



Chauncy Glover – see page A-12



Phillip Johnson – see page D-2

Heather Hutt and other Sentinel-endorsed Candidates Win Big in Local Races

STAFF AND WIRE REPORT

Several local candidates endorsed by the L.A. Sentinel scored victories in the Nov. 5 election. Below are highlights of the winning races.

Hutt Wins Full Term in L.A. City Council 10th District Seat

Heather Hutt – the incumbent appointed to the



FILE PHOTO

Sade Elhawary



FILE PHOTO

Sherlett Hendy-Newbill

L.A. City Council from District 10 after her predecessor, Mark Ridley-Thomas, was convicted on federal corruption charges – was headed for a full four-year term Wednesday, as she held a robust lead in her first time facing voters.

In results as of early Nov. 6, Hutt led challenger Grace Yoo by a 23% margin. Hutt had 32,726 votes, or about 61.7%, while attorney Yoo stood at 20,330 votes, or about 38.3%, according to the L.A. County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's Office.

It was unclear how many ballots remain to be tallied in the district. Mail-in ballots postmarked by election day will also be accepted for up to a week.

The 10th District encompasses the neighborhoods of Arlington Heights, Koreatown, Mid-City, Palms, South Robertson, West Adams and Wilshire Center.

According to a spokesperson for Hutt's campaign, the councilwoman is "proud of the work" she and her team have done, and she feels "lucky to be part of this



E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS/LA. SENTINEL

Councilwoman Heather Hutt, center, receives congratulations from Mayor Karen Bass and Councilman Curren Price for winning a full term as Councilwoman for District 10.

process and have her communities trust in her."

A representative for Yoo's campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Voters had an opportunity this election to weigh in on who they believed would best represent them

after Ridley-Thomas' conviction for crimes committed while he was on the L.A. County Board of Supervisors. Hutt was appointed by the council last year to fill out Ridley-Thomas' unexpired term.

With the overwhelming elected victory, Hutt now

has the opportunity to continue leading the 10th District, without the burden of being labeled as the "appointed" councilwoman of the 10th District.

"For the past two years, Heather Hutt has served the residents of the 10th District with tremendous lead-

ership, compassion, and a real concern for both the district and the city. She has earned the right to continue leading the 10th District as our councilwoman. I am proud of her, but more importantly I am proud of

{See LOCAL ELECTION RACES on C-5}

OUCH! This One Really Hurts Vice President Kamala Harris Loses Her Bid to be America's First Female President

BY DANNY J. BAKWELL, JR. Executive Editor

Over the past 107 days, the Kamala Harris for President campaign has been a roller coaster ride of emotions. Following President Joe Biden's decision to withdraw from the race and his recommendation for Vice President Kamala Harris to be the Democratic nominee, we have lived

through the anxiety of "who will and who won't support her?"

From the overwhelming jubilation of the Democratic National Convention with Lil Jon leading the nomination process to Michelle Obama's "My Black Job" speech all culminated with Kamala Harris' incredible acceptance speech.

We also celebrated

when beyond a shadow of a doubt, Kamala Harris dominated the one and only debate over Donald Trump, which led us to once again believe that this was all possible.

Unfortunately, like all roller coaster rides, this one came to a screeching and disappointing end when the red wave of America rolled in on November 5, 2024, and Donald Trump was

elected for another four years as the 47th President of the United States.

On the day after, we will all have our theories of what went wrong and these theories will be debated in classrooms, barber shops and dinner tables across Black America for years to come. I had real hope that America was ready to

{See VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS on C-5}



FILE PHOTO

Vice President Kamala Harris

Quincy Jones, Music Titan Who Worked With Everyone From Frank Sinatra to Michael Jackson, Dies At 91

BY HILLEL ITALIE Associated Press

Quincy Jones, the multi-talented music titan whose vast legacy ranged from producing Michael Jackson's historic "Thriller" album to writing prize-winning film and television scores and collaborating with Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles and hundreds of other recording artists, has died at 91.

Jones' publicist, Arnold Robinson, says he died Sunday, Nov. 3 at his home in the Bel Air section of Los Angeles, surrounded by his family. Jones was to have received an honorary Academy Award later this month.

"Tonight, with full but broken hearts, we must share the news of our father and



CHRIS PIZZELLO/INVISION/AP, FILE

Quincy Jones poses for a portrait to promote his documentary "Quincy" on Sept. 7, 2018.

brother Quincy Jones' passing," the family said in a statement. "And although this is an incredible loss for our family, we celebrate the great life that he lived and

know there will never be another like him."

Jones rose from running with gangs on the South

know there will never be another like him."

Jones rose from running with gangs on the South

{See QUINCY JONES DIES on A-11}

Assemblymember McKinnor and Inglewood Councilmember Faulk Lead Women's March

BY DANA ELAINE CARROLL Contributing Writer

Assemblymember Tina McKinnor led a powerful Women's March & Rally in Inglewood on Nov. 2, celebrating the resilience, strength, and leadership of

women and the urgent need to vote.

McKinnor, who represents the cities of Gardena, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lenox, Los Angeles, Marina del Rey, Venice, West Athens, Westchester, and West-

mont, used this event to rally community members around the importance of gender equality and the need to safeguard fundamental rights.

{See INGLEWOOD WOMEN'S MARCH on A-11}



DANA E. CARROLL/LA. SENTINEL

Assemblymember Tina McKinnor, holding pink t-shirt, and Councilmember Dionne Faulk, 2nd from right, lead the Women's March & Rally in Inglewood.

Kamlager-Dove Secures \$500K for Youth Anti-Recidivism Initiative in South L.A.

BY LILA BROWN
Contributing Writer

In a powerful step towards combating youth recidivism in South Los Angeles, Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove (CA-37) presented a \$500,000 check to Brotherhood Crusade on Oct. 30 for its groundbreaking Trauma-Informed Anti-Recidivism Initiative.

This funding, part of \$12.4 million secured through Fiscal Year 2024 government legislation, will support Brotherhood Crusade's efforts to provide critical reentry support to system-impacted youth ages 12-24.

The Brotherhood Crusade's initiative operates in two stages designed to address both the immediate and long-term needs of these young people. In the first stage, a 10-step, evidence-based curriculum addresses high-risk behaviors through trauma-informed practices, helping youth confront and process their experiences.

The second stage connects participants with dedicated mentors and work-



Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove, right, presents a \$500,000 check to President/CEO Charisse Bremond Weaver, center, and the Brotherhood Crusade team for the nonprofit's Trauma-Informed Anti-Recidivism Initiative.

force development training over a 12-month period, equipping them with the skills needed to thrive in employment and community life.

"We're close to Halloween, but I wanted to stop by to say hello and express my support for the work that Ms. Bremond [President and CEO of Brotherhood Crusade] and her team are doing," Kamlager-Dove shared at the check presentation in front of festive com-

munity youth.

"Brotherhood Crusade is a pillar in this community and when there was an opportunity for nonprofits to apply for funding, I wanted to make sure they were involved. This project is about supporting young people reentering the community and workforce, helping them connect with their emotions, and building resilience."

Kamlager-Dove emphasized the importance of cre-

ating opportunities that empower youth to establish stable and fulfilling lives.

"Part of this initiative is about processing trauma and understanding emotions—skills everyone could use, even some in Congress," she added with a smile.

"The other part involves mentorship and workforce training because we want these young people to secure jobs, succeed in them, and build a stable foundation for their futures. That's how you

build strong communities and families."

The Brotherhood Crusade has served the South Los Angeles community for more than 56 years, providing human and social services to more than 100,000 residents annually. Its mission is rooted in empowering individuals to overcome barriers to success and to foster a safe, inclusive, and thriving community. Charisse Bremond Weaver, president and CEO, expressed deep gratitude for the funding and support from Kamlager-Dove.

"We are forever thankful to Congresswoman Kamlager-Dove for her support of our Trauma-Informed Anti-Recidivism Initiative," Bremond Weaver shared.

"This \$500,000 grant will help us continue to deliver our research-based programs that have already led to significant reductions in recidivism rates among participating youth. We're humbled by the trust Congresswoman Kamlager-Dove has placed in our work and we are committed to using these resources to

uplift youth and families in South L.A."

The Trauma-Informed Anti-Recidivism Initiative aligns with Brotherhood Crusade's vision for a South Los Angeles where all residents have access to essential services and a path to a better quality of life. As a grassroots organization, Brotherhood Crusade continues to shape the lives of young people through culturally relevant and impactful programs that create lasting change.

Kamlager-Dove's support highlights the importance of federal backing for local organizations deeply embedded in the community. With resources like these, Brotherhood Crusade is better equipped to address the root causes of recidivism and foster sustainable growth for South L.A.'s youth.

In her closing remarks, the congresswoman reiterated the power of collective action, emphasizing that each young person supported today represents a brighter, more stable future for the entire South Los Angeles community.

Neighbors & Friends Opens in Pasadena with Support from LISC LA's ABC Program

BY DANA ELAINE CARROLL
Contributing Writer

Neighbors & Friends, a minority- and women-owned café, opened on Nov. 1 in Old Town Pasadena with support from the Local Initiatives Support Corporation of Los Angeles (LISC LA) and its Asset Building for Communities of Color (ABC) program.

Co-founded by Kaiy Smith-Biesman and Hannah Said, this innovative space serves as a community-centered spot, bringing a fresh concept to the area and offering locally sourced products from BIPOC and women artisans.

Thanks to LISC LA's ABC program, funded by



Co-Owners Kaiy Smith-Biesman and Hannah Said

Wells Fargo, Neighbors & Friends received \$250,000 in zero-interest growth capital to bring this vision to life.

"The \$250,000 ABC Growth Capital funding truly changed everything," said Smith-Biesman. "Without it, we wouldn't be opening our store. It's allowed us to expand, hire and properly train our team."

Neighbors & Friends is more than a café; it's a statement of economic empowerment and the creative ideas diverse communities bring to the business market. The space features the Los Angeles area's first build-your-own cheese box bar, a carefully curated selection of artisanal beverages and a retail section filled with local BIPOC-sourced goods, from floral arrangements by Opal

Flower House to home items from Rose and Daisy. This initiative aims to uplift small, diverse businesses while creating a welcoming space for all.

The LISC LA ABC program, designed to empower minority entrepreneurs and address economic inequities, was instrumental in helping Neighbors & Friends overcome the common obstacles facing minority-owned businesses. Programs like this are particularly impactful for minority women entrepreneurs, who historically lack access to investment capital, generational wealth, and institutional support.

"The funding gave us more than just financial support—it gave us a sense of legitimacy," Smith-Bies-

man added.

"People look at us and realize we're serious about this, that we're here to grow and give back to our community. This support has been pivotal to our growth and to showing us what's possible."

According to U.S. Census data, there were 1,477 minority-owned employer firms compared to 3,169

on providing flexible capital to small business owners in communities of color across Los Angeles County, aiming to fuel business growth, prevent displacement, and create generational wealth. Smith-Biesman and Said's story reflects the program's goals, as they found not only financial backing but also a supportive network.

"It wasn't just the



Neighbors & Friends' employees working with fresh ingredients.

nonminority-owned employer firms. This disparity reflects challenges minority entrepreneurs face in accessing the resources and support necessary to start and sustain businesses at rates comparable to nonminority-owned firms. The ABC program is vital for helping to bridge that gap.

Since its launch, the ABC program has focused

money. The support, resources, and community connections we've gained through ABC have been invaluable," said Smith-Biesman.

"After years of hearing 'no' from banks, this program gave us not only the funding but also a community that believes in us."

The economic impact of LISC LA's ABC program

goes beyond individual businesses. By supporting women like Smith-Biesman and Said, it empowers entrepreneurs to build community-focused spaces that sustain local economies and reflect the diversity of Los Angeles.

This aligns with the broader mission of the ABC program: to create lasting, equitable economic opportunities that build wealth within communities of color. As Neighbors & Friends opens its doors, it represents what strategic investment and targeted support can achieve.

To learn more about LISC LA's ABC program



Ingredients are ethically-sourced by minority and woman-owned business partners.

and its initiatives for business equity, visit liscla-abc.org. Neighbors & Friends is located at 88 E. Union Street in Pasadena and open Tuesday through Sunday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., or visit weareneighborsandfriends.com for more information.

Anti-Violence Ventures Leads Black Community to Take Stand Against Domestic Violence

BY XENNIA HAMILTON
Contributing Writer

Anti-Violence Ventures, a group of African American men and young boys in Los Angeles, aims to eradicate abuse and violence in our community by holding workshops and meetings to create a safe environment for black men.

Ambassador George Wesley Granbury III along with Inglewood JPMorgan-Chase Vice

President and Community Manager Christopher Beene held a gathering titled "Pursuing Peace and Prevention," an event that allows those who may have been affected by domestic violence to educate the community on domestic violence prevention.

Explaining how the event came about, Beene says, "October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month so our organization is tasked with the charge of



JP Morgan Chase VP Community Manager Christopher Beene explains financial literacy.

reaching out to the community to create space to talk about forms of anti-violence."

"We saw fit to create space here [Chase Bank Crenshaw Community Center] to give the community a chance to talk about their experiences," Granbury III adds.

"[It'll] hopefully create or empower some people to

become advocates and create more awareness around the challenges that we face with domestic violence in the community." He also wants to remove the stigma surrounding domestic vio-



Attendee Eric Powell shares his story of domestic violence.

lence in the community.

"I think there's a stigma in the community with domestic violence in general," notes Granbury. "The statistics that we have often are underreported because

there is a stigma surrounding abuse for men and women. It's always interesting to see the type of response that we have to these types of events."

The event commenced with a soothing yoga session, which Program Manager Alyssa Young explains helps the advocates relax.

"It's a really unique way for us to bring men together. A lot of people may not think men do yoga or men do these sorts of things," she says.

"So, it's really cool to bring this stuff together for them to have that moment of decompression and to even sometimes find a new way to do that in ways they didn't expect." Not only is yoga giving a positive result in wellness but, the advocacy and message is reaching the most important group in our community - the youth.

Youth Ambassador Jeremiah Salazar joined the

group due to the positive impact the advocacy has on the community.

"Just having a strong desire to be a positive role model within my community. I feel like my community has always brought out the best in me, so I want to do my best to bring out the



The group practiced yoga to calm the mind and spirit.

best in my community and the people in it," Salazar says.

"I feel like the Anti-Violence Venture does an extremely well job of shap-

ing young adults and young kids into leaders and just giving them that platform to become that type of role model."

Salazar has also witnessed domestic violence firsthand. "I saw my mother go through an abusive relationship at a young

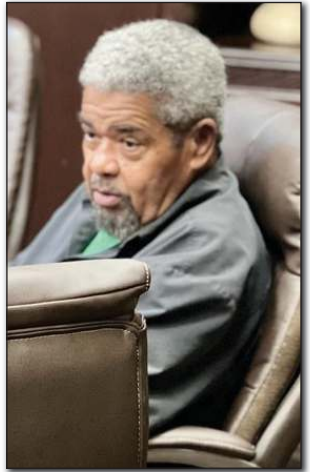
age," he says. "I knew that I wanted to have the strength to go out and bring those voices that [See ANTI-VIOLENCE VENTURES on A-10]

Vietnam Veteran Thomas Carroll Fought Two Fights: One Overseas, One at Home

By DANA ELAINE CARROLL
Contributing Writer

Vietnam veteran Thomas Carroll faced two fights: one for his country and one for civil rights. Serving during this era, he grappled with fighting for freedoms abroad while freedom wasn't fully available at home. Like many Black service members, his experience included resisting injustices that followed him and the Black community at large.

Carroll enlisted in the Navy in 1964, studying avionics and aviation fire-



NATHAN J. LEE/L.A. SENTINEL
Interview at L.A. Sentinel with Thomas Carroll.

fighting in Memphis, Tennessee. Traveling with a White-passing Navy recruit revealed the contrast in



COURTESY PHOTO
Navy Portrait of Thomas Carroll

treatment.

"We took a cab to the YMCA. They gave me a room, but told me they didn't have any," recalls Carroll.

"The cab driver waited for me, knowing how things might go, and drove me to the Abe Scharff branch that was inclusive to Blacks."

This incident foreshadowed the coming situations that underscored the irony of being a Black man serving as a sailor in a country that often refused to serve Black men.

"In June, the leader over the barracks asked me how I would like to go to Mississippi, and I told him I'm as far south as I want to get," Carroll commented.

"The next thing I know I have orders posted to go

to Mississippi with the search party for the missing civil rights workers."

Over 400 sailors, including Carroll—the only African American on his bus—searched for Cheney, Goodman, and Schwerner, activists working to get cit-



COURTESY PHOTO
Thomas Carroll on the ship heading to Vietnam.

izens to vote and to address members at a Black church that had been burned. It would later be found that they were murdered by the Klu Klux Klan.

This search for victims of hatred was only punctuated by the discrimination Carroll faced in town, confronted by "Whites Only" signs at restaurants.

"In Big Spring, Texas, I went to grab a bite. The

waitress said very politely, 'I'm sorry sir, we appreciate your service but can't serve you here. If you go around to the back door, we can.' I had my full uniform on. I don't think they appreciated anything."

Malcolm X's assassination fueled tensions. Carroll heard a White sailor say he was glad Malcolm was dead, which led to internal conflicts. Despite this, Carroll found camaraderie with diverse sailors and civil rights activists alike, spending time off-base with those involved in Operation PUSH and other initiatives.

When the orders came to head to Vietnam, they made stops in Yokosuka, Japan, and Singapore, and participated in missions, including one involving President Lyndon B. Johnson's helicopter. All the while, Carroll would protest, including to commanding officers, about the rights of African Americans.

"I told the captain that my people were slaves. So, you all should be honored that I'm even celebrating the 4th of July in the first place," Carroll recalled.

This approach would often lead Carroll to time in the brig. He retells, "They put you through so much



DANA ELAINE CARROLL/L.A. SENTINEL
At veteran holiday reception, from left Adrienne Carroll, Thomas Carroll.

physical training in the brig. I could run three or four miles with no problem."

When faced with setbacks, it always motivated him to prove others wrong and make the most of the situation.

While in the Navy, music became a source of peace. Carroll picked up a flugelhorn in Hong Kong and had his first gig there.

Carroll stated, "The ship's jazz band would jam, and we ended up playing gigs and recording sessions back home."

Eventually, Carroll

joined Joe Houston's band, playing alongside legends like Big Joe Turner. He recorded with musicians from Clay Hammond to Sonny Padilla, and music carried him from Europe to the U.S., performing with bands ranging from Iron Horse to the New Orleans Jazz Band.

Thomas Carroll's experience as a Black Vietnam veteran reflects resilience and a fight for dignity both abroad and at home. Confronting discrimination within the very country he served, Carroll turned adversity into motivation.

CSUDH Philanthropic Foundation Welcomes New Board Members

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Danny J. Bakewell, Jr., executive editor of the Los Angeles Sentinel and president of The Bakewell Company, is one of three new members appointed to the Philanthropic Foundation of California State



FILE PHOTO
Danny J. Bakewell, Jr.

University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH). "They are committed to make the dream of higher education a reality for our Toros and help move them up on the socio-economic ladder. I'm grateful for their service and look forward to taking our important work



CSUDH
Bree Nguyen

also speaks publicly for student and corporate audiences, and serves as an advisor and consultant for various early-stage companies across entertainment, gaming and digital and education nonprofits.

Beginning her career as a teenager at Maverick



CSUDH
Franco Vega

University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH)

A registered 501(c)3 organization, the Philanthropic Foundation supports CSUDH as a key educational, cultural, and economic resource for the South Bay. It was established in 2015 as an independent charitable successor to the CSUDH Foundation and encourages the solicitation and acceptance of private gifts to the university.

Its board of directors, comprised of industry and civic leaders, advises CSUDH President Thomas A. Parham, engages external partners, and fosters a culture of philanthropy. Maria Villa, a principal of the law firm of Lathrop & Villa, serves as chair of the board. She is also a Latina trailblazer in the legal community and a CSUDH alumna with a B.S. in Business Administration.

Vice President for University Advancement and Executive Director of the Philanthropic Foundation, Eva Sevcikova said, "I am thrilled to augment the board leadership with these outstanding individuals. They were selected based on their individual skills and passion for

together to new heights."

The new Board of Directors members include Bakewell, who leads the Los Angeles Sentinel, the largest African American owned and operated newspaper west of the Mississippi. It is part of the Bakewell Media Company, which also owns the Los Angeles Watts Times and Taste of Soul, the largest free family festival in California.

Danny Jr. also serves as the President of The Bakewell Company, a business founded by his father, Danny J. Bakewell, Sr., in the 1970s and now one of the largest African American-owned development companies in the United States.

Most of the Bakewell Company's 4 million square feet commercial project portfolio was and is in Southern California, and all of its properties are in areas with large communities of color. His mother, Aline Bakewell, Esq., is a 1975 graduate of CSUDH.

Bree Nguyen, an educator, founder and investor teaches classes in finance, management, and entrepreneurship at CSUDH. She

Records, she pioneered digital marketing strategies before becoming director of Marketing at Warner Bros. Records. She went on to co-found Archer Education before serving as Meta's Head of Public Figure Partnerships.

Today, through her firm MPN Business Group, she advises and invests in startups across entertainment, gaming, and education sectors, while serving on boards including the U.S. Soccer Federation Development Council. She holds an M.S. in Business Analytics and earned her B.S. in Finance from CSUDH.

Franco Vega, founder and CEO of The RightWay Foundation, is a visionary leader dedicated to empowering system-impacted youth in Los Angeles County. As an orphan and former probation youth, Franco uses his experiences to drive positive change for foster youth. The barriers he faced and overcame as a young adult inspired him to create The RightWay Foundation with a mission to ensure every foster youth has the resources and community they need to build a prosperous

future.

The RightWay Foundation combines healing-centered, trauma-informed mental health services,

comprehensive job readiness training, and supportive housing for transition-age foster youth in Los Angeles County. Having

attended CSUDH, Vega feels connected to the campus and today's students.

For more information, visit csudh.edu.

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Davis Honored with Advocacy Award at State NAACP Conference

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The California/Hawaii NAACP Conference recognized former Assemblyman Dr. Mike Davis at its recent conference held at the LAX Marriott Hotel.

Dr. Davis, who is currently finishing his term as President Pro Tem of the City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works, was first appointed by Mayor Eric Garcetti after completing his term in the California State Legislature. He was reappointed by Mayor Karen Bass for two years until she made her appointments to the board this November.

“When I came down from the state capitol to work in city government, I was lucky to be appointed to serve in a city in which I have spent my entire adult life working. I am grateful to Mayor Eric Garcetti and Mayor Karen Bass for their faith in me to serve to help impact the service delivery of the city’s Department of Public Works,” Davis said.

Having served as the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer for the Department of Public Works as well, Dr. Davis led initiatives which increased inclusion in the Department and in the City of Los Angeles. He served as the Co-Chair of the



NAACP President Rick Callender, left, presents Dr. Mike Davis, center, with the Advocacy Award. At right is NAACP National Board Member Lajuana Bivins.

HBCU Engineering Recruitment Committee where he worked with SEIU and IBEW to establish opportunities for many of our students who attend HBCUs to be recruited, interviewed and hired, given the underrepresentation of African American Engineers in city government.

Also, he wrote a grant and was funded from the city’s Innovation Committee to establish a pilot program establishing an internship for HBCU students to work in engineering and financial services areas where African Americans are underrepresented in the city.

Last year, the City of Los Angeles won the coveted

“Corporate Diversity Award” from the National Society of Black Engineers Conference, held in Kansas City, Missouri, for the work done on the HBCU Engineering Recruitment Committee. Dr. Davis said it was one of the highlights of his tenure on the Board of Public Works to receive this award for the city at the national convention.

He was also instrumental in helping promote the city’s Community Level Contracting Program which was housed in the Bureau of Contract Administration and assists in increasing the opportunities for more small businesses to get work. Davis, who received his doctorate degree from the Uni-

versity of Southern California, wrote his dissertation on “Achieving Diversity on Local Publicly Funded Construction Projects in California: Knowledge, Motivation, and Organization Factors Influencing Prime Contractors in the Selection of Minority Subcontractors.”

Davis is an advocate for equity of service delivery in every community in Los Angeles, including Contract Administration, Sanitation, Street Lighting, Street Services, and Engineering.

“My goal has been to make sure our staff works effectively with Council Office staff to sustain infrastructure services for Los Angeles. The employment opportunities the city provides is crucial to the economics of the city and every community should be included. My work around diversity, equity and inclusion is to make sure every community has had equal protection by having an equal opportunity,” Davis professed.

“I am grateful to the NAACP for recognizing my work to include those who have been locked out and left out of the system of publicly funded programs. I have hope that public works employment opportunities will be a prominent part of the great homeless work

Mayor Karen Bass is doing,” he revealed.

Davis advocated for the Workforce Equity Demonstration Project (WED), which also provides employment opportunities for underrepresented populations in the City of Los Angeles. The Department of Public Works committed to provide jobs for these participants who will have an opportunity for work after completion of the training program conducted by the union. He stressed that the effort would help level the playing field of those ready to work from underrepresented communities.

As the coordinator of the city’s African American Heritage Program, Davis worked closely with Our Author’s Study Club and the Office of the Mayor to present one of the premier Black History Month History Programs in the city of Los Angeles.

The celebration includes recognition of living legends such as the late Lou Gossett Jr., Angela Bassett, Dionne Warwick and Ice Cube. Hall of Fame recipients included U.S. Justice Consuelo Marshall, Supervisor Yvonne Burke, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, and CSUDH President James Parham.

Also, Davis spearheaded efforts to increase construction dollars awarded to

Black-owned firms.

“I implemented the practice to annually recognize those prime contractors who happened to hire everybody including African American firms in hopes that this will help move the culture of inclusion further along. I felt privileged to promote the city’s Community Level Contracting Program which reflected a desire to close the gap on those underrepresented small businesses in the city that get work,” shared Davis.

I am confident the Bureau of Contract Administration, which I served as the liaison to, will continue to ‘Inspect What We Expect’ in this city as far as inclusion of small businesses is concerned,” noted Davis.

“I discovered after years of leadership that recognizing the strength in others is what great leadership is all about. I thank the state NAACP for recognizing my work. In today’s environment we still have not arrived to where we want to be in achieving diversity, inclusion and equity. Some people want to be invited to dance. But, I say we want to be able to dance as much as others are dancing. In other words, equity is our goal.” Dr. Davis stated as he accepted the NAACP Advocacy Award.

Cool LA Heat Relief for Seniors Brings Free Air Conditioners and Utility Bill Discounts to LADWP Customers

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Over 430 Angelenos attended the Cool LA Heat Relief for Seniors events on Oct. 30 and 31 for a chance to receive a free portable air conditioner courtesy of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and the Los Angeles Department of Aging, in partnership with the Offices of Los Angeles City Councilwoman Heather Hutt, 10th District, and Los Angeles City Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson, 8th District, respectively.



From left are Department of Aging General Manager Jaime Pacheco-Orozco, Crenshaw Christian Center Pastor Dr. Fred K. Price, L.A. Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson, and Water and Power Commission President Richard Katz.

Christian Center in South Los Angeles.

Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson stated, “Our most vulnera-

ble populations, especially our elders, often bear the brunt of climate emergencies and heat waves. I am happy to partner with the Department of Aging, LADWP, and Crenshaw Christian Center to get air

conditioners into the homes of our seniors. Let’s keep up the work to make South L.A. cooler and climate-ready for everyone!”

As Councilwoman Heather Hutt noted, “It is extremely important that the City continue to develop innovative programs and services that meet the evolving needs of our senior population, while ensuring that they have the chance to live an independent and fulfilling life. With the fluctuating weather we’ve been experiencing over the last few months, it’s imperative that everyone stay ready to brace Los Angeles’ hotter temperatures.”

More than 400 energy-efficient portable air conditioning units were distributed between the two events to LADWP customers aged 60 and over

who met the requirements for the giveaway. LADWP has distributed over 1,800 air conditioners to L.A. seniors since beginning their Heat Relief for Seniors event series in July. The Cool LA Heat Relief for Seniors event series is part of LADWP’s Powered by Equity initiative, aimed at ensuring that everyone in L.A. can take part in and benefit equitably from the transition to clean energy. These events also helped seniors manage the risk of heat impacts, especially in warmer areas of the city, as summer temperatures rise due to climate change.

While attending the event, guests were able to



Customer Miss Seaberry high-fives an LADWP staff member.

flu vaccines were provided by the L.A. Department of Aging, who also shared information about how older Angelenos can get support with transportation and meals.

“Air conditioning saves lives,” LADWP Chief Executive Officer and Chief Engineer Janisse Quiñones emphasized.

“Once considered a luxury, it is now a necessity for staying safe and healthy in L.A.’s increasing heat. LADWP has been proud to host the Cool LA Heat Relief for Seniors event series, uplifting the City’s disadvantaged communities and most vulnerable residents and ensuring that they participate in and benefit from our transition to a clean energy future.”

President of the Los Angeles Board of Water and Power Commissioners Richard Katz underscored, “LADWP made sure to select air conditioners for



LADWP Utility Pre-Craft Trainees load an air conditioner into a customer's car.

enroll in utility bill financial assistance programs like Lifeline, EZ-SAVE and Level Pay, and learn about LADWP jobs and benefits. Free COVID and

L.A. Creates Prime Contractor Opportunities for Small, Local, and Diverse Contractors

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Under an innovative and model “community level contracting” (CLC) program that aims to create prime contractor opportunities for small, local and diverse construction contractors, the City of Los Angeles has issued a list of over 30 such contractors who are eligible to receive work packages of up to \$150,000 each for vital sidewalk construction and repair services. The initial construction and repair work from the pre-qualified on-call (PQOC) list of firms is expected to start in late November 2024.

The process for these contracting opportunities started in late 2023 when the city’s Department of Public Works (DPW) issued a request for qualifications

(RFQ) under its CLC program. On November 1, 2023, Merriwether & Williams Insurance Services



Dr. Angela T. Williams

(MWIS) hosted an in-person workshop to assist small, local, and diverse contractors in preparing statement of qualifications (SOQ) packages for the RFQ.

The workshop was

offered as part of the Los Angeles Regional Contractor Development and Bonding Program (CDABP), which MWIS, a Hub International Company, administers for the City of Los Angeles, L.A. Metro, and the County of Los Angeles. Of the 34 contractors who made the PQOC list, the vast majority, 29, are enrolled in the CDABP.

In the workshop, MWIS staff provided technical assistance to help contractors submit the required RFQ documentation, explained the submission timeline and deadlines, and answered questions from attendees. Attendees were informed that the RFQ requirements included a bond of at least \$150,000, insurance, an applicable contractor’s license (e.g.,

general engineering, general construction, concrete), registration with the Regional Alliance Marketplace for Procurement (RAMP) and the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR), and a cover letter describing their qualifications for the work.

Created by the DPW, the CLC program provides at least three “wins” for contractors, taxpayers, and communities.

First, by breaking down the work into small construction work packages, small, local, and diverse contractors are provided the opportunity to win, manage, and perform work as prime contractors, instead of having to accept typical roles as subcontractors to large construction firms. The benefits of serving as prime contrac-

tors include gaining experience leading projects, earning higher profit margins, and building business capacities and a resume that better positions them to win more and bigger contracts in the future.

Second, by enabling more companies to bid on public works projects, the city creates an expanded and larger pool of firms competing, which can generate more creativity and innovation and lead to lower contract costs, thereby saving taxpayers money.

Third, the CLC program also creates more equitable job opportunities in local communities and fosters more robust local economies -- the multiplicative impact of contracting dollars staying local.

One participating con-

tractor is Dr. Angela T. Williams, owner of J.L. Moody Construction and Development, Inc., a general construction business based in Carson and a certified small business enterprise (SBE) and minority business enterprise (MBE).

Williams earned a spot on the PQOC list of firms. The city’s lottery system also randomly ranked her near the top of the drawing pull order. She attended a training academy held by the city’s DPW and another training workshop held by MWIS in the summer that aimed to prepare first-time CLC contractors for the work she and others will later receive.

“The CDABP has been very helpful to me,” said **[See COMMUNITY LEVEL CONTRACTING on A-10]**

Congresswoman Presents \$1.84M to Renovate Permanent Supportive Housing in Downtown Los Angeles

BY LILA BROWN
Contributing Writer

On Oct. 31, Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove (CA-37) presented a \$1,840,000 check to Mayor Karen Bass and the City of Los Angeles, marking a critical investment in combating homelessness.

This funding, part of a larger \$12.4 million in federal support for community projects across the district, is dedicated to essential renovations at The Prentice, a 46-unit permanent supportive housing site in downtown Los Angeles. Through these improvements, The Prentice will offer safer, healthier, and more dignified living conditions for its residents, many of whom have previously experienced homelessness.

As Mayor Bass celebrated this success alongside the recent Dodgers World Series win, she emphasized, “Here is another win. A win, and an example of what happens when you collaborate to confront the issue of homelessness. I am proud to stand here with our congresswoman, my dear friend, to celebrate this much-needed support.”

For Kamlager-Dove, securing these funds is not just about infrastructure—it’s about dignity, stability,



Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove, left, presents a \$1,840,000 check to Mayor Karen Bass, center, and L.A. Housing Department staff members to help combat homelessness.

and community partnership.

“The goal is to create a safer, healthier environment for residents, many of whom have spent years without stable housing. I’m honored to work alongside Mayor Bass to ensure that Los Angeles secures every possible resource to address the housing affordability crisis,” she stated, underscoring her commitment to continue advocating for federal support in housing.

Anita Nelson, CEO of SRO Housing Corporation, which manages The Prentice,

shared her gratitude for the funding, highlighting the profound impact these improvements will have on residents’ lives.

“We are thrilled to receive this funding to enhance the health and safety of our residents. This opportunity allows us to provide upgrades such as a new roof, lighting, plumbing, and air conditioning,” Nelson explained.

“This project is about ensuring that our residents have safe, dignified housing with the stability they deserve.”

A key component of

permanent supportive housing, as Nelson elaborated to the Sentinel, is the flexibility it offers residents to stay in single-room occupancy (SRO) settings if they wish. Unlike transitional housing, SRO housing like The Prentice allows residents who are low-income to live with dignity and independence. For some, this means a steppingstone toward more independent living spaces; for others, it’s a permanent home.

Nelson clarified, “If they want to stay at The Prentice, they can. Many of

our residents move from an SRO to a studio apartment or a one-bedroom, and often qualify for programs that ensure their rent remains affordable, typically 30% of their income.”

This funding will not only upgrade physical spaces, but also support the social services embedded within The Prentice. SRO Housing offers comprehensive on-site support, including case management, employment assistance, and connections to additional resources, facilitated by their partnership with organizations like the

Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD).

As part of the commitment to provide holistic support, SRO Housing staff bring essential services directly to the building, educating residents on rental assistance, employment opportunities, and other supportive resources.

One of the project’s goals is to streamline access to these services, addressing concerns raised by residents and service providers about the need for more knowledgeable system navigation.

“We provide a supportive services calendar and bring in community services so that residents know where to access resources like employment and rental assistance,” explained a representative of SRO Housing’s director of supportive services.

LAHD Executive Officer Tricia Keane echoed appreciation for this collaboration, noting that the project exemplifies the power of partnerships in preserving affordable housing and supporting the city’s most vulnerable residents. With upgrades such as ADA-compliant entryways, improved security, and remodeled community kitchens, The Prentice is poised to offer a space that uplifts and sustains its residents’ well-being.

Weingart Foundation Releases Report Chronicling its Mission Investing Alignment

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The Weingart Foundation, a private grantmaking foundation that partners with communities across Southern California to advance racial justice, released Investing for an Equitable Southern California, a report



Kat Kallot, founder and CEO of Amini, part of Female Funders

detailing its approach to mission investing.

The report, released on Oct. 31, chronicles Weingart Foundation’s journey in operationalizing an investment strategy that advances its equity commitment while pursuing its financial and investment performance objectives.

“At the Weingart Foundation, we are committed to leveraging every aspect of our financial and philanthropic resources to advance economic justice for all,” said Joanna S. Jackson, president and C.E.O. of the Weingart Foundation.

“By sharing our journey, we aim to inspire fellow leaders in philanthropy to join us in fully operationalizing their missions through their investments. Together, we can have tremendous impact and create lasting change for the people and communities we are here to serve.”

The report highlights how the Weingart Foundation built the board and staff capacity to strengthen its ability to implement a mis-

sion investing strategy and developed a new framework for evaluating investment opportunities. The report also demonstrates the Foundation’s values in investing: Diversity and Inclusion; Fair and Equitable Workforce Practices; Good Corporate Stewardship; and Transparency.

As noted in the report, the Weingart Foundation investment portfolio prioritizes:

- Economic and Community Empowerment: investments that promote economic access and mobility, quality employment, financial inclusion, affordable housing, education and



Nancy Twine, founder of Briogeo, receiving the 2024 Female Founder of the Year Award.

opportunity for BIPOC communities, particularly in Southern California.

- Diversity/Inclusion: investments that promote

diversity within asset managers with the goal of increasing inclusion within the financial sector.

“Guided by our values, we are proud to be part of a growing group of investors harnessing the power of capital to create more equitable access to opportunity,” said Tim Ortez, vice president and chief financial and investment officer, Weingart Foundation.

“We hope that by documenting our mission investing journey, we can demonstrate that it is both possible and profitable to seek investment opportunities through an equity and justice lens.”

“Philanthropy can play an important role in advancing equity by collaborating with investment managers that seek to address gender-gaps, such as the lack of community, investment, and support for women-led companies,” said Anu Duggal, founding partner of Female Founders Fund, an early-stage fund focusing on investing exclusively in female founders. Weingart Foundation committed \$5M to Female Founders Fund in 2023, a fund that has a demonstrated track record of investing in companies led by women.

“Partners like Weingart

are a natural ally in our joint pursuit of opening doors of opportunities for

people who have long been shut out.”

To access a full copy of

the report, visit <https://weingartfnd.org/imp-act-investing-report/>

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With Immigration Reform on the Table, Advocates Put Human Face on State's Migrant Farmworkers

BY EDWARD HENDERSON
California Black Media

About 99% of the commercially grown crops consumed by people across the United States come from California, according to data compiled by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

Between half and one-third of the farmworkers who help to grow, tend, harvest and package these crops live in the Golden State. That's about 500,000 to 800,000 workers.

Astonishingly, 75% of them are undocumented.

"People are very afraid," said Manuel Ortiz Escámez, a sociologist, audio-visual journalist, and co-founder of Peninsula 360, a news organization based in Redwood City.

"I hold interviews with people who later call and say, 'Please do not publish anything, because I'm afraid of what could happen,'" he added.

Escámez spoke earlier this month during a news briefing organized by Ethnic Media Services (EMS) that addressed the plight of migrant workers in California, particularly those who live in the United States without legal status.

During an election year when immigration is a polarizing issue with strong opinions on all sides, Escámez says the lives and critical contributions of farmworkers have been reduced to soundbites or barbs in Left vs. Right talking points.

The fervent anti-immigration rhetoric these debates generate can brew hate and motivate hate

crimes and hate incidents against migrants, creating an atmosphere of fear and danger among California's farmworkers, advocates warn.

farmworkers make to California's economy and the country's food supply are undeniable.

In February 2024, the nonpartisan Congressional

social security. But I can't vote or leave the country and return without express permission. And before I was a DACA recipient in 2012 I was a farmworker right out

said Gomez. "They're most concerned about public charge, about being deported if they access benefits like health care that they or their children -- who are

nous communities and notes that they are the original people of the American continents and therefore are not immigrants.

"We talk about the politics, but the indigenous Mexican migrant communities we work with experience this hate daily," explained Lopez. "We're called 'Oaxaquitas' ('little Oaxacan') and 'indito' ('little Indian'). We're told what we speak is a dialect, not a language. We hear 'You're brown,' 'You're short,' 'You're ugly' ... When this language takes the mic, it gives the green light for these actions."

Around 84% of California farmworkers are born in Mexico and 9% identify as indigenous

"When we talk about this, we should also mention why people leave their lands to come here. Many don't want to," he added. "If you go to Oaxaca, you'll see so many companies from the U.S., Canada and Europe extracting natural resources. How does that impact indigenous communities who can't compete, who don't have trees or clean water? What are the decisions that this government is making? Who is in power?"

This resource is supported in whole or in part by funding provided by the State of California, administered by the California State Library in partnership with the California Department of Social Services and the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs as part of the Stop the Hate program. To report a hate incident or hate crime and get support, go to CA vs Hate.



Migrant farmworkers make undeniable contributions to the country's food supply.

COURTESY PHOTO

In these situations, the debate shifts from the virtues of legal vs. illegal immigration to politicians scoring political points by finding a group to blame for the country's problems.

"Power in politics needs to invent a physically and morally repugnant enemy who wants to take what's yours because the feeling of emergency creates unity and the need of a savior," said Escámez. "That's why migrants have always been the ideal enemy of some U.S. political campaigns ... and the data shows that it works."

No matter where Californians stand on immigration, the contributions migrant

Budget Office (CBO) calculated that immigration will generate a \$7 trillion boost to gross domestic product over the next decade. A vast majority of these contributions come from immigrants like California's farmworkers who perform jobs and endure conditions many Americans choose not to.

"I'm undocumented with a sliver of privilege. I'm still in a precarious position, but millions of people would love to be in my shoes," said Gustavo Gasca Gomez, immigration outreach specialist and a Stop the Hate coordinator at the Fresno-based Education and Leadership Foundation.

"I can work, and I have

of high school," said Gomez. "The work is difficult. It's hot, dirty and tedious. It makes your mind numb in many ways. But it's a job that the entire country depends on."

If the stress of enduring long hours and harsh working conditions weren't enough, the added pressure stemming from the national political discourse surrounding immigration has impacted these communities even more.

"Ninety-nine percent of the communities we've reached out to are farmworkers and all have expressed anxiety and fear. All feel their future is deeply impacted by this,"

often U.S. citizens -- qualify for."

Escámez said, that until now, many of these farmworkers had built good relationships, including with the White population in the mostly rural areas where they work.

"Now, they tell me they're more isolated. That they just go to church, to work, to the store, then stay home, because they don't know what could happen," he said.

Arcenio Lopez, executive director of Ventura-based Mixtec Indigenous Community Organizing Project discussed the centuries-long history of oppression faced by indige-

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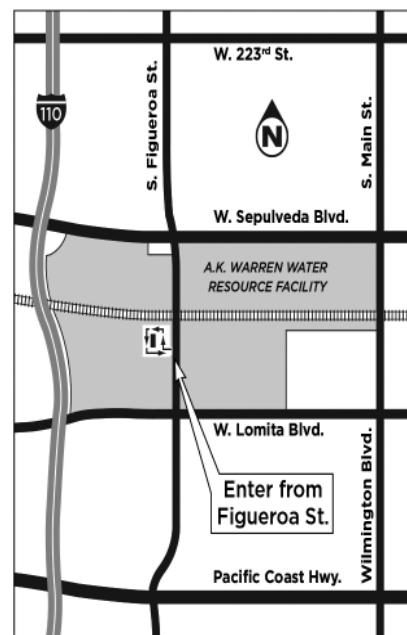
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You can also take your used motor oil to more than 600 oil recycling centers in Los Angeles County. Call 1(888) CLEAN-LA for a complete listing.

Political Playback: News You Might Have Missed – Nov. 7

BY BO TEFU AND ANTONIO RAY HARVEY
California Black Media

Feds: California Will Be Home to New National Semiconductor Technology Center

California was chosen by the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) and Natcast, the operator of the National Semiconductor Technology Center (NSTC) to be home to the headquarters for the National Semiconductor Technology Center – as part of the Biden-Harris Admin’s CHIPS and Science Act.

The CHIPS for America Design and Collaboration Facility (DCF) will be one of three CHIPS for America research and design (R&D) facilities and will also operate as the headquarters for the NTSC and Natcast.



COURTESY PHOTO

CHIPS for America Design and Collaboration Facility (DCF) will operate as the headquarters for the NTSC and Natcast.

“We are thrilled that the Department of Commerce and Natcast chose to locate this critically important facility in Sunnyvale, the heart of the Silicon Valley, alongside the world’s largest concentration of semiconductor businesses, talent, intellectual property, and investment activity,” said Dee Dee Myers, Senior Economic Advisor to Gov. Gavin Newsom and Director of the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz). “The Newsom Administration and our partners across the industry know how important it is to shorten the timeframe from R&D to commercialization.”

According to GO-Biz, the DCF is expected to direct over \$1 billion in research funding and create more than 200 employees in the next decade. The facility will serve as the center for advanced semiconductor research in chip design, electronic design automation, chip and system architecture, and hardware security. The CHF will be essential to the country’s semiconductor workforce development efforts.

As detailed in the released NSTC Strategic Plan, the DCF will suppress the obstacles to “semiconductor prototyping, experimentation,” and other R&D activities that will enhance the country’s global power and leadership in design, materials, and process innovation while enabling a vigorous domestic industry. “Establishing the NSTC headquarters and design hub in California will capitalize on our state’s unparalleled assets to grow a highly skilled workforce and develop next-generation advancements,” stated U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.). “This CHIPS Act funding will propel emerging technologies and protect America’s global semiconductor leadership, all while bringing good-paying jobs to our state.”

California Ports to Receive Over \$1 Billion in Federal Funds to Decarbonize

Last week, U.S. Senator Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) announced that the Envi-

ronmental Protection Agency (EPA) will allocate over \$1 billion to seven California ports for zero-emission (ZE) infrastructure and climate management plans.

In an Oct. 29 press release, Padilla said this funding, part of the EPA’s Clean Ports Program and supported by the Inflation Reduction Act, aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality at ports nationwide.

Among the grants, the Port of Los Angeles received over \$411 million, the largest award in the country. California ports are vital to the national economy, handling about 40% of containerized imports and 30% of exports.

“California’s ports move the goods that power

improve regional air quality, and combat climate change while accelerating the port industry’s transition to zero emissions across the country,” said Seroka.

Other ports, including Oakland, Stockton, San Diego, and San Francisco, will also use their grants to transition to ZE operations, improve regional air quality, and create job opportunities.

The EPA’s funding will support various projects, from electrifying cargo terminals to establishing the first high-speed zero-emission ferry network in the U.S. Ports will collaborate with various stakeholders to ensure these investments benefit their surrounding communities.

The port of Hueneme in Ventura County and the Port of Redwood City on the Southern San Francisco Bay will also receive funding, respectively.

Gov. Newsom Issues Executive Order to Tackle Rising Electric Bills

Gov. Gavin Newsom has issued an executive order to help alleviate the financial burden of skyrocketing electric bills on residents. This directive instructs the state’s Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and Energy Commission to identify strategies to lower electricity costs and prevent rapid increases in the future.

Among the key actions proposed, the governor emphasized a closer examination of utility expenditures related to wildfire mitigation, which accounts for about 13% of residential electric bills.

Newsom underscored the state’s commitment to balancing affordability with environmental goals.

“We’re taking action to address rising electricity costs and save consumers money on their bills,” said Newsom. “California is proving that we can address affordability concerns as

we continue our world-leading efforts to combat the climate crisis.”

California now has the second-highest electric rates in the country, trailing only Hawaii, with residential bills having surged as much as 110% over the past decade. The largest utilities, including Pacific Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison, and San Diego Gas & Electric, have seen rate hikes of 20% to 50% in just the last three years, approved by the state’s regulatory bodies.

The executive order also directs the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to explore increasing the California Climate Credit, which provides some relief on energy costs for residents. Additionally, the PUC is urged to pursue federal funding opportunities to further reduce electric expenses.

While consumer advocates welcomed the governor’s focus on lowering costs, concerns were raised regarding potential cuts to essential clean energy programs. CALPIRG, a consumer group, pointed out that the real issue behind high utility bills is wasteful spending by utilities and urged greater accountability.

Newsom Introduces Housing Program for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals

Gov. Gavin Newsom has announced a new program that aims to improve public safety through federally funded investments in supportive housing for individuals exiting incarceration. This initiative, collaboratively managed by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), seeks to reduce homelessness and recidivism among formerly incarcerated individuals.

The federal funding will help the state reduce homelessness and support those

looking for a clean start by, “ensuring that those exiting our prison system have the resources and housing they need makes us all safer,” said Newsom.

Newsom stressed the importance of stable housing for successful reintegration. Formerly incarcerated individuals are nearly ten times more likely to experience homelessness, often facing barriers to public housing programs.

The HOME American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) Reentry Housing Pilot Project (RHPP) will allocate \$16 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The program aims to provide safe, stable housing alongside comprehensive services that promote employment, education, and healthcare access, which are crucial for reducing recidivism rates.

Jeff Macomber, Secretary of the CDCR, said that the CDCR understands the impact of homelessness on California’s communities and is committed to enhancing public safety and promoting successful community reintegration.

“Housing stability is an important aspect to successful reentry, and this groundbreaking effort in partnership with HCD will provide a valuable opportunity to address these challenges,” said Macomber.

Applications for the program are now open until the Dec. 31, deadline. Initial funding awards are expected in the summer of 2025.

Attorney General Bonta: California to Receive \$4.2 Billion in Opioid Settlement Cash

California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced last week that the state is poised to receive up to \$4.2 billion in opioid abatement funds from nationwide settlements and bankruptcies related to the opioid crisis. This funding aims to sup-

port local governments in combating the devastating impacts of opioid and fentanyl misuse.

In an Oct. 30 statement, Bonta emphasized the urgency of addressing the crisis, which has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives across the nation. He noted that more than 10,900 Californians died from overdoses in 2022, with nearly 6,500 fatalities linked to fentanyl, a potent synthetic opioid.

Recognizing the escalating toll, the Attorney General issued guidance to help local governments strategically utilize the settlement funds for prevention, treatment, and recovery initiatives.

“The opioid epidemic, fueled by prescription opioid painkillers and fentanyl, continues to devastate families, communities, and lives across this nation,” said Bonta.

“The funds from opioid settlements are designed to allow multifaceted approaches for local governments to provide comprehensive resources,” he said.

The opioid epidemic in the U.S. has unfolded in three waves: a rise in prescription opioid overdoses in the 1990s, an increase in heroin deaths from 2010, and a surge in fatalities from illicit opioids like fentanyl. In California, over 7,000 deaths in 2022 were attributed to opioid overdoses, with fentanyl involved in approximately 90% of those cases.

The settlements provide immediate financial resources for abatement and ensured long-term funding for cities and counties to address the ongoing crisis effectively.

Bonta’s guidance states that local governments should implement comprehensive strategies to combat the opioid epidemic and strengthen public health systems.

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Covered California Launches 'Let's Talk Health' Campaign as Open Enrollment Begins

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Covered California kicked off 2025 open enrollment and launched its "Let's Talk Health" campaign across the state today to reach California's remaining uninsured.

Open Enrollment – which runs through Jan. 31, 2025 – is when Californians can sign up for, renew or



shop for a new health insurance plan. Over 5.9 million Californians have had health insurance through Covered California since the exchange opened its doors in 2014, including nearly 1.8 million who are currently enrolled.

This is the 12th open-enrollment period under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which has helped provide health insurance to tens of millions of Americans and now features increased and expanded financial help for consumers through the Inflation Reduction Act. California's enhanced cost-sharing reduction program, which will be available to all Covered California enrollees in 2025, is making health care even more affordable for Californians.

"In California, we are maximizing the Affordable

Care Act by providing greater access to coverage and quality care to more Californians," said Gov. Gavin Newsom.

"Reducing out-of-pocket costs for millions of Californians is an important step in creating a healthier California for all."

Covered California will begin this open enrollment with record-high enrollees and the state's lowest uninsured rate on record. The "Let's Talk Health" campaign will focus on health literacy with the goal of simplifying the process of getting



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Californians can sign up for, renew or shop for a new health insurance plan during open enrollment.

covered, removing a known barrier to reaching California's remaining uninsured.

California's cost-sharing reduction program has been bolstered for 2025 by Gov. Newsom and the California Legislature, increasing the amount of state funds available for it to \$165 million. As a result, all Californians with incomes above 200 percent of the federal poverty level

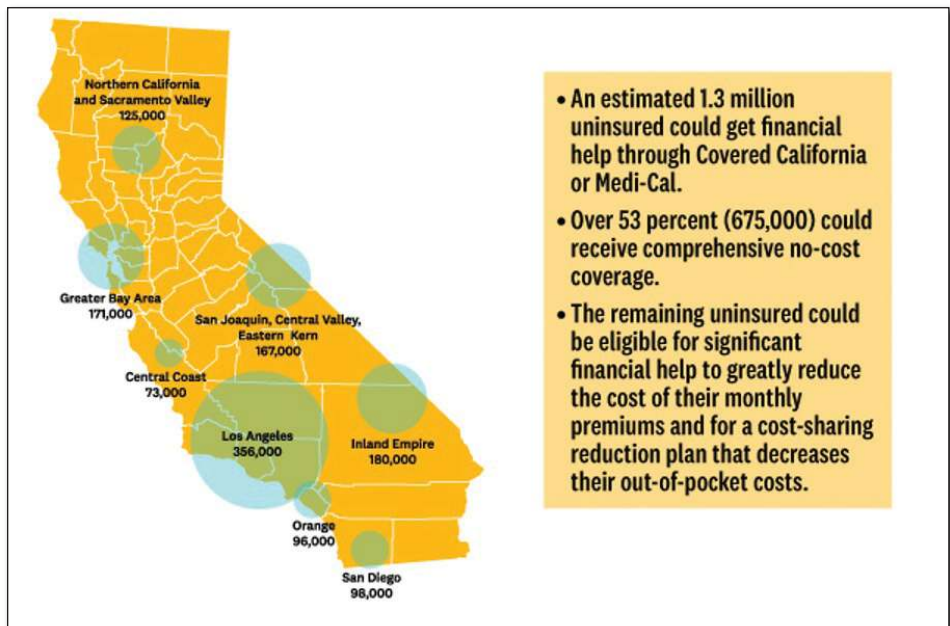
(which is \$30,120 for a single person and \$62,400 for a family of four) are now eligible to enroll in an Enhanced Silver 73 plan with no deductibles and reduced out-of-pocket costs, while those under 200 percent of the federal poverty level will continue to have access to higher levels of benefits.

In 2024, the program lowered generic drug costs and copays for medical visits and reduced other out-of-pocket costs for over 800,000 Covered California consumers, and now these benefits are available to all enrollees above 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

"With California's enhanced cost-sharing reduction program, many of our consumers will have more affordable choices, and they should shop and compare to choose the plan that is best for them and their families," said Covered California Executive Director Jessica Altman.

"We also want every uninsured Californian to know that we're working to make health care more affordable and easier to navigate. This change will further reduce financial barriers to accessing health care and simplify the process of shopping for health insurance."

Open enrollment begins with a record-low uninsured rate of 6.4 percent among Californians, according to federal data. Since Covered California's first open-enroll-



ment period in 2013, California's uninsured rate has fallen from 17.2 percent to 6.4 percent in 2023, which is the largest percentage point drop for any state in the nation during the Affordable Care Act era.

Research shows that many Californians don't understand what Covered California actually does, how health insurance works or how to maximize their plan benefits. This lack of health literacy can contribute to individuals not signing up for health care coverage.

To promote health literacy and provide consumers with more information, Covered California's "Let's Talk Health" campaign includes a suite of new materials that reflect cultural insights and more simplified language to

demystify health insurance and provide information to consumers who have questions about the basics.

"We want to simplify the complex and confusing so everyone can speak the language of health — regardless of their language, ethnicity, geography or income," Altman said. "This understanding will help all consumers feel empowered to enroll and start using their coverage."

Subsequently, Covered California has also launched a "Let's Talk Health" webpage with resources in multiple languages, including English, Spanish, Chinese (traditional and simplified), Korean, Vietnamese and Farsi to provide consumers a digital information option.

Consumers can learn more about their options by

visiting CoveredCA.com, where they can easily find out if they qualify for financial help and see the coverage options in their area. Those interested in learning more about their coverage options can also:

- Get free and confidential assistance over the phone, in a variety of languages, from one of more than 14,000 certified agents and community-based organizations throughout the state that provide free, confidential help in whatever language or dialect consumers prefer.
 - Have a certified enroller call them and help them for free.
 - Call Covered California at (800) 300-1506.
- The deadline to select a health plan and have coverage for all of 2025 is Dec. 31.

L.A. Care Commits More Than \$500,000 to Projects Reducing Health Disparities and Promoting Systemic Justice

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

L.A. Care Health Plan recently announced awards of up to \$516,000 to projects that support the healthcare safety net, reduce health disparities, and empower social service organizations to address systemic racism and promote systemic justice, which means helping marginalized communities fight for racial, social and economic justice. Three organizations have been chosen for grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$266,000.

"Addressing systemic racism is critical for achieving health equity," said John Baackes, L.A. Care CEO.

"As a health plan, L.A. Care is working with community-based organizations

that have developed varying strategies to mitigate the harmful impact of historical racism and discrimination, in hopes of closing health disparities gaps."

The largest of the three grants for \$266,000, has been awarded to UCLA Health Sound Body Sound Mind, a program that helps transform the lives of nearly 200,000 students annually throughout Los Angeles County. This funding will deliver comprehensive physical education programs and resources to four middle schools with under-resourced student populations in the Watts, Compton and Lynwood areas.

"For decades, growing rates of inactivity and childhood obesity have deeply



COURTESY PHOTO
Southside Coalition of Community Health Clinics includes Watts Healthcare where families can receive a range of medical services.

impacted our youth, often disproportionately affecting those from under-resourced communities," said Matt Flesock, executive director of UCLA Health Sound Body Sound Mind.

"Our approach provides schools with state-of-the-art fitness centers, curriculum,

and teacher training, helping school-based physical education programs get students moving in a fun and engaging way, ultimately helping them chart a path to a healthier and more active future."

A second grant for \$150,000 was awarded to the Southside Coalition of

Community Health Clinics, a coalition of seven Federally Qualified Health Centers serving South Los Angeles. The funding will support a care coordination project for patients who are admitted to Dignity Health-California Hospital Medical Center or who receive care in the center's emergency department.

This program greatly reduces the number of patients with return visits to the hospital and emergency department. Patient navigators assist patients with scheduling follow-up appointments with their primary care providers and referrals to other community resources, as needed, to help manage their health condition with wrap-around support.

The third grant for \$100,000 was awarded to Helpline Youth Counseling, Inc (HYC) Dream Resource Centers, which are culturally competent, safe environments at five high-need schools in Southeast Los Angeles. The funding will be used to reduce risk factors that lead to violence and discrimination against marginalized students of color, primarily through art interventions, peer-to-peer mediation and counseling, and restorative justice activities.

The three grants align with L.A. Care's commitment to advancing health equity, ensuring that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible.

Make this Thanksgiving a Happy One!

Show seniors, sick and shut-in you care

Make Thanksgiving Cards



For The 29th Annual Thanksgiving Day Feed

MOTHERS IN ACTION

Cards are due by Thursday, November 21, 2024

Each meal delivered will include one of your special cards

Deliver to Mothers In Action's Office 4401 Crenshaw Blvd, Ste 205, Los Angeles, CA 90043. (Seeking cards from Youth Ages 3 – 21)

For more information contact (323) 290-0456 or email mothersinactioninc@aol.com

 Mothers In Action
 www.mothers-in-action.org
 Instagram: Mothersinaction_

Volunteers & Donations Needed

 **MOTHERS IN ACTION** & Ward EDC



Thanksgiving Day Senior Feed



Set up, Assemble, Distribute &, Deliver meals to the Senior, Sick and Shut in, and Clean up

Thursday, November 28, 2024

9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

All Volunteers must be pre-registered, vaccinated & wear a mask

To Donate

Cash App or Zelle Mothers In Action at 213-706-5831 or

Please drop or mail donations to

Mothers In Action

3800 Crenshaw Blvd, Los Angeles, CA, 90008

For more information contact (323) 290-0456 or email mothersinactioninc@aol.com

~ Mothers In Action is a Brotherhood Crusade sponsored agency ~



Kyle Patterson Builds Community with His Purpose

By BRIAN W. CARTER
Contributing Writer

Kyle Patterson is the regional manager for the Local 323 of the Western States Regional Council of Carpenters. The union is made up of members representing 12 states west of Colorado with a little over 90,000 members. He's a proud husband and father, but there was a time where he couldn't see this future.

Patterson was born and raised in the South L.A., on 97th and Vermont, in between Hoover and Vermont.

"I pretty much grew up right there," said Patterson.

Growing up in the 80s and 90s, Patterson shared that he attended several different schools.

"I went to Gompers and Manchester Elementary, Locke, Gardena, Washington, Manual Arts High Schools and the last school



COURTESY PHOTO
Kyle Patterson, regional manager for the Local 323 of the Western States Regional Council of Carpenters.

system for a minute," said Patterson. "If you're a young man, growing up, trying to find himself in those kinds of situations, getting split up, I didn't have no supervision.

"The people I was staying with, it was like, 'Y'all

ended up bumping my head a few times during those travels."

Unfortunately, life choices ended up having hard consequences and costing Patterson his freedom.

"I lost six years and

life. "I hit my lowest of the low," said Patterson.

"I looked on the wall and I saw this little ant crawling up the wall. I was like, Lord I wish I was that ant.

"If you give me another opportunity to get back home, I'm going to give my life to you. I know we're not supposed to make deals and stuff like that, but that's what I said that day, where I dropped to my knees and I just surrendered.

"My first day home, that first Sunday, I went to the church right there on the 106th and Hoover and gave my life to God. I've just been trying to walk the straight and narrow ever since."

Patterson returned home and found that much hadn't changed there or in the streets. Those same mentors were ever present and home life wasn't the best inspiration but, he was determined to make something of his life now.

"I already had a plan, I knew I wasn't going back to hanging out where I grew up," said Patterson.

"I found a program, at the parole office, there was this flyer on the bulletin board that said introduction into the construction industry and it was through a company called Century Freeway Program."

He went through eight weeks of training and found a sponsor to get into a union. He received a set of tools for his trade and a check for \$1,345.00.

"The company that sponsored me was a company out of San Francisco area called Frederick Meiswinkel Inc., FMI, and they do drywall and framing interior," said Patterson. "Once you start getting higher in stages, they started letting you work with your tools a little more."

His first job site was at the USC dorms working as a clean-up guy, bringing material and cleaning up

the building.

"I still wasn't sure if this was for me," said Patterson. "It was one of those things where I was just trying to show the parole folks that I was doing good because I had to check in like every week."



COURTESY PHOTO
As a union carpenter, Patterson likes supporting members and giving back to the community.

He started paying attention to the conversations men were having about vacation checks, retirement, talking about pensions, buying houses and more.

"That's when it clicked in my brain that this was more than just a job, it was a career and that's when I really started taking it serious," said Patterson. "These new mentors were people that were from different backgrounds—Hispanic brothers, White brothers and they were actually telling me how to survive in the trade."

"I took a lot of that stuff and started raising my own family with these set of mentors that I had—you're hearing them talking about going on vacation to the lake with their families and all these different things and stuff that I didn't have growing up.

"So, about second stage, maybe about six months into it, I started working with my tools. I've just been so fortunate and thank God to where I've been working steady ever since.

"I'm telling you, favor and blessings."

Patterson shared what he likes most about being a union carpenter is helping others. His career has given him a heart for the community and he enjoys giving back to it. He also loves helping his members flourish in the trade.

"Representing our members, creating work opportunities, community wealth—building that community wealth in South L.A.," said Patterson. "That's been an experience for me right there just continuing to understand my community more."

He continued, "And that member that you get a job for, they come back, you probably forgot about them and four years later they come back and say, 'Hey you remember me? I'm a journeyman now.'

"Thank you man, you gave me my first job."

Patterson encourages any youth who's uncertain about their future to consider becoming a carpenter.

"It's a decent, livable trade. I would and have encouraged my own children to be a part of it," said Patterson. "One of them has become a carpenter since then."

"I would say that we all have a purpose and when you find out your purpose, you do your best at helping others and creating work opportunities for them too.

"Pass it along, giving back to the next generation."



COURTESY PHOTO
Patterson with his family.

that I ended up at was Dorsey High School," said Patterson.

He's one of nine children and grew up in a two-bedroom apartment. Patterson describes a rough a childhood, one of separation, bad mentors and not a lot of hope.

"We kind of got separated and went to the foster

can't tell me what to do. I'm gone.' That was just really an introduction more so to the streets. It was a time where I didn't think I was going make it past 16 or 18.

"It was kind of tough for me growing up with my mentors that I had. I was a young impressionable kid trying to just find his way. I

three months of my freedom," said Patterson. "I got charged as an adult back in '94.

"I was 17 going to Dorsey so, 10th grade—that was the last time I was home."

Patterson remembers being in a 30-month shoe program and having a conversation that changed his

L.A. Sentinel Q&A with Brenton Guy, Director of Support Services at SoCalGas



COURTESY PHOTO
Brenton Guy

SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL

1. Tell us about your background and experience?

I was born and raised in South Los Angeles. After I graduated from Crenshaw High, I studied computer science at UC Davis and industrial engineering at the University of Southern California (USC). I've worked at SoCalGas for 14 years, holding various roles in industrial engineering, project management, facilities management, and business management.

2. What does your role in support services entail?

As the director of support services for SoCalGas, I oversee the company's 2 million square feet of administration buildings and 4,500 fleet vehicles. These critical assets are

spread out across Southern and Central California.

I lead a diverse team of over 160 real estate, facilities, and fleet professionals who oversee the construction, management, and operation of our facilities and vehicles through the lens of SoCalGas' strategic goals of safety and operational excellence, technology and innovation, clean energy, people and culture, and financial discipline.

3. Why are you passionate about this work?

I'm passionate about this work because my department directly impacts the experience of over 8,500 SoCalGas employees. We design workspaces and work vehicles that inspire and enable employees to do their best work. Our efforts often set a new employee's first impression of the company,

because a work truck or a building is usually the first thing they see when they arrive on their first day.

Designing office workspaces and enhancing the employee experience involves meticulous planning and thoughtful consideration, including the selection of furniture, the design of conference rooms, and the provision of amenities. For our field employees, their 'office' is their vehicle. Therefore, we design SoCalGas employee trucks from scratch, equipping them with essential safety features and ample storage for necessary devices, allowing employees to work efficiently from their vehicles.

4. Do you have a mantra or philosophy of life that has guided you in your career?

I believe one's career is guided by three things: your personal brand, your network, and your self-improvement. Building a personal brand involves defining and communicating precisely what makes you unique and valuable in your field. A strong personal brand helps you stand out and advance in your career. Your network should be large and diverse, and should grow from both informal interactions, like breakroom conversations, and formal networking, such as attending industry events. Continuous self-improvement is crucial to staying relevant and competitive. I find it important

to update my skills, seek feedback, and reflect on experiences to identify growth opportunities.

5. How do you see your role and future in support services expanding?

Our work has expanded to support SoCalGas' aspirational goal to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions in the company's operations and delivery of energy by 2045.

By 2025, my team aims to transition 50% of our gasoline and diesel vehicles to alternative fuel equivalents like battery electric, hydrogen fuel cell, hybrids, and natural gas vehicles. Additionally, by 2025, we aim to have 100% of our new building construction projects over 10,000 square feet will be net zero, meaning all energy used onsite will come from a renewable source such as solar.

6. How do your goals impact the community?

My team's goals help reduce carbon emissions in the communities we serve. For example, our first electric vehicles were recently deployed to some of our South Los Angeles communities, chosen for their dense population. By implementing cleaner technologies and advancing environmental initiatives, we are helping to create a healthier future for all the diverse communities we proudly serve.

SoCalGas' sustainabili-

ty strategy includes goals related to safety, diversity, equity and inclusion (DE&I) in the workplace, and investment in underserved communities, and the goal of spending 45% of purchases with diverse business enterprises by 2025. In 2023, SoCalGas exceeded the California Public Utilities (CPUC) diverse spending goal for the 31st consecutive year, purchasing 44% of all goods and services from diverse businesses. SoCalGas has spent almost \$6 billion over the past seven years with diverse business enterprises owned by minority, women, disabled

veteran, persons with disabilities and/or LGBT-owned businesses.

7. How do you spend your time outside of work?

I'm a husband to a lovely wife and a father of two amazing kids, ages 6 and 9. We live in South LA and, in our free time, can be found hiking, running, or mountain biking at the Kenneth Hahn State Recreational Area. I also serve on the board of the Pan-African Technical Association (PATA), a non-profit focused on promoting STEM activities for youth in the U.S. and in Africa.



COURTESY PHOTO
Brenton and his family

Black Education Expo Unites Generations Paving New K-12 Pathways

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Last weekend, the Black Education Expo (BEE), founded by Victoria Williams, drew attendees, presenters, and exhibitors from as far away as Toronto, Oceanside, Santa Clarita, Compton, Riverside, South Los Angeles, and everywhere in between. Co-presented by Pasadena Councilmember Tyron Hampton, the event was a powerful intersection of education, entrepreneurship, STEM, and community building, designed to uplift and empower K-12 students and families from communities of color.

The BEE program kicked off with a vibrant performance of African drumming and dance by a local family, setting the tone



Attending the BEE were, from left, John Lynch, Kendall Jones-Wright, Nicole Whaley, Dr. Alison Steppes, Nina Torres, Laura Hamilton, Victoria Williams, Jeremiah Johnson, Torree Fisher, Dr. Jackie Jacobs, Tameka Alexander, Page Triplett, and Councilmember Tyron Hampton.

digital world, ensuring their educational journeys are well-supported from an early stage. Three

Southern California students—Carter Baker, Kendall Jones-Wright, and Paige

Triplett—were honored as distinguished Black Edu-

enrollment and transfer, scholarships, UC admission tips as well as student voter education in honor of National Voter Education Week and mental health resources in recognition of World Mental Health Day, ensuring participants left with practical and timely

LA Robotics, the University of California, Hidden Genius Project,

Black College Success, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, Black Math Collective, Psyches of Color, and the Institute for Educational Advancement connected students with a wide range of opportunities, from STEM to filmmaking, theater, dance, foster youth resources, and financial literacy. The intersection of education and entrepreneurship was also emphasized, with Kameale Terry, CEO of ChargerHelp!, leading an engaging teen workshop that inspired students to see themselves as future innovators and leaders in various fields.

At its core, the Black Education Expo fosters relationships, shares knowledge, and reinforces communal support. It's a space where families and educators come together to build a future for youth anchored in both tradition and progress. Victoria

envisioned the BEE as a vital hybrid platform to ensure resources are easily shared and communal ties are strengthened. The BEE movement exemplifies this vision, offering families a chance to plan for their children's success while deepening their bonds with one another.

Workforce development

this Winter with a virtual series, the next in-person event on February 22, 2025, and pop-up BEE expos across Southern California, ensuring that these vital K-12 resources reach even more families in the future.

The event's success was made possible through support from Pasadena City College,



Pasadena Councilmember Tyron Hampton and BEE founder Victoria Williams, right, honor Annie Williams, center, founder of the Young Entrepreneur Program and Kids Who Cook.

was another key focus, with exhibitors like IBEW Local 11 highlighting career pathways that youth of color may not have considered before. The Bridge Builders Foundation brought over 50 scholars from their Youth Leadership Council. With the support of over 40 community organizations—from NCNW, NAACP, members of the Divine 9, and a variety of clergy groups—collaboration was key to contributing to the strong sense of community and empowerment that defined the day.

Looking ahead, the Black Education Expo will expand

Pasadena Unified School District, Black College Success, IBEW Local 11, Los Angeles Urban League, and Bridge Builders Foundation. The Black Education Expo isn't just an event—it's a movement that fosters education, opportunity, and centers communities of color to create lasting impact.

BEE is actively seeking additional partners and supporters to help keep the movement going and expand its reach. For more information, visit www.blackeducationexpo.com or email info@blackeducationexpo.com.



Victoria Williams, front, poses in front of the Pasadena Convention Center with members of the Bridge Builders Foundation Youth Leadership Council and BEE attendees.

for a celebratory and culturally rich experience. The BEE is both a vital resource hub and a reunion, where educators, parents, and community leaders reconnect and share knowledge. With literacy as an ever-present theme, over 500 books were distributed, and tech giveaways provided students with tools essential for the

education Expo Scholars as well as provided with certificates from US Congresswoman Judy Chu, Assemblymember Chris Holden and Senator Anthony Portantino.

The event featured 10 diverse workshops for parents and teens, covering a wide range of topics, including parenting children with learning challenges, dual

knowledge.

With over 60 curated, culturally relevant exhibitors from industries critical to the future, the upbeat BEE expo hall offered hands-on experiences, including Sphero robotics demos, golf pros of color showcasing their skills, exciting giveaways, and interactive trivia sessions.

Organizations like South

Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles Announces 2024-25 Concert Season Schedule

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles (ICYOLA) announced its 2024-25 Concert Season Schedule, showcasing the talents of young musicians from underserved communities across Los Angeles.

According to a spokesperson, "ICYOLA's 17th season promises to be a transformative journey filled with breathtaking performances, innovative programming, and community engagement."

The largest orchestra of color in the country begins

the season with several fall concerts to end 2024. The season continues in the new year with performances at renowned venues, including the Skirball Cultural Center and Walt Disney Concert Hall.

The orchestra will also partake in a collaboration with the esteemed Los Angeles Philharmonic for "Mahlerthon," a day celebrating the music and arrangements of Gustav Mahler. Each concert this season celebrates the richness of classical music while highlighting the importance of Black and Latinx people in orchestral music, fostering a diverse and inclusive environment.

"This season will be one to remember, featuring performances at some of Los Angeles' most prestigious venues," says Charles Dickerson, founder and conductor of ICYOLA.

"This season represents not only the incredible talent of our young musicians but also our commitment to nur-



Charles Dickerson directs the ICYOLA, the largest orchestra of color in the country.

ture creativity and open doors for our youth, particularly in our Black and Latinx communities."

Recently, the orchestra launched a capital campaign to secure funds to renovate a newly purchased building, which will serve as a dedicated space for rehearsals, performances, and educational programs. "This initiative not only reflects ICYOLA's commitment to fostering artistic excellence and providing essential resources for its members but also underscores its role in empowering underserved

hope, and social justice. The tickets are free and can be reserved on the Skirball website when available.

- A Philharmonic "Mahlerthon" Debut: With great honor, ICYOLA will perform on March 2, 2025, at the LA Philharmonic "Mahlerthon" at the Walt Disney Concert Hall with five other orchestras. Purchase tickets HERE.

- 17th Annual Season Finale Concert: In July, ICYOLA will close its phenomenal season at The Music Center's Walt Disney Concert Hall. Tickets have not been released as of yet.

To view ICYOLA's 15th Annual Season Finale Concert at Walt Disney Concert Hall visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yfPriJ-zT_k

Follow ICYOLA on Instagram - @icyola, Facebook - Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles, X (formerly Twitter) - @icyola_official, YouTube - icyola, and LinkedIn - Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles (ICYOLA)

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title: Los Angeles Sentinel

2. Issue Frequency: Weekly

3. Issue Date: 10/31/2024

4. Issue Frequency: 52

5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 52

6. Annual Subscription Price: \$47.88

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®): 3800 Crenshaw Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90008

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): 3800 Crenshaw Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90008

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank):
 Publisher (Name and complete mailing address): Danny Joseph Bakewell, Sr., 3800 Crenshaw Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90008
 Editor (Name and complete mailing address): Danny Joseph Bakewell, Jr., 3800 Crenshaw Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90008
 Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address): Cora Jackson-Fossett, 3800 Crenshaw Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90008

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.):
 Full Name: Danny Joseph Bakewell, Sr.
 Complete Mailing Address: 3800 Crenshaw Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90008

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box: None

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one):
 The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:
 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

13. Publication Title: Los Angeles Sentinel

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 10/31/2024

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation: Vebically newspaper

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	30,000	30,000
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail)	700	700
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions (Based on PS Form 3841 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies))	700	700
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions (Based on PS Form 3841 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies))	1100	1100
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails (including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®))	27,700	27,700
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))	29,500	29,500
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail)	0	0
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3841	0	0
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3841	0	0
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	0	0
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	0	0
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))	0	0
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)	29,500	29,500
g. Copies not Distributed (See Inclusions to Publishers #4 (page #2))	500	500
h. Total (Sum of 15f and 15g)	30,000	30,000
i. Prepaid Paid (75% divided by 100 times 100)	100%	100%

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership: If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the November 7, 2024 issue of this publication. Publication not required.

17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Danny J. Bakewell, Sr. Date: 10/11/2024

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

18. Electronic Copy Circulation

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies	0	0
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 18a)	1800	1800
c. Total Paid Distribution (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 18a)	29,500	29,500
d. Percent Paid (Both Paid & Electronic Copies) (18b divided by 18c x 100)	6.10%	6.10%

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COMMUNITY LEVEL CONTRACTING

{Continued from A-4}

Williams, who joined the program in 2018.

"The team there did an assessment of my company, created a work plan, and helped me obtain a \$250,000 bond line. I also

learned a lot through their training academies on bidding and estimating and contract award and management."

"In short, the CDABP helped build my business

capacities. Assisting me in winning a prime contractor role on this sidewalk repair project is an additional thing I am grateful for. I can't wait to start work on this."

For more information

on the CDABP and upcoming contracting opportunities with the City of Los Angeles, L.A. Metro, and the County of Los Angeles, visit www.LAConDev.com.

ANTI-VIOLENCE VENTURES {Continued from A-2}

are low and lift them up and show them that they have a support system, that they're just people behind them willing to help them out."

Case Manager Facility of Men's BD Class and attendee Eric Powell feels that more in the community should become informed about domestic violence and other types of abuse against others.

"So many people are under-educated about

domestic violence. Like, my first initial thought of domestic violence was just the physical aspect," Powell says.

"But then I learned about the mental, the emotional, the spiritual, the financial, and the sexual abuse. So, I think a lot of people, especially men, are under-educated."

Powell, who also experienced domestic abuse, feels that the stereotype applied to domestic violence usually makes socie-

ty side with women.

"In the grand dynamics of everything, men get treated differently and it shouldn't be like that because that's not always that case. But we're always portrayed as the abuser and aggressor."

Granbury states why the group does seek ad-lescents mostly. "Our demographic is young black men and boys. So that's a targeted demographic for a reason," he says.

"Obviously, the experiences that we have growing up shape us. So, we tend to get a lot of engagement within the community on a month-to-month basis."

He also explains how the program helps some to broaden their awareness.

"I would say [our program results in] a growth mindset, knowing that there was something that happened, but you can come out of it no matter what that may have been."

INGLEWOOD WOMEN'S MARCH {Continued from A-1}

"Women have always been at the forefront of change, and it's crucial that we continue to stand together, raise our voices, and push for the progress our communities need," said McKinnor.

Against the backdrop of a critical election season, the event underscored the rising urgency of women's rights advocacy. With reproductive rights laws being challenged across the country, many of the participants marched to address these concerns.

"When they say 'no choice,' we say 'pro-choice,'" the crowd clamored.

McKinnor, joined by Inglewood Councilmember Dionne Faulk, organized

the march, leading attendees through the streets of Inglewood and concluding at City Hall, where prominent local and statewide officials delivered powerful speeches to a diverse and engaged crowd.

The speakers, united by a commitment to equality and empowerment, emphasized how essential women's voices are to the political landscape, particularly in the face of persistent economic barriers, the struggle for women's reproductive rights, and economic security.

McKinnor opened, "I am Black. I am a woman. And I am a progressive."

McKinnor has gained national recognition for championing progressive

policy initiatives in California, including legislation to unionize state legislative employees, reduce environmental microplastics, and dismantle discriminatory housing policies to foster safe and inclusive neighborhoods throughout the state.

She encouraged the crowd to vote, stating, "Voting is my Black job." McKinnor asked for the crowd to raise their hands if

"I've spent 37 years in law enforcement. I have brought up more female chiefs of police than any chief in the history of the country," Butts said.

"Here in Inglewood, we have women department heads, women middle managers, and it is not because of preference but because of ability."

Inglewood City Councilman for District 3, Eloy Morales Jr., stated, "Today



Two young women hold sign reflecting their opinions.



Many men joined women at the march and rally.



Women of all ages and ethnicities participated in the march.

they hadn't voted, urging participants to head to the polls. "Only 20% of voters have voted in the 61st Assembly District. Cast your vote today!"

Inglewood Mayor James Butts spoke to the crowd about the strength of women.

is about action. It is about us. It is about getting everybody to vote for the right people."

Westchester Democratic Club President Liz Kane added, "When we think about this election, for me, it's a fight. It's a fight every single day. It's a fight for

my right to make decisions about my reproductive health care, and yes, abortion is health care."

Kane continued, "I fight for all of the women that don't get to have their voices heard because they're living in a household with partners who are voting against their reproductive rights. I fight because I want all women to have the right to choose when and if they have children. I fight because I do not want to go back to the dangerous options women had prior to Roe v. Wade in 1973."

Westside Activist and Social Worker Ahmanise Sanati poignantly added, "To my baby, to your baby, to all the babies out there, this is so important because

we are laying down the foundation for the rest of their lives."

Sanati went on to acknowledge Josseli Barnica, a pregnant woman from Texas who lost her life after being denied medical intervention during her miscarriage.

For many in attendance, the Women's March & Rally was not only a celebration of past achievements but also a reminder of the work still needed to ensure lasting change. This march marked an essential chapter in the broader movement for women's rights, one that advocates hope will inspire sustained engagement and meaningful progress through legislative action.

QUINCY JONES DIES {Continued from A-1}

Side of Chicago to the very heights of show business, becoming one of the first Black executives to thrive in Hollywood and amassing an extraordinary musical catalog that includes some of the richest moments of American rhythm and song. For years, it was unlikely to find a music lover who did not own at least one record with his name on it, or a leader in the entertainment industry and beyond who did not have some connection to him.

Jones kept company with presidents and foreign leaders, movie stars and musicians, philanthropists and business leaders. He toured with Count Basie and Lionel Hampton, arranged records for Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald, composed the soundtracks for "Roots" and "In the Heat of the Night," organized President Bill Clinton's first inaugural celebration and oversaw the all-star recording of "We Are the World," the 1985 charity record for famine relief in Africa.

African chants. For "Thriller," some of the most memorable touches originated with Jones, who recruited Eddie Van Halen for a guitar solo on the genre-fusing "Beat It" and brought in Vincent Price for a ghoulish voiceover on the title track.

"Thriller" sold more than 20 million copies in 1983 alone and has contended with the Eagles' "Greatest Hits 1971-1975" among others as the best-selling album of all time.

"If an album doesn't do well, everyone says 'it was the producers fault'; so if it does well, it should be your 'fault,' too," Jones said in an interview with the Library of Congress in 2016. "The tracks don't just all of a sudden appear. The producer has to have the skill, experience and ability to guide the vision to completion."

The list of his honors and awards fills 18 pages in his 2001 autobiography "Q," including 27 Grammys at the time (now 28), an honorary

caretakers, and those who don't. Nothing's in between." Jones' mother suffered from emotional problems and was eventually institutionalized, a loss that made the world seem "senseless" for Quincy. He spent much of his time in Chicago on the streets, with gangs, stealing and fighting.

"They nailed my hand to a fence with a switchblade, man," he told the AP in 2018, showing a scar from his childhood.



Quincy Jones cradles his Grammy awards including album of the year for "Back on the Block" at the Grammy Awards on Feb. 20, 1991.

Music saved him. As a boy, he learned that a Chicago neighbor owned a piano and he soon played it constantly himself. His father moved to Washington state when Quincy was 10 and his world changed at a neighborhood recreation center. Jones and some friends had broken into the kitchen and helped themselves to lemon meringue pie when Jones noticed a small room nearby with a stage. On the stage was a piano.

"I went up there, paused, stared, and then tinkled on it for a moment," he wrote in his autobiography. "That's where I began to find peace. I was 11. I knew this was it for me. Forever."

Within a few years he was playing trumpet and befriending a young blind musician named Ray Charles, who became a life-long friend. He was gifted enough to win a scholarship at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, but dropped out when Hampton invited him to tour with his band. Jones went on to work as a freelance composer, conductor, arranger and producer. As a teen, he backed Billie Holiday. By his mid-20s, he was touring with his own band.

"We had the best jazz band on the planet, and yet we were literally starving," Jones later told Musician

magazine. "That's when I discovered that there was music, and there was the music business. If I were to survive, I would have to learn the difference between the two."

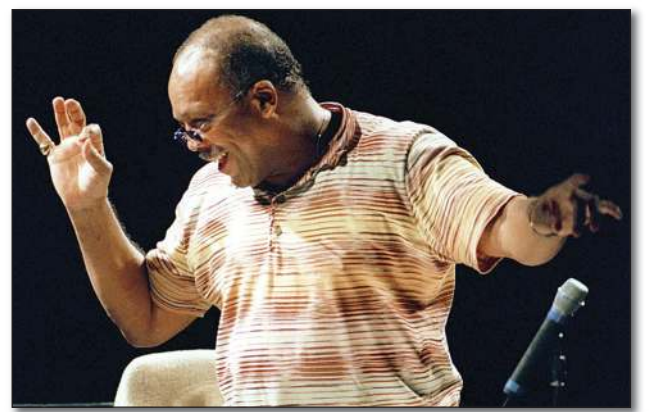
As a music executive, he overcame racial barriers by becoming a vice president at Mercury Records in the early '60s. In 1971, he became the first Black musical director for the Academy Awards ceremony. The first movie he produced, "The Color Purple," received 11 Oscar nominations in 1986. (But, to his great disappointment, no wins). In a partnership with Time Warner, he created Quincy Jones Entertainment, which included the pop-culture magazine Vibe and Qwest Broadcasting. The company was sold for \$270 million in 1999.

"My philosophy as a businessman has always come from the same roots as my personal credo: take talented people on their own terms and treat them fairly and with respect, no matter who they are or where they come from," Jones wrote in his autobiography.

He was at ease with virtually every form of American music, whether setting Sinatra's "Fly Me to the Moon" to a punchy, swinging rhythm and wistful flute or opening his production of Charles' soulful "In the Heat of the Night" with a lusty tenor sax solo. He worked with jazz giants (Dizzy Gillespie, Duke Ellington), rappers (Snoop Dogg, LL Cool J), crooners (Sinatra, Tony Bennett), pop singers (Lesley Gore) and rhythm and blues stars (Chaka Khan, Queen Latifah).

On "We are the World" alone, performers included Michael Jackson, Bob Dylan, Billy Joel, Stevie Wonder and Bruce Springsteen. He co-wrote hits for Jackson — "P.Y.T. (Pretty Young Thing)" — and Donna Summer — "Love Is in Control (Finger on the Trigger)" — and had songs sampled by Tupac Shakur, Kanye West and other rappers. He even composed the theme song for the sitcom "Sanford and Son."

Jones was a facilitator and maker of the stars. He gave Will Smith a key break in the hit TV show "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air," which Jones produced, and through "The Color Purple"



Quincy Jones directs the Orchestra National de France in Paris on July 4, 200.

he introduced Winfrey and Whoopi Goldberg to filmgoers. Starting in the 1960s, he composed more than 35 film scores, including for "The Pawnbroker," "In the Heat of the Night" and "In Cold Blood."

He called scoring "a multifaceted process, an abstract combination of science and soul."

Jones' work on the soundtrack for "The Wiz" led to his partnership with Jackson, who starred in the 1978 movie. In an essay published in Time magazine after Jackson's death, in 2009, Jones remembered that the singer kept slips of paper on him that contained thoughts by famous thinkers. When Jones asked about the origins of one passage, Jackson answered "Socrates," but pronounced it "SO-cra-tyes." Jones corrected him, "Michael, it's SOCK-ra-tees."

"And the look he gave me then, it just prompted me to say, because I'd been impressed by all the things I saw in him during the rehearsal process, 'I would love to take a shot at producing your album,'" Jones recalled. "And he went back and told the people at Epic Records, and they said, 'No way — Quincy's too jazzy.' Michael was persistent, and he and his managers went back and said, 'Quincy's producing the album.' And we proceeded to make 'Off the Wall.' Ironically, that was one of the biggest Black-selling albums at the time, and that album saved all the jobs of the people saying I was the wrong guy. That's the way it works."

Tensions emerged after Jackson's death. In 2013, Jones sued Jackson's estate, claiming he was owed millions in royalties and production fees on some of the superstar's greatest hits. In a 2018 interview with New York magazine, he called Jackson "as Machiavellian as they come" and alleged that

he lifted material from others.

Jones was hooked on work and play, and at times suffered for it. He nearly died from a brain aneurysm in 1974 and became deeply depressed in the 1980s after "The Color Purple" was snubbed by Academy Awards voters; he never received a competitive Oscar. A father of seven children by five mothers, Jones described himself as a "dog" who had countless lovers around the world. He was married three times, his wives including the actor Peggy Lipton.

"To me, loving a woman is one of the most natural, blissful, life-enhancing — and dare I say, religious — acts in the world," he wrote.

Along with Rashida, Jones is survived by daughters Jolie Jones Levine, Rachel Jones, Martina Jones, Kidada Jones and Kenya Kinski-Jones; son Quincy Jones III; brother Richard Jones and sisters Theresa Frank and Margie Jay.

He was not an activist in his early years, but changed after attending the 1968 funeral of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and later befriending the Rev. Jesse Jackson. Jones was dedicated to philanthropy, saying "the best and only useful aspect of fame and celebrity is having a platform to help others."

His causes included fighting HIV and AIDS, educating children and providing for the poor around the world. He founded the Quincy Jones Listen Up! Foundation to connect young people with music, culture and technology, and said he was driven throughout his life "by a spirit of adventure and a criminal level of optimism."

"Life is like a dream, the Spanish poet and philosopher Federico Garcia Lorca said," Jones wrote in his memoir. "Mine's been in Technicolor, with full Dolby sound through THX amplification before they knew what these systems were."



Michael Jackson, left, holds eight awards as he poses with Quincy Jones at the Grammy Awards on Feb. 28, 1984.

Lionel Richie, who co-wrote "We Are the World" and was among the featured singers, would call Jones "the master orchestrator."

In a career which began when records were still played on platters turning at 78 rpm, top honors likely go to his productions with Jackson: "Off the Wall," "Thriller" and "Bad" were albums near-universal in their style and appeal. Jones' versatility and imagination helped set off the explosive talents of Jackson as he transformed from child star to the "King of Pop." On such classic tracks as "Billie Jean" and "Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough," Jones and Jackson fashioned a global soundscape out of disco, funk, rock, pop, R&B and jazz and

Academy Award (now two) and an Emmy for "Roots." He also received France's Legion d'Honneur, the Rudolph Valentino Award from the Republic of Italy and a Kennedy Center tribute for his contributions to American culture. He was the subject of a 1990 documentary, "Listen Up: The Lives of Quincy Jones," and a 2018 film by daughter Rashida Jones. His memoir made him a best-selling author.

Born in Chicago in 1933, Jones would cite the hymns his mother sang around the house as the first music he could remember. But he looked back sadly on his childhood, once telling Oprah Winfrey that "There are two kinds of people: those who have nurturing parents or

Windsor Hills' Roz Browne: The Comedian Bringing Real-Life Humor and Everyday Stories to the Stage

BY KEITH L. UNDERWOOD
Entertainment Writer

Roz Browne, the Boston-born comedian and actress often joked that being the middle child in a family of nine gave her an "edge" in humor.

Browne shared that "the middle child always has the issue," and hinted that standup was her way of navigating family dynamics. Initially, Browne took the "responsible" route, earning an accounting degree from Northeastern University before becoming a CPA.

Seeking sunshine and new opportunities, Browne moved to Los Angeles, inspired by the sitcoms she grew up watching. She said she remembered seeing all the "sunny sitcoms" and thinking, "I want to be out there with 'Three's Company.'"

After transferring to USC, Browne completed her degree, started her accounting career, but found her attention increasingly drawn to Hollywood.

Between CPA gigs,

Browne took an acting class, where an instructor encouraged her to face her biggest fear. Standup, something she'd admired from afar but never tried, was her choice. "I got hooked on the laughter and the adrenaline, and I've been doing it ever since," she shared.

Browne's comedy career gained momentum quickly. She described her debut on BET's "Comic View" as a defining moment that helped her reach a wider audience.

Soon, Browne said she was performing internationally, joining USO tours in Okinawa, Japan, and doing shows in places like Hawaii and London.

Closer to home, Browne became a regular at Hollywood's Comedy Store, a major achievement for any comedian. She reflected on the honor of having her name on the club's wall, saying, "To be selected by the owner and get your name on that wall—it was major."

Browne spoke with reverence about the comedic



Roz Browne on stage at "The Fanatic Show."

legends who influenced her, naming Eddie Murphy, Martin Lawrence, and Wanda Sykes among her inspirations.

Browne affectionately called Whoopi Goldberg "the griot" and shared that

Whoopi held a special place in her heart. "Whoopi was one of the main female comedian influencers in my career and still is," she

added.

When COVID-19 paused live performances, Browne said it sparked her creativity. With clubs closed, she poured her energy into her first standup special, "Roz Browne: I'm Roz Browne," available on Amazon Prime, Apple TV, Vimeo, and Microsoft Store. Describing it as a "labor of love," she noted that the project took two years to complete.

"It's based on my standup but also on storytelling. It hits on stories from growing up and my family dynamics," Browne explained.

Browne believes the special connects with audiences by sharing the humor of a "next-door neighbor" with hilarious stories, a style that resonates with her fans.

Beyond standup, Browne has expanded her reach with acting roles, appearing on shows like "This Fool" and "Curb Your Enthusiasm."

Browne was also featured on "The View" for its "Hilarious Housewives" segment, which she said helped her connect with a wider audience. Most recently, she appeared as Trish on "Bob Hearts Abishola."

Looking to the future, Browne expressed excitement about producing more comedy specials and exploring hosting roles.

"I'm middle-aged, I'm seasoned, I'm your average kind of woman," Browne said, explaining her desire to represent the "regular" Black woman, a perspective she feels is underrepresented in comedy.

After three decades on stage, Browne shared her gratitude for the journey. "I'm just so glad and blessed to still be able to do what I do," she remarked, noting that while many comedians she's known have come and gone, her consistency and commitment to comedy have been sources of pride.



Roz Browne as Trish on "Bob Hearts Abishola."



Roz Browne delivering laughs on stage.

Taste of Soul Wrap-Up Meeting: Setting the Stage for a Spectacular 20th Anniversary

BY NATHAN J. LEE
Contributing Writer

"Operationally, this was by far, in my opinion, our best Taste of Soul," proclaimed Danny J. Bakewell, Jr., Sentinel executive editor and The Bakewell Company president.

He shared those comments at the Oct. 29 TOS Wrap-up meeting at The District on Crenshaw Boulevard. "And that really goes to all of you guys and all your hard work in getting it done. So thank you," Bakewell said.

Sylvia Lacy echoed his sentiment, adding, "And we get better and better every year."

With hundreds of thousands of attendees throughout the day, the 19th Annual Taste of Soul demon-



From left are Brandi Bakewell, Officer Nicholas D. Wren, Sylvia Lacy, Cedric Carlin, Pamela Bakewell, and Danny J. Bakewell Jr.

strated a secure, welcoming environment for all ages. "There were no crimes reported," confirmed Officer Nicholas D. Wren, adding that "for the size and scope of the event, it's completely family-friendly and safe."

Thanks to efficient security efforts, only five children were briefly sepa-

rated from their families and quickly reunited. The team skillfully managed minor incidents without LAPD involvement, underscoring the event's strong commitment to safety.

A streamlined vendor check-in process and improved traffic flow helped make this one of the smoothest events. Only two

vendors needed to relocate vehicles, setting a new efficiency benchmark.

"We saw less congestion and a more streamlined operation overall," noted Lacy, emphasizing the team's logistical success.

While vendor feedback was largely positive, some raised concerns about unauthorized sellers.

Addressing these issues will be a focus for next year, aiming to improve the experience for everyone involved. Unexpected challenges, like a speeding vehicle near closing, kept the team on alert, serving as a reminder of areas for continuous improvement.

With 19 years under its belt, Taste of Soul contin-

ues to set the standard for large community events, proving that teamwork, dedication, and a bit of post-event reflection make each year better than the last.

Looking ahead to the 20th anniversary, the bar is expected to rise even higher to ensure a truly unforgettable celebration!

KCAL9/CBS2 Anchor Chauncy Glover Dies at 39

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

KCAL9/CBS2 news anchor Chauncy Glover has died at age 39, the station reported on Nov. 5.

No cause of death was released.

According to a report by ABC13 in Houston, where Glover previously worked, his family issued a statement saying, "We, Sherry and Robert Glover, along with Chauncy's beloved family, are devastated by the unimaginable loss of our beloved Chauncy. He was more than a son and brother — he was a beacon of light in our lives and a true hero to



Chauncy Glover

his community.

"Chauncy's compassion and dedication to helping others, especially through the Chauncy Glover Project, changed countless lives

and inspired so many young men to pursue their dreams. His talent, warmth, and vision left an imprint on everyone who knew him, and the world is dimmer without him."

Glover co-anchored evening newscasts on KCAL9 and CBS2 with Pat Harvey and Suzie Suh.

The Alabama native was a three-time Emmy winner and founder of the Chauncy Glover mentoring program that "grooms teenage boys into upstanding gentlemen," according to his official biography.

He began his career in Columbus, Georgia. He then worked in Jack-

sonville, Florida, as a general assignment reporter before accepting a reporting job in Detroit. He moved to Houston in 2015,

becoming the first Black male main evening anchor at ABC13.

Glover also traveled nationally as a motivational

speaker, acted in plays and Off-Broadway productions, and sang at the funeral of civil rights activist Rosa Parks.



Glover, left, joined Danny J. Bakewell, Sr., news anchor Pat Harvey, and sports broadcaster/editor Jim Hill at the 19th Annual Taste of Soul Family Festival on Oct. 19, 2024.



CASA/LA Calls for Volunteers to Advocate for Foster Youth

By JOANIE HARMON
Contributing Writer

With over 30,000 youth in the foster care system annually, Los Angeles County has an urgent need for advocates to ensure that its cases receive necessary help with education, mental and physical well-being, and safe and stable placement.

Currently serving more than 1,238 foster youth, CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates) of Los Angeles (CASA/LA) is seeking volunteers to answer this need.

"We recruit ordinary people to show up in an extraordinary way," says Charity Chandler-Cole, Ed.D., chief executive officer of the nonprofit organization.

"Outside of being able to pass the background check and having a willingness to better understand the youth we're serving and the system we're operating in, we don't

need folks to have a specific skill set or background professionally, educationally, or otherwise."

CASA/LA volunteers are trained by the organization and assigned by judges to their cases; they are often the only consistent adults in foster youths' lives who is not a paid professional. Alisa Smith, a volunteer who works in the entertainment field, was amazed by the team that supports each foster youth in L.A. County, from free legal counsel to pre- and post-natal support for teen mothers. However, she says that the individualized attention that CASA/LA provides is what sets it apart.

"If you're deciding upon a nonprofit to volunteer with, why CASA stands out from others is the one-on-one advocacy," she says. "That level of nurturing and mentorship, and that ability to see the impact quantified very



Dr. Charity Chandler-Cole, CASA/LA CEO



Alisa Smith, CASA/LA volunteer

palpably, is amazing.

Smith attends monthly in-person meetings with her assigned youth, a relationship that lasts two years. In addition, she attends court twice a year, to chart her case's progress through the system and determine any new needs to be addressed.

"My role is being her advocate ... and teaching through example, how to reach out for help," says Smith. "What has been great is seeing her grow

over these two years and being so much more comfortable with communicating her needs."

Smith has gone above and beyond her role, even enlisting the "Random Acts of Helpfulness" campaign by SoCal Honda Dealers to acquire a refrigerator and \$1,500 of groceries for her foster youth. While her case will graduate from the system in December, Smith has prepared lists of resources - including herself - that the

young woman can call upon in the future.

Smith says that there is much that she admires in her young charge, who reconciled with her mother and even purchased a home.

"She's very courageous, very resourceful," she says. "My foster youth has no income, she goes to school full-time, but she has been able to arrange to pay the mortgage each month. I feel part of her resilience has come through our relationship because I've provided her with a secure attachment, to know that I am not going away, I am consistently there to help."

Dr. Chandler-Cole, having been herself a former foster youth, a foster parent, and a relative caregiver, has added the role of volunteer to her duties as CEO, in order to, "... give back to a population of young people who oftentimes don't have the one-on-one support, in order to

be seen within a system that is overburdened and overwhelmed. I [took] a case to stay grounded with the work ... look at barriers our volunteers may be presented with, and better opportunities to support our youth and our volunteers."

Dr. Chandler-Cole underscores the need for CASA/LA volunteers from the local community.

"The role of CASA sounds like a big job," she says. "It can deter people from thinking that they're qualified or worthy to do this role. We put an emphasis on making sure the community knows we welcome everyone ... especially people with lived experience, to show up as volunteers. We want to see more people that are reflective of the communities we're serving."

To learn more about CASA/LA and opportunities to advocate for youth in Los Angeles County, visit casala.org/volunteer.

Diabetes Severely Impacts Black Community, But Simple Steps Can Prevent the Disease

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

With November being National Diabetes Month, it's important to know the risk factors associated with this disease, and what you can do to lower your chances of developing this serious illness that affects millions of people in America.

Diabetes presents a unique threat to the health of the Black community. Additionally, in many cases, people with diabetes often do not have access to regular medical care, cannot afford medication, and lack the community infrastructure that supports self-management practices.

How Diabetes Affects the Black Community

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health, diabetes uniquely affects the Black community in many ways:

• In 2019, non-Hispanic Black people were twice as likely as non-Hispanic



If you have diabetes, learn how to manage it. If you don't have it, find out if you're at risk by contacting your doctor.

whites to die from diabetes.

• In 2018, African American adults were 60 percent more likely than non-Hispanic white adults to be diagnosed with diabetes by a physician.

• In 2019, non-Hispanic Black people were 2.5 times more likely to be hospitalized with diabetes and associated long-term complications than non-Hispanic whites.

• In 2019, non-Hispanic Black people were 3.2 times more likely to be diagnosed with end-stage

renal disease as compared to non-Hispanic whites.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that Black people are also more likely to suffer complications from diabetes. These include end-stage kidney disease and lower extremity amputations.

"As members of the Black community, we can do so much to lessen our chances of developing diabetes," said Dr. Branden Turner, a family practice physician with Kaiser Per-

manente Baldwin Hills-Crenshaw. "All it takes is some motivation and knowing what steps we should take.

"If you have diabetes, learn how to manage it. If you don't have it, find out if you're at risk by contacting your doctor. The number one priority, however, is for us to adopt a healthy lifestyle with a healthful diet and regular. That's important, because if you become a diabetic, it is irreversible and carries immense health risks!"

It's important to under-

stand that there are cultural factors within the Black community that along with poor diet and lack of exercise contribute to the high incidence of diabetes, Dr. Turner said. As such, the delivery of culturally competent care with options will better resonate with the Black community and help educate them about the importance of adopting a healthier lifestyle is paramount to success in lowering diabetes cases within the community.

On a personal note, Dr. Turner said he offers his

African American patients options to make simple dietary changes when cooking for a healthier meal with less fat that's still flavorful. He also encourages his patients to avoid fried food.

"The key is to give people options and be culturally sensitive to their needs so that your advice can connect better with them and lead to better results," Dr. Turner said.

To learn more, visit https://healthy.kaiserpermanente.org/health-wellness/diabetes.

Simon Burris: Africana Diaspora Black History Month II Crossword

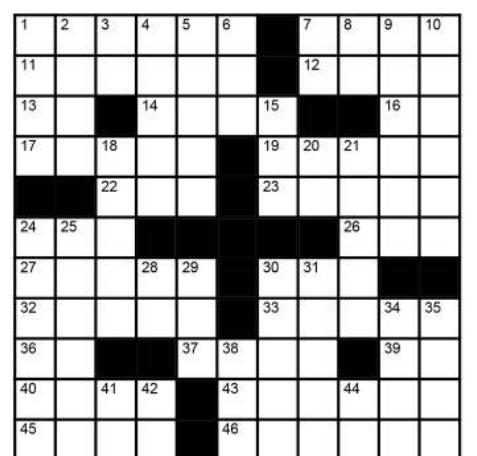
HOME SWEET HARLEM www.simonburris700.com

Across

- 1. **NBA legend ___ Abdul-Jabbar
7. **Harlem's iconic pastor/activist ___ Clayton Powell, Jr.
11. *Singer Kitt
12. **Musical Horne
13. 12 months (abbr.)
14. *Poet Amanda Gorman's "The ___ We Climb"
16. *Singer Summer's initials
17. Observant one
19. *Black Wall Street race massacre locale, 1921
22. Bullfight cheer
23. Ribbon holder
24. Derby or beret
26. Santa ___, Calif.
27. Some Middle East people
30. Tit for ___
32. Change, as a clock
33. *2024 Super Bowl Halftime Show performer
36. Route (abbr.)
37. "Jesus ___" (John 11:35)
39. *Langston University (initials)
40. Breakfast restaurant
43. *"A ___ in the Sun" (Poitier film)
45. All there
46. Down's opposite (puzzle)

Down

- 1. **Harlem-born singer Alicia
2. Group for seniors
3. Railroad (abbr.)
4. *Waters of jazz and films
5. Online recruiting site
6. * ___ _ colm X
7. *Green, Roker or Sharpton
8. **Jazz musician Ellington's monogram



- 9. *TV's "Sanford ___ (2 wds.)
10. **Mississippi ___" (Denzel Washington film; born in Mount Vernon, NY)
15. Lots (abbr.)
18. Bits
20. *" ___ from Slavery" (Booker T. Washington)
21. Not eager
24. *Vice President Kamala
25. **"RESPECT" singer Franklin
28. "Let there ___ light" (Genesis 1:3)
29. Set to work (acronym)
30. **Rapper/actor Shakur
31. Buzzing
34. Inventor Whitney and namesakes
35. Baseball stats
38. Period of time
41. Carry ___!
42. Printed edition (abbr.)
44. **"It Ain't Necessarily ___"

(ANSWERS ON D-3)

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Brew Lyfe Coffee Opens in the South Bay Galleria

By ZON D'AMOUR
 Contributing Writer

Carson native Erika Adams recently opened Brew Lyfe Coffee in the South Bay Galleria (1815 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite #144, Redondo Beach 90278). Specializing in coffee made from organically farmed beans, her flavored coffee grounds are infused with natural herbs, fruits, and nuts. She also makes her own syrups using organic cinnamon sticks, lavender, and matcha.

When Adam's daily coffee routine was interrupted due to the pandemic, the habitual coffee drinker noticed that she started having adverse reactions when she wasn't routinely drinking coffee. "I immediately noticed I was experiencing some symptoms that were feeling like withdrawal. It

all came at once as soon as I missed a day of coffee. Because of that experience, I made it a personal challenge to find better options for myself" she said.

"I started a deep dive into research about coffee and how it's farmed and processed. I learned that many coffee farms use an overwhelming amount of pesticides on their crops and there's a lot of bacterial buildup that's passed on to us."

With a background in toxicology and health care management, Adams went on to say, "Many of our favorite coffee flavors have a lot of preservatives and sugars which contributes to how unhealthy we are as a society. Once I found a coffee bean that was farmed organically, I began to experiment with healthy alternatives by incorporating different herbs, fruits,



ZON D'AMOUR/LA. SENTINEL
 Erika Adams, founder of Brew Lyfe Coffee

on being a coffee shop owner. Her initial idea was

"I'm a firm believer that God orchestrates everything so I just went with His flow and this is where it led me," she said.

Through Collab Community Development Corporation which provides networking events and technical assistance for small business owners, Adams made connections that gave her insight into how to open a business in the mall. She shares that it was approximately six months from ideation to opening.

"I was fortunate that my space was formerly a coffee shop. Nearly all of my equipment was either free, from Offer Up or Facebook Marketplace. I was very blessed during this process. My family, especially my mother Stephanie, and friends pitch in to help with cleaning and setting up. Every-

thing was smooth, that's how I knew that this was God-ordained because everything was seamless."

In the two months since its formal opening, Brew Lyfe has been bustling with customers who love Adam's handmade horchata iced coffee and her cinnamon vanilla iced macchiato with caramel drizzle. The wife and mother of three looks forward to opening two additional coffee shops for each of her children to own. She gives this insight into how she incorporates her family into the cafe and her daily schedule.

"My husband Erin and my children are very involved. They make coffee, they run the register and they do inventory. My family always comes first. I drop my two older kids off at school every morning and my youngest homeschools with me at the cafe. I pick my kids up from school and still do my grocery shopping and cooking when I get home. My husband is a great support in making sure we're balanced and

working as a team. My family has access to me at any point and time of the day."

In regards to what's next for her business, Adams says, "This is just the beginning for Brew Lyfe, we want to be a pillar in the community. We want to be able to be supportive of those who are unhoused by providing a hot cup of coffee. We also want to work with nonprofits that serve the community as well because a fresh cup of coffee can go a long way. Most people break their evening fast with coffee so we want to make sure it's not only good for your soul but also good for your body. I want to keep my community healthy by providing accessible options for them."

Visit Brew Lyfe Coffee on the first floor of the South Bay Galleria Sunday-Thursday: 9:00am-7:00pm, Fridays: 9:00am-4:00pm, closed Saturdays. Order online and stay up to date with their community events at BrewLyfeCoffee.com. Instagram @BrewLyfeCoffee



ZON D'AMOUR/LA. SENTINEL
 Erika Adams, founder of Brew Lyfe Coffee (center) with daughters Mikailah and Mya.

was abnormal for me. The headaches, sluggishness, acid reflux, and drowsiness

and nuts to flavor my coffee with." Adams hadn't planned

to have her bagged coffee available for online and retail purchases. However,

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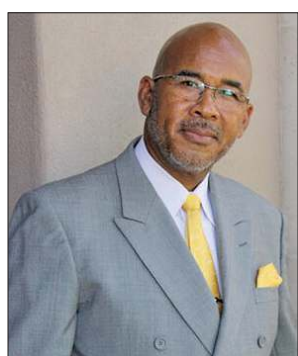
Grant AME Launches Vital Housing Health Initiatives in Watts

BY TROY TIEUEL
Contributing Writer

Standing as an enduring guardian of faith in the Watts community, Grant AME Church, under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Timothy O. Coston, sits on the corner of Central and 105th Streets welcoming all with a call to worship.

“Since the 50s, this building has been a beacon of faith to the community. Built by Bishop Henry Wendell Murph, who interestingly signed my license to preach, it’s become an institution within itself,” said Pastor Coston.

Established in 1906, after Bishop Abraham Grant, Grant AME Church has gone through leadership, along with location changes before opening its doors in Watts. Currently under the Rev. Dr. Coston, the church continues to expand its outreach, spreading its



Pastor Timothy Coston, Jr.

spiritual services to the surrounding area including providing a health clinic and several educational programs.

The “Watts to Water” program introduces inner city families to marine environments such as the beach, rivers, and the Los Angeles Harbors.

This program aims to increase awareness of Marine careers and introduce the youth to the wonders of marine biology that are a short bus ride away from them.



Grant AME Church is located at 10435 South Central Avenue in Watts.

According to Rev. Dr. Coston, “This [Watts to Water] program helps bridge the gap between urban living and the natural world, giving our youth a broader perspective on their environment.”

The church also has a partnership with National University which provides a health clinic at the church. Facilitating access to medical care, Grant AME pro-

vides essential healthcare to families that might face financial difficulties or barriers to transportation to existing medical facilities.

“By bringing health services right to our doorstep,” says the Rev. Dr. Coston, “we’re not just preaching good health; we’re practicing it, ensuring our community’s well-being.”

Under Pastor Colson’s leadership, the church

plans on developing affordable housing options within the church’s neighborhood, providing stable, affordable housing for those in need.

Additional plans include offering support services for those affected by Alzheimer’s disease.

Rev. Dr. Coston adds, “Our Alzheimer’s programs are about bringing light to our community members navigating the

challenges of this disease, offering support and understanding in times of need.”

The front facade of the church contains large glass windows that arc high, framing the sky.

The peak of the arc points towards the heavens, framing the open and inviting future of Watts to all passersby.

Located at 10435 South Central Avenue, the church welcomes the community to enter its sanctuary and worship with its members.

The Rev. Dr. Coston extends his personal invitation to visit the church this Sunday morning stating, “Come and see for yourself the work we’re doing. We’re more than a church; we’re a community.”

For more information on Grant AME Church, go to <https://grantamechurch.org/>.

Holy Renaissance Crusade Debuts New Era of Faith and Unity in L.A.

BY NATHAN J. LEE
Contributing Writer

Pastor John Revelator and the Liberator K.N.I.G.H.T.S transformed Downtown Los Angeles into a radiant epicenter of faith, music, and unity with the Holy Renaissance Crusade.

True to its promise, the Holy Renaissance Movement unified three major Christian clubs—Light Club, The Saved Social Club, and Club 2:17—and delivered an unforgettable night of spiritual celebration that drew believers from all walks of life into a transformative experience.

From the moment attendees stepped into Fearless LA Church, the vibrant energy of the evening was undeniable. The venue was bathed in warm, pulsating lighting—deep blues, purples, and greens mingled



Pastor John Revelator, left performs with the Liberator K.N.I.G.H.T.S.

together to create an electric yet inviting atmosphere that amplified the buzz of anticipation.

The crowd, composed largely of young people, was as diverse as Los Angeles itself, each person gathered with a shared purpose: to connect with their faith in a bold, dynamic,

and expressive environment that blended spiritual devotion with modern, club-like energy.

This was not just a service; it was an innovative celebration of the Kingdom of God, reimagined for a new generation.

At the center of it all was headliner Miles Min-

nick, a San Francisco Bay Area actor and Christian rapper, whose performance was nothing short of captivating.

Known for bridging music and ministry, Minnick delivered a powerful set that resonated with the audience. With raw passion and boundless energy, he led the crowd through hip-hop-infused songs filled with themes of hope, thanksgiving, and devotion. The audience was



Miles Minnick perform a Christian rap to the congregation.

fully engaged—clapping, dancing, and lifting their hands in a unified expression of faith and joy.

Beyond Minnick’s set, a series of other performances added richness and variety to the night. John Revelator & HR Movement, Jordan Ramble, Key’iajh, and Petrina DeLacey each brought their unique flavor of worship, highlighting how worship can take many forms and resonate with younger generations in deeply meaningful ways.

The Holy Renaissance

Crusade marked the beginning of a new era for faith-driven community in Los Angeles, showing that worship can break boundaries and create fresh, vibrant spaces for connection.

By blending spirituality with club culture, the Holy Renaissance Movement has redefined how young believers engage with their faith. With the success of this debut, it is clear that this movement has sparked something powerful, an inspiration that will shape future gatherings.

(Wo)man in the Mirror: Journey Through Self-Reflection with Robin Renee

BY MYKO LYRIC
Contributing Writer

On Nov. 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., More of God Global Ministries and Robin Renee Ministries founder, Robin Renee, will host the empowering “(Wo)man in the Mirror Workshop,” offering a day of self-reflection, spiritual growth, and community at an accessible \$40 ticket price.

This event is designed for anyone ready to look deeply within, explore their true selves, and experience breakthroughs within their mind, body, soul, and spirit. Mrs. Renee envisions this gathering as a unique and prophetic journey that will equip attendees to find renewed purpose and heal.

Inspired by a profound personal journey including the recent loss of her parents, Mrs. Renee shared that through self-reflection, she discovered her own hidden layers that catapulted her toward her deeper self and God. “A lot of times, we’re looking at ourselves only on the surface, but true transformation requires seeing who you really are within,” she shared.

It’s an inner journey she describes as “digging deep



Robin Renee

to look into my soul and find out, ‘who is Robin?’” This quest for authenticity and healing is at the core of the (Wo)man in the Mirror event.

The day will feature workshops that guide participants through mind, body, soul, and spirit rejuvenation. Attendees will participate in specialized sessions led by experts in each area: (1) Body - Led by movement and nutrition specialists and taught through a Biblical perspective, this session will explore the many facets of wellness, integrating prophetic teachings that bring spiritual alignment;

(2) Mind - With a focus on mental health, this segment will address practical techniques for mental resilience and how to stay spiritually grounded in today’s

world;

(3) Soul & Spirit - Mrs. Renee herself will lead the session on soul care, guiding participants to connect more deeply with their inner selves, heal past wounds, and develop a closer relationship with God.

These breakout sessions will repeat three times throughout the event, and the overall day will end with a panel discussion, prayer, and deliverance by Mrs. Renee. The repeating workshops allow attendees with busy schedules to find the time that works best for them. Mrs. Renee highlighted that these workshops are led by those who closely listen and follow God. As such, she warned “I can’t promise they’ll all be the same,” Mrs. Renee said, “because this is being taught prophetically, and the Holy Spirit will move how it wants to move through us.”

Mrs. Renee knows that God is calling her, and everyone, to look past surface-level identities and into the true person within. With workshops that nurture holistic wellness, a safe space for prayer and deliverance, and a final {See Robin Renee C-5}

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• DR. MAULANA KARENGA •

Regardless: Continue the Struggle, Keep the Faith, and Hold the Line

By the time this column is read, there will be evidence of a winner of this presidential election, even if, as expected, it is denied by enthralled deniers and their resultant machinations and maneuvers of various malicious and vicious kinds.

I write confidently that Black people voted overwhelmingly against emergent and promised fascism and for conditions most favorable to our people, the continuation of our struggle and the shared good of the world and all in it.

And even if Whites of all kinds, faiths, classes, genders and sexualities, means and mindsets, outvoted us and fellow progressives, deciding Trump and Whites "über alles" (over all others) regardless, and futilely trying to hold back history, we must not be despirited or diverted. Indeed, we must continue the struggle, keep the faith and hold the line.

But let's assume optimistically that Kamala Harris has won the election and became President Kamala Harris, that enough Whites have joined us and others in the fight against fascism and all the accompanying negatives promised. Still, we must continue the struggle, keep the faith and hold the line. Indeed, we must intensify and expand the struggle in any case, for it is either way a matter of life and death, of urgent justice and stopping ongoing genocide, healthcare and housing, quality education, economic security, ending systemic violence and

wars, halting environmental degradation, and solving other related critical issues.

Moreover, if we see Kamala's tenure as a path to a better future, we cannot exempt her from our fundamental moral obligation to challenge her to not simply keep what her Party promises, but to expand the agenda to include a real path and movement to a new shared and inclusive future for all.

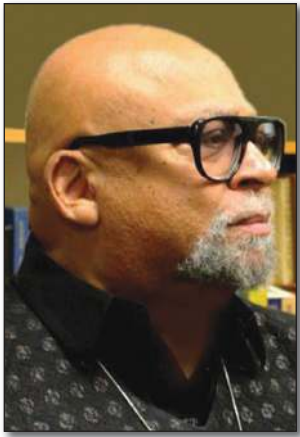
Even if we are inclined to declare undying love for her, like all our loved ones, we must "cherish and challenge" her and them, challenge them to do their best, become their best, and be their best as an ongoing practice and promise of an ever greater good for us and all. But we teach selfishness, forgetfulness and resistance to sharing when we build and defend relationships that are not reciprocal and hold all accountable.

Such a non-reciprocal relationship with Obama still haunts us, reflected in Obama's recent coming out only to give pretentious prattle and preachments of racist stereotypes to Black men. This was a context where what was appropriate and urgent was encouragement, asking what are our concerns and how could the Party help us so we could help them in mutually beneficial ways.

Now, Kamala did not do this and instead rightfully sought to address Black men's concerns. But you, I and "erybody" know, there is a whole lot more to do. Promises are

at best a first step, but practice proves and makes possible everything.

We will still have to form a united front against racism, but we must also



DR. MAULANA KARENGA

struggle against unjust and immoral compromises that prevent achieving the just and good society and world we want and deserve to live in and leave for our descendants. And when we insist on our rights and due, we must not think or be told our agenda is somehow less urgent and less vital to us and US society.

For our agenda has always been an agenda to expand the realm of freedom and justice in this country. It is the racist, restrictive, exclusive and oppressive agenda that we

rightly and relentlessly oppose.

If Kamala and the progressive forces in the country win this election, we know also from the history of the Obama election, that the established order will claim the victory, even if they opposed Kamala and even refused to endorse her in their papers. And they will work to use her for their own ends, undermining the efforts and aspirations of those who strove hard to achieve this victory with her, especially, her and the Democratic Party's most loyal voting constituency - Black people. If she and we are not constantly vigilant and always active and in struggle, they will use her in the most negative and counterproductive ways.

As I have written elsewhere, concerning the negative use of the Obama presidency, the established order will seek first to use Kamala as a moral mask to camouflage, condone and continue corporate plunder, pollution and predation, using her as a Black woman from a people known world-wide as a moral and social vanguard and whose historic

freedom struggle serves as an enduring reference, resource and inspiration for other oppressed and struggling people around the world.

They will also seek to use her election as a shield against our and others' rightful racial social justice claims, arguing an America miraculously redeemed by her election, no longer needing serious corrective measures. They will likewise seek to use her and her election as a counterweight to valid and needed criticism of the system itself.

For she will now become the president, promoter and protector of U.S. state interests and there will be cultivated and developed a sense among African Americans that to criticize the system is to criticize Kamala and serve racist interests instead of rightly resisting oppression everywhere and from every source.

Finally, the established order will seek, as with Obama, to use President Kamala Harris' election and office to facilitate an uncritical and even mindless Americanization and what Haji Malcolm called a "self-blinding childlike

patriotism" void of the self-questioning discourse and critical dialog any real democracy and free society demands and requires.

As I have said, "We are, each and all of us, always standing at the crossroads of history with our foremother Nana Harriet Tubman, embodying the struggles, hopes, aspirations, prayers and promise of our people. And like her, we must not run-away seeking security and satisfaction in illusions and individual escape.

"Instead, we must realize with her that freedom, dignity, self-determination and all the great goods of life are shared goods, and we must achieve, secure and enjoy them together "in and through righteous and relentless 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 Introduction to Black Studies, 4th Edition, www.OfficialKwanzaaWebsite.org; www.MaulanaKarenga.org.

• TONY WAFFORD •

A Conversation with London

By the time you guys see this article, the election will be over. Every Tuesday, I forward my article to the paper by 12 noon. Unfortunately, this week was election day, so you will have to wait for my thoughts on the election, pro or con, and I can't wait to write it.

Not knowing what the outcome would be, I felt it was time for me to have a conversation with my baby girl, London. We are both excited to be proud supporters of Vice President Kamala Harris. London and I look forward to celebrating the first woman president of these hopefully soon to be united states.

Don't get me wrong. We're not just excited because Kamala is a Black woman (contrary to those that question her culture). We're excited because we both believe that there is no better way to save this country, than to put it in the hands of a Black woman, and not just a Black woman, but a qualified Black woman.

All my life I've seen firsthand the incredible power of Black women starting with my mother. She was the best I've ever seen at taking nothing and making something beautiful and Black out of it. She didn't have a formal education, but she had an unbelievable mother wit, a love and appreciation for our ancestors and the things they taught her, and she passed that love and wisdom on to my siblings, my daughter London, and me.

I felt it was time for me to talk with London about what if? What if things go sideways during this election, what if the most qualified person doesn't win. What if, because of the electoral college, our sister doesn't win. Will we give up or will we as a people continue to fight for justice for our people and other marginalized folks here in the good old USA.

If things go sideways because of an antiquated process called the electoral college, I felt it was important for me to remind her and myself that it's the pop-

ular vote that gives us a better insight into what the people are thinking. I had to remind her that even when the carnival barker won back in 2016, it was not the masses of Americans that put him in the White House.

Remember, Hillary Clinton received nearly 2.9 million more votes than the Pomelo President, giving her the largest popular vote margin of any losing presidential candidate. Certified results in all 50 states and the District of Columbia showed Clinton winning nearly 65,844,610 million votes, 48 percent to Trump's 62,979,636 million votes according to an analysis by the Associated Press.

Yes, you heard me right, most registered voters, voted for Hillary Clinton just as most voters voted for Joe Biden. So, when this ferine and his psychotic followers pretend that he got more votes than any president in history, like everything he says, it's a damn lie. This is important for us to remember because if we forget this, we will believe that most or half as they like to say, "America loves and supports this maniacal moron."

No doubt, there's a large collection of people that love and support Trump and after they get out of bed with their sisters and first cousins, they're going to go vote

for him. America has always had and will have several crazy people in it. Can we be honest just for a second?



Tony Wafford

Hillary only lost because of misogyny, sexism, personality and straight up American ignorance. Hillary then, like Kamala now, was the best qualified, and it's because of that same level of ignorance, we see the media trying to play that same hand this election. So, we've got to be prepared to take our fight for freedom, justice and equality to the next level if it goes sideways. Like Malcom said, "The same thing you're willing to do for your people, I'm willing to do the same for mine, I'm just going to do more of it"

Oh sure, I got the faith thing working for me and I do have faith, I also believe like Frederick Douglass when he said, "I prayed for 10 years and never heard from God. It was only when I started praying with my feet that I heard and

saw God." Black people no matter what happens we must continue to pray with our feet.

If it goes sideways, treat this election like you do your lottery numbers. You pay your two dollars (soon to be five), pick your numbers or get a quick pick, y'all all know that with a quick pick you're totally putting your faith in the largess of the machine, but what you don't do is give up.

No matter how things go we cannot give up on our people, we can't give up on ourselves and there's no way I'm going to give up on doing all I can do to breathe life into the struggle for justice, freedom, equality for my people and all ostracized people in my community and in this country.

During the Montgomery bus boycott of 1965, there was the beautiful elderly Black woman by the name of Mother Pollard. She was walking to work one morning and as she was walking this white fella pulled up beside Mother Pollard and asked if she wanted a ride, he said, "I know your feet must be tired." Mother Pollard looked at the fella and said, "My feet are tired, but my soul is rested."

I told London, no matter what happens during this election, let your soul be rested in the belief that we will get there, sore feet and all.

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

(ISSN 089-4340) is published weekly on Thursday 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.

CARTOON: BY DAVID G. BROWN

ANOTHER FOUR YEARS OF LIES, CHAOS, HATE & DIVISION!

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Coach Wendy

Life Strategist / Consultant
Author / Speaker

What is Best For Our Country Moving Forward

This article is being written on the eve of the Nov. 5th election. As I put pen to paper, we still do not know who the winner in the various races will be, especially for the highest office of the land, but what I do know is the one who holds tomorrow, and that, ultimately, is God. We cannot put our trust in man (or woman) but rather in a higher power that is in control of everything.

There have been so many slogans that swirled

around various campaigns, and I believe that we should do what is best for our country instead of focusing on just an individual. People will disappoint us, but if we stop and think about what we can do and what difference we can make, we will contribute to our own communities and ultimately to the world.

No matter who wins this election, our nation will be divided and broken. However, each of us can be a party of one to help mend



the broken pieces. I believe in God, our country, and our flag. No one person or group has a monopoly on any of them.

As we continue to navigate these new waters, how do you think it would be best for our country to move forward? Our country was built on a checks and balances system designed by the founding fathers to hopefully prevent any one branch of government from being too powerful. We have three branches, the legislative branch, which is Congress, the executive branch,

which is the Office of the President, and the judicial branch, which is the Supreme Court and other federal courts.

Each of these branches has its own unique set of powers. The framework was put in place for the sake of having a separation of powers to safeguard liberty. The goal is to hopefully prevent tyranny by any one branch and to hopefully protect the rights of the American people. We must do our best to hold accountable those we put into office to do what is best for all Americans and not just a few.

Over two decades ago, I ran for city council in my local town (I did not win). From that experience, I learned that everything is not always what things appear to be. I also know that when you are in public office, you do not always get to accomplish all the issues you shared during your campaign, but what I also learned is that individuals can make a difference

in their own neighborhoods which stretches into affecting cities, states, and ultimately our nation.

During the 2024 political campaigning process, although I had my preference of who I wanted to win the presidency, I also knew that after the election, I still had to live on my street and interact with my neighbors on a daily basis and I wanted to make sure I had a voice that would still make a difference and ultimately move the needle towards a compassionate mankind relationship as much as possible.

As we all ponder the question of what is best for our country moving forward, the responses will be as diversified as our nation. What may matter to me may not matter to the person I stand next to in a voting booth. Most of us are influenced in our beliefs and desires by our parents, teachers, preachers, and friends, and your circle of association may be different than mine, so how do

we reach common ground?

My thoughts are we need to go back to the basics. Stop and listen to a stranger you may have an opportunity to interface with. Seek understanding before trying to be understood. Extend basic courtesies such as kindness, being polite, and extending a helping hand when it is in your power to do so.

Ultimately, I am not suggesting anyone walk away from their core values but remember there are some things we all have in common that we can use as starting blocks to build a bridge instead of a wall for a better tomorrow. Hopefully, one day we truly will be a united country even with our differences. Never give up hope.

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Part 2

Amnon, Tamar's brother, is not the only one in the ancient family of patriarchs who suffered from lustful desires and acted them out. There's a difference between wanting something or someone and making moves to possess and satisfy the desires, whether sexual or material or whatever they may be.

Not only that, but when we hear of lust, we sometimes think only of sex. Not so. Covetousness has the element of detrimental lust...wanting to be someone for example. It's one of the most egregious desires to take into your bosom. It can lead to theft, murders,

criminal behaviors, and more.

Let's direct our attention now to another ancient patriarch who had some bad fortune and resorted to another way to satisfy them. When Leah birthed Judah in B.C.1916, she was so grateful and excited she exclaimed "Praise!" That's where we get the meaning of Judah's name, who was the fourth son of Jacob by Leah.

Jacob never really loved her. He loved "Rachel." No matter how hard Leah tried to get Jacob to love her, it didn't work. Judah's whole brothers were Reuben, Simeon, and



Levi, all older than himself, and then the younger Issachar and Zebulun.

Let's look at the good characteristics of Judah so we don't think the worst of him. He advised his brothers not to kill their brother Joseph before being sold into slavery. The brothers took his advice and didn't kill Joseph, but did allow him to be sold into slavery.

He used his generous impulses to distract them from their most evil deed of murdering their brother, who was most loved by their father. Judah posed a question, "What profit is it if we kill him?"

Judah, who acted as the spokesperson for his brothers, advocated for Benjamin, who was being held back by their father, Jacob. Ultimately, Judah supported the decision to let the youngest brother, Benjamin, travel with the older brothers to Egypt due to the severe famine they were facing. His advice proved the wisest.

He was a leader and spokesman. Judah, also exhibiting his compassion and generosity, throws himself to become a slave rather than risk Benjamin when he appeals to their disguised brother, Joseph, posing as an Egyptian. Joseph could no longer hold himself together and had to leave the quarters, wash his face to compose himself, and return to confess his real identity as their supposedly dead brother destroyed by a wild animal. Judah hastened to bear Jacob the royal robe of Joseph presented to their father.

Soon after the sale of Joseph, Judah went to stay at Adullam and married a

Canaanite woman named Shunam. She had three sons for him, Er, Onan and Shelah. Er, the oldest married Tamar. He died.

The next in succession, Onan, married her according to the patriarchal law, but he died too. When Judah saw this, leaving two sons dead and a wife also through death, he was to give his last surviving son, Shelah to Tamar. Tamar saw this was not happening right and she decided on a plot where she pretended to be a prostitute.

Judah was by now drunk with distress from losing his wife and two sons and trying to save his last son from marrying Tamar; perhaps trying to run away from giving up his last son to Tamar and went into somewhat of a stupor and thought he was going into a prostitute, but it was his own daughter-in-law disguised as a loose woman.

When someone disclosed that he had traded off his royal ornaments to who he thought was a prostitute, he learned by sur-

prise it was his daughter-in-law! Interestingly, the patriarchal families of the 12 sons are caught up into slavery and begin the account of being in bondage in Egypt for 400-430 years! WHAT A STORY! Bible stories are not dull!

Thanks for reading! Jeanette Grattan Parker is the founder-superintendent of Today's Fresh Start Charter School, 4514 Crenshaw Boulevard, L.A. 90043, 323-293-9826, www.todayfreshstart.org. (Ask Dr. Jeanette TM) "Inquiring Minds Want to Know." All articles are copyright. All rights reserved © Errors? Or Questions? Please let me know. Join Sundays for music and message at 11:30 a.m. by calling (712) 775-8971, code 266751. References: The Holy Bible Genesis 38, @ Samuel 11,12, 13, 14, Cyclopedia of Biblical Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature. Don't stop praying and hoping. "Today is another great day to do good and be successful"

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Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso. The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles - Alhambra Courthouse 150 West Commonwealth Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91801 The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Jacoby R. Perez, Esq. ; GERACI LAW FIRM 90 Discovery, Irvine, CA 92618 ; Phone: (949) 379-2600 DATE (Fecha): 10/02/2024 DAVID W. SLAYTON, Clerk (Secretario), by A. OLIVA, Deputy (Adjunto) (SEAL) 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28/24 CNS-3868409# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 24STCP03505 Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES Petition of: BRENNEN-NICOLE JADE HIGGINS-BELL by SHERRI BELL for Change of Name TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner BRENNEN-NICOLE JADE HIGGINS-BELL filed a petition with this court for a decree changing

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names as follows: BRENNEN-NICOLE JADE HIGGINS-BELL to BRENNEN JADE BELL The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. Notice of Hearing: Date: FEBRUARY 14, 2025, Time: 10:00AM, Dept.: 86, Room: 836 The address of the court is LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT, 111 N. HILL STREET, ROOM 102, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 (To appear remotely, check in advance of the hearing for information about how to do so on the court's website. To find your court's website, go to www.courts.ca.gov/find-my-court.htm.) A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once each week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: LA SENTINEL Date: OCTOBER 29, 2024 CURTIS A. KIN Judge of the Superior Court 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28/24 CNS-3868094# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 24TRCP00408 Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES Petition of: CRISTINA ARACELY FIGUEROA PAICES for Change of Name TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner CRISTINA ARACELY FIGUEROA PAICES filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: CRISTINA ARACELY FIGUEROA PAICES to CRISTINA ARACELY LOPEZ PAICES The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. Notice of Hearing: Date: 12/13/2024, Time: 08:30 AM, Dept.: M, Room: 350 The address of the court is Torrance Courthouse, 825 Maple Avenue, Torrance, CA 90503 (To appear remotely, check in advance of the hearing for information about how to do so on the court's website. To find your court's website, go to www.courts.ca.gov/find-my-court.htm.) A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once each week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: LA SENTINEL Date: 10/28/2024 GARY Y. TANAKA Judge of the Superior Court 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28/24 CNS-3868087# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 37-2024-00018547-CL-PA-CTL NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): MARIANNA GASPARYAN; LUCAS P. GUERRAZZI; DOES 1 TO 10, INCLUSIVE. YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO) EL DEMANDANTE): OLGA MELNIKOVA NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. ¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. 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Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso. The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CENTRAL DIVISION 330 W BROADWAY, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101 The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): ALTON F. KUPERMAN, 11230 SORRENTO VALLEY ROAD, SUITE 105, SAN DIEGO, CA 92121, (619) 232-5353 DATE (Fecha): 04/22/2024 Clerk (Secretario), by A. GIDRON, Deputy (Adjunto) (SEAL) 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28/24 CNS-3867035# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 24LBCP00335 Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES Petition of: Jaime Ernest Garcia aka Jimmy Earnest Garcia for Change of Name TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Jaime Ernest Garcia aka Jimmy Earnest Garcia filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: a. Jaime Ernest Garcia to Lua Earnest Caraballo b. Jimmy Earnest Garcia to Lua Earnest Caraballo The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. Notice of Hearing: Date: November 21, 2024, Time: 8:30am, Dept.: 526, Room: 5500 The address of the court is 275 Magnolia Ave Long Beach 90802 South District (To appear remotely, check in advance of the hearing for information about how to do so on the court's website. To find your court's website, go to www.courts.ca.gov/find-my-court.htm.) A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once each week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Angeles Sentinel Date: October 10, 2024 Michael P. Vicencia Judge of the Superior Court 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 11/21/24 CNS-3867018# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 24STCP03465 Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES Petition of: JHON JUNIOR BRUNSON for Change of Name TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner JHON JUNIOR BRUNSON filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: JHON JUNIOR BRUNSON to JOHN BRENSON JR. The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. Notice of Hearing: Date: 12/06/2024, Time: 8:30AM, Dept.: V, The address of the court is ALHAMBRA COURTHOUSE 150 WEST COMMONWEALTH AVE, ALHAMBRA, CA 91801 (To appear remotely, check in advance of the hearing for information about how to do

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Date: FEB 14, 2025, Time: 10:00AM, Dept.: 86, Room: 836 The address of the court is 111 N. HILL ST. LOS ANGELES 90012 (To appear remotely, check in advance of the hearing for information about how to do so on the court's website. To find your court's website, go to www.courts.ca.gov/find-my-court.htm.) A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once each week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: LA SENTINEL Date: OCT 28, 2024 CURTIS A. KIN, JUDGE Judge of the Superior Court 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 11/21/24 CNS-3866474# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 24LBCP00354 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles Petition of: Antione Cason for Change of Name TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Antione Cason filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Antione Cason to Antoino Cason The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. Notice of Hearing: Date: 12/4/24, Time: 8:30 am, Dept.: 26, Room: The address of the court is 275 Magnolia, Long Beach, CA 90802 (To appear remotely, check in advance of the hearing for information about how to do so on the court's website. To find your court's website, go to www.courts.ca.gov/find-my-court.htm.) A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once each week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: The Los Angeles Sentinel Date: Oct 23, 2024 Michael P. Vicencia Judge of the Superior Court 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 11/21/24 CNS-3866144# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 24TRCP00399 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles Petition of: Andres Flores for Change of Name TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Andres Flores filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Andres Flores to Andrew M Flores The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. Notice of Hearing: Date: DEC 06, 2024, Time: 8:30 am, Dept.: B, Room: 340 The address of the court is Torrance Courthouse, 825 Maple Avenue, Torrance, CA 90503 (To appear remotely, check in advance of the hearing for information about how to do so on the court's website. To find your court's website, go to www.courts.ca.gov/find-my-court.htm.) A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once each week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Angeles Sentinel Date: 10/16/2025 Gary Y. Tanaka Judge of the Superior Court 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 11/21/24 CNS-3866141# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL AMENDED ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 24NCCP00555 Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES Petition of: ALA BOJADZIAN for Change of Name TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner ALA BOJADZIAN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: ALA BOJADZIAN to ALLA BOYAJYAN The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. Notice of Hearing: Date: 12/06/2024, Time: 8:30AM, Dept.: V, The address of the court is ALHAMBRA COURTHOUSE 150 WEST COMMONWEALTH AVE, ALHAMBRA, CA 91801 (To appear remotely, check in advance of the hearing for information about how to do

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so on the court's website. To find your court's website, go to www.courts.ca.gov/find-my-court.htm.) A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once each week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: LOS ANGELES SENTINEL Date: 10/11/2024 SARAH J. HEIDEL Judge of the Superior Court 10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14/24 CNS-3863785# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 24STCP03024 Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES Petition of: DALAURYN DOMINIQUE DEAN for Change of Name TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner DALAURYN DOMINIQUE DEAN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: DALAURYN DOMINIQUE DEAN to LEGNICY PEACE The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. Notice of Hearing: Date: DEC 02, 2024, Time: 9:30AM, Dept.: 9, Room: 9 The address of the court is 312 N. SPRING STREET LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 (To appear remotely, check in advance of the hearing for information about how to do so on the court's website. To find your court's website, go to www.courts.ca.gov/find-my-court.htm.) A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once each week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: LOS ANGELES SENTINEL Date: SEP 20, 2024 ELAINE LU Judge of the Superior Court 10/17, 10/24, 10/31, 11/7/24 CNS-3862638# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 24STCP03079 Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES Petition of: UCHUQUAN NGUSUM AKOFU for Change of Name TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner UCHUQUAN NGUSUM AKOFU filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: UCHUQUAN NGUSUM AKOFU to MATTHEW NGUSUM UCHUQUAN AKOFU The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. Notice of Hearing: Date: DEC 02, 2024, Time: 9:30AM, Dept.: 9, Room: 9 The address of the court is 312 N. SPRING ST. LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 (To appear remotely, check in advance of the hearing for information about how to do so on the court's website. To find your court's website, go to www.courts.ca.gov/find-my-court.htm.) A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once each week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: LOS ANGELES SENTINEL Date: SEP 25, 2024 ELAINE LU Judge of the Superior Court 10/17, 10/24, 10/31, 11/7/24 CNS-3861768# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2024228243 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: 1. MYCULTURE CROWNS, 2. WIGMED HAIR PROSTHETICS, 600 W LINCOLN AVE UNIT 94857 PASADENA, CA 91109, County of LOS ANGELES Registered owner(s): ETHEL MYRICKS ENTERPRISES LLC, 600 W LINCOLN AVE UNIT 94857 PASADENA, CA 91109; CA This business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).) NOTICE- In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28/24 CNS-3868855# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2024221859 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: HOLLYWOOD LIQUOR & SMOKE SHOP, 3885 PACIFIC COAST HWY, TORRANCE, CA 90505 County of LOS ANGELES Registered owner(s): MAYA ESTATES INC, 41466 BIG SAGE CT, TEMECULA, CA 92591; State of Incorporation: CA This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant(s) started doing business on N/A I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).) MAYA ESTATES INC S/INDERJEET SINGH, CFO This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/28/2024. NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28/24 CNS-3868861# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2024220724 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: DESIGN SYNDICATE, 315 W 9TH STREET, SUITE 302, LOS ANGELES, CA 90015 County of LOS ANGELES Registered owner(s): SALAMOFF DESIGN STUDIO, LLC, 315 W 9TH STREET, SUITE 302, LOS ANGELES, CA 90015; State of Incorporation: CA This business is conducted by a limited liability company The registrant(s) started doing business on N/A I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).) SALAMOFF DESIGN STUDIO, LLC S/ MELISSA SALAMOFF, PRESIDENT This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/24/2024. NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28/24 CNS-3868841# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2024220757 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SCOTT RIDDLE INSURANCE AGENCY, LLC, 1445 ROSS AVENUE 40TH FLOOR, DALLAS, TX 75202 County of LOS ANGELES Registered owner(s): SCOTT RIDDLE AGENCY, LLC, 1445 ROSS AVENUE 40TH FLOOR, DALLAS, TX 75202; State of Incorporation: DE This business is conducted by a limited liability company The registrant(s) started doing business on 10/20/24. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).) SCOTT RIDDLE AGENCY, LLC S/ DUNCAN MCQUEEN, MANAGER This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/24/2024. NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). 11/7, 11/14, 11/21/24 CNS-3868840# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2024217782 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: LOAN SIGHING EXPERTS, 10866 WASHINGTON BLVD # 1262, CULVER CITY, CA 90232 County of LOS ANGELES Registered owner(s): CHANTE WELCH, 10866 WASHINGTON BLVD # 1262, CULVER CITY, CA 90232 This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant(s) started doing business on N/A. I declare that all information

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NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28/24 CNS-3868926# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2024221859 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: HOLLYWOOD LIQUOR & SMOKE SHOP, 3885 PACIFIC COAST HWY, TORRANCE, CA 90505 County of LOS ANGELES Registered owner(s): MAYA ESTATES INC, 41466 BIG SAGE CT, TEMECULA, CA 92591; State of Incorporation: CA This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant(s) started doing business on N/A I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).) MAYA ESTATES INC S/INDERJEET SINGH, CFO This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/28/2024. NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28/24 CNS-3868861# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2024220724 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: DESIGN SYNDICATE, 315 W 9TH STREET, SUITE 302, LOS ANGELES, CA 90015 County of LOS ANGELES Registered owner(s): SALAMOFF DESIGN STUDIO, LLC, 315 W 9TH STREET, SUITE 302, LOS ANGELES, CA 90015; State of Incorporation: CA This business is conducted by a limited liability company The registrant(s) started doing business on N/A I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).) SALAMOFF DESIGN STUDIO, LLC S/ MELISSA SALAMOFF, PRESIDENT This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/24/2024. NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28/24 CNS-3868841# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2024220757 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SCOTT RIDDLE INSURANCE AGENCY, LLC, 1445 ROSS AVENUE 40TH FLOOR, DALLAS, TX 75202 County of LOS ANGELES Registered owner(s): SCOTT RIDDLE AGENCY, LLC, 1445 ROSS AVENUE 40TH FLOOR, DALLAS, TX 75202; State of Incorporation: DE This business is conducted by a limited liability company The registrant(s) started doing business on 10/20/24. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).) SCOTT RIDDLE AGENCY, LLC S/ DUNCAN MCQUEEN, MANAGER This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/24/2024. NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). 11/7, 11/14, 11/21/24 CNS-3868840# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2024217782 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: LOAN SIGHING EXPERTS, 10866 WASHINGTON BLVD # 1262, CULVER CITY, CA 90232 County of LOS ANGELES Registered owner(s): CHANTE WELCH, 10866 WASHINGTON BLVD # 1262, CULVER CITY, CA 90232 This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant(s) started doing business on N/A. I declare that all information

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exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). S/ MARIA GUADALUPE GOMEZ, OWNER This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/28/2024. NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28/24 CNS-3868853# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2024221292 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: BOB MARLON.COM, 2720 NEILSON WAY UNIT 5493, SANTA MONICA, CA 90409 County of LOS ANGELES Registered owner(s): MARLON HOPETON HIGGINS, 2720 NEILSON WAY UNIT 5493, SANTA MONICA, CA 90409 This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant(s) started doing business on N/A. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).) MARLON HOPETON HIGGINS, OWNER This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/25/2024. NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28/24 CNS-3868841# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2024220757 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SCOTT RIDDLE INSURANCE AGENCY, LLC, 1445 ROSS AVENUE 40TH FLOOR, DALLAS, TX 75202 County of LOS ANGELES Registered owner(s): SCOTT RIDDLE AGENCY, LLC, 1445 ROSS AVENUE 40TH FLOOR, DALLAS, TX 75202; State of Incorporation: DE This business is conducted by a limited liability company The registrant(s) started doing business on 10/20/24. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).) SCOTT RIDDLE AGENCY, LLC S/ DUNCAN MCQUEEN, MANAGER This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/24/2024. NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28/24 CNS-3868840# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2024217782 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: LOAN SIGHING EXPERTS, 10866 WASHINGTON BLVD # 1262, CULVER CITY, CA 90232 County of LOS ANGELES Registered owner(s): CHANTE WELCH, 10866 WASHINGTON BLVD # 1262, CULVER CITY, CA 90232 This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant(s) started doing business on N/A. I declare that all information

LOCAL ELECTION RACES

{Continued from A-1}

the job she has done,” said Leslie Neal-Younkins, a longtime resident of the 10th District.

Yoo had previously challenged Herb Wesson for the seat in 2015, and then Ridley-Thomas in 2020. While supporters hailed Hutt’s 2023 appointment, critics argued the council should have called a special election for CD10 voters to choose their representative. — Jose Herra, City News Service and Sentinel staff

Bryan, McKinnor Re-elected to Assembly, Elhawary Winning in 57th District

Assemblymembers Isaac Bryan and Tina McKinnor were easily re-elected to the California Assembly. Bryan, who won 79.4% of the vote, represents the 55th District, which consists of Baldwin Hills, the Crenshaw District, Culver City, Ladera Heights, Mar Vista, Del Rey, Palms, Pico-Robertson, Beverly Grove, Mid-



FILE PHOTO
Asm. Tina McKinnor



FILE PHOTO
Councilwoman Dionne Faulk

Lawndale, Lenox, Los Angeles, Marina del Rey, Venice, West Athens, Westchester and Westmont in Los Angeles County.

At press time, Sade Elhawary was the leading the race to represent the 57th District in the State Assembly with 58.65% of the vote. Her opponent, Efrén Martínez, garnered 41.35% percent. The district includes the communities of Exposition Park, South Los Angeles, and downtown Los Angeles, including Skid Row. — Staff Report

Hendy-Newbill Triumphs in Race for LAUSD District 1

In the battle for McKenna’s District 1 seat — representing areas including Palms, South Los Angeles, Baldwin Hills and Koreatown — longtime Dorsey High School teacher Sherlett Hendy Newbill handily defeated community organizer Kahllid Al-Alim in Tuesday’s election.

They both advanced to the runoff by topping a seven-candidate field in the March primary election, but neither received the 50% of the vote needed to claim the seat outright. As of Wednesday morning, however, Newbill had roughly 70.5%

of the vote.

Newbill touted her years of experience as a teacher, coach and parent. She called for increased counseling and mental health support for students, improved safety on school campuses and “supportive school environments.”

“As a board member, my heart and my door will always be open to working with you, whether you are a parent, teacher, administrator, or concerned community member,” she said on her campaign website.

Kamlager-Dove, Waters Trounce Competition in Congressional Races

Incumbent Congresswomen Sydney Kamlager-Dove and Maxine Waters were re-elected to their dis-



E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS/LA. SENTINEL
Hutt is congratulated by L.A. Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson.



E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS/LA. SENTINEL
Heather Hutt is hugged by one of her sons after learning she won a full term as Councilwoman for District 10.



FILE PHOTO
Asm. Isaac Bryan



FILE PHOTO
Satra Zurita

Wilshire, and large parts of South Los Angeles.

Representing the 61st District, McKinnor, received 75.15% of the vote. Her district encompasses Gardena, Hawthorne, Inglewood,

tricts by wide margins. Kamlager-Dove received 77.99% of the votes in the 37th District, which includes parts of Los Angeles, Culver City, Beverly Hills and Inglewood.

Waters received 73.40% from voters in the 43rd District, which covers represents parts of Los Angeles including the communities of Westchester and Playa Del Rey, the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County comprised of Lennox, West Athens, West Carson, Harbor Gateway, El Camino Village,

and Watts. The 43rd District also includes the diverse cities of Gardena, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lomita and Torrance. — Staff Report

Chambers, Richardson in Tight Race for State Senate 35th District

Laura Richardson and Michelle Chambers running neck and neck in the race to represent the SD 35. The district is comprised of Carson, San Pedro, Compton, West Compton, Gardena, Harbor City, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lennox, West

Carson, Watts, Willowbrook, and Wilmington.

As of Wednesday, Nov. 6, Richardson had 51.41% percent of the vote while Chambers received 48.59% of the vote. — Staff Report

Other Local Races

Two Sentinel-endorsed candidates in the South Bay emerged as winners including Inglewood Councilmember Dionne Faulk, who was re-elected by receiving 54.65% of the vote.

In the city of Compton, Satra Zurita won the office of City Clerk with 55.14%

of the vote and Councilwoman Lillie Darden was re-elected with 56.72% of the vote. Also, Barbara Calhoun was leading with 44.30% of the vote in the race for Trustee Area No. 2 of the Compton Community College District.

In addition, Nichelle Henderson received 67.58% of the vote in the race for Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees, Seat 5. — Staff Report

Visit results.lavote.gov for up-to-date news on the Nov. 5 elections.

VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS {Continued from A-1}

elect the first woman president. But that hope came crashing down as quickly as Kamala’s rise to the nomination came to be.

Trump’s victory became all but certain when the former president won the battleground state of Pennsylvania and its 19 electoral votes. Pennsylvania was a state that Democrats had only lost once since 1988 and that loss came with Donald Trump defeating Hillary Clinton in 2016.

The Harris-Walz campaign worked hard and spent millions of dollars trying to secure victories in the battleground states of Arizona, Nevada, Georgia, and North Carolina — but as of Sentinel press time, it appears unlikely she’ll win any of them. The losses appear to continue to mount up with the Democrats’ “blue wall” crumbling as Harris trails in Michigan and has outright lost Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Harris and her campaign hoped to win the White House by bringing over moderate Republican and independent voters fed up with nearly a decade of division in the era of Donald Trump. That effort failed as Harris was unable to bring over those moderates as well as was unable to mount strong and unwavering appeal from Black, Latino and young voters as Obama had done in 2008 and 2012.

Harris underperformed

with voters of color — particularly Latino voters — but also Black voters in urban centers such as Philadelphia, Detroit and Milwaukee. Harris carried Black voters 86%-12% and Latino voters 53%-45%, according to CNN exit polls. But in the 2020 election, Biden won Black voters by a wider 92%-8% margin over Trump, and Latino voters 65%-32%.

The real answers to why Harris lost may never be figured out, despite that

fact that many political insiders will debate the “who, what and why” of what happened for years to come. As one political insider put it, “With only 107 days to mount a nationwide campaign, Vice President Harris had to be flawless, while Donald Trump had the ability to be lawless.”

Whether it was time, race, or gender in states outside of California, the campaign lost ground in many college-educated

suburbs, which traditionally are Democratic strongholds in recent election cycles. In Montgomery County outside Philadelphia, Harris defeated Trump by 23 percentage points. Biden carried it by 26 points.

Ultimately, Harris underperformed Biden in 2020 in these places, returning to the levels Clinton got in 2016, which unfortunately wasn’t enough to secure a victory.

ROBIN RENEE (WO)MAN IN THE MIRROR: JOURNEY THROUGH SELF-REFLECTION

{Continued from B-3}

demonstration of spiritual teaching, “(Wo)man in the Mirror” is structured to

foster healing, connection and growth.

Despite this event so

closely following a tumultuous election, Mrs. Renee feels at peace with the tim-

ing. “When God says it’s your time, it’s your time. If God opens a door, no one

can shut it,”

Register online through Eventbrite by searching

“(Wo)man in the Mirror Workshop: Mind.Body.Soul.Spirit.”

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PROBATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

Public Notices

KENNETH WILLIAMS AKA KENNETH A. WILLIAMS CASE NO. 24STPB10173
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of KENNETH WILLIAMS AKA KENNETH A. WILLIAMS. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by ELLA MAE ROGERS in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

Public Notices

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that ELLA MAE ROGERS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative

Public Notices

will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 12/27/24 at 8:30AM in Dept. 11 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

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IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of

Public Notices

letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the

Public Notices

estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. In Pro Per Petitioner ELLA MAE ROGERS 1650 E. 108TH STREET LOS ANGELES CA 90059 10/31, 11/7, 11/14/24 CNS-3866435# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

Will Gov. Newsom's New Film and TV Tax Credit Prioritize Diversity?

BY ANTONIO RAY HARVEY
California Black Media

Assemblymember Mike Gipson (D-Carson), a member of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) says he supports Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposal to expand the state's Film and Television Tax Credit Pro-



Assemblymember Mike Gipson

gram from its current \$330 million annual budget allocation to \$750 million.

Gipson, who is chair of the Assembly Committee on Arts, Entertainment, Sports, and Tourism, says, historically, that tax credit has aimed to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion" as outlined in SB 132.

He's counting on it to continue making diversity a priority.

"The Legislature finds and declares an overall trend toward increasing diversity based on existing research on diversity in the motion picture production and television industry," the bill language states.

In a statement, Gipson told California Black Media (CBM) the tax credit,

"would allow our state to be more competitive against states with tax incentive programs of their own, such as Georgia, New York, and New Mexico."

"The film and television industry is iconic to California, impacting thousands of jobs for below-the-line workers on film and television crews, as well as many others working in hair and make-up, food services and transportation, costume and set design, and more," Gipson continued.

According to the Governor's office, the increase would uplift the state for capped film incentive programs, surpassing other states. Gipson says he agrees with Newsom's assessment and the notion that the program would bring more business back to California.

"California is the entertainment capital of the world, rooted in decades of creativity, innovation, and unparalleled talent," said Newsom on Oct 27 in L.A. at the unveiling of the tax credit.

"Expanding this program will help keep production here at home, generate thousands of good-paying jobs, and strengthen the vital link between our communities and the state's iconic film and TV industry," the Governor continued.

As chair, Gipson's oversees programs and policies affecting the recording, motion picture, and other

entertainment industries, tourism and arts programs, and museums. His purview also extends to professional and amateur sports, including the State Athletic Commission and the regulation of



State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas and Assemblymember Tina McKinnor address diversity in a recent press conference.

athlete agents.

California's Film and Television Tax Credit Program has generated over \$26 billion in economic activity and supported more than 197,000 cast and crew jobs across the state since it was created in 2009, according to Newsom's office.

The California Film and Television Tax Credit 2.0, enacted in July 2015, has generated over \$26 billion in economic activity and supported more than 197,000 cast and crew jobs across the state.

Now, for the first time in 15 years, tax credits will become refundable, beginning with "Program 4.0" set to get underway on July 1, 2025. According to the New-

som Administration, between 2020 and 2024, data reveals that California experienced lower production spending due to limited tax credit funding and increased competition in

other states and countries. This dip in production directly impacted California's labor market and local economies.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass says she supports the proposal because California is the entertainment capital of the world and supporting a thriving film and television industry is key to the state's economy.

Bass said she was Speaker of the Assembly when the tax credit program was first approved.

"I worked to support leaders like now-Councilman Paul Krekorian to create the film tax credit," Bass said. "Despite the economy being in a difficult spot, we knew that the industry need-

ed support, and if we could at least start the program, then we could grow it."

Newsom's tax credit proposal is expected to appear as a bill during the next legislative session, raising concerns about diversity, equity, and inclusion for some lawmakers and advocates.

Gipson's CLBC colleagues Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Los Angeles) and Assemblymember Tina McKinnor (D-Inglewood) led a faction of legislators who demanded answers from Hollywood last year after several Black women left high-profile executive positions in Hollywood.

A number of those Black executives who left those prominent roles were leading DEI initiatives at major entertainment companies such as Netflix, Disney, British Broadcasting Company, Warner Bros., and the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences.

Before the tax credit program was scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2025, on July 10, 2023, Newsom signed Senate Bill (SB) 132 to extend the state's \$1.65 billion or \$330 million annual Film and TV Tax Credit Program for an additional five years through fiscal 2030-31.

Speaking on behalf of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) employed in the industry,

McKinnor and Smallwood Cuevas insist on holding television and film studio executives accountable as they benefit from taxpayer support but often appear reluctant to support Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives.

"I was highly offended to see the industry's response to a \$1.6 billion tax subsidy by quietly eliminating Black women from executive positions with a number of studios," said McKinnor. "Many of these women were involved in their studios' diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, which raises a serious question about their commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the film industry."

The legislation for this year's tax credit program has not been written, but Gipson's staff has indicated that he will not introduce it – even though the issue is close to his heart.

"The impacts of the entertainment industry go beyond movie theaters and television screens, with movies and shows drawing tourists to California from all around the world," Gipson stated. "I applaud the work being done by the California Film Commission, the studios, and the entertainment unions, and I look forward to supporting this proposal next year as it moves through the legislative process."

Next Four Years: Debt and Rent are Among Top Issues for Young California Voters

BY EDWARD HENDERSON
California Black Media

As America elects a new President this week – and a slate of new elected officials at the local and state level – the voices of young voters in California are resounding as political campaigns and policy makers order their priorities and shape their messages to include their perspectives and respond to their concerns.

But what are those issues on the minds of the next generation of California's electorate in 2024?

Power California, an organization that informs and empowers young voters, and Latino Decisions, a political research company, set out to answer this question in their Rising Electorate Survey, whose findings were released earlier this fall.

The survey polled 1,754 young Californians ages 18-30 on the issues they cared about the most. While many of the findings showed a growing stress and uncertainty surrounding rent control, housing, better wages and special interest groups being too involved in government, nearly half of the young Californians surveyed believed things will get better in the future.

"For us, there are several things we know and several things that we can expect in the next four years, including that young Californians, Gen Zs, and aging millennials will become the largest political voting bloc here in California," said Saa'un Bell, Senior Associate Director of Power California.

Among responders to the survey, 35% were Latino or Hispanic, 25% Black, 20% Asian American and Pacific Islander, 16% were White, non-Hispanic. There were about 4% identifying with some other racial groups, which includes those who identify as Indigenous. In terms of geography, 28% of the participants surveyed came from Los Angeles County, followed by 16% from the Bay Area, 16% from the Central Valley. And the remainder of the sample, which was roughly 40%, came from other parts of the state.

Economic pressures were one of the areas covered in the survey. One in 4 young Californians have thought about leaving the state, taken on a second job or postponed bills. One in 5 is supporting friends and family or had to choose between rent and paying their bills. For young Black and Latino Californians, the impacts of economic insecurity were more significant. Young Black and Latino Californians are more likely to have a second job or report postponing bills and 1 in 5 young Black Californians have moved back home with family.

Kaja Wilson, a youth

member of Power California living in Fresno, spoke during a digital webinar organized by the organization. She shared her perspective on the priorities of young voters in the state.

Dr. Andrew Proctor, Senior Analyst for Latino Decisions, was one of the leads facilitating the young voter survey and shared his analysis of the data collected during the Power California webinar.

"Many young Californians blame low wages, elected officials, and corporate landlords for the housing crisis. Things are so bad that one in four young Californians have considered leaving the state.



Nearly half of the young Californians surveyed believed things will get better in the future.

Young Californians are also motivated by their experiences with economic insecurity as well as their commitments to social justice causes. Economic concerns, including inflation

and housing, are top issues that they want the government to address, and those issues are motivating their decision to turn out and vote in 2024."

The survey also found

strong support for rent control laws and addressing climate change. Reproductive rights and gun control are also salient issues for young Californians, and they are active participants in several movements for social justice. However, individuals taking the survey also shared their belief that organizations and political parties are not reaching out and engaging the full potential of young Californians.

"There are many narratives that young people, young voters, are apathetic, pessimistic, and cynical. Those narratives are out of context – and not true," said Bell.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Jaylen Barron Reflects on Role in 'American Sports Story: Aaron Hernandez' and Staying Grounded in Hollywood



BY KEITH L. UNDERWOOD
Entertainment Writer

Jaylen Barron, known for her role in the Emmy-winning "Free Rein," recently took on a significant challenge in "American Sports Story: Aaron Hernandez."

"American Sports Story: Aaron Hernandez," now streaming on FX and Hulu, examines the rise and fall of NFL star Aaron Hernandez, from his New England Patriots fame to his murder conviction.



COURTESY PHOTO
Jaylen Barron captures the emotional complexity of Shayanna Jenkins in a courtroom scene from "American Sports Story: Aaron Hernandez."

Playing Shayanna Jenkins, the fiancée of Aaron Hernandez, Barron described this role as an important step in her career. "I feel like this one [Aaron Hernandez] has had the most effect on my craft, and I feel like I'm able to show people what I can really do," she said.

Instead of judging Jenkins' choices, Barron approached her character with empathy, focusing on the strength Jenkins dis-

played amidst personal and public challenges.

"I watched a lot of her interviews and went on all her socials, just to try to pick up on some of her mannerisms," said Barron. "The way she would act when she was nervous, or the way I perceived her to be in some moments, insecure — just doing research and watching her constantly."

This foundation, Barron explained, was essential for bringing depth to Jenkins, a character under intense media scrutiny. To portray Jenkins authentically, Barron also studied Aaron Hernandez's life, gaining insights that added layers to the emotional complexities her character faced.

"I made sure I watched Aaron and watched him play, so I could understand the gravity of his impact on football, how good he was, and how admired he was," said Barron. "That was part of the reason why she [Shayanna] loved him and pushed him so hard, because she knew how great he could have been."

"I really just did my homework," Barron continued. "Studying all the time."

On social media, Barron has built a loyal following by staying true to her authentic self. She believes her fans connect with her because she shares her genuine side, offering glimpses into her life that feel real rather than curated.

"Just be a real person and relatable," said Barron. "I feel like I do a lot



Jaylen Barron

COURTESY PHOTO

of that on my stories on Instagram, where I show more of my personality, but I feel like if people really want to know me, they'll find an interview."

This transparency, Barron noted, isn't just a social media approach; it's a reflection of her values and a way to stay grounded. Her openness, she feels, helps create a meaningful connection with her audience.

"I think it just comes with age and experience," shared Barron. "I used to be very timid, always making sure I said all the right things and not fully being myself... I am who I am, and I feel like that's what has allowed me to play the kinds of roles I've been able to play."

Barron added, "I do have that grit about me,

and I do have that realism of representing real Black women out in the world."

Barron, who hails from Reno, NV, with a Mexican mother and Black father, said her upbringing by resilient women helped keep her grounded in Hollywood's unpredictable world.

"If you meet the women in my family — they don't play," said Barron. "They're very straightforward, they're about their business, they're about their money... and telling you the truth about yourself. It might be a little rough sometimes... and I think that's why I'm okay with being myself."

Barron's commitment to authenticity also shapes her acting process, where she focuses on creating

natural and relatable performances.

Barron shared that her technique goes beyond memorizing lines; she takes time to internalize her dialogue, study her scene partners, and become familiar with the set environment. By immersing herself fully in each role, Barron aims to make scripted scenes feel genuine to viewers.

"Those details matter in order to show a real relationship, so I make sure I mold my environment and mold this character as a real person, living her day-to-day life," said Barron. "You're able to see that connection on screen."

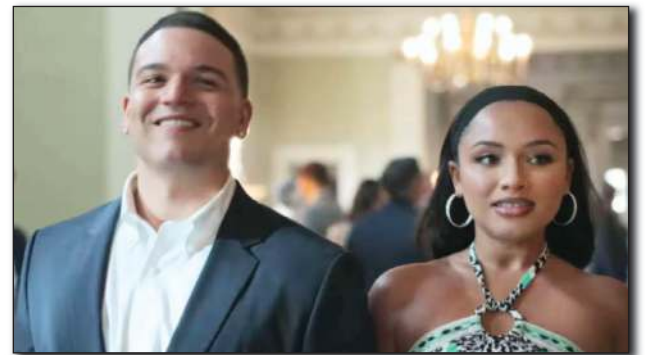
In addition to playing Shayanna Jenkins in "American Sports Story: Aaron Hernandez," Barron sees Vanessa Williams as another non-fictional role

Just as Williams broke boundaries as a pageant princess, Barron aims to bring authenticity and empathy to every character, especially those rooted in true stories, as she continues to hone her craft.

Returning to her portrayal in "American Sports Story," Barron reflected on how roles like Jenkins push her to explore intricate emotional layers and complex real-life experiences.

See Jaylen Barron as Shayanna Jenkins in American Sports Story: Aaron Hernandez, now streaming on FX and Hulu. The series explores NFL star Aaron Hernandez's rise and fall, with Barron delivering a powerful, empathetic performance.

Keith L. Underwood is a former entertainment



COURTESY PHOTO
Jaylen Barron as Shayanna Jenkins (left) and Josh Andrés Rivera as Aaron Hernandez (right) in a party scene from "American Sports Story: Aaron Hernandez."

she could envision herself playing.

"I don't know her business or anything like that. I don't know any 'tea' to be like, 'This is the story,'" said Barron. "But I feel like it would be cool to be a pageant princess."

publicist and the creator of Black in the Green Room, a column, podcast, radio show, and YouTube channel celebrating Black voices in Hollywood. His work highlights diverse talent and impactful storytelling across the industry.

Actor Henry Simmons on Faith, Family and His Filmography

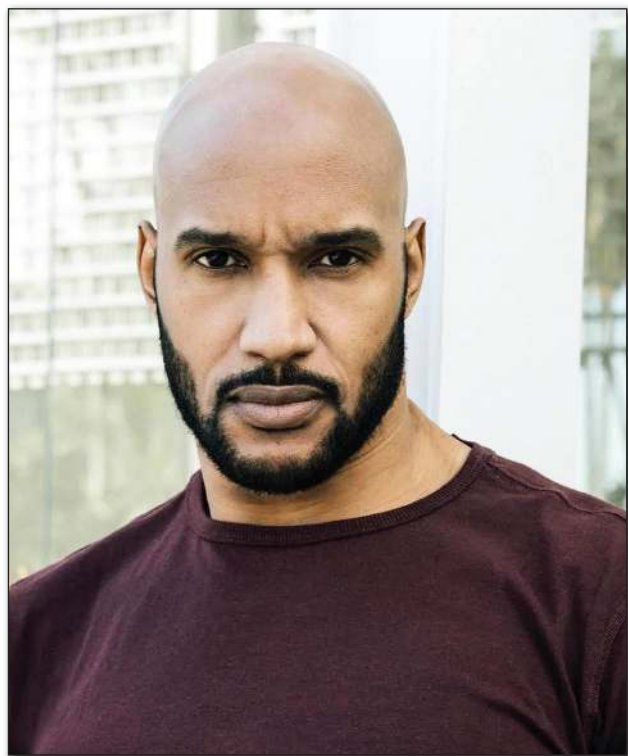
BY ZON D'AMOUR
Contributing Writer

In an exclusive interview with the Sentinel, actor Henry Simmons gave insight into his most recent role in the critically acclaimed series "Emperor of Ocean Park" (MGM+). Simmons plays "Addison Garland" the eldest child of Judge Oliver Garland (Forest Whitaker).

When Judge Garland attempts to share a treacherous secret with his son, it's met with the utmost resistance causing a rift between the Judge and Addison. This tension also creates distance between Addison and his younger siblings Mariah (Tiffany Mack) and Talcot (Grantham Coleman).

Describing his role in the series, Simmons said, "Addison Garland is a free spirit that wanted to carve his own lane and blaze his own trail. My father, Judge Garland, is the kind of guy who wants you to do what he thinks is best. I never went that route and I actually resented the fact that my father tried to control my life in such a way. So I broke off, struggled on my own, tried to live my own life and become my own man."

For viewers who may have been confused as to why Addison pushed the Judge away when he learned the details of the illusive



COURTESY PHOTO
Henry Simmons as Addison Garland in "Emperor of Ocean Park."

"arrangements," Simmons clarifies, "When I found out what the Judge did in terms of compromising himself and going against the very things that he was teaching his kids, that completely broke the relationship between us."

With a career spanning three decades, Simmons is renowned for his standout performances in series such as "Cherish The Day," "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.," and "NYPD Blue." He shared what differentiated "Emperor of Ocean Park" from his previous roles.

"When my agent sent me the script, the first thing I noticed was it was very different from anything that I've ever read because you have this powerful Black family with tremendous wealth, but there's also conflict within the White world that they're living in. There's conflict in the world of politics and within the family dynamic because of these different personalities, and because of their father dying," he shared.

"So, my siblings and I have to figure out how to resolve our relationship with

our father even though he's passed away and then we bump heads because we have different views on how our father died—was he killed? Did he die from natural causes? And it brings up a lot of unresolved things from my past. And I loved that aspect of it."

Simmons also praised the leadership of series creator Sherman Payne and director Damian Marcano for the way in which they adapted the New York Times Bestselling novel into a suspenseful series.

"I love the fact you have these two incredibly intelligent Black men who have written and directed such a complex story where there's no good or evil, these people are living in gray areas. And I had never seen that before in a script. And then when I read the book, I was like, wow, this is so rich. It was an environment that I had never been in before," he

said.

"To have Sherman and Damian as the showrunner, writer, and executive producers, they were so confident in what they were doing that they encouraged you to be collaborative. There was so much value in my opinions and what I thought, it was very collaborative. I felt more a part of this story than I have in any other project that I've done," added Simmons.

In an industry that can be somewhat unpredictable, Simmons' unwavering faith has helped him to persevere. He cites Zechariah 4:6 as his go-to Bible verse - "...So he said to me, 'This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.'"

Simmons shares how this particular verse keeps him encouraged. "Zerubbabel was tasked to rebuild the temple but there were forces coming

from Babylon trying to kill the people that were building the temple. So, he was like, 'God, I know you tasked me to do this, but I can't' and God said, 'Look, it's not by your might, not by your power, but it's by My Spirit.' And I really resonated with that verse, because I realized that I'm limited in what I can do so I pray all the time.

"I pray before every scene, before every script I read, and before every audition because I know that I'm limited in terms of my talent and my experience as a human being. So when my bridge ends, and I need a bridge to go over to the other side, that's where I trust in God.

"And that's why I say, 'Okay, Lord, here's where I need to go, and I'm going to do everything I can to get up to this point, but I need you to carry me forward beyond that.' And that's one of the things that I live by."

Regarding what acting roles are next for Simmons, the husband and proud father said, "My wife is an actress, so here's the deal, when she works, I'm home with the kids, and when I'm working, she's home with the kids.

"So that's where I am right now. I love being a dad and she's doing her thing and God willing, if we get the second season, then I'll be ready to roll!"



COURTESY PHOTO
Actor Henry Simmons as "Addison," Actress Tiffany Mack as "Mariah" & Actor Grantham Coleman as "Talcot" in the MGM+ series, "Emperor of Ocean Park."

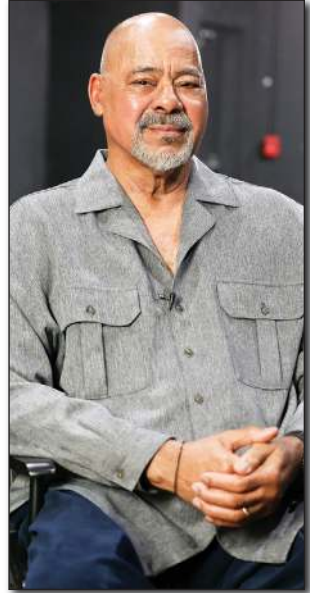
The Robey Theatre Company Celebrates 30 Years of Black Storytelling

BY MYKO LYRIC
Contributing Writer

In the heart of downtown Los Angeles, The Robey Theatre Company stands alone as the cultural epicenter for the development, exploration, and production of plays written about the global Black experience.

On Saturday, Nov. 16, the Company will celebrate 30 years of executing this mission by hosting a soiree at the Los Angeles Theatre Center at 7 p.m., a landmark event featuring a screening of *A Constant Rage*, food, drinks, and an all-encompassing expression of gratitude to the community that has supported the theater's mission for three decades.

At the heart of The



COURTESY PHOTO

Ben Guillory in a black box theater.

Robey Theatre Company are its two founders, Ben Guillory and Danny Glover, who met decades ago in San Francisco.

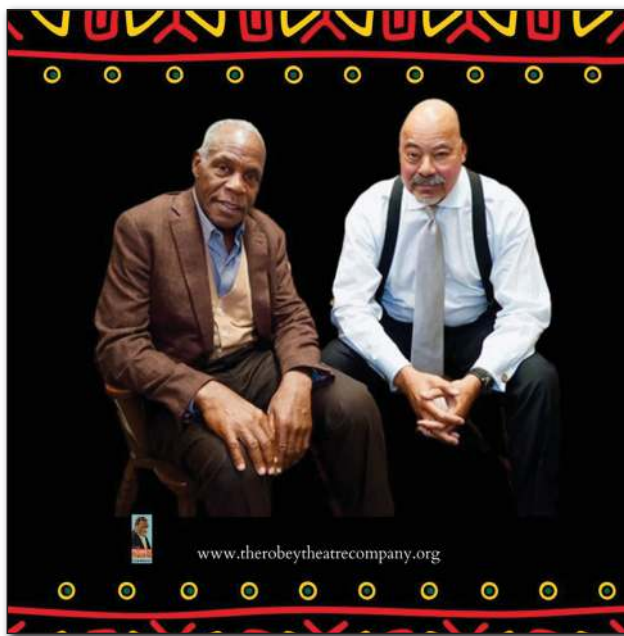
"We made a pact to have a theater program almost 15 years before we created one. Whenever we need [Danny], including to fund a production, he's there. For the first 7 years, he was the person responsible for our budget," Guillory shared in an exclusive interview with the Sentinel.

Co-founder and producing artistic director Ben Guillory is a seasoned Los Angeles actor, producer, and director, who is fundamental to the continued success of The Robey Theatre Company. Besides handling day-to-day operations, he also directs most of the productions and leads multiple programs, including the Advanced Scene Study courses for Los Angeles actors looking to hone their skills.

Growing up in Appaloosa, Louisiana, Guillory developed a love for the arts early on and soon found himself drawn to theater. The immediacy and visceral impact of live performance became the perfect vehicle for his storytelling vision.

"What you see is what you get," he says. "The influence is dynamic; in this theater, you're about 10 feet from the audience at most. The impact is visceral."

The Robey Theatre Company, named in honor of pioneering Black actor and activist Paul Robeson, has remained true to its mission to bring Black stories to the forefront. Guillory's artistic vision is rooted in a Black consciousness and cultural identity that remains relevant and essential in



COURTESY PHOTO

Danny Glover and Ben Guillory.

today's theater landscape.

"We're Black people in America and we have a Black consciousness," he explains. "Even up till now, there have been great changes and steps forward—but not really that much."

The company's commitment to developing, producing, and reinterpreting Black classics fills a gap in mainstream and regional theater, where Black stories have historically struggled for both funding and representation.

The Robey Theatre's focus on cultivating and elevating Black talent is underscored by its structured training programs, including the rigorous 10-week Advanced Scene Study program. Actors work through scenes with assigned partners, presenting them twice and rehearsing weekly, giving them a safe space to grow and refine their craft.

Another offering is the Playwrights Laboratory, a selective program where writers can develop their work with a dramaturg.

"It's a place for playwrights to come and have a community," he notes, underscoring the lab's impact. As their plays develop and solidify, there is an opportunity for them to be chosen by Guillory to move into rehearsal and production with the Company.

One of Guillory's own memorable roles was that of Paul Robeson himself, a man he deeply admires. Robeson, a talented artist and civil rights advocate, made enormous sacrifices for his principles.

"When I started to read about him, who he was, what he gave up to speak truth to power, I had great respect for him," Guillory shared.

"All he had to do was keep his mouth shut, and he

could have lived a full life as one of the most famous people in the world, but he didn't," Guillory said with adoration.

Playing Robeson was a profound experience, giving him the chance to channel the integrity and conviction that defined Robeson's life. This commitment to purpose has shaped both Guillory's personal path and the mission of The Robey Theatre Company.

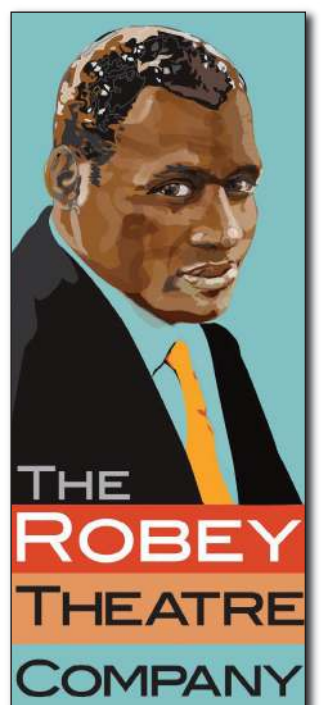
Looking to the future, The Robey Theatre Company aims to continue its mission, presenting plays that reflect the depth and breadth of the Black experience. The upcoming 2025 season will feature "Last Night at Mikell's" by Larry Muhammad, a production that promises to highlight the company's dedication to telling compelling, socially conscious stories. Each production is guided by an unwavering respect for the craft and a responsibility to reflect Black culture authentically.

The 30th anniversary celebration will be a vibrant gathering of actors, directors, producers, playwrights, stage managers, volunteers, and community members, each of whom has played a role in shaping The Robey Theatre Company's legacy. In honoring the village that has watered and grown this Company, Guillory acknowledged that "it truly is not a one-person show."

The screening of "A Constant Rage" will serve as a tribute to the community's ongoing support and a testa-

ment to the enduring power of storytelling. As the company moves forward, its purpose remains clear: to foster Black stories and cultivate a space where Black artists can thrive, honor their heritage, and inspire future generations.

In the words of its founder, this theater isn't "Eurocentric" or "token"—it's a place of belonging.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Robey Theatre Company.

created for and by Black artists, where the true essence of Black culture and aesthetic can be shared with everyone who walks through its doors.

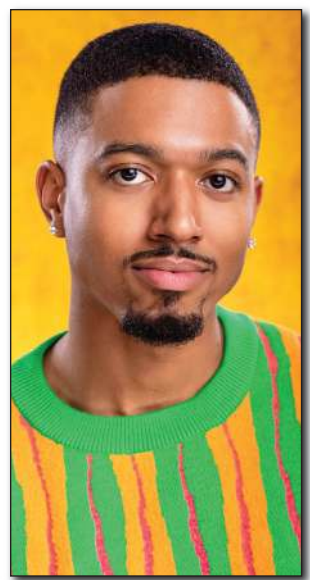
To attend the 30th Anniversary celebration on Nov. 16, please call The Robey Theatre Company: (213) 489-7402. To audition, email a headshot and resume to ben-guillory@therobeytheatrecompany.org

FUTURE ICONS

Philip Johnson: Filmmaking with Fun and Focus

BY NATHAN J. LEE
Contributing Writer

Rule #1: Fun comes first. For Detroit's own Philip Johnson, aka Philaye, filmmaking is simple - keep it fun, keep it real.



COURTESY PHOTO

Philip "Philaye" Johnson

A relaxed and down-to-earth director and producer, he brings an easygoing vibe to his work, focusing on stories that feel genuine and relatable. For him, filmmaking is less about sweeping statements; it is about having a blast.

Picture this: friends on set, cracking up between takes, telling stories that do not take themselves too seriously. "Do I have a message?" he pauses, then shrugs. "No, I can't think of one." He laughs and adds, "Yeah, it's literally about the fun and entertainment for me."

But do not let all that fun fool you, Philip has a serious side too. By day, he is a financial analyst. "I've just always been very mathy," he explains with a grin, like that is a totally normal thing to say.

With a bachelor's in business administration from the University of Michigan, he is crunching numbers and working on

strategy, marketing, finance, accounting—all the things most filmmakers try to avoid.

"I loved business school," he says, as if it is a confession. And it turns out, he has found the perfect way to bring those skills into his film work.

"Bringing that to the film world and to my creative peers," he says, "I feel like it makes good synergy...because it also makes all the other parts possible." In other words, he is the guy who keeps the lights on.

Philip's journey into filmmaking began back in college, thanks to a nudge from his mom. While he was busy traveling and making recap videos of his study abroad trips, she noticed his knack for storytelling.

"I like these!" she would say, especially about his San Francisco videos. Suddenly, Philip found himself seeing the world through a lens. After col-



COURTESY PHOTO

Philaye receives his first award, Influencer of Excellence, at the 2022 I AM Awards in Washington D.C.

lege, he took on the role of finance chair for a campus fashion organization, where he raised \$45,000 for their annual show.

It was then he had an epiphany: "This is how I



COURTESY PHOTO

Philip attending the iElevate+TV Awards Gala in Atlanta, GA.

want to combine my business degree with creative stuff." And, voilà — Philaye Films was born.

Since moving to Los Angeles, Philip has made quite a name for himself within the city's Black and queer communities. As the founder of Philaye Films, Inc. — an entertainment company he launched in 2018 — he writes, produces, directs, and acts in projects that hit close to home. His films and shows reflect the humor, quirks, and real-life stories of his community.

One of his first major brand partnerships came about purely by chance. In 2021, he featured a funny character from the Jack'd dating app in a short social media video. To his surprise, Jack'd reached out, and what was supposed to be a three-video deal turned into a three-year collaboration.

"It was completely random," Philip laughs, "but that's how some of the best opportunities happen."

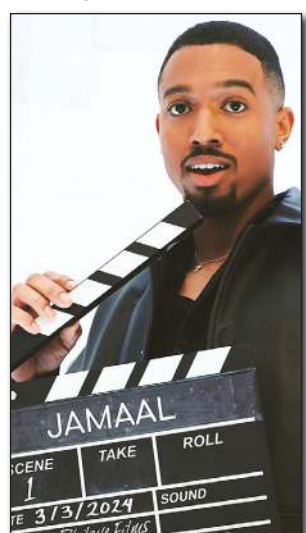
Talk about being in the right place at the right time.

Philaye knows that content creation alone is not enough in today's media landscape. Building strategic partnerships is essential for strengthening a brand and securing opportunities. Philip understands this perfectly! His latest project, "Jamaal," an award-winning sci-fi dramedy, is set to release on HereTV on Nov. 8.

The film dives into a futuristic world through a Black lens, following a couple who encounter a mysterious AI. Blending humor with suspense, "Jamaal" explores the complexities of modern relationships and the AI craze.

With each project, Philip proves that filmmaking does not need to be overly serious to be impactful. Whether it is through laugh-out-loud moments, relatable stories, or clever brand collaborations, he is building a space for Black and queer voices to shine—one fun, unexpected opportunity at a time. And if you ask him, he is just getting started.

Follow Philaye's journey and films at philayefilms.com and on Instagram @philaye.



Philaye with the clapperboard for his new sci-fi film, "Jamaal."



COURTESY PHOTO

Philip at the 2024 I AM Awards in Washington D.C., presenting an award and speaking on the pre-awards panel.

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AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL
Outside of academics and athletics, Inglewood senior Kasahn Johnson volunteers at his former preschool.

Student Athlete of the Week: Kasahn Johnson

By AMANDA SCURLOCK,
Sports Editor

Inglewood senior Kasahn Johnson is creating an impressive campaign on defense this season. He has racked up 50 solo tackles and 24 assisted tackles in a span of ten games. His efforts have helped the Sentinels go into the playoffs with a perfect 10-0 record.

"I feel like us having winning seasons helps the community," Johnson said. "Everyone comes to our home games, everybody's

happy to see us play." Johnson enjoys winning with his teammates and witnessing them make plays throughout the season. As a senior, he knows that he must compete at a high level at every game to have a future in the sport.

Johnson also has experience on offense; during his junior year, he accumulated 212 reception yards and scored two touchdowns. In his third year of varsity play, Johnson knows how to advise his younger teammates.

"I've been playing

longer, technically, in high school," Johnson said. "I could give some of my insight to everyone."

A major lesson that he learned from coaches is to persevere.

"I feel like that's a big thing in football because not everything could go your way," Johnson said. "You got to keep your head on a straight path and just do what you have to do."

After dealing with wins and losses, Johnson watches film to see how he can fix his own mistakes

and improve. While he plays several positions on the field, his favorite is safety.

"I could see everything, the safety is like the quarterback of the defense," Johnson said. "We can call everything for everyone. When somebody needs help or needs to know the coverage, we let them know."

For Johnson, being a student athlete means that academics is key to a future in football.

"Take care of business in the classroom, so I could

ultimately play in college," he said. "Without the grades, you can't play anywhere. I prioritize school over athletics."

In order to balance academics with athletics, Johnson works on his assignments before he takes the field. Johnson noted that his favorite class is government.

"I try to take care of business first, then do all the things I want to do after," Johnson said. "I may be late, I'll just take the consequences but my grades matter more."



AP PHOTO/MARK J. TERRILL

Los Angeles Dodgers manager Dave Roberts celebrates with Ice Cube during the baseball team's World Series championship parade and celebration at Dodger Stadium, Friday, Nov. 1, 2024, in Los Angeles.

By AMANDA SCURLOCK,
Sports Editor

The Los Angeles Dodgers won their eighth World Series title on October 30, defeating the New York Yankees in five games.

The Dodgers bullpen, featuring Jack Flaherty, Yoshinobu Yamamoto and Walker Buehler, struck out 44 Yankees in the Fall Classic. First baseman Freddie Freeman won World Series MVP after slugging four home runs this postseason. The most iconic of his dingers was his walk-off grand slam in Game One of the World Series; he is the first player to commit the feat in World Series history.

Right fielder Mookie

Betts led the Dodgers in 16 RBI. He and designated hitter Shohei Ohtani had 14 runs each. National League MVP Tommy Edman led the Boys in Blue with 20 hits.

The championship was



AP PHOTO/JAE C. HONG

Los Angeles Dodgers' Mookie Betts, center, points at fans next to his wife Brianna, left, during the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball World Series championship parade Friday, Nov. 1, 2024, in Los Angeles.

Dodgers Achieve World Series Glory

a collaborative effort with 10 Dodgers hitting at least one homerun and 12 players getting hits in the post season.

General Manager Dave Roberts guided the Dodgers to their fourth World Series under his tenure, helping them win two in the past five years.

The road to victory came with peaks and valleys. Betts was hit by a pitch on a game against the Kansas City Royals on June 18, fracturing his left hand. Yamamoto was sidelined two days prior with a right triceps injury.

Clayton Kershaw grappled with an injury to his left big toe that stifled his



AP PHOTO/KYUSUNG GONG

Los Angeles Dodgers manager Dave Roberts tips his hat to the crowd during the baseball team's World Series championship parade Friday, Nov. 1, 2024, in Los Angeles.

playing time. Several pitchers, including Tony Gonsolin and Tyler Glasnow, struggled with injuries this season.

Freeman left the team for seven games after his son Max battled Guillain-Barré Syndrome. He played through the postseason with a sprained right ankle; the injury caused him to miss Game Six of the NLCS. Ohtani tore the labrum in his left shoulder in Game Two of the World Series.

Highlights were the

mid-season acquisition of Edman who amassed two homeruns and 13 RBIs in the postseason. Ohtani became the first MLB player to hit 50 home runs and make 50 steals in one season.

As the team competed, they remained dedicated to the community through the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation (LADF). Betts hosted a financial literacy workshop for high school students, catcher Will Smith hosted a VIP experience for the students at

Clifford Elementary School.

Roberts visited the coaches of Dodgers Dreamteam while unveiling the new coaches play-book. The Foundation also hosted the L.A. City Connect Showcase game and a Playerfest for their participants. They also broke ground on their 64th and 65th Dreamfield at Jim Thorpe Park in Hawthorne.

The efforts of the 2024 Dodgers has become an iconic moment in the history of Los Angeles.

Chay Robinson Develops Athletic Scholars

By AMANDA SCURLOCK,
Sports Editor

King/Drew softball coach Chay Robinson works to hold her team accountable in the classroom and on the field.

Robinson has been coaching the Golden Eagles



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL
King/Drew reached the second round of the Division II playoffs during the 2023-2024 season.



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL

Chay Robinson speaks with King/Drew softball team on the mound.

girl's softball team for 20 years; she has a coaching career that spans 24 years. She started coaching at King/Drew when her daughter was on the team.

"I was coaching from behind the fence," Robinson said. "My daughter said 'Mommy, the girls want you to coach them too, we'll tell them your signs.'"

The King/Drew athletic director at the time expressed a similar sentiment and offered her the role as skipper. Robinson called coaching her "fun

job" and she found ways to balance it with her profession: a practitioner at Kaiser Permanente.

"My bosses allowed me the flexibility to coach for all these 20 years," Robinson said. "As I moved up into leadership, I told them 'if I can't coach, then I'm not gonna take the promotion,' but they knew that I had so much love for this ... they had to put that into my deal when they promoted me."

With her grade checks and study hall sessions before practice, Robinson

encourages her players to be high-performing student athletes. Every student who wants to join the team is required to write an essay. This allows her to learn about who the student is and what they want to gain from playing softball.

"I talked about being the oldest and how that experience in being pressured to be the leader ... and being the third parent, how that helped me," said King/Drew softball player Brooklyn Walker. "I realized sports overall helps me with my mentality as well

as with my academics and social life, and so I incorporated that into my essay."

During the 2023-2024 season, Robinson had to combine the junior varsity and varsity teams together.

"My J.V. girls would come out to my tournaments on the weekends," Robinson said. "Our parents would take them all the way out to the valley for tournaments."

When the team reached the playoffs last year, Robinson held a classroom practice to refresh the team on the fundamentals of the sport.

"We're gonna reset," Robinson said. "We're gonna start from zero again and we went over basic softball."

Robinson also gives advice to her players that help them as people. King/Drew pitcher Jordan Garcia mentioned how not to "sweat the small stuff."

"I think in every other aspect, I do that a lot, like at school, with grades," Garcia said. "[Robinson] definitely has helped me, it's not going to hurt you ... it's not hurting the team so don't worry about it."

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CROSSWORD ANSWERS FROM B-1