



David and Tamela Mann Promote Love and Marriage (See page C-3)

85th year 1933 2018 LOS ANGELES SENTINEL



Charlamagne Tha God: 'Anxiety Playing Tricks On Me' (See page C-4)

Inglewood Voters Validate Butts' Vision for City

BY JENNIFER BIHM Contributing Writer

Incumbent Mayor James Butts of Inglewood led early on the race for the growing city's mayor, not in the least bit affected by a strong campaign to oust him.



Mayor James Butts of Inglewood

Now, with a revamped Forum, a new football stadium and an additional entertainment stadium, Inglewood looks to be set for upward economic mobility.

backers as heavy as Forum owners Madison Square Garden, but Butts supporters accused him running for mayor as part of an MSG vendetta against bust for an entertainment venue deal gone wrong.

"This is about knocking out the competition, not

about the people of Inglewood," said Butts' attorney Skip Miller.

"It's, interesting that almost half of Little's campaign funds come from Clippers Arena competitors Madison Square Garden."

{See BUTTS A-9}

Tony Thurmond Leads the Way as African Americans Win Throughout California

BY JENNIFER BIHM Contributing Writer

Dems took over the House, but not the Senate. California has a new governor, according to LA Vote, as of press time, Tony Thurmond will lead public instruction and rent control laws will remain as they are.



Tony Thurmond

Meanwhile, Alex Padilla remains secretary of the Golden State, Diane Feinstein still represents California in the Senate, and Maxine Waters will continue to represent the state's 43rd district in the House.

Gavin Newsome overtook Republican John

Cox in the race for California's next governor and Thurmond said he wanted to get rid of the Betsy DeVos education agenda.

"California's educators want leadership to fully

fund and protect public education," he said.

Californians voted yes on Prop 1, which would distribute housing assistance bonds to various projects for veterans. They voted yes, to allowing the state to use funds from a 2004 tax increase via Prop

{See THURMOND A-9}

Dems Dominate The U.S. House of Representatives

With A 'Blue Wave,' But Republicans Still Control the Senate

BY KIMBERLEE BUCK Staff Writer

On Tuesday, November 6, voters headed to their local polling places to elect their U.S. House representatives and Senate leaders during the long awaited 2018 mid-term elections.

Prior to the election, the Democrats held 193 seats in the House according to MSNBC, while the

Republicans held 235 seats. In order for the Democrats to sweep the House with a "blue wave," they needed to flip 23 seats while defending their current ones.

Before the mid-term elections, the Democrats held 49 seats in the Senate while the Republicans held 51 seats. In order to take control over the Senate, the Democrats needed to flip two seats all while keeping the current seats they previously held.

As of press time, the 2018 mid-term election came to a close with a "blue wave" sweep over the U.S.

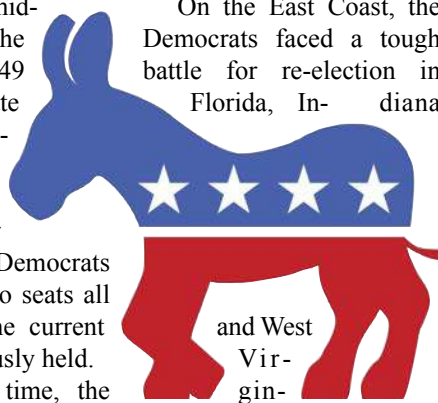
House of Representatives with the Republicans keeping control over the Senate. Here is a breakdown of how election night unfolded.

The Senate

On the East Coast, the Democrats faced a tough battle for re-election in Florida, Indiana

and West Virginia. All three states are known as

{See DEMS A-9}



Taste of Soul Recognizes Vendors and Partners

The 2nd Annual Taste of Soul Vendor & Partner Appreciation Reception took place with music, food and more!

BY BRIAN W. CARTER Contributing Writer

The 13th annual Taste of Soul once again proved why it's the #1 family festival in Southern California featuring some of the best vendors around. On Thursday, November 1, vendors were invited to the second annual Taste of Soul Vendor & Partner Appreciation Reception at the Museum of African American Art on the 3rd floor of Macys in the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza.

Sponsored and hosted



City National Bank representatives pose for a photo at the 2nd annual Taste of Soul Vendor & Partner Appreciation Reception.

Show of Solidarity in Aftermath of Hate

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

In a moving and emphatic show of solidarity after the Tree of Life synagogue massacre in Pittsburgh, hundreds of people



From left are Rabbi Zoë Klein Miles of Temple Isaiah, FAME Pastor J. Edgar Boyd, Supv. Mark Ridley-Thomas and LAUSD Supt. Austin Beutner.

from across Los Angeles County gathered on Nov. 1, for an interfaith worship service at the First AME Church, and sang and prayed together for hope, healing, courage and perseverance.

Pastor J. Edgar Boyd of

First AME Church and Rabbi Zoë Klein Miles of Temple Isaiah preached to the diverse crowd, while Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas issued a call to solidarity. They were joined

{See SOLIDARITY A-8}

Price Invites Faith Groups to Help L.A.'s Housing Crisis

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT Staff Writer

Exploring creative ways to address L.A.'s housing crisis, Councilmember Curren D. Price Jr. urged faith-based organizations (FBOs) to consider turning their properties into affordable, workforce, market-based housing.

During an informational session on Nov. 2, Price and his staff updated religious and nonprofit leaders in Council District 9 on the city's efforts and available resources to assist FBOs in building residential mixed-use units on church-owned land. Several pastors attended along with representatives



Councilmember Curren Price, center, poses with attendees at the faith leaders session on Nov. 2. From left are Ronnie Morrisette of Tesla Homes USA, Rose Rios of Cover the Homeless Ministry, Rolando Ross of St. Reed Missionary Baptist Church, and Dr. G. Landry of Care-giver Speaks

of neighborhood councils, homeless aid agencies, foundations and environmental groups to learn how to get involved in commercial development activities.

"We want to make sure that our faith-based community is an active participant in our efforts to create more housing.

{See PRICE A-9}

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Pan-African Studies at Cal State LA celebrates 50 years

Ceremony honors Black leaders and their contributions to the community

BY JILLIAN BECK
Cal State LA News Service

Pan-African Studies commemorated 50 years at Cal State LA with a ceremony honoring Black leaders and community members.

More than 200 faculty, staff, students and supporters gathered in the Golden Eagle Ballroom on Oct. 29 for the Department of Pan-African Studies 5th Annual Black Community Honors Dinner, an evening that looked back on the department's history and recognized the contributions of individuals who have committed their lives to the liberation and empowerment of the Black community.

"This moment affords us an opportunity to vision the world we want to live in—not simply reform what is, but vision and build what we want it to be," said Melina Abdullah, professor and chair of the Department of Pan-African Studies at Cal State LA. "Think about

what we're celebrating tonight—50 years of Pan-African Studies."

The event marked the launch of a yearlong celebration of the 50th anniversary.

Pan-African Studies is the second Black Studies department in the nation, founded amid the social and political turmoil of the late 1960s. The Cal State LA Black Student Union, which was pushing for more Black students and faculty members, helped lead the effort to establish a Black Studies program in 1967. It became a department in 1969.

Two of the Black Student Union's earliest members attended the night's event: Hiram Channell, who now works in admissions at Cal State LA, and Ayuko Babu, who is executive director and a founder of the Pan African Film Festival in Los Angeles. As a student, Babu helped found the Department of Pan-African Studies.

Pan-African Studies is part of the Black Studies

discipline, which includes academic programs that examine the history, culture, politics, economics and worldviews of people of African descent.

The first Black Studies department and first and only College of Ethnic Studies were founded at San Francisco State University in 1968. The establishment followed a five-month student strike, the longest campus strike in United States history, and was led by the Black Student Union and a coalition of student groups.

Representatives from across the California State University system came together prior to the dinner at Cal State LA's Downtown facility for a day-long conference marking 50 years of ethnic studies at the CSU and looking ahead to the future of the field.

The night's honorees were U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee, who represents the 13th Congressional District in the Bay Area; Cal State LA Pan-African



Photo: Black Community Honors award recipients Nana Lawson Bush V, professor of education and Pan-African Studies at Cal State LA and a traditional African priest; Cal State LA Pan-African Studies alumnus Akinyele Umoja, chair of African American Studies at Georgia State University; U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee, who represents the 13th Congressional District in the Bay Area; and Teri Williams, president and chief operating officer of OneUnited Bank, the largest Black-owned bank in the nation. (Credit: Robert Huskey/Cal State LA)

Studies alumnus Akinyele Umoja, chair of African American Studies at Georgia State University; Teri Williams, president and chief operating officer of OneUnited Bank, the largest Black-owned bank in the nation; and Nana Lawson Bush V, professor of education and Pan-African Studies at Cal State LA and a traditional African priest.

"I visit many, many colleges and universities around the country and I get a chance to meet professors and heads of departments and students, and I just have to say that this is number one if you ask of me," said Lee, who received the Black Community Honors 2018 Peace and Justice Award. "What a moment this is—in the middle of all that I am doing—to be here with you to be revived and rejuvenated and inspired

and motivated to keep fighting the good fight."

With a week until the Nov. 6 midterm election, Lee emphasized the importance of voter participation. "Voting is but one vehicle to our liberation, one path to it, but it's an important one," Lee said.

Pan-African Studies is housed in the College of Natural and Social Sciences, which is headed by Dean Pamela Scott-Johnson.

Cal State LA Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Lynn Mahoney delivered the university welcome, reflecting on the history of the late 1960s and similarities with the present day.

"As we navigate what's left of 2018, I am blessed to work at a place where it's almost an antidote to the national news," Mahoney said. "As the national news

is unrelentingly negative, here every day I see signs of that hope, I see signs of solidarity, and I see signs of resistance. Our commitment to and our legacy of educational equity is still very much alive."

Abdullah, who introduced the night's honorees, also recounted her experience taking Black Studies courses while attending Berkeley High School in the Bay Area and the profound impact it had on her life.

"It planted seeds in me," Abdullah said. "So for me, the work that we do in Pan-African Studies is definitely about the subject matter, but more than that it's about the pedagogy and the epistemology—it's about the way that we teach and the way that we do our work in communities."

AT&T Hello Lab Showcases at LACMA

Filmmakers complete Hello Lab's Mentorship Program and show their work to the public at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.



Filmmakers and mentors enjoy their night at LACMA before showing their short films. Left to right (Casallina Kisakye, Constance Tsang, Lena Waithe, Sean Frank, Shelby Stone, Melisa Resch, Tazbah Rose Chavez, Chelsea Winstanley, Taika Waititi.) Photo Credit: Elyse Frelinger

BY SHANNEN HILL
Contributing Writer

AT&T Hello Lab presented five short films from a diverse group of filmmakers at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) on Thursday Nov. 1 at 7 p.m.

Hello Lab is a program through AT&T that gives up-and-coming filmmakers the chance to be mentored by entertainment industry leaders, including Common, Lena Waithe, Tessa Thompson, Rachel Morrison, Taika Waititi, Cary Fukunaga and Shelby Stone. The goal of the program is to show stories from underrepresented communities, spanning across race, sexuality, mental health and more. Along with mentorship, the filmmakers are provided with resources including writers, actors, script development, production and more.

"It's this incredible program, in partnership with Full Screen and AT&T, that pairs really incredible filmmakers with amazing mentors who help bring their signature work to life," said Brickson Diamond, co-founder of the Blackhouse Foundation, a partner of Hello Lab. "It's our second year doing Hello Lab so there are returning mentors, like Common, but we also have some new mentors like Tessa, Rachel, Taika and Lena. We have these mentors, not just because they're hot,

which of course they are, but also because they're ready to give back."

Each between 10 and 20 minutes, the films tackled an array of issues. One film, by Tazbah Rose Chavez, was about a Native American young woman who goes through the day having to explain her culture and the pronunciation of her name. Sean King, who was mentored by Lena Waithe, created a film about mental health. It showed Black women of different age groups and mental states as they live in a mental health facility. There was also a film by Melisa Resch, who was mentored by Common. It focused on two women who fall in love while fighting against protesters at an abortion clinic. Along with the love story, it shows the difficulties some women face with abortion rights.

"They wanted us to tell personal stories, so I showed a story based on my life," said Melisa Resch, who was mentored by Common. "For people of color, queer people, women; our lives are full of contradictions, joy, and pain and I wanted to show all of that."

Constance Tsang directed a film where a group of coworkers from a Law Firm go on a retreat. The main character is the only Asian and one of the only women. It becomes a thriller as everyone is given guns to go out hunting.

Chelsea Winstanley, mentored by Tessa Thompson, focused on the Muslim Culture in the Middle East. In her film, an openly gay man deals with the struggle of being romantically involved with a man who is married to a woman and hiding that he is attracted to men.

The night was filled with socializing as well. Before and after the film screenings, AT&T Hello Lab had mixers and a red carpet going on outside. The filmmakers, mentors, actors, family and friends mingled with one another over complementary wine and hors d'oeuvres. As the culmination of the Hello Lab Mentorship Program, it was a night full of fun, entertainment and depth.

"It's a blessing that we can network and meet all types of people with different perspectives. You don't see this type of crowd all the time, so I like it. I think that it's important that we come together, listen to each other, and help people to showcase their work publicly," said Morgan Conigland, who came out to support a friend in the film.

DirectTV was also a partner, giving an outlet for people to watch at home on their Hello Lab channel and DirectTV NOW. For more information on AT&T Hello Lab, visit them on Twitter @ATTHelloLab.



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Ridley-Thomas Leads Groundbreaking on New MLK Medical Building

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

L.A. County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas led the groundbreaking ceremony for the newest addition to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Campus in Willowbrook: a medical office building that will increase access to health-care in South Los Angeles by creating more space for physicians to care for patients.

Scheduled to open in 2020, the MLK Community Health Medical Office Building will provide primary care for the local community, as well as valuable services to treat chronic conditions. Outpatient services will include dialysis, wound care, and imaging. There will also be an ambulatory surgery center, a retail pharmacy, and a space for community health education.

The 52,000-sq. ft. MLK Community Health Medical Office Building will be the new home of the MLK Community Medical Group, which recruits doctors from prestigious medical centers across the nation who have a desire to serve in a safety-net community.

“When you talk about best practices in community health, the evidence is overwhelming that access to primary care is a critical piece of the puzzle,” said Ridley-Thomas, the driving force behind the medical campus. “With the creation of the MLK Medical Group and this medical office building, we are creating an essential link between hospital patients and ongoing care following discharge.”

“The MLK Community Health Medical Office Building represents a fulfillment of our promise to this community,” MLK Community Hospital CEO Dr. Elaine Batchlor said. “This moment is about more than a building – it’s a milestone for improving health in

South LA.”

Dr. Jorge Reyno, MLK Community Hospital vice president of Population Health, is one of the doctors looking forward to having an office at the new building. “It will serve as a hub to improve outcomes, and an important bridge between inpatient and outpatient care, supporting our work in care management, and helping us achieve our goals for patient and community wellness,” he said.

Several members of the community expressed their enthusiasm for the



Supv. Mark Ridley-Thomas, L.A. City Council President Herb Wesson, MLK Hospital CEO Dr. Elaine Batchlor, community activist Sweet Alice Harris participated in the groundbreaking ceremony.

LATTC College Breaks Ground on a \$48-million dollar Culinary Arts Building

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

One of the premier career education programs on the campus of Los Angeles Trade-Technical College soon will be housed in a new state-of-the-art learning center at its downtown LA campus. LATTC has broken ground on a \$48-million dollar Culinary Arts building that will feature cutting-edge labs and kitchens, classroom space and a learning environment that will match its award-winning programs. Los Angeles Trade-Technical College has a 93-year tradition of training culinary students for entry into the hospitality industry. LATTC’s culinary arts program has the longest, continuous college-based culinary arts program in the country.

The new Culinary Arts building will sit in

the south campus area and will also house multi-purpose space and gathering areas for students and employees. Since this is a public community college, the culinary training is among the best educational values in the country. Trade Tech provides higher education to communities throughout the region, particularly underserved neighborhoods in South Los Angeles.

The two-story, 71,100 square foot steel braced-frame structure has an exterior finish of insulated metal panels and glazed aluminum curtain walls. Added amenities will include an artificial turf activity field, a stand-alone restroom, an herb garden and outdoor dining area. The building includes sustainability features such as solar power panels. The culinary arts and baking programs serve 800



LATTC Culinary Arts Building Groundbreaking.

students each semester and is accredited by the American Culinary Federation Education Foundation Accrediting Commission (ACFEFAC). The program has an articulation agreement with California State Polytechnic University for transfer students and offers an Associate in Arts degree in Culinary Arts or Professional Baking. Harper Construction is the general contractor

for the project. The project is being paid for through Measure J, a taxpayer-supported bond measure to upgrade facilities throughout the Los Angeles Community College District.

“This is major milestone for our campus,” said LATTC president Larry Frank, “since we have not had new construction on this campus for several years. This project will enhance our learning

environment for culinary students as we propel them into the regional workforce, and train them for the career opportunities of the future. The hospitality industry is very strong in Southern California and our students are being prepared for significant roles in its creative growth.”

The independent educational website College Choice ranked LATTC’s Culinary Arts program as the #1 ranked culinary arts educational program in the state of California. Recently the California Community College Chancellor’s office gave the program its bronze award as part of its Strong Workforce Stars program. The awards were given to the college program for helping to raise the earnings of culinary arts graduates by 126 percent as well as Restaurant and Food Services and Management by 64 percent.



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LAX Marks Milestone at New International Concourse with ‘Topping Out’ Ceremony



From left, PCL California Buildings District Manager and Vice President Cathy Orquiola, LAVA CEO Deborah Flint, Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners President Sean Burton and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti sign a beam that was hoisted during Friday's "Topping Out." COURTESY PHOTO

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Twenty months after breaking ground for the Midfield Satellite Concourse (MSC) at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), Mayor Eric Garcetti and Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) officials gathered for a “topping out” ceremony at the 12-gate addition to the Tom Bradley International Terminal (TBIT).

“Today is more than a construction milestone — it’s an expression of L.A.’s openness to the world, and our connection to people from everywhere in it,” said Mayor Eric Garcetti. “The Midfield Satellite Concourse has created good, middle-class jobs for Angelenos — and will strengthen L.A.’s global connections when its doors open at LAX.”

At this morning’s event, Mayor Garcetti and other VIPs signed a ceremonial beam that was hoisted and placed near the top of the future ramp tower. The beam also bears the signatures of others who have had a hand in designing and constructing the new facility.

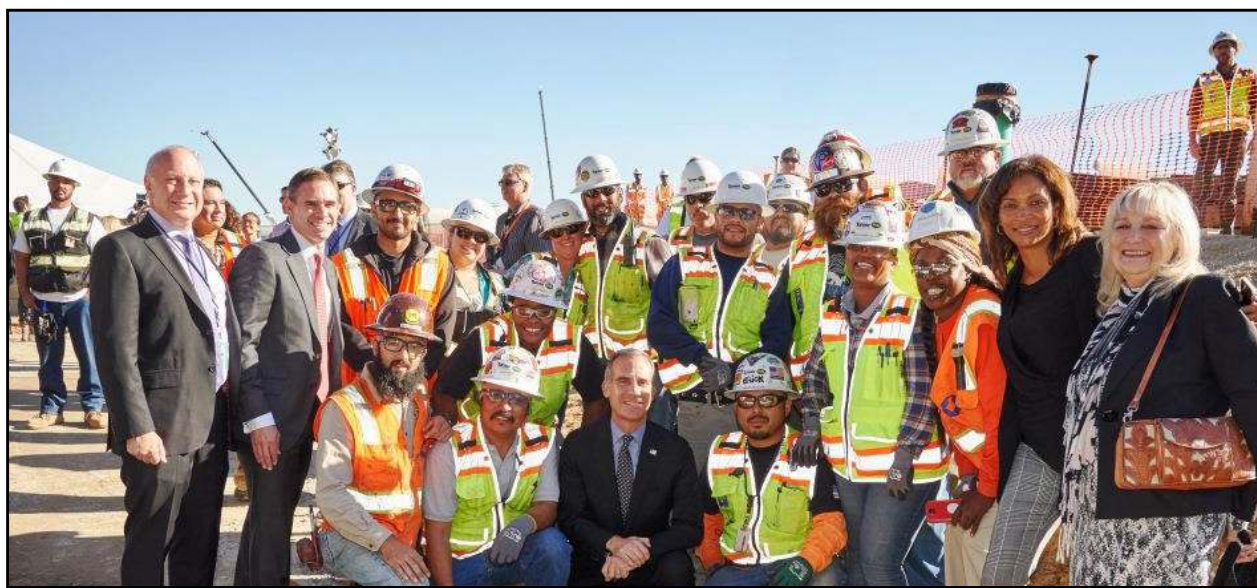
“LAX is quickly becoming the world-class airport

that Angelenos demand and deserve,” said Councilmember Mike Bonin. “I am especially excited that the Midfield Satellite Concourse will incorporate a number of sustainability features, such as using passive daylight lighting for the interior spaces, water saving plumbing fixtures and a cool roof that reduces heat absorption. These eco-friendly features will go a long way to minimizing the environmental impact of this needed new facility, and will further LAWA’s commitment to make LAX a world class airport that is also a first-class neighbor.”

The \$2 billion project, which includes the new concourse and an expansion of the baggage handling system, is expected to be completed in mid-2020. With its soaring roof, open space and ample natural light, the architecture complements the award-winning Bradley Terminal, which underwent a major transformation and opened to guests five years ago.

This new international concourse will help us realize two of the goals in our strategic plan: delivering facilities and guest services that are exceptional, and using new technology and

innovations to keep our



Mayor Garcetti and members of the Board of Airport Commissioners joined LAVA CEO Deborah Flint and workers at Friday's celebration. COURTESY PHOTO

airport safe and secure,” said Sean Burton, president, Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners (BOAC). “By reducing our need for the remote gates to the west, the experience for our guests will be greatly enhanced. Our guests will enjoy our most technologically advanced experience, with more than a dozen interactive displays and enhanced cellular and Wi-Fi coverage.”

“This concourse will be an experience expected in Los Angeles, the best of what our city has to offer,”

said Deborah Flint, Chief Executive Officer, LAWA. “In addition to LA-centric food, retail and art, thousands of local workers, including our HireLAX graduates, are helping build this city’s future right here at LAX.”

The 750,000-square-foot concourse will be connected to TBIT by two tunnels, one for passengers and another to deliver utilities and services. The 1,000-foot passenger tunnel will feature moving walkways and will be accessible from a new “Gateway” being added to TBIT that includes elevators and escalators. The concourse will also include a bus port, allowing passengers to be driven across the airfield after clearing security in

concourse’s roof emulates an ocean swell, complementing the architectural design of the TBIT roof, which represents a wave breaking onto the shore.

The interior of the new concourse is organized into a series of “neighborhoods,” which includes three to four aircraft gates, a restroom core, and retail and concession spaces. The interior finishes and colors were selected to reflect its location and are based on the “urban fabric” of Los Angeles. A rotating series of lively and innovative art exhibitions that reflect Los Angeles’ creative spirit will be seen throughout the concourse. With a focus on creating an exceptional guest experience, the building will feature

designed with sustainability in mind, and with the directive to achieve LEED Silver and CAL Green Tier 1 certifications. Sustainable ideas include use of daylight for interior illumination; energy and water conservation; reducing the effect of heat generated by building roofs and pavement; and use of recycled materials.

The project also includes over 1.5 million square feet of new aircraft apron and taxiways/taxilanes, as well as underground utility improvements. Also included is an expansion in baggage-handling capacity to meet the needs of the additional gates.

While construction will shift from outside of

another terminal.

The MSC will be equipped to handle both domestic and international flights, with sterile walkways leading to the passenger tunnel and a dedicated route to customs. The new

biometric boarding gates, a variety of seating types, two nursing rooms, play areas for children, a service-animal relief area and additional space for airline club lounges.

The new concourse was

the building to inside of it in 2019, an Airport Operational Readiness team is already creating plans for training the hundreds of airport and stakeholder employees who will work in the new facility in 2020.

U.S. Virgin Islands Tourism Department Appoints Joe Boschulte



Joe Boschulte

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Tourism is deepening its working relations with the cruise industry by appointing an industry specialist to bolster the work of the Ports of the Virgin Islands, an alliance between the Virgin Islands Port Authority, The West Indian Company Limited and the Department of Tourism.

Commissioner of Tourism Beverly Nicholson-

Doty said the engagement of Joe Boschulte will help the Territory to achieve “operational improvements” to the cruise ship sector as well as economic benefits to the community.

Boschulte comes to the tourism department with consulting experience in improving organizational performance, growth and improvement.

He formerly served as President and CEO of The West Indian Company Limited, one of the busiest

cruise ship ports and retail centers in the Caribbean.

“I look forward to the opportunity to work with the team to build the Ports of the Virgin Islands brand,” said Boschulte. “As we embark on a new cruise season, the horizon is bright for record cruise passenger growth in the Territory for the next decade.”

Commissioner Nicholson-Doty said Boschulte brings a wealth of knowledge about ports and port operations as well as public-private partnerships. His career has included service with the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority, Government Employees’ Retirement System, Public Services Commission and the University of the Virgin Islands.

“We look forward to the expertise and experience Mr. Boschulte will bring to our team as we seek to continuously improve and enhance the Territory’s critical relationship with our cruise line partners,” said the Commissioner.

One of the first orders of business for Boschulte will be to meet with cruise executives at next week’s 25th annual Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) Cruise Conference & Trade Show. The event takes place in San Juan, Puerto Rico, from November 5-9, 2018.



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Penda Diakit  Showcases Her Art at the Substrate Gallery

A recipient of the Dean Collection grant, Diakit  creates an art exhibition for the public.

BY SHANNEN HILL
Contributing Writer

After winning the Dean Collection grant from Alicia Keys and Swizz Beatz, local artist Penda Diakit  had her first big art show in Hollywood at the Substrate Gallery, on Saturday, Nov. 3 at 7 p.m.

The “Made in America” art exhibition, which was free and open to the public, was full of people of all different races celebrating Diakit ’s cultural art. Growing up between her father’s hometown in Mali and her mother’s in Oregon, Diakit  has art influences from around the world. Her art showcased the beauty and pain of people of color and immigrants in the United States.

“I’ve been working on this for the past seven months now and this work is about what it means to be of color in the U.S. today. It’s also about my experiences as a bicultural woman,” said Diakit . “I just feel so blessed and happy for the great turnout. My art has a



Penda Diakit  is all smiles in front of two of her pieces at her ‘Made in America’ art exhibition.

lot going on. The pieces are all cut out fingernail size and they create these huge characters.”

Diakit ’s collage art featured all types of materials and images including bullets, the American flag and \$100 bills. Many of the pieces were also full of color and powerful words shaped into bodies with amplified facial features. There were

about 10 wall art pieces, but Diakit  also included other forms. She sold denim jackets with her artwork on the back and showcased a video art piece.

“It’s really Americana with a big cultural African background. America is really Africa and she portrays that and marries it really well,” said Nancy Usher, who came out to see Diak-

it ’s art. “The music, as well, is just wonderful and there’s a nice mixture of cultures in this crowd.”

Music played a great role at the art show. Throughout the night there were sounds of Afrobeats from the DJ. About halfway into the event Diakit  gave a thank you speech and introduced a live West African music

performance with drums and powerful xylophone sounds. The crowd joined in with the music, clapping and dancing along.

“This has a good vibe,” said Taneisha Jackson, who saw Diakit ’s art on Instagram before coming out. “I like going to art galleries and seeing that she’s a Black woman, there was live music, and it was free, I definitely had to come and I’m glad that I did.”

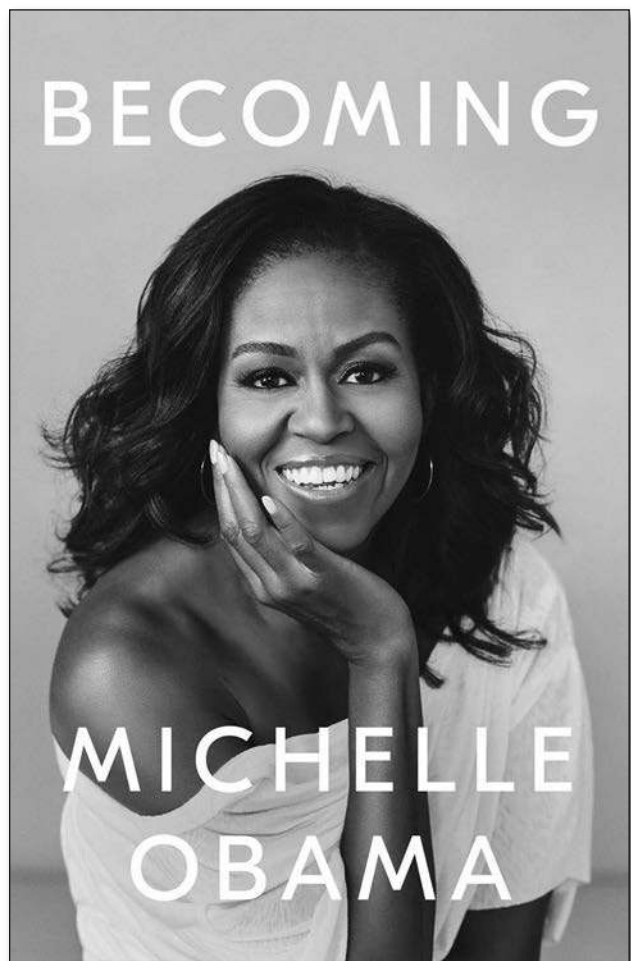
While “Made in America” was a great art show, it also served as a place to

mingle and meet art lovers. There was eclectic and detailed art, music with dance beats and a complimentary bar. The crowd was mixed with different age and racial groups. Some of the attendees were new to art and some had been going to art shows for years. It was a wonderful community event, full of old friends going out for a night, and new friends meeting each other for the first time.

To see more of Penda Diakit ’s art, visit www.pendadikite.com.



One of the musicians that performed live West African music at the ‘Made in America’ art exhibition.



In her memoir, a work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world.

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire

As the Nov. 13 release date fast approaches, it’s become ever more obvious that former First Lady Michelle Obama’s book tour is more than just another event.

In each city, beginning with Chicago – the first stop on the tour for her memoir, “‘Becoming,’ an Intimate Conversation with Michelle Obama,” – a major celebrity has been chosen to moderate.

Talk show queen and television magnate Oprah Winfrey will fill that role at the United Center in Chicago, while the list of moderators for the book tour’s events in cities around the country include Reese Witherspoon, Sarah Jessica Parker, Valerie Jarrett, poet Elizabeth Alexander, Phoebe Robinson, journalist Michele Norris, and Tracee Ellis Ross.

It’s a far cry from just

about any other book tour and signing events that are routinely held at bookstores and the only admission or signing requirement is that individuals purchase a book.

Obama’s events are being held at concert arenas where as many as 20,000 people are expected, locations like the United Center in Chicago and the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York.

The event’s promoter is concert giant, Live Nation.

Tickets, which reportedly are running north of \$1,000, are selling out fast.

However, a spokesperson for the event said they will ensure that individuals who don’t have the ability to pay such high prices are able to get in.

“It is important to Mrs. Obama that her ‘Becoming’ tour events are accessible to as many people as possible,” Live Nation officials said in a news release. The company announced that selected local and community organ-

Michelle Obama Book Tour Features Oprah and Other Celebrity Moderators

izations would receive free admission to stops on the tour. Thousands of tickets will be given away.

Additionally, 10 percent of ticket sales have been set aside for various organizations including, but not limited to, charities, schools, and community groups in each city the tour visits.

Already a pre-release best-seller, the publishers of “Becoming” said this about Obama and her new memoir:

In a life filled with meaning and accomplishment, Michelle Obama has emerged as one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era. As First Lady of the United States of America—the first African American to serve in that role—she helped create the most welcoming and inclusive White House in history, while also establishing herself as a powerful advocate for women and girls in the U.S. and around the world, dramatically changing the ways that families pursue healthier and more active lives, and standing with her husband as he led America through some of its most harrowing moments. Along the way, she showed us a few dance moves, crushed Carpool Karaoke, and raised two down-to-earth daughters under an unforgiving media glare.

In her memoir, a work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world’s most famous address. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it—in her own words and on her own terms. Warm, wise, and revelatory, “Becoming” is the deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations—and whose story inspires us to do the same.

Per Entertainment Weekly, here’s a list of tour dates and moderators.

• Nov. 13 at United Center, Chicago, IL: Moderated

by Oprah Winfrey

• Nov. 15 at The Forum, Los Angeles, CA: Moderated by Tracee Ellis Ross

• Nov. 17 at Capital One Arena, Washington, DC: Moderated by Valerie Jarrett

• Nov. 24 at TD Garden in Boston, MA: Moderated by Michele Norris

• Nov. 25 at Capital One Arena, Washington, DC: Moderated by Elizabeth

Alexander

• Nov. 29 at Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia, PA: Moderated by Phoebe Robinson

• Dec. 1 at Barclays Center in Brooklyn, NY: Moderated by Elizabeth Alexander

• Dec. 11 at Little Caesars Arena in Detroit, MI: Moderated by Phoebe Robinson

• Dec. 13 at Pepsi Center

Arena in Denver, CO: Moderated by Reese Witherspoon

• Dec. 14 at SAP Center in San Jose, CA: Moderated by Michele Norris

• Dec. 17 at American Airlines Arena in Dallas, TX: Moderated by Valerie Jarrett

• Dec. 19 at Barclays Center in Brooklyn, NY: Moderated by Sarah Jessica Parker.

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• DR. MAULANA KARENGA •

'Kawaida and the Current Crisis: A Philosophy of Life, Love and Struggle'

Part II. To say that Kawaida is a philosophy of life, love and struggle is not to suggest that love and struggle are the only areas of life with which Kawaida concerns itself. As a philosophy of life in its comprehensive sense, Kawaida concerns itself with every area and aspect of life, especially questions of life in the seven fundamental areas of culture: history, religion (spirituality and ethics); social organization; political organization; economic organization; creative production; and ethos (the collective self-consciousness developed as a people as a result of thought and practice in the other areas of culture). But in times of crisis like these, it is useful to focus on foundational principles and practices which anchor and inform all others.

Clearly, the foundational and overarching concern and commitment of Kawaida is life—human and other life and all that is related to the respect, preservation, protection, development and flourishing of it. And likewise, it is concerned with and opposed to all that would threaten, diminish, abuse or destroy life. But to talk of human life and make it real is to talk of actual people. For history and current reality have shown that an oppressor can claim respect for life as a universal abstract, but hate, enslave, dispossess, terrorize and murder, singularly and in mass, actual living humans of various kinds and cultures.

What I want to do here is to try to weave an inter-related and seamless conception of life, love and struggle as they relate to us as African people in the context of oppression and resistance in this critical moment in our history. For

Kawaida understands life as a sacred good, grounded and made most meaningful in relationships. It sees love as the most anchoring, strengthening and enriching character of relationships. And it sees struggle to bring, increase and sustain good in our lives, loves and the world as a defining feature of our becoming and being human in the most dignity-affirming, life-enhancing and world-preserving ways.

In a philosophy of life, there are always key concepts, principles and practices, views and values and, of necessity, corresponding practices to make the views and values a living reality and part of a vital and viable tradition. As we say in Kawaida, in the final analysis, practice proves and makes possible everything. Given not only the centrality and sacredness of life and the current and ongoing threat to Black lives and Black people in virtually every existing social space, the focus on life and respect of it in the most comprehensive way becomes essential, indispensable and compelling.

Certainly, the oppressor has chosen the way of death for us and the world in the system of oppression and exploitation that he has imposed. But as we have said so many times, the oppressor cannot and must not be our teacher. Indeed, all our sacred texts teach us we must choose life, not death, and that this means accepting the serious responsibility of living life well and constantly striving and struggling to create conditions in our community, society and the world in which we and others can live, love and create freely.

As a communitarian philosophy, Kawaida understands life as a relational reality, especially in the context of family and com-



DR. MAULANA KARENGA

.....munity, but also the world. We come into being in relationship and responsibility, and we establish and develop our identity, meaning and measure in this context. It is as community, as a people, that we receive as a cultural legacy our identity, purpose and direction. In a word, we are who we are and who we become or ought to become in relationship with others, especially in our circles of significant others. This is the meaning of John Mbiti's often-quoted positing of the African concept of human existence and essence, "I am because we are, and because we are, therefore I am". And it's found also in the Zulu concept of Ubuntu or what it means to be human—ngingumuntu ngabantu—I am a human being through other human beings, a person through other people. Our duty, then, is to build, strengthen and constantly expand those relations on every level in principled, purposeful and caring ways, in a word, in the ethical, effective and expansive ways

required of us as African people.

At the core of Kawaida's philosophy of life, love and struggle are the Nguzo Saba (The Seven Principles), a Black value system that we understand as the moral minimum set of values Black people need in order to rescue and reconstruct our history and humanity and shape them in our own image and interests, in a word, to free ourselves and be ourselves in ever flourishing ways. These principles are Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity), and Imani (Faith).

In conscientious and righteous practice of these principles, we, of necessity, begin with the pursuit and practice of Umoja, unity, a principled and purposeful togetherness in life, love and struggle in our families and local and national communities, as well as the world African community. This principle urges us also to build and strengthen quality male/female relations; intergenerational unity, engagement, and transfers of knowledge, experience and relational networks; to form and reinforce alliances and coalitions of common ground, respect, reciprocity and mutual benefit; and

to courageously stand in active solidarity with the oppressed and struggling peoples of the world.

Also, we must practice self-determination, Kujichagulia, with the understanding that we are our own liberators, lifters-up of our own light, coming to the table and battlefield, not culturally naked and in need, but fully clothed in the ancient and ongoing richness and resourcefulness of our own culture. And we must live, love and struggle with the certain knowledge that there is no people more sacred than our own, no history more worthy of being taught or told, and no culture a more valid or valuable way of being human in the world. Moreover, in the spirit of Ujima, we must work together tirelessly to build the good world and forge the good future we want and deserve. And let us hold fast to the principle of Ujamaa that we must share work and wealth and ensure all have a life of dignity and decency and an equitable share of the goods of the world without undermining its well-being.

Our overarching purpose, Nia, the Odu Ifa tells us, is to constantly bring good in the world and not let any good be lost—no good be lost in our families and friendships, and our relationships of all kinds; and no good be lost that would threaten or undermine the well-being of the

world and all in it. And let us, in the spirit and practice of creativity, Kuumba, do always as much as we can in the way we can in order to leave our community and by extension, the world, more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it. Finally, let us dare to practice Imani, the faith of our ancestors, a steadfast faith in the good that compels us to constantly pursue it; and an unflinching faith in our people, Black people, African people. And let this faith express itself as love of them in real, radical and revolutionary ways, ways that translate as ongoing striving and struggling with them to create the life conditions for and the reality of their happiness, well-being, constant development and flourishing in the world.

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

• A BLACK PERSPECTIVE • LARRY AUBRY

RACISM'S ONGOING DEVASTATING IMPACT

Racism is as real as ever and Black lives have always mattered. However, most people, including many Blacks, deny or minimize the devastating effect of racism and tend to act as though somehow, Black lives are less valuable, even less sacred than White lives. The Black Lives Matter movement has the potential for strengthening sustainable unified Black leadership which would distinguish it from the many failed attempts to build a Black united front since the civil rights era. Hopefully, it will succeed, but remaining unapologetically Black is a daunting challenge and time will tell.

This column, (November 20, 2008) shortly after President Barack Obama's election, dealt with the implications of racism's broad tentacles and his reluctance to even use the words "Black" or "African American" for fear of alienating his supporters, and White voters.

That column is revisited today to re-emphasize racism's continuing significance. Readers should also take note of President Obama's later more honest and straightforward statements regarding the need to deal with race-based inequities that still plague Black Americans.

"The problem is not defining racism but doing something about it; its pernicious tentacles still infect all of our lives. And even though contemporary scholars like Michael Eric Dyson and Cornel West address the magnitude of racism's negative byproducts, they too are unavoidably and snarled in its jaundiced web.

Barack Obama's campaign and aftermath of the election further attest to racism's deep roots. His steadfast avoidance of the



LARRY AUBRY

words "Black" and "African American" for example, was politically correct and obviously intended not to alienate either his supporters or potential White voters. Remember, not once during their respective speeches at the Democratic National Convention did either Barack or Michelle utter those two words. (McCain's many racial innuendoes were especially evident when he pitched to "Joe the plumbers.")

Post-election vandalism in South Torrance, an L.A. suburb, was a blatant manifestation of continuing racism: homes with Obama lawn signs and cars with his stickers were painted with "nigger," Hitler," and "Go back to Africa."

After the election, George W. Bush's top advisor, Carl Rove, and Bill Cosby's pal, Alvin Pousaint, agreed that the Cosby Show about an upwardly mobile Black family had succeeded in changing racial attitudes enough to make Obama's candidacy possible. Really?

Obama lost votes because of his race, but this was offset somewhat by the landmark financial meltdown that caused many White voters to reluctantly switch towards the end of the campaign. The popular vote was extremely close and, arguably, but for the meltdown, McCain might have won the election. Many Republican voters abandoned McCain

because, like countless others, they were hurting financially and came to see McCain as an extension of Bush's failed policies and his election probably would not benefit them.

This column regularly addresses the harms of institutional racism and bemoans the fact that many Blacks tend to deny or minimize its existence. Such thinking is a convoluted, self-fulfilling prophecy that reinforces practices and conditions inimical to their own best interests.

Effective leadership is crucial if Blacks are to challenge the status quo. Even more important, both poorer and middle-class Blacks must regain hope and mutual respect, and bring their collective strength to bear by demanding new political and economic solutions. This means actually holding elected officials and other Black leadership accountable. But first, ordinary people must be sufficiently dissatisfied to behave differently, willing to assume risks and take action likely to result in real change. As Cornel West intones, "Blacks must shed the twin burden of victimization and futile dependence on others...." Transformative behavior also requires a re-affirmation of racial pride.

Racism's crippling impact on the minds of children is rarely discussed. Yet, solely based on color, Black children suffer conditioned inferiority. Tragically, coupled with urban blight and gross systemic neglect their plight has become a sad, unattended norm. Schools, especially, do a serious disservice to these children by failing to properly deal with their special needs, even though they occupy the lowest levels of academic achievement. This requires additional not few-

er resources.

Blacks should take note of recent, highly organized large White demonstrations where the demonstrators felt they were wronged and did something about it. The last time Blacks acted that way with sustained unity was during the 1960s. The point is, unified action is indispensable for advancing successful Black-oriented group agendas.

Barack Obama's momentous victory did not mean the Calvary had arrived, Blacks would be his top priority, or that his presidency would positively impact them in the near term. Despite an almost iconic affinity with Obama, in order to get and keep his attention, Blacks, like all other special interest groups, needed to give him cogent proposals and recommendations, and hold him accountable for responding. This was a change made more difficult because of the paucity of unapologetic Black oriented endeavors in recent decades.

Tackling racism and race-based issues is especially difficult for Blacks, because many have internalized values that are not in their best interests and are reluctant to challenge the "system." Of course, our resources are scarce and we still have relatively meager political clout. But remember, we are a proud people with unsurpassed pride, resilience and defiance. The price of servitude has always been unacceptable.

For Blacks, whether racism is indelible depends not only on Whites, but in equal measure, on us. With renewed strength and determination, we will again determine our own destiny.

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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.

CHARLENE CROWELL

Debt and Rising Home Costs Continue to Defer Homeownership

Do you ever get the feeling that when it comes to news about the nation's economy, you're in a different world?

I certainly do. And what's more, I think much of America — especially Black America — feels the same.

A decade has passed since the housing collapse. In that time, bank profits are back and continue to rise. Despite occasional trading fluctuations, the stock market remains profitable for most investors. Then there's the low rate of unemployment that is often cited as if economic strides have included nearly everyone.

But unemployment data does not reflect the vast number of people who today are working and earning less, otherwise known as the underemployed.

People who toil at jobs that pay less than in previous years often have a work ethic that is bigger than their paycheck. Even for those who take a second job, the extra and modest earnings seldom free them from hoping they have enough money to make it through each month.

I also think about the families who sacrificed retirement or building savings to give their children a college education. Both new college graduates, their parents and sometimes grandparents are startled at the amount of debt they share and how long it will take to fully repay it.

Whatever happened to the American Dream of owning a home and giving your children a better life than you experienced as a child? Is this 'dream' being deferred or denied?

The stark reality is that between the rising cost of college and the equally rising costs of homeownership, much of the country that works for a living is in a financial catch-22.

This contention is borne out by an updated consumer survey that annually measures profiles of both home buyers and sellers. Each year, the National Association of Realtors (NAR) surveys consumers who purchased a primary home in the past year. For 2018, NAR used a 129-question survey of consumers who purchased a home between July 2017 and June 2018.

Summarizing results, NAR concluded that current housing trends are affected by "mounting student debt balances", along



with rising interest rates, higher home prices and larger down payments.

"With the lower end of the housing market — smaller, moderately priced homes — seeing the worst of the inventory shortage, first-time home buyers who want to enter the market are having difficulty finding a home they can afford," said NAR Chief Economist Lawrence Yun. "Homes were selling in a median of three weeks and multiple offers were a common occurrence, further pushing up home prices."

Despite the financial hurdles noted by the NAR survey, there was a single glimmer of encouraging news. For the second year in a row, single female buyers are successfully pursuing their own American Dream. While married couples comprise 63 percent of home buyers, single females represent 18 percent, purchasing homes at a median price of \$189,000.

But for the rest of the home buying market, NAR found that the past year meant a median home purchase price of \$250,000 required a median household income of \$91,600 for a successful mortgage application. Additionally, the nation's median home down payment now is 13 percent, or \$32,500 for that \$250,000 priced home.

How long does it take for families to amass \$32,000 for a home down payment? Longer than most families would want to wait, I'm certain. According to new research by the Urban Institute, median wealth for Black parents is \$14,400 compared to White parents at \$215,000, and \$35,000 for Hispanic parents.

"As the NAR report shows, the share of first-time homebuyers continues to lag far behind historical norms," commented Mark Lindblad, a Senior Researcher with the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL). "Efforts should be directed toward pairing

low-down payments with affordable and responsible mortgage products so that low-income households and borrowers of color have equal access to the opportunities that come from owning a home of one's own."

Lisa Rice, President and CEO of the National Fair Housing Alliance shared a similar view to that of Lindblad.

"The NAR's survey underscores the persistent difficulty under-served communities face when trying to purchase housing," said Rice. "With a median purchase price of \$250,000 and down payment of \$32,500, homeownership remains out of reach for far too many and this exacerbates stress on rental housing prices."

The most recent figures from the Census Bureau report that nation's 64.4 percent homeownership rate in the third quarter of 2018 was not statistically different from that of 2017 when it tallied 63.9 percent. Geographically, homeownership in the Northeast, Midwest and South remained the most stagnant.

In stark contrast, the financial outlook for the 64 percent of Americans who already own a home brought a hefty median equity gain of \$55,000 when they sold their residence over the past year. Additionally, after selling their homes, 44 percent traded up to a large home.

In other words, if you can find a way to become a homeowner, the costs incurred will likely be outweighed by the economic gains.

But making that important financial transition from renter to homeowner will become harder as mortgage interest rates climb from the historic lows of recent years. Additionally, should home inventories remain low, the likelihood of 'supply and demand' economics will keep driving prices higher as well.

"Now more than ever," added Rice, "we need radical policies that will spur the development of affordable housing in all communities."

Charlene Crowell is the Center for Responsible Lending's Communications Deputy Director. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

LYNETTE MONROE

Three Misconceptions About the Black Vote

Black people do vote. Let's stop perpetuating the myth that Black people don't vote. Besides, emphasizing negative behavior will not yield positive results. Positive language reinforces positive behavior. While statistics related to health and wealth routinely place Blacks as dead last, when it comes to voting, this is not the case.

Black voter turnout is higher than any other minority group, but Black people still have room to increase their civic participation.

In criticism of the Black vote, American norms must be taken into context. There are a couple factors that are characteristically American.

Of the "developed,



democratic nations" the U.S. ranks in the bottom 20 percent for voter participation. To publicly chastise African-Americans for low voter turnout is to diminish their acculturation into American society, perpetuating the very disproportionate affliction voting claims to diminish.

Furthermore, reduced voter turnout between elections is also an American

norm. Historically, mid-term elections experience a steep decline in citizen engagement.

For example, in 2012, with the first Black president up for re-election, Black voter turnout rose to an impressive 66.6 percent, surpassing the voter turnout of Whites by 1.3 percent. In the 2010 congressional elections, 43.5 percent of Black people voted, compared to 48.6 percent of their White counterparts. In the 2014 congressional elections 39.7 percent of Black people voted, compared to 45.8 percent of their White counterparts.

So, other than the presidential elections of 2008 and 2012, when a Black

{See MONROE A-8}

YOLANDA CARAWAY, LEAH DAUGHTRY, MINYON MOORE

The Chisholm Legacy

November 5th marked the historic 50th Anniversary



of the first African American woman elected to the U.S. Congress, Rep. Shirley Chisholm. This important milestone marks a watershed moment in American politics for Black women, to emerge and take their rightful seats at the table of elected Democratic leadership.

As the representative from the state of New York, Rep. Chisholm still serves as a trailblazer, inspiring a generation of women elected officials. Her career and that of many Black women in Congress are intrinsically connected.

One of those women, is California Congresswoman Barbara Lee.

Rep. Chisholm's 1972 campaign, as the first Black person and first woman to ever run for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination, and first woman, major party candidate, galvanized young women all over the country. One such woman, a young college student attending Mills College, upon meeting the Congresswoman on the presidential campaign trail, immediately signed on to help organize the Chisholm for President Northern California primary campaign.



That student was Rep. Barbara Lee.

Although Rep. Chisholm faced tremendous obstacles getting on statewide ballots, she earned primary votes in 14 states, with her 2nd biggest win coming in the June 6 California primary, garnering 4.4% of the vote, and finishing fourth. At the end of the presidential primary, Rep. Chisholm produced 28 delegates that she took to the Miami Democratic Convention.

In her 1973 book, "The Good Fight," she explained: "I ran for the presidency, despite hopeless odds, to demonstrate the sheer will and refusal to accept the status quo."

Rep. Chisholm's run for the presidency was one of many glass ceilings she would break.

It would be Rep. Bar-

bara Lee's first time at a Democratic National Convention, this one in Miami, and as a Chisholm delegate.

Rep. Chisholm's June 1968 run for the U.S. Congress from New York's newly, court-ordered, and reorganized 12th congressional district, the Bedford-Stuyvesant area, represented a larger Black population, and would automatically result in its first Black member of Congress. With her campaign slogan, "Unbought and Unbossed,"



then New York State Delegate Chisholm held back two other Black challengers, winning the Democratic primary to go on and win the General election, thereby becoming the first African American woman in Congress.

Once in Congress, and as a member of the House Agriculture Committee, Chisholm distinguished herself by working hard for the newly drawn district: expanding the food stamp program, helping to create the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program, and working for federal funds for child care services.

Rep. Chisholm hired mostly women in her state assembly, district and congressional offices, because she felt she was discriminated against more as a woman than for being Black. The 7-term lawmaker retired from Congress as the third highest-ranking member of the House Education and Labor Committee and was a co-founder of the Congressional Black Caucus.

As the Representative from the Bay Area, Congresswoman Lee is the first woman, and the first African American woman, to represent Northern California in the state House, and in Congress. She is a former Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

While Shirley Chisholm's incredible journey has clearly provided a direction, wisdom, and INSPIRATION for the many women leaders to come after her, to date, there have only been 41 African American women to serve in the House, (including House delegates), and the Senate.

Today, there are 21 African American women serving in the U.S. Congress. There are fewer or none, to ever serve in statewide or local elective offices.

The 50th Anniversary of Rep. Chisholm's election offers our country a chance

to renew our commitment to Black women, not only in elective office, but within the ranks of true political power. Black women will disregard the old, conventional ways of wielding power, and owe little to nothing to traditional institutional structures of power. In the last year, we have seen Black women create the margin of difference in races in Alabama, Virginia, Florida, and Georgia.

It is no secret that Black women are the most consistent, the most loyal base of Democratic voters.

In this election year, according to the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers, there are 41 African American women running for House seats, and 16 African American women running for State-



wide Executive Elected Offices.

This is historic! Clearly, this has become paramount, and a political priority, that the Democratic Party, and its Congress reward and deliver on its promise of inclusiveness.

Rep. Chisholm had the foresight and saw this day coming.



In 1977, she challenged Rep. Thomas Foley (WA) for the chairmanship of the House Democratic Caucus. She lost her bid by 76 votes, and the Democratic leaders saw fit to give her the position and title of "Secretary" of the Democratic Caucus.

This year, the House Democratic leadership has the chance to not only talk about inclusion in the leadership ranks, but to show it. Rep. Barbara Lee has officially put her bid in to follow in Rep. Chisholm's footsteps and lead the Democratic Caucus, thereby becoming the highest ranking African American woman, ever, in Congress.

Although Rep. Chisholm tried — this has never been done.

If Rep. Lee succeeds, this ensures African American women are represented in the leadership in Congress and the legacy of Rep. Shirley Chisholm lives forever.

By Yolanda Caraway, Leah Daughtry, Minyon Moore

Co-Authors of For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Politics

CARTOON: BY DAVID G. BROWN



Butts *{continued from Pg. A-1}*



PHOTO BY VALERIE GOODLOE/SENTINEL
Mayor James Butts

The company moved forward with a lawsuit earlier this year over what its officials said was a secret land deal between Butts and builders of the arena. MSG doesn't want the competition of an arena so close to their own, since it will be another entertainment venue just blocks away. Attorneys for MSG have accused Butts of "tricking" them into giving up their lease of city owned land and making a private deal with the Clippers for it.

Butts defended his support of the Clippers Arena in his city, pointing out the fact that the Staples Center is

only 20 minutes away from Inglewood and that doesn't take away from the fact that the Forum remains the number one concert venue in California.

"It's ludicrous to believe that this is going to change the dynamic of their competitiveness," said Butts.

"This basketball arena was going to be built somewhere and somewhere local. The reality is that after we get past this nonsense everyone is going to cooperate and we're going to have the synergy that's going to be developed by the sports and entertainment district and it's going to be unparalleled

in this country."

Butts began his career in law enforcement for Inglewood in 1972, and was promoted to Lieutenant in 1984. He was promoted to Commanding Officer of the narcotics division in 1986. He led a team of 30 undercover agents that helped reduce drug trafficking in the Dixon-Darby and Lockhaven neighborhoods. In 1986, Butts was promoted to Chief of Operations and became the first African American at that level within a South Bay, California, police department.

In 1991, Butts became Santa Monica's Chief of Police, a position he held until 2006.

In 2006, Butts took a position as the head of security and law enforcement for Public Safety Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA). According to the Los Angeles Times, Butts improved training and discipline at LAWA and fostered better relationships with local law enforcement agencies.

After returning to Inglewood, Butts began campaigning for mayor. He was officially elected as the mayor of Inglewood, California, on January 27, 2011.

Butts was the "driving force" behind a renovation of The Forum, which was approved by the Inglewood City Council in May 2012. As a po-



PHOTO BY JASMYNE CANNICK
Mayor James Butts celebrates victory on election night.

lice officer, Butts worked at Lakers games at the Forum for almost two decades. He is credited with "cutting through bureaucratic red tape" to move the renovation project forward. The Forum was re-launched in 2014 with a \$100 million renovation. Butts was re-elected as mayor in November 2014 with 83 percent of the vote, the largest margin in Inglewood history.

Not everyone is happy about the transition however. Housing activists in Inglewood filed a lawsuit against the city, claiming the economic transition is pushing residents out, as affordable housing becomes more and more unavailable. Property values in Inglewood have jumped 125 percent since 2012, according to Butts. Activists have accused Butts of choosing billion-

aires over affordable housing. The lawsuit alleges city officials violated state law by not offering surplus land to affordable housing developers before entering negotiations with the Clippers.

"We will monitor investor acquisition of apartment buildings," Butts said ahead of the election. "If we see a trend for wholesale evictions, I will recommend local legislation to stop this."

Proponents of the arena, like Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager and Senator Steve Bradford said the project will bring much needed jobs to the community, like 10,000 construction jobs, 1400 permanent jobs and over \$1 billion in local investments.

Dems *{continued from Pg. A-1}*

"red" states. As of press time, Republican Mike Braun won the Indiana Senate seat against Democrat Joe Donnelly with 53.6 percent of the votes. In West Virginia, Democrat Joe Manchin won the Senate seat against his opponent Republican Patrick Morrisey. Finally, in the state of Florida, Republican Rick Scott won 50.4 percent of the votes against Democratic Bill Nelson who held 49.6 percent of the votes. In the Mississippi race for Senate, Democratic Mike Espy ran against Republican's Cindy Hyde-Smith and Chris McDaniel and

Democratic Tobey Bartee. Espy received 40.6 percent of the votes, Hyde-Smith received 41.5 percent of the votes, McDaniel received 16.4 percent, and Bartee received 1.5 percent of the votes. Both Hyde-Smith and Espy will advance to the November 27 runoff in the Mississippi Senate race.

Overall, the Senate race came to a close (as of press time) with the Republicans holding 51 seats with six pickups and Democrats holding 43 seats. The battle for Senate control ended with Republicans taking 50 seats and Democrats taking

40 seats.

The House

According to CNN, In the House of Representatives, the Democrats led the race and came out victoriously. As of press time, the Democrats gained 25 seats and the Republicans lost 25 seats. Currently Democrats hold 179 seats while Republicans hold 169 seats.

The Governor's Race

Democrats were paying special attention to candidates Andrew Gillum and Stacey Abrams.

Andrew Gillum- In Florida's Democratic primary, Gillum won and became the frontrunner. During the mid-

term election, Gillum who held 48.9 percent of the votes lost to Republican candidate Ron DeSantis who held 49.9 percent of the votes.

Gillum would have been the state's first African American governor if he won the election. However, he still made history as he is the first African American gubernatorial candidate in the state of Florida.

Stacey Abrams-In Georgia, the race for governor was on between former state legislator Abrams, who was fighting to become

the first Black female governor and Republican candidate and Secretary of State Brian Kemp. The race ended with Kemp taking 53.2 percent of the votes and Abrams taking 45.8 percent of the votes.

Both Florida and Georgia were major losses for the Democratic Party.

Although the Democrats were unable to flip all of the 23 seats needed to control the Senate, this was still a historic election which led to a diverse group of candidates being elected nationwide. Democrat Jared Polis won Colorado governor and is

the first openly gay person elected as governor. New Mexico elected their first Native American female congressmember Debra Haaland. In Kansas, Sharice Davids was elected as the first Native American female congressmember. Lastly, Massachusetts's elected Ayanna Pressley to the 7th congressional district. Pressley ran unopposed and is the first Black congresswoman of her state!

Solidarity *{continued from Pg. A-1}*



(DIANDRA JAY/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS)
From left are Rabbi Zoë Klein Miles of Temple Isaiah, FAME Pastor J. Edgar Boyd, Supv. Mark Ridley-Thomas and LAUSD Supt. Austin Beutner.

Monroe *{continued from Pg. A-7}*

candidate was on the ballot, the White/Black voter gap averages about 5 points, improving drastically from the 11-point gap a decade ago. In fact, Black, White, and Hispanic voter participation has fallen slightly, in every election cycle since 2008, except for the increase for Black people in 2012.

Black people have been reducing the White/Black voting gap since the election of the nation's first Black president, with less than 6 points to go.

A persistent voting gap exists between education levels. This gap is larger than the Black/White voting gap and increasing. Therefore, criticism of Black voter turnout that does not include increased access to high-quality equitable education is misguided to say the least. Demanding people vote without addressing inequi-

ties that disenfranchise them consents to the American myth of "pulling yourself up by your bootstraps."

A democracy requires informed voters. Education is responsible for producing informed productive citizens. Therefore, a 26-point achievement gap in both reading and math between White and Black students must be given equal attention as a 5-point voting gap.

Millennials will soon be the nation's largest electorate.

They could also become the largest voting bloc, impacting the decisions they care about most, if they increase their voter turnout.

To characterize low Black voter turn-out as laziness or ignorance of the process is to reduce our humanity, suggesting us incapable of rationale thought and ignoring valid feelings of apathy

towards a system that continues to disappoint. While getting out the vote, it is imperative that the frustrations of a generation are acknowledged. Millennials came of age with a Black president, they were politically ignited by the racist repercussions of that presidency and police killing of unarmed Black children, and they are armed with a century of similar examples of backlash to Black progress. Their voices must be heard if we are to create a more perfect union.

Data collected from <https://theataweb.rm.census.gov>

Lynette Monroe is a graduate student at Howard University. Her research area is public policy as it relates to education and conflict. You can follow her on Twitter @_monroedoctrine.

by U.S. Rep. Karen Bass, L.A. City Controller Ron Galperin, L.A. Unified School District Superintendent Austin Beutner, Rabbi Deborah Schmidt, Pastor Terry L. Brown of Liberty Baptist Church and the Rev. Hosea Collins of the City of Refuge.

"The Tree of Life Shooting was another attempt by a White supremacist to destroy what has made this country so great — our differences and our diversity. But they will not succeed," Ridley-Thomas said. "We are together tonight out of a sense of hope, healing and solidarity. Let us stand together and honor through our deeds the actions that will turn this tragedy at the Tree of Life synagogue into a garden of hope across the country."

"Whenever the sinister forces of wickedness and evil rise up and threaten the human virtues of a loving society, the diverse community of the faithful must respond," Boyd said. "We must respond in a show of love over hate; we must respond to ensure that the weak will overcome the wicked; and we must respond to empower the kindness of the victim to conquer the vile of the villain through the enduring power of human love."

"Together, we have cried a river of tears. Together, we have worked to rebuild what is broken," Miles said. "Unified in hope, unified in the belief in the ultimate triumph of good, we join our voices, our hearts, our spirits in prayer and fellowship. We join to show that our boundaries are false, but our shared dreams are what are real and achievable."

The interfaith ceremony was held in the wake of a gunman murdering 11 Jews at the Tree of Life

synagogue in Pittsburgh. This latest attack on a house of worship recalled the 2015 shooting of nine African Americans at the Mother Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

"The alarming increase on attacks of houses of worship cannot escape us, whether in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, at Mother Emmanuel Church in Charleston, South Carolina, or others that are thankfully less fatal, but still are devastating to the faithful," Bass said. "Here in Los Angeles, our diversity can lull us into forgetting that anti-Semitism, bigotry and hate can still erupt into vicious violence, but I firmly believe that our determination to heal the world will prevail if we stand together as we did tonight, in love and as one."

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Thurmond {continued from Pg. A-1}



**Congresswoman
Maxine Waters**



**Congresswoman
Karen Bass**



**Calif. State Senator
Holly Mitchell**



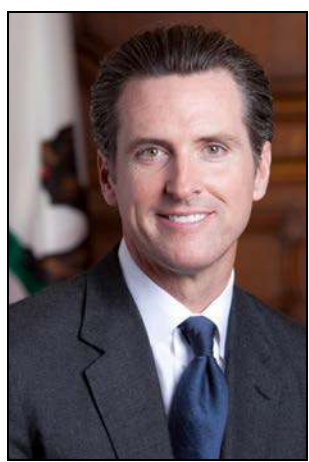
**Assemblymember
Chris Holden**



**Assemblymember
Reggie Jones-Sawyer**



**Assemblymember
Autumn Burke**



**Governor
Gavin Newsom**



**United States Senator
Diane Feinstein**



**Assemblymember
Sydney Kamlager-Dove**



**Assemblymember
Milke Gipson**



**Congresswoman
Nanette Barragan**

63, to expand mental health services for the homeless. They also voted yes for bonds to fund Children's Hospital construction, and to changing the daylight savings time-period.

Voters said no to repeal of a 12 cents gallon tax on gasoline, creating a public bank in California and regulating dialysis charges. They said no to a repeal of rent control laws that don't allow local gov-

ernments to regulate rent on private residences. For her part, Congresswoman Waters, leading a largely African American and Latino district, predicted that a Democratic takeover of the House would represent hope for her constituents.

"If we take back the House, I think six members of the Congressional Black Caucus will be the chairs of the biggest committees of the U.S. Congress," she

said in an earlier interview with the Sentinel.

"We can propose legislation, we can do investigations, we can use our subpoena power. It will be very powerful. And then, of course, if they aren't willing to impeach, we certainly will be in good position to get rid of the president in 2020."

This year, Waters and some of her fellow Democrats were the targets of a

series of mail bomb threats, from a suspect who has since been apprehended. She attributed the violence to an atmosphere of divisiveness and hostility that the current president has created.

"I've gotten bomb threats for almost the entire time that this president has been in office because I was able to discern who he was, what he cared about and how he defined himself

in the campaign," Waters explained.

"And so, I started out early saying, 'this man is dangerous. This man should not be president of the United States.' And I started warning my colleagues that he needed to be impeached. And so, the backlash started on me early. I told my family, and we all agree, that we must be wise and sensible but we must not be frightened

to the point where we can't live our lives and do our work in a way that's satisfying to us. I'm not frightened at all. I'm cautious, I'm careful and I'm not irresponsible. We have certain security at certain times and in certain ways..."

For his gubernatorial victory, Newsom had this to say.

"Voters of California elected me as their next governor. I am so, so grateful."

Other victories include:

Holly Mitchell: Won 100% of the vote for State Senate

Chris Holden: State Assembly 41st District

Reginald Jones Sawyer: 59th Assembly District

Mike Gipson: 64th Assembly District

Autumn Burke: 62nd Assembly District

Nanette Barragan: 44th Assembly District

Sydney Kamlager: 54th Assembly District

Taste of Soul {continued from Pg. A-1}



Pamela Bakewell, COO of Taste of Soul/Bakewell Media and Danny Bakewell, Jr., executive editor of L.A. Sentinel & L.A. Watts Times newspapers, greet guests and begin the program.

ed by City National Bank, the reception was held to celebrate the amazing collaboration of food and non-food vendors and partners who make Taste of Soul an economic empowerment engine that over 350,000 people attend annually on Crenshaw Blvd. Food and beverages were served by Hawkins Catering and music was provided by DJ Jiji Sweet.

Monique Jones Colon, owner of Sarili Ko Oasis, which is Tagalog for "Take Time To Love Yourself." Sarili Ko Oasis sells organic sugar scrubs, salt scrubs, body butters and oils. This was her second year being a part of Taste of Soul and she spoke a little about Taste of

Soul. "It was very profitable for us and I am so grateful to Taste of Soul [who] gave us this opportunity to make our business known within the community," said Colon. "We've got reoccurring customers and new people that we were able to touch in our community."

When asked about the vendor appreciation reception, Colon stated, "I appreciate it."

"It let's me know that it's not just one way—paying it forward, you are reciprocating the love and we're family and I'm just grateful to be a part of it."

"As a vendor, it lets you know that you are appreciated," said Lanier Edwards,

owner of Heavenly Delights Gourmet Cobblers.

He has been with Taste of Soul for 9 years and stated that each year, he's been too busy baking cobblers to really take in the family festival but is grateful for it.

"It's a phenomenal event," said Edwards. "The only thing is, I wish it would be two days instead of one day."

Marion Singleton of Child Evangelism Fellowship was also happy to attend the vendor appreciation reception. They are a ministry that reaches out to children and teaches them core values based on the Bible. This was her second year at Taste of Soul and she spoke about her experience

this year.

"It was absolutely fantastic—no problems, 350,000 people? No problems," exclaimed Singleton. "That's Jesus!"

"It was a beautiful day, beautiful event and everyone was just so happy and blessed to be together. A lot of times, people say that Black people can't come together—Taste of Soul is proving that to be a falsehood, we can."

Karen A. Clark is the senior vice president and multi-cultural strategies manager of City National Bank Crenshaw Branch and she spoke about the evening and her love of the community.

"I just love the vendor appreciation reception because I think the vendors do so much work for the Taste of Soul," said Clark. "I just think sometimes people take them for granted—people forget the real people behind the booths."

"I think this is a great event."

Clark also shared her feelings about City National Bank being located on Crenshaw Blvd and how they look forward to serving the people in the community.

"We love being a part of the community, it's been a win-win for the community and City National Bank," said Clark. "I am so proud in my company to be able to talk about the Crenshaw Branch and what we're doing here and the clients that



L.A. Sentinel and L.A. Watts Times managing editor, Brandon Brooks speaks with vendors.

we have—and the community itself.

"When we decided to open the [Crenshaw] Branch, I said we are putting a historic bank in a historic community. It's a 70-year-old bank with a very, very proud tradition and this is a historic community with a very, very proud tradition."

"City National Bank is known to many as the bank to the stars and Black folks are stars—so we brought the bank of the stars to some very special stars."

"We have 90 colleagues that live in the Crenshaw District, so we are very proud to be here."

"It's like being home for us."

"The feeling of family at Taste of Soul is real and it only gets better each year," said Pamela Bakewell, COO of Taste of Soul/Bakewell Media.

"The spirit of love and respect along Crenshaw Boulevard and the support for our vendors & small businesses makes Taste of Soul the economic engine that impacts our community far beyond the day of the family festival."

"We love our vendors and appreciate the professionalism they bring to Taste of Soul."

Patricia's Unique Boutique offers custom bling apparel and t-shirts. Owner April Burnett stated it was her second year attending Taste of Soul and added, "it was amazing, we had an incredible time."

As for the vendor appreciation reception, Burnett replied, "top notch, one-hundred percent, top notch."

"I wasn't expecting this when I came," said Keith Tate about the vendor appreciation reception. "I've been to appreciation [events] before and they just come and thank everybody for being there and then you go home but this was great being able to hear about other vendors [and] what the Sentinel is doing in the community."

"I'm excited about being able to get the online subscriptions to the Sentinel."

This was Tate's first Taste of Soul and vendor appreciation reception representing Transamerica Financial Advisors, Inc.

"It was unbelievable," said Tate about Taste of Soul.

"It was just the most incredible event that I've ever done—just to be out there with the community and the families, to be able to interact with them in all different ways."

"It was awesome."

Special thanks to the Museum of African American Art and board of directors member, Ber-linda Fontenot-Jamerson for hosting the event. A special thanks also to food vendor, Hawkins Catering and DJ Jiji Sweet, who kept the music playing all evening.

Thank you.

Price continued from Pg. A-1}

We need homeless, special needs, low income and market rate housing," said Price.

"Churches have a unique role. They have land, they have missions and we want to make sure that we leverage our resources to assist faith-based organizations in being a partner in the development of housing in our community."

Price and the Reuben Caldwell of the L.A. Planning Department explained that the updated South and Southeast Los Angeles Community Plans, as well as Measure JJJ (which of-

fers incentives for building housing in transit-oriented areas) and Measure HHH (which provides funding for housing for the homeless), now enable churches to build and provide additional services, such as transitional or special needs housing, to benefit the surrounding community.

The updated community plans amended the zoning of churches with property on major corridors from residential to commercial, which would allow, for instance, a 24-unit mixed-income project on a 10,000 square foot lot. Churches

with property located in medium density residential areas could potentially build 13 units and those with property in low medium density neighborhoods could construct seven units on the same size lot.

Emphasizing that each FBO has different options to consider for their property use, Price offered the free services of his staff to discuss and analyze proposed projects. In response, many attendees announced their intentions to follow up.

Ronnie Morrisette of Tesla Homes USA said, "I

think this was very informative and viable. It's a great platform for others to come and get their projects developed."

"This is the second series of meeting and we're encouraging churches to have one-on-one sessions with my staff to further refine what their possibilities might be," Price said. "We'll try to assist in putting churches together with other contacts so that projects can be evaluated and move forward."

Grambling State Approved to Offer Cybersecurity Degree

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire

Grambling State University has been approved to offer the state's first Bachelor of Science degree in cybersecurity. The University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors provided their approval and support for the university's program, according to a news release. The next step in the process is approval from the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Students will be eligible to begin enrolling in the program in fall 2019.

"With the vision of your team and the support of this Board, we are confident Grambling is prepared to educate cybersecurity professionals the market is demanding," said Board Chair Al Perkins. "These graduates will be equipped with highly sought-after

skills to protect us as technology becomes more prevalent in our daily lives."

Grambling State faculty member, researcher and a member of the Louisiana Cybersecurity Commission Yenumula B. Reddy, Ph.D., has been spearheading the new program's development.

"We are excited about the work of Dr. Reddy and his team," said Grambling State President Rick Gallot. "Their continuous innovation in research and the classroom are paving the way for this program. We are excited for the impact their leadership and our system-level support will have on our state and economy."

The news comes on the heels of an October report issued by the University of Louisiana System that said Grambling State University has doubled its fiscal health score since FY 2016,



FILE PHOTO

increasing from a 1.30 to a 2.60 as of the most recent report.

The fiscal health score, developed by the Louisiana Board of Regents, measures overall organizational health, factoring in important components including debt, revenue, and ability to operate.

"It's been a team-wide effort," Gallot said. "As a

part of our commitment to innovation, we've engaged new talent and alumni from across the U.S. who not only understand our charge but offer us expert perspectives and thought leadership."

Leading the University's fiscal health initiatives team is Martin Lemelle, Jr. the University's Chief Operating Officer and Inter-

im Vice-President of Finance. The initiative also includes team members who offer experience from higher education, Silicon Valley, and public accountability.

"We're an example of what's possible when we partner," said Lemelle. "The key to our successes has been a university-wide combination of collaboration and commitment. We've seen innovative ideas from every area, from our controller's office to our academic units."

The outputs of these collaborative teams are having a direct impact on the institution's bottom-line. Some of those outputs include:

- \$1.2 million in annual savings through participating in the Department of Education's Historically Black College and University Capital Financing Program;

- Overall expense reduction of more than \$6 million;

- A 320 percent annual increase in grants from federal and state government initiatives; and

- Realizing new revenue opportunities that include an increase in third-party commissions and its "Look for the Label" program which focuses on increasing licensing royalties.

"Grambling State University is experiencing a renaissance. Its vastly improved fiscal health is yet another indication of the effective leadership and hard work occurring at all levels of the institution," University of Louisiana System President Jim Henderson said. "From its enrollment numbers to its operations, it's exciting to see the rapid and significant advancement of this historic institution."

Ford, GM and Toyota Rank Highest on Automotive Diversity Scorecard

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire

Ford Motor Co., General Motors Co. and Toyota Motor North America ranked high on the Rainbow Push Coalition 2018 automotive diversity scorecard.

The annual ranking serves to hold automakers accountable and make minority representation in the automotive industry more than a trendy talking point, according to the organization, headed by the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

The scorecard reveals the findings from a survey completed by the top 12 automotive manufacturers and grades them in six different categories including employment, advertising, marketing, dealership, procurement and philanthropy.

The qualitative instrument is a color-coded system of red (least favorable), yellow, and green (most



COURTESY PHOTO

Ford, GM and Toyota each reflected "best practices" in ethnic diversity in employment, marketing and philanthropy.

favorable).

Rainbow Push released the rankings on Friday, Nov. 2 as part of the 19th Annual Rainbow PUSH/CEF Global Automotive Summit held in Detroit. Ford, GM and Toyota each reflected "best practices" in ethnic diversity in employment, marketing and philanthropy.

While lagging slightly behind Ford and Toyota's rankings for diversity in

advertising and procurement, GM demonstrated best practices for diversity among dealers, according to the scorecard.

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles ranked in the middle among 12 automakers. Volkswagen and BMW were at the bottom of the list for diversity across the company.

"We will continue our collective work with automakers that desire internal and external culture changes that embrace diversity. When we do that everyone wins," Jackson said.

While Ford and Toyota have done a lot to demonstrate best practices, GM has worked directly with the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) – the trade organization that represents 220 African American-owned newspapers and media companies around the country – to head a program that helps young

aspiring journalists.

The automaker and the NNPA provide HBCU students an exciting opportunity to "Discover the Unexpected" (DTU) about themselves, their communities and everyday people making a real difference in a fellowship program.

Each student receives a \$10,000 scholarship for an 8-week journalism journey focused on sharing inspirational stories in the African American community.

DTU Fellowship candidates are HBCU students with an interest in journalism who are up for a road trip driven by hands-on experience, exciting challenges and discovering inspirational stories from African American communities, according to officials at GM and the NNPA.

This year, using NNPA's professional resources and the all-new 2018 Chevrolet Equinox's innovative tech-

nology, DTU Fellows are sharing stories that shatter perceptions, jump-start their journalism careers and encourage all to Discover the Unexpected.

Each team of DTU Fellows travel to two cities to work with two different NNPA newspapers with the use of the all-new 2018 Chevrolet Equinox and its innovative technology.

During the Automotive Summit, Jackson also announced a new collaboration between Rainbow Push and Wayne County Community College to train students to work on the new technology automakers are preparing to deploy in the near future.

"It's not about grease anymore," Jackson said. "It's about high-tech."

The program, which Jackson did not offer many details on, would target 1,000 students through a specialized, two-year pro-

gram at the college. The curriculum would be designed by Silicon Valley-based African American technology professionals.

Jackson said details would be offered on the program in about a month.

Meanwhile, BMW's top leader in North America met this week with Jackson to discuss the German automaker's efforts to promote diversity in its ranks. However, the civil rights leader has encouraged people to stop buying BMWs until the company reveals more about current efforts to diversify its management.

Eleven percent of BMWs sold in the United States, Jackson said, are purchased by Black Americans. Five of 340 BMW dealerships nationwide are Black-owned, BMW confirmed.

"They once had 12 dealerships. They've gone backwards," Jackson said.

America's Water Infrastructure Act to Fund Up to \$35 Million Towards West Basin's Harbor South Bay Water Recycling Project

President Trump signs into law S. 3021, increasing funding and regional water reliability in Southern California

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

America's Water Infrastructure Act, the comprehensive infrastructure legislation passed by Congress in the fall and signed by the president on Oct. 23, will allow West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) to access an additional \$35 million in federal funding for its Harbor South Bay Water Recycling project.

This major federal water infrastructure package includes a specific provision to allow West Basin to pursue significant funding through the Army Corps of Engineers to upgrade and increase capacity at the Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility (ECLWRF) in El Segundo, Calif. S. 3021 includes provisions to double the original project authorization from \$35 million to \$70 million, which will assist West Basin in ensuring that an adequate

water supply for the Los Angeles region is met for current and future demands.

Since 1994, West Basin has partnered with the Army Corps of Engineers to expand the availability and use of recycled water throughout the South Bay region of Los Angeles. Once secured, this funding will allow West Basin to further expand a pipeline delivery system for recycled water, advance construction of treatment facilities and pump stations to ensure improvements to water quality, and expand capacity at the facility to further increase water supply reliability in Southern California.

"West Basin achieved the milestone of producing more than 200 billion gallons of recycled water this year," said Donald L. Dear, West Basin Board President. "With increased federal funding, we hope to celebrate additional growth milestones and pro-

vide even more recycled water to the region. This legislative achievement would not have been possible without the steadfast advocacy and support that West Basin received from its entire California Congressional delegation."

All of West Basin's Members of Congress wrote to the leadership of the key Congressional Committees of jurisdiction – the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee – strongly requesting that language be included in the comprehensive federal water measure to

increase the funding authorization amount for the Harbor South Bay water recycling initiative. Those Members of Congress instrumental in successfully including this critical provision in the legislation are: Sen. Dianne Feinstein; Sen. Kamala Harris; Rep. Ted Lieu; Rep. Maxine Waters; Rep. Nanette Diaz Barragan; Rep. Adam Schiff; Rep. Alan Lowenthal; Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard; and Rep. Karen Bass.

Recognition is also extended to Rep. Grace Napolitano, who serves as the Ranking Member to the House water subcommittee which played a key role in

advancing the bill, as she exerted influential support for the Harbor South Bay project funding request.

Originally, the \$35 million federal authorization for the ECLWRF was part of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992; and West Basin opened its water recycling facility in 1995. Today, West Basin is a longtime industry leader in the recycled water category.

The District's recycled water program operates across four facilities located in El Segundo, Carson and Torrance with more than 120 miles of recycled water pipelines. The District pro-

duces 40 million gallons of recycled water each day to more than 200 sites throughout its 185-square mile service area.

Recycled water contributes greatly to a diversified water portfolio. Through its regional use in West Basin's service area, recycled water increases water reliability by diversifying and augmenting local water supplies, which increases drought resiliency and decreases reliance on imported water. For more information about West Basin and the expansion of its water recycling efforts, please visit www.westbasin.org.

SCAQMD Approves \$90.7 Million Zero-Emission Truck Demonstration

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The South Coast Air Quality Management District approved one of its largest-ever technology demonstration projects, a \$90.7 million initiative to develop and deploy up to 23 battery-electric big-rig trucks as well as zero-emission off-road equipment, electric chargers and solar energy infrastructure.

"We are very pleased to be working with Volvo and their partners to help jumpstart the green truck revolution in the Southland," said Wayne Nastri, SCAQMD's executive officer. "Trucks are the No. 1 source of smog-forming emissions in our region and this program has the potential to help transform the goods movement system in our region to

zero-emissions."

The battery-electric trucks will be used to shuttle freight between the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and Southland warehouse facilities. Up to five demonstration sites will be used, currently proposed for Chino, Fontana, Ontario, La Mirada and Placentia.

In addition to the trucks, the program will develop and deploy:

- Up to 29 off-road battery-electric vehicles to load and unload containers at warehouses and freight facilities;
- Up to 58 rapid vehicle chargers; and
- Up to 1.9 megawatts of solar panels connected to the vehicle chargers.

The project, known as Volvo LIGHTS, follows a \$31.3 million project laun-

ched earlier this year with Daimler Trucks North America. That effort will develop and demonstrate 20 heavy-duty battery-electric trucks, seven of which will be deployed at the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles.

Daimler and Volvo are the first- and second-largest truck manufacturers in North America, respectively. Securing major commitments from the two leading truck manufacturers for zero-emission truck demonstrations and deployments is a crucial step to converting today's diesel truck fleet to zero- or near zero-emissions.

SCAQMD initiated the Volvo LIGHTS zero-emission truck project last summer when it applied for and secured a preliminary award of \$44.8 million

from the California Air Resources Board, funded by the state's Low Carbon Transportation Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

Volvo and its 16 partners will contribute \$41.7 million to the project. SCAQMD is committing \$4 million. In addition, the University of California, Riverside's College of Engineering - Center for Environmental Research and Technology will contribute \$200,000 to help fund vehicle testing and data collection during the project.

"Many disadvantaged and environmental justice communities are close to freeways, ports and railroads and are disproportionately impacted by diesel truck emissions," Nastri said. "This demonstration will help reduce diesel emissions in those communities."

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Made possible by a grant from the **BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION**

ESSA
Every Student Succeeds Act

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Chicago Twin Sisters Clear Hurdles to Become Top Doctors

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire

They are sisters – twins to be correct – and both are medical doctors and were born and raised in a town in Ohio called Twinsburg, a segregated, lower-income and primarily African American area.

Both say they've always been drawn to science and excelled academically which led to each being in Advanced Placement and Honors courses in school.

Frequently the only African Americans in their classrooms, the twins endured their share of racism. There's a pressure to perform and be on when you're the only person of color in a space, lest you inadvertently perpetuate stereotypes about your race to non-people of color, they said.

But, none of that pre-

NNPA: When you look at the numbers, the stats, obviously there are very few African American doctors and even fewer African American women doctors. Was that a factor in your decision to be a doctor?

Brittani: The fact that there are very few African American doctors wasn't a huge factor in my original decision to become a doctor. It is, however, something that both made the journey more challenging and ultimately more rewarding. It's hard to envision yourself as something you don't see. But as I got further into medicine, I realized that maybe I could be a visual reminder to someone who looks like me, that they can be anything. At least that's my hope.

Brandi: When I decided to become a doctor, I did think about the fact there are few African Americans in



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRANDI AND BRITTANI JACKSON

my sister by my side. We were each other's inspiration.

NNPA: What has been your biggest challenge in pursuing and then ultimately becoming a doctor?

Brittani: My biggest challenge came in the first few years of medical school. I had a very difficult transition. Brandi and I decided to go to different medical schools, in an experiment in a way, since we had always been with each other our entire lives. We wanted to learn who we were apart from each other. What I didn't realize how much support I was losing by being away from her. I struggled to adjust. I felt like an imposter in those days; like I wasn't smart or capable enough to be where I was. It took years to figure out that that was not true. It was a lie I believed for a long time about myself, until I realized that I was bringing something valuable and unique to medicine that isn't common. The academics actually came easier after that, and everything else fell into place.

Brandi: I think Brittani said it best. Those years that we were separated in medical school were really tough! I took a lot of train rides to visit Brittani during those years. I went through



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRANDI AND BRITTANI JACKSON

vented them from succeeding.

Both would go on to become elected as chief residents in their respective residency programs at the University of Illinois and today they are practicing physicians whose primary patients include many in underserved populations in Chicago – Brandi in the Department of Psychiatry and Brittani in the College of Medicine-Family Medicine.

In an effort to give back, the twins have co-founded Medlikeme.com, a resource for high school, pre-med and others to submit questions that will be answered by medical students, physicians and other professionals.

The website is scheduled to launch Nov. 5.

In a Q&A with NNPA Newswire, they spoke about their lives and profession.

NNPA: At what point did you decide you were going to be a doctor?

Brittani: I was not the kid that knew from an early age that I wanted to be a doctor. It was a slow realization. I do think the lack of societal images of Black doctors made it hard for me to visualize myself in that role. I've always loved science and found enjoyment helping others, but being a doctor wasn't something that honestly clicked as a viable option until the second half of college, after I saw a Black female doctor, in person, for the first time in my life.

Brandi: I also decided in college. I had the opportunity to study abroad in East Africa (my first time leaving the country!). As part of my program, I visited a hospital in Uganda. I remember that all of the doctors and the nurses looked like me. I was mesmerized as I watched them do their work. After that semester, I knew for sure that I wanted to be one of them. I had considered being a doctor long before that but being in a hospital full of Black doctors somehow made it feel more attainable.

the field. Knowing that didn't exactly motivate me. In fact, intimidated me. For much of my training, I felt like medicine was not meant for a person like me. It took years for me to feel like I was just as smart and capable as my classmates. Now, I know that I bring a unique perspective to medicine that the field desperately needs. When most people think of a doctor, they don't picture an African American woman. My sister and I



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRANDI AND BRITTANI JACKSON

want to change that.

NNPA: When did you realize or find out that your sister would also become a doctor?

Brittani: I had done a pre-med summer program in New York City, and I remember telling Brandi about it. It was through that program that I got my first taste of what it was like to be a doctor and I was hooked. I was in the OR and saw a beating human heart. That changes you. I started thinking about medicine seriously then and talked to Brandi about it. I told her about seeing a Black female doctor and how amazing that was. I started to believe I could do it and I think that rubbed off on her.

Brandi: It did rub off on me. By the time I studied abroad in Uganda during college, the seed had already been planted. Knowing that my sister and I would be going on the journey together made the decision much less nerve-racking. We were each other's biggest supporters throughout our journeys. I don't know if I would have had the courage to pursue medicine if I did not have

a similar "imposter syndrome" during medical school. I didn't realize how much I had internalized the belief that I was not "supposed" to be a doctor. Overcoming that false belief was the most important things I did in my life.

NNPA: How can academic institutions and even families help improve the number of Black doctors in the country? Why do you believe African Americans shy away from the medical profession?

Brittani: That's a big question with a complicated answer. One reason I think African Americans shy away from the medical profession is because they don't see representations growing up of Black physicians. Most of us do not have doctors in the family or have friends who are doctors.

On top of that, there are very few media representations of African Americans being doctors or holding other science-related careers. Again, it's hard to imagine yourself being something you don't see. So, I think those of us in

medicine who are African Americans do have a responsibility to be as visible when we can manage, as a means of showing the next generation what's possible.

There is also a very large barrier to entry to the medical field. It's a confusing thing to navigate if you do not have someone showing you the way. There's also the extreme financial burden it places on applicants. That financial burden hits the African American community to a disproportionate extent, as we are more likely than our peers to be from socioeconomically-disadvantaged backgrounds. There is institutional racism and sexism which are seamlessly built into our higher education and healthcare system to contend with as well. Those systems exert their damage in both overt and subtle ways over time. Those forces hurt you in material ways.

They undermine your confidence and hinder your ability to perform at your peak. With that in mind, a lot of us, especially African Americans, are starting off with additional barriers.

Brandi: As far as institutions go, I think too many operate under the premise that their work is done once they get a handful of African American or other minority students through their doors.

That shouldn't be the case. There are so many unique challenges that students of color face in higher education, that if institutions are serious about supporting diversity, they really have to be intentional about putting support systems in place. It's not just about getting African Americans through the door but helping them thrive in an environment that was not designed with them in mind, as higher education was not.

NNPA: What's your primary message to other Black women who might aspire to be a doctor?

Brittani: I want them to know that although the road is long, it is worth it. At the end of the day, on the other side of the struggle, there are real people who need someone like you in their corner, fighting the good fight alongside them. Medicine needs you. Your future patients need you. You got this!

Brandi: You are smart. You are powerful. And you belong in medicine. Quiet the voices (inside and outside) that tell you differently. Your future patients will benefit from the perspective you bring, and your unique

abilities, I got to the point where no negativity I encountered could keep me down for long. I just kept getting back up. When you have that attitude, I believe success is inevitable.

Brandi: Brittani put it beautifully, and I agree. I feel humbled by all that we have achieved. I'm looking forward to helping other achieve the same success.

NNPA: Can you describe MedLikeMe?

Brittani: MedLikeMe is a free online community dedicated to minorities and non-traditional students who are interested in pursuing a



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRANDI AND BRITTANI JACKSON

identity is your greatest asset. Remember that you are not alone.

NNPA: Which one of you are older and is there any pride being the older twin?

Brittani: I'm older (by two whole minutes!) and I like to think wiser as well! After all, I learned a lot about the world in those two minutes.

Brandi: Older does not necessarily mean wiser ... clearly.

NNPA: Are you at all surprised at yours and your sister's success?

Brittani: It's surreal to have made it through medical school and residency and to be a practicing physician. It has been my "impossible" dream for so long. I think before I always thought of doctors as these superhuman beings that were just unreachable. Now I know that we doctors struggle and make mistakes just like everyone else. We are painfully human.

On the other hand, I believe a lot of success is a mental game. A lot of my strength came from my family and other loved ones, who always lovingly reminded me who I was. They overwhelmed me with positivity and support whenever I stumbled on this journey. Over time, I came to believe in myself the way they did. Once I started truly believing in myself and my

career in medicine. In essence, we wanted to create the resource we wish we'd had when we were trying to figure out how to be doctors. High schoolers, pre-med and other pre-health students submit questions on the site, and real medical students, physicians and other professionals answer their questions. It is our attempt to bridge the gap between minorities and non-traditional students who are interested in medicine but don't know where to start and those who have lived it. We also hope to highlight and share the stories of practicing professionals who have overcome struggle to succeed so that those in the community can have a source of inspiration. It's definitely a work of passion.

Brandi: For us, it's not enough to say, "we made it". We want to help others do it too. It's our way of giving back for the hundreds of people who have helped us on our journey through medicine. We want to pay it forward. We're hoping to change the face of medicine, together.

For more information about their website, visit <http://beta.medlikeme.com/our-story/>. Additional information about the doctors can also be found at <http://www.uifightdepression.psych.uic.edu/psych.uic.edu>.

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Forgiving for Living



Are You Making Your Time Count?

This past week we went back to standard time by turning our clocks back an hour with the hope to make better use of time. In other words, having an extra hour of daylight should help us be more productive with our days. The real question is what are we doing with the time we are given no matter what? Twenty-four hours is the same whether there is light or darkness. Are we walking in the light or sleeping in the dark? Now is not the time for any of us to be "sleeping on the job" when there's much work to be done.

Just because the election is over does not mean our work is done. We must find the area(s) that speak to us and get involved. To make her time count during the last few weeks of the campaign season Oprah went to Georgia to support governor candidate Stacey Abrams. Oprah made it clear that she is a registered Independent and not a Democrat or Republican. She wants to have the freedom to vote her values and conscious and she challenged all of us to do the same verses following a party affiliation. Oprah supported Stacey Abrams not because she is a Democrat, or because she is a woman, or because she is an African American, but because she believes she will truly make a difference and make her time count. Stacey Abrams put in the time to show she cares and has demonstrated that she will make a dif-

ference no matter where or what she is doing.

There are so many issues that face us today. The list is exhaustive. Whether we talk about police officers killing



black and brown boys, government accountability, income and gender inequality, poverty, the #MeToo Movement, climate change, food security, education disparity, health care, anti-Semitism, the rise of white supremacy, or even black on black crime there are issues that need our attention and time. When we look at everything it can be overwhelming, so how do we do something and really make a difference? There is only so much time in a day and we have so much that we must do to take care of our families and personal responsibilities, but that still cannot be an excuse for why we are not doing our part. It is a simple choice we can make time to help remedy these problems.

How do we make our time count? We can start by volunteering our time and resources locally with an organization that addresses an issue that touches our heart. Sometimes we may feel powerless, but we all have the

power to make a difference. Abraham Lincoln said, "My dream is of a place and a time where America will once again be seen as the last best hope of earth." America

is in a difficult place, but it is not too late to turn things around not only for America, but to help make the world a better place for all mankind. Will you make a conscious choice to give your time, talent and resources to make a difference?

Whether we are in standard time or daylight savings time the choice is up to us how we will use our time. Will we make each second and minute count? If we don't it might cost us more than just our time to make this a better world today and for future generations. It's not too late to start and it is up to us. Personal balance is important, but we must also consider what is important for the greater good to our agenda and not just think about ourselves. Let's get started together today.

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Success On "The Way"



Ask Dr. Jeanette

'I Voted For TRU-X-X?!'



The interim election is past. Some people are happy. I decided to vote for Tru-X-X: [TRUTH]. We see adults walking around doing well; respectable careers, Daily work habits; that doesn't mean all is well with that person. "He/she was so nice. Are you sure it was that person? I have known him/her for years... lives right next door. I speak to him every morning! He/she is quiet; never bothers anybody." All statements are after thoughts of reflection when we hear that person is accused of some bad news. Good news is not readily broadcast. You're more likely to hear bad news than good. Wake up! Become more aware, informed and well versed. Parents can teach children about government; what has the elected official done or supposed to be doing? How well has the official performed in office. Sometimes you must go through trials before blessings. Think intelligently before spending

your vote next time. Ask questions about the officials' accomplishments while in office; research to learn the principles of the political party..what they stand for? Do I want a failed society where the government overarches everything and develop a "sense of entitlement?" Paying back all the student loans is good if the students can find jobs. Students may be given a very long period of time to repay. There is another side to it. Some students receive grants towards their tuition or pay less based on family income. That's good. Others must pay back thousands and thousands of dollars and may not have a job to pay back. Build up college funds. The government can't pay for everything. When that happens, money/taxes have to be collected from somewhere to pay all these expenses. Let's "shift" our thinking. [my view]. Examine situations. Think critically from different perspectives. Consider an-

other avenue. If it didn't work don't go round and round...Helloooo... Your actions teach others around you. If we want to improve our lives or we believe things could be better or should be better, change the conversation. Turn right! Stop following the crowds! Elevate your thinking! Once parents, husbands, wives, children discover there is something cooking in the brain, it's time to do something. Persevere! Don't give up! Review your life's agenda. Pray. Seek divine guidance and blessings. Posture yourself to receive gifts and blessings; may seem insurmountable; wait! It's not! Sometimes, one's first thought is "stop the behavior!" But, may not know how to do it. Perhaps, the only way to tackle the problems is understanding that person. How does that happen? Getting to know others is not always through words. Watch! Observe. I love people, parents. They come in all different sizes, shapes, careers, home life, skin color, backgrounds and cultures. Teach the children.

Dr. Jeanette Grattan Parker: Founder Superintendent: Author: Will You Marry Me? © Inquiring Minds Want To Know © all rights reserved. Today's Fresh Start Charter Schools 4514 Crenshaw BLVD, LA 90043 323-293-9826; www.today'sfreshstart.org Thanks for reading!

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Lakers Youth Foundation Impacts Lives with Gym Renovation in Skid Row

BY LAUREN A. JONES
Contributing Writer

The Los Angeles Lakers Youth Foundation celebrated the unveiling of the newly renovated gymnasium at the Union Rescue Mission with a youth health and fitness clinic attended by former Laker A.C. Green and the Laker Girls. The multipurpose gym in downtown Los Angeles' Skid Row is not only used for recreation. At night, the space is a homeless shelter for 150 mothers and their children.

"We're just minutes away from Staples Center and it really shows two opposite sides of the spectrum," started Kiesha Nix, executive director of the Lakers Youth Foundation. "You have fame and fortune in the Staples Center and then you have people literally living on the street here, so this is just a small way that we can impact the community."

The Union Rescue Mission is the largest private homeless shelter in the United States. Just outside its doors are sidewalks lined

with makeshift tents, carts filled with recycled bottles and people's personal belongings and other items used as improvised shelters.

"Imagine, sometimes you don't know where you're going to sleep, sometimes you don't know if you're going to have food the next day let alone food the next hour," stated Green, who currently holds the record for the most consecutive NBA games played. "The Union Rescue Mission has been able to answer some of those needs."

Green has been a "long-time friend of the Union Rescue Mission" according to Rev. Andy Bales, CEO of URM. For 20 years, Green has taken kids from the mission to participate in his free annual summer basketball camp.

Dayton Rhodes, an eleventh grader at Cesar Chavez Learning Academies, was one of the participants in the clinic.

"It's pretty cool, I've never really met a Laker before," stated Rhodes, a 16-year-old multi-sport athlete. "[A.C.] was a nice dude, teaching us about a lot



PHOTO BY LAUREN A. JONES/L.A. SENTINEL
Union Rescue Mission Athletic Director Ken Taylor, Executive Director of the Lakers Youth Foundation Keshia Nix, CEO of the Union Rescue Mission, Laker alumnus A.C. Green, and children participating in the Lakers Youth Foundation court dedication, health and fitness clinic pose for a photo in downtown Los Angeles on Saturday, Nov. 3.

and telling us just don't give up."

URM is the one of the few rescue missions in Los Angeles that welcomes families. The children who participated in the health and fitness clinic and basketball drills were residents of the mission and from the Hope Gardens Family Center in Sylmar.

"You can see the impact on the kids," Bales said. "They're having the time of their lives during the tough-

est time perhaps in their life and it makes all the difference in the world. Just a little bit of hope can go a long way and we really are thankful for the Lakers for making that happen."

Elijah Walker, a tenth grader at Santa Monica High School, recalled watching old games with Green and Magic Johnson sharing the court.

"It just means a lot to see him come out here to the gym, that the Lakers actual-

ly care about the community and that they're willing to help out," Walker remarked.

Following the ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the renovated gym, children participated in the health and fitness clinic with instruction from Lakers' trainers. The gym received a full facelift from new floors and lights, to a fresh paint job. It was a three-year project that required hard work and patience.

"It was one of the first

projects that I was given when I started over three years ago," Nix remembered. "When I walked in here, [there were] almost unlivable conditions."

Of the 40 plus gymnasiums that the Lakers Foundation has restored since 1992, this was the first one that is also a homeless shelter.

Skid Row has a growing community of displaced families and individuals who are experiencing homelessness. Family homelessness has increased 111 percent since last year on Skid Row Bales shared.

"We have such an influx of families that are experiencing homelessness, we've had to make space for them to stay here," commented Ken Taylor, Union Rescue Mission's athletic director.

The alignment of the work that both the Union Rescue Mission is doing and that the Lakers Foundation continues to do by impacting underserved youth through education, health and wellness, and basketball.

"This is just a small step, but it's not the last step," Nix concluded.

Curatorial Walkthrough of 'Los Angeles Freedom Rally, 1963' Exhibition

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

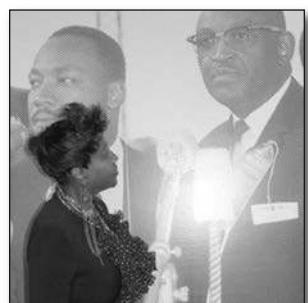
The Curator Walkthrough Exhibit at the California African American Museum was a successful well attended event on Fri., Nov. 2, 2018 The Curators Tyree A. Boyd-Pates and Taylor Bythewood-Porter explored how Los Angeles was a key destination for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s organizing during the

Civil Rights Era. #BlackHistoryNow. One of the attendees is the daughter of Dr. C. Albert Henson, an instrumentalist in organizing the Los Angeles Freedom Rally 1963. "The Los Angeles Freedom Rally 1963," was put together to go against, racial profiling, police brutality, social injustice, hate crimes and enforce voter registration and voting. The Curator



CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM
(L-R) Taylor Bythewood-Porter, Asst. CAAM Curator; Tyree A. Boyd-Pates, CAAM Curator

Tyree A. Boyd-Pates shared with the attendees that On May 26, 1963, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. addressed nearly 40,000 people at Wrigley Field in South Los Angeles. Coined the "Los Angeles Freedom Rally," it was one of the largest civil rights rallies in the country, predating the famous 1963 March on Washington by three months. caamuseum.org.



CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM
Helen Henson's father in photo with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., for Los Angeles Freedom Rally 1963.

KIPP Scholar Academy Hosts Annual Fall Festival

In partnership with Fly Kicks For Kids and Thank My Barber



COURTESY PHOTO
From left-to-right: Deral Boykin, former NFL football player for the Los Angeles Rams and the co-founder of Fly Kicks For Kids; Tiffany Moore, founding principal of KIPP Scholar Academy; and Major Williams, Fly Kicks For Kids co-founder.

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

KIPP Scholar Academy in South L.A. – in partnership with Fly Kicks For Kids and Thank My Barber – hosted a fall festival on Friday, November 2, 2018 for middle school students. This is the fifth consecutive year that KIPP Scholar Academy hosted a festival of this kind, with the number of attendees increasing each year.

Students, instructors and volunteers gathered directly outside the school in the recreation area, with more than 300 people in attendance. In addition to engaging in a variety of games and other activities, students had the opportunity to get free haircuts from professional barbers through Thank My Barber, and 25 students from each grade level who best demonstrated KIPP Scholar's values and exhibited excellent behavior

throughout the school year received a brand-new pair of K-Swiss sneakers through a donation made by Fly Kicks For Kids.

Students also had the opportunity to interact with former NFL football player for the Los Angeles Rams, Deral Boykin throughout the event. "When I was growing up, the love and support I received from my family, teachers, coaches, and community-based organizations similar to Fly Kicks For Kids had a profound impact on me," said Boykin, the co-founder of Fly Kicks For Kids. "I want young people today to know they can achieve anything they set their mind to and can overcome any obstacle if they surround themselves with the right kind of support."

Major Williams, Fly Kicks For Kids co-founder added, "One of my highlights is actually seeing the

smiles on the kids' faces. It takes me back to when I was a kid and I got a fresh pair of kicks or a fresh new haircut and I felt so magical and like I could do anything and conquer the world. And so, to see other kids have that same expression and feeling gives me even more ammunition to keep doing what I'm doing and lets me know I'm doing the right thing. One of the main reasons I'm doing this is because I'm paying it forward – I had mentors in my life, so knowing that they gave me so much and knowing that I can partner with a great partner like Deral and pool our resources together made sense to do something for the kids now."

Fly Kicks For Kids is a nonprofit dedicated to empowering and creating opportunities for youth. They have given away more than 500 pairs of shoes this year, with a goal of donating 1,000 pairs of shoes by the end of the year.

"We always value opportunities to partner with community-based organizations to create positive experiences for our students. The Fall Festival is a moment where we all come together as a school community to have fun, support our arts program, build students' confidence, and deepen relationships with our South L.A. neighbors,"

said Tiffany Moore, founding principal of KIPP Scholar Academy.


The event was well received by students. "It makes me feel good that our

school has a fall festival because they are representing us," said Elijah, an eighth-grade student at KIPP Scholar Academy.

He was excited to wear

his limited-edition blue Air Jordan 1's and received these shoes because he "earned the most scholar dollars by being a good example and role model."

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ComplexCon 2018 Fuses Sneaker Culture, Music, Art and Fashion



Artist duo Friends With You pose with ComplexCon co-chair Pharrell Williams at the Popsockets booth for ComplexCon 2018.



ComplexCon in its third year attracted tens of thousands of people for a weekend of exclusive sneaker releases, panel discussions with influencers, retail pop-up shops and musical performances.

By LAUREN A. JONES
Contributing Writer

The third annual ComplexCon brought together tens of thousands of people to Long Beach, Calif. for a weekend of retail pop-up shops with exclusive sneaker releases, in-depth moderated conversations, and musical performances.

"There is chaos in the world right now but also an incredible movement of young people rising up to create something better and from that energy new ideas and movements are forming ripples through everything in culture, it was important to embrace this at ComplexCon this year," said Takashi Murakami.

The two-day festival and exhibition returned Pharrell Williams and Takashi Murakami as host committee co-chairs. Influencers and celebrities like DJ Mustard, Trinidad James,

and Clippers rookie Shai Gilgeous-Alexander graced the exhibit floor while ComplexCon(versations) featured guest appearances from icons like NBA legend Allen Iverson.

On day one, Iverson surprised the audience at the "Crossed Over: Jordan vs. Iverson" ComplexCon(versation) moderation by Jemele Hill. Jerry Lorenzo, Kerby Jean-Raymond, Pierce Simpson and Victor Cruz discussed the implications of Michael Jordan as opposed to Iverson from a basketball, fashion and cultural perspective.

"MJ was put on a pedestal for us," Cruz said. "AI felt like he was from the hood. He influences the way I wanted to be on and off the court. It was the differences that made me in love with basketball more, the baggy tees and pants."

"MJ was seen as a much

more inspirational perfect figure," Simpson added. "AI was rugged, he wasn't filtered."

Back in the exhibit hall, festival goers followed Williams to different booths as he made his round stopping at urban streetwear brand Billionaire Boys Club and Popsockets, which had a bounce house installation.

The festival was the epicenter of high-profile collaborations. Diamonds Supply Co. founder Nicky Diamonds partnered with 1800 Tequila and New York based artist Adam Lucas to design a limited amount of denim jackets. People who were fortunate enough to get a winning scratcher could choose from patches designed by Lucas and have their names embroidered on their one-of-a-kind denim jacket.

"Collaborations are great obviously, because you're bringing different

worlds together, especially this one with Adam, he's an artist and his art is amazing, but his fans might not be Diamond [Supply Co.] fans if they aren't skateboarders so it's cool that we can bring our Diamond fan base to him, and vice versa, and same with 1800 Tequila," Diamonds told the L.A. Sentinel. The highly sought after designer also had a collaboration with Nike to produce a limited edition 20th anniversary Nike SB shoe.

"Who wouldn't want to collaborate the biggest shoe company," asked Diamonds.

Nike and many of the other major shoe brands attracted the longest lines. For those who drew weary of the lines, attendees could enjoy musical performances from artists like Vince Staples, Nav, and Rae Sremmurd at the Pigeons and Planes Arena stage

throughout the day.

The second day featured more tastemakers with one of the most popular ComplexCon(versations), "Women Behind the Lens" panel that featured an all-star cast including HBO "Insecure" creator and actress Issa Rae; Showtime's "The Chi" writer and producer Lena Waithe; "Grown-ish" star Yara Shahidi; music video director Karena Evans; and Complex's "Everday" Struggle" co-host and producer Nadeska Alexis.

Waithe enlightened the crowd explaining her breakthrough moments.

"People think that breakthrough moments have to be public, but it doesn't," Waithe remarked. "For me, it came when I trusted my voice."

"There was no guide book on the [career] path that I wanted," Rae added. "People hadn't taken steps

the same way I envisioned. A lot of my mentorship has come from my friends, hitting up my friends from high school and college. I've had the community that I leaned on and leaned on me."

As the day wore on, attendees filled the Pigeons and Planes Arena to watch Future wrap up the eventful weekend. He performed a litany of his hit songs like "Real Sisters," "Jumpin," "Wicked" and "Blase." Future brought out Memphis rapper Moneybagg Yo to blaze the stage with his hit single "Okay" featuring Future.

With so many celebrity appearances, collaborations, and performances ComplexCon the curated convention lived up to its theme as the millennial generation's world fair.

BANKING ON YOUR SUCCESS PROGRAM - ENTREPRENEUR'S FAST PITCH TO BANKS

CORCDC's Banking on Your Success Wraps up Their First and Second Cohorts

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

"We are PROUD to have included such a talented group of instructors and guest presenters. Moreover, we are humbled by your support, impact, resources and access to micro/small business initiatives. We are wrapping up our cohort#2 and preparing for the students from both cohorts to engage in a "Fast-Pitch." This is where the "rubber meets the road" says Dr. Thyonne Gordon, CEO, of "Beyond Story", class facilitator, author of the story accelerator platform, CORCDC's. She was excited for the newest cohort's success, she said - "The culmination of the Banking on Your Success Program was our "Pitch-Fest", I couldn't have been more, proud of these new business owners using everything they learned in five weeks to represent stellar business opportunities, everyone's a winner!" We will share financial literacy that introduces their bank products, and our small business development workshops and include participating corporate representative and one of your successful business entrepreneurs to share insights to their sustainability. There is a high demand for our small businesses to become successful by be-



Final winners

ing "bank qualified and loan-ready" and for individuals to qualify. There's a need for more small businesses to be sustainable and grow," says the Managing Director, Carolyn Trader, creator of COR-CDC's "Banking on Your Success Program" (BYSP), under the leadership of Rev. Mark Whitlock Jr. Instructors accomplish this objective by connecting with our bank partners, develop course curriculum and engage our banks we include "low-to-moderate" income communities and provide them with contemporary and relevant tools for their success in business.

Classes were hosted by Robert Brown, CEO, University of West Los Angeles, Inglewood, CA. Student learned from experts on (marketing, sales, legal, finance, licensing, bank programs and more). BYSP supporting financial partners have special financial programs targeted for this specific initiative

with (COR-CDC). The two sessions resulted in three finalists winning the "Fast-Pitch" presentation. Winners: 1st place: Tanisha Hall, Owner-CEO "Merchant's Daughter, Kathy Alson, "Kathy's Kitchen" and third, Tamara Hall, President, owner: "Just A Word Ministries". "I was delighted to observe the preparation and passion of the BYSP business presenters-judging was a real pleasure!" said Mia Whitlock, J.D., C.O.O. COR CDC. Next, the entrepreneurs receive, private coaching from bank representatives and COR CDC partner, Lendistry. BYSP kicked off in March 2018, with a special collaboration and endorsement by U.S. Dept of Treasury: Comptroller of the Currency, Joseph Otting. Banking on Your Success is supported by fourteen different bank partners, who advocate for increase in small business preparation and access to various lending products.

Escuela Plus Explores Ghana!



COURTESY PHOTO

"At Escuela's Harvest Festival on Halloween, Escuela parent Tiffany Moore shares her excitement with Escuela teachers, Sharon Kim and Dhaujee Kelly, regarding the school's Spring trip to Ghana with her son Darrell. (Standing far left) Tiffany Moore, (center) Sharon Kim, (far right) Dhaujee Kelly, (front left) Darrell Moore, and (front right) Phoenix Miguda-Armstead. There will be over 20 travelers on this life-altering excursion."

Escuela Plus, an excellent preparatory private school located in Baldwin Hills, is headed to Ghana! The thriving school was founded by Dr. Sandra Roussell, who laid the successful foundation for Escuela de Motessori and Escuela Elementary Center for 30 years. Escuela Plus is a spin off of those

schools, where its main purpose remains to create the Renaissance child.

Escuela Plus is known for its outstanding curriculum and its engagement in current affairs, such as local and international travel. Every spring, Escuela students go on an international trip for an exciting educational adventure. At

Escuela, they feel that it is exceedingly critical for their students to see the fascinating cultures that are all around the world. They have seen their students become wiser with each travel, as they understand the importance of breaking down barriers and accepting diversity.

Ghana is being visited this year, in that Escuela students are predominantly African American. Dr. Roussell feels that it is extremely important for the children to understand their heritage. She also feels that it is important for them to appreciate the struggle of their ancestors and to gain genuine appreciation for those struggles. In the past, Escuela's families and students have traveled to Paris, Barcelona, Cuba, and China. Their goal is to implant a life-long curiosity and motivation in their children to learn about other cultures. The core of Escuela's mission is based on the belief that a strong academic foundation, a well built self-esteem, critical thinking skills, and diversity acceptance are the key ingredients for creating the leaders of tomorrow.

Escuela Plus maintains year round enrollment. Tours may be scheduled at your convenience. They are given weekly. For more information, please visit the school's website at www.escuelapluselementary.com, or follow their Instagram account at escuelaopluselementary.



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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2018

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C-1

Student Athlete of the Week: Dericka Braden

By AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Writer

Sophomore track and field runner Dericka Braden is eager to compete this season. To prepare for track season, Braden competes with the Cal State Los Angeles Cross Country team. She mentioned how cross country has made her stronger.

"Cross country, at first it's tough to become accustomed to running for so long and learning how to pace yourself," Braden said. "In cross country, you have to dial back a little bit so you can last the whole workout."

A proud moment for Braden was when she qualified for the women's indoor track squad last season. Cal State L.A. sprinters vie for a spot through what is called the Challenge Relays where sprinters are split into

groups and run the 400m. The women with the top six times make the indoor team.

"Being able to make it to the indoor team was probably a really big moment for me," she said.

An injury would sideline Braden for her freshman track and field season.

"I pulled both my hamstrings," Braden said. "The season was mostly about getting over my injury, getting back healthy so that this year will be way better."

Braden noticed her own speed while playing soccer during her childhood years. She then wanted to give track a chance.

"I was faster than a lot of people on the soccer team," Braden said. "I would be able to run longer than them in our test."

As a high school student, she prioritized running



COURTESY OF CAL STATE L.A.

Sophomore Dericka Braden is a biology major at Cal State Los Angeles.

track and helped the Peachtree Ridge high school track team win three consecutive regional championships.

Currently, Braden's favorite

class is her Pan-African studies class, she noted how she learned a lot of new facts about her own race.

"I really like it because I thought I knew about

African American history," Braden said. "Everyday us like going into depth about something that I didn't know about."

Braden is a biology major with the hopes of becoming an allergist. In high school, Braden wanted to become an emergency room doctor.

"I'm allergic to all citrus products," Braden said. "I would love to help people that are like me, have allergies just like me."

Along with track and academics, Braden is a member of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

"We help out a lot of the games and we promote a lot of the athletic events," she said. "We promote a lot of stuff about NCAA and about sports in general."

Braden noted how re-

maining focused is key to keep balancing all of her obligations, it also helps to develop a plan to attack your studies.

"I feel like it's not that hard if you just really concentrate," she said. "I'll go to the library and I'll make the sacrifice from going home and getting in the bed and being tempted."

Braden wants all aspiring runners to know that there will always be ups and downs in track and field.

"Trust your training, be patient," she said. "Track is just physically and mentally tough on one person so you just have to be really dedicated and you have to be willing to put in extra."

Do you know an athlete on honor roll who is a leader at their school? Email amanda@lasentinel.net to nominate your student.

Compton Centennial Football Returns With a Revamped Program

By AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Writer

Centennial High School in Compton, has rebuilt their football program with the hope to cultivate athletes and scholars.

"I know from the academic stand point with [principal] Dr. Harris really turning around the perception of Centennial high school academically," said Centennial Apaches football head coach Adam Leonard. "We're trying to do it athletically."

Leonard just finished his second season as head coach of the Apaches. Last season, the football team struggled to get enough players to compete. This season touted 43 players

on the roster.

Along with having a competitive edge on the field, Leonard wants to make sure his players are academically competent. Being a math teacher at Centennial, he noticed how many students are in need of assistance in the subject.

"I'm definitely instilling study hall," Leonard said. "We're in the process of getting through different programs, trying to get access to tutors to come here."

Among the team are players who are excelling in their studies. Senior running back Charles Windom has a 3.5 GPA and is taking honors pre-calculus, junior defensive end Frank

Caballero has a 4.0 and is taking AP English and U.S. History. A goal the Leonard has is for the team to have a 3.0 average.

"I feel like the coaches and the players have bought in on the new wave or new program," Windom said.

Competing in his first football game is one of Caballero's fondest memories.

"That's always a memorable moment for me," he said. "My first time starting, I really liked that time."

A major lesson Leonard tells the team is to focus on their attitude, actions and effort. Another piece of wisdom he tells the team is to attack the problem not the person



AMANDA SCURLOCK/LA SENTINEL

The Compton Centennial Football team.

when it comes to conflict.

Prior to his coaching career, Leonard was a stand-out linebacker at the university of Hawai'i. He earned all-conference hon-

ors for three consecutive years. As a senior, he came in second on the team with 81 tackles. Leonard also has experience in the NFL and CFL.

"Being able to play professionally, that opens kid's ears," he said. "But to really get them to buy in is just showing up everyday ready to work."

L AFC Battle Real Salt Lake for Semi-Final Spot but Falter in Closing Stages

By Alan Braxton
Staff Writer

If there was ever a season defining match for a club, it would be the one played between LAFC and Real Salt Lake this past Thursday Nov. 1.

Due to inability of LAFC to close out their previous match against Sporting Kansas City, in which a win or a draw would have seen them finish atop their group and bypass the need for a wildcard type game, the team had to play in an elimination match. A match which did not go their way. The ideal result evaded the Black and Gold as they fell to a 10-man Sporting Kansas City, forcing the team to play a must-win game against Real Salt Lake, a team who fell into a bit of luck themselves.

Real Salt Lake were the beneficiaries of a complete defensive meltdown on the part of LAFC's neighbor the LA Galaxy. The Galaxy were up 2-0 at halftime against the Houston Dynamo in their must-win match to have a chance at the playoffs. Houston however, had other ideas, com-

ing back to score 3 unanswered goals, ending the Galaxy's 2018 playoff ambitions. With Houston, already a statistical outlier and playoff concern, Real Salt Lake swooped into position to take on LAFC instead of the Galaxy.

In many ways, this was the perfect setup for LAFC. To face a team in RSL that was lucky to even be there and a team they had fared better against compared to the Galaxy. One oversight and one thing not taken into account was the fact that Real Salt Lake had nothing to lose and LAFC everything to lose. Real Salt Lake had zero pressure on their shoulders as the odd ones out and played to that narrative in stride. LAFC had everything to lose and it appeared as such as the pressure looked too much to bare.

Real Salt Lake struck first in the 21st minute when Damir Kreilach chested a ball down and struck a nice shot on the half volley past a diving Tyler Miller to put RSL up 1-0.

LAFC responded 10 minutes later on a free kick,



PHOTO BY ROBERT TORRENCE

The frustration was mounting for LAFC forward Adama Diomande, who struggled to find his form since coming back from a long injury stint.

which saw Danilo Silva head a ball from Carlos Vela to tie the game at 1-1.

Both teams went into halftime tied 1-1 and it was obvious some changes needed to be made, the obvious one being substituting Christian Ramirez for Adama Diomande (who had trouble getting back into form since his injury).

The substitution worked like magic, because in the 54th minute, Ramirez found some space at the top of Real Salt Lake's box and launched a perfectly placed shot into the top left corner to put LAFC up 2-1.

The elation of the lead was short-lived for LAFC however. Just four minutes later in the 58th, RSL midfielder Damir Kreilach had something of his own to say that night, when a poor defensive clearance floated into his path, he took the crane position and karate kicked a goal placed to perfection, bouncing off the post and in behind Tyler Miller to tie the game at two apiece.

It all came crumbling down for LAF in the 69th minute, when a shot deflected off Walker Zimmerman and into his own

goal, giving Real Salt Lake the lead.

For the rest of regulation. LAFC were relentless, incessantly trying to corrode RSL's defense and find the equalizer, but it never came. Chance after chance could not be finished and the tension in the stadium grew to a painful back into form since his whistle to conclude the match.

The match was hard fought by both sides, but ultimately the match served as a microcosm of LAFC's groundbreaking first season as a whole, with exciting elements of play that fans and casual stadium goers observed throughout the season. An electric offense and flowing midfield, marred by defensive insecurities, LAFC is a fun team to watch, but a hard team to watch at times. If they can fix some of their defensive qualms, LAFC is a team that will be a harrowing opponent for years to come.

LAFC should be proud for all they accomplished this year, but there is much more to follow for the league newcomers.

Lakers' Magic Johnson Assures Coach Luke Walton's Job Secure After Fiery Meeting



Lakers head coach Luke Walton

BY LAUREN A. JONES
Contributing Writer

With the Lakers off to a 2-5 start on the season, team president Magic Johnson reportedly had an "aggressive meeting" with head coach Luke Walton following the team's 0-2 road trip according to ESPN.

"I feel like I'm coming down here to do my job and coach," Walton said to reporters following the Lakers' Friday practice. "And I

don't feel like I'm going anywhere, no."

The ESPN report states that Johnson's meeting "circulated to individuals throughout the organization, including to principal owner Jeanie Buss."

Walton has pleaded for the front office, his players and fans to be patient and to trust the process. He has emphasized on multiple occasions the setbacks the team has endured, most prominently the league sus-

pensions of two starters, forward Brandon Ingram and guard Rajon Rondo.

This substantially affected the roster in addition to the restricted minutes played by guard Lonzo Ball to start the season due to injury. All of which has contributed to the team's slow start due to an inability to get into rhythm and build chemistry between the band of new teammates.

Though Johnson was quoted back in September as stating there is no real concern if the team gets out to a slow start, it seems his tone has changed with each of the Lakers' losses particularly those with single digit margins and where the games were lost in the last few minutes of play.

Much of the criticism of Walton has come from his lineup choices. The Lakers have employed the second highest lineup changes with

93 behind only the Atlanta Hawks per ESPN Stats & Information.

"Every time we go on a losing streak, there's going to be stories out there and distractions out there," Walton uttered. "We talked about that before the season even started...It's our choice to either hang onto those or stay present and focus our energy and time on what we can do to get better."

With the 3-5 start, the Lakers are off to the worst start for a team with James on the roster since his rookie season with the Cavaliers.

"If you are doing the same things over and over and over, and expecting the same result, then that's insanity," James commented after the Lakers suffered their second loss on the road at Minnesota during their two-game road skid. "You probably don't want to be around when my patience

runs out. I'm serious."

James' complicated history with former coaches like Erik Spoelstra in Miami and David Blatt, when he was in Cleveland, has created a reputation for James as a "coach killer." However, as to Walton, James has yet to express discontentment about the Lakers' coaching.

Walton seemingly still has the support of James and controlling owner Jeanie Buss on his side. He characterized his relationship with the front office as a great one and downplayed the meeting with Johnson as a part of their regular routine.

"I will tell you this, that Magic, myself, Jeanie, we are in constant communication, so this is no new, like all of the sudden there is some emergency meeting," Walton told reporters.

When the Lakers signed three-time NBA champion James to the roster along

with a host of decorated veterans who joined the pre-existing young core, the team expected that there would need to be a grace period.

Just ahead of the Lakers loss against the Raptors, Johnson confirmed head coach Luke Walton's job was safe according to L.A. Times' Bill Plaschke, Brad Turner, and Tania Ganguli. "[Luke] is going to finish the season, unless something drastic happens, which it won't," Johnson told the L.A. Times.

The team hired Walton to a five-year, \$25 million to \$30 million contract under the tutelage of Buss's brother, Jim, and former Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak.

Eyes will be lasered in on Walton and Johnson over the course of the season, but for now the third year coach can exhale.

IN MEMORIAM: Baseball Great Willie McCovey Dies at 80

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire

Former San Francisco Giant slugger and one of Major League Baseball's all-time greatest players, Willie McCovey, has died at the age of 80.

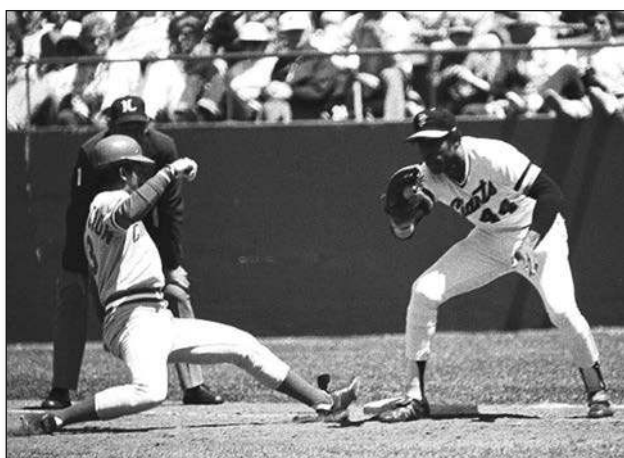
Nicknamed "Mac," and "Stretch," McCovey played 22 seasons — mostly with the Giants but split time with the Oakland A's and San Diego Padres — and produced 521 home runs while driving in 1,555 runs.

He earned three National League Most Valuable Player Awards and six All-Star Game honors. McCovey earned induction to the

Baseball Hall of Fame in 1986 and the Giants built a statue in his honor outside of their stadium by the Bay in San Francisco.

"San Francisco and the entire baseball community lost a true gentleman and legend, and our collective hearts are broken," Giants CEO Larry Baer said in statement announcing the loss of the all-time greats. "Willie was a beloved figure throughout his playing days and in retirement. He will be deeply missed by the many people he touched," he said.

Baer continued: "For more than six decades, he gave his heart and soul to the Giants — as



Willie McCovey attempts to tag Cincinnati Reds' shortstop Dave Concepcion out at first base.

one of the greatest players of all time, as a quiet leader in the clubhouse, as a mentor to the Giants who followed in his footsteps, as

an inspiration to our Junior Giants, and as a fan cheering on the team from his booth.

"Willie's greatest pas-

sion was his family and our thoughts and prayers are with his beloved wife, Estella, and his daughter, Allison, and her children Raven, Philip, and Marissa."

As noted by MLB Trade Rumors, McCovey's name has become synonymous not only with the San Francisco Giants — who retired his No. 44 and named right field's "McCovey Cove" at AT&T Park in his honor — but with baseball greatness.

McCovey's overall statistics include a slash line of .270/.374/.515 with 521 home runs, 353 doubles, 46 triples, 1229 runs scored and 1555 runs bat-

ted in. In addition to spending 19 seasons with the Giants, McCovey played three seasons with the Padres and also spent part of the 1976 season with the Athletics.

He played with other legends like Willie Mays and Bobby Bonds and against greats like Roberto Clemente and Bob Gibson.

"He really is Giants royalty. You see the statue out behind the cove, you hear about the Willie Mac Award," Baer said. "You think of him as a gentle giant. He was just big and imposing and he was feared as a hitter and soft and cuddly and warm as a person."

Cavs Sign Drew to New Coaching Contract for Rest of Season

BY TOM WITHERS
AP Sports Writer

Larry Drew's awkward impasse with the Cleveland Cavaliers is over.

The team relented to Drew's requests by restructuring his contract and signing him to be their coach for the remainder of this season — and perhaps beyond.

Drew and his agent, Andy Miller, had been negotiating since the Cavs' top assistant asked for security and guarantees if he was going to become the rebuilding team's interim coach and replace Tyronn Lue, who was fired on Oct. 28 following a 0-6 start. Drew wanted a pay raise to finish out the season and got one.

Drew's new deal includes a team option for the 2019-20 season. If the Cavs chose not to retain him, Drew will receive a buyout payment.

"So now there's clarity," Drew said Monday night before the Cavs played in Orlando. "There's just no gray area, and because there's no gray area and me and my staff can just roll our sleeves up put all into helping this team be successful."

Drew said he did not talk to the team about anything beyond this season.

"The discussion we had was about moving forward with what we have and what we want to accomplish," he said. "We want to do everything to put (rookie guard) Collin (Sexton) in a position to be successful. We're going to try and move forward and keep this team competitive."

"I embrace the chal-



AP PHOTO/TONY DEJAK, FILE

In this Nov. 1, 2018, file photo, Cleveland Cavaliers acting coach Larry Drew gives instructions to players during the first half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Denver Nuggets in Cleveland. The Cavaliers signed assistant Drew to a new contract so he can be their coach for the rest of this season.

lenge. My staff embraces the challenge."

The Cavs have gone 1-2 under Drew, who didn't want to proceed this season without assurances from the organization. Drew promised to remain professional and do his job during the talks, and the 60-year-old kept his word.

After ruling the Eastern Conference the past four seasons with LeBron James, Cleveland is going through a difficult transition without the three-time champion.

And beyond the team's rough start, the Cavs are also trying to cope minus All-Star forward Kevin Love, who may be out two months or more following foot surgery last week.

If that wasn't enough, the Cavs have also been dealing with guard J.R. Smith wanting to be traded, Sexton struggling and former assistant Jim Boylan filing an age discrimination lawsuit against the team.

Drew is pleased to have his situation resolved.

"Obviously we're a dif-

ferent team because of what has transpired within the past 12 months, and then coming into the season, having to lose Kevin Love," he said. "We've got to ask more of our players with Kevin being out, that's the reality, and we're prepared to do that."

"Now that this is behind us, we can really lock in and focus, and try to continue to teach and get this team moving."

General manager Koby Altman is also looking forward to Drew developing a team that entered the season believing it could still compete for the playoffs.

"We are pleased to have reached this agreement with coach Drew to continue leading the team on the court," Altman said. "He brings important experience and many qualities that we expect to translate well with our team as the head coach. We're looking forward to the ways he can impact the team and help our players continue to grow and find success."

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C-3

David and Tamela Mann Promote Love and Marriage

New book and album highlight ups-and-downs behind the couple's 30-year relationship

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Staff Writer

With three decades of marriage under their belt, award-winning entertainers David and Tamela Mann have learned quite a bit about making a relationship work.

Most people know the couple from their frequent appearances as Cora and Mr. Brown in several Tyler Perry productions on stage and TV. Their talents have also been acknowledged with an NAACP Image Award for David and Grammy, Stellar and BET Awards for Tamela.

But successfully managing marriage, family and careers takes a lot of effort, which the Manns detail in their tour, book and album entitled, "Us Against the World." Through these mediums, they share insight about love and family as well as tips for married couples to remain in love with each other.

"The Mann Family Tour" wraps up on Nov. 11, and features the talented duo along with their children performing comedy, songs and skits, all advocating for love and keep-

ing marriages and families together.

The book, set for release on Nov. 13, further promotes that message by tracing the fun, drama and challenges that David and Tamela have encountered and overcome during their union. David said the goal is to strengthen marriages and help couples focus on ways to stay together instead of parting when bumps arise in a relationship.

Through the memoir, "Us Against the World: Our Secrets to Love, Marriage and Family," David said, "We take everybody on a journey of 30 years with the Manns. We take you on our ups and we take you on our downs. Also, while writ-

ing the book, we had to go back and revisit some things, issues, problems and situations we thought we had resolved."

Agreeing with David, Tamela said, "There's some skeletons that we talk about, but yet being transparent. We want to encourage families to give hope and inspiration that they can stay together and not give up on each other."

David added that the book

also includes prayers for different situations and discusses love, laughter, finances and romance or "keeping the fire alive" in relationships as well. The couple also talks about renewing marriage vows along with recounting some of their biggest arguments in their marriage.

Blended families is another topic the book

touches on as David and Tamela recall a rough spot after meeting the child he was previously unaware of, but had fathered before they were married. "That's where the book title came from, after getting that knock at the door about my child. I thought, 'I'm not going to be able to do this.'"

"I wasn't sure where I fitted in either and I didn't want to deal with baby-mama drama" said Tamela. "But, he (David) explained that it was us against the world."

"I explained that she was my first priority and it's us against anything tearing us, the marriage or family structure apart," David said.

As for the album, which drops on Nov. 9, David admitted he was "intimidated about singing with Tamela," but was quite pleased by the results. "Us Against the World: The Love Project" consists of 10 songs with six duets by the couple.

"Ever since being part of Kirk Franklin's The Family, fans have been asking us to do an al-

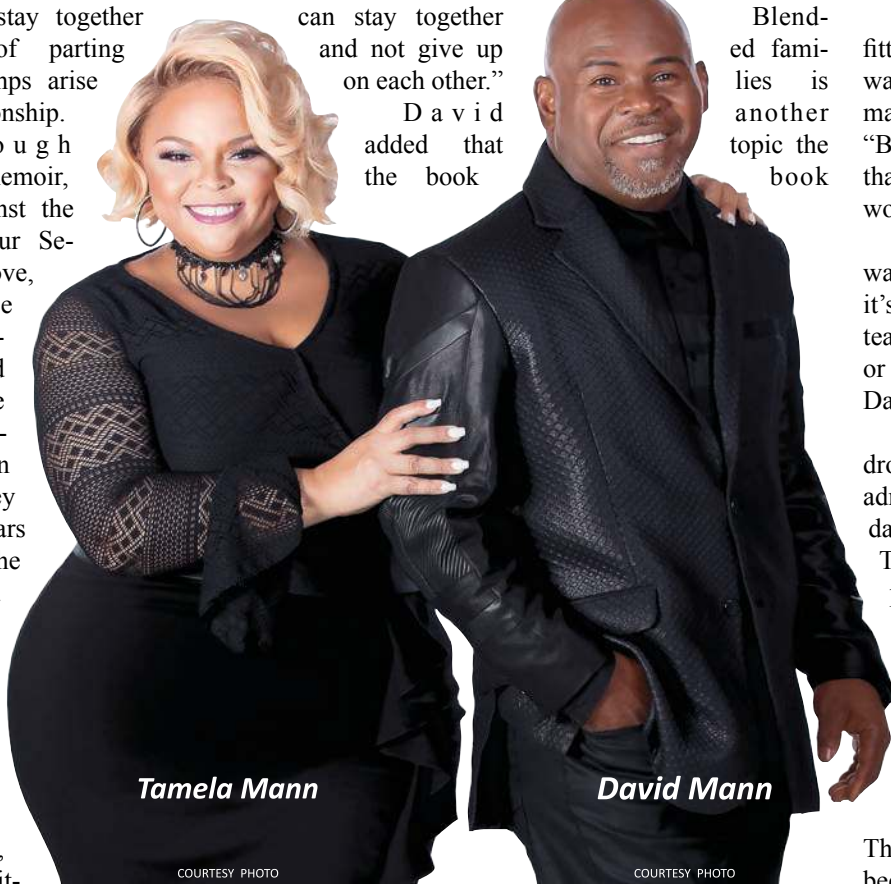
bum together. With our new book coming this fall, we thought that was the perfect time," said David.

"The whole album is an inside look at our love story and the journey we've been on together," added Tamela. "So, recording this project has been really special for both of us."

Songs on the album, such as "I Love You O" and "Good Love," recall memorable moments in the Manns' relationship. The couple harmonizes on the title track, "Us Against the World," and expresses a love letter to each other in "Signs."

The momentum continues for David and Tamela with the release of the holiday film, "Merry Wishes," on Dec. 2. They executive produce and star in the original romantic comedy, which airs on TV One. The movie, directed by Terri J. Vaughn, also features Kim Fields, Twanda Braxton and rapper Yung Joc.

Keep up with the Manns at tillymannmusic.com, [Facebook.com/david-tamelamann](https://www.facebook.com/david-tamelamann) and [@DavidandTamela](https://twitter.com/DavidandTamela).



Tamela Mann

David Mann

COURTESY PHOTO

COURTESY PHOTO

Actress Lynn Whitfield on Having Faith During Difficult Times

BY SHAQUILLE WOODS
Contributing Writer

The Oprah Winfrey Network announced it has renewed the family drama series, "Greenleaf," for its fourth season.

The show continues to thrive with groundbreaking storylines and dynamic characters. One of those characters revealed a softer side this season.

Lady Mae, played by Emmy winner Lynn Whitfield, offered audiences a deeper explanation behind her motives. Whitfield spoke to the Los Angeles Sentinel about her career, divorce and what everyone should expect this season.

L.A. Sentinel: Thanks for speaking with us. What has been your favorite moment throughout filming?

Lynn Whitfield: I think it was the first or second episode. I was nervous because of the dialogue. I didn't know if it would be okay.

The director told me I just had to go for it. I had to feel her soul and her pain. I mean she has been with this man for 40 years! It was my duty to embrace all of that.

I just went for it and al-

lowed my mind to take it away. I turned around and there was an entire standing ovation from the crew.

LAS: How did that moment make you feel?

Whitfield: It was this whole family moment really. I went to that deeper place. It was less poise



Lynn Whitfield

OPRAH WINFREY NETWORK

and just pure pain. It was the beginning of where Lady Mae's emotional life would begin.

LAS: Why do you feel that Lady Mae resonates with so many women?

Whitfield: You never really know if your character will resonate, but that was the plan.

Here is a woman who is wrapped up tight, has the perfect life, and created this safe space in church. She loves being in control.

In this season, you see all of that crumble. Little by little everything is escaping her. The walls are closing in.

She didn't create this space. The only thing she could do is lean on God. I've seen it in so many women.

The life you create for yourself is not working and God says no. It's a humbling experience!

LAS: Speaking of being humbled, what keeps you grounded?

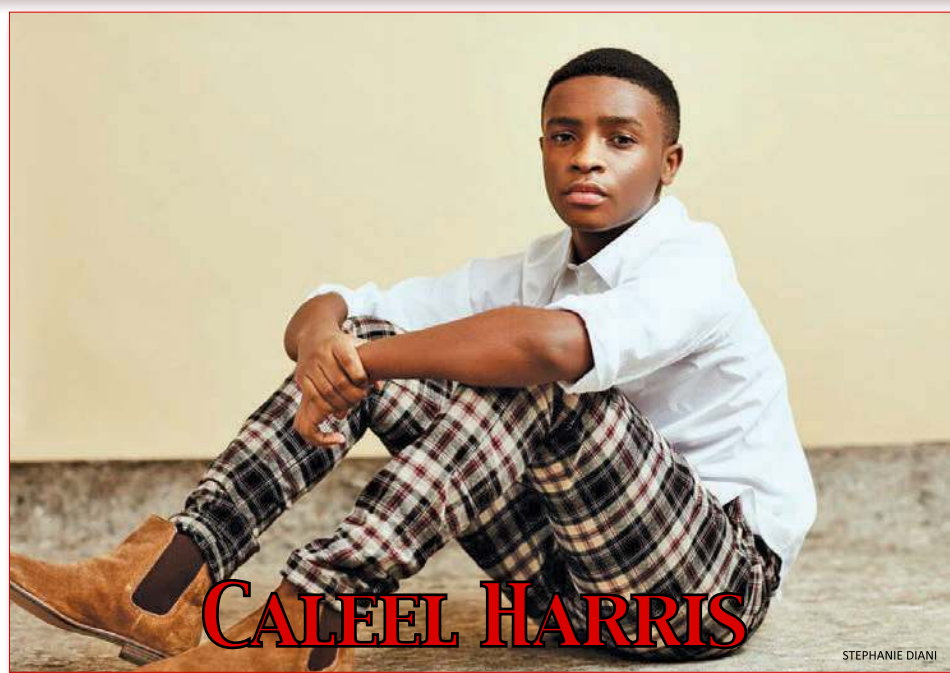
Whitfield: Exactly what needs to be keeping Lady Mae grounded. I've personally been through a divorce. When I won an Emmy, which was a goal I'd been working years for, was covered with disappointment. There was nothing for me to do but to allow God to take over.

LAS: How did you find peace during all those struggles?

Whitfield: I stumbled into the West Angeles Church of God of Christ. I peeked in the door and saw it was full. I was about to leave until I heard a woman say, 'Lynn, you better come in and sit down.' They found a seat for me. I was really humbled.

Through that training and everything, I really know where I have to go when things get tough. Here is the truth. If there is no conflict or obstacles, you don't have a reason to lean on God. It's the hard times that clear your spirit and gets you straight.

New episodes of "Greenleaf" can be found on the OWN Network.



CALEEL HARRIS

STEPHANIE DIANI

IN 'GOOSEBUMPS 2: HAUNTED HALLOWEEN'

BY SHAQUILLE WOODS
Contributing Writer

Goosebumps 2: Haunted Halloween continues to bring back spooky memories for moviegoers. The movie is based on the popular children book series "Goosebumps."

One noticeable breakout star in the film is Caleel Harris. Harris, who is also appearing in the upcoming "Central Park Five" story produced by Ava DuVernay, spoke to the Los Angeles Sentinel Newspaper about his role.

L.A. Sentinel: It's a pleasure speaking with you. I want to start off by asking what got you into acting?

Caleel Harris: It started with my older brother first. I saw everything he was doing and it looked so cool. He was on television.

As a little kid, I didn't really process how big of a deal it was to see a sibling on television. It made me want to pursue it too. That's when I started doing auditions and commercials.

Once I really got a groove, I started to become a little more serious. I begin going for theatrical and film auditions. That's

how I landed roles such as "Goosebumps." Acting is definitely something I love.

LAS: "Goosebumps" is known for some cool scenes. What was your favorite scene filming?

Harris: I think my favorite part of filming was the gummy bear scene. There were so many unique special effects. Seeing how it came out was just mind-blowing. These aren't the happy gummy bears you usually see. We had to fight the angry ones who were trying to kill us! It was fun because there was a lot of punching pillows and getting yanked by ropes. That was my favorite.

LAS: I'm sure you saw many monsters on set. What monster really freaked you out the most?

Harris: Oh yeah, I would have to go with Slappy the doll. He was really creepy. On set, there were like six of them. Sometimes you will walk into a room and see one then walk into another one and see more. The crew even put a Slappy toy in random places everyday.

One day, he would be on top of the fire extinguisher and the next day

the candy bowl. You never knew when he would pop up.

LAS: Since "Goosebumps" is based off the book series, do you have a personal childhood book you enjoy?

Harris: When I was little, I loved to read the Percy Jackson series. That's how I got into books really. I enjoyed all the fantasy books.

It led me into other books such as Harry Potter however the "Lightning Thief" remains one of my favorites.

LAS: Who are some people you look up to for inspiration?

Harris: I would have to go with my parents. They are always looking to set good examples for my siblings and me. They have my best interest at heart.

When it comes to acting, I'll have to say Michael B. Jordan and Denzel Washington. If you look at anything either of them has done, you can see their work ethic. They both completely immerse themselves in their roles.

To watch "Goosebumps 2: Haunted Halloween," please check local movie theater listings.



OPRAH WINFREY NETWORK

Season 3 of Greenleaf reveals family secrets.

Charlamagne Tha God: 'Anxiety Playing Tricks On Me'

By SHAQUILLE WOODS
Contributing Writer

Standing on the streets in South Carolina, a young timid boy sold drugs to make ends meet. He witnessed murders, ran from police, and physically fought for survival.

He eventually goes on to become one of the most successful radio personalities in the country.

Charlamagne Tha God

had the external success, but was fighting battles internally. He spoke all about his mental health in his new book, "Shook One: Anxiety Playing Tricks On Me."

Charlamagne, whose real name is Lenard McKelvey, made a book tour stop in Los Angeles at The Grove's Barnes & Nobles. The event, hosted by E! News correspondent Zuri Hall, highlighted the vari-

ous mental health topics explained in his book.

Before the event, Charlamagne spoke to the Los Angeles Sentinel about his reasoning behind developing a book on mental health.

"I had no idea that it was a mental health issue. I thought anxiety and PTSD were just things that happen. These were all based out of circumstances I experienced," said Charlamagne.

His personal circumstances spiraled out of control once the panic attacks started. In the book, the radio host describes the physical sensations that drove him to seek help. The help he needed was something he never considered until his wife persuaded him.

"She told me to find a therapist," said Charlamagne.

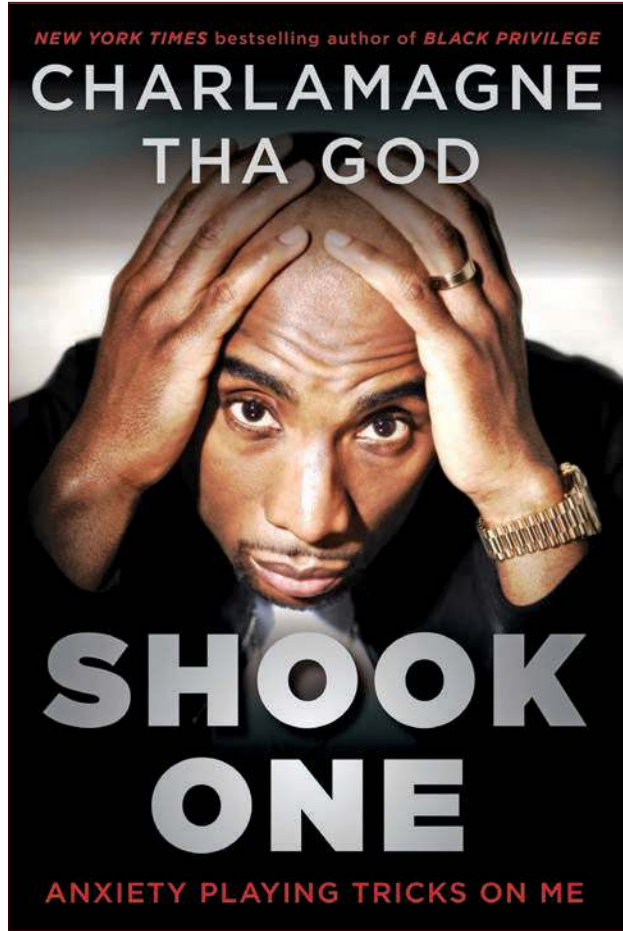
"We, in the Black community, think going to a therapist is a taboo subject. But why are you working on all other aspects of your health and not your mental health?"

"Imagine if you had a messy closet. A therapist job is to help you clean out all the junk you've accumulated over the years. That's what has helped me."

"Shook One: Anxiety Playing Tricks on Me" not only includes Charlamagne's personal mental health history, but also



The Barnes and Noble audience helps Charlamagne, center, promote his new book.



In the book, Charlamagne shares his mental health history and gives insight into clinical diagnoses.

gives insights to clinical diagnoses. Every chapter includes a clinical analysis behind the stories shared.

"The perspective that I wanted to be immortalized was a Black man sharing all my experiences for the past 40 years and another brother, Dr. Ish Major, coming in giving that expert analysis and clinical correlation to my experiences."

After a public firing from his radio job with host Wendy Williams, Charlamagne eventually found his way to a new radio show called "The Breakfast Club."

Since then, "The Breakfast Club" accumulates millions of listeners and

online views. As his success grew on social media, so did backlash from listeners.

"Social media is creating an unattainable picture of perfection. In social media, you only see everybody's highlight reel. You never see the background. People are afraid to talk like how I'm talking because they fear the backlash."

He briefly stopped before continuing.

"If I was a 14-year-old growing up in this era and had to continue to try to be perfect, I would just kill myself as soon as I make a mistake," said Charlamagne.

Though the book shares the reality of dealing with anxiety, Charlamagne acknowledges positive ways to deal with daily stress. He says he never reaches for his phone in the morning.

"Why would I expose myself to such negativity early in the morning?"

"I read my daily affirmations and positive quotes. If I'm driving, I'll listen to nineties R&B or Oprah's Super Soul Conversations. I don't want any negativity to rot my brain," Charlamagne explained.

"Shook One: Anxiety Playing Tricks On Me" is available online and any retailer bookstores.

NIJLA MU'MIN BRINGS FAITH AND FILM TOGETHER IN 'JINN'

In select theaters November 15 and available on VOD and Digital HD, November 16

By LAPACAZO SANDOVAL
Contributing Writer

Nijla Mu'min is a young Black woman who embraces the Islamic faith and is also a film and television director, which in Hollywood makes her rare and that should not be the case.

There is a serious lack of opportunity for Black women filmmakers and despite best efforts and well-crafted press releases on the subject (usually generated during Black History Month), there is very little permanent and positive change.

It's not that Hollywood doesn't do their annual "dog and pony" show on the subject. They do, they absolutely do. In fact, every year the industry turns in their annual reports on their progress in the areas of diversity and inclusion, and each year the DGA (Director's Guild of America) and WGA (Writer's Guild of America) continue to have very low scorecards.

How is that possible, you ask, when women control over \$20 trillion in worldwide spending, and yet they are paid less for the same work and denied opportunities that are given to White males? The answer is sobering because "they can" and "they do" it because they can. And yet, all these murky facts did not stop writer-director Nijla Mu'min from mak-

ing her debut feature—"Jinn"—an Orion Classics release, which will screen in select cities on November 15 and on VOD and Digital HD November 16.

Perhaps it is the sheer difficulty of trying to live her dreams that ultimately inspires the Oakland based filmmaker.

Nijla Mu'min is well trained, a graduate of UC Berkeley, she attended Howard University's MFA film program and was a 2013 dual-degree graduate of CalArts' MFA programs in Film Directing and Creative Writing.

After a series of her short films caught industry attention, she went on to receive support from virtually every independent film support organization out there, including the Sundance Institute and IFP, the San Francisco Film Society, Film Independent and the Islamic Scholarship Fund.

An impressive start, but financially—truthfully—that barely moves the needle. To get "Jinn" made, Mu'min left New York and moved back to L.A. and then the financing for the film fell through. But that didn't deter her from ultimately raising the money and learning an important lesson about how Hollywood really works.

"Jinn" is loosely based on Mu'min's life. The award-winning indie film follows 17-year old Sum-



From left are Zoe Renee as Summer and Simone Missick as Jade in the drama "JINN."



From left are writer/director Nijla Mumin and Zoe Renee of the drama "JINN."

mer (Zoe Renee), a carefree Black girl, whose world is turned upside down when her mother, a popular meteorologist named Jade Jennings (Simone Missick), abruptly converts to Islam and becomes a different person, prompting Summer to reevaluate her identity.

The advice that's usu-

ally imparted to young storytellers from seasoned veterans is to write what you know and for Mu'min, that advice proved fruitful. "Jinn" received a Special Jury Recognition for Writing at SXSW, high praise for the newcomer.

"I've always been interested in pulling images from daily life to understand how individual moments can reveal a statement about humanity," Mu'min said.

Life hits us all like an unexpected thunderstorm and for Mu'min, her childhood was unending when her parents divorced, forcing her to split her time with each parent.

With her father, who is a Muslim, she became immersed in his environment and therein lies the heart of "Jinn."

"I enjoyed going to the masjid and being around

different Muslim people," she shares. "Then I went into the public school system, where I was exposed to pop culture, sexuality, and a lot of friends who weren't Muslim."

The splintering of her childhood is evident in how she crafted the main character, Summer. Her film feels authentic because it comes from her heart and her memories.

"My mom, who is not a practicing Muslim," says Mu'min. "In fact, she encouraged me to be free. So, my scripts and films usually center on Black women and girls straddling dual worlds and at major turning points related to sexuality, family, identity or death."

The coming of age elements in "Jinn" will help audiences make another important connection because there is a sweet ro-

mance too, between Summer and Muslim classmate Tahir (Kelvin Harrison, Jr.), which possesses such down-home realism you feel like you know both of the young lovers and fear that their innocence will be their undoing. And yet, they both give the audience a feeling of hope an invigorating and frightening emotion, for our Black community.

I'm convinced that Mu'min is a warrior and maybe part Jinn, a question her main character repeatedly asks herself. It's the fearless nature of one determined to follow their bliss that has helped Mu'min reap the benefits of her convictions. She recently joined the all-female directorial team of Ava DuVernay's popular drama, "Queen Sugar," with one episode completed and at the time of filing, this story has been asked to helm another episode.

Magical powers bestowed by a mystical Jinn or the product of pure Black Girl magic, who's to say, but what's for certain is the "Jinn" was breathed into existence by storyteller Nijla Mu'min.

"In trying to get my film ['Jinn'] made, [I] heard a lot of 'no thank you' with a question about who is really your 'audience,' but I know that there's a mainstream narrative about Islam in the media in this country," states Mu'min, "and with this film I'm trying to get away from that and show what it means to be curious or fascinated, or to question your identity."

Directed and written by Nijla Mu'min and "Jinn" stars Zoe Renee, Simone Missick, Kelvin Harrison Jr., and Dorian Missick with Hisham Tawfiq and Kelly Jenrette

Youtube trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvYQYmg3_CU&feature=youtu.be



From left are Kelvin Harrison Jr. as Tahir and Zoe Renee as Summer in "JINN."

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2018

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'WISDOM FROM ABOVE' LUNCHEON ATTRACTS RECORD CROWD

Dr. Betty Price of Crenshaw Christian Center marks 40th year of sharing messages of faith, love, praise and gratitude

By CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Religion Editor

For the 40th consecutive year, Dr. Betty R. Price held her "Wisdom From Above" luncheon and once again, hundreds of people came out for the event.

More than 600 women, as well as a few men, including Apostle Frederick K.C. Price, enjoyed the spiritually uplifting fellowship highlighted by the message presented by Dr. Betty.

Known throughout the world as the co-founder, with her husband, of Crenshaw Christian Center (CCC), Dr. Betty has inspired thousands of people as a wife,



The large contingent of women from Calvary Christian Church in Sacramento pose with Dr. Betty during the "Wisdom From Above" luncheon on Oct. 27.



Cheryl Price, left, and Angela Price Evans show Dr. Betty's commendation from the L.A. City Council.

mother, minister, cancer survivor, author and community advocate.

Through CCC, Dr. Bet-

ty established food, clothing and prayer ministries and outreach programs to aid people battling substance abuse, domestic violence, and depression. She also established the Vermont Village Community Development Corporation to restore the South Los Angeles neighborhood where CCC is located.

Considering her many accomplishments, as well as her humble, loving spirit, it was no surprise that people travelled from as far as New York and Georgia, along with large

contingents from Northern and Southern California, to attend the luncheon. In addition to enjoying a healthy meal, the audience heard tributes to Dr. Betty by Apostle Beverly "Bam" Crawford and other first ladies and music by Myesha Chaney, Stephanie Fields, Harold Johnson and Asha Nwaki.

Thunderous applause greeted Dr. Betty as she approached the podium to deliver her words focused on strengthening believers in their walk with Christ. Offering affirming scriptures,

she encouraged the crowd to get to know Jesus to experience victorious living.

"One of the reasons I stand here today with all of these beautiful women who have supported me all of these years is because God took me just as I was and He has kept me. It's up to us to take His word and do what He says," said Dr. Betty.

"After you receive Jesus Christ, faith is the most important thing you need to learn. We have the privilege to believe and stand on his word. That's all I have done all of these years - to believe in the Word through sickness and health. If you want

to please Him, you must have faith," she insisted and added that her faith led to her healing from cancer 29 years ago.

Reflecting on Dr. Betty's message, her daughter, Stephanie Price Buchanan said, "I have to admit it is a blessing to be her child because honestly, what she shares at 'Wisdom' is what she shares with my siblings and I regularly.

"Today, we celebrate Betty Ruth Scott Price for being an inspiring woman of God, a blessing to all she comes in contact with and for not only telling us what we can do as women, but first showing us by example that it can be done!"



Dr. Betty Price and her daughter-in-law, CCC First Lady Angel Price.



Stephanie Price Buchanan and Dr. Betty Price at the "Wisdom" luncheon.

First AME - L.A. Hosts 3rd Annual College and Career Fair

By ANASIA OBOHA
Contributing Writer

Twelfth grade Dorsey High School student Kory Laflora knows he wants to obtain a chemical engineering degree and thinks he may want to attend a historically Black college.

To help him decide on a school, the 17-year-old recently joined more than 750 students in grades eight through 12, from 15 Los Angeles-area schools at the First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Los Angeles' (FAME) 3rd Annual Hoops and Options College and Career Fair.

"It's a wealth of information to help the kids decide," said Georgia Smith, Laflora's mother, who accompanied him to the fair for support. "Hopefully, it helps him decide where to go."

The half-day event, held on the church's campus, commenced with uplifting speeches including one from Los Angeles Unified School District Super-



Pastor J. Edgar Boyd stands before students during FAME's 3rd annual "Hoops and Options" career and college fair.

intendent Austin Beutner, who encouraged students to use the affair as an opportunity to ask questions and make good choices.

"Now you have to own this decision like you've never owned anything in your life and you have to do the work going in," said Beutner. "We're here to serve you in that decision. We're here to support you to make it happen."

Other speakers included FAME Pastor J. Edgar Boyd and FAME Minister of Youth David D. Price, a Harvard University alum, who urged the youth to keep striving for their goals even when it becomes challenging.

"It's our responsibility to assist our students in making informed decisions about their future by sharing with them the

multitude of options available to them," said Boyd. "Through educational empowerment, we can help build strong families, the backbone of sustainable communities."

The 50 vendors included representatives from various colleges as well as civic and law enforcement agencies, who provided information about career opportunities, college ad-



Student Kory Laflora, right, and his mother, Georgia Smith, attended the fair.

missions, programs and scholarships. Additionally, a series of workshops offered guidance to students and parents on topics such as financing college, conversing with law enforcement officers and goal setting among others.

The annual event is organized by FAME's Commission on Scholarship, Education and Training. Chaired by Paula DuBois, Ed.D., and co-chaired by Sue Beidleman, the ministry was established to expand the awareness of

college, vocational and career options for students in grades eight and beyond, through a series of academically-based, culturally-relevant programs focused on academic training, career development and scholarship sourcing.

"We've set the groundwork over the previous two years," said DuBois. "Our hard work has paid off."

At many of the booths, students were allowed to complete and submit college applications. Benedict College, a historically Black college in Columbia, South Carolina, interviewed and admitted 26 students on the day of the event. Among the prizes awarded to attendees were two \$500 book scholarships, courtesy of the "I Can Afford College" program.

L.A. Metro was the prime sponsor. Uno Munro and L.A. City Councilmembers Herb Wesson and Marqueece Harris Dawson provided in-kind donations.

'Church at the Park' Unites Black and Brown Believers

Experience Christian Ministries, AHF's Latino Outreach & Understanding Division and the Black Leadership AIDS Crisis Coalition hosted the event

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The "Church at the Park" event initiated by Pastor Anthony "Shep" Crawford of the Experience Christian Ministries (ECM) was a definite step in the right direction towards unifying Black and Brown believers.

More than 750 Los Angeles residents filled Gilbert Lindsey Park in South Los Angeles on Oct. 28, for a day of fellowship, singing, dancing, food, entertainment and health

resources. Free haircuts, face painting, arts and crafts, jumpers and games were available for children along with a free men's shoe giveaway sponsored by the men of ECM.

In addition, Crawford delivered a compelling word of grace and unity award-Grammy and Stellar award-winning artist Brent Jones treated guests to a spirited performance.

This event was presented in collaboration with AHF division LOUD (Latino Outreach and Understanding Division) and BLACC (Black Leadership AIDS Crisis Coalition), who also offered free HIV/AIDS and STD screenings.

"When we went throughout the neighborhood inviting our Latino brothers and sisters to join us, they seemed receptive, but when they actually showed up to the event, I knew then that we had a chance to really come together and form real relationships - the kind of relationships where we look out for each other and help one another," said Crawford.

Gilbert Lindsay Park is located in a crowded residential community predominantly populated by Latinos, however, only blocks away on the corner of 47th Place and San Pe-



Free haircuts were just one of the resources available at the "Church in the Park" event organized by Experience Christian Ministries Pastor Anthony "Shep" Crawford, inset.

Words of the Week

Christians Don't Have the Luxury of Being...

There are Christians who struggle with racism, but all is not lost - we have Jesus and He will help all overcome

BY BRIAN W. CARTER
Contributing Writer



Brian W. Carter

Racism is one of the ugliest aspects of humanity and one of the toughest battles many deal with internally every day.

Many have had to deal with the slings and arrows of hate due to their skin color, and in some cases, have become the very hate they were striving against.

"If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen." — 1 John 4:20

"But whoever hates his

brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes." — 1 John 2:11

"Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him." — 1 John 3:15

For Christians, we do not have the luxury of being racist. There is no excuse we can perch ourselves on, the Lord tells us in His Word that being racist makes us lying, blind murderers.

When we carry hate in our hearts, it nullifies God working in you. God is love and so should we be to others if He abides in our hearts.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." — Philippians 4:13

When we accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we stepped out of our own strength to deal with this world and into His — and His strength is sufficient. The things that overwhelm us and beset us are now in His hands and He will give us strength to overcome and conquer all, not some, but all.

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." — Mark 12:31

A neighbor has been

defined as: a person living near or next door to the speaker or person referred to. This is anyone near you — we have been told by Jesus to love others the same way we love ourselves.

If all you can do is share hate with someone else, how can you possibly love yourself? The answer ultimately lies in seeking the Lord because He is love and He gives us the power and strength to love others.

There are Christians who struggle with racism, but all is not lost because we have Jesus and He will help all overcome. We can't afford to let hate abide in our hearts today as the world is filled to the brim with it.

We need to have the love of the Lord in our hearts to hold back the tide until our Savior returns.

community," said Crawford.

He added that he and his outreach team are working closely with L.A. 9th District Councilmember Curren Price Jr. to effect positive change and bring in resources to help improve the neighborhood.



Kosmond Russell



Kinnik Sky

Kosmond Russell Presents 'Labor of Love' Play

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

"Labor of Love" is a new three-act play by NAACP award-winning playwright, Kosmond Russell, and directed by NAACP award-winning actress and "American Idol" finalist Kinnik Sky.

Russell, who also penned "The Message," "The Visit" and "The Marriage," said love inspired him to write his latest work.

"Everyone needs love. Even when we discover that love has its challenges, at the end of the day we still are in search of acceptance. Love is life. Life is love," declared Russell, who has written several plays for the faith-based community.

He described his recent play, "The Message," as "a powerful and joyous gospel musical, which celebrates the wondrous majesty of the Black Church."

In "Labor of Love," Russell said he uses comedy and drama to explore the virtues and complexities of three couples that

are in love, but are challenged with poor communication skills and as a consequence, faced with life-altering decisions.

"Enter Dr. Richard 'Rich' Harper, a psychologist/mediator that is burnt out with his profession and would rather be living his dream of imitating his idol, Rodney Dangerfield, via stand-up comedy," explained Russell.

"You'll laugh, you'll cry, but most importantly you will leave the theater excited and willing to talk to the one that you love."

The cast includes Rhonda Morman, Audrey Harris, Robb Skyler, Jermaine Jaxxon, Toyin Moses, Marby Steward and Nick Checket.

"Labor of Love" will be presented as a live-action staged reading on Saturday, Nov. 10, at 4 p.m., at the Barbara Morrison Performing Arts Center, 4305 Deegan Ave., in Los Angeles. The ticket donation is \$15 in advance at kosmond.com and \$20 at the door.

Church

{Continued from D-1}

dro sits Experience Christian Ministries, a predominantly African American church.

ECM's Crawford said that he is determined to do whatever possible to unite

the community often separated by race and gangs.

Also taking the stage was Pastor Chad Wolyn of South Los Angeles, who addressed and prayed for those in attendance, stressing the need to come together, show love to one another and live peacefully

among each other, as God desires.

"It's time for us to come together. We have spent too many decades made to believe that we are enemies of each other without a good reason of why. I am committed to doing my part to help bring unity to this

Prophetic Declarations CD by Shaneen Bonner. Includes iTunes, Music, Spotify, Pandora logos. Website: WWW.SHANEEN-BONNER.COM

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Price Chapel A.M.E. Church. African Methodist Episcopal Church. 4000 W. Slauson Avenue, Los Angeles, 90043. SUNDAY SERVICE - 10:00 am. SUNDAY SCHOOL - 8:30 am.

Brookins-Kirkland Community. AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH. 3719 West Slauson Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90043. (323) 296-5610. www.bcamechurch.org.

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CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION. 2515 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90008. MASS SCHEDULE: Saturday Vigil 5:15PM. Sunday Liturgies 8AM, 10AM, & 12:15PM.

FAITHDOME. Pastor Frederick K. Price, Jr. Sunday Service: 9:45am. Bible Study (Tues.) 11am and 7:30pm.

COR's PRAYER LINE. with Pastor Mark. Every Wednesday - 6am. 1-605-475-2090. CODE: 368135.

CHRIST OUR REDEEMER A.M.E. WORSHIP CENTER. 45 Tesla Irvine, CA 92618. www.corchurch.org. PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AND STUDY.

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH. 2412 Griffith Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90011. Ph: (213) 748-0318 Fax: (213) 748-1015.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF Christian Fellowship. REV. JAMES K. MCKNIGHT, SENIOR PASTOR. 2085 S. Hobart Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90018.

Crenshaw United Methodist Church. 3740 Don Felipe Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90008. (323) 292-0141. SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 a.m.

GRANT AME CHURCH. 10435 S CENTRAL AVE. LOS ANGELES, CA 90002. (323) 564-1164. Rev. Dr. James Arthur Rumph, Pastor.

MIRACLE CENTER APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY CHURCH. 2658 S. WESTERN AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA 90018. Suffragan Bishop Dr. Roy S. Pettit, Pastor.

New Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church. 9557 S. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90044. Worship Services: 8:00am & 11:00am. Sunday School: 9:30am.

Peace Apostolic Church Inc. A Soul Saving Station. SCHEDULE: Monday Night Prayer: 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Afternoon Bible Class: 12:30 p.m.