



Nichelle Henderson wins LACCD Seat 5



LOS ANGELES SENTINEL



Jawane Hilton re-elected to Carson Council District 1

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BIDEN HARRIS WIN HANGS ON BLACK VOTE

Major Urban Centers Like Atlanta, Philadelphia, and Las Vegas appear to be the key to Democratic win

BY KIMBERLEE BUCK HAYES
Contributing Writer

The 2020 presidential election is a historic fight for the nation's soul as current president, Donald J. Trump, and his opponent, Joseph R. Biden Jr., battle for the White House.

For the first time in over a century, Americans witnessed a record-breaking voter turnout of 101.2 million early votes, resulting in the highest turnout of eligible voters in a presidential election.

The race to the White House isn't over yet.

As of press time, Biden leads the election with 220 electoral votes, and Trump trails closely behind with 213 votes. Only 270 electoral votes are needed to win the election; however, at this point, polls can work in favor of either candidate.

This year marks the most massive mail-in ballots. Unfortunately, this has resulted in a few hiccups. Biden encouraged Americans to vote early



Biden and Harris fight for the soul of the nation during the 2020 presidential election. PHOTO COURTESY OF TWITTER

due to the pandemic, and those ballots are expected to give him and vice-presidential candidate, Kamala Harris, the push they need to win the race.

Ultimately, the election will come down to four battleground states, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

According to election officials, there are more

than 1 million mail-in ballots that have not been counted.

What's the hold-up?

Several states had technology issues. In Wisconsin, there were 13,500 misprinted absentee ballots. In South Carolina, a printing error delayed 14,600 absentee mail-in ballots in Dorchester County. In Florida, an internet out-

age occurred, delaying the counting of ballots.

In some states, election officials have called it a night and plan to resume counting ballots in the morning. In Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, election officials could not process the absentee ballots until Election Day (November 3).

{See BATTLE A-18}

Senator Holly J. Mitchell Projected to Win Seat For 2nd District

Mitchell maintained a steady lead early on during election night.



Senator Holly J. Mitchell FILE PHOTO

BY BRIAN W. CARTER
Contributing Writer

As of press time, Senator Holly J. Mitchell was the projected winner for the 2nd District Supervisor seat with 61% of the vote to Wesson's 38.9%. Mitchell took the lead early on in the evening and kept a wide margin past midnight. She stands poised to take the

seat for District 2 Supervisor replacing termed-out, Mark Ridley-Thomas. It's been noted that Mitchell's victory will see the county board run by five women for the first time.

At an Election Night Zoom call Wesson stated, "It's early, even though we have a mountain to climb." He continued, "I

{See MITCHELL A-18}

Mark Ridley-Thomas Projected to Take 10th District Seat

"They rejected the untested; they embraced the battle-tested"



Mark Ridley-Thomas, his campaign staff, family and supporters take a quick photo, safely, with masks after his victory on Election Day. COURTESY

BY E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS
Staff Writer

By press time, Tuesday, November 3, on the evening of Election Day, in the Los Angeles City Council District 10 race, attorney, Grace Yoo was behind Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas by a big enough gap of 61.61%

of the vote, that it was widely expected that Ridley-Thomas would take the seat. Council President Nury Martinez sent virtual congratulations.

"At such a critical time, Councilmember-Elect (Ridley-Thomas) brings experience and results in his return to the Los Ange-

les City Council," Martinez said via Twitter.

The 10th District includes South L.A. communities such as West Adams, Leimert Park, Koreatown, Mid City, Arlington Heights,

{See DISTRICT 10 A-10}

Congresswoman Waters wins reelection to U.S. House in California's 43rd Congressional District

Aims to Ensure that the Community Feels Confident in their Decision

BY BETTI HALSELL
Contributing writer

Known to many as "one of the most powerful women in American politics today," Congresswoman Maxine waters continues to look for ways to represent the men, women, and children of underrepresented communities on a national level in the 2020 elections.

U.S. Representative Joe Collins has challenged Waters for the 43rd congressional seat in the 2020 public election. With much at stake, voters have made their choice, with 75% of the votes recorded, Waters is in the lead with 72.5% of the votes in her favor, Waters will ensure that the nation feels confident



Congresswoman Maxine Waters FILE PHOTO

in their decision.

Congresswoman Waters knows what it means to serve the public, much of her energy can be seen in her 15th term in 2018 as well as her policy making for the last 30 years. She has seen major developments in all

parts of the 43rd district that is under her jurisdiction; including Westchester, Playa Del Rey, and the Watts, unincorporated areas include Lennox, West Athens, West Car-

{See WATERS A-18}

Mayor Aja Brown Launches "Compton Pledge" Guaranteed Income Initiative



Compton Mayor Aja Brown COURTESY

Residents to Receive Recurring, Direct Cash Payments

Compton Mayor Aja Brown announced The Compton Pledge, a landmark guaranteed income

initiative that will distribute recurring, direct cash relief to approximately 800 low-income residents for two years, starting in late 2020. Among city-led guaranteed income

{See BROWN A-8}

In Most Cases Local Voters Affirm Candidates Are Serving The People



Assemblymember Mike Gipson COURTESY



Assemblymember Autumn Burke COURTESY



Assemblymember Reggie Jones-Sawyer

BY DANNY J. BAKWELL, JR.
Executive Editor

As residence of Los Angeles and the rest of the country focus on the outcome of the Presiden-

tial race, a number of key races were also happening throughout Los Angeles and the surrounding communities. No matter what happens in Washington, D.C., these local races will have as much, if not more,

of an impact on the everyday lives of our community no matter who ends up residing at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. HERE IS A RECAP OF KEY LOCAL

{See VOTERS A-10}

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Black Employees Say Racism is Rife at Cal Air Resources Board

BY ANTONIO RAY HARVEY
California Black Media

Mary Nichols, an influential California attorney known and respected in environmental policy circles across the United States, is finding herself at the center of racial storm brewing at home.

Black employees say racism is widespread at the California Air Resources Board (CARB), the organization Nichols chairs.

In September, African American employees hit CARB with a 13-page letter alleging that they have been experiencing racism – widespread, routine and systemic, they point out – at the air-pollution and climate agency.

The “Concerned Black Employees at CARB (CBE CARB),” the Black group that submitted the letter, says its members have been the target of cynical comments at the organization and that they have been excluded from promotions, and have had to face other atrocities because of the color of their skin.

The letter details discriminatory hiring practices, incidents of intimidation, low representation of Black employees, and a general lack of support. CARB, the letter alleges, has a total of 1,627 employees and only 73 of them are Black. Only one African American has held an executive position with the organization.

“You will find a compilation of Black stories



Black employees protest what they say is routine, systemic racism at the California Air Resources Board.

about our experiences at CARB along with messages we received from those experiences,” CBE CARB stated in the introduction of the document. “Although these stories are first person accounts of experiences, we believe that most of them apply (or have applied) to all Black employees at some point and time at CARB.”

The state of California charges CARB with protecting the public from the harmful effects of air pollution and developing programs and actions to fight climate change. Founded in 1967, the Sacramento-based organization also sets air quality standards, oversee automakers’ emis-

sions compliance, conducts research on air pollution, measures reductions of air pollutants and promotes public health, among other functions.

In July, Assembly member Jim Cooper (D-Sacramento), who is African American, called out Nichols online after she posted a message that drew parallels between the lack of clean air the death of George Floyd.

“How dare you use a dying man’s plea for help as a way to discuss your agenda. Have you no shame?” Cooper reacted to Nichols’ tweet.

Floyd died when a Minneapolis police officer pinned his knee on the

unarmed Black man’s neck for nearly nine minutes in late May. The shocking incident caught on video a bystander caught was shared millions of time, sparking anti-Black racism protests across the globe.

On June 1, Nichols posted, “‘I can’t breathe’ speaks to police violence, but it also applies to the struggle for clean air. Environmental racism is just one form of racism. It’s all toxic. Government needs to clean it up in word and deed.”

Nichols later issued an apology via Twitter, stating “I apologize for speaking at the wrong time about the wrong topic. Racism comes in many forms and I believe

we must fight every instance of it in our society.”

Nichols has served on the CARB Board under Gov. Jerry Brown (1975–82 and 2010–18), Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (2007–2010), and Gov. Gavin Newsom (2019–present).

She also served as California’s Secretary for Natural Resources (1999–2003), appointed by Gov. Gray Davis. Her term under Newsom ends Dec. 31. There is speculation in Sacramento political circles that Nichols, 75, could be in line for a job as the head of the Environmental Protection Agency should Joe Biden win the presidency.

Published reports say CARB’s Executive Director Richard Corey forwarded CBE CARB’s letter to the air CARB’s staff about a week after he obtained it. The 13-page document is dated Sept. 4.

CARB’s board, which the governor appoints and the Senate confirms, consists of 14 voting members with two lawmakers in non-voting roles. The board does not have any Asian American or African American members.

“There is no doubt the letter eloquently describes a history of poor treatment, lost potential, and deep-seated pain,” Corey wrote in a memo to his staff, according to Politico. “But, when I consider the courage it took to write and submit the letter, I have a sense of optimism as I know that change begins with the ability to openly acknowledge and discuss issues.”

CBE CARB also stated that its only intent is to “shine a light on areas where CARB can improve” and asked the air pollution and climate agency to move forward and be “part of the solution.”

“Our intent in sharing this Letter and Action Plan is not to shame or belittle CARB, or to assign blame. We enjoy the work we do at CARB and want to do all we can to improve CARB for the future, and our future careers with the agency,” CBE CARB stated in conclusion of the letter.



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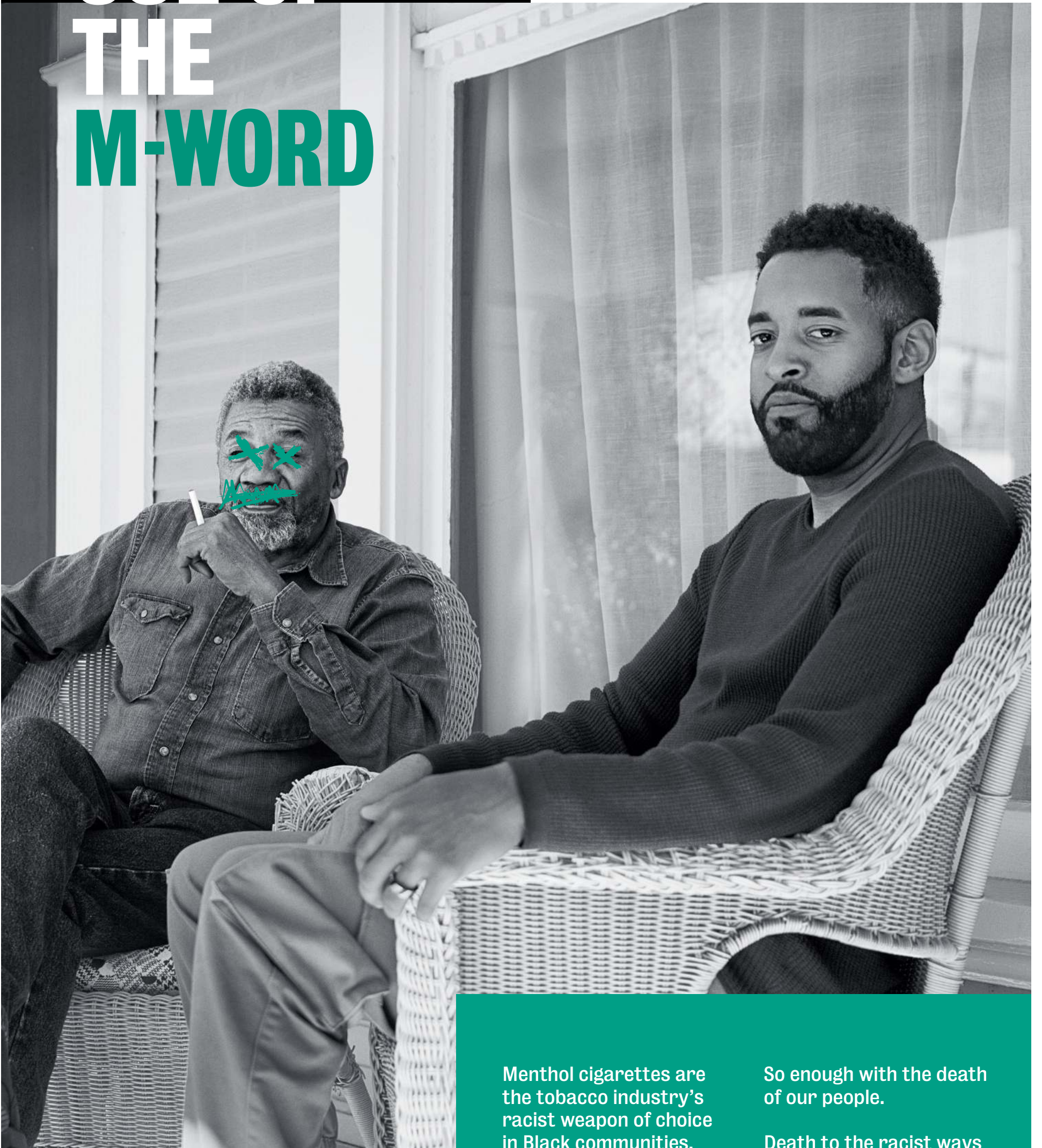
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Natacha Buchanan Applauds ONG Industry's Outreach to Minorities

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Natacha Buchanan personifies all that the oil and natural gas industry projects for the future of its well-paying workforce.

She's a woman who identifies as half-Black and half-Hispanic – a paradigm shift for an industry that previously hadn't demonstrated such diversity.

Buchanan, the director of Inclusion & Diversity at Phillips 66, manages and executes the global enterprise inclusion and diversity strategy and supports its strategy implementation.

She noted that the lack of diversity wasn't necessarily because the industry practiced any discrimination.

"It wasn't something I was interested in as an industry," Buchanan recalled. "I came into the industry by happenstance. I was recruited out of college at a career fair and by an incredibly approachable recruiter."

Perhaps like many others when it comes to the oil and natural gas industry, Buchanan only knew about gas stations and that oil was found in the ground.

"I didn't want anything to do with working at a gas station. I went to college," Buchanan exclaimed.

"But I was ill-informed and got the opportunity to interview and learn about the organization and the industry."

Originally from Junction City, Kansas, in 2002,



Natacha Buchanan, the director of Inclusion & Diversity at Phillips 66

Buchanan earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Kansas State University, where she's currently serving as a member of the Finance Advisory Board and College of Business Diversity Advisory Council.

Buchanan began her career more than 18 years ago as an intern at Phillips 66, where she said she realized how much oil and gas plays a part in everyday life. Rising through the

ranks, Buchanan's love of the industry has only increased.

"I think that I have such a passion for this industry, but I don't think we as an industry has done a great job in telling our story," she remarked. "What we do in protecting the environment ... we get a bad rap."

Buchanan acknowledges that, as currently constituted, the oil and natural gas industry must do a better

job in diversity and inclusion.

"It pains me that our industry doesn't better reflect our nation from gender and ethnic standpoint," she determined.

However, industry projections show greater participation lies ahead.

An analysis from the American Petroleum Institute (API) revealed a mostly positive outlook for African Americans and Hispanics in

the oil and natural gas industry. The 2019 study noted that, with the right policies, African Americans and Hispanics could hold 166,000 of the new oil and natural gas jobs created by this year. That represents 31 percent of the projected 525,000 new job opportunities.

Further, API's analysis noted that by 2030, the number could jump to more than 285,000, or 35 percent of the projected 811,000 new job opportunities.

More than 50 percent of all jobs created would be high-paying skilled and semi-skilled blue-color jobs with a significant range of opportunities at the scientific/managerial level – including petroleum engineers.

"I'm excited that we are going to be very deliberate and say, for whatever reason, we haven't been successful in attracting a specific demographic," Buchanan said.

"The talent is there, and our industry acknowledges that there is talent that we are not getting and we need. We need the best talent, and that the best talent looks like all sorts of different things. Our goal is to get the best talent, look internally, and realize that we are so under-represented that we are not leveraging that robust talent out there."

"So, I'm really excited about the opportunity to bring in demographics that maybe have not [previously] considered our industry."

Buchanan makes it clear that being a woman and an ethnic minority hasn't hindered her career.

"When I joined, there wasn't a lot of physical, racial, and ethnic diversity," she recalled. "We still have a long way to go, but I'm proud of the industry. I have really enjoyed the people I've worked with, and I don't feel like my gender or my race has hindered my career."

Buchanan encourages all – particularly those who might aspire to a career in the industry – to brush up on their knowledge of oil and natural gas.

"There's a lot of organizations like API where you can go and get their newsletter and read up on or sign up for them," Buchanan stated.

"The cultures might be different in the various companies in the industry, but all are part of an industry that continues to evolve, so connect with someone who works in the industry and learn about it."

In addition to newsletters, there exists the Community Energy Center (<http://www.communityenergycenter.org>), which is a project of the NNPA (National Newspaper Publishers Association), a non-partisan trade association of the more than 230 African American-owned newspapers and media companies from across the United States, and the National Association of Hispanic Publications Media LLC, (NAHP Media LLC), a Hispanic Publishing media advocacy organization representing over 170 leading Spanish language publications in communities all over the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

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A Blueprint California's Black Students Need: Educators Conference to Focus on Equity

BY ANTONIO RAY HARVEY
California Black Media

The California Association of Black School Educators (CABSE) will hold its fourth annual conference in

learning and cutting-edge educational interventions that lead to academic success, particularly for Black students.

“Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, this

view of the challenges faced by Black and Brown students.”

“I look forward to the thoughtful, productive and collaborative solutions that will undoubtedly be advanced during this convening,” Ali continued.

Confirmed speakers include Tony Thurmond, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Dr. Shaun Harper, founder and executive director of the University of Southern California's Center for the Study of Race and Equity in Education.

Dr. Thomas Parham, president, California State University Dominguez Hills, is also scheduled to speak during the virtual meeting.

Compton Unified School District (USD), Riverside County Office of Education (COE), San Diego USD, Ed Trust West, Corona Norco USD and Fresno COE, among others, will all participate in scheduled workshops.

Each workshop will address a “Blueprint” theme: Applying a Holistic Cradle-to-Career Lens to Education; Embracing Technology as the Great Equity Equalizer; and Challenging Inherent Bias and Promoting Positive Campus Climates.

“Our Blueprint for Educational Equity is envisioned as a living document that crowdsources the best and brightest ideas in the educational space,” said CASBE President Gary Hardie, Jr. “We look forward to seeing how these issues will be elevated and the kind of solutions that will be proposed.”

Even with a thoughtful blueprint to help Black students succeed, CASBE faces an uphill climb.

The organization is holding its annual conference at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has dealt a blow to public school education in California and across the country. Public education policy experts warn that distance learning will likely increase the disturbing achievement gap that already exists between Black students and that of their peers of other ethnic groups.

In California, nearly 68 percent of all African American perform below their grade level in English and language arts. In math, about 80 percent of Black students do not meet the state's proficiency mark.

CASBE is a nonpartisan organization consisting of elected and appointed school officials, administrators, and instructors from across California who are committed to advancing equity for Black students. CABSE members represent governmental agencies, charter schools, and charter school organizations, traditional public schools, and community colleges.

The organization says its mission is to expand the PK-14 educational opportunities available to all students in California, with an emphasis on underrepresented and under-served Black students.

Find more information about the conference and register online at www.cabse.org.



Gary Hardie, Jr.

FILE PHOTO



Micah Ali

FILE PHOTO



Shaun Harper

FILE PHOTO



Thomas Parham

FILE PHOTO



Tony Thurmond

FILE PHOTO

a virtual setting this year.

Scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 12 and Friday, Nov. 13, the statewide conference will be centered on the theme “Blueprint for Educational Equity.”

Organizers say attendees can look forward to workshops that highlight the newest innovations in

year's conference will continue to build on CABSE's strong legacy of shining the spotlight to expose inequities faced by students of color in this country,” said Micah Ali, the Conference's chairperson. “I am confident that our speakers and workshop programming will offer an illuminat-

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Taking Tuesday in Stride: Waking Up Wednesday Still in Struggle

As we wait for the final results of the 2020 election, I refer us to the article I wrote in 2016 under similar circumstances. And the point remains, whatever happens, the struggle will and must continue. No matter how things go down Tuesday night, we must wake up Wednesday morning still in struggle and reaffirm without unrealistic hope or paralyzing horror, that there is still much to do and it is up to us to do it. For indeed, as we always said, the time is now, there is no other; struggle is the way forward, there is no alternative; and we are the ones, there's no avoiding it.

Even after the elections, after all the Wednesday morning confessions of things not done, seen, felt or finished, and after all the corrections and correctives for lies told and damages done, and no matter who wins or loses, there will still be a compelling and continuing need to struggle. For an election in itself is not, for us and the masses of disempowered people of the country and the world, a freeway, highway, back road or path to power. The power of the office goes to the elite endorsed, elected and put in power by the masses who aren't always aware of their own power and their right and responsibility to hold their self-defined representatives accountable.

Elections always leave so much still to be done, issues to be addressed, betrayals to be thwarted and agendas promised to be pursued with vigilance and tenacity. Therefore, if we assess what is really at stake, we know the election is just one battleground among many, because as Paul Robeson reminds us, "the battlefield is everywhere" and Malcolm X reaffirms that wherever Black people are, it is a battleground and "whether we are in the north or south, east or west, you and I are

living in a country that is a battleline for all of us".

We still must secure food for the hungry, housing for the homeless, affordable healthcare for all, economic security, security of person, an end of police violence and massive incarceration, and as always we must secure freedom for the oppressed, justice for the wronged and injured, power of the people over their destiny and daily lives, and a just and lasting peace for the world. So let's be honest about ourselves and our situation, and not get caught up with those who might celebrate and those who might mourn, but see ourselves as we are since we have been here—a moral and social vanguard whose struggle has not only expanded the realm of freedom in this country, but also reordered how people think about freedom and justice.

We've been through it all with Obama and know that even if Hillary (or Biden now) wins, the strength of any election is the effective and continuous participation of the people in struggle to hold elected officials accountable; to demonstrate continuously active concern for the quality, direction and future of their lives, as well as and always, consideration for the well-being of the world. Everyone knows that Black participation is and will continue to be critical to a Democratic victory, that is to say, to Hillary Clinton's victory. Indeed, the whole world is hoping we'll step in and once again stem the tide. But if she wins, the media and the pundits will not give us credit, just like they would not give us credit for being decisive and indispensable to the election of Obama. And if she loses, they are revving up to claim it was all our fault, but we know who we

are and what we've done and do, and we do not need the nightly news or talk show panelists to inform us of our history, current conditions or future possibility. And we certainly know the difference between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump.

Such talk about voting and voting turnout does not deal adequately or at all with the various efforts and actions of those who have used various efforts and actions to suppress our vote. They have tried every angle, trick and scheme to deny us our democratic right to choose, to speak, and to vote. They have reduced the number of polling booths; filed legal challenges to disqualify voters; required and rejected IDs; engaged in racial redistricting; employed police and vigilantes to intimidate Blacks and other peoples of color at the polls, but still, even in early voting, Blacks and others have defied them and dared to vote. Whether this and all the other progressives voting can win the election is another question. But in any case, we have to struggle; indeed, refusal to act is not an option in such a critical situation. For again, our vote is not for a candidate, but for our people, for our history of struggle and a different and more dignity-affirming and life-enhancing world.

When all this is over, we must get back to the hard and difficult questions that must



FILE PHOTO
DR. MAULANA KARENGA

be raised and answered, not only about elections, but about this country and the people in it, and what kind of lives we want to live and how much will we sacrifice and struggle to achieve these goals. But let's try to be honest and truthful. Let's not talk superficially or insincerely about morality in politics or things like integrity, courage of convictions, and all the other virtues by which we measure and admire men and women, if we do not mean it. History will certainly remember with deservedly harsh judgment those who were silent in the face of a long train of events by which Trump and his Trumpites and Trumpeeters, open and undercover, brought us to this place, teetering at the abyss.

Let's be honest about who Trump is. He is the monster side of America and every monster is one that a society creates from within itself, whether it imagines it or gives birth

to it. It creates it by how it acts and treats, not only its own vulnerable people, but also the peoples of the world. America, especially White America, must ask itself, whether Trump wins or not, how could he have come so far without a substantial amount of Americans feeling what he feels, supporting what he feels and promises to do. How could we have come so far if they had not decided to support him regardless his racism, sexism, mockery of the disabled, his hate mongering against Muslims, immigrants and refugees, his interlaced and endless lies, his promise to build an apartheid wall, to torture suspected "terrorists" and kill their whole family, imprison his opponent(s) and to make war without restraint. If Trump is elected, those who supported him deserve what he will bring and it will not be the fantasies he has fed them.

So, regardless of the outcome of this election, we must reassert our historical initiative and reaffirm our self-conception as a social and moral vanguard whose ethical mission and rebuilt Movement is world-encompassing and ongoing. It is a millennia-old mission which reaches back before presidential elections and this country and will continue and gain even greater urgency and importance in the difficult and demanding years and struggles to come.

It is found in the ancient sacred texts of our ancestors which call on us to seek and speak truth, do and demand justice and constantly repair, renew and reconstruct the world, making it more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it. And there is no special day, decade, season or situation in which to do this.

Indeed, this task is reaffirmed in more recent times by Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune's reminder that "we must remake the world" and Dr. Anna Julia Cooper's "stand on the solidarity of humanity, the oneness of life and the unnaturalness...of all forms of favoritism" and oppression. And it calls to mind Min. Malcolm X's teaching that there is no substitute for historical grounding, cultural revolution, a deeply reflective "journey to our rediscovery of ourselves" and a sustained liberating self-practice and social movement that radically transforms us, society and the world. So, let us set aside all illusions, keep the faith, hold the line and increase and continuously advance the struggle.

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.AfricanAmericanCulturalCenter-LA.org; www.OfficialKwanzaaWebsite.org; www.MaulanaKarenga.org.

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The Power of Plea Bargaining: Prosecutorial Discretion Can Be Good in The Right Hands

A common misconception of the criminal justice system is that it is as simple as guilty people admitting their guilt and innocent people going free.

The truth in our courtrooms is rarely so clear. Instead, there are layers of issues beyond guilt, including systemic injustice, rushed proceedings, undue pressure, and broad prosecutorial discretion on what charges are filed and the length of sentence that will result.

Plea bargaining -- an imperfect and often coercive process -- usually dictates criminal justice system outcomes, and it can be a tool to either fuel over-criminalization or to obtain restorative and just outcomes, depending on how it is wielded. In the United



RACHEL ROSSI

States, more than 90 % of criminal cases end in guilty pleas. Our criminal justice system rarely produces the exciting jury trial scenes from our favorite movies and TV shows; it instead produces the rote theater of back-to-back guilty pleas.

The plea bargaining process that yields the great

majority of these guilty pleas is riddled with risks of coercion. This is especially the case when an accused person is behind bars. When a person is locked up pretrial, they risk losing their job, losing their home, and even losing custody of their children. Under these circumstances, there is a strong incentive to plead guilty if it comes with a promise to go home soon. It is not surprising, then, that studies have shown pretrial detention increases a person's likelihood of pleading guilty by 46 %.

In Los Angeles, on any given day, approximately 44 % of people in County Jail -- around 7,500 people -- are locked up pre-trial and deciding whether to plead guilty.

The plea bargaining pro-

cess is also a byproduct of over-burdensome caseloads combined with the time and stress of jury trials. When there are hundreds of cases to get through in a day in court, the prosecutor, judge, and sometimes even the defense attorney, are all incentivized to resolve cases. There is precious little time to determine what result will adequately ensure public safety, respect the interests and wishes of victims, and be consistent with the facts. Every actor in the criminal justice system is faced with incredible pressure to keep the cases moving and get them resolved. Indeed, it is a truism in the criminal justice world that if every defendant exercised his or her right to trial,

{See ROSSI A-14}

THE LOS ANGELES SENTINEL



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HOW TO REACH US
Main Number (323) 299-3800

(ISSN 089-4340) is published weekly on Thursdays for \$60.00 per year, \$40.00 for six months. Foreign countries \$120.00 per year, \$60.00 for six months by Los Angeles Sentinel, Inc. 3800 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90008. Periodicals Postage Paid at Los Angeles, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Los Angeles Sentinel, 3800 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90008. The Los Angeles Sentinel is not responsible for any unsolicited manuscripts, photographs or related materials.

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Entered as Second Class Matter March 2, 1947 at the Post Office of Los Angeles, California Under the Act of MARCH 24, 1879 Established 1933.

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2020

Judge: People in Prison Can Receive \$1,200 Stimulus Payments

BY QUINCI LE GARDYDE
California Black Media

The first round of economic impact payments funded by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, or the CARES Act, has been opened to a new group of Americans.

Incarcerated individuals can now apply to receive their stimulus payments of up to \$1200.

According to a June report from the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA), the IRS initially sent nearly 85,000 payments, totaling about \$100 million, to incarcerated individuals. After the report raised con-

cerns about the payments, the IRS decided that payments to incarcerated people were not allowed under the CARES Act and ordered that the payments sent should be returned.

Then a class-action lawsuit was filed. Lawyers argued that denying the payments solely based on an individual's incarcerated status was against the law. The language of the CARES Act does not explicitly say that incarcerated individuals cannot receive payments.

On Sept. 24, Judge Phyllis Hamilton of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California ordered the Treasury Department and the IRS to

reverse the decision. The previously rescinded stimulus payments now have to be returned to the incarcerated individuals.

On Oct. 14, Hamilton also ordered the IRS to extend the deadline for incarcerated individuals covered by the lawsuit to file paperwork to receive the money to Nov. 4. People covered by the lawsuit who did not file a 2018 or 2019 tax return will have to submit a postmarked simplified Form 1040 paper return by Nov. 4 to receive the stimulus payment.

The IRS also extended the online deadline to register for a stimulus payment for people who don't typically file a tax return to



The website includes directions on where to mail the simplified return, as well as a sample Form 1040 with instructions on where to add the incarcerated individual's personal corrections number to ensure payment is sent to the right place.

Nov. 21.

According to the IRS website, the government is working on an appeal to the decision. "The government has filed an appeal and

request to stay the preliminary injunction. Any updates regarding the appeal will be posted on this webpage," the IRS states.

Under the CARES Act, stimulus payments must be made by Dec. 31. People will still have an opportunity to get the stimulus funds next year, but they won't receive the money until they file their 2020 tax return.

Information on how to help an incarcerated person file for a stimulus payment is available at caresactprisoncase.org. The website includes directions on where to mail the simplified return, as well as a sample Form 1040 with instructions on where to add the incarcerated individual's personal corrections number to ensure payment is sent to the right place

Laser Pointers Banned from Public Demonstrations in Los Angeles

BY CITY NEWS SERVICE

Police announced that effective immediately, the Los Angeles municipal code has been amended to prohibit laser pointers and other laser devices at public demonstrations, rallies, protests, picket lines and public assemblies.

The Los Angeles Police Department had requested that the City Council make the changes to the law that bans certain items at highly populated events after the department reported multiple officers have been injured by laser devices during protests.

On Tuesday, police announced that the council and Mayor Eric Garcetti

added the amendment to 55.07 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to prohibit "laser pointers or laser-style device emitting any color beam, milliwatt output level, intensity class level or any visibility level, including infrared or non-visible" from specified events.

The amendment adds laser pointers to a list of items already prohibited at public demonstrations, picket lines and other lawful assemblies, which includes large metal or wooden poles, baseball bats, slingshots, guns, glass bottles, bricks, pepper spray or mace and other items of combat.

"The LAPD works exceptionally hard to protect and facilitate the First

Amendment rights of all to peacefully protest and assemble," LAPD Deputy Chief Kris Pitcher told the council's Public Safety Committee on Oct. 27.

"However, we have experienced numerous instances of individuals among these groups intentionally using laser devices and pointers to attempt to blind and cause harm to officers by pointing them purposely at their eyes."

Some people who spoke during the meeting said it was ironic that the LAPD was asking for a laser-pointer ban at protests, as officers have been photographed using bean bag projectiles that have allegedly caused gruesome

injuries to some protesters, such as lost eyeballs and teeth.

Other people said police officers need protection during these tense situations and banning laser pointers would help.

"Laser-type devices have no legitimate use outside of the business or educational venues," Pitcher said.

LAPD Lt. Christopher Zine said Los Angeles has had 20 incidents of laser pointers being used to blind or distract people this year, and not just police officers.

Of 24 total victims, 20 were police officers, some of whom were driving patrol vehicles when lasers were pointed at them, Zine said.





**City of Inglewood
Community Development Block Grant
(CDBG) Division
Inglewood COVID-19 Debit Card Program**



Apply for a \$1000 Debit Card
Any City of Inglewood Renter Can Apply

This is a One-Time Grant that does not have to be paid back
Must meet the minimum requirements below:


1. Must be a City of Inglewood Renter Resident for at least (1) year with a lease/rental agreement in your name. *This does not include renting and/or living in a motel room, renting a room in a home, living in a half-way house, boarding house, etc.*
2. Must provide direct impact of loss of income due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Must be at least 18 years old (All adult household members listed on the lease/rental agreement may apply).
4. Preference will be given to elderly, disabled and those with the lowest incomes.

Applications will only be accepted starting at 10am from November 6, 2020 through November 16, 2020 or until 1000 applications are received.


APPLY ONLINE
www.cityofinglewood.org

Due to COVID-19 restrictions you may only apply online

If you have questions or need a reasonable accommodation to submit an application, please call (310) 412-5575



**City of Inglewood
Community Development Block Grant
(CDBG) Division
Inglewood COVID-19 Rent Relief Program**



Rental assistance may be available if you meet the following minimum eligibility requirements:

1. Must be a City of Inglewood Renter Resident for at least (1) year with a lease/rental agreement in your name. *This does not include renting and/or living in a motel room, renting a room in a home, living in a half-way house, boarding house, etc.*
2. Must have annual income below 50% of Area Median Income (AMI) as described below.
3. Must provide direct impact of loss of income due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. Must be at least 30 days behind in your rent.
5. Preference will be given to elderly, disabled and those with the lowest incomes.


| Household Size | Extremely Low (30%) | Very Low (50%) |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1 Person | \$23,700 | \$39,450 |
| 2 Person | \$27,050 | \$45,050 |
| 3 Person | \$30,450 | \$50,700 |
| 4 Person | \$33,800 | \$56,300 |
| 5 Person | \$36,550 | \$60,850 |
| 6 Person | \$39,250 | \$65,350 |
| 7 Person | \$41,950 | \$69,850 |
| 8 Person | \$44,650 | \$74,350 |

APPLY ONLINE STARTING 11-6-2020 at 10am
www.waitlistcheck.com/CA2107


Applications will only be accepted beginning November 6, 2020 and until 1,000 applicants are received or funding is exhausted.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions you may only apply online

If you have questions or need a reasonable accommodation to submit an application, please call (310) 412-5575



**Ciudad de Inglewood
División de subvenciones para el desarrollo comunitario (CDBG)
Programa de tarjeta de débito Inglewood COVID-19**



APLIQUE por una tarjeta de débito de \$ 1000

Cualquier inquilino de la ciudad de Inglewood puede presentar una solicitud

Esta es una subvención única que no tiene que reembolsarse

Los solicitantes serán elegidos por lotería.

Debe cumplir con los requisitos mínimos a continuación:


1. Debe ser un residente arrendatario de la ciudad de Inglewood durante al menos (1) año con un contrato de arrendamiento / alquiler a su nombre. Esto no incluye alquiler y / o vivir en una habitación de motel, alquilar una habitación en una casa, vivir en una casa de transición, una pensión, etc.
2. Debe proporcionar el impacto directo de la pérdida de ingresos debido a la pandemia de COVID19.
3. Debe tener al menos 18 años de edad (todos los miembros adultos del hogar que figuran en el contrato de arrendamiento / alquiler puede aplicarse un acuerdo).
4. Se dará preferencia a personas mayores, discapacitadas, y personas con los ingresos mas bajos

Las solicitudes solo se aceptarán empezando a las 10am desde el 6 de noviembre de 2020 hasta el 16 de noviembre de 2020 o hasta que se reciban 1000 solicitudes.


APLIQUE EN LINEA
www.cityofinglewood.org

Debido a las restricciones de COVID-19, solo puede solicitar en línea

Si tiene preguntas o necesita una adaptación razonable para enviar una solicitud, llame al (310) 412-5575



**Ciudad de Inglewood
División de subvenciones para el desarrollo comunitario (CDBG)
Programa de alivio de alquiler de Inglewood COVID-19**



La asistencia para el alquiler puede estar disponible si cumple con los siguientes requisitos mínimos de elegibilidad:

1. Debe ser un residente arrendatario de la ciudad de Inglewood durante al menos (1) año con un contrato de arrendamiento / alquiler a su nombre. Esto no incluye alquiler y / o vivir en una habitación de motel, alquilar una habitación en una casa, vivir en una casa de transición, una pensión, etc.
2. Debe tener ingresos anuales por debajo del 50% del ingreso medio del área (AMI) como se describe a continuación.
3. Debe proporcionar el impacto directo de la pérdida de ingresos debido a la pandemia de COVID-19.
4. Debe tener un retraso de al menos 30 días en el pago del alquiler.
5. Se dará preferencia a personas mayores, discapacitadas, y personas con los ingresos mas bajos.

| Tamaño del hogar | Extremadamente bajo (30%) | Muy bajo (50%) |
|------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 1 Persona | \$23,700 | \$39,450 |
| 2 Personas | \$27,050 | \$45,050 |
| 3 Personas | \$30,450 | \$50,700 |
| 4 Personas | \$33,800 | \$56,300 |
| 5 Personas | \$36,550 | \$60,850 |
| 6 Personas | \$39,250 | \$65,350 |
| 7 Personas | \$41,950 | \$69,850 |
| 8 Personas | \$44,650 | \$74,350 |

APLICAR EN LINEA COMENZANDO 11-6-2020 a las 10am
www.waitlistcheck.com/CA2107

Las solicitudes solo se aceptarán a partir del 6 de noviembre de 2020 y hasta que se reciban 1,000 solicitantes o se agoten los fondos.

Debido a las restricciones de COVID-19, solo puede solicitar en línea

Si tiene preguntas o necesita una adaptación razonable para enviar una solicitud, llame al (310) 412-5575

Professional football players hit the digital gridiron to raise money for heart health

Six NFL players go head-to-head on Twitch to support the American Heart Association's mission of ensuring health equity and longer, healthier lives for all

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Six NFL players and two lucky fans will take part in an online charity video game tournament benefiting the American Heart Association, the world's leading nonprofit organization focused on heart and brain health. The gaming tournament will feature players going head to head in a bracket-style competition of a popular football video game that will stream live on the American Heart Association's Twitch channel on Tuesday, November 10 at 1 p.m. ET. This tournament marks the launch of a new initiative, American Heart Association's Revive, which aims to engage the streaming and gaming audience to support longer, healthier lives.

The competitors — all of whom played college football at the University

of Southern California (USC) — will include Ronald Jones II, Zach Banner, Lawrence Jackson, Terrell Thomas and more. Additional guests will make a special appearance as color commentators. All players are generously donating their time.

The tournament grants fans unprecedented access to players, along with opportunities to support their favorite players, stream every game and donate for unique fan prizes. Fans can make donations to players' pages, giving them a leg up on the competition and influencing their seeding in the tournament. Players will offer fans the chance to donate to select various challenges for the players to complete during the tournament. Fans can also enter to win one of two spots to play in the bracket alongside the NFL players.

The brainchild of AHA Los Angeles Board Member, Kathryn Shirley, and Ronald Jones II, with the help of Jackie Jones, Chris Hale and Lawrence Jackson, the tournament aims to raise funds to support the American Heart Association's mission, including its efforts to help reduce the impact of COVID-19 and address health inequities that put historically excluded communities at greater risk for cardiovascular disease and COVID-19.

"COVID-19 has hit a lot of our communities really hard, affecting folks who have already been struggling with heart disease and other conditions and haven't already had access to medical care," said Jones, who plays with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. "I'm grateful to be able to give my time to support the American Heart Association's health equity

work and to bring attention to these issues. Plus, it's always a good time to have a little friendly competition with my fellow Trojan alumni, who all eagerly stepped up to support this cause."

According to the Centers for Disease Control, nearly 3 out of 4 patients hospitalized with COVID-19 also had a high-risk condition, including high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease and diabetes. [1] In the United States, people of color have disproportionate high rates of sickness and death, with Black and Hispanic people, Native People and those in rural areas experiencing higher rates of COVID-19 hospitalizations. [2]

The American Heart Association is working with researchers, medical experts, community lead-

ers, businesses and families to support the global fight against COVID-19 and address health inequities. Efforts include:- Investing \$2.5 million in rapid research fund to investigate the cardiovascular implications of coronavirus- Supporting evidence-based locally-led solutions that break down social and economic barriers to health through the Bernard J. Tyson Impact Fund- Bringing fresh fruits and vegetables to families facing food insecurity through produce distributions - Supporting the health and wellness of Black women and their faith-based communities through the EmPOWERED & Well Healthier Church Challenge, and- Advocating for policy changes to ensure health care access for all.

"Community is a focal

point of our company, and we're excited to support the American Heart Association in its mission to foster longer, healthier lives," said Matt Jackson, CEO & founder of Ultimate Gaming Championship. "The esports industry continues to come together to help others during this time of crisis and we're happy to do our part keeping those at home entertained while contributing towards an incredible cause."

To learn more and support a player with a donation to the American Heart Association, visit the Association's Tiltify page. The tournament can be streamed live via the Association's Twitch channel. Follow #HuddleUpWithHeart on social media for player and other tournament announcements.

Mayor Aja Brown Launches "Compton Pledge" Guaranteed Income Initiative Residents to Receive Recurring, Direct Cash Payments

{continued from Pg A1}



Compton Mayor Aja Brown

counseling services, while lowering the burdens of enrollment. All funds are being raised privately and will not affect the city's general fund.

Aja Brown, Mayor of Compton, said, "I know firsthand what guaranteed income could have done for my mother. I've watched the many sacrifices she made, including walking to work to provide for my brother and I. Like most Americans, we were one emergency away from having to move, which we did many times, if anything unplanned happened because of her restricted income and prioritizing being present for her children. People in our community are going through tough times, and I know that guaranteed income could give people a moment to navigate their situation, and have some breathing room to go back to school, explore a new career path, spend time with their children, or improve their mental and emotional well-being. Ensuring all people are able to live with dignity is something we should all strive for in America."

Patrisse Cullors, an advocate of the Compton Pledge and co-founder of the Black Lives Matter movement, said, "Guaranteed income is an urgent and necessary strategy for addressing the economic realities of racial injustice. I'm thrilled Mayor Brown and Compton are leading the way in this growing national movement."

The case for guaranteed income nationally and in Compton is undeniable. Compton, a city of 95,000 residents, acutely faces many of the issues that have defined a national conversation about racial injustice and structural inequality. Many of Compton's residents, of whom 30% are Black and 68% are Latino, are either unemployed, poorly paid, or ineligible for government assistance. Upwards of 1 in 5 Compton residence live in poverty—double the nationwide average. Local housing assistance in Compton is at capacity, presenting unaffordable hardships for a city where 46% of residents are renters. In Compton, rates of unemployment have risen to 21.9% since the beginning of COVID-19, and a growing number of residents regularly rely on food pantries.

The program will be rigorously evaluated by an independent research team. Participant names will be kept anonymous, but preliminary

findings will be reported at six-month intervals and a live data dashboard will be shared once disbursements begin. The Compton Pledge builds on the results of previous pilots to study many of the key unanswered questions about the policy: the optimal implementation and design, as well as ideas towards long-term financing at the municipal level. Ambitious in its scale and design, it aims to inform the state and federal guaranteed income agenda.

Compton joins a growing movement of cities across the country developing guaranteed programs in response to the financial precarity exposed by the COVID-19 crisis. Mayor Brown in June 2020 became a founding member of the Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, a consortium of 25 American Mayors committed to advocating for a national system of direct, recurring payments to vulnerable families.

Michael Tubbs, Mayor

of Stockton, California, said "Guaranteed income will afford people the dignity of an income floor and agency to make choices for themselves. I look forward to seeing the data support what Mayor Brown already knows to be true of her constituents: poverty stems from a lack of cash, not a lack of character."

To learn more about the Compton Pledge or how to get involved, please contact media@comptonpledge.org.

income initiatives in the United States, the Compton Pledge will be the largest pilot, and is intentionally designed to challenge the racial and economic injustice plaguing both welfare programs and economic systems. It plans to reach irregularly or informally employed residents, immigrants of varied legal status, and the formerly in-

cluded are: Brotherhood Crusade, CHIRLA, One Fair Wage, My Brother's Keeper, Shields for Families, Neighborhood Housing Services, Color Compton, Sylvia Nunn Angels, Vecinos Unidos Por Compton, Compton YouthBuild, Compton College, Compton Advocates, and Originals Nation.

Under the program, to



carcerated.

The Compton Pledge is led by Mayor Aja Brown in partnership with the Jain Family Institute, an applied research group with a focus on guaranteed income, and the Fund for Guaranteed Income, a registered public charity launched to steward guaranteed income as a path to racial justice. The Compton Pledge is supported by a Community Advisory Council of trusted leaders and activists to co-design the mission-driven program. Among the groups repre-

be launched in late 2020, a pre-verified group of low-income Compton residents will be notified of their selection and begin receiving cash transfers shortly thereafter. Recipients will be able to choose between multiple payment options to best suit their needs. Unbanked Compton residents will be provided with no-cost financial services; and, in partnership with a broad-based community coalition, a new online platform will facilitate applicants' access to existing legal, psychosocial and

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Military Veterans Find Plenty of Opportunities and Camaraderie at Wells Fargo

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

In a recent interview with BlackPressUSA, Le Nette Rutledge, the head of Military Talent Programs at Wells Fargo, shared her perspective about being a military veteran now serving in the ranks of corporate America.

When asked what gets her up each morning, Rutledge responded, "I coined a new phrase, 'optimistic tenacity,'" Rutledge revealed during an interview with BlackPressUSA. "Optimistic tenacity is the quality/trait of maintaining hope for the future while being unrelenting about what it takes to achieve that future."

To continue the theme of unrelenting, Wells Fargo continues to advance its commitment to the armed forces. The company maintains its goal of gainfully employing members of the military community. This commitment models the value the bank places on the leadership, discipline, and skills that veterans gain through their dedicated service to America.

As Veterans Day approaches, Black Press USA chatted with Rutledge and other service members who are thriving in their careers at Wells Fargo.

Since Rutledge, a Navy veteran, joined the bank in 2009, Wells Fargo has increased its infrastructure to include recruitment, engagement, development and retention of military talent within Wells Fargo by incorporating two teams who are solely dedicated to this work: the Military Talent Programs team and Military Strategic Sourcing team for a total of more than 20 roles within the organization that focus on cultivating an environment where military employees can succeed and grow with the company.

The bank updated their job descriptions to make them more military-friendly and initiated a new program called "Boots to Banking" career boot camp for veteran jobs seekers and hiring event for several lines of business at Wells Fargo.

Rutledge enlisted in the Navy just before the country was called to serve in the Persian Gulf War (Operation Desert Storm) in the early 1990s.



Tara Siddiq

Business Initiatives Analyst Tara Siddiq enlisted at 17 after having both parents sign permission slips, while colleague and Regional Bank Branch Manager Robert Taylor was 18 when he joined the Army.

Wesley "Wes" Griffin, Business Support Consultant, was also 18 when he enlisted in the Navy under the delayed entry program.

"[The desire to serve] was something that stayed with me," Rutledge proclaimed, noting that she



Le Nette Rutledge

had earned a four-year college scholarship after graduating high school.

However, after one year, she sought to join the Army, only to enlist in the Navy because the recruiter "was friendly and professional."

Siddiq said she joined for the travel experience and the need for money to attend college.

Taylor followed his father's footsteps by enlisting into the Army, and Griffin admitted his enlistment was mainly to pay for college.

Each recalled their first days of military service.

"My mom wanted to make sure that I had everything I needed, and the Navy gave us a list of



Wesley Griffin

things to pack," Rutledge recalled.

"It was two minutes before midnight, and this rather petite company commander stood up with this southern drawl and told us to put our bags on the table. She said, 'we are taking your bags and belongings and shipping them back home.'"

Siddiq recalled the calmness of her bus ride to basic training. "Everyone was polite, and the drill sergeants were on the bus with us, but they were so quiet, you could barely notice them," she remarked.

"As soon as we pulled up to the company headquarters, the drill sergeants went bananas. They started yelling at us to get off the bus. They were throwing our bags in all our faces. I remember thinking, 'That escalated quickly.'"

Remembered Taylor: "They tried breaking undisciplined civilians in an attempt to turn them into soldiers. But I had no problem adapting due to my upbringing. My father was a retired Army member and was strict but fair. He was firm but also fun. He taught me to respect others and how to earn respect. I loved that all of my soldiers were able to come to me for anything and that my door was always open."

Griffin noted that his trip to boot camp marked the first time he flew across the country – from Richmond, VA to San Diego.

"Upon arriving at basic training, it was early morning, and we disembarked the bus, we lined up, and we made our way into a warehouse building that was lined with open top tables," Griffin said.

"We began to take all of

our possessions and pack them into a box to ship back home. It quickly turned from an early morning coolness to hot, dry heat. The in-processing began, as we continued to uniform issues, medical evaluation, immunization, and ultimately, to the barber shop."

The history of the military reveals that African Americans were not fully welcomed to serve along White brothers and sisters in arms. "Thankfully that changed quite a bit over time. The branch though that I chose was the last to desegregate, the Navy. I couldn't help but wonder what implications might be associated with that history. But, I jumped in anyway," says Rutledge.

"It was as unsettling as I expected," Rutledge remembered. "It wasn't a matter of race while living in the barracks. It was about helping one another to survive."

Siddiq said the military "exposed me to so many different cultures," but Taylor and Griffin had far different experiences.

"There were countless times that I had to overcome the stereotype that is automatically placed on me as an African American," Taylor said.

"When I started my career in the military, I had to prove to everyone that I was someone they can trust."

Griffin recounted feeling isolated, home-sick and, at times, alone.

"The journey from the South to California opened my eyes that the world was not simply Black and White," he stated.

"My company commanders were both from the Philippines, and many of my fellow recruits were from the Midwest, so their experiences were much different than mine."

While Rutledge began her career at Wells Fargo in 2009, Siddiq started hers in 2018, and Griffin joined Wells Fargo in 2018 following his military retirement. Taylor began in 2019.

"It was really interesting when I came to Wells Fargo because I had just been displaced from another position and I was focused on things that were lacking during my period of unemployment," Rutledge stated.

"In comparison to other employers with whom I've worked, what stands out for me the most is how Wells Fargo's veteran resources have ramped up tremendously. They were off to a decent start when I joined the company. But, they were nowhere near what they are today. The resources, benefits and opportunities to grow and develop are among the best in the financial industry as evidenced by Wells Fargo being awarded a gold-designation for the 2020 Military-Friendly® Employers. I've had an opportunity to take assignments that are parallel and promotions. These assignments allowed me to gain a vast perspective of this organization and the financial industry."

Siddiq, who first worked as an intern in the company's VET Internship Program, also has enjoyed the Wells Fargo experience.

"Eventually, I found a job at Wells Fargo that I love, supporting military programs like the one I participated in. I like to call it a full circle moment," Siddiq said.

Taylor graduated from the company's Branch Manager Military Apprenticeship Program this year.

"It was a long road to get to this point," he proclaimed. "The program was challenging but allowed me to do something I have always wanted to do, which was work in finance. Wells Fargo has been a great place for me to work so far, and where I sit, the future is looking promising for the company if they stay on the course they have set."

Griffin added that Wells Fargo valued relationships, embracing diversity through company goals, visions, and values.

"It was the first time I had seen diversity & inclusion as a strength to champion continued growth and success," Griffin said.



Robert Taylor

"Wells Fargo was very intentional in hiring veterans, so I felt as if I was valued for my service to this great nation."

"The veterans that Wells Fargo hires embody the L.D.R.S.H.I.P philosophy: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal



PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO / NNPA

The veterans that Wells Fargo hires embody the L.D.R.S.H.I.P philosophy: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage to persevere with a company through tough times.

courage to persevere with a company through tough times," said Taylor.

"I would say other companies should look for those qualities for their workforce. Because one of the best places to get those qualities is from a veteran," Taylor concluded.

Wells Fargo also encourages its employees to give back and make a difference in the community.

"I am currently a leader on the board of the Veteran Team Member Network (employee resource group) and I was part of a discussion panel this year for the Black/African American and Veteran Team Member Networks at Wells Fargo," Siddiq stated.

"I discussed my multiple diversity dimensions and how I have been affected by the wide-spread racial inequities in America. I volunteer my time to mentor new employees in the Military Buddy Alliance Program. I have also attended peaceful local protests for Black Lives

Matter in the Charlotte area." Griffin works closely with the Charlotte Veterans Bridge Home and the Charlotte Veterans Network to help share his experiences. "I have joined the North Carolina NAACP, as well as, serve as the vice president of the Wells Fargo Volunteer Charlotte Chapter and I have shared my story with the Veterans Team Member Network and spoken at the Blue Star Moms monthly meeting, to highlight the need for a strong support system," Griffin added.

Rutledge said she calendars time for recurring meetings with veterans across the firm.

"When an employee reaches out, I readily make myself available," Rutledge said. "We have to stay focused and help everyone achieve their goals."

To learn more about career opportunities for veterans at Wells Fargo, visit wellsfargo-jobs.com/military.

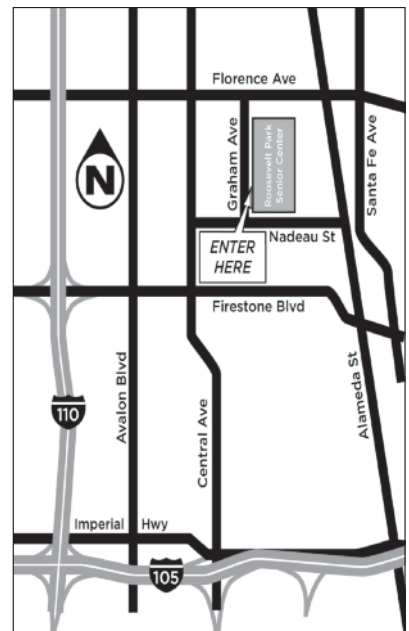
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Saturday, November 7, 2020
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Roosevelt Park Senior Center
7600 Graham Avenue
Los Angeles

Old paint. Solvent. Batteries. Computer monitors. These are some of the household hazardous waste and electronic waste items you can bring to a Roundup for recycling. It's a great opportunity to clean out your garage and clean up the environment. Our free drive-thru, drop-off events are a quick, convenient, and common-sense way to dispose of materials too toxic to trash, pour down a sink, or dump in a storm drain.



No Business Waste Accepted

Brought to you by the County of Los Angeles and presented by the Department of Public Works and the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County in cooperation with the cities of Bell, Bell Gardens, Commerce, Compton, Cudahy, Downey, Gardena, Inglewood, Los Angeles, Lynwood, Maywood, Paramount, South Gate, and Vernon.

Home-generated sharps waste such as hypodermic needles, pen needles, syringes, lancets, and intravenous needles SHOULD NOT be placed in your trash. Bring them to the Roundups or visit www.CLEANLA.com for alternate disposal options.

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.

For more information or an event schedule, call (800) 238-0173, or visit: www.CleanLA.com, or www.lacsd.org/hhw

Mark Ridley-Thomas wins Council District 10

{continued from Pg. A-1}

and Little Ethiopia. Ridley-Thomas will replace Councilman Herb Wesson, who was behind Holly Mitchell for the L.A. County Board of Supervisor's seat as of late Tuesday night.

On Tuesday evening, Ridley-Thomas hosted a small socially distanced gathering on the outside stage at Lula Washington Dance Theatre studios, on Crenshaw Blvd. He expressed his deepest gratitude to his campaign supporters and virtually addressed the people of the 10th District.

The role of a public official: Anything worth having is worth working for. We all know that. Office holders need to take that as their cradle; they need to take their sense of oath as fundamentally important, that drives

them to work as hard for their constituency, the best they can.

The 10th District voters: They kind of bucked the trend; the virulence of an anti-incumbency wave was pushed back by the people of the 10th District. We know the best when we see it, and we're going to put it forward, so all of us can aspire to be better than would otherwise be the case. They rejected the untested; they embraced the battle-tested. They understood that homelessness is my priority unapologetically; not just a campaign speech, but tomorrow, I'll be at a homeless encampment, doing what I do in trying to construct new models for how we address what I think is the defining moral crisis of our time.



Mark Ridley-Thomas

His mission in the 10th: We are not going to be unwilling to re-imagine law enforcement with the kind of creativity, balance, and wisdom that we ought to bear. We will not be pre-

cipitous, we will thoughtful. We will respect first responders and essential workers, because I believe in Dr. Martin Luther King's expression, 'All labor has dignity.'

So, tomorrow, the work begins. We will party virtually tonight. I look forward to working with residents of the 10 District. (Smiling) I know they are going to try and get every ounce of what they can get from me, while they can, over the length of the term in which I'm engaged. I have to run! I have to run hard because I don't have much time to do what I need to do. But I plan to make a difference with [the community's] help. I will stand up for the homeless and be a supporter for the arts and not be reluctant to re-imagine what government can be.

Ridley-Thomas' wife, Ava, spoke briefly to the Sentinel regarding his new role: I am so delighted that my husband chose to use his talents to benefit our

community in the way that he has over all of these years. I think we have benefited tremendously as a community. I'm very proud of that. And I have much appreciated the support of community members throughout the years. Sometimes, it was much closer ... these races. But, each time, the people have affirmed the kind of leadership he has provided. And I am deeply grateful as a community member, as his wife, of course, and our long companionship since high school. I'm proud and expecting great things for the 10th District. It's so clear that he knows how to get things accomplished for us; he's committed and enthusiastic about it, and I just appreciate the support of community members in the process.

In Most Cases Local Voters Affirm Candidates Are Serving The People

{continued from Pg. A-1}



Anthony Portantino



Chris Holden



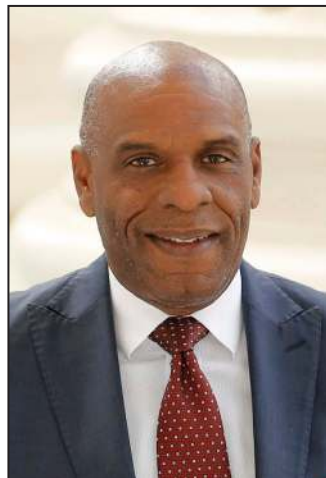
George Gascon



Jawane Hilton



Nanette Barragan



Steve Bradford



Victor Gordo



Aisha Thompson



Al Austin.

the board and won easily with 42% of the votes. The next closest competitor was Cynthia Gonzalez who garnered 16% of the vote, and Scott Svonkin came in third with 14% of the vote.

PROPOSITIONS & MEASURE

Los Angeles County Measure J – Passed

City of Pasadena Measure O – Passed

STATE PROPOSITIONS

YES - 14-Bonds to Continue Stem Cell Research

NO - 15-Property Tax to Fund Schools, Government Services

NO - 16-Affirmative Action in Government Decisions

YES - 17-Restores the right to Vote After Prison Term

NO - 18 to 17-year-old Primary Voting Right

YES - 19-Changes Certain Property Tax Rules

NO - 20-Parole Restrictions for Certain Offenses

NO-21-Expands Government Authority to Rent Control

YES -22-App-based Drivers and Employee Benefits

NO -23-State Requirements for Kidney Dialysis Clinics

YES - 24-Amends Consumer Protection Laws

NO - 25-Eliminates Money Bail System

HACLA CARES

Thanks to funding through the CARES Act, HACLA has launched a new incentive program for Property Owners called "HACLA Cares." This new program aims to increase Owner's participation in Section 8 while recognizing the added difficulties of making rental units available for participant families during stay-at-home orders and social distancing practices.



SIGNING BONUS

\$2500 paid directly to property owners upon successful execution of new HAP contract beginning on or after 7/1/2020.



SECURITY DEPOSIT

Security deposit assistance of up to two times the rental amount (contingent on funding availability).

GET STARTED

For more information or to begin the leasing process, interested owners and tenants may contact HACLA via:

hip@hacla.org | 213-252-1619

www.hacla.org

@hacla1938

RACES IN OUR COMMUNITY.

While as of Sentinel press time the outcome of this race had not yet been decided, it appears that George Gascon has defeated Jackie Lacey for Los Angeles County District Attorney. Gascon is leading Lacey with 53% of the vote. This highly contested race really comes down to police reform and which candidate is willing to prosecute bad officers and certainly the community will be watching.

Community icon, Karen Bass easily sailed to victory with over 86% of her district's vote; confirming she is undeniably a rock star within this community.

In a highly contested race for the 59th Assembly District, Reggie Jones-Sawyer blew away his competition in Efren Martinez. While many considered Martinez the favorite because of the district's heavy LatinX population, the incumbent Assembly member proved that as long as you represent the community and take care of the people's business, those

efforts will be rewarded. And with 60% of the vote, Reggie Jones-Sawyer proved to be the right representative for the district.

Congresswoman Nanette Barragan easily won re-election in the 44th Congressional District, which covers a large part of the South Bay, including Compton, Carson, and reaches all the way to the Port of Los Angeles.

In the San Gabriel Valley, Assembly member Chris Holden and State Senator Anthony Portantino sailed to landslide victories. Pasadena City Councilmember Victor Gordo beat incumbent Mayor Terry Tornek to become the new Mayor of Pasadena.

State Senator Steve Bradford dominated his opponent Anthony Perry and won re-election with 73% of the district's support/votes. On the State assembly side of the district, Assemblyman Mike Gipson easily won with over 61% of the vote. Gipson has been a stellar member of the assembly for several years and has been one of the lead-

ing advocates for police reform in the state.

In other local races Carson City Councilmember Jawane Hilton beat back all four challengers for the newly aligned Carson District #1 seat. In Long Beach, despite a hard-fought campaign by newcomer Tanua Thrash-Ntuk, Councilmember Al Austin II retained his seat on the Long Beach City Council.

While the three Inglewood City Council races were simply an affirmation of the citizens satisfaction on the direction of the city (all three races were uncontested), Assistant City Clerk Aisha Thompson will replace outgoing longtime City Clerk Yvonne Horton with a dominant win over challenger Deandre Warren.

Sometimes, you just have to admit when you were wrong. Despite the Sentinel's decision to endorse Scott Svonkin for Los Angeles Community College Board Seat #5, Nichelle Henderson blew away the other seven competitors vying for

Wendy's
WINDOW

Forgiving for Living



An Angel Returned Home

This week, an angel by the name of Ms. Mordena Moore took her wings and flew home to heaven. Although I knew she had been ill and I even had an opportunity to go and visit her at the hospital, I was not ready for the call when her daughter Konya reached out to let me know she was now gone. Ms. Mordena has been part of my life for so long I cannot even remember when we first met. I feel like she has always been with me. When I did events for my

clients across the city, she was always there and supportive. She was near and dear to so many of us in the community. She will truly be missed, but the good thing is she made sure the dash between the day she was born and the day she went home to the Lord counted.

Ms. Mordena was the one who introduced me to the Association of the Study of African America Life and History, Inc., (ASALH) started by Carter G. Woodson and is

located at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Our Authors Study Club, Inc., located in Los Angeles is one of the 53 branches across the country associated with ASALH and she was deeply committed to its success. Everyone who knew her knew how dedicated she was to preserve the history of our people and accomplishments. She always found a way to pull us in to help her reach her goals. Another organization she was truly committed to is Abil-

ityFirst's Harry A. Mier Center (HAMC) located in Inglewood. In 2010 Forgiving For Living, Inc., (our nonprofit) was privileged to honor her at our PLUS Awards shedding light on her commitment to helping others. She was committed to helping young people and those with disadvantages and disabilities get a helping hand.

Ms. Mordena received so many awards over her lifetime there are too many to name. A few that stand out include acknowledgements for her work by The White House, the State of Ohio, the State of California, the County and City of Los Angeles. She was also featured in Who's Who in Black Los Angeles and was a member of the Los Angeles World Affairs Council. But more than any of these organizations and awards, she was committed to her relationship with Jesus Christ. She

was a member of Liberty Baptist Church in Los Angeles and talked about her church all the way to the end.

Besides her commitment to her church and community she also had a successful career working for the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the United States Government. She believed if she was going to do something, she had to give it her best. She worked not unto man, but as unto the Lord. She set a good example for all to follow. She considered me one of her "girls" and I am grateful that I had a chance to sit at her feet and learn many lessons that she poured into my life. I hope to continue her legacy by sharing what I know with others and continuing to serve the community. Mordena Moore had a servant's heart.

Ms. Mordena was a cancer survivor. At the

time of her death she was 30 years cancer free. She lived life to the fullest without excuses and never wanted anyone to feel sorry for her. I admired how she spoke her mind without apology but could also be gentle as a dove. She was a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend. It is said we will know them by their fruit. Her vineyard is full and overflowing, and she will be deeply missed. Rest in peace Ms. Mordena, well done good and faithful servant.

Healing Without Hate: It's a choice. It's a lifestyle. Pass it on!

Visit www.WendyGladney.com to learn more. Wendy is a life strategist, coach, consultant, author, and speaker. She can also be found live on Instagram @Wendygladney on Wednesdays at 12 noon PST.

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WWW.ASKDRJEANETTEPARKER.COM

Who Dunit???

Put Ur Hands Up! Now!!

"The Conscience of the World"

Have you noticed frequently you hear, "I didn't mean for that to happen." Well, you may not have meant for that to happen, but the side effects and the residuals and the results of your actions led to this effect. You caused it by doing this. Think back...think way back and remember the prerequisite to your actions. What do you think The Almighty would say if He was asked, "O'Lord, why are we in this situation?" Since, He is all wise, all knowing and knows the end from the beginning,

He might say something like, "You remember the instructions I gave you way back in the "garden?" Do you remember what you did anyway?" "Cain, remember when I told you, "I'm going to give you another chance. Just go back and think this thing over." But, Cain persisted in doing things his own way and decided to confront God and worship The Holy God in his own way. Remember what happened to Cain?...God put him away from His presence. Cain became a vaga-

bond and a wanderer. He lost privileges of significant consequences. And, even the ground began to work against him so much so that it was difficult to till, cultivate and grow food and all along the way his life became harder and harder. Even until this very day, farmers agronomist, pharmacists, health care workers and officials, cosmetologist and other professions are trying to replace that which was lost from way back then thousands of years ago! The very unfortunate part of this legendary account is that this curse on the ground won't be turned back to its grand state until the millenium. By contrast, what did Cain's brother, Abel, do? Abel brought his offering to The Almighty God and presented it to Him by faith. That's the difference right there. God paid "respect" to Abel's offering. He acknowledged his offering by sending "Holy acceptance: "fire." So, you ask, "What does that have to do with me?" "That's an old Bible story?" And who pays attention to those old stories. That is the very point here. God said to Eve, the mother of all living, "What have you done!?" God said to Cain, after he killed Abel, "What have you done!?" What had been done was beyond any acceptable explanation at all. And they could not go back and turn the situation around. So, is the case here and now. Whatever has been done can only be undone by the One and Only Saviour, Jesus Christ. He is the ONLY atonement

for "what we have done!" He responds to our call with mercy, grace and atonement. No one can undo the coronavirus. The coronavirus is the conscience of the world on display. "What have we done?" How did the genie get out of the bottle? The same old question can be asked of the world, "What have you done?" No one can escape the inescapable. No where to run. Nowhere to hide! Perhaps, minimize it through testing, wearing masks, etc. but question cannot be ignored. Shut down the nation, the world?? Bad idea that makes not good even worse. Its effects are widespread! It can be abated, but there is no vaccine as yet. Who dunit? (Who Did it?) Why can't we just stuff it in a bottle and say, "That's it Ol' COV) The wrong doing so great has been done. Does everyone play a role in its spread? We hope not. But, very possible. God gave Cain another chance after he had told him what to do to eliminate the aftereffects of his dreadful deed. He refused. He refused. Are you listening? Do our ears need cleaning out? Thanks for reading!

Jeanette Grattan Parker, Founder-Superintendent Today's Fresh Start Charter School 323-293-9826 www.todayfreshstart.org; Askdrjeanette@gmail.com. Tm Askdrjeanette.successontheway@gmail.com tm "Inquiring minds want to know." © All rights reserved © Askdrjeanetteparker.com tm

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DON'T DRINK</p> <p>PLEASE CALL CLARENCE CHITWOOD 323 568 7034</p> <hr/> <p>200</p> <p>SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION</p> <p>TAYLOR'S TUMBLING TOTS!</p> <p>GYMNASTICS TUMBLING TODDLER CLASSES FROM AGES 18 MONTHS TO 5 YEARS OLD. COME JOIN US AND TUMBLE!</p> <p>NICHA TAYLOR 310-730-9665 TEXT</p> <p>INSTAGRAM: TAYLORS_TUMBLING_TOTS</p> <hr/> <p>230</p> <p>EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES</p> <p>NOW HIRING</p> <p>CHILD CARE CENTER IN INGLEWOOD IS CURRENTLY HIRING.</p> <p>-MUST HAVE MIN. OF 15 ECE UNITS</p> <p>-MUST HAVE AT LEAST 2 YRS. EXP.</p> <p>-MUST HAVE ACTIVE FILE WITH STATE LICENSING</p> <p>-MUST POSSES VALID CPR & 1ST AID CERT.</p> <p>-MUST BE PROFICIENT IN ENGLISH</p> <p>-MUST BE PROFESSIONAL, COMPASSIONATE, CREATIVE & MOTIVATED</p> | <p>CARPET CLEANING CONSULTING</p> <p>START AND OWN YOUR OWN CARPET CLEANING COMPANY.</p> <p>PAID TRAINING. 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Reimagining Healing and Care with \$335 Million Investment in New and Innovative Mark Ridley-Thomas Behavioral Health Center



Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas PHOTO BY DIANDRA JAY

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

More than a decade after its closure, the original Martin Luther King, Jr. Hospital building has completed its transformation to a new and innovative healthcare facility—as the Mark Ridley-Thomas Behavioral Health Center. In a socially-distanced ribbon cutting, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas—in collaboration with several county partners—inaugurated the state’s first ever licensed Behavioral Health Center (BHC) that will provide fully-integrated inpatient, outpatient, and supportive services for some of Los Angeles County’s most vulnerable populations.

“Over the last decade, we have transformed the MLK Medical Campus into a center of excellence that provides holistic care for our community,” said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. “With the opening of the Behavioral Health Center, we are bringing to life our

intent to establish a cutting-edge continuum of care that promotes mental health, recovery, trauma prevention, rehabilitation, and many other essential wrap-around services that foster long-term wellness for our patients and the community at large. I am tremendously proud of this milestone.”

Where the original Martin Luther King, Jr. Hospital once stood, a \$335M state-of-the-art facility now stands. The newly renamed Mark Ridley-Thomas Behavioral Center is part of more than one billion dollars invested into the medical campus to transform and support the wellness of surrounding communities. Attendees were able to get an advanced preview of the 500,000-square-foot building that included a new peer resource center, upgraded conference rooms, innovated examination rooms, a new canopy extension, exterior site improvements and more.

“With the County’s

\$300M plus investment, the BHC will serve the residents of LA County for many years to come with a range of services not found elsewhere. The decision to transform rather than demolish this building has proven to be a very efficient investment of County resources,” said Fesia Davenport, Los Angeles County Acting Chief Executive Officer.

Mark Pestrella, Director of Los Angeles County Public Works agreed, adding, “The transformation of the old hospital is truly astounding. The County’s investment to give life to this amazing building I think is emblematic of the mission the BHC seeks to fulfill. The completion of this transformation into a place of healing and restoration is a poetic outcome for a building that once witnessed tragedy. I am proud of the entire Public Works team and grateful for the Supervisor’s vision that made this happen.”



Supervisor Ridley-Thomas and Community Partners cut ribbon for new Behavioral Health Center PHOTO BY DIANDRA JAY



Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas admires Martin Luther King Jr. portrait PHOTO BY DIANDRA JAY

“Exodus is proud to be a partner in this building providing psychiatric urgent care. Having different levels of behavioral health care available within the same building removes many of the barriers that often deter clients from getting the care that they need,” said Luana Murphy, President and Chief Executive Officer of Exodus Recovery.

As the first of its kind center in the state, the BHC will house more than a half dozen County departments and partners, including clinical and behavioral staff from the Departments of Mental Health, Public Health, Public Works and Health Services. The Departments of Probation and Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services, along with the Office

of Healing,” said Dr. Jonathan E. Sherin, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health.

“The Department of Health Services is excited to collaborate with our mental health partners along with other department to innovate delivery of care. The BHC will provide care for the body and mind, and it is our goal that when someone walks into those doors, they know they are on their way to healing and restoration,” said Dr. Christina Ghaly, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services.

“We can’t provide substance use disorder services in a vacuum. It has to be delivered in collaboration with mental health, physical health, and spiritual health services. BHC al-

together photographs of 21 homes from the surrounding Willowbrook community.

In addition to the exterior and interior pieces, another art component that will be integrated into the center is a Martin Luther King, Jr. portrait by renowned painter, Lyle Suter. In 1972, the portrait was misplaced after it was commissioned by the Colonial Savings & Loan Association. The painting was lost for several years until it was recently discovered and restored by the conservators, Aneta Zebala and Suzanne Morris.

“Bringing new life to this building required uplifting and reinvigorating the façade—no better way to do this than with art. The building design lent itself for something dramatic and inspiring, and I couldn’t



Aerial view of the Mark Ridley-Thomas Behavioral Health Center PHOTO BY DIANDRA JAY

of Diversion and Reentry, will sponsor rehabilitative, vocational and training opportunities to give people the skills they need to reintegrate into society.

“When it comes to mental health, most facilities are not equipped to deliver a full range of behavioral health services that may be required to truly bring healing to someone in need. With an empty building on the MLK Medical Campus, we had a unique opportunity to imagine what it would be like to have a one-stop shop for all behavioral health needs. As the first of its kind in the State of California, I believe the Mark Ridley-Thomas Behavioral Health Center will set the standard for mental health care delivery, but most importantly, bring a new level of

lowers us to create a new system of care that would integrate these different systems,” said Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Additionally, in a comprehensive effort to create a new paradigm in the delivery of care and healing, significant attention was given to the inclusion of civic art throughout the building from local artists. The exterior art piece, created by artist Cliff Garten, was inspired by artist as an image of hope and renewal. The work entitled, Water to Wishes, draws inspiration from the wishes of the community expressed during the community engagement process. The interior piece, designed by Freeland Buck, is a multi-layered mural stitching to-

be more thrilled about the critical role that the arts have played in the transformation of this building. The civic art on the façade and the lobby let you know you have arrived at a safe space where your healing can begin,” said Kristin Sakoda, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture.

In addition to the building being inaugurated, the main street leading to the building’s doorstep has been renamed Healing Way by a Willowbrook community member in honor of the building’s transformation.

The newly renovated center is anticipated to officially open in the year 2021. For more information and updates, please visit ridley-thomas.lacounty.gov/.



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Drop in Jail Population Failed to Cut Number of Black or Mentally Ill Inmates

By ELIZABETH MARCELLINO
City News Service

The release of thousands of inmates from Los Angeles County jails in response to the coronavirus failed to reduce the proportion of mentally ill inmates or racial disparities in the lockups, both of which are on the rise, according to a county report released today.

The analysis -- by a county taskforce charged with mapping out what would be required to close the crumbling Men's Central Jail by July 2021 -- notes that the overall county jail population is rising again after dropping by roughly one-third.

That number would need to be cut significantly further in order to support closing the downtown jail, which was built in 1963 and houses roughly 4,000 of the more than 13,000 individuals held in custody county-wide, based on an Aug. 19 point-in-time count.

Based on that count, the proportion of both Black men and women in county jails has increased since before the virus struck. Black people made up 29% of the jail population pre-COVID and 31% on Aug. 19, while

the number of white inmates dropped from 15% to 12%.

"A higher proportion of white and Hispanic/Latinx people and lower proportion of Black people were released early compared to their representation in the jail population," the report concluded.

More than half of all inmates in Los Angeles County jail are being held for non-violent offenses, and nearly half are awaiting trial rather than convicted of any crime.

The drop in overall population was part of efforts to reduce the spread of the coronavirus and due largely to a combination of decreased bookings, an emergency zero-bail program that allowed non-violent offenders to be released while awaiting trial, and a move to release inmates with a short time to the end of their sentence.

The number of inmates in custody has since increased as pre-COVID law enforcement and court practices resumed, according to the report. More than 2,000 inmates sentenced to state prison are also stuck in local jails because of a moratorium on transfers related to the virus.

One of several com-

mittees of the workgroup, which is chaired by Assistant Sheriff Bruce Chase and Office of Diversion and Reentry Director Peter Espinoza, is still trying to determine how many inmates could be safely diverted into community programs and how many jail beds are needed for those who must remain behind bars.

"Information about medical, mental health, substance use disorder and other specific needs is critical to understand as the committees consider where certain services and programs can be provided to meet those needs, as MCJ closes," the report stated before making a commitment to racial equity. "The committee is paying close attention to racial equity in developing a plan to close this facility and continue to reduce the jail population."

Both the board and Sheriff Alex Villanueva believe the old jail is ill-suited to house inmates, especially those with mental health issues.

At one point last year, the board seemed likely to approve a large-scale mental health jail in its place, a plan the sheriff favored. However, the supervisors have since been swayed by civil rights advocates who



COURTESY PHOTO

argued that the county would be better off investing in smaller, community-based mental health and substance abuse centers while expanding jail diversion programs to permanently reduce the jail population.

The sheriff has made clear that he does not believe the county can cut the jail population sufficiently, without threatening public safety, to close Men's Central without building another county facility.

In order to shut down Men's Central within one year, as proposed in a motion co-authored by Supervisors Hilda Solis and Sheila Kuehl in July, the county would need to

transfer inmates to other county jails distant from the courts and also fund sufficient community-based services to support diversion programs for mentally ill offenders.

The report notes that some inmates require a level of specialized medical care not readily available in community-based facilities.

Supervisor Kathryn Barger said in July that diversion alone cannot accommodate the need.

"I don't know that we can get to a level where we can close this facility without a replacement," Barger said. "We cannot turn a blind eye to the fact that not everyone can be diverted. Those who re-

main in custody are worthy of meaningful treatment."

In July, Tab Rhodes, president of the Police Peace Officers Association, highlighted the complexity of any plan to close the jail.

"The need for a jail facility in the downtown area is a key factor in the local criminal justice system," Rhodes said. "Men's Central Jail is needed at this point to provide wraparound services that deal with rehabilitation not currently available at other remote jail facilities in the county, ease of visits ... specific housing for high security concerns and centralized access to the downtown courts."

The workgroup's next report is slated for Jan. 29.

Black Employee Alleges Hospital Pays Her Less Than Men, Latinas



COURTESY PHOTO

CITY NEWS SERVICE

A Black employee at White Memorial Medical Center is suing her employer, alleging she has consistently been paid less for doing the same work as men and Latinas.

Jennifer Grant's Los Angeles Superior Court

lawsuit also names as a defendant Adventist Health. She alleges violation of the Equal Pay Act, failure to maintain and provide accurate employment records and violation of the state Business and Professions Code.

A White Memorial representative could not

be immediately reached for comment on the suit, which was filed Friday and seeks unspecified compensatory and punitive damages.

Grant was hired at the hospital in 2014 as a mental health technician and has worked in the mental health field for more than

20 years, according to her court papers.

"However, despite

her competent and loyal work ..., Ms. Grant was shocked to discover that much, if not all, of her employment she had been discriminated against in terms of her compensation," the suit alleges.

Grant found out that beginning in at least 2018, multiple newer male hires in her department were being hired at the rate of \$21 per hour, far higher than her pay, the suit states.

"These individuals were hired to perform substantially similar work to that of Ms. Grant and had equal or less experience and education compared to Ms. Grant," according to the complaint.

After discovering the alleged discrepancy, Grant,

the only Black mental health worker on her floor of the hospital, says she began inquiring with other coworkers regarding their pay. She learned that several other mental health technicians, all either men or Latinas, were earning between \$22 to \$24 per hour for the same or similar work she performed, the suit alleges.

The plaintiff alleges there was no apparent justification for the pay differentials.

"Rather than reward her for her longtime loyalty, (White Memorial) discriminated against Ms. Grant by consistently paying her less than her non-Black and non-female coworkers," the suit alleges.

South LA Women Plead Guilty to Federal Health Care Fraud Charges

CITY NEWS SERVICE

Two former executives at a South Los Angeles company that offered substance abuse treatment pleaded guilty today to a federal charge for defrauding Medi-Cal by billing more than \$500,000 for ineligible services.

Mesbel Mohamoud, 47, and her mother-in-law, Erlinda Abella, 66, each pleaded guilty in separate hearings to a federal health care fraud count, under which they each face up to 10 years in prison, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

A Jan. 25 sentencing hearing was set for Abella and a Feb. 8 hearing was scheduled for Mohamoud.

They were named in a 23-count indictment returned by a Los Angeles federal grand jury in March 2018, charging both Inglewood women with 21

counts of health care fraud and two counts of aggravated identity theft stemming from the scheme that ran from 2009 through 2015.

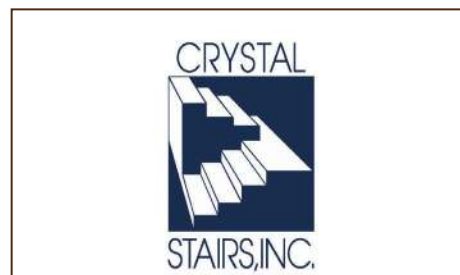
Mohamoud was the owner and executive director of The New You Center -- located in the Vermont Knolls neighborhood of South Los Angeles -- while her mother-in-law, who co-founded the now-defunct company, was the firm's program director. TNYC had contracts to provide medically necessary substance abuse treatment services through the Drug Medi-Cal program to adults and teenagers in Los Angeles County.

TNYC submitted bogus bills for counseling sessions that were not conducted at all, were not conducted at authorized locations, or did not comply with Drug Medi-Cal regulations regarding the length of sessions or the number of patients, ac-

ording to prosecutors.

Mohamoud and Abella caused TNYC to bill for clients who did not have a substance abuse problem, to falsify documents related to services supposedly provided to clients, and to forge client signatures on documents such as sign-in sheets, court documents show.

The charges primarily involve services provided to girls residing at Diamond Adolescent Care Facility group homes in Lancaster, Long Beach and Carson -- facilities where TNYC was not authorized to provide counseling. TNYC submitted more than \$500,000 in false and fraudulent claims for group and individual substance abuse counseling services and was paid more than \$260,000 on those claims, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.



Parents, child care providers, and businesses can find direct links to state specific COVID-19 state resources at the top of every ChildCare.gov webpage. The page includes:

- The opening status of child care
- Access to emergency child care (for essential workers) child care financial assistance
- Help finding child care

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Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles has provided funding for Essential Child Care Services (ECCS). Enrollment for ECCS will begin September 1, 2020.

McDonald's Hires Diversity Chief Amid Corporate Turmoil

BY DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Business Writer

McDonald's is hiring a new chief diversity officer as it struggles with charges of harassment and racism at all levels of the company.

Reginald Miller will become the company's global chief diversity equity and inclusion officer on Nov. 9. Miller was previously the chief diversity officer at VF Corp., the owner of brands such as The North Face, Timberland and Vans.

"Reggie and I share the same goal: that in order to move forward, we must move away from the notion that the responsibility of

diversity lies with one person, one department or one group," McDonald's human resources chief Heidi Capozzi said in a letter to employees that was viewed by The Associated Press.

Miller replaces Wendy Lewis, who retired in September.

Chicago-based McDonald's fired its former CEO Steve Easterbrook last November after he admitted sending explicit text messages to an employee. The company's former human resources chief, David Fairhurst, was also fired. Capozzi was hired in March.

In August, McDonald's said it had hired an outside



JEFF PERRY/ROCKY MOUNTAIN PHOTOGRAPHY/MCDONALD'S VIA AP
In this undated photo provided by McDonald's, Reginald Miller poses for a portrait. McDonald's has hired Miller as the company's new global chief diversity equity and inclusion officer as it struggles with charges of harassment and racism at all levels of the company.

law firm to probe its human resources department after employees said complaints about its club-like atmosphere under Fairhurst were ignored.

At least 50 workers have filed separate sexual harassment charges against McDonald's with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or in state courts over the past four years.

McDonald's is also facing charges of racism across its system. In January, two Black McDonald's executives sued the company, claiming McDonald's shifted advertising away from Black customers, graded Black-owned stores

more harshly than White ones and implemented business plans that had a discriminatory impact on Black franchisees.

In recent weeks, current and former franchisees filed two federal lawsuits against McDonald's, saying the company steered them to less-profitable, inner-city stores with high security and insurance costs and didn't give them the same opportunities as white franchisees.

Miller, who is Black, served in the U.S. Army from 1997 to 2005. He has also led diversity efforts at Walmart. His first job, in high school, was at McDonald's.

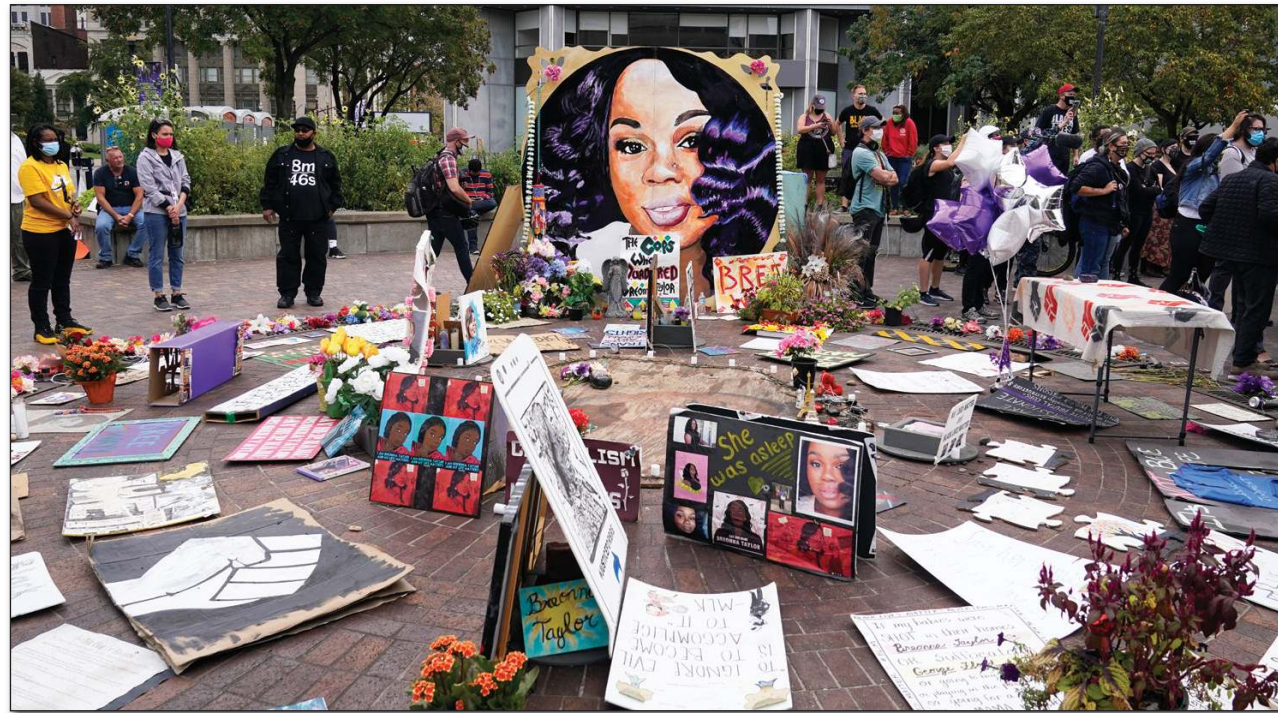
Breonna Taylor Memorial Moving to an African American Museum

AP WIRE SERVICE

A memorial for Breonna Taylor will be moved from a downtown park into a nearby museum in Louisville, Kentucky.

The outdoor memorial honoring Taylor with a mural, posters, artwork and other mementos is currently at Jefferson Square Park, the base for months of protests. The material needs a protected space with winter coming, said Shameka Parrish-Wright, co-chair of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. She said the Roots 101 African American Museum is an appropriate place.

Museum founder Lamont Collins said the memorial space will be upstairs in a room overlooking the Ohio River, honoring victims of police brutality and people who died protesting.



In this Sept. 23, 2020, file photo, people gather in Jefferson Square awaiting word on charges against police officers, Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2020, in Louisville, Ky.

"When we buried our ancestors, those who went before us — traditionally, we always buried them near water," Collins said Sun-

day. "We have a riverview area here at the museum. So my suggestion is, let's give her and other people that have died at the protests a

room to always honor what they did before us."

One side of the room will hold a casket marked with the names of police

brutality victims and those who have died from hate crimes. It was carried by a group of students during a march in June. On the other

side will be mementos of Taylor, Collins said.

The timing of the move remains to be determined.

"I think it's going to be amazing," Parrish-Wright said. "It brings tears to my eyes to think about us being able to take this there and rebuild it and let that be a permanent home. Folks had suggested a storage unit, but we know what happens, and we won't let Breonna be buried again."

The Roots 101 African American Museum is located at 819 West Main St. in downtown Louisville's Museum Row.

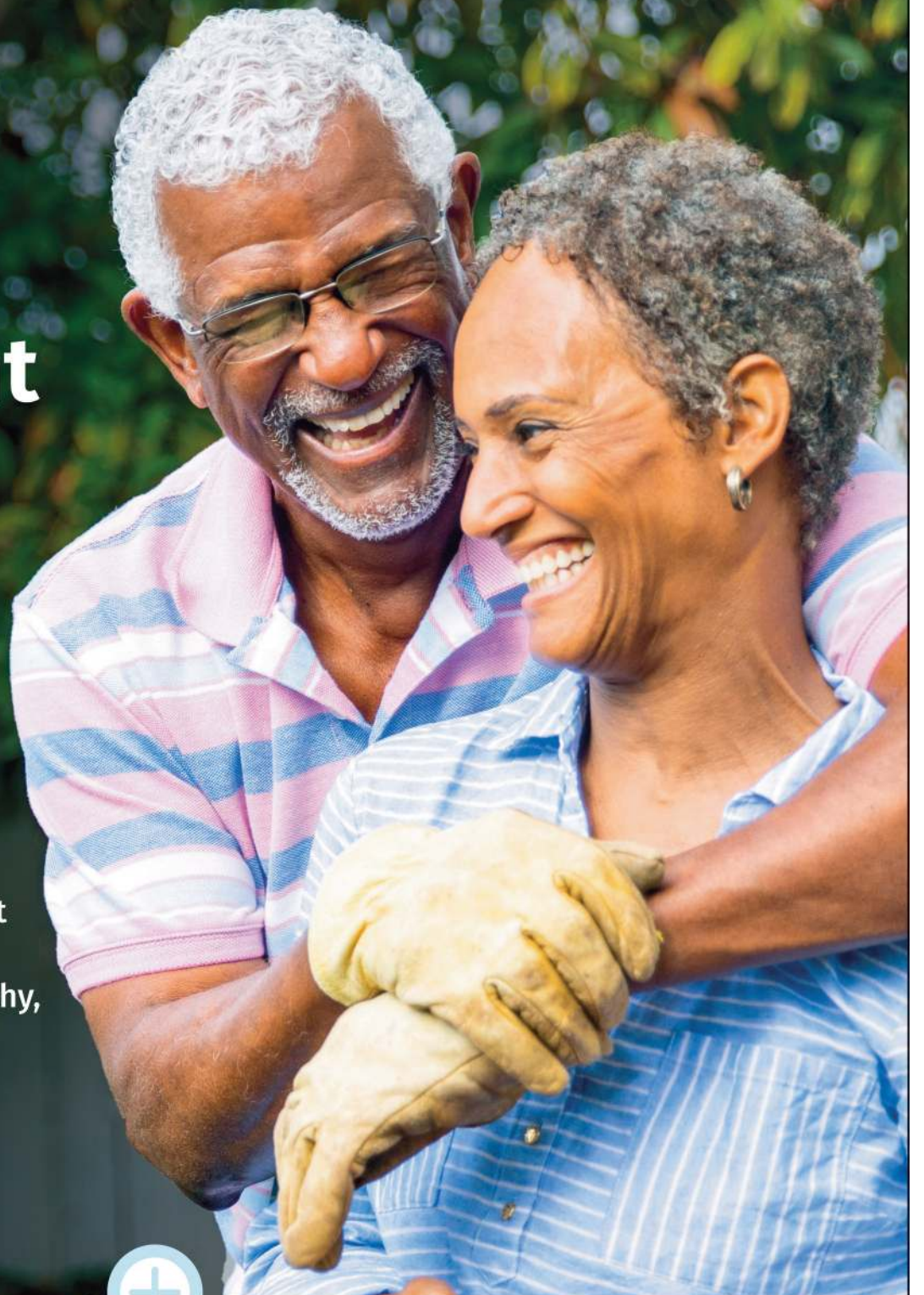
Twenty-six-year-old Taylor was a Black emergency medical worker who was shot five times by white Louisville police officer on March 13. Her death, along with the police killing of George Floyd, sparked months-long police brutality protests.

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The 2020 Battle for the White House Close - Continues

{continued from Pg.A-1}



Presidential candidate Joseph R. Biden and vice-presidential candidate Kamala Harris. PHOTO COURTESY OF TWITTER

Despite the delay in election results, both candidates are hopeful for a big win.

"We can know the [election] results as early as tomorrow morning, but it may take a little longer," said Biden.

"As I've said all along, it's not my place or the place of Donald Trump to declare who's won this election. It's the decision of the American people, but I'm optimistic about this

outcome."

Following his speech, Biden tweeted: "We feel good about where we are. We believe we are on track to win this election."

Trump also made a statement during election night, falsely claiming victory, although several states have not counted their ballots.

"Millions and millions of people voted for us tonight, and a very sad group of people is trying to dis-

enfranchise that group of people, and we won't stand for it," said Trump.

"For the good of this nation, this is a very big moment. We want the law to be used in a proper manner, so we will be going to the U.S. Supreme Court; we want all voting to stop! We don't want them to find any ballots at 4:00 a.m. and add them to the list. We will win this, and as far as I'm concerned, we already have."

So, what happens now?



Biden and Harris fight for the soul of the nation during the 2020 presidential election. PHOTO COURTESY OF TWITTER

The election results will be delayed until all ballots are counted. Until then, Americans will have to patiently wait on the edge of their seats to find out who will be the next President and lead this country for at least the next four years. In the meantime, Trump will make his way to the Supreme Court as an attempt to stop the counting of ballots cast by valid legal voters.



"Keep the faith, guys. We're going to win this," said Biden. PHOTO COURTESY OF TWITTER

Senator Holly J. Mitchell Projected to Win Seat For 2nd District

{continued from Pg.A-1}

Mitchell maintained a steady lead early on during election night

will cherish our friendship and say that I have enjoyed every moment that I have been your assemblyperson and your councilperson, and so let us kind of relax, lay back, get some more returns in."

The 2nd District covers the area ranging from downtown, south through Inglewood and much of South L.A. to Carson, and as far west as Mar Vista. The five-member county Board of Supervisors controls a \$37 billion budget with 110,000 county employees working on homelessness, managing county jail and hospital systems, and oversee child welfare, public safety and myriad other programs for more than 10 million county residents in 88 cities and unincorporated areas.

Both candidates came to election night with a list of endorsements with Wesson being endorsed by Congresswoman Maxine

Waters, Inglewood Mayor James Butts, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, comedian Tiffany Haddish, Magic Johnson and rapper Snoop Dogg to name a few. Mitchell's endorsements included California Governor Gavin Newsom, State Superintendent Tony Thurmond, SEIU 2015, labor leader and activist Dolores Huerta, Black Lives Matter co-founder Patrisse Cullors and rapper Common among others.

First elected to the Legislature in 2010, Mitchell represents nearly 1 million residents of the 30th Senate District, which ranges from Century City to South Los Angeles and takes in Culver City, Cheviot Hills, Crenshaw District, USC, downtown L.A. and a portion of Inglewood. She currently serves as a legislator in Residence at Mount St. Mary's University and was appointed to the Los Ange-



Senator Holly J. Mitchell FILE PHOTO

les Coliseum Commission Board.

A third-generation native Angeleno, Mitchell is the daughter public servants and was nurtured by community leaders for a passion in service. She was named the first African American to chair the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee. Mitchell

led California's largest child and family development organization, Crystal Stairs, and worked for the Western Center for Law and Poverty.

From 2017 to present, Mitchell has overseen three consecutive state budgets each totaling nearly \$215 billion. She has supported all efforts to expand ac-

cess to healthcare, early care, and education while reinvesting in neglected services to help the elderly, unhoused and families living in poverty.

Sen. Mitchell has authored bills for the betterment of those who need the most assistance by addressing housing discrimination, economic inequity, and bias in access to health services. SB 188, the CROWN Act, gained international media attention, banning discrimination of natural hair by employers and public education institutions. As a result, the CROWN Act is being introduced in legislatures across the country.

In addition to her chairmanship on the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, she also chairs the Senate Select Committee on Social Determinants of Children's Well-Being and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. Mitchell also sits on the Senate

Health Committee; the Joint Committee on Rules; the Public Safety Committee; the Labor and Industrial Relations Committee; and the Insurance Committee; Select Committees on Mental Health; the Status of Boys and Men of Color; and Women Work and Families.

She has been cited for her outstanding leadership by more than 100 community and business groups, including the Courage Campaign, Sierra Club, United Cerebral Palsy Association, the Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce and the Women's Foundation of California Board. Mitchell was named the 2019 National Leader of the Year by the Fathers & Families Coalition of America and has received the Budget Champion Award from Provider Alliance to End Homelessness.

Congresswoman Maxine Waters Will Ensure that the Community Feels Confident in their Decision, Continuing Her 30 Years of Service to the Public

{continued from Pg.A-1}



Congresswoman Maxine Waters COURTESY PHOTO

son, and Harbor Gateway.

Before the call of radical social change, Congresswomen Waters co-developed thriving local initiatives such as the Black Women Forum; a non-profit organization with the involvement of over 1,200 women of color in Los Angeles and in the moment of George Floyd's murder, Waters spoke out and shared her thoughts.

"George Floyd is yet

another unarmed African American man who has been killed at the hands of the police. George Floyd's murder is a painful and tragic indication that we have, in fact, entered into an era where some law enforcement officers, white supremacists, and other radical extremists are feeling empowered to target, brutalize, and kill unarmed African Americans with impunity." (Maxine Waters

Press Release, 2020)

Early on, Congresswoman Waters recognized how imperative healthcare is and how it should be available for everyone. Last year in 2019 before the tragedy of a global pandemic, Waters fought "tooth and nail" to keep the threshold of Obamacare and coverage for those with preexisting conditions in July of 2019. This turned out to be a pivotal factor

this year, as we face an airborne virus that has fatal affects on those who have preexisting medical conditions.

Waters stated, "Obamacare has been the law of the land for nine years. Since its passage, Obamacare has saved millions of lives and ensured that all Americans have access to quality and affordable health care." (Maxine Waters Press Release, July 2019) Congresswoman Waters is known to be a major advocate for those with preexisting medical conditions such as Diabetes and AIDS/HIV.

Less than a month into the pandemic, Waters discussed a plan for relief from the coronavirus on MSNBC in March (2020). With 30 years of public service and many policies influenced by her strategy, Waters would continue confidently leading those who feel voiceless. However, there is a candidate who looks to have a stronger plan.

Opposing Representa-

tive Joe Collins feels "We deserve better" proposing a five-point plan to elevate the 43rd District. Some of the policies includes rebuilding the community infrastructure, improved relations with law enforcement, educational funding, hiring opportunities, and ending the struggle in living without shelter.

Collins sees space for opportunity in how Waters has been directing the 43rd congressional district seat, according to a press release found on the official Joe Collins website, Representative Collins shared concerns with Waters living in a six-million-dollar home, insinuating there has been little work that's been done for her district.

Congressional Candidate Joe Collins scrutinized Congresswoman Waters for living in a six-million-dollar mansion, claiming that it is outside the district she represents. Collins ran an ad in the Navy veteran, that depicts the dramatic difference between Water's neighborhood compared to

the area she represents.

Waters confirmed Collins' standing with the Trump administration, as he denied being a "Trump Republican" days before on radio interview on Power106. However, the current president announced his support of Collins, It appears there may be space for more transparency from the very start.

Serving the public is what is most important, the congresswoman's living establishment or Collins' political alignment does not come close in comparison to the significance of serving the community. The people have casted their collective vote, during a heightened time of awareness, many hold their breath as Congresswoman Waters conducts the US congressional 43rd District into a new area of social distancing. There is much hope put into this candidate as the community feels through a dark tunnel into a new normal.



Mending Open Wounds: Equitable Solutions to Address Systemic Racism in Healthcare

By Dr. John W. Patton III, MD, MBA

It's the year 2020 and we are still fighting systemic racism – not just in our neighborhoods and streets, but also in our healthcare system. The roots run deep –the 19th and 20th centuries included several ground-breaking studies which advanced medicine. However, sadly they relied upon harm to Black patients, experiments without consent, or painful surgeries without anesthesia to name a few. There is a dark and complicated history that created mistrust and barriers between the Black community and medical professionals.

Although U.S. healthcare practices and medical research have improved drastically, there remains significant room for improvement in many areas, including access to healthcare, bias in patient care, and consistently worse patient outcomes for minority populations. The Black and Brown communities continue to be over-

represented where they don't want to be – a review of the COVID-19 data illustrates that racial health disparities are still significant. So what do we do?

We need more Black medical professionals.

There must be a purposeful and sustained effort to increase diversity amongst medical providers. My presence in hospitals as a Black physician is important for my community. Derek (alias) was described as a difficult patient, a drug seeker, depressed. He was a Black teenager who suffered from Sickle Cell Anemia and was a frequent flyer to the hospital. My colleagues were unable to connect with him and determined that he was uncooperative. But I look different than my colleagues, and my approach and background helped make a connection. I sat and talked with him, sharing that members of my own family are sickle cell carriers. I acknowledged he probably hasn't seen many Black doctors, and that can feel isolating. His mood brightened up.

He revealed his disease had sparked a new interest in medicine. In that moment, I was better able to meet a young Black man where he was. A number of studies suggest that patients are generally more comfortable and have better communication and a more positive experience when cared for by doctors they culturally relate with.

While African Americans make up 13% of the U.S. population, Black doctors represent only 5% of U.S. physicians, and only about 8% of U.S. medical school applicants. Ensuring there are more physicians of color will help improve healthcare experiences and outcomes for people of color.

We must educate ourselves on the disparities, bias, and systemic racism that disadvantage 'underrepresented in medicine' (URM) students. The medical community must be intentional with recognizing and understanding our biases and correcting them in order to purposefully grow the number of U.S. minority doctors.

We must strengthen healthcare career pathways for Black youth.

I understand the significance of me (a Black man) as a physician. I also know it's bigger than me. It's important for me as an African American anesthesiologist to be visible in my community and in the digital space. From information sharing to simply seeing someone who may look like you, social media offers a powerful tool that can build community among other Black medical professionals, while also showing Black boys and girls they too can become doctors or any other professional.

Unfortunately, access to resources remains a barrier for Black communities, and economic and educational disparities plays a role in this. Redlining and segregation stripped Black communities of resources and in many respects, these inequalities remain today. Young people, particularly people of color, must have educational opportunities that spark an interest in healthcare, regardless of



COURTESY PHOTO

By Dr. John W. Patton III

their zip code or how well-funded their local school district is.

We must be creative about the opportunities and resources we are allocating to lower-income and minority neighborhoods. We must give all kids a better chance at manifesting their dreams and meeting the qualifications for medical school. A repeal of California's Prop 209 to reinstate Affirmative Action policies is a good step, but it's not a comprehensive solution. We need improvements at inner-city schools, wider availability of quality after-school programs, heightened access to technology and the internet for lower income families, and committed teachers who keep drawing minority students back into the health-

care pipeline when they lose their footing, face barriers, or waver in interest.

Our country's history of racism and inequities in healthcare continues to permeate throughout our communities, quietly influencing the approach of medical professionals and impacting patient outcomes. It's time to devote the resources necessary to improve diversity in medicine. A more diverse workforce will improve patient outcomes, help advance medicine, and propel us towards a brighter, more just healthcare system for all.

John W. Patton III, MD, MBA is a Fellow Physician in Regional Anesthesia and Acute Pain Medicine at the Cedars-Sinai Department of Anesthesiology.

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David Geffen School of Medicine



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SCAN FOR FULL SIZED FLYER



Embracing Medical Science to Address Cancer's Racial Disparities

By RHONDA SMITH
Contributing Writer

Since my own cancer diagnosis and treatment, I have spent a good part of my life listening to and supporting Black women battling breast cancer. It's one thing to know the horrible statistics – that Black women have a more than 40% greater likelihood of dying from the disease than White women. It's another thing altogether to help a fellow cancer survivor through their journey and know that their prognosis may be affected because their cancer wasn't detected early enough.

Being part of women's journeys and knowing their stories has made me passionate about the need to persistently bring attention to cancer disparities in the Black community and the importance of prevention and screening. The crisis we face today is that the pandemic has created its own form of silence in our communities, as people stay at home and avoid the interactions that could make them more vulnerable to the virus. Consequently, cancer has become an even greater health challenge, particularly for Black women and men.



Rhonda Smith

COURTESY PHOTO

During the pandemic, the number of mammograms being performed nationwide has dropped precipitously. The standard obstacles we face in convincing women to get screened – lack of health insurance, mistrust with the medical community, transportation challenges, finding childcare, and fear of the results – are complicated by a virus that makes people wary of going to a clinic or doctor's office and being around other patients and healthcare workers.

Compound the standard obstacles to care with the lack of health equity within our healthcare system and it's clear that health outcomes will only improve once we have systemic and structural change.

If we want to reduce the racial disparity in this country when it comes to cancer deaths, we must find ways to make cancer screening more broadly accessible. Fortunately, medical science may be providing one of the answers. Healthcare com-

panies like GRAIL and Thrive are developing groundbreaking technologies that utilize machine learning and genomic research to identify many cancers from a single blood test. These new tests, which would complement existing screenings, like mammograms, are currently undergoing clinical trials. Although more work needs to be done to ensure trials in genomic medicine reflect the diverse demographic makeup of our state and country, the

progress we're seeing in this field shows significant potential. A scientific journal recently published results of a study showing that GRAIL's test had detected more than 50 cancer types. Knowing that this science is on the not-too-distant horizon, we have to encourage all parts of the healthcare system – doctors, clinics, and insurers – to be ready for it. Likewise, government officials need to ensure that Medicare and Medicaid, which provide insurance coverage to so many Black women, overcome existing obstacles to covering these tests.

Of course, it's not only Black Americans that suffer from a lack of early detection for the vast majority of cancers. Yet compared to our White counterparts, we have a higher mortality rate for all cancers combined. Jaws dropped across the world when we found out about Chadwick Boseman's four-year private battle with the disease. It highlighted the disparities within cancer care, particularly for Black men. The racial biases that exist and permeate through our everyday lives have a direct impact on quality of care and life. In addition, while colon cancer rates

are decreasing overall, they are actually rising among younger adults. Yet screening guidelines haven't caught up, even though Boseman was two years younger than the recommended screening age of 45 when he passed. We need to be able to detect all cancers sooner, before they show symptoms. New screening technologies being developed now would be a step forward toward that goal.

As someone who has been blessed with extra years made possible by early detection, being proactive, and the proper diagnostic tests and effective treatments, my greatest wish is that the women I have come to know, and will know in the future, experience the same opportunity. Today, Black Americans face inequities when it comes to cancer, as evidenced by our comparably higher rates of death from the disease. It's up to us, and the medical and healthcare communities, to do everything within our power to beat those odds. Let's make sure that we do.

Rhonda Smith, Interim Executive Director of the California Black Health Network, and a ten-year breast cancer survivor.

Edison International Donation Brings Laptops, Internet Access to Inglewood Schools Navigating COVID-19 Impacts

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Edison International announced a \$520,000 donation to the California Bridging the Digital Divide (BDD) Fund, a statewide effort to provide students with equitable access to quality public education during the COVID-19 pandemic. The donation will result in hundreds of refurbished laptops and expanded internet access for school districts in Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and Tulare counties.

Edison International's gift is comprised of an in-kind donation of 600 refurbished laptops, valued at \$270,000, and \$250,000 in cash grants.

"The COVID-19 crisis in K-12 education is taking a disproportionate toll on students, families and edu-

cators in our communities," said Caroline Choi, senior vice president of Corporate Affairs at Edison International and Southern California Edison. "This donation will equip school districts in our service area with needed resources to support distance learning for thousands of students and teachers."

The grants were paid using Edison International shareholder dollars, not SCE customer funds.

The Inglewood School Unified School District in Los Angeles County is among those receiving learning resources – hotspots, laptops and notebook computers – funded by Edison International's cash grants, along with the Lake Elsinore Unified School District (Riverside County) and the Farmersville Unified School

District (Tulare County).

The California BDD Fund is a joint effort of the Governor's Office, the State Board of Education, the California Department of Education, and the Californians Dedicated to Education (CDE) Foundation. Edison International partnered with CDE Foundation, which purchased the learning resources in bulk using funds from Edison International's cash grants. Based on initial survey data, the foundation identified the schools most in need, and allocated the items accordingly.

State Sen. Steven Bradford (D-35), whose district includes Inglewood, said, "Inglewood students and their families have been working hard at the difficult task of adapting to distance learning, and I thank Edison for their meaningful

support. The need for distance learning has proven that the digital divide is real in both rural and urban communities. As these students and Inglewood USD continue to respond to COVID-19 with safe, remote-learning methods, students deserve as much support as we can provide them. Edison's support of this community is much appreciated."

Two San Bernardino County schools – Twenty-nine Palms High School of the Morongo Unified School District, and Clement Middle School of the Redlands Unified School District – will receive 400 and 200 laptops, respectively, with updated software for distribution to students. The laptops were previously used by SCE employees before they were refurbished.



PHOTO BY JEAN ANDERSON

Edison International recently donated 600 refurbished laptops to the California Bridging the Digital Divide Fund.

The California BDD Fund seeks to address the digital divide to build more equitable teaching and learning environments, especially for special education, English learner, low-income, and rural populations.

"We need to use technology as a tool to educate and not just for distance

learning. Devices are part of how we do schooling in the 21st century," said Wendy Dougherty, chief operating officer of the CDE Foundation. "We look at this as an opportunity to bridge the digital divide. Hopefully, we have raised awareness of this critical issue for the long term."



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ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2020

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C-1

'The Witches' Transplanted to the American South, a Perfect New Version of Roald Dahl's Witch Tale

Directed by Robert Zemeckis with a screenplay by Zemeckis and Kenya Barris.

By LAPACAZO SANDOVAL
Contributing Writer

"The Witches" is based on Roald Dahl's book. He's a prolific author who made a career, of sorts, focusing on characters that seriously despise little children. His novel credits include "James and the Giant Peach," "The Enormous Crocodile," "Matilda," and "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory."

In Dahl's book, "The Witches," an orphan is on vacation with his grandmother at a majestic hotel, where he stumbles upon an active coven of witches who is attending a nefarious meeting presided over by the Grand High Witch. Their goal is to circulate a powerful potion that can turn children into mice which will then allow them to be exterminated with extreme prejudice.

The first film version (1990) of the book, "The Witches," was directed by Nicolas Roeg and the Grand High Witch was played by Anjelica Huston. Fast-forward to 2020 and under director Robert Zemeckis, the new version, set in the deep south, is delicious, perfect, charm-



Alabama native Octavia Spencer, Jahzir Kadeen Bruno and Stanley Tucci (right) are in the cast of "The Witches," a movie on HBO Max.

ing, exciting, and better than the original in every single way, sorry Nicolas Roeg.

Let's talk about casting and a re-imagining of the world.

The story begins in Demopolis, Alabama, in 1968 and our hero (Jahzir Bruno) is 8-years-old. He loses his parents in a car accident and moves in with his warm, and bright Grandma (Octavia Spencer) who takes him on a holiday for a splurge at the Grand Orleans Imperial

Hotel where his cousin is an executive chef.

In this massive ballroom, the witches, alone, can remove their wigs (all witches are bald), remove their gloves (all witches have mangled claws, and their shoes (all witches have numbs for feet). These crafty evil ones work under the guise of holding a convention of the International Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. And it's where our brave hero gets vaporized—poof—by a vial of pur-

ple potion and turned him into a mouse.

The same fate awaits the greedy Bruno (Codie-Lei Eastick), a chubby British kid. They join Daisy (Kristin Chenoweth), the hero's pet mouse, whom it turns out has already been the victim of this evil and permanent transformation. The three rodents scurry around the hotel in an elaborate plan to expose the witches and stop their evil plans.

As the Grand High Witch (Anne Hathaway) is

a chic but terrifying woman on a mission. She's the stuff of kids' nightmares extended back by scars which gives her an enlarged, creepy smile.

The triumph of this new version lies in the casting. Octavia Spencer as our hero's grandmother is lovable. Hathaway's strength (and there are many) is that she doesn't allow the visual effects to upstage her performance.

Four-out-of-four marks for "The Witches" — fun as only Robert Zemeckis can deliver.

An HBO Max release of a Warner Bros. presenta-

tion of an ImageMovers, Necropia, Esperanto Filmoj production. Producers: Robert Zemeckis, Jack Rapke, Alfonso Cuarón, Guillermo del Toro, Luke Kelly. Executive producers: Jacqueline Levine, Marianne Jenkins, Michael Siegel, Gideon Simeloff, Cate Adams.

Directed by Robert Zemeckis. Screenplay by Robert Zemeckis, Kenya Barris

Starring Anne Hathaway, Octavia Spencer, Jahzir Bruno, Codie-Lei Eastick, Stanley Tucci, Chris Rock, Charles Edwards, Morgana Robinson, Eugenia Caruso, Simon Manyonda.

PG. Running time: 105 MIN.



Octavia Spencer stars in "The Witches."

Free Screening & Panel of Atlanta Black Tech Mecca Film Continues to Spotlight Excellence of Emerging Filmmakers in 2020 BHERC TV Virtual Film Festival

One of the best short film festivals featuring emerging and veteran filmmakers continues through November 29, 2020.

SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL

Emboldened by COVID-19 and the civil and social upheaval of 2020, The Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center (BHERC) curated the 26th Annual African American Film Marketplace & S.E. Manly Short Film Showcase (AAFM SEMSFS) streaming online now through November 29, 2020, to include a global voice from storytellers with points of view not often heard. An inclusive festival of 140 plus diverse films from all genres that presents the opportunity to share, learn and gain inspiration to meet the challenges facing the world to today and panels to inform, educate and give insight into the entertainment industry from top professionals and executives in the business.

In addition to the films, selected free panels give the audiences the opportunity for a more intimate look at filmmaking and features industry professionals and filmmakers with a wealth of knowledge for newcomers, veterans, and film fans over a variety of topics. The upcoming panel set for Sunday, November 8, 5:00 p.m. (PDT), follows the free screening of "Atlanta Black Tech Mecca" (Short-Docu Series) by directors C'vonzell Dondrico and Vante' followed by a Q and A with the cast and crew. The film looks at the emerging Black Tech Ecosystem in Atlanta, Georgia while

highlighting leaders in the industry and celebrating diversity and inclusion.

The most recent panel held Sunday, November 1, "The Art of Documentary Filmmaking" provided priceless information and fundamental understanding into the real workings of making a documentary film. Moderated by Academy Award-nominated filmmaker, David Massey "Last Breeze of Summer" and hosted by the Black Association of Documentary Filmmakers - West (BAD West), the panelists were guided through a discussion that allowed each to share their personal journey as documentarians, discuss distribution strategies, explain how funding was secured, describe their storytelling approach and documentary genre. The panel included filmmakers Jerry Henry, award-winning director-cinematographer, "St. Louis Superman," Mellisa Haizlip, award-winning producer-director-writer, "Mr. SOUL!," Frank Dawson, award-winning director "Agents of Change," award-winning Kimberly

Browning, producer-director, "Room 19" and Nathaniel Kahn, academy-nominated sirector "My Architect. When asked for a closing recommendation to filmmakers, some of the wisdom shared by the panelists included:

"Shoot with your ears, not just your eyes. Always, follow the story." — Jerry Henry

"Don't let festival deadlines determine the way you shoot your movie. Take the time you need to finish your film." — Kim Browning

"Watch your footage as you go. Do not wait until then end to find you did not capture what you needed." — Nathaniel Kahn

"Do not make a documentary for the money. You will not make any. Find a story you just must tell and follow the story. Listen in your interviews." — Frank Dawson

"The passion and story are important. But building a good team that believes in you and your story is key." — Mellisa Haizlip

In the opening discussion the panelist spoke exuberantly about the develop-

ment of the increasing demand for the documentary format. The evolution of the form over the years has created a demand from the public creating a surge in demand from multiple distribution channels in both short and long documentary formats.

However, Nathaniel Kahn cautioned filmmakers to remember themselves and their films as artists and art not product. "Remember to keep the power to tell the story your way. Always seek to maintain control of your artistic vision." When asked if this demand has opened new opportunities for women, Ms. Haizlip remarked, "Women are no longer asking permission. They are demanding their opportunities. The virtual space gives way to opportunities not seen before and that levels the playing field." Frank Dawson commented about the wealth of diverse talent, stating, "There are more qualified filmmakers of color than any other time in history whose stories have never been told, aligned with the access to multiple and varied platforms for dis-

tribution of documentary films."

During the panel, several films were cited as great examples of good documentary filmmaking worthy of watching in addition to those listed in the panelist's bios. They are: "Driving While Black: Race, Space and Mobility in America" by Dr. Gretchen Sorin and Emmy-winning and director Ric Burns, "Sherman's March" by director Ross McElwee and "The Apollo" by Emmy Award-winning director Roger Ross Williams.

Special Event Highlights

Additional BHERC panels include the following:

11/14; 11 a.m., Editors on Editing

11/15; 2 p.m., I'm Good Bro' addressing Black Male Depression, Black Nurses Assn.

11/20; 5 p.m., Road to Television designed for 1st timers in the Industry

11/21; 11 a.m., Cinematographers on Cinematography

11/21; 5 p.m., The McHenry Trial...Q and A with Ken Sagoes, Filmmaker

11/22; 4 p.m., Black Filmmakers on Social Justice. Sandra Evers-Manly, BHERC President

Space is limited so early registration is suggested. Log on to www.bhec.org for the complete schedule.

More About the Festival

In addition to the 18 countries represented at the festival, filmmakers hail from over 20 US States and 40 Cities. Festival participants may sort and select films by genres that include: Action, Animation, Comedy, Documentary, Drama, Historical, Horror, Inspirational, Music, Romance, Sci-Fi, Spoken Word, and Thriller. They may also explore by topics such as Art, Diversity, Family, Faith-Based, LGBTQ+, Mental Health, People with Disabilities and Social Justice. The festival also plays host to a few young filmmakers from Film schools such as: Academy of Art, Florida State University, High Definition Film Academy, Loyola Marymount University, New York Film Academy, Oral Roberts University, University of California Los Angeles, and University of Southern California. However, the youngest filmmaker is a self-taught nine-year old.

Ticketing
Festival passes are available online at www.bhec.org. \$75.00 for a full Festival Pass, \$25.00 for a Day Pass and \$10.00 for a block of 5 films. All panels and special events are free.

African American Film Marketplace
26th Annual
S.E. Manly Short Film Showcase
October 23 - November 29, 2020

Sunday, November 8th
5pm PDT
Documentary Discussion and Q&A
with Filmmakers, Cast and Crew

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2020

Shawn's Hemp: Former NBA All-Star Kemp Enters Pot Business

By TIM BOOTH
AP Sports Writer

The line stretched down the block, around the corner and snaked into the alley on the back side of the street. Most people were wearing green and gold. All of them were there for a glimpse, maybe an autograph and maybe some



Fans and customers wait outside Shawn Kemp's Cannabis, the marijuana dispensary owned by the Shawn Kemp, a former NBA basketball player for the Seattle SuperSonics and several other teams, and other business partners, Friday, Oct. 30, 2020, prior to the store's grand opening in downtown Seattle.

product to take home. Even 23 years after he last played for the Seattle SuperSonics, Shawn Kemp can still manage to draw a crowd, even at lunchtime on a Friday in the midst of a pandemic.

This time it was for his latest business venture, partnering with and lending his name to the first of what

he hopes is a franchised line of cannabis dispensaries. Along with his name on the front of the building and a large mural on the side, the dispensary called Shawn Kemp's Cannabis comes with the additional novelty of being just a couple blocks away from the building where Kemp became an All-Star with the SuperSonics in the 1990s and where he hopes to see the NBA return one day.

Kemp said he never imagined when he was leading the Sonics, one of the best teams in the NBA in the mid-1990s, that a player would ever have his name across the front of a marijuana shop.

"If you had asked me to do this when I was playing, probably not. But I think things change as we go and business as we know will also change. And that's what I did throughout the years," Kemp said. "I don't know if there's a cool way



Shawn Kemp, a former NBA basketball player for the Seattle SuperSonics and several other teams, reacts as he talks to reporters about the grand opening of Shawn Kemp's Cannabis, the marijuana dispensary he owns with several business partners, Friday, Oct. 30, 2020, in downtown Seattle.

to promote and to do cannabis, but I think here we're going to be able to do that in a positive and professional manner."

Kemp is a partner in the project with Main Street Cannabis, which operates three other dispensaries in Washington state. The company initially claimed it would be the first Black-

owned dispensary in Seattle, but later backed off those claims.

Still, Kemp hopes it can be a business example for the Black community. The first store had 35 employees on the first day, with plans to reach 40.

"Marijuana has been part of the Black community forever. This is putting a

positive spin on it," Kemp said.

Kemp was joined in opening the store by former Seattle teammate Gary Payton, whose cannabis cookies with his name on the front were available for sale inside. Payton wore a SuperSonics face covering with "Glove" embroidered on the front.

Kemp was arrested twice in the early 2000s on drug charges, including marijuana possession. He said the change in how marijuana is viewed by the NBA now is part of an evolution on the overall view of cannabis.

"I think we're finding out the cannabis to be valuable to us in a lot of different ways, whether it be through medicine or to athletic skills," Kemp said. "And I think that's why you see the NBA bending their rules and I think you'll see several other leagues probably do the same."

Basketball Stars Danny Green and Reshanda Gray Promote Voting

By AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Writer

Although their respective seasons are over, Sparks forward, Reshanda Gray and Lakers guard, Danny Green continue to galvanize marginalized communities in Los Angeles by encouraging citizens to vote for the November 3rd election.

They joined California



Sparks forward, Reshanda Gray explains how people fought for their right to vote.

Secretary of State Alex Padilla at the Staples Center on Friday to talk about the different ways people

can cast their ballot. The Staples center is one of the many voting centers in Los Angeles. It has been one of 118 voting locations that were open to the public since October 23.

Gray expressed how people in the past has fought so that every Amer-



Lakers guard, Danny Green was honored to encourage Angelenos to vote.

ican has the right to vote.

"Let's rally up around the city," Gray said. "We're the people that put the people in the office, so we're the people that dictate what we want."

Being a native of Los Angeles and an alum of

Washington Prep High School, Gray was honored to tell fellow Angelenos their vote has power.

"We're turning all the odds down and rising to the top," she said. "Just how we came together as a city and supported the Lakers and supported the Dodgers, I hope that we can come together as a city and go vote."

The Staples Center also provided voters with masks and encouraged social distancing. After each person votes, voting machines were wiped down in order to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. The vote center is set up in the lobby, people can also drop off their mail-in ballot there. Padilla noted that California has record registration and turnout.

"We surpassed 22 million voters on the rolls in the state of California," Padilla said. "That's more than the population of any other state in the nation except for Texas."

The vote center at the



(L-R) Alex Padilla, Danny Green, Reshanda Gray, and Dean Logan

Staples Center is backed by the organization "More Than A Vote." The organization battles against voter suppression; LeBron James and other Black celebrities and athletes created More Than A Vote.

"We've been pushing the narrative the whole time we've been in the Bubble," Green said. "Make sure you get your vote in because your voice will be heard

and your vote counts."

On the weekend before election day, there were 790 vote center locations throughout Los Angeles County, according to L.A. County Registrar, Dean Logan.

"I want to thank secretary Padilla, he pointed this opportunity out to us quite a few months ago," said Kings COO Kelly Cheeseman. "He said there's a real

need that we need to make an impact in the middle of this pandemic."

As of October 29, L.A. County surpassed two million votes casted.

"We need another two million plus votes still to be cast in this election to really represent this community," Logan said. "Make sure you have that opportunity to be heard and to participate in this election."

Rise With the Rams Brings Together Youth, Pro Athletes, and Police

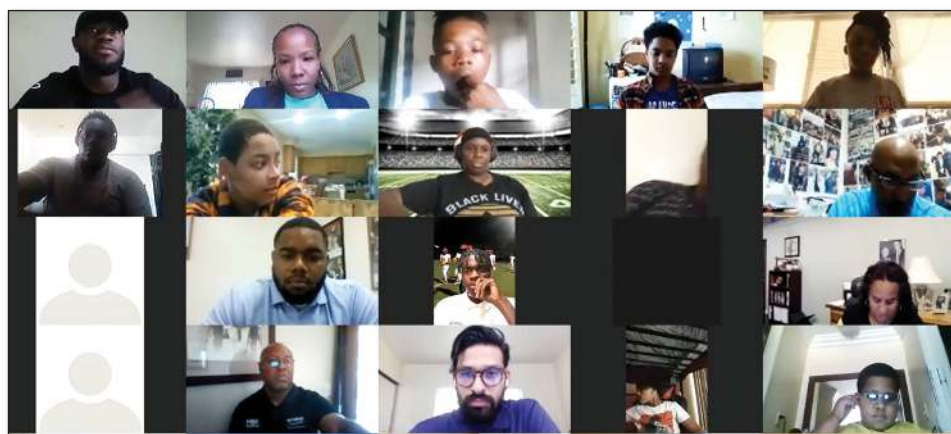
By AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Writer

Through the Rise with the Rams program, the Los Angeles Rams has been building bonds between high school students and law enforcement. Last month, the Rams partnered with the Ross initiative in Sports for Equality (RISE) to host their second session of the season.

The second session is called "Perspective Shaping and Bias," the franchise united the football teams of Calabasas, Eagle Rock, Inglewood, Lincoln, and Notre Dame high schools along with members of the L.A. Police Department (LAPD) and the entire 2020 Rams rookie class.

For Rams rookie safety, JuJu Hughes, he enjoyed being in discussion with people he normally does not get a chance to talk to.

"I think it was a cool



The Rams players engage with high school student athletes and the LAPD during the Rise with the Rams sessions.

deal to kinda get to interact especially with the LAPD," Hughes said. "We don't get to interact with them or talk to them real often, especially even high school kids."

Officer Susan Peraza is an alum of South Gate high school and is familiar with the high schools the student athletes are from. She enjoys interacting with the football players through the sessions.

"Often times when the community sees our uniform, they forget that not only are we public servants, but we're also with in our community that wants those changes, that is hurting," Peraza said.

The exercise during the session showed how people perceive things based on their knowledge and biases. In one exercise, all participants were given a list of eight individuals

with a brief description of them (like "Latin model" or "Asian store owner" for example) and they had to rank said individuals from who they want to be the most to the least.

The exercise went on for three rounds, revealing more information about the individuals.

"You make petty judgments without knowing who they are," said Inglewood high school football

player, Fredrick Martin III.

Their first session was titled "Understanding Identities;" safety, Terrell Burgess, offensive lineman, Tremayne Anchram, quarterback, Bryce Perkins, and wide receiver, J.J. Koski joined the conversation with the students and officers.

During this conversation, participants were divided into small groups to do break out sessions to get to know each other.

"The moderator had us

pick 10 words to describe us," Martin III said. "I would have thought it was easy but it was difficult."

Some words he used to describe himself were smart, determined, and athletic. Martin III soon realized that many other student athletes described themselves with similar words.

Rise with the Rams will have their third session on November 10 and the topic will be on leadership.



LADWP and LA City Council President Nury Martinez Announce \$50 Million in Emergency Relief for Low-Income Households Impacted by COVID-19



COURTESY PHOTO

Low-income LA residents affected by COVID pandemic can apply for \$500 grant between November 2-15, under program championed by council president and approved by city council & board of water & power commissioners

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Low-income Los Angeles City residents who have been financially impacted through the loss of their job or who have otherwise experienced income loss in their household due to the COVID-19 pandemic are encouraged to apply for a one-time \$500 grant to help pay their utility bills, under a program championed by LA City Council President Nury Martinez, chair of the Ad-Hoc COVID-19 Recovery and Neighborhood Investment Committee and approved by the City Council last week. In a related action, the LA Board of Water and Power Commissioners approved allocating resources to support the grant program which will provide assistance to up to 100,000 low-income Angelenos impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Applications for the \$500 grant will be accepted online through LADWP's MyAccount customer portal between November 2-15, and will be distributed via check mailed to the eligible customer in late December. If the number of eligible applicants exceed the available funding, awardees will

be selected randomly, with priority given to existing LADWP assistance program participants. The City of LA – LADWP CARES Utility Grant Program was made possible through federal CARES Act funding received by the city to assist struggling low-income Angelenos with utility costs.

“Our low-wage workers continue to suffer in silence,” said Council President Martinez. “They are the first to put themselves and their families at risk through their essential work. I am unapologetically dedicated during this pandemic to help them get whatever resources they need to hang on and stay in their homes. While this utility relief program helps us meet that goal, we absolutely need additional federal assistance and relief moving forward.”

“Our COVID-19 response has focused on two core tenets — saving lives and protecting livelihoods — and we will continue to do everything in our power to help our hardest-hit Angelenos get back on their feet,” said Mayor Garcetti. “With leadership from the City Council and DWP, we are investing in a fairer, stronger

city by directing vital funds where they can do the most good: helping struggling households cover their bills, make ends meet, and endure this moment of unprecedented challenge.”

“COVID-19 has not only resulted in an unprecedented global health crisis, but it has also led to an extraordinary economic crisis as well for many families,” We look forward to providing these \$500 grants to Angelenos to assist our most vulnerable residents during this crisis. said Board of Water and Power Commission President Cynthia McClain-Hill.

To be eligible for the grant, residents must meet the household income eligibility requirements and be able to provide documentation to demonstrate they were financially impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Eligible COVID-19 financial impacts include, but are not limited to:

- Workplace closure or reduced hours due to COVID-19, including lay-off, termination, loss of working hours.
- Business closure or other economic impacts of COVID-19.
- Sickness with COVID-19 or caring for a household or family member who is sick with COVID-19.
- Medical costs for you or a household member who is ill with COVID-19.
- Extraordinary out-of-pocket childcare expenses

due to school closures.

“As a department, we stopped all shutoffs of water and power service at the very beginning of the pandemic so that no customer goes without vital services. We also stretched out our payment plans so that customers have much longer to pay their account balance without penalties,” said Martin L. Adams, LADWP General Manager and Chief Engineer. “Providing assistance through the CARES grant on behalf of the City is another way we hope to give our customers some relief as they face unprecedented challenges.”

Applicants must be an LADWP residential customer with an online account in order to complete an online application during the program enrollment period of November 2 – 15, 2020.

While grants will be allocated via lottery, priority will be given to customers currently enrolled (as of November 1) in one of four LADWP assistance programs: The Low-Income

Discount Program; Lifeline Rate; Life Support Equipment Discount; or Physicians Certified Allowance Discount. Currently, 224,000 LA households are enrolled in one or more LADWP assistance programs.

Grant Program Income Limits

Applicants who are not currently enrolled in LADWP's assistance programs but who meet the income requirement and the City of LA – LADWP CARES Utility Grant Program guidelines are encouraged to visit www.ladwp.com/Utility-CARES and review all program and eligibility requirements.

Grant award checks will be mailed by December 30, 2020. The utility assistance grant is meant to help residents with costs associated with their gas service; cellular phone; wi-fi; and internet and cable television service.

Recipients are encouraged to cash or deposit the grant check immediately because replacement checks

| Household Income Requirements | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Members in Household | Maximum Annual Gross Income* |
| 1 | \$34,480 |
| 2 | \$34,480 |
| 3 | \$43,440 |
| 4 | \$52,400 |
| 5 | \$61,360 |
| 6 | \$70,320 |
| 7 | \$79,280 |
| 8 | \$88,240 |
| Each additional member: | Add \$8,960 to income |
| | *Effective July 1, 2020 |

cannot be replaced or reissued under the grant funding guidelines.

LOCAL PHYSICIAN HOSTING FREE 'DRIVE THRU' FLU SHOT CLINIC TO REDUCE SEASONAL FLU SYMPTOMS

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

WHAT: On three distinct Saturdays, Nov. 7, 21, and Dec. 5, Adult household members are invited to “drive thru” our free flu



COURTESY PHOTO

the end of March. The flu vaccine is important to teach our immune system to fight against seasonal flu exposure. Influenza is not as deadly as COVID-19, but still last year, 62,000

people died from the flu; making flu and pneumonia, the 8th leading cause of death nationally. Therefore, the Center for Diseases Control and Prevention recommend that everyone from 6 months of age and older receive a seasonal flu shot. However, not everyone does: seasonal vaccination rates should be greater than 95%; however, California rates for African Americans and Latinos were 40% and 60% respectively. (California Health Care Founda-

tion 2019) While the flu vaccine will not prevent you from getting COVID-19, it may prevent you from having worse outcomes if you are exposed to COVID-19. Finally, getting vaccinated from the flu can prevent you from having to go to the doctor, crowded emergency rooms or being hospitalized for influenza related illnesses. Your immunization can protect those around you directly, by not exposing others to the flu or using health care resources needed during this COVID-19 crisis.

WHO: All adults in the local community are invited to drive-through to receive the flu vaccine. Your host is Dr William King, a notable internal medicine specialist with a strong community commitment. He is encouraging whole households to participate so that there are fewer infectious contacts in the home. This event is supported by local community advocates and agencies who also support the need for flu vaccinations.

shot clinic event at the Crenshaw Medical Arts Building 3756 Santa Rosalia Drive [across from west entrance to Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza]. Carloads are welcome, contact distancing and facemasks will be enforced and you drive away knowing your personal reaction to this year's flu will be minimized.

WHY: Flu season in Los Angeles County is typically considered the first week of October through



FREE FLU SHOT



PARKING LOT:
CRENSHAW MEDICAL ART BUILDING
3756 SANTA ROSALIA DR. - LA
ADULTS ONLY

10AM-3PM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5



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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2020

The Reverend Doctor Toussaint King Hill, Jr., Member of King Family, Pastor, Activist, Passes

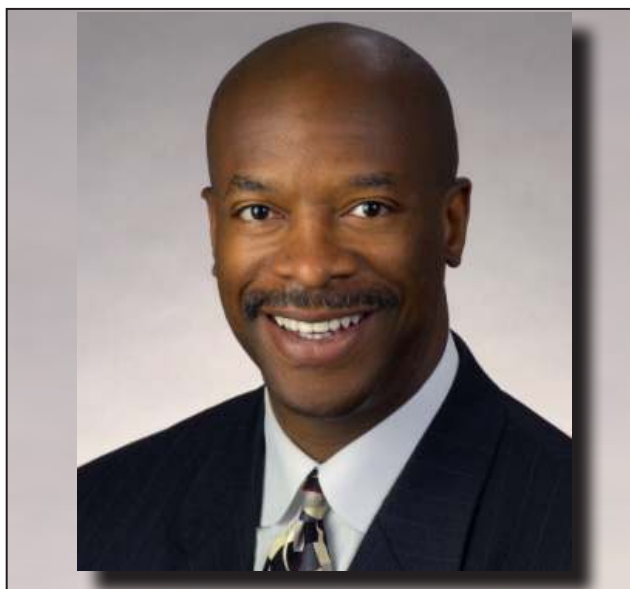
SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

THE REVEREND DOCTOR TOUSSAINT KING HILL, JR., nephew of Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Sr., cousin to Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr., and recently retired senior pastor of the historic West Hunter Street Baptist Church of Atlanta, Georgia passed away quietly at home today following a long valiant battle with cancer.

Dr. Hill, a native of Detroit, Michigan, served as the Pastor of West Hunter

Street Baptist Church, formerly pastored by noted Civil Rights activist and best friend of Martin Luther King, Jr., Rev. Dr. Ralph David Abernathy. Dr. Hill pastored there from 2006 until his retirement last month. Dr. Hill also served as Pastor of Baptist Temple Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and as an assistant Pastor at the Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Dr. Hill is a 1981 graduate of Morehouse College Atlanta, Georgia. He graduated from Garrett Evan-



Reverend Doctor Toussaint King Hill, Jr.,

gelical Theological Seminary of Evanston, Illinois with a Master of Divinity degree. He received his Doctor of Ministry degree from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio as a Cornell West, Jeremiah Wright, Molefi Asante Scholar.

Dr. Hill was an armed forces veteran who served his country as a United States Air Force Chaplain.

At the time of his retirement, Dr. Hill delivered a message about healing and forgiveness, "The Way You Do The Things

You Do"; a testament to his profound and practical preaching.

Dr. Hill is survived by his wife, Laurel Hord Hill, his two sons, Toussaint King Hill, III, (Miranda) and Thaddaeus Kornell Hill, and his granddaughter Eden Elizabeth Hill. He will be remembered for his contributions as a preacher; teacher, dedicated thought leader, and community activist.

Preserved by Purpose: Becoming a Fruit Inspector

BY SHEWANDA RILEY

Considering the current chaotic political environment, how do Christians decide who to vote for? It's not as simple as voting for the candidate who wraps themselves in scriptures and shows up at the most churches. Nor is it as simple as judging an authentic Christian on whether they vote on issues like abortion, same sex marriage or support for Israel. One way to determine who to vote for is to look at the truth of Matthew 7:17-20 which says, "You will know them by their fruits...Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Therefore, by their fruits you will know them." In other words, we must become fruit inspectors.

Think about the fruit of the seeds planted in the last four years: Racial strife, economic uncertainty, and an uncontrollable pandemic that has killed nearly 220,000 people in a little over 6 months. Some could argue that the recent chaos is a result of the Republicans 8-year strategy of negative rhetoric and obstruction against the Obama Presidency. Republicans are now faced with a very unpopular incumbent President who lies repeatedly, bullies relentlessly and whines about being mistreated all while promoting racial division and violence. The truly sad part is that he maintains record high support among white evangelicals. The bizarre thing is that the worse

his behavior becomes, the stronger their support becomes.

It saddens me that Christianity has been hijacked and as a result, is perceived as a religion that ridicules and not reconciles.

Instead of showing love and compassion, those who need grace the most (children locked in cages after being separated from their parents or victims of police violence) are treated with cruel disdain and bigoted judgement.

It seems the words of 1 Corinthians 5:18-19 have been forgotten: "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the mes-



Shewanda Riley

sage of reconciliation..."

The growing public backlash against the negativity of our current President indicates that the fruit of this behavior is not the anticipated unified country. The most recent reports of violent campaign

rallies, bullying behavior, and racist language have led to a loss of support of Republicans among likely voters. This makes me wonder if these shocking behaviors being brought up are really a "fake news" or merely an example of

harvesting bad fruit.

Christians should not vote based on an outward display of religiosity or promises of a renewal of moral values. Instead, we should vote for those who pass the "fruit inspection." Before we vote, we should ask which candidates best exemplify the words of Galatians 5:22: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." Then we should pray!

Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth-based author of "Love Hangover: Moving From Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends" and "Writing to the Beat of God's Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers." Email her at preservedbypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.

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REV. ALVIN TUNSTILL, JR. ~ PASTOR

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