in musical theater. He ultimately would like to explore similar opportunities in television and film.

"Just being around artists that look like me – it's a whole different level of magic being made," stated McCaskill.

"This show ["A Strange Loop"] I'm in right now is so unapologetically Black and it's awesome to be with people who understand you a little bit more."

McCaskill described "A Strange Loop" as a "very meta-musical." A meta-musical is theatrical commentary about stagecraft. "It's about a Disney usher whose name is "Usher," and he's writing a musical about an usher writing a musical," commented McCaskill.

He continued, "We go through this process of him writing the piece, but what we also see is the internal conflicts of his own thoughts and his own mind, as we go through this whole show."

Some of Usher's internal struggles include his complex relationship with his mother and father, and his struggle with trying to reach his unattainable goals. "So, we see what he does to attain

these desires that he wants, but it never really works out," said McCaskill.

McCaskill revealed what he really loves about

ago through his best friend. He listened to the soundtrack for the show, and he said by the time he finished listening to it he was in tears.

because I knew I just had to play Usher," said McCaskill.

After submitting his videos, McCaskill remembered getting a callback for



ALESSANDRA MELLO

From left are Jordan Barbour, Avionce Hoyles, Malachi McCaskill, John-Andrew Morrison, and J. Cameron Barnett in "A Strange Loop."

"A Strange Loop" is how specific the story is to Usher, who McCaskill termed as a "big, fat, Black, gay, queer man." He said even though Usher is very tailor-made he is still very relatable.

"We all have our own strange loop. We've all had problems with our family. We've all had problems with our own self-image," said McCaskill. "I think he connects with people on such a deeper level."

McCaskill discovered "A Strange Loop" two-years

"I knew from then on I was going to play Usher," exclaimed McCaskill! "This is truly my life, so I've always waited for something to come up on the internet – I [was] scrolling on Playbill to see if they [had] any open auditions for something regional."

Then one day McCaskill saw a nationwide casting call for Usher displayed in the posting office at UNC. "I was in the middle of a contract, but I still set aside time to submit [audition] videos,

the New York production of "A Strange Loop."

"Prior to the callback in New York, I sent my dance videos and they saw it. They loved it," said McCaskill. "I went up there and I sang and I acted my face off, and 'boom', now I'm here playing Usher."

For more information on "A Strange Loop" at the Ahmanson Theatre, visit <https://www.centertheatre-group.org/tickets/ahmanson-theatre/2023-24/a-strange-loop/>.



ALESSANDRA MELLO

From left are Jordan Barbour, J. Cameron Barnett, Malachi McCaskill, Tarra Conner Jones, and Jamari Johnson Williams.



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL
King/Drew senior Kameron Gates plays basketball and football.

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Editor

King/Drew senior Kameron Gates plays football and basketball for the Golden Eagles. Gates will

Student Athlete of the Week: Kameron Gates

be continuing his football career at Morehouse in the fall.

In football, Gates helped the team to a 4-8 overall record and a 3-2 Coliseum League record. He also helped the boy's basketball team win the CIF City Section Open Division Championship this year.

"I was second team All-City this year," Gates said about his efforts in football. "I played last year and this year, so I was the first receiver that went 1000 yards, so there's a lot of milestones I hit this year."

Gates is the only senior on the basketball team. He

used his leadership skills to keep the team focused. This helped the Golden Eagles build chemistry throughout the season.

"Sometimes it's hard to keep them focused and so that's challenged me to be a better leader and make sure they stay on task," Gates said. "It's definitely challenged me in a good way."

When the King/Drew football team started in the Fall of 2022, Gates had never played football. Improving in football helped him excel in basketball.

"I played a season of football, I got stronger. I was told to put on weight, get

faster ... I did that in the off-season, had an amazing season," Gates said. "Then I came back this year and all the benefits of football have elevated the basketball game."

At the end of the football season, Gates earned the honor of team MVP.

"The coaches let me know early that I would be heavily relied on," Gates said. "My stats are going up, coaches are reaching out to me and my confidence starts building, that was probably my proudest moment in terms of football."

Maintaining high grades in school while competing

in two sports can be rigorous but Gates is willing to take on the challenge.

"It's honestly a privilege being able to maintain a high GPA that the school says for us to play and win on the court or the field," Gates said.

Gates enjoys his AP computer science class; he plans on making that his major in college and ultimately get into a career in computer engineering.

Outside athletics and academics, Gates used to work in the radiology department at the King Community Hospital during his junior year.

"I knew what type of work they do with computers every day," Gates said. "I worked there from September to May about about seven hours a week during the school day."

He and his teammates would also visit local elementary schools to facilitate activities with them.

Gates noted that he will miss his classmates and competing all year-round.

"Playing year-round sports, I'm here 90 percent of the time," Gates said. "It's a small school in terms of size and everybody knows everybody and I'm not on bad terms with anybody."

NaVorro Bowman is transitioning from All-Pro linebacker to Chargers assistant coach

BY JOE REEDY
AP Sports Writer

NaVorro Bowman was able to see as a player how quickly Jim Harbaugh could turn a team into a Super Bowl contender.

Bowman has reunited with Harbaugh, albeit in a different capacity.

Harbaugh hired Bowman in February to be the Los Angeles Chargers' linebackers coach. It is Bowman's first coaching job in the NFL after spending last year at the University of Maryland as a defensive analyst.

"Being able to understand (Harbaugh's) message and get his nod, his approval on how I played, it's my job to get guys to play that way and do the things that he expects us to do — or the players to do, I should say," Bowman said.

Bowman — a four-time All-Pro selection — played in the league for seven seasons. He spent most of his career in San Francisco, where he was a third-round pick in 2010 before being released in October 2017. Bowman then signed with the Raiders and played 10 more games.

Harbaugh and Bowman

were together for four seasons (2011-14), with the 49ers reaching a Super Bowl and three NFC championship games. But Bowman tore the ACL and MCL in his left knee during the NFC title game at Seattle and missed the 2014 season.

Bowman grew up in Maryland, and his family relocated to McLean, Virginia, after he retired. Midway through the 2022 season, Bowman called Maryland coach Mike Locksley about getting into coaching.

Locksley had founded the National Coalition of Minority Football Coaches, so he told Bowman to come out for the final half of the season and serve as a volunteer assistant to get a feel for coaching and make sure it was what he wanted to do.

"I think he got the bug and liked the process of what being a coach is about," Locksley said. "His experience of being an NFL great helped around the building."

As an analyst at Maryland, Bowman didn't do any on-field coaching. He broke down film, worked with position coaches and was a sounding board for players in meeting rooms to help them understand the

defense.

"As a player, I was trying to dissect the coach's brain and just wanting to know everything. Usually, the coach doesn't give it to you that way. They give it to you for a player," Bowman said. "I think it benefits the players just having me here and being able to give it to them both ways, just being able to say: 'OK, you don't understand it this way. Let me break it down to you how you and your teammate would talk about it.'"

Bowman had kept in touch with Harbaugh throughout the years and let Harbaugh know that if his former coach ever returned to the NFL, joining his staff would interest Bowman.

So when the Chargers hired Harbaugh away from the University of Michigan, it was there for the taking.

Linebacker Denzel Perryman, who is back with the Chargers after three seasons with the Raiders and Texans, said he watched Bowman growing up and tried to model parts of his game after his new coach. Perryman said Bowman reminds him of Antonio Pierce, who was the Raiders' linebackers coach before becoming their head coach.



AP PHOTO/RYAN SUN
Los Angeles Chargers linebackers coach NaVorro Bowman speaks during a news conference after an NFL football organized team activity Monday, May 20, 2024, in Costa Mesa, Calif.

"They understand the game, and it makes it a lot easier for us to play," Perryman said.

Bowman said his biggest learning curve involves the terminology of defensive coordinator Jesse Minter's system.

He likes Minter's scheme because it gives the linebackers more latitude to make plays.

"We do different things that we didn't do when I was playing. It's more fun, right?" Bowman said. "That just shows the evolution of the game. Jesse is a great

defensive coordinator. His scheme is second to none. I think once we get all 11 guys understanding the things that they can do — because, like I said, I haven't been in a system where you're able to do these type of things."

The biggest things Bowman has been stressing in the linebacker room are fundamentals and communication. Los Angeles has one of the better outside tandems in the league in rush linebackers Joey Bosa and Khalil Mack, but there are questions about the rest

of the unit.

The Chargers added Perryman at inside linebacker to gain experience, though there is still plenty of youth in third-round pick Junior Colson and second-year player Daiyan Henley, who mostly played special teams last year.

"We stress to the guys a lot that you're not going to make the team now being in shirts and shorts, so let's not go out there and try to be the scout team hero or practice tempo setter. Let's get all of the looks," Bowman said. "This moment is all about technique, what you know and how much you can take from the classroom onto the field."

With Pierce, Jerod Mayo and DeMeco Ryans working their way from former players to assistants to head coaches, Locksley thinks Bowman has the same potential.

"I think he has a bright future because of his pedigree, knowledge and experience," Locksley said. "There's no doubt in my mind that he'll be one of those guys that once he gets the experience and continues to grow, he may end up being one of those guys to get a chance to lead a team."

Yes, Australia is among the countries the NFL is scouting to host future games

BY TERESA M. WALKER
AP Pro Football Writer

Australia is among the

countries the NFL is scouting as potential hosts for regular-season games for the 2025 season and

beyond.

Peter O'Reilly, the NFL's head of international affairs, said Tuesday at the league's spring meetings that Australia is among the markets being discussed. The league recently announced an NFL Academy will open in September on the Gold Coast in Australia.

"Australia is among a set, and it's not a small set of markets, that we're looking at," O'Reilly said.

O'Reilly noted Australia has a strong NFL fan base, media partners and that both the Philadelphia

Eagles and Los Angeles Rams have global market rights there.

He updated NFL owners on the countries league officials are looking at as potential hosts. The NFL announced in February before the Super Bowl that the 2025 season's international slate of games will feature a game at Real Madrid's iconic Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

The NFL has been expanding its international presence in recent years with owners voting in December to authorize the league to host eight games



AP/GARY MCCULLOUGH
Buffalo Bills offense sets to snap the ball in action during an NFL football game against the Jacksonville Jaguars, Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023, in London.

internationally each season. The league announced last week the four international games in London and Germany along with all of the 2024 schedule.

Philadelphia opens the season by hosting the Green Bay Packers in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Sept. 6.

Dublin, Ireland, also is among the markets being considered for future NFL games. League officials will be visiting markets this summer as part of the process assessing fan support, sta-

diums and locations for teams to use leading up to a game.

O'Reilly said those details are only part of what the league considers in picking a host city.

"When you start to talk about Asia, Pacific and Australia, you talk about distance and logistics and the football component of that," O'Reilly said. "So those factors are real. But our role is to really look at the globe, look at where the fan base is strong and do the diligence, make the evaluations."

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