



KAMALA HARRIS WILL BE AMERICA'S 47th PRESIDENT

With only a few days remaining until election day, Vice President Kamala Harris makes her closing argument and final push toward being America's next President



Vice President Kamala Harris arrives to deliver remarks during a campaign event at the Ellipse near the White House on Tuesday, Oct. 29.



Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris

BY DANNY J. BAKEWELL, JR.
Executive Editor

With only five days remaining until election day, many news pundits are calling the 2024 Presidential Race "too close to call." But be clear, the choice is simple — the choice should and must be Vice President Kamala Harris.

Here in California (a largely Democratic state) it

could be easy to be fooled into not realizing that the Trump Agenda and "Project 2025" don't stand a chance. But the truth is California is not America and things that feel almost impossible are very real across the nation.

The reality is that this race is going to come down to a few swing states — primarily Nevada, Arizona, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Georgia and

North Carolina. So, Harris and Trump organizers are crisscrossing the nation, making their appeal to swing voters.

Californians like Assemblymember Mike Gipson are pulling together Black men for a road trip to Arizona to meet and speak with Arizona Black men about why their support of Vice President Kamala Harris is so important.

"We are taking a group

of Black Men to Arizona to help discuss with them and try and convince them that their and our lives will be much better served than under a Trump presidency," explained Gipson.

On Tuesday, Oct. 29, Vice President Harris delivered her own closing argument against former President Donald Trump while at the same time explaining to the undecided American public why she

is the best candidate to be the 47th President of the United States of America.

Vice President Harris delivered these remarks from the Ellipse, the place where Donald Trump, in one of his last acts as president, on January 6, 2021 encouraged a mob to "fight like hell" before they marched to the U.S. Capitol and tried unsuccessfully to halt the certification of President Joe Biden's and

Vice President Kamala Harris' victory.

"We know who Donald Trump is," Harris said. "He is the person who stood at this very spot nearly four years ago and sent an armed mob to the United States Capitol to overturn the will of the people in a free and fair election, an election that he knew he lost.

{See KAMALA HARRIS on A-9}

Vote Early, Vote Now! Empowering California's Voters in 2024

BY NATHAN J. LEE
Contributing Writer

On Oct. 25, Ethnic Media Services and California Black Media hosted a virtual briefing, "More Days—More Ways to Vote," spotlighting resources and support for California's diverse voter base ahead of the November elections.

In partnership with the California Secretary of State's office, the event highlighted initiatives to streamline the voting process, including ballot tracking, multilingual sup-



Regina Brown Wilson

port, and voter rights education.

This collaboration ensures communities state-



Joe Kocurek

wide receive timely, accessible election information. Regina Brown Wilson, moderator and executive

director of California Black Media, underscored the media's vital role and responsibility.

"This briefing is really to make sure that the media knows that they have access to the Secretary of State's office," she stated.

Joe Kocurek, a public policy communications expert representing the Secretary of State's office, believes California's voting system is among the most accessible in the nation.

"I want to urge people that the important thing," he stated, "We've set up a system that people can vote

early. They're not confined to a single day. So, I want you all to urge your audiences to vote early."

The briefing highlighted the "Where's My Ballot?" tracking feature, which lets voters monitor their ballots from submission. This tool provides visibility and reassurance by offering updates through text, email, or voice call at each step.

California firmly upholds democratic values, ensuring that voters have protected access and support throughout the process. "We have a voter bill of

rights. If anybody feels like these are being denied, they can reach out to us," Kocurek explains.

With early voting options, multilingual support, and a comprehensive Voter Bill of Rights, California's voting system is committed to accessibility and security for all.

Voters seeking more information can visit the Secretary of State's website or contact event organizers Sandy Close (sclose@ethnicmediaservices.org) and Regina Wilson (regina@cablackmedia.org) for support.

NAACP California-Hawaii State Convention Highlights Black Voter Engagement, and More

BY BO TEFU AND
JOE W. BOWERS JR.
California Black Media

The 37th NAACP California-Hawaii State Convention concluded on

Sunday, Oct 27 following four days of discussions and workshops at the Los Angeles Airport Marriott. Bringing together civil rights leaders, policymakers, and advocates from California and Hawaii, the convention operated under the theme "All In." The participants discussed critical issues impacting Black communities, including criminal justice reform, health equity, economic

empowerment, education, environmental justice, and voting rights.

A Friday panel featuring NAACP Chairman Leon W. Russell and Regina Wilson, Executive Director of California Black Media, examined Project 2025, an initiative perceived as a potential threat to civil rights, healthcare access, and environmental protections. This session emphasized Project 2025's projected impact on Black communities, noting that policies within the initiative could diminish gains made in civil and environmental rights over decades. Russell and Wilson highlighted the need for vigilant

monitoring and community mobilization to address these challenges.

On Saturday the President's Fireside Chat brought together NAACP President Derrick Johnson and CA/HI State Conference President Rick Callender, who discussed the urgency of voter engagement and community advocacy.

Guest speakers included Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA-43), who spoke at the Women in NAACP (WIN) Labor Luncheon about the inter- *{See NAACP CALIFORNIA-HAWAII STATE CONVENTION on A-9}*



State Conference President Rick Callender (right) engages in a discussion on voter engagement and community advocacy with NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson during the 37th NAACP California-Hawaii State Convention in Los Angeles.

A New Vision - Brandon Lamar's Bid for NAACP Pasadena President

By DANA ELAINE CARROLL
Contributing Writer

Brandon Lamar has entered the race for president of the NAACP Pasadena Branch, bringing a passion that will elevate the organization's presence in the community.

Among his goals, he promotes reinvigorating advocacy, mentoring new generations of civically engaged leaders, and establishing the NAACP Pasadena Branch as a community hub. Born and raised in Pasadena, Lamar has a deep love for the city and a vested interest in the empowerment of its constituents.

One of Lamar's key strategies is engaging youth. Lamar stated, "I think I am the youngest person active in the Pasadena NAACP, and I'm 32 years old. If we don't get the younger generation involved, there will be no NAACP in the future."

Standing behind his word, Lamar also founded Merge Black Pasadena to bridge the age gap. He has firsthand experience with



Brandon Lamar out in the community.

COURTESY PHOTO

youth engagement, as that is how his journey began.

From a young age, Lamar has been a champion of advocacy and civil rights. He got involved in community work as a teenager with the Youth Ambassador program and the Youth Council. This served as a catalyst for Lamar's dedication to civic service.

At 23, Lamar felt a calling to address critical needs in his community, leading to an appointment as commissioner on the Human Relations Commission. He served in this role for seven

years and held the seat of chair twice. In this role, Lamar did impactful work, and he stresses the importance of collaboration.

"I recreated the partnership between our commission, city, and 211, allowing people who have been victims of hate crimes to report those hate crimes anonymously," Lamar commented.

As commissioner, he oversaw the development of the annual "Pasadena vs Hate Day" in partnership with LA vs. Hate. He has also addressed past travesties.

"As chair of that commission, I was able to tell the truth about the Mills place incident. We made a plaque telling the history of Pasadena," stated Lamar.

This plaque reveals a nearly buried history - a violent incident 137 years ago that devastated Pasadena's Chinese district. The original plaque noted, "A fire at this site destroyed a laundry establishment owned by Chinese settlers."

The new plaque honors Yuen Kee Laundry and Pasadena's early Chinese settlers, who contributed to the city through labor and business. The plaque acknowledges that a mob attacked and destroyed the laundromat, with the city banning Chinese from Central Pasadena the next day.

In addition to addressing discrimination and hate crimes, he currently serves as the vice chair of the Pasadena Rental Housing Board, which works toward rent control and tenant protections.

One reason this issue is close to Brandon Lamar's heart is his family's history.

Lamar commented, "My grandma had 10 children and 33 grandchildren. And I'm the only one left of the family that lives in Pasadena."

The skyrocketing cost of housing has displaced much of Pasadena's Black population. "About 15 to 20



Among his goals, Lamar aims to recruit more young adults as members of the branch.

COURTESY PHOTO

years ago, we were 21% of the population. Now it is 6%, but 33 % are homeless."

Lamar addressed the disparity in housing for African Americans and

how eminent domain stripped away many Black homes.

Having worked to address many community issues, he said that he decided to run for NAACP Pasadena president for a number of reasons. First, Lamar seeks to create a strong transition plan for future Black leadership, stating that political leaders often stay in roles without developing a successor.

Second, he is committed to restoring advocacy as the heart of NAACP's work, ensuring representation at every council meeting, speaking directly with assembly members, and placing an NAACP member on each city commission.

Third, Lamar aims to rebuild the NAACP as a hub for Pasadena's Black community. The location can host a range of activities, from community meetings to study sessions for youth.

Lamar reflected, "I believe Pasadena is a great city; we still have things to work on."

New Mural Unveiling of the Harris-Call Center in Los Angeles

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The Harris-Call Center opened, and the Freedom's Pathway Forward Mural was unveiled on Oct. 22, at 1904 5th Avenue, in the 3400 block of West Washington Blvd., in Los Angeles.

The mural vividly depicts civil rights greats, who've advanced freedom, justice, and voting rights. Some were historic, or elected office firsts, and include Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., President Barack Obama, Vice President Kamala Harris, Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, Caesar Chavez, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, and First Lady Michelle Obama.

The Freedom mural was conceived and com-



The Freedom's Pathway Forward Mural

LOGAN WESTBROOKS

missioned by visionary, Dr. Logan H. Westbrook—longtime civil rights advocate, bestselling author, educator, and former music industry executive; it was painted by Dylan M. Keene; its purpose: "to engage and re-energize the

community to continue to fight for freedom, justice, voting rights, to register and to VOTE!"

Dr. and Mrs. Geri Westbrooks, sponsors of the mural and the Harris - Call Center noted: the mural is already capturing

the attention of some 350,000, daily commuters [LA Metro verified], and hundreds stop to admire, photograph, and share this powerful mural.

The Harris-Call Center is now open daily, 11am - 5pm, thru Election Day,

Tuesday, November 5, 2024, and needs volunteers to come-by and sign-up

and volunteer.

Volunteers may sign up at: Volunteer In-Person at Freedom's Pathway Forward Call Center! Mobilize

The FREEDOM'S PATHWAY FORWARD mural is now a must-visit site for families, student groups, all Angelenos, and tourists to Los Angeles. In the days, weeks and months ahead, the mural will be a popular, must-visit site through, the 2024 election, and in 2025, for the King Holiday, Inauguration, and entire Black History Month!

For additional info: www.LoganWestbrooks.com

Los Angeles Times Editor Resigns Over Kamala Harris Endorsement Dispute

By BO TEFU AND JOE W. BOWERS JR.
California Black Media



Mariel Garza

Mariel Garza, the editorial chief of the Los Angeles Times, has resigned following the newspaper's decision not to endorse Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris for president. Garza's resignation comes after the newspaper's owner, Patrick Soon-Shiong, blocked the editorial board's plans to endorse Harris, leading Garza to express her discontent with the newspaper's silence during what she described as "dangerous times."

"I am resigning because I want to make it clear that I am not OK with us being silent," said Garza in an interview with the Columbia Journalism Review. "In dangerous times, honest people need to stand up. This is how I'm standing up."

Garza indicated that the editorial board had intended to endorse Harris and that she had already drafted a proposed editorial outlining this support.

Soon-Shiong clarified in a post on X that the editorial board was tasked with providing a factual analysis of both Harris's and former President Donald Trump's policies, allowing readers to make an informed decision. He noted that the board ultimately chose not to endorse

any candidate, a decision he accepted.

The L.A. Times Guild Unit Council & Bargaining Committee expressed deep concern over the owner's decision, criticizing him for unfairly placing blame on the editorial board for not endorsing. The guild is seeking further clarity from management regarding this situation.

Trump's campaign reacted to Garza's resignation, highlighting that the state's largest newspaper had refrained from endorsing the Democratic ticket despite previously supporting Harris in her races for U.S. Senate and state attorney general.

Garza's departure follows the earlier resignation of Executive Editor Kevin Merida, reflecting ongoing challenges within the organization, including unmet digital subscriber goals and the need for increased revenue to sustain operations.

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DISTRICT 43 MAXINE WATERS

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SENATE

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DISTRICT 35 MICHELLE CHAMBERS

STATE OF CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY

DISTRICT 55 ISAAC BRYAN

DISTRICT 57 SADE ELHAWARY

DISTRICT 61 TINA MCKINNOR

DISTRICT 65 MIKE GIPSON

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SUPERVISOR DISTRICT 2 HOLLY MITCHELL

DISTRICT ATTORNEY GEORGE GASCON

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SEAT #48 ERICKA WILEY

SEAT #97 SHARON RANSOM

SEAT #130 LESLIE GUTIERREZ

SEAT # 135 GEORGIA HUERTA

SEAT #137 TRACEY BLOUNT

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L. DAVID PATTERSON

INGLEWOOD CITY TREASURER

TAYLOR BRYANT

CULVER CITY COUNCIL (AT-LARGE)

BRYAN "BUBBA" FISH

VOTER GUIDE

L. A. CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 10

HEATHER HUTT

LAUSD BOARD DISTRICT 1

SHERLETT HENDY NEWBILL

L.A. COMM. COLL. DISTRICT (SEAT No. 5)

NICHELLE HENDERSON

EL CAMINO COMM. COLL. BOARD (AREA 4)

NYREE BERRY

COMPTON CITY CLERK

VERNELL MCDANIEL

COMPTON CITY COUNCIL

DISTRICT 1 DEIDRE DUHART

DISTRICT 4 LILIE DARDEN

COMPTON COMM. COLL. DISTRICT (AREA 2)

BARBARA CALHOUN

SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL (AT-LARGE)

ERICKA LESLEY

BARRY SNELL

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Vote for the leader who's been fighting for us for years.

Election Day is November 5th.
Vote for Kamala Harris.

Photo Credit: National Archives (Top)



PAID FOR BY HARRIS FOR PRESIDENT

Nailz by Elle Brings Upscale Nail & Beauty Care to Baldwin Hills

By KEITH L. UNDERWOOD
Contributing Writer

Elle Washington, owner of Nailz by Elle, had always been passionate about beauty, which led her to beauty school. Originally from Shreveport, Louisiana, she and her family moved to Southern California when she was six.

Washington shared that her family roots are in hard work and creativity surrounded by Southern entrepreneurs and artists who instilled a strong work ethic in her. She said she was inspired by relatives who built their own businesses and expressed themselves through their crafts.

This blend of entrepreneurship and artistry, Washington noted, gave her the foundation and drive to pursue her own vision in the beauty industry.

“I grew up with a group of women and men who worked for themselves,” she said. “I ended up pregnant at a very young age — 17 — I had my son, I put myself through cosmetol-



Elle Washington, owner of Nailz by Elle. COURTESY PHOTO

ogy school and got my license. I moved to Ladera Heights and had my first Black-owned nail salon.”

Washington’s path to entrepreneurship was marked by loss and resilience. She shared that as the widow of Roderick D. Williams, Jr., who died in a police altercation, she

faced a tragedy that deeply impacted her. Washington said the experience was both painful and motivating in her commitment to the community.

“One of the things he [Williams] wanted for me was to open a Black-owned nail salon. In 2018, he was profiled in Riverside County,” said Washington.

“He was followed around in a store, pulled out of his vehicle, and held down until he couldn’t breathe.” Washington said that two department store security guards and two police officers were involved, and to her knowledge, none of them faced any consequences.

Determined to offer a refined, upscale salon experience, Washington designed Nailz by Elle with elegance in mind. She wanted each detail, from decor to service, to reflect quality. Her salon now offers premium manicures

and pedicures that combine luxury with relaxation.

“We carry high-end apothecary, vegan products, and we have all the candles and the crystals,” said Washington. “We have

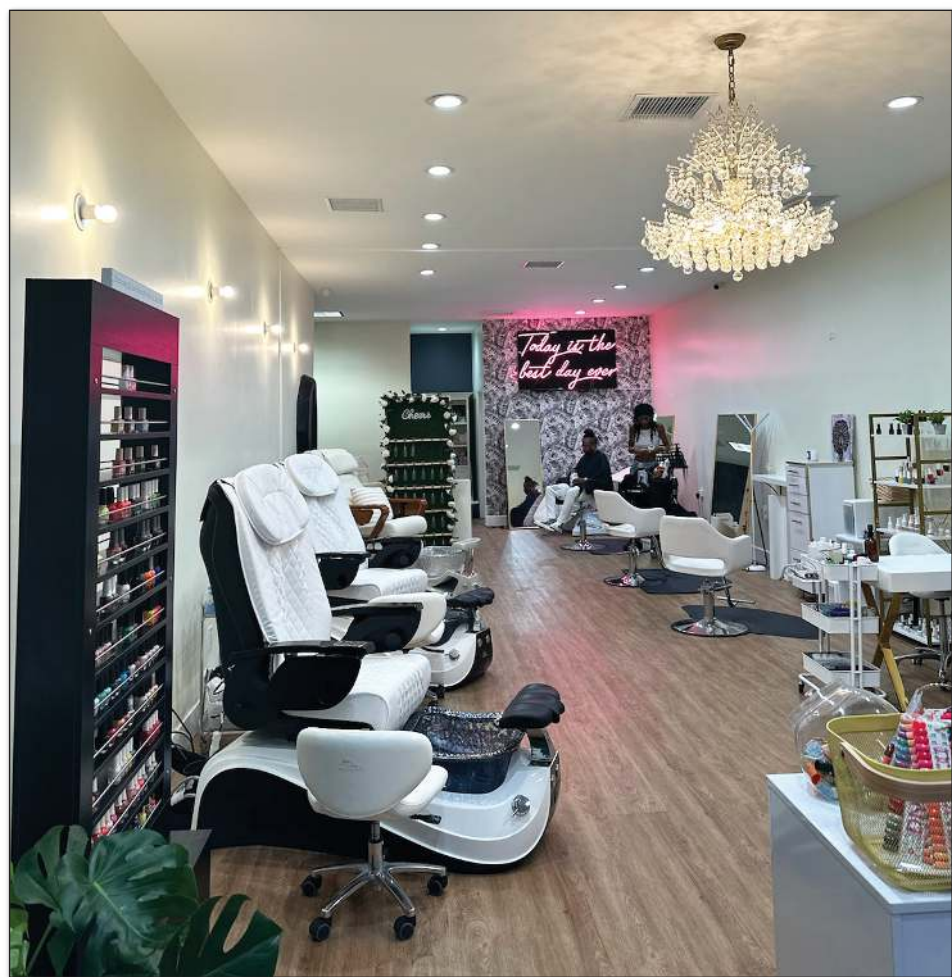
glass of champagne, tea, water, coffee, and you’re going to be treated well,” Washington added.

Washington emphasized her commitment to providing a high-end expe-

tural heritage.

Washington felt the community’s evolution aligned with her vision for high-quality local businesses.

“I really wanted to get



The interior of Nailz by Elle. COURTESY PHOTO



Elle Washington with her late husband Roderick D. Williams, Jr. at their wedding. COURTESY PHOTO

The interior of Nailz by Elle.

things and contracts with companies that you would also find in Neiman Marcus and Saks [Fifth Avenue].”

Washington also mentioned that the minority-owned boutique apothecary is women-owned and eco-friendly, with gel manicures available and preferred by her male clients.

“We are definitely offering the white-glove service. I’m focused on providing a high-end service.... you’re going to relax, you’re going to get a

rience at Nailz by Elle.

“We offer manicures, pedicures, facials, we make our own vegan scrubs, and nail care, body care,” she said. “We do wax, scalp and hair rejuvenation, braids, weaves, color, and we specialize in our Mimosa [manicure] and [pedicure].”

Choosing Baldwin Hills and View Park was intentional for Washington. She wanted to serve a predominantly Black community, bringing her business into an area rich with cul-

back into the ‘Black Beverly Hills,’” said Washington. “This salon has been a beauty space for the last twenty years, and it was originally Kim Kimble Salon, so it’s like being grandfathered into a beauty space. I didn’t want to be anywhere else.”

For those seeking a luxury nail experience, Nailz by Elle is located at 4062 S Victoria Ave in the View Park neighborhood of Los Angeles. Appointments can be made by calling (323) 295-3299.

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Hendy-Newbill Receives Waters Endorsement

BY IRVIN L. DAVIS
Contributing Writer

The Sherlett Hendy-Newbill campaign just got another huge boost! As Election Day, Tuesday Nov. 5 draws nearer, Congresswoman Maxine Waters announced her endorsement of Hendy-Newbill, building on the continued momentum of a campaign journey that began over a year ago.

"I've seen a lot of school board candidates in my time, but Sherlett is as strong as they come! She has the education, experience, and passion to serve as a board member who will put the needs of chil-



Rep. Maxine Waters and Sherlett Hendy-Newbill

COURTESY PHOTO

dren first and fight for what our communities need — and she's ready to get to work," insisted Waters.

"She's been a teacher, coach, athletic director, dean of students, and a proud parent of two children in Board District #1. Sherlett gets it. She gets how to make a real difference in our schools. She knows how to boost academic achievement, keep our schools safe, and build a culture of success. She's got great ideas to expand career and technical education," said Waters.

Sherlett stated with a smile, "I am so excited to announce that the Honorable Congresswoman Max-

ine Waters has endorsed me! I am truly honored to receive the blessing of the amazing Auntie Maxine!

"Her words are incredibly inspiring, and her example is one that I aspire to model as a servant of the LAUSD Board District 1 community of schools."

In addition to Waters, Sherlett is endorsed by the outgoing Board Member Dr. George J. McKenna and 3 other board members in addition to the Los Angeles Times, the Los Angeles Sentinel, UTLA and the Democratic Party.

To see her full list of endorsements, visit <https://www.sherletthenewbill.com/>

Black Candidates on Your Nov. 5 Gen Election Ballot

BY JOE W. BOWERS JR.
California Black Media

As the Nov. 5, 2024 General Election approaches, a number of Black candidates are running for positions in the United States Congress, the State Senate, and the State Assembly. If elected, they would collectively represent a larger proportion of elected officials at the state level than California's Black population of about 6.5%.

Of the state's 52 U.S. House of Representatives seats, three are currently held by Black representatives. In the State Senate, which comprises 40 seats and elects half of its members every two years, there are currently two Black Senators. In the Assembly, which has 80 seats up for election every two years, 10 Black Assembly members currently serve.

In this election, five Black candidates are running for Congress, four for State Senate, and 13 for Assembly.

Below are the Black candidates (in bold letters) running for Congress and the State Legislature:

Congressional Races

In Congressional District 9 (Stockton), Kevin Lincoln (R), Mayor of Stockton, is challenging incumbent Josh Harder (D). Lincoln, a former Marine, is running on a platform focused on economic development, public safety, and government accountability. Harder, meanwhile, has focused on issues like healthcare access and immigration reform.

In Congressional District 12 (Oakland), Lateefah Simon (D), a non-profit foundation president and civil rights advocate, is running to succeed Rep. Barbara Lee. Simon's platform emphasizes civil rights, affordable housing, and economic reform. Her opponent, Jennifer Tran (D), a professor and cham-

ber president, is focused on economic development, public safety and leveraging technology for government transparency.

In Congressional District 37 (Southwest L.A.), incumbent Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D) is campaigning on criminal justice reform and expanding healthcare. Her opponent, Juan Rey, a train mechanic running with no party preference (NPP), advocates for populist solutions.

In Congressional District 43 (South L.A.), Maxine Waters (D) is running for re-election. Waters has long championed housing reform, civil rights, and economic justice. Her challenger, Steve Williams (R), a commercial real estate broker, is focused on reducing government regulation and fostering entrepreneurship.

California State Senate Races

In State Senate District 7 (Oakland and Berkeley), Jovanka Beckles (D), an Alameda-Contra Costa (AC) Transit Director, is running on a platform centered on environmental justice, affordable housing, and public transportation reform. Her opponent, Jesse Arreguin (D), the Mayor of Berkeley, is focused on housing and economic development.

In State Senate District 35 (Inglewood and South LA), Michelle Chambers (D), a former Compton City Councilmember, is campaigning on affordable housing, public safety reform, job creation, and healthcare access. She is facing Laura Richardson (D), a former U.S. Congresswoman and Assemblymember, who is focusing on public safety and moderate housing reform. Both candidates aim to replace Sen. Steve Bradford (D), who is term limited.

In State Senate District 39 (San Diego), Assemblymember and medical doc-

tor Akilah Weber (D) is campaigning on healthcare equity, public safety, and job creation. She faces Bob Divine (R), a retired Navy Commander, who is advocating for fiscal restraint and law-and-order policies.

In Assembly District 13 (Stockton), business owner Rhodesia Ransom (D) is campaigning on small business growth, educational reform, and economic justice. She faces Denise Aguilar Mendez (R), a non-

(R), is focused on fiscal conservatism and entrepreneurial growth.

In Assembly District 57 (South Los Angeles), Sade Elhawary (D), a community activist and educator, is running on a platform

In Assembly District 61 (Inglewood), incumbent Tina McKinnor (D) is focused on affordable housing and economic justice. She faces Alfonso Hernandez (R), a restaurateur who advocates for small business growth.

In Assembly District 65 (Compton), incumbent Mike Gipson (D) is focusing on public safety and healthcare access, while his opponent, Lydia A. Gutierrez (R), is prioritizing educational reform.

In Assembly District 72 (Huntington Beach), non-profit executive Dom Jones (D) is running on business growth and community development, while incumbent Diane Dixon (R) is focused on fiscal responsibility and infrastructure improvements.

In Assembly District 77 (San Diego), James Brown (R), an entrepreneur and financial advisor, is focusing on economic policy and job creation. His opponent, incumbent Tasha Boerner (D), is campaigning on healthcare access and environmental protection.

In Assembly District 79 (San Diego), LaShae Sharp-Collins (D), an education leader, is focused on reproductive rights, educational equity, and affordable housing. She faces Colin Parent (D), a La Mesa City Councilmember, who emphasizes housing affordability, climate action, and transportation. This seat is currently held by Akilah Weber, who is running to represent State Senate District 39.

These Black candidates are running to address key issues such as housing, healthcare, public safety, reparations, and economic reform. The diversity of their platforms reflects California's broad political spectrum, with some focusing on progressive reforms, while others advocate for a shift to more conservative policies.



CBM PHOTO

From left are Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove, Assemblymember Akilah Weber, Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, and Congressional candidate Lateefah Simon.

This seat is currently held by former Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins, who is term limited.

California State Assembly Races

In Assembly District 7 (Citrus Heights), Porsche Middleton (D), a city councilmember, is challenging incumbent Josh Hoover (R) on housing reform and local governance.

In Assembly District 11 (Suisun City), incumbent Lori Wilson (D) is focused on healthcare access, economic development, and education. She is facing Dave Ennis (R), a civil engineer who emphasizes infrastructure improvement and reduced government regulation.

profit director focused on conservative family values and reducing the size of government. Aguilar Mendez has faced controversy including a guilty plea for welfare fraud.

In Assembly District 18 (Oakland), incumbent Mia Bonta (D) is running on housing reform and education. Her opponent, Andre Sandford, American Independent Party (AIP), advocates for fiscal responsibility and housing cost management.

In Assembly District 55 (Ladera Heights), incumbent Isaac Bryan (D) is running on criminal justice reform, affordable housing, and economic equity. His opponent, Keith G. Cascio

focused on improving affordable housing, addressing homelessness and implementing criminal justice reforms. Her opponent, Efren Martinez (D), a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and small business owner, emphasizes economic development and public safety. Both candidates are competing to replace Reggie Jones-Sawyer (D), who is termed out of office.

In Assembly District 60 (Riverside), incumbent Corey Jackson (D) is campaigning on social justice and healthcare reform. His opponent, Ron Edwards (R), a small business owner, is focused on pro-business policies and reducing government regulation.

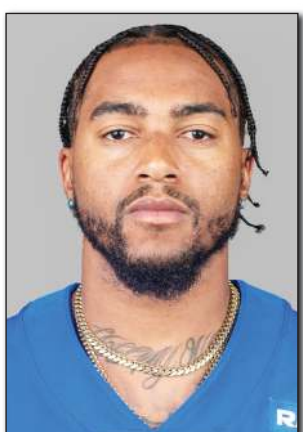
L.A. County Seeks Exit From Lawsuit Filed by Ex-Ram Desean Jackson

CITY NEWS SERVICE

Attorneys for Los Angeles County are asking a judge to dismiss their client as a defendant in a civil rights lawsuit filed by retired Los Angeles Rams wide receiver Desean Jackson, who alleges he was wrongfully arrested by a deputy sheriff at a Ralphs in Marina del Rey in connection with a car theft.

Jackson also is suing Ralphs Grocery Co., alleging the grocery store chain has a history of racially profiling Black men who shop in their stores.

In court papers filed



Desean Jackson

L.A. RAMS

Friday with Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Rupert Byrdson, county attorneys deny Jackson's allegations and cite multi-

ple defenses, including that deputies "acted objectively and reasonably under the circumstances, and used reasonable force in self-defense, defense of others, to prevent escape, or to overcome resistance."

The attorneys further contend that the county is immune from liability and that Jackson "interfered with the lawful orders of law enforcement officials, and purposefully resisted the detention, arrest and/or investigatory orders."

In his suit brought Aug. 9, Jackson, now 37, says he went to the Ralphs store on Lincoln Boulevard on June

25, 2023, at about 6:30 p.m. and was grocery shopping when he was arrested by a deputy, who told the plaintiff his detention was "connected with a guy stealing from the store."

Jackson was handcuffed and not read his rights before being placed in a patrol car in pain and later taken to a sheriff's station and kept there for several hours, the suit states.

A Ralphs security guard knew the deputy was arresting the wrong person because the guard had a photo of the actual car theft suspect — whose only sim-

ilarity to Jackson was that he also was Black — yet the guard did not intervene with the plaintiff being taken into custody, the suit states.

Jackson believes that due to "implicit bias," the deputy and Ralphs "assumed Mr. Jackson presented a serious threat to someone's safety, and then falsely accused him of being a criminal," according to the suit, which further states that Jackson has sought treatment from medical doctors as well as from psychologists for his emotional distress.

Jackson was selected

by the Philadelphia Eagles in the second round of the 2008 NFL draft following a college career at California and also played for the Rams, Washington Redskins, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Las Vegas Raiders and Baltimore Ravens during a 15-season NFL career that ended in 2022.

The former Long Beach Poly High standout was selected to the Pro Bowl three times and was the first player selected for the game at two positions when he was selected to the 2010 Pro Bowl as a wide receiver and return specialist.

City of Compton Celebrates Reopening of Artesia Bridge

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

On Tuesday, Oct. 29, the City of Compton held a press conference to celebrate the grand re-opening of the Artesia Bridge. Over 100 community members came out to join the celebration which included performances from the Compton High School band. In December 2020, the Artesia Bridge was damaged in a fire that rendered the bridge unsafe to use and caused the city to close off access to the bridge.

The Artesia Bridge is a critical thoroughfare that connects to the California State Route 91, to the Port of Long Beach, many neighboring cities, and surrounding communities. The closure has impacted local businesses, goods movement, and public safety. Some local businesses have reported losses of \$150,000 to \$400,000 per week in sales due to the bridge closure. The re-opening of the Artesia Bridge is anticipated to alleviate these challenges and restore the flow of traffic and commerce.

"The Artesia Bridge re-opening will reconnect our community, improve cus-



COURTESY PHOTO

From left are Councilwoman Lillie Darden, State Senator Steve Bradford, and Compton College Trustee Barbara Calhoun holding the symbolic \$12 million check awarded by the state to repair the bridge. Bradford and Assemblymember Mike Gibson spearheaded obtaining state funds to complete the repairs.

tommer patronage and transportation logistics for our local businesses, and help keep our residents safe," said Compton Mayor Emma Sharif.

"This ceremony represents more than just infrastructure restoration — it's a symbol of community resilience."

Senator Steven Bradford and Assemblymember Mike Gibson advocated in the state legislature to include the request of

repairing the bridge, as one of California's top ten prior-

ity budget requests to Governor Gavin Newsom in the budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. As a result, the project was awarded \$12 million in state funds for bridge repair.

"When the Artesia Bridge closed down, we saw a 20% decrease in our business due to the challenges it created for our guests," said Haig Kelegian, president and CEO of Crystal Casino.

"We're thrilled to welcome back our patrons and celebrate the bridge's reopening which will benefit both our business and the wider community."

Many elected officials attended the ceremony, including Mayor Sharif, Compton City Councilmembers, State Senator Steven Bradford, Assembly-

member Mike Gipson, Compton College Trustee Barbara Calhoun, Gardena City Councilmembers, Long Beach Councilmembers,

Senator Lena Gonzalez's office, representatives from the L.A. County Economic Development Corporation and L.A. County Public



COURTESY PHOTO

Compton High School majorettes perform an elaborate routine at the event.

and representatives from local businesses.

Other attendees included representatives from Supervisor Holly Mitchell's office, representatives from

Works, the Compton Unified School District, Compton College Board of Trustees and the Compton High School Marching Band.



COURTESY PHOTO

Federal, state and Compton elected officials participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony to reopen Artesia Bridge.

The 'Black Insurrectionist' Was Actually White. The Deception Did Not Stop There

BY BRIAN SLODYSKO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Black Insurrectionist," the anonymous social media persona behind some of the most widely circulated conspiracy theories about the 2024 election, can be traced to a man from upstate New York.

He's also White.



AP PHOTO

Jason G. Palmer in 2004.

With a profile photo of a Black soldier and the tagline "I FOLLOW BACK TRUE PATRIOTS," the account on the platform X amassed more than 300,000 followers while posting dubious claims about Vice President Kamala Harris and her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz. Some were amplified by former President Donald Trump, his running mate Ohio Sen. JD Vance, and their Republican allies in Congress. The most salacious claims have come in the closing weeks of the campaign.

Last month, the account posted what Black Insurrectionist claimed was an affidavit from an ABC News employee, alleging Harris was given questions in advance of the network's debate with Trump — which ABC News vigorously disputed. Trump approved, though, declaring, "I love the person." More recently, Black Insurrectionist posted a baseless claim alleging inappropriate behavior between Walz and a student decades ago, a falsehood that U.S. intelligence officials said sprang from a Russian disinformation campaign.

The reach that the Black Insurrectionist account attained with assistance from Trump and his allies demonstrates the ease with which unverified information from dubious

sources can metastasize online to shape public opinion. The speed and scale of disinformation has been an animating force in the presidential campaign, with the potential to affect the outcome in a close election.

The Black Insurrectionist account is linked directly to Jason G. Palmer, who has his own questionable backstory, starting with the fact that he isn't Black, according to an Associated Press review of public records, open source data and interviews with a half-dozen people who interacted closely with Palmer over the past two decades. The records and personal accounts offer a portrait of an individual who has repeatedly been accused of defrauding business partners and lenders, has struggled with drug addiction and whose home was raided by the FBI over a decade ago. He also owes more than \$6.7 million in back taxes to the state of New York.

"He's far from African American," said Kathleen Albano, who said her deceased husband was involved in a failed business venture with Palmer.

In emails and phone conversations, Palmer, 51, made a series of seemingly contradictory claims about his ties to the account, which was deactivated last week several hours after the AP first reached out to Palmer for comment.

He acknowledged in an email that he was involved with the account, but said that he did not create it. He also claimed to have owned it at one point before selling it in April or May to a person who he declined to identify.

"I do not know what is going on with this account," Palmer wrote in an email last Thursday.

But in an email on Tuesday he said he participated in making claims about Walz that were posted to the account this month. And he suggested that he worked as a "researcher" with a broader group.

"We did that with big people. National people,"

Palmer said. "I have no comment on anything else regarding that."

He also said that the account was primarily operated by a friend of his who is Black. He repeated-

into the Georgia. His initials "JP" are visible in an icon on the web browser's toolbar. And Palmer's email address can be seen in the corner of the screen, indicating that he used it to log

The suggestion that Palmer was involved with an account that spread falsehoods about the upcoming election was not a surprise to those who have had business and per-

sonal dealings with Palmer over the past two decades. He said that Albano's late husband was his accountant and that he paid off a mortgage on the home. He denied that they ever had extensive business dealings.

In the mid-2000s, Palmer embarked on a real estate venture, buying up commercial properties in downtown Rochester. It ended with a string of lawsuits from creditors and former business partners, seeking tens of millions of dollars in unpaid loans and assets. Palmer blamed his troubles with the venture, in part, on an opioid addiction he had at the time.

Some former business partners alleged Palmer tried to seize control of buildings using documents with their signatures forged, according to court records.

In a 2020 case in Oneida County, New York, a forensic specialist conducted a detailed analysis of a document signing over an apartment complex to a company in which Palmer held a stake. The specialist concluded that "the evidence indicates that the signatures and the notary seal" were produced "by way of cut and paste or digital manipulation."

Palmer said that it was actually his former business partner, William Mendick, who had defrauded him. The case, which was brought by Palmer, was dismissed in 2022.

Maureen Bass, a bankruptcy attorney in Rochester, said she wasn't shocked by Palmer's connection to an X account spreading conspiracy theories. Bass represented Wells Fargo in a commercial foreclosure case against Palmer and recalled that he once sent her old firm a lengthy email "manifesto" that accused local government officials of conspiring against him.

"It was rambling. He had been a victim of the 'Axis of Evil.' Politicians had done things to him, and had taken his assets," Bass said. "So this doesn't surprise me."



AP PHOTO/MATT ROURKE, FILE

Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris and her running mate Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz at a Philadelphia rally on Aug. 6, 2024.

ly declined to identify who that was, or put the AP in touch with the person.

A spokesperson for X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter, did not respond to a request for comment.

The AP traced the account to Palmer based on posts made by Black Insurrectionist that included biographical details about living in upstate New York, a screenname and an email address. Those details cross-referenced with information available online that the AP tracked down with assistance from Gisela Pérez de Acha, an open source reporting specialist for the Human Rights Center at the University of California, Berkeley.

A video posted in March by Black Insurrectionist shows a computer screen displaying the dock-

et of Trump's election case

into the state's online court system. The email address is linked to a phone number, according to opensource data provider Osint.Industries, that is listed for Palmer in New York court records. The same email is also linked to a Skype account with the username "jg palmrt," according to the opensource data provider Epieos. Palmer's middle initial is "G."

Palmer also used similar iterations of the email address in the past, according to court records.

A separate Black Insurrectionist post on X from January 2024 complained about Microsoft Network's content moderation policies and included a screenshot revealing that an individual with the username "jg palmrt" had posted a comment on a news story that was censored by MSN.

sonal dealings with Palmer

over the past two decades. "He owes me a ton of money," said Albano, whose late husband had a business relationship with Palmer. "He has a way of roping people in. I always had his number. I knew exactly who he was. But unfortunately my husband got caught up in a lot of those dealings."

Albano said Palmer purchased a Webster, New York, home from her and her husband but failed to make payments. She said Palmer talked her husband into an investment venture to recoup the money, which also ended poorly.

"None of it materialized ever," Albano said.

Unlike other Palmer business associates, Albano said the couple chose not to sue because "you can't get blood from a stone."

Harris Rises, Trump Falls Among Black Men

By RICHARD PRINCE
TriceEdneyWire.com

Vice President Kamala Harris is gaining among Black male voters and Donald Trump's appeal is declining, the NAACP said Monday, unveiling fresh survey information just days before election day Nov. 5.

The nation's oldest civil rights organization attributed whatever success the Republican former president has had with Black men to misinformation and disinformation on social media, which has usurped both broadcast and cable television as media of choice for younger Black voters, as well as a decline in civics education in the nation's schools. Those who favored Trump were also the least likely to vote, they said.

At a midday press briefing, NAACP President Derrick Johnson also faulted the news media for focusing too much on "side issues, when there is a clear and present danger that should be addressed head on." Trump supporters are seeking to create a "Jan. 6 reality," he said.

The organization found that from August to October, Black men under 50 decreased their likelihood to vote for Trump (27-21%) and increased their likelihood to vote for Harris (51-59%). The number of Black people who are certain Trump voters has declined by 11 percent since a September survey, while support for Harris has risen by 6 percent, the survey found.

"Black men are the least Trump male voters in

America," said Joshua Doss, senior pollster and political strategist at HIT Strategies, which conducted the polling for the NAACP, yet media cover-

down-ballot races, indicating that their perception of the value of "community power" was on the rise.

"The concept of voter apathy is declining" among

the biggest obstacle to getting African Americans to cast ballots, saying media consumption habits were generational. The median age for African

The NAACP is meeting the change in media habits by "meeting people where they are" — through digital media — but Johnson also said "the biggest hur-

immediately after they complete their sentences instead of waiting two years.

"To date, NAACP's \$20 million civic engagement program has reached over 60 million Americans through canvassing, digital outreach, community outreach, and digital, print & radio ads," the organization added.

"The NAACP has successfully ended Georgia's Hand Count rule, prevented the disenfranchisement of thousands of WA voters, and halted Alabama's 'Purge Program' through coordinated litigation."

Meanwhile, the Democratic National Committee Monday announced "a first-ever seven-figure 'I Will Vote' ad campaign targeting Black voters through ads in 55 Black publications and on 48 Black radio stations across the country. The historic ad campaign will feature radio spots from Kerry Washington, LeToya Luckett-Coles, John Legend, and Stevie Wonder," it said.

"This strategic investment comes on the heels of several paid ad campaigns launched by the DNC and the Harris-Walz campaign aimed at turning out and mobilizing Black voters — a critical voting bloc this election. The DNC's 'I Will Vote' campaign directs voters to the DNC's most complete, accurate, and up-to-date national coverage of polling places and voter education information all in one place to empower Black communities with the information they need to exercise their right to vote in this critical election cycle."



Vice President Kamala Harris has released an agenda to give Black men the tools to build wealth and achieve financial freedom, lower costs for themselves and their families, and protect their rights.

age has been "a little misleading," with the exaggerations "popping up in focus groups."

NAACP officers and HIT pollsters also said they were heartened by results showing that discussion of health issues was resonating with Black men and that more than half said they planned to vote in

those surveyed, said Phaedra Jackson, vice president of unit advocacy and effectiveness at the NAACP, perhaps a natural consequence of the truism that more people pay attention to the election after Labor Day.

Johnson called the misinformation and disinformation on social media

Americans is 32.

The difference between the broadcast media and cable, favored by previous generations, said Johnson, is that "You have social media without any guard rails." And "you have a whole generation who never had civics making bad choices, including not to vote."

dle now is an education hurdle."

The get-out-the-vote drive is operating on many fronts, including the courts. The officials pointed to a victory this month in Nebraska, where a state Supreme Court ruled that state election officials must comply with a law allowing former felons to vote

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KAMALA HARRIS {Continued from A-1}

“America, we know what Donald Trump has in mind. More chaos. More division. And policies that help those at the very top and hurt everyone else. I offer a different path. And I ask for your vote,” she said.

Harris’ speech, in front of a crowd of well over 75,000 supporters with the White House iconically lit up over her shoulder, was meant to show the distinct contrast between Harris and her opponent as well as spotlight her vision for the future and draw a contrast between her vision of moving forward and Trump’s vision from the past as she seeks to win over undecided voters a week before the election.

Vice President Harris said her Republican rival was “unstable,” “obsessed with revenge,” “consumed with grievance” and “out for unchecked power.” She said Trump would return to the White House “with an

enemies list,” while she would “walk in with a to-do list” of work to be done to move America forward.

“Donald Trump has spent a decade trying to keep the American people divided and afraid of each other. That’s who he is,” she said. “But America, I am here tonight to say: that’s not who we are.

“We have to stop pointing fingers and start locking arms. It is time to turn the page on the drama and the conflict, the fear and division. It is time for a new generation of leadership in America,” she said.

“I am ready to offer that leadership as the next president of the United States of America.”

She vowed to make Americans’ lives better through “common sense solutions” and to “seek common ground.”

“I pledge to listen to experts, to those who will be impacted by the deci-

sions I make and to people who disagree with me. Unlike Donald Trump, I don’t believe people who disagree with me are the enemy. Trump wants to put those who disagree with him in jail. I’ll give them a seat at my table,” she said.

Previewing the speech, Harris campaign chair Jen O’Malley Dillon said the Ellipse was chosen because “it’s a place that certainly we believe helps crystallize the choice in this election.”

“We know a lot of these undecided voters, they’re exhausted,” she said. “They’re certainly frustrated by the state of the partisanship and divided political system that really was defined under Donald Trump.”

Donald Trump made his closing arguments to America at his own rally at Madison Square Garden in New York City on Sunday, Oct. 27. Harris said that the speeches and racist remarks

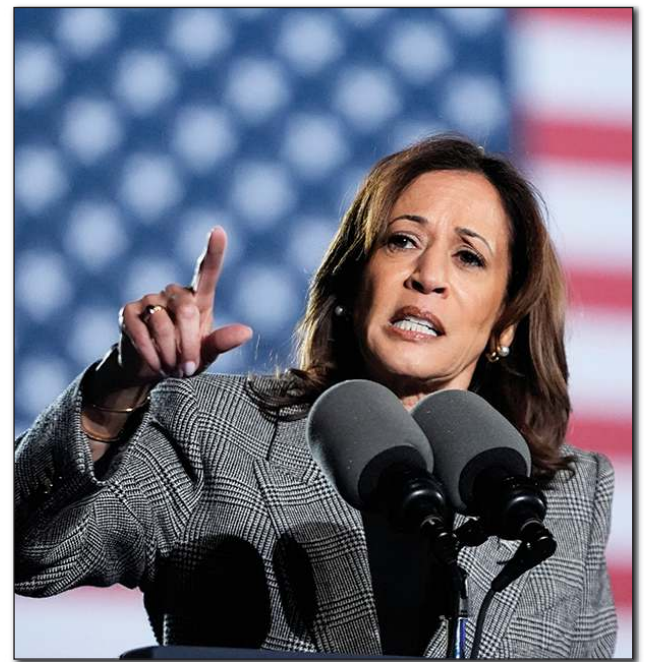
made at the Trump rally underscored her argument against him.

Over the past week, the Trump campaign has been under heavy criticism for offensive, crude and racist remarks about minorities, Harris, Puerto Ricans, Jews, and other American citizens.

“That’s why people who previously supported and voted for Donald Trump are now supporting me, voting for me,” Harris noted.

“These are people who formerly supported Donald Trump, have voted for him. Trump fans the fuel of hate and division, and that’s why people are exhausted with him.”

More than 75,000 people were on the National Mall for Harris’ speech, according to a campaign official. The Harris Campaign continues to emphasize that they are the “underdogs” in this race



AP PHOTO
Vice President Harris speaks at a rally in Michigan on Oct. 28.

and the people all across the nation must VOTE, VOTE, VOTE.

They encourage everyone to reach out to family members in swing states and all across the nation to make sure that everyone in their family and within their households have a plan too and get out to vote.

“This is campaign is

totally within the margins of error and the winner is going to be determined within the margins of effort over the next several days” said one campaign official.

“We cannot emphasize how important it is to get out and vote for Kamala Harris to ensure our democracy remains intact.”

NAACP CALIFORNIA-HAWAII STATE CONVENTION

{Continued from A-1}

section of labor rights and civil rights. California State Superintendent Tony Thurmond delivered remarks at the Leadership Dinner on education equity, focusing on policies to ensure all students have access to high-quality education.

Honors were given to longtime social justice advocate and former Assembly member Mike Davis for his work in community activism, while actor and activist Danny Glover and the Rev. Dr. Amos C. Brown received



RICH WOODS/CBM
Former California State Sen. Roderick “Rod” Wright speaks at the 37th NAACP California-Hawaii State Convention, which concluded on Oct. 27 after four days of discussions and workshops at the Los Angeles Airport Marriott.



COURTESY PHOTO
Derrick Johnson



COURTESY PHOTO
Rick Callender

the 2024 Legacy Hall of Fame Awards, recognizing their lifelong commitments

to advancing civil rights.

The convention also offered practical work-

shops, including “What’s On Your Ballot?,” where coalition leaders provided analyses of California propositions, explaining their potential impacts on community rights and resources. The Voter Turnout Workshop provide background and encouraged participants to promote voter turnout through communitycentered outreach strategies.

Sunday’s events closed with a Prayer and Memorial Breakfast honoring the contributions of past and current civil rights leaders.



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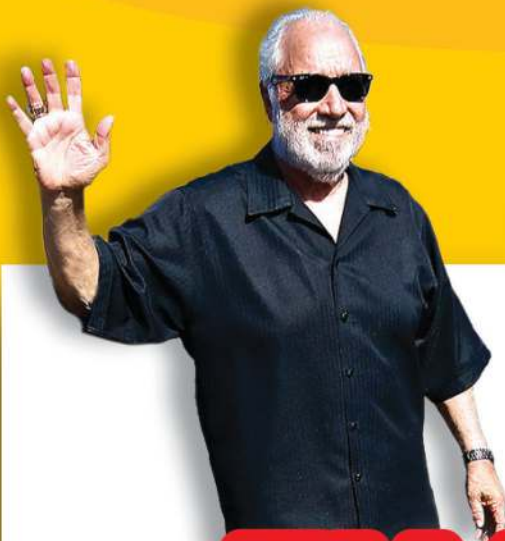


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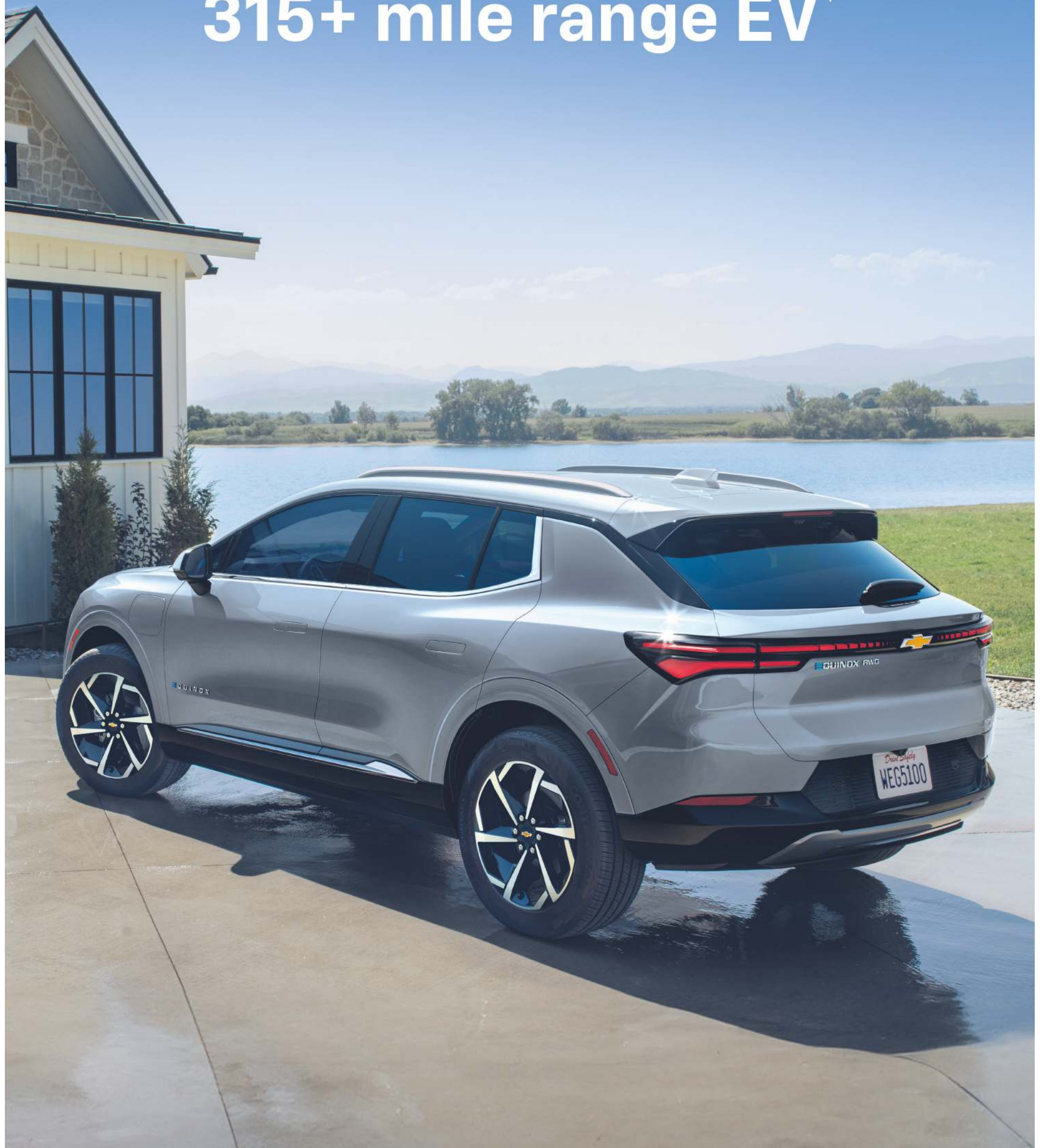
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From A Son to His Mother — The Jimmie Herron, Jr. Story

BY BRIAN W. CARTER
Contributing Writer

Jimmie Herron, Jr. came into the Los Angeles Sentinel offices with a special request.

The Los Angeles native is on a mission and the Sentinel plays an integral part in his agenda. You see, Herron shares a special history with the Sentinel, some good, some bad, but he wants to add one more piece to the puzzle.

He was born in Shreveport, Louisiana in 1947, his family moved to Los Angeles in 1957.

“We lived in a small, back house on 29th and Vermont. I attended Vermont Ave Elementary School,” said Herron.

“Now, when I look back at my elementary school year books, you can see the White flights of people moving out of the inner city to the valleys.”

Herron remembers playing with White and Mexican kids in the community back in the day, his memories serving as snapshots of a different time.

— after years of perseverance, I got my Prop Masters Card.”

Props are hats, guns, a wine glass, a bomb, etc. that



Herron with his outstanding achievement award, from the Los Angeles Black Media Coalition.

over \$2.”

Although a dark moment in his life, Herron shared it was also a pivotal turning point. This is when he decided that his life was going to mean something to him and his family. He wanted to

you see in film and television. A prop master works with production designers, set decorators, and art directors to work out what props are needed on set. Prop masters also recruit carpenters, artists and prop makers as well as manage the schedule for production.

Herron has worked on the sets of films such as “Harlem Nights,” “The Wood,” “Baby Boy,” and “Love & Basketball,” and television shows like “The Dukes of Hazard,” “Kenan Kel,” and “The Adventures of Brisco County, Jr.” just to name a very, small few.

“I worked on a few films, back in the ‘80s that pretty much encapsulated all the A-list Black actors in the industry,” said Herron. “I’ve worked, practically, with every Black actor that won an Academy Award.”

When asked what he liked most about being a prop master, Herron said he liked “having an input in the project.”

“Having a visual input that people could see and just the opportunity to learn from so many different people.”

Herron has received the outstanding achievement award, from the Los Angeles Black Media Coalition, for being the first Black prop master in Hollywood’s local #44 in 1988. The picture from the event, he stated, was in the Sentinel.

“As a 12-year-old kid, to say my name and picture



Retired Hollywood Prop Master Jimmie Herron, Jr. fulfills a wish standing in front of the Los Angeles Sentinel building.

would get in that paper, how could that even be possible, but after all the years of seeing my mother praying on her knees for her family, I know it was divine intervention,” said Herron.

Herron has accomplished much in his life and has laid a foundation for others pursuing a career as a prop master. All that being said, he hasn’t forgotten his main reason for coming to the Sentinel. He hasn’t for-

“She will not be with me as long as she’s been with me, so I would like very much to get an article in your paper of me and my son Dervon for being the first father and son prop master team in Hollywood.”

His request was met by the Sentinel as his amazing story, a piece of Los Angeles history — Black History — would make it in the paper. He showed up to the Sentinel ready to have his picture

son follow in his footsteps. “He survived, he’s successful, he has a decent career, so I’m proud of him.

“It makes me proud that we both accomplished things in this world. I’ve gone to memorial services, funerals and I’ve always said, when I leave here, hopefully, somebody got something good to say about me,” he said.

“There’s going to be a whole lot of guys that come



Herron shared old Sentinel articles documenting a dark moment in his past.



Prop Master Dervon “Von” Herron at a Grammy event.

“We made our toy scooters out of old roller skates, 2x4s and wood, milk crates,” said Herron.

He remembers watching popular TV shows of the time like “Leave it to Beaver,” “Father Knows Best,” and “My Three Sons.”

“You get the picture. There were no Crips and Bloods, drive-by shootings weren’t in our vocabulary, no mass school shootings on the nightly news, no video games with exploding heads-and blown-up bodies, just to say, a more innocent time for children,” said Herron.

Herron describes a situation that no child should ever have to endure. At the age of 12-years-old, he witnessed his father getting shot over a crap dice game.

“Needless to say, how traumatizing it was to see my bloody father, not knowing if he was going to live or die, affected me,” said Herron. “That incident was what I call a ding moment in our family’s life.”

He continued, “He lost his job, we got evicted out of our house, he fell deeper into alcoholism, started abusing my mother with violent outbreaks that caused my mother to eventually divorce him.”

Herron recounted that the situation was made even worse when the incident was reported in the Sentinel. Even though the man who shot his father turned himself into police, the story was out there in the public eye.

“You will never know how that made me feel,” said Herron.

“How embarrassing knowing friends and neigh-

make something of his life that would make his mother proud.

“Through a minority program in 1969, which was very controversial, I walked through picket lines of White disgruntled workers,” said Herron. “I got a job at Universal Studios in the prop department.”

Herron continued, “After years of avoiding all of the pitfalls so many Black men fell into — being late for work, drinking on the job, flirting with White women

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gotten something special he wants to present to someone special.

“My mother is 95-years-old in her last days in a nursing home,” said Herron.

taken, but he left a wealth of information. Herron is also proud that his son carrying on in the same career.

“It feels pretty good,” said Herron about seeing his

along after me that maybe did big shows and worked on this, worked on that, but they never had to walk through a picket line to get to work.”

The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

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Yes on A

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Report: Black Women Experiencing Higher Rates of Domestic Violence

By RODD A. AMOS
Contributing Writer

New Study Highlights National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

"I was about eight years old," recalled Menickey, a domestic violence survivor.

"I went to a grocery store that was nearby and I just sat on the ground crying for hours until somebody called [for help]. They gave me food, and then they called [DFCS]."

The UCLA Pritzker Center for Strengthening Children, the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), and domestic violence service providers collaborated on a new study examining the ongoing trauma impacting survivors of domestic violence (DV) and their children in the Antelope Valley (AV).

The study makes clear that survivors of domestic violence, also known as 'intimate partner violence' (IPV), struggle against numerous barriers, including isolation in navigation, lack of differentiation, racial bias, secondary traumatic stress (STS), financial strain, housing shortages, limited resources in transit, and service gaps for children.

The study, "Collaborative Reform in Child Welfare for Families Experiencing Domestic Violence in the Antelope Valley," was funded by the Blue Shield Foundation of California, Van Nuys Charities, and Pritzker Foster Care Initiative.

"These findings present opportunities for reform to



UCLA
Mothers and children are often victims of domestic violence.

support survivors and their children experiencing domestic violence," said Taylor Dudley, executive director of the UCLA Pritzker Center.

"We are inspired by Los Angeles County's commitment to this work and look forward to ongoing shifts in practice that help families stay safely together.

"The UCLA Pritzker Center has a twin mission," she continued, "to prevent the need for foster care and to support system change. We do this through three primary strategies: research, education, and partnership."

The study's recommendations range from enhancing and increasing the scale of collaborative efforts, refining DV referrals, expanding mental health service and childcare access, and strengthening public transit in the AV which requires collaboration across LA County departments, non-profit service providers, DV advocates, and parent survivors.

"As a public institution, UCLA makes a concerted effort to join hands with philanthropy, government, and community-based organizations," said Tyrone C. Howard, co-director of the UCLA Pritzker Center and the Pritzker Family Endowed Chair in the UCLA School of Education and Information Studies.

"This research," he continued, "examining domestic violence and foster care is one such example of coming together to enhance the social safety net for families in need. Sharing research relevant to the Antelope Valley has the potential to benefit all of L.A. County and other jurisdictions across the country."

Sarah Perry is the CEO of Valley Oasis, a DV service provider in the Antelope Valley.

"The focus groups held for mothers who had experienced domestic violence and involvement with the Department of Children and Family Services provided a

powerful platform for these women to share their personal experiences navigating systems as they began their journey toward recovery.

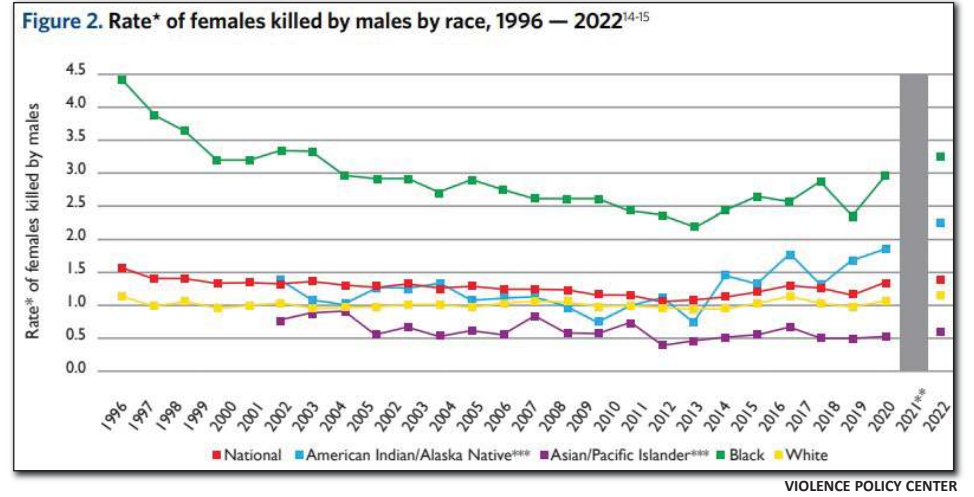
"These discussions," she continued, "not only gave mothers a voice but will also

effective approaches to domestic violence support and reunification efforts."

Focus group member Brittany was in an abusive relationship for five years before receiving assistance. "That last [incident] was

how to do that. [DCFS] really helped me sort it all out."

Antelope Valley lies in the northern reaches of L.A. County about an hour from downtown. It includes the high desert cities of Lancaster, Palmdale, and surround-

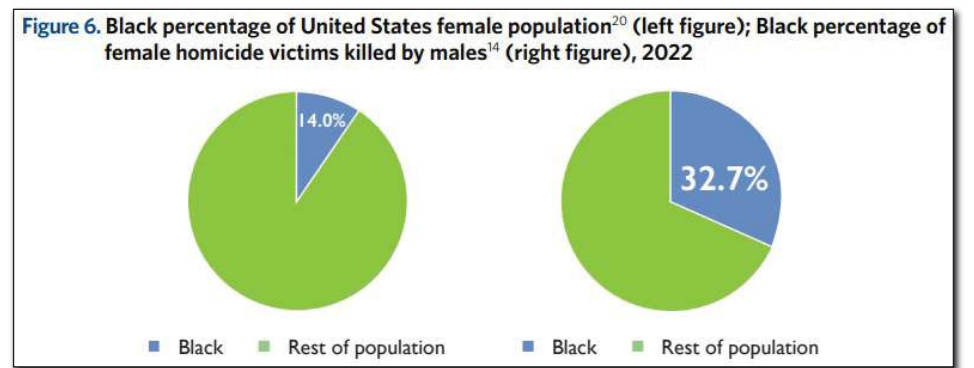


Study results by race.

	2018	2019	2020
LA County	38,190	36,707	35,498
California	166,890	161,123	160,646

Note: In 2021, the number of calls for DV assistance was again on the rise; California reported 164,608 Calls for Assistance in Domestic Violence situations.
Source: Crime Reports: Kids Data and California Office of the Attorney General

The number of domestic violence calls for assistance.



The number of domestic violence calls for assistance.

serve to provide valuable feedback to policymakers, social workers, and service providers, helping to inform more comprehensive and

very physical. I got beat and stabbed. Even if I wanted to pack up my three kids and all my stuff and leave, where would I go? I don't know

ing communities, and encompasses more than 1,000 square miles.

To learn more, visit <https://pritzkercenter.ucla.edu>.

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Compton-Woodley Airport Centennial Celebrates Black Contributions to Aviation

By JOANIE HARMON
Contributing Writer

The oldest continuously operating airport in the Los Angeles Basin, Compton-Woodley Airport celebrated its Centennial on Saturday, Oct. 26, with an Air Fair, presented by Los Angeles County Public Works.

Originally an open field that belonged to the local school board, it is fitting that the airport has for decades served as a hub of aviation education for the Black community, as home to Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum, which honors the Tuskegee Airmen and headquarters for numerous aviation and STEM programs for elementary, middle, and high school students.

Joycelin Tomlin is the membership chair and immediate past president of the Los Angeles chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. (TAI). She joined the organization in 1993, following the passing of her uncle, Lt.



From left are Larry McElroy (Clenan McElroy, Bombardier Group 477; Joycelin Tomlin, immediate past president; and Cathy Tomlin.

member of the 332nd Fighter Group, he was known as "Mr. Death" for his air victories over Nazi pilots in World War II.

As the numbers of living Tuskegee Airmen have dwindled – Jerry T. Hodges, Jr. is the only one remaining in the Los Angeles area at 99 years of age – Tomlin said that TAI is committed to helping young aspiring

as western regions president and national election inspector for TAI, as well as on the organization's national scholarship board of governors. She noted plans to start a program with Davis Middle School in Compton, named after Tuskegee Airman Lt. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, who flew with the 99th Fighter Squadron.

Building Black repre-

careers both in the air and on the ground.

"In commercial aviation, we're about four percent... and if you're talking about African American females, it's .1 percent," said Limes, an Air Force veteran of Afghanistan and Bosnia.

"We're making efforts to diversify our flight decks and open up opportunities for others who traditionally haven't been involved in aviation."

Founded in 2020 by a group of African American pilots and aircraft mechanics, Fly Compton Foundation provides opportunities for Compton youth to explore and pursue their passion for aviation with mentorships, educational programs, and access to



Alaska Airlines pilots and their colleagues shared career opportunities for Black aviation professionals. From left are Capt. Ron Limes, Capt. Ivor Martin, and Capt. Angus Williams.

reality. You have to have the desire to do it. Once you have that, you surround yourself with the right people and you move forward."

Donovan Johnson, a

line merged with United in 2010. A member of the Los Angeles chapter of the Black Flight Attendants of America, she continues to serve the community, volun-



The L.A. chapter of Black Flight Attendants of America served up professional histories and their mission of public service. From left are Diane Hunter, Mia Hutcherson, pilot and founder of Angel City Aerospace Foundation, Melvia Pinkard, Pamela Holmes, and Margaret Janus.

Col. John Lemuel Whitehead, the first Black test pilot and the first Black instructor pilot in the history of the U.S. Air Force. A

pilots to the profession.

"What we're doing is recruiting young people to teach them about aviation," said Tomlin, who has served

resentation in commercial aviation was also a goal of the Centennial. Capt. Ron Limes of Alaska Airlines shared the potential of



From left are Dante Kendrick, Donovan Johnson, and Nicholas Hardy, volunteer ground instructors with the Fly Compton Foundation.

resources, with the mission of increasing the numbers of Black and Brown aviation professionals.

"You have to...be in a space to understand there's only two percent of us doing this, since the Tuskegee Airmen," said Nicholas Hardy, a volunteer ground instructor with Fly Compton and pilot for Dynamic Aviation.

"Part of what we do is inspire the youth for the next generations. You want to be able to make it visible as a

pilot who gives aerial tours from Torrance Airport, pays it forward as an instructor with Fly Compton.

"I got help, so I want to help the younger generation as well," he said. "Getting into aviation, you need to branch out. Don't be afraid to talk to anybody — no question is a dumb question."

Margaret Janus was a flight attendant for Continental Airlines and continued her career when the air-

teering with fellow members for the L.A. Marathon and educational events at Compton-Woodley.

"It used to be all about wearing the high heels, serving [passengers]," said Janus. "Now, safety is important, it's emphasized more than in the beginning."

"It was a wonderful career, meeting all kinds of people all over the world," she said. "Traveling is probably the best education you can get."

Stop-the-Hate Message Shared With Tens of Thousands at Taste of Soul

By TANU HENRY
California Black Media

Hundreds of thousands gathered at the 19th annual Taste of Soul Festival in

Crenshaw — an event dubbed "California's largest block party" — on Oct. 19.

At the event, California Black Media (CBM) part-

nered with the California Civil Rights Department (CRD) to spread the word about the California Vs. Hate, a statewide hate crime online resource and

telephone hotline, launched in 2023. The system enables Californians to easily report hate crimes and hate incidents.

"Held in the heart of



Representative of the Office of Civil Rights and California Black Media staff the booth at Taste of Soul.

south Los Angeles on Crenshaw Blvd, over half a million people attend the one-day event that brings out the best our community has to offer," said Brandon Brooks, Stop the Hate project director at California Black Media.

"The festival promotes local businesses as well as it brings out local and statewide resources to assist community members, Brooks continued. "The day has proven to be a great opportunity to speak to people directly and provide information to combat hate crimes and incidents."

During the event, Brooks said he, James Williams, Community Based Organization Manager for California Vs. Hate and Leah Brown-Goodloe from CBM informed and shared literature with tens of thousands of festivalgoers about the state's Stop the Hate resources.

CBM's Stop the Hate outreach was held at the beginning of United Against Hate Week (UAHW), a commemoration held annually across the country to recognize the fight against all forms

of hate.

UAHW was first launched in 2018 by elected leaders, staff, and community groups from 13 cities in the Bay Area who organized a "United Against Hate" poster campaign responding to White supremacists marching in Northern California streets in the aftermath of Charlottesville riots.

In 2018, Los Angeles County, LAvsHate, a campaign that provided anti-hate crime information and resources to report hate incidents and hate crimes.

According to CRD director Kevin Kish, the L.A. initiative provided a model for the state's program.

Today, UAHW has grown into a national movement with events organized across the country to mark the day.

This year, across the state counties and cities acted and held events to mark UAHW, including the launch of a branded UAHW wrap installed on buses by the Santa Clara **{See ANTI-HATE CAMPAIGN AT TASTE OF SOUL on B-6}**

Volunteers & Donations Needed



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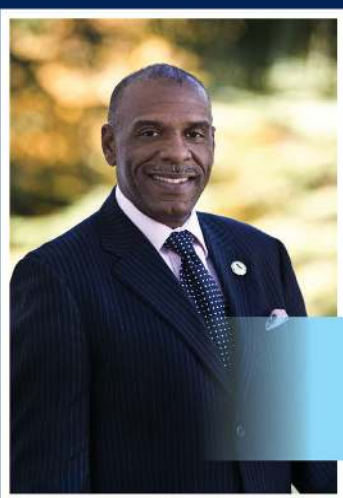
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Political Playback: News You Might Have Missed – Oct. 31

BO TEFU AND
JOE W. BOWERS JR.
California Black Media

Secretary of State Weber: Voting in California Has Begun; Officials Release Early Ballot Return Stats

Last week, the office of California Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber provided updates on ballot return statistics for the Nov. 5 General Election.

Since the state began sending out ballots by mail earlier this month to all registered voters in all 58 counties, more than 2.8



FILE PHOTO
Sec. of State
Dr. Shirley Weber

million residents have voted. So far, the state has accepted 98% of those ballots, the majority of which were returned by mail.

Some residents cast their votes in-person, amounting to a total of 4,709 ballots.

The highest number of voter registration and ballot returns came from counties with dense populations such as Los Angeles County, San Francisco County, San Diego County, and Orange County.

On Oct. 25, the Secretary of State's office partnered with Ethnic Media Services (EMS) and California Black Media (CBM) to host a news briefing on essential resources to prepare voters to cast their ballots properly and inform them about what the state is doing to protect their votes.

"As long your ballot is postmarked by election day, Nov. 5, and received by Nov. 12, it will be processed and counted," said Joe Kocurek, Deputy Secretary of State for Communications, during the briefing.

"If people feel like their mail isn't reliable or they're a little more concerned, they should probably mail it in as soon as they possibly can. If they don't want to do it that way, they have the in-person voting center options, which are open now," added Kocurek.

Last week, Weber also announced that residents who missed the online registration deadline on Oct. 21, still have the opportunity to register to vote. The Secretary's office confirmed that residents can participate in "same day" voter registration and cast a ballot at their county elections office, a designated voting center, or polling

place in their respective county.

"You don't have to wait for Election Day. To minimize wait times, I encourage Californians who need "Same Day" voter registration to visit an early voting location or their county elections office before Election Day to ensure their voices are heard," said Weber.

Citizens who are eligible for "same day" voter registration are required to fill out a complementary form in order to receive a ballot. The vote will be counted once county officials have completed the verification process for that voter's registration.

According to the office of the Secretary of State, residents can find more information at the links provided below.

For "Same Day" registration visit: caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov.

Check online voter registration status here: voterstatus.sos.ca.gov.

Active registered voters can track their ballot on: wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov.

Important dates

- Vote centers open for early in-person voting in all Voter's Choice Act counties beginning on Oct. 26.

- Mailed vote-by-mail ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received by Nov. 12. Information about county elections offices can be found at sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices.

Upcoming California key dates and deadlines for the Nov. 5, General Election can be found at sos.ca.gov/elections/upcomingelections/general-election-nov-5-2024/key-dates-deadlines.

Biden Appoints Black San Diego Attorney to California District Court Judgeship

On Oct. 23, President Joe Biden nominated two judges to vacant federal judgeships in Southern California: Judge Serena Murillo and Judge Benjamin Cheeks.

Both appointments are



USC GOULD SCHOOL OF LAW
Judge Serena Murillo

subject to U.S. Senate confirmation next month.

If confirmed, Cheeks, who is African American and a criminal defense attorney, will replace U.S. District Judge Gonzalo P. Curiel. Before his appointment, Cheeks was in private practice at the Law



REUTERS
Judge Benjamin Cheeks

Offices of Benjamin J. Cheeks, A.P.C. in San Diego from 2013 to 2024. From 2010 to 2013, Cheeks served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of California.

The same day of the White House announcement, California's U.S. Senators Alex Padilla and Laphonza Butler, both Democrats, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, congratulated Murillo and Cheeks and commended Biden on his decision.

"I applaud President Biden for his continued commitment to nominating highly qualified, diverse judges to serve California," said Padilla in a statement.

"Judge Cheeks has earned immense respect from his colleagues in the Southern District and has fought to protect vulnerable immigrants against fraud," Padilla added.

Butler said, "Californians deserve a federal bench that reflects the diversity of the Golden State.

"I applaud the President's nomination of Judge Serena Murillo and Judge Ben Cheeks to the United States District Courts for the Central District and Southern District of California, respectively. These two incredibly qualified candidates bring a breadth of both judicial and lived experiences to the federal bench, and I look forward to supporting their paths to confirmation," she continued.

Murillo, who has been a judge on the Los Angeles Superior Court since 2015. She also served by appointment of the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court as an Associate Justice pro tem on the California Court of Appeal from 2018 to 2019. Prior to joining the bench, Judge Murillo served as a Deputy District Attorney in the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office from 1997 to 2014. She received her J.D. from Loyola Law School in 1996 and her B.A. from the University of California, San Diego in 1993.

Cheeks earned his J.D. from the American University, Washington College of Law in 2003 and his B.A. from the University of Miami in Florida in 2000.

Controller Malia Cohen Convenes Auditors from Counties Across California

California State Controller Malia Cohen welcomed auditors from across the state for the 79th Annual County Auditors Conference, a three-day event and award ceremony hosted in Santa Cruz.

The state controller honored the award recipients by celebrating their excellence in producing accurate financial data.



FILE PHOTO
State Controller
Malia Cohen

The conference focused on key issues related to county financial management and reporting. This annual event is mandated by Government Code 12422, which requires the State Controller to convene county auditors at least once a year. The conference served as a platform to discuss county budget procedures, financial transaction reporting, and property tax revenue allocation, promoting consistency in the duties of county auditors statewide.

In her opening remarks, Cohen emphasized the significance of collaboration between her office and the county auditors.

"I want to congratulate all of the counties receiving today's County Financial Transactions Reporting award," stated Cohen. "Your county's diligence in reporting is critical for my office to produce accurate local government financial data, which is of vital importance to policymakers, researchers, and constituents throughout California. Thank you for your contribution to the quality and transparency of public finances."

Cohen also moderated a panel discussion featuring Assemblymember Gail Pellerin and Department of Finance Director Joe Stephanshaw. The panel addressed critical topics such as the upcoming state budget, technological advancements, and anticipated fiscal challenges for local governments in the coming fiscal year.

In addition, Cohen recognized counties that received the California State Controller Financial Transaction Reporting Award, highlighting the importance of accurate and timely financial reporting.

More than 40 counties won the coveted Financial

Transaction Reporting Award, celebrating their commitment to excellence in financial management. Counties that won an award include Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, and Sacramento.

Poll Indicates Strong Support for California's Controversial Prop 36 Crime Initiative

A recent poll showed that California voters back Proposition 36, which aims to increase penalties for certain theft and drug-related crimes, according to a survey by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC).

The poll came out last week as opponents of the proposition began a last-ditch push against the initiative in major metropolitan areas across California.

"As the 2024 campaign heads into its final days, The No on 36 Campaign is targeting voters in Los Angeles and the Bay Area with a series of new billboards urging voters to reject the cynical, misleading measure on the November ballot," read a press release from a coalition of opponents to the measure.

The PPIC survey showed that 73% of likely voters support the measure, up from 71% in September, with only 25% opposing the ballot measure.

This makes Prop 36 the most popular of the ten statewide issues on the ballot this fall, with 28% of voters indicating it is their top priority.

The emphasis on crime as a key campaign issue is partially driven by the pandemic-related rise in certain offenses. However, prominent Democrats, including Gov. Gavin Newsom, have expressed concerns about reverting to harsher crime policies.

Other ballot measures are also performing well according to the PPIC poll. Proposition 3, which seeks to remove outdated language banning same-sex marriage from the state constitution, has garnered 67% support. Proposition 35, aimed at making a tax on specific healthcare plans permanent to fund Medi-Cal, has over 60% approval.

Among the two \$10 billion bond measures, Proposition 4, focused on climate and water projects, has strong backing at 60%, while Proposition 2, for school construction, has a narrower margin of support at 52%.

Several other measures, including Proposition 33 on rent control, are trailing, with only 42% supporting the initiative. Proposition 6, which seeks to ban forced prison labor, is currently the least favored, with just 41 percent in favor.

In the presidential race, more than half of survey participants stated that they

plan to vote for Vice President Kamala Harris in comparison to Donald Trump.

The PPIC poll surveyed 1,137 likely voters from Oct. 7 - 15, with a margin of error of less than 4%.

Atty Gen Bonta: Mandate to Provide Emergency Care to All Patients Faces Threats

California Attorney General Rob Bonta emphasized the critical need to protect the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA), mandating that hospitals provide emergency care to all patients regardless of their ability to pay.

In a recent statement, Bonta highlighted the potential threats to this essential legislation amid ongoing discussions about healthcare accessibility in the U.S.

"EMTALA ensures that no one is denied access to emergency medical care, and this federal law is more imperative than ever following the overturn of Roe v. Wade," said Bonta.

The attorney general highlighted that EMTALA is vital for ensuring that no individual is turned away from emergency services based on financial status or insurance coverage. Bonta stated that the law has been a cornerstone of emergency healthcare for decades, providing peace of mind to millions of Americans who might otherwise hesitate to seek urgent medical attention due to cost concerns.

This decision to support the federal government's case comes at a time when many healthcare providers are facing pressure from rising costs and legislative changes that could undermine existing protections. Bonta called on lawmakers to reinforce EMTALA's provisions and to combat any efforts aimed at weakening the act, asserting that equitable access to emergency care is a fundamental right.

He urged both state and federal governments to ensure that all Americans, particularly marginalized communities, have the necessary access to emergency services without fear of financial repercussions. The brief indicates the coalition's commitment to healthcare equity, emphasizing that maintaining strong protections under EMTALA is crucial for safeguarding public health.

As discussions around healthcare policy continue, Bonta remains steadfast in promoting initiatives that protect emergency care access, asserting that everyone deserves timely and appropriate medical treatment in emergencies. His efforts align with ongoing legal and advocacy battles to preserve the rights established by EMTALA in the face of evolving healthcare challenges.

ANTI-HATE CAMPAIGN AT TASTE OF SOUL *[Continued from B-4]*

County Valley Transit Authority.

Not in Our Town, a Northern California-based anti-hate movement, highlighted 131 events across 92 cities.

"Not only were there public gatherings, but also powerful panel discussions, training sessions, and cultural events promoting unity, understanding, and solidarity. These efforts collectively reflect the growing awareness and action against hate in our neighborhoods," the Not in Our Town statement read.

In June, California Attorney General Rob Bonta released the 2023

Hate Crime in California Report. It included data and resources supporting the state's ongoing efforts to eliminate crimes and incidents motivated by racial and other biases.

According to the report, hate crimes in California decreased by 7.1% from 2,120 in 2022 to 1,970 in 2023.

However, incidents and crimes against Black Californians remained higher than average with 518 reported cases in 2023. The next highest reporting of bias events was 199 Anti-Hispanic or Latino incidents.

When it comes to

reported hate crimes, we know that Black Californians are the most targeted group for hate and discrimination in our state," said Williams. "The California Civil Rights Department wants people to know that we are committed to reaching the Black community through outreach events and campaigns, including our first-ever billboard campaign, forging new partnerships, or increasing awareness about the hotline and available resources to historically hard-to-reach and underserved Californians."

The Taste of Soul festival was created by

Bakewell Media CEO and executive publisher Danny Bakewell Sr. He said Taste of Soul was created to highlight the positive aspects of African American life and "to encourage the enjoyment, respect and appreciation of our community and each other in an atmosphere of respect, peace, pride and pleasure."

Brooks, who is from Los Angeles, said he was honored to participate in the event and provide a service to the community, which includes many of his friends and family.

"The event is always a beautiful experience to see family and friends enjoying

food, music and resources," said Brooks.

Williams said he wants to remind all Californians that there is "support when you report!"

"No matter your background or where you come from, if you've been targeted for hate, you can get help accessing legal, financial, mental health, and other services by calling 833-8NO-HATE or by going to CAvsHate.org," Williams added.

How To Report A Hate Crime:

CA vs Hate is a non-emergency, multilingual hate crime and incident reporting hotline and

online portal. Reports can be made anonymously by calling (833) 866-4283, or 833-8-NOHATE, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. PT or online at any time.

Hate acts can be reported in 15 different languages through the online portal and in over 200 languages when calling the hotline.

For individuals who want to report a hate crime to law enforcement immediately or who are in imminent danger, please call 911.

For more information on CA vs Hate, please visit CAvsHate.org.

Prop 2 Seeks to Modernize Public Education Facilities

By EDWARD HENDERSON
California Black Media

Proposition 2 would authorize the state to issue \$10 billion in bonds with \$8.5 billion dedicated to elementary and secondary educational facilities and \$1.5 billion for community college facilities.

If approved, the proposition will make changes to the formula used to determine the amount each district is required to contribute to be eligible to receive state funding from the bond revenue. It would also require the state government to cover between 50 and 55% of construction project costs and 60 and 65% of modernization project costs.

Supporters argue that the money is critical for making safety improvements in schools, as well as modernizing science labs, performing arts spaces and kindergarten classrooms. School districts in lower-income areas have no other way to pay for these improvements.

According to the Public Policy Institute of California, 38% of students attend

schools that don't meet the state's minimum safety standards. The research shows that schools with sub-standard facilities tend to have students with lower attendance rates, lower morale and lower overall academic performance.

California Black Media spoke with a Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) spokesperson on why she believes it should be a YES vote on Prop 2.

"Los Angeles Unified has \$80 billion in identified unfunded school facility needs and over 60% of its school buildings are over 50 years old. If Proposition 2 is approved by voters, LAUSD anticipates applying for and receiving between \$600 million and \$700 million," the Spokesperson said.

"Measure US, Los Angeles Unified's Local Public Schools Safety and Upgrades Measure on the November ballot, would provide \$9 billion to upgrade Los Angeles public schools for safety and 21st century student learning and college and career preparedness.

"The average annual

cost to property owners is estimated at 2.5 cents per \$100 of assessed (not market) property value. The

needed. We don't have the money to make the basic, structural repairs that are needed at every one of our

The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association is on record as one of the organizations opposing the

to districts issuing new local school bonds, which are paid for by adding new charges to property tax bills," said Jarvis.

Opponents also have voiced concerns about what they view as an inequitable distribution of funds. They believe that lower-income school districts should receive a greater share of the state's sliding scale for matching funds.

"Enrollment is declining in both K-12 district schools and community colleges and the declines are projected to continue. But Proposition 2 commits California to pay an estimated \$18 billion, including interest, for school buildings that may not even be necessary. Vote no on proposition 2."

A "yes" vote gives approval to the state to issue \$10 billion in bonds to fund construction and modernization of public education facilities.

A "no" vote will prohibit the state from issuing \$10 billion in bonds to fund construction and modernization of public education facilities.



State Superintendent of Education Tony Thurmond

COURTESY PHOTO

Los Angeles Unified Board of Education adopted a Resolution on October 22 to support Los Angeles Unified's Measure US, and State Propositions 2 and 4."

Rebeca Andrade, superintendent of Salinas City Elementary District in Monterey County is also on record supporting Prop 2.

"This money is badly

schools. Students need safe spaces to learn if they're going to reach their full potential," she said.

Opponents argue that the state should include school repairs in its regular budget instead of putting the burden on taxpayers. Opponents also argue that the proposition would not directly impact students.

proposition.

"Proposition 2 is \$10 billion of bonds, new state debt, to pay for school facilities. It is almost certain to result in higher property tax bills, because school districts must provide a 'local match' of funds in order to receive money from the Prop. 2 state bonds. That will lead

Black Leaders, Political Orgs, Sound Alarm About Project 2025

By ANTONIO RAY HARVEY
CALIFORNIA BLACK MEDIA

With the general elections just a few days away, Black organizations and leaders, including Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA-43), are sounding the alarm about Project 2025, the Heritage Foundation's controversial "policy bible."

The four-pillar initiative includes a detailed blueprint for the next conservative presidential administration – making way for a sweeping overhaul of the executive branch.

Waters has been outspoken in her opposition of the 900-page policy.

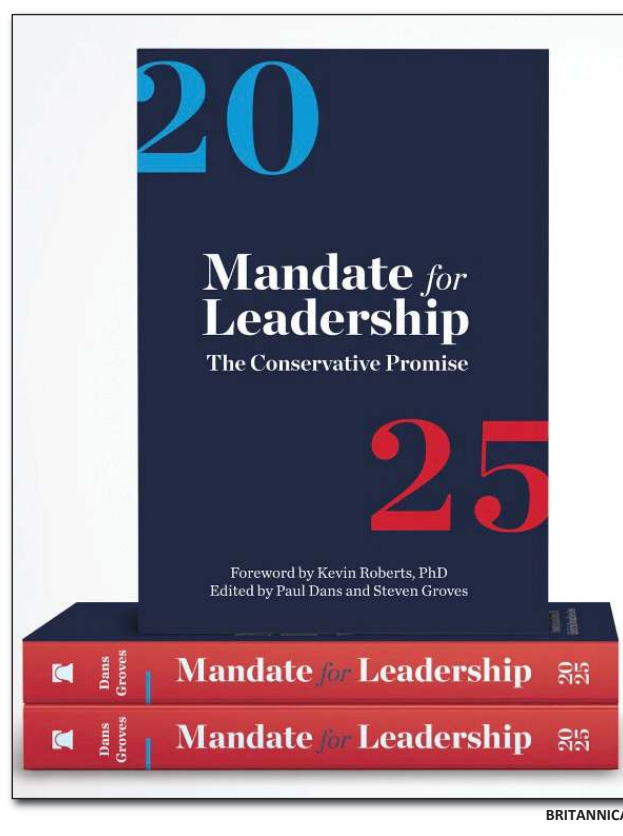
Recently, she shared "The People's Guide to Project 2025" with the Inglewood Area Ministers Association, an organization of predominantly Black pastors, to inform them about the proposal's impact, emphasizing that its influence would reach beyond the traditional spheres of presidential power. The 15-term politician from Los Angeles shared her sentiments with the House Financial Services Committee in July.

"Project 2025 promotes radical ideals to materially undermine the Federal Reserve, if not effectively abolish it," Waters said.

Written by the Heritage Foundation, Project 2025 was developed with the input of a broad coalition of conservative organizations and is organized around four pillars: Policy, Personnel, Training, and the 180Day Playbook. The proposals in the document aim to revamp every aspect of the U.S. government.

Language on Project 2025's website states, "It is not enough for conservatives to win elections. If we are going to rescue the country from the grip of the radical Left, we need both a governing agenda and the right people in place, ready to carry this agenda out on day one of the next conservative Administration."

Waters is not the only person sounding the alarm about Project 2025's agenda. Grassroot organizations in California and across the nation are preparing to combat the initiative despite who wins the elec-



BRITANNICA

tion between Trump and U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris.

The National Assembly of American Slavery Descendants (NAASD), members of advocacy groups in California, and other Black political organizations across the nation are drawing up policy documents to counter the conservative Project 2025 initiative.

On Aug. 2, NAASD hosted a nationwide ZOOM conference call to discuss policies that concern Black communities. Nocola Hemphill, the president and chief executive officer of the U.S. Black Women's Chamber, and grassroots organizations on the call are promoting what they call, #Reparations2025.

"I just want us to think about bringing all policies (ideas) together when we think about Project 2025," said Hemphill, who lives in South Carolina. "I am excited about the possibility of us forming our own version of Project 2025 and having it published by the November election."

NAASD is a nonprofit association of community activists from across the country that formed around May 2019. Its mission is to provide political education, community organizing, and mobilizing support for Reparations for Black American Descendants of U.S. Chattel Slavery.

The organization also

Stevens, Nita Watson, and Najee Jahaan.

Los Angeles resident Khansa "Friday Jones" is the president of NAASD.

"The National Assembly of American Slavery Descendants (NAASD) envisions a nation where African American descendants of US slavery can fully exercise their constitutional citizenship rights and have economic agency for generations," Muhammad told California Black Media (CBM).

In 2021, NAASD released the initial phase of its comprehensive R.E.P.A.I.R. Act policy platform titled "Priorities for Presidential Action." The initiative is an acronym for Reconciliation, Equity, Protections, Atonement, Investment and Remuneration.

It is comprised of 12 legislative memos detailing "important and actionable measures to advanced

reparative justice" for Black Americans in the United States, NAASD shared in an August 3, 2021, written statement.

While forming an agenda for #Reparations2025, NAASD has created a survey to determine how systemic racism and discrimination in the United States have affected Black American lives and single out options to repair harms through public policy. Participants in the survey would help the organization shape a national blueprint.

"During this election cycle, it is imperative that national Black organizations come together for collective success," Muhammad shared with CBM. "While the vote for President of the United States is important, we need to also focus on other active projects such as 'Project

2025,' Supreme Court

rulings around race and more."

Muhammad added, "NAASD's Black experience survey allows for individuals, Black organizations, and their allies to forge a pathway to reparations by utilizing community-building and policy."

The members of NAASD say that there are no right or wrong answers in taking the survey. The organization is only interested in survey takers to share experiences and opinions.

It takes approximately 10 minutes to complete this survey. The R.E.P.A.I.R. ACT infographic can be downloaded from the NAASD website.

"It is crucial that we share this survey far and wide so that together we can formulate demands for the first 100 days of the next presidential administration," Muhammad said.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Wendy Raquel Robinson to Host 2024 Heirs of Afrika



BY KEITH L. UNDERWOOD
Entertainment Writer

Wendy Raquel Robinson has consistently used her platform to uplift others, especially through her involvement with organizations like Heirs of Afrika. Founded by Koshie Mills, this annual event celebrates the achievements of Black women worldwide.

Robinson will host this year's ceremony, adding her signature charm to this celebration of Black excellence. This event holds deep significance for her. She believes it's essential for Black people, particularly Black women, to stay connected to their roots and honor their shared history.

"I'm a graduate of

son, "and how everything starts from the Motherland."

Robinson is incredibly passionate about the unity and pride the event fosters. She sees Heirs of Afrika as more than just an awards show — it's a movement that reinforces the collective power of Black women.

"I love working with Koshie [Mills], she's absolutely wonderful, and being grounded in my roots," said Robinson. "[Heirs of Afrika] is a way for me to stay connected and be a part of something that is greater than myself — I do it for the culture... I really do."

In addition to her work off-screen, Robinson's roles on "The Steve Harvey Show" and "The Game" have also left a lasting impact on her. Playing Principal Regina Grier on "The Steve Harvey Show"



Wendy Raquel Robinson

COURTESY PHOTO

sented the strength and dedication of teachers.

"It really made me examine not only my role as an educator, but myself and working with young people," said Robinson. "But also, the school system, and I take my hat off to all the teachers, principals, and supervisors, because it's not easy."

Through Regina Grier, Robinson was able to highlight the important role educators play in shaping the minds and futures of young people.

"You have to deal with a multitude of different personalities — the young people — even the shootings now — being an educator is dangerous," stated Robinson. "So, I have a lot more respect — I already did have respect, but now it's just really admiration, and really just bowing down to the educators."

Robinson's role as Tasha Mack on "The Game" gave her the chance to portray a strong, driven single mother who was fiercely protective of her son while managing a successful career.

Tasha Mack's bold personality and resilience resonated with Robinson, as she admired the character's ability to juggle the pressures of work and motherhood.

"Tasha Mack from The Game — she really helped me to just speak my mind and be unapologetic at times... I let a lot of people get away with a lot of things, but she helped me to be more assertive, speak my mind, and know that it's okay for me to say no," said Robinson.

For Robinson, Tasha symbolized the real-life struggles and triumphs of single mothers, many of whom balance professional

and family responsibilities with grace and strength.

Through Tasha, Robinson was able to bring attention to the determination of women who fight for their families while pursuing their careers.

"Also, looking at being a single parent, Tasha — she was a single mom, and just how difficult that is, and how vigilant you have to be and resilient," remarked Robinson. "She was tenacious, she was resilient... she took nothing for granted, and I bow down to all the single moms."

Beyond her acting roles, Robinson's work with Amazing Grace Conservatory has been a significant part of her life.

Founded in 1997, Amazing Grace Conservatory provides young people, particularly from underserved communities, with opportunities to explore their artistic talents. For Robinson, the conservatory is a way to give back and nurture the next generation of artists.

"I really like pouring into the youth, but believe it or not, they pour into me as well," said Robinson. "There's nothing like sitting around and being in fellowship, and fun, and love, and being in conversation."

Her commitment to uplifting others extends to her broader work in the community, especially through events like Heirs of Afrika. Robinson knows that unity is key to progress, and she is passionate about creating spaces where Black women can support and uplift one another.

"If we don't know who we are and where we come

from, we don't know where we're going," said Robinson. "I embrace the next generation of artists, of artist-scholars, and if we don't teach our history — if not us, who will?"

Through her work with Heirs of Afrika, "The Steve Harvey Show," "The Game," and Amazing Grace Conservatory, Wendy Raquel Robinson has built a legacy centered on empowerment, community, and the celebration of Black excellence.

Robinson continues to inspire, lead, and create spaces for Black women and young artists to thrive.

The 2024 Heirs of Afrika event will take place on Sunday, November 24,



Wendy Raquel Robinson as Regina Grier in "The Steve Harvey Show."

COURTESY PHOTO

2024, from 11:00 AM to 3:30 PM at the Sheraton Grand Los Angeles. For more information, visit www.heirsofafiafrika.com.

Keith L. Underwood is a show biz insider, former entertainment publicist, and the creator, producer, and host of *Black in the Green Room*, an entertainment radio show on KBLA Talk 1580, a YouTube channel show, and a multi-platform podcast.



Wendy Raquel Robinson as Tasha Mack in "The Game."

COURTESY PHOTO

Howard University, and one of the things about an HBCU is it really put into perspective who I am in terms of the culture," said Robinson.

"I took a Black diaspora class at Howard University that just really changed the lens on how I look at the world," continued Robin-

son, "and how everything starts from the Motherland."

allowed her to embody the qualities of educators, a group she deeply respects. "Every role I do, I try to bring a bit of myself to the character," said Robinson. "But at the same time, I try to learn from the character."

For Robinson, Regina was a character who repre-

Koshie Mills Celebrates Black Women at Heirs of Afrika Awards

BY KEITH L. UNDERWOOD
Entertainment Writer

Koshie Mills, founder of The Diaspora Dialogues, a multimedia platform connecting Black communities globally, is set to honor Black women from the African diaspora through her Heirs of Afrika Awards.

The 2024 Heirs of Afrika Awards will take place on Dec. 10, at 6 p.m. at the Beverly Hilton in Los Angeles.

"I decided to make this my assignment — to bring our people together," Mills said.

"I felt in my spirit that God had assigned me to this ministry." She shared that her Ghanaian American background shaped her commitment to honoring

Black women's voices.

Created as part of Heirs of Afrika, Mills' International Women of Power event highlights Black women who drive change and foster community, serv-



Koshie Mills

MICHAEL ROWE

ing as a platform for global connection and empowerment.

"The beauty about International Women of Power is the manifestation of the physical form of the conversation," said Mills. "We are owners of our own destiny, and we are together. That's the power of International Women of Power."

"People leave the room transformed, they leave the room high, and they send me messages saying, 'Queen, I felt like royalty,'"

Mills continued. "Once you step into the space, you're elevated into your greatest self."

Mills said that growing up with a strong sense of heritage inspired her vision for Heirs of Afrika. The awards were created to elevate and showcase Black women's global contributions.

"That's why we chose the name 'Heirs of Afrika,' because everyone outside of the continent is just as invested and an inherent heir as those from the Motherland," said Mills.

Actress Wendy Raquel Robinson returns as this year's host. Mills notes Robinson will bring energy to the event, adding depth to the evening.

"She [Robinson] hosted in 2019, and when I made the call, she said, 'Koshi, that room is such a special room. I'd be honored to come back,'" Mills said. "Last time she hosted, she was so phenomenal — so impactful. Everyone was riveted by her."

The Heirs of Afrika Awards aims to create a dignified and affirming space. Mills described the event as elegant and inviting, reflecting the strength of Black women's contributions. Each detail is crafted to provide an empowering experience for attendees.

"Someone described the



Koshie Mills on the Women of Power stage.

RODIN ECKENROTH

event as a 'big giant hug,'" said Mills. "You walk in, you see your sister from Africa, your sister from Haiti, Jamaica, Grenada, America, and you're like, 'wow.'"

Mills shared that this year's honorees include actress Meagan Good, recognized for her impact in entertainment, along with 9-1-1 actress Sierra McClain and Caroline Wanga, CEO of Essence, celebrating a diverse group of trailblazing Black women.

"It's going to be phenomenal! Amazing," Mills said.

Grammy-winning artist Estelle will provide entertainment, adding a musical highlight to the celebration.

Looking ahead, Mills plans an event to recognize

men's achievements.

"International Men of Power will be coming in 2025," Mills said. "I have four men in my house — my husband and my three sons... I've been wanting to do International Men of Power, but it hadn't been the right time. Now, it's the right time."

Through Heirs of Afrika and The Diaspora Dialogues, Mills creates platforms for Black voices worldwide. This year's awards will celebrate Black women's impact, fostering pride and unity across the global Black community.

For more information and ticket details for the Heirs of Afrika Awards, visit heirsofafiafrika.com.



Koshie Mills on the red carpet.

BOBBY QUILLARD



Koshie Mills in the throne room.

GILBERT ASANTE

Ashley Everett: From Dance to Entrepreneurship— A Journey of Grit, Growth, and Self-Care

BY MYKO LYRIC
Contributing Writer

Ashley Everett, renowned for her career as a lead dancer for Beyoncé, has shifted her focus to her own initiatives within entrepreneurship, wellness, travel, and acting. In an intimate conversation with the Sentinel, she opened up about her transition from the stage to the world of entrepreneurship and how she hopes to inspire others through her multifaceted career.

Prior to the start of the pandemic, Ashley devoted most of her life to dance, specifically by training, touring, and filming with Beyoncé.

“Ever since I started working in this industry in 2007, I have basically been on tour every other year, if not every year,” she recalled. “In 2020, a lot of things changed when we didn’t have to be physically on the road.”

From the most optimistic viewpoint, the pandemic provided everyone the chance to sit still, reflect, and reevaluate. Ashley was no exception. She began to water her own seeds and ideas, which is a stark contrast to her pre-pandemic lifestyle as a backup dancer and dance captain.

During this time, she was able to explore entrepreneurship at new depths through partnerships and her own endeavors, including Catchet Brands CBD.



COURTESY PHOTO

Everett hosted retreats in Bali and Costa Rica.

Cachet Brands features self-care products like CBD-infused oils, whipped butters, and muscle sticks.

“I’ve been through my ups and downs [with entrepreneurship],” she shared, “but I’ve learned through trial and error. Now, I’m focusing on my personal brand, content creation, and even re-launching Catchet Brands, plus some other projects I can’t talk about yet,” Ashley foreshadowed. “I preach about having your eggs in many baskets.”

She preaches what she follows: another major highlight of Everett’s wellness journey has been her retreats, which she finds deeply fulfilling.

“I’ve hosted two retreats so far, one in Bali and one in Costa Rica,” she

shared. With another retreat in Greece planned for 2025, Everett is excited to continue bringing people together in a way that fosters community and wellness.

“The retreats are so much fun. I kept telling everybody, ‘This actually reminds me a lot of tour.’ We were like a little family [traveling together].”

Since Ashley was Beyoncé’s dance captain for over a decade, she was able to exercise her leadership skills extensively, which greatly aided her in leading retreats.

“It’s a responsibility [to tag people on retreats]. You have to make sure they are safe and really having a great time,” Ashley admitted.

Ashley is also explor-

ing her passion for acting, and her most recent commercials are with Pepsi, Nissan, Home Goods, and Smirnoff. Her commercial success has piqued her interest for more acting opportunities.

“I’ve always wanted to

and with a lot on my plate,” she said. “I remember being so focused, even as a kid. I loved the challenge of wanting to get it right,” she recalled, with a smile.

As the former right-hand-woman for one of the

a wellness retreat, she is intentional on how she wants to make people feel.

“People look to me as a leader and I’m very aware of that. I want people to feel inspired,” she admitted.

“[I want them to know]



COURTESY PHOTO

Ashley Everett as a lead dancer for Beyoncé.

be in a feature film, and a recurring role in a TV series” she said.

With so many passions, and balance of self-discipline and self-care are key for Ashley.

“I thrive under pressure

most notorious hard workers in the music business, it’s no surprise that Ashley approaches her own career with the same tenacity.

Regardless of whether we’re engaging with Ashley onscreen or in-person at

they can come to me with questions or concerns, but also I’m going to fire [under them] to accomplish their goals and dreams.”

Stay aligned with Ashley on all social media, @ashleycmeverett.

Micheaux Film Festival and OneLegacy Unite Rapper Freeway, Writers, and Producers for Authentic Storytelling

BY DANA ELAINE CARROLL
Contributing Writer

OneLegacy Inspires Hollywood and The Micheaux Film Festival showcased a star-studded panel on Oct. 25, highlighting the impact of accurate and authentic storytelling, especially in narratives focused on medical issues and organ donation.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Micheaux Film Festival logo.

The event was moderated by Sarah E. Fahey, event chair, and included rapper Freeway, an organ donation advocate; Emmy-winning writer and producer Carol Barbee (“Raising Dion,” “Three Rivers”); writers and producers Jason Hanzel (“Grey’s Anatomy,” “Graceland”) and Tristan Thai (“The Good Doctor”); and short film director Kameishia Wooten (“Choices”).

Freeway shared his experience with organ donation, which began in 2015 with a diagnosis of kidney failure.

“There were signs. I was scheduled to perform with Fabulous, and when I looked into the crowd I had this anxiety attack. Through the grace of God I got through it, but then after that I got blood work done,” recalled Freeway.

After diagnosis, he



DANA ELAINE CARROLL/L.A. SENTINEL

From left are Jason Hanzel, Sarah E. Fahey, Freeway, Carol Barbee, Tristan Thai, and Kameishia Wooten.

found that many in the music industry had similar experiences but kept it hidden.

Some people don’t want to look weak, but the best thing we can do is spread awareness,” he said, highlighting that his own risk factors included hypertension, diabetes, and being African American. Even while on dialysis, Freeway joined Jay Z and Beyoncé for the “On the Run” tour to show that “dialysis isn’t a death sentence.”

Following his son’s tragic passing, whose organs saved four lives, he urged others: “Be an organ donor. It’s the gift that keeps on giving.”

Barbee discussed her experience on CBS’s “Three Rivers,” and spending time with three donor families and doctors to portray their stories accurately. She states that the show led to a double-digit increase in registered donors, demonstrating the real-world impact of media.

“Eight months ago, a friend needed a heart transplant. This is so real and impacts so many lives,” she said.

Thai shared how empathy helps writers convey



DANA ELAINE CARROLL/L.A. SENTINEL

OneLegacy Ambassador LaBrina Boyd-Jolley attends in honor of her mother.

complex stories, urging writers to imagine if a loved one needed a transplant. He cited an episode of “Curb Your Enthusiasm,” in which the protagonist grapples with being a donor match, as an example of how meaningful yet

complex themes of organ donation can be portrayed. Thai stressed that real stories could inspire richer narratives in media.

Kameishia Wooten described her willingness to donate a kidney to her sister with Lupus, joking, “There are going to be rules if you get my kidney.” The panel played a trailer of her film, “Choices,” “about three teens who await pregnancy test results underneath the school bleachers, all dealing with three unique situations with teen pregnancy.”

Wooten’s film, written to counter the often-traumatic portrayals of Black teens, celebrates themes of sisterhood and self-determination.

The event also featured stories from OneLegacy ambassadors impacted by organ transplants. Duane, a heart and kidney transplant recipient, recounted his health journey, including his mission to dispel myths about organ donation within the LGBTQ+ communi-

ty. Duane and his partner, who later underwent heart surgery, both had “their hearts touched” by the same surgeon.

Dr. Robert Hill, a heart and kidney transplant recipient, emphasized the importance of preventive health care. Reflecting on his experiences, he urged men—especially Black, Latino, and Native commu-

nities — to seek regular checkups.

“Sometimes we just ignore the signs. The stereotypes that it makes you weak if you go to the doctor, ok well, they ain’t gonna see you as weak if you’re dead,” he stated, stressing that organ donation saved his life.

LaBrina Boyd-Jolley shared the story of her mother’s decision to be a donor. Learning of her mother’s registration after her passing was a shock, but it led her to OneLegacy, where she received grief support and discovered the lives her mother’s donation had saved.

“I couldn’t bring my mom back,” she said, “but I was here to help her legacy live on.”

The Micheaux Film Festival’s partnership with OneLegacy Inspires Hollywood illustrated the power of authentic storytelling in spreading awareness and inspiring change, showing that stories rooted in truth can save lives.



DANA ELAINE CARROLL/L.A. SENTINEL

Narratives with a Purpose included, from left, Sarah E. Fahey, Freeway, and Carol Barbee.

Raj Kapoor and Katy Mullan to Lead Production Team, for 97th Oscars

By MAGRIRA
Contributing Writer

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced the return of powerhouse executive producers Raj Kapoor and Katy Mullan for the 97th Oscars® broadcast, set for March 2, 2025.

Fresh off an Emmy® win for their exceptional work on the 96th Oscars, Kapoor and Mullan are once again teaming up with acclaimed director Hamish Hamilton, who will direct the event for the fifth time.

Production designers Misty Buckley and Alana Billingsley, also Emmy winners from last year's telecast, and music director Michael Bearden, a new addition to the lineup, round out the show's distinguished creative team. The Oscars will air live on ABC at 7 p.m. ET/4 p.m. PT, with the official red carpet show preceding at 6:30 p.m. ET/3:30 p.m. PT.

"We're excited to bring back our talented, innovative team," said Academy CEO Bill Kramer and Academy President Janet Yang.

"Raj, Katy, Hamish, Misty, Alana, and David

Chamberlin [the returning executive producer for the red carpet show] have a proven track record of

saying, "The Oscars are a unique celebration, and we're honored to bring our passion for live television

last year's show, and we're looking forward to seeing what they bring to the 97th."

ic, live television events. Mullan, a partner at Done + Dusted, is celebrated for her work on global live

includes directing the Super Bowl Halftime Show and the London Olympics Opening Ceremony.

Music director Michael Bearden, whose resume includes collaborations with Whitney Houston, Madonna, and Michael Jackson, brings fresh energy to the team, elevating the musical moments of this year's Oscars.

Production designers Misty Buckley and Alana Billingsley are back to set the visual tone of the night, having previously collaborated on projects ranging from the Grammy Awards to the Commonwealth Games. Emmy-winning David Chamberlin is also set to produce the red carpet show, continuing his successful run of high-profile, live-event productions.

The Oscars, held at the Dolby® Theatre at Ovation Hollywood, will be broadcast globally to more than 200 territories, celebrating the finest achievements in film. As the Academy continues to honor cinematic excellence, this year's production team is set to create an unforgettable experience for movie fans worldwide.



Music director Michael Bearden

COURTESY PHOTO

excellence, and with Michael Bearden on board, the night promises to deliver a powerful celebration of the art of filmmaking."

Kapoor and Mullan expressed their enthusiasm

and cinematic storytelling to audiences once more."

Walt Disney Television's Executive VP of Unscripted Entertainment Rob Mills added, "Their visionary work elevated

Raj Kapoor, with eight Emmy nominations and notable credits that include the Grammys® and "Adele: One Night Only," returns to lead the team, bringing a flair for dynam-

events such as the London Olympics and "The Little Mermaid Live!"

Returning director Hamish Hamilton is widely recognized for his impressive resume, which

BHERC Holds 30th Annual S.E. Manly African American Short Film Festival

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Sandra J. Evers-Manly, president of the Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center (BHERC), announced that the 30th Annual S. E. Manly African American Short Film Festival (SEMAASFF) will kick-off Friday, Nov. 15 at the Regal at LA Live, located at

1000 West Olympic Blvd. in downtown Los Angeles.

The opening event will be "Great Night in Black Hollywood" at 7 p.m. The ceremony will honor ground-breaking talent, industry contributors, community leaders, and organizations making a difference both in Hollywood and the community. Also, several

special screenings will be featured.

"This will be BHERC's final event of an action-packed year," said Executive Director John Forbes.

"The 30th year of this festival for us is validation. We have sorted through tens of thousands of films throughout these 30 years, we have screened thousands



COURTESY PHOTO

of them in our festival. And after 30 years we are still here, still going. The formula works, great talent, great stories, and an organization that wants them to be seen."

According to Evers-Manly, "BHERC experienced great success with our three prior film festivals in 2024, which were the 'Youth Diversity Film Festival,' 'Sista's Are Doin' For Themselves,' and 'Reel Black Men' short film showcase.

"It has been yet another landmark year for the organization. BHERC hopes to continue their upward momentum by using the 30th annual SEMAFF, to usher in a new and even more successful year going into 2025!"

The 2024 festival films

will offer perspectives from around the world as well as feature standout films from previous festivals. The genres and subject matter of the films range from social justice, historically based events, mental health, romance, drama, faith, sci-fi, horror, fantasy, documentaries, animation,

action and comedy. Festival passes are available online at www.bherc.org. A full weekend festival pass is \$300, a day pass is \$75, a two-hour pass off a block of films ins \$25. Senior and student discounts are available.

For tickets, visits www.bherc.org.



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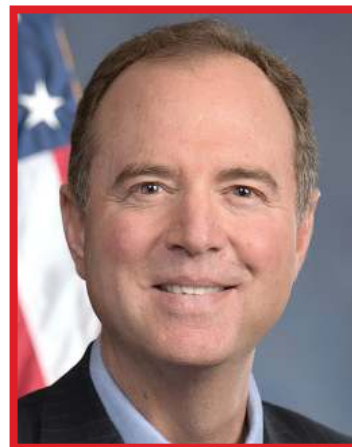


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- Seat 39



Ericka Wiley
- Seat 48



Sharon Ransom
- Seat 97



Georgia Huerta
- Seat 135



Tracy Blount
- Seat 137

Measures & Propositions

STATEWIDE

PROPOSITION 2.....YES	PROPOSITION 5.....YES	PROPOSITION 33NO
PROPOSITION 3.....YES	PROPOSITION 6.....YES	PROPOSITION 34NO
PROPOSITION 4.....YES	PROPOSITION 32.....YES	PROPOSITION 35.....YES
		PROPOSITION 36NO

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

MEASURE AYES	MEASURE G.....NO	MEASURE E.....YES
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LOCAL INITIATIVES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES	MEASURE DD	YES
CITY OF LOS ANGELES	MEASURE LL	YES
LONG BEACH COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT.....	MEASURE US	YES
LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE.....	MEASURE AC	YES
CITY OF LONG BEACH.....	MEASURE LB.....	YES
CITY OF LONG BEACH.....	MEASURE JB.....	YES
CITY OF LONG BEACH.....	MEASURE HC	YES
CITY OF PASADENA	MEASURE PC	YES
CITY OF PASADENA	MEASURE PL.....	YES
PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT	MEASURE EE.....	YES
PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT	MEASURE R	YES



UNMET Returns: Celebrating Black Art and Community at the Second Annual Exhibition

By MYKO LYRIC
Contributing Writer

Mikayla Rodriguez, UNMET founder and creative director, turned her vision of uniting art, community, and social empowerment into reality with UNMET's debut exhibition in 2023. Now, the highly anticipated second annual UNMET event will take place on Sunday, Nov. 10, in downtown Los Angeles from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

This event emerged as a passion project, grounded in Rodriguez's commitment to entrepreneurship and community building, specifically for Black artists and changemakers often underrepresented in fashion and art spaces.

The inaugural event held last year set the tone for UNMET as a collaborative space celebrating Black artistry, innovation, and expression. The intimate gathering of over 60 attendees fostered genuine conversations around Afrofuturism and Black identity in America.



UNMET artwork.

COURTESY PHOTO

"It was beautiful to see people naturally engaging in meaningful discussions about the art and what it represented," Rodriguez reflected.

This year's event focuses on freedom and is explored through themes of

ancestry, modernity, and introspection. Rodriguez emphasized how much weight the word "freedom" holds, highlighting the juxtaposition of privilege and struggle that Black Americans experience.

"Freedom" really stuck

with me. I feel like that word really does bring us together as Black people. We have a privilege that a lot of those before us do not get to have. Still, it's as much a privilege to be here as it is an ongoing fight to be here," she said.

The event showcases diverse mediums including textile art, mixed media, photography, poetry, and music. One of the most authentic and exciting aspects of this event is that each member of the production and artistic team is Black and almost all are women.

Key members of the production team include Bria Adams, who not only supports operations and music supervision, but will also serve as the event's MC; Destiny Quinn, an event producer who perfects every logistical detail; Jada Beasley, the marketing strategist who secures sponsorships and handles promotion; Brittany Goodwin, who provides social media expertise; and Destiny Griffin, the artistic

director and set designer.

Beyond aesthetics, UNMET is committed to social impact. They have partnered with Compton Girls Club, so the event will donate a portion of its proceeds to support the young women and non-binary youth in the Compton and greater Los Angeles area, offering classes and community resources aimed at self-regulation, community engagement, and leadership.

The Nov. 10 event features a digital auction, panel discussions, an open bar, and live performances by musicians Ronke Akoh, Abena, and DJ Eb & Flow.

Tickets are \$25, with



COURTESY PHOTO

Scan this QR code to obtain tickets.



COURTESY PHOTO

Mikayla Rodriguez

the proceeds going towards supporting Black women and girls and ensuring the growth of UNMET. With 99% of its production team and participants identifying as Black women, UNMET celebrates and amplifies the creativity and contributions of Black female artists in a uniquely powerful way.

Purchase tickets with the QR code, and stay aligned with UNMET on social media: @unmet.us

For inquiries, visit www.unmet.us

'Grounded Visions: Glow in the Dark Paint & Sip' Brings Art, Ancestry, and Healing to Compton

By NATHAN J. LEE
Contributing Writer

The Center of Mental & Spiritual Wellness, Compton's wellness co-working space, presents "Grounded Visions: Glow in the Dark Paint & Sip"—an inspiring collaboration with What's Ya Vibe? that celebrates ancestral honor.

This art-centered experience invites participants into a warm, welcoming space aglow with soft neon lights, creating a unique opportunity to connect with their roots through the expressive power of art.

As participants begin painting under the soft, ambient glow, Shalandrea Houchen encourages them to "fill your whole page with as many markers,



NATHAN J. LEE/L.A. SENTINEL
Shalandrea Houchen guiding the "Glow in the Dark Paint & Sip" experience.

blank canvas into a personal reflection. Houchen is the founder of What's Ya Vibe? and curator of the "Grounded Visions" series.

creators.

"Starting with the basics is essential," she explains, "because a lot of folks get overwhelmed by creativity. Many say, 'I can't draw, I can only make a stick figure,' so I chose names as a warm-up." By guiding participants to simply design their names, Houchen creates a pressure-free space for self-expression.

Lee Hightower III, a personal trainer and chief wellness visionary at What's Ya Vibe? sees the event as a powerful way to reconnect with ancestral roots.

"In our community, there's such a lost connection with our ancestors," he explains. Many individuals, he notes, have passed away without the community fully addressing the grief.

"We're making sure that our ancestors stay alive through the wellness center that we're creating, and then also through the events and being able to create art, being able to honor them, being able to bring up their names, have their pictures be remembered," he says.

Founded by therapist and holistic practitioner Londen Gatewood, the Center of Mental & Spiritual Wellness is as a soothing sanctuary adorned with lush plants and natural light. After inheriting her grandmother's home a year ago, Gatewood transformed it into a multi-room facility serving as a gathering space for wellness professionals and community.

Offering services from women's groups to fitness classes, gardening, mindful meditation, and sound healing, the center embodies her vision of holistic health, creating a balanced environment for all who enter.

Through "Grounded

Visions: Glow in the Dark Paint & Sip," Houchen, Hightower, and Gatewood unite community members in honoring heritage and fostering connections. The event encourages participants to explore self-identity, building confidence and purpose through the simple act of painting their names and surrounding them with symbols of personal meaning.

"By designing your name, they are consciously and subconsciously boosting confidence." Houchen explains. This event exemplifies the shared mission of both What's Ya Vibe? and the Center of Mental & Spiritual Wellness: building a harmonious, supportive community where individuals can connect, create, and thrive.

Through gatherings like

"Grounded Visions," Compton's wellness community continues to grow, rooted in honoring the past and embracing the transformative power of art and wellness.

For updates on "Grounded Visions" and What's Ya Vibe?, visit wyvibe.org, and to learn more about the Center of Mental & Spiritual Wellness, visit cmswellness.org.

Simon Burris: Africana Diaspora Black History Month II Crossword

BLACK POLITICO

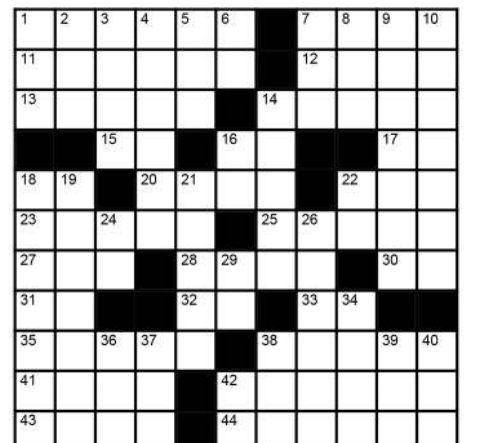
www.simonburris700.com

Across

- **Vice President Harris
- Records
- **Poet Gorman; performed for Pres. Biden and VP Harris
- Querying sounds
- *Black Wall Street race massacre locale, 1921
- **Playwright/activist ___ Jones
- *Actress Waters' monogram
- **"___ Shall Overcome" song
- Short railroad
- Web Master (abbr.)
- ROS ___ L: (UCLA home field)
- Abbr. for Above Ground Level
- Iowa to rule out (acronym)
- *J ___ Walker; "Good Times" actor
- DOW ___ AD: File transfer
- ** ___ Parks activist
- **"R ___" Jamie Foxx film
- IRST ___ LASS
- "___ one can tame the tongue" (James 3:8)
- *Boxer Tyson's monogram
- *Esther of "Good Times"
- **Barack or Michelle ___
- *Jazzy Fitzgerald
- **U.S. Senator Cory (New Jersey)
- Place to work out
- Elsewhere

Down

- "Krazy ___"
- G ___ T (scope)
- Boy or man
- "A soft ___ turns away wrath" (Proverb 15:1)
- Actress Lupino
- **Tennis great/activist Ashe's monogram
- **Filmmaker/activist Spike ___
- Ohio route (abbr.)



- **MLK Jr. and Gladys Knight's home state
- **First Black woman in Congress Chisholm
- **Congressman/activist John ___ (GA)
- Without (abbr.)
- **Chicago's TV host and Kamala Harris supporter Oprah ___
- **Mr. X/human rights advocate
- Gone with the wind?
- *Will Smith film "I ___ Legend"
- ___ and fro
- Latin dances
- Scoreless tie (sports)
- Choose
- *The Bi ___ osby Show
- Los Angeles Athlete (initials)
- Out of bed, briefly
- "___ in Black" movie
- *Tatum or Blakey
- *Morehouse College degree, for short

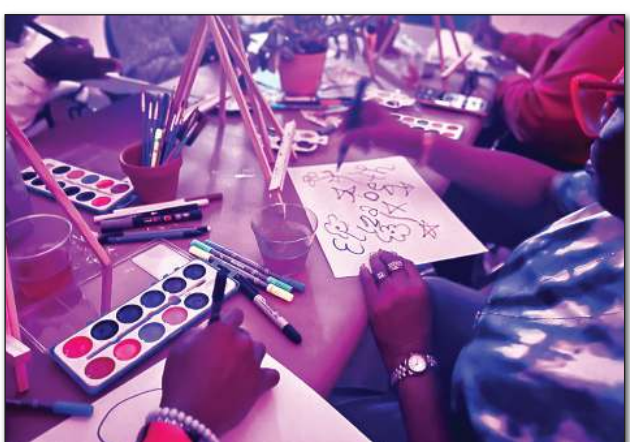
(ANSWERS ON F-1)



NATHAN J. LEE/L.A. SENTINEL
Participant painting her name with vibrant designs.

designs, and elements that help tell the story of your name," transforming each

She designed the event to include artists of all levels, from beginners to seasoned



NATHAN J. LEE/L.A. SENTINEL
Participant painting her name with vibrant designs.

FUTURE ICONS

Shaylen Nelson – L.A. Artist Makes Creativity Look Like a Superpower

BY NATHAN J. LEE
 Contributing Writer

Part comic book hero, part soulful storyteller, Shaylen's work does not just hang on walls; it challenges, inspires, and dares you to look closer.

He is an interdisciplinary artist who does everything: painting, poetry, tattoos, and endurance art. Shaylen Nelson is channeling Afro culture with a bold style that practically leaps off the canvas to give you a high-five.

Growing up in South Central L.A., Shaylen found his first creative spark with his grandmother, who nurtured his imagination and became, in his words, "literally the reason why I'm an artist." As a



Shaylen Nelson painting on site.

kid, she would give him toys that fueled his creativity, like Cat's Cradle, a string game where you make patterns, sparking curiosity and passion that would shape his path as an artist.

While family support



Shaylen Nelson at the Beehive.

gave him a foundation, his journey wasn't straightforward. After college, Shaylen encountered a significant challenge: navigating the business side of art, a field without clear rules or formulas.

"Going to college and majoring in art, one of the key things that was left out of the curriculum was the business of art," he explains.

"It wasn't something I was really taught, so I had to learn everything myself. There was a lot of trial and error to get to where I am today, and honestly, I'm still working on fully grasping the business side of my career."

Shaylen draws inspiration from unexpected sources including endurance magician David Blaine.

"He does these endurance-based performances where he pushes his body to the limits. He can literally swallow frogs, swallow goldfish, and regurgitate them," Shaylen

explains, laughing. "Obviously, I wouldn't do anything that crazy. But just seeing someone push their body so far, dedicating themselves entirely to their craft—that inspires me to do the same with my performance art."



Shaylen Nelson

In his latest endurance piece, Shaylen held poses and completed physical exercises for seven hours straight, continuing until his body fatigued from the strain.

"And a lot of that was from David Blaine and what he does as an artist through his magician work," he says

In addition to performance art, Shaylen has made a name for himself in the visual arts, using portraits to honor iconic Black figures and tell stories of resilience. His subjects include cultural icons like Beyoncé, George Floyd, and Michael Jackson. For Shaylen, portraits are a powerful way to convey the depth of Black culture and history.

"Faces are such a powerful tool to use to convey your story or whatever kind of message that you have," he explains.

"Faces are the number one thing we see on a day-to-day basis. So, if I'm

Jackson—all these prominent Black figures. Just using their face as an identifier already reaches the



Shaylen in the midst of an immersive performance.

audience in a faster way because they can identify the face, they know the

Shaylen is part of a thriving, tight-knit Black art community in L.A.

"The art community

here is amazing," he says. "The Black art community especially—it's tight-knit but still welcoming to anyone who wants to join."

Whether running with WalkGoodLA, painting at the Taste of Soul festival, or selling portraits at the Black Market Flea, Shaylen's work bridges the iconic with the everyday, capturing both legends and emerging stars.

From endurance art to bold, comic book-like portraits, Shaylen is crafting a legacy that does not just sit on walls—it resonates, uplifts, and redefines what it means to be an artist in L.A.

Follow Shaylen on Instagram @shaay.all.daay for his upcoming shows and exhibits.

talking about Black culture, I use iconic figures — sometimes Beyoncé, or George Floyd, or Michael

story behind it, and that bridges the gap of knowledge instantly."

Behind the scenes,

KDaniels Celebrity Fashion Designer is Self-proclaimed, Self-assured, with God first

BY MONIQUE WASHINGTON
 Contributing Writer

Los Angeles Fashion week October 2024 was wowed by KDaniels Custom garments! It was her Fashion premiere as part of the Lumiere Runway. She is Dallas, Texas bred.

KDaniels knows a thing or two about perseverance. With humble beginnings raised by her mother. KDaniels is the oldest sibling with a younger sister and brother. She paved the way by putting God first which lead to her success.

Since being crowned Queen of the Catwalk, she has gone on to make her New York Fashion Week debut last month in September.

KDaniels has dressed celebrities Toni Braxton, Paris Hilton, SWV, gospel artist Jekalyn Carr, Ari Lennox and K. Michelle just to name a few. Last month while in New York, she was a guest on the Tamron Hall Show and Hall wore one of KDaniels custom designs while interviewing her.

KDaniels gained national attention by becoming the Season 1 winner of the Hulu fashion designer competition "Dress My Tour" in July where she created winning looks for Toni Braxton, JoJo Siwa and also designed for Paula Abdul, French Montana and Jesse James Decker.

In middle school is where KDaniels grew a love for Fashion and in High School is when she had a passion for design. She cred-



KDaniels.

its God for her success. So many times, she wanted to give up but God kept bringing here back to fashion.

Her big break was in high school when she met her fashion marketing teacher, who happened to be a fashion designer and knew how to sew. KDaniels spent time with her teacher outside of school where she learned the basics of sewing.

Her first projects was sewing for her teachers daughter clothing line that was sent out to celebrities. She said, "I got pushed out

fast, so I learned fast. I learned fast and taught myself."

Learning fast and taking risk is what KDaniels does and does very well. She's blessed with an inspiring journey. Earlier this Spring, KDaniels styled K. Michelle for the 'Love Hard Tour' with Keisha Kole, and Tre Songs.

Being featured on the Hulu Network "Dress my Tour" Show was life changing for KDaniels. The show is now streaming on Hulu. On the show, Toni Braxton, praised KDaniels designs.

KDaniels was grateful being the winning designer of the show. She took a big risk while filming "Dress my Tour" because at the same time of filming she was losing her place to live in Dallas, Texas. But she remained on the show, took a risk and won! Both Essence and Ebony magazines did huge features on KDaniels.

"I like to call myself the home of the of the Wow moments," explained KDaniels. She specializes in custom garments and one of one pieces. She said, "I like to be creative not duplicate."

KDaniels likes to let her mind run free when she creates her custom pieces. She said, "What's next is wherever God leads me, I'll keep being obedient."

To learn more, visit kdanielsdesigns.com.



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D-3



RICKEY BROWN



RICKEY BROWN

Above, from left, are Pastor Charles Blake II, Lady DeAndra Blake, Dr. Belinda Allen, Lady Mae Blake, and Presiding Bishop Emeritus Charles Blake, Sr. At right, the Wellness Center staff.

West Angeles CDC Opens Wellness Center in South L.A.

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Religion Editor

South L.A. residents have a free resource at the West Angeles CDC Wellness Center to enhance their mental, physical, and emotional health.

During a soft opening reception on Oct. 17, Dr. Belinda Allen, WACDC executive director, and her

staff welcomed community members to tour the temporary facility located at 6028 Crenshaw Blvd., in Los Angeles.

West Angeles Pastor Charles Blake II was also on hand along with his wife, Lady DeAndra Blake, and his parents, Presiding Bishop Emeritus Charles E. Blake, Sr., and Lady Mae Blake. Other attendees in-

cluded former L.A. Councilmembers Jan Perry and Mark Ridley-Thomas.

Commenting on the opening of the Wellness Center, Pastor Blake reflected on the growth of WACDC over the years to provide an abundance of free services to the public.

"When my father, Bishop Charles Blake Sr., went to Dr. Lula Ballton with a

vision of an organization that would come out of West Angeles church that would meet the needs of the community, beyond that of only charity, I don't know if they saw how far we would come," said Pastor Blake.

"When I think of the lives that will be touched - those that will become more healthy, both mental-

ly and physically, because of what happens here - I'm reminded that God is doing something beautiful here."

According to Dr. Allen, the Wellness Center offers a range of free services to address stress, anxiety, depression and addiction recovery.

"Our programs, including nutritional management and wellness workshops,

promote healthy eating habits and overall physical well-being, which are essential for anyone looking to improve their lifestyle and achieve balanced living," Allen said.

To make an appointment with a Wellness Center health professional, call (323) 751-3440, ext. 125 or email WellnessCenter@westangelescdc.org.



COURTESY PHOTO

Above, hundreds of women attend the luncheon on Oct. 26 at the Torrance Marriott. At right, Dr. Betty Price, seated, is surrounded by, from left Nicole Kirkland, granddaughter; Angel Price, first lady of Crenshaw Christian Center and daughter-in-law; and daughters, Stephanie Price Buchanan, Angela Price Evans and Cheryl Price.



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Betty Price Headlines 46th Annual Wisdom From Above Luncheon

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Religion Editor

More than 500 people filled the ballroom of the Torrance Marriott Hotel on Oct. 26 to enjoy food, music, and spiritual nourishment from Dr. Betty Price.

The 46th Annual Wisdom From Above Luncheon, coordinated by Stephanie Price Buchanan for over 20 years,

featured an afternoon of uplifting fellowship with women locally and from across the nation.

In addition to Dr. Betty, the program participants included psalmist Stephanie Fields, Raquel Watts, and Cheryl Price. Also, attendees could visit an array of vendors offering jewelry, clothing, and accessories. Among the vendors were Dr. Betty's granddaugh-

ter, Adrian Evans, who regaled visitors with her new makeup line, Drim Beauty.

Before the delicious lunch was served, Dr. Betty delivered a message on "A Successful Christian Lifestyle" where she shared scriptures and instruction to live victoriously in the Lord.

"Be strong in the faith, believe God for what you're praying for,

and continue to grow in the Word for your faith to grow," advised Dr. Betty as she referred the audience to read Romans 10:3, Ephesians 2:8-9, John 8:31-32, and Hebrews 11:3-6.

"Everything you need is in God's Word. You can't do anything without God, but

with Him, you can do everything," she declared, citing John 15:5-7, Hebrews 4:12, and 1 Peter 2:1-2.

Concluding her message, Dr. Betty offered guidance to church members by stressing, "Don't be mean to others in the body of Christ." For scriptural sup-

port of this statement, she recommended Romans 12:9-10 and Philippians 2:1-4.

To learn more or obtain Dr. Betty's message, call Crenshaw Christian Center at (323) 758-3777 or visit crenshawchristiancenter.net.

Businessman Jesse L. McGee Succumbs

The prior owner of Simpson & McGee Mortuary, he served the community for over 36 years.

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

A celebration of life service is planned for businessman Jesse L. McGee, who recently passed away. Mr. McGee was the prior owner of Simpson & McGee Mortuary in Lynwood, California.

In this capacity, he served the community and families throughout Los Angeles County for more than 36 years and was very passionate about his business and the families he served.

A special viewing will be held on Friday, Nov. 8, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., at McKay's South Bay Mortuary, 3918 Marine Ave., in Lawndale. His funeral service is set for Satur-

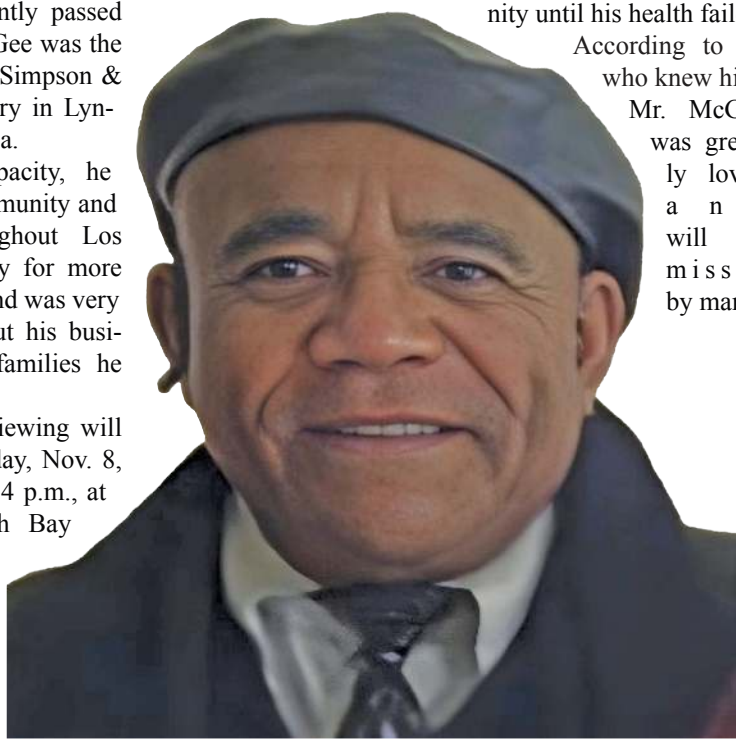
day, Nov. 9, at 10 a.m., at Greater Emmanuel Temple Church, 3740 E. Imperial Highway in Lynwood.

Mr. McGee

was instrumental in helping other mortuaries flourish, particularly McKay's South Bay Mortuary, where he also served the community until his health failed.

According to all

who knew him, Mr. McGee was greatly loved and will be missed by many.



Jesse L. McGee

COURTESY PHOTO

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From the Jail to the Pulpit: ArchDuchess of Divinity's Tale of Redemption

BY NATHAN J. LEE
Contributing Writer

"Have you ever come home and found an ATM machine in your kitchen?" ArchDuchess of Divinity asks, her voice blending humor with epistemic curiosity. "Have you?" I replied, equally stunned by the imagery. It's a far cry from the Christian life she was expected to live as the youngest of seventeen preacher's kids.

Raised in a devout household, she went from weekly church services duties to navigating the wildest corners of street life, where dysfunction became her companion. But her most dramatic twist was getting arrested for murder and finding her



COURTESY PHOTO
ArchDuchess of Divinity

either all or nothing." This moment forced her to choose: continue down the destructive path or reconnect with the faith she'd known her entire life.

Surrounded by women ready to cut deals and avoid life sentences, ArchDuchess refused to give in. Where others faltered, she stood firm, determined not to take a plea deal. She relied on her faith to carry her through, believing divine intervention would set her free.

Jail was brutal. "They put me on lockdown for laughing, not hanging up the phone fast enough, going to the hole for 15 days," she recalls. Despite these minor infractions, she faced harsh punishment.

"I was on lockdown over 150 times," she says, pointing out how others were let off easier for more serious offenses. To make matters worse, she was wrongly labeled as a cop killer, which pushed her deeper into the system's web.

The turning point came when a fellow inmate, while worshipping God and speaking in tongues,

approached her with a message: "The Holy Spirit told me to tell you, you don't have to ask nobody to get you out of here. The Holy Ghost himself is going to walk you out of here at the appointed time."

This revelation shifted her focus. It was no longer about legal survival but became a battle of faith. She clung to that belief every day. After two intense trials and a hung jury, ArchDuchess walked out of jail vindicated and free.

ArchDuchess of Divinity emerged from the fire hardened and sharpened, her faith stronger than ever. She found power in her spirituality. Today, ArchDuchess of Divinity is married to Walter Frank Sr. and a mother of three.

She is a gospel recording artist and co-owner of Eddie's Angels Records. Her single "No More," which hit number one on Apple iTunes Gospel in the UK, tackles issues like police brutality and school shootings with unapologetic urgency.

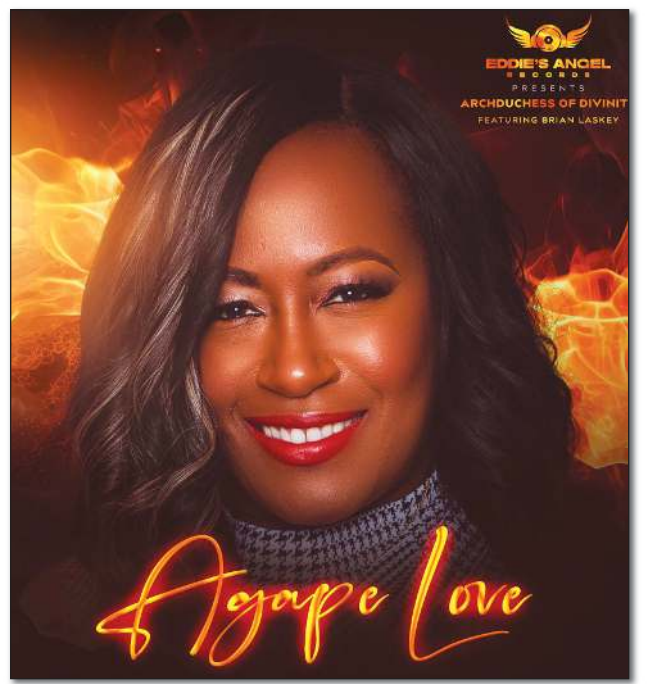
She was welcomed with open arms and ordained as a pastor in 2019. Now, she leads her father's church, carrying forward her family's legacy with the same grit and

determination that define both her music and ministry. Her latest release, "Agape Love," is a testament to her journey of redemption, love, and unwavering faith.

ArchDuchess of Divini-

His voice, and hold fast to Him."

Having faced darkness head-on, she's emerged stronger, choosing life every day. Her journey stands as a testament to the power of faith and the



COURTESY PHOTO

The album cover for "Agape Love" featuring Brian Laskey.

ty's message to the world is clear: Choose life. Drawing from Deuteronomy 30:19-20, she reminds us that life is a series of choices, between life and death, blessings and curses.

"Now choose life," the verse commands, "so that you and your children may live, and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to

strength of making that choice—not just for yourself, but for the generations to come.

Follow ArchDuchess of Divinity on all music platforms and join her every Sunday at Refuge Christian Center Community Church of God in Christ, located at 380 East Woodbury Road, Altadena, California.



COURTESY PHOTO

way back to faith behind bars.

Born and raised in Altadena-Pasadena to Dr. Bishop Dennis B. Evans Jr. and Pastor Dr. Dorothy A. Evans, founders of Refuge Christian Center Community Church of God in Christ, ArchDuchess seemed destined for a life of faith. But a violent, abusive relationship and an unplanned pregnancy led her down a darker path.

One moment, she was a preacher's kid, surrounded by the sounds of maracas and accordions; the next, she was living large—styling hair for stars, party-

ing with Diddy, and riding shotgun in her man's luxury car. Then, it all came crashing down when the police slapped her with a 187-murder charge. She was facing life in prison.

In jail, the reality of her situation hit hard. The fast life of money, men, and high stakes had caught up with her. This was not just a close call, it was a divine ultimatum. Reflecting on that time, she says, "That was the Lord's way of getting me back into the place that I belong. He said, 'Okay, you want to play? I'm going to show you what the future holds for you. It's

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• DR. MAULANA KARENGA •

Considering Best Post Election Conditions: Concerns For Our People, Struggle and World

No one can miss or mistake the deep and insistent anxiety, apprehension and righteous anger that precede and mark this coming presidential election. For its result will define the course and content of the conditions of life and struggle in this country for years to come and have a definite effect on the well-being of the world.

Indeed, it will reveal and reaffirm what the majority of the people of this country hold as morally central values, their social priorities and their conceptions of reality, right, government, and the good.

Clearly, even though there are problems with both parties and their candidates, no one with any real concern for justice, democracy, human dignity and decency and a future worthy of the name human should want to choose the promise of fascism which lurks and looms over the right-wing side of this process. Fascism here is not simply Trump emulating and being one of the dictator types he admires rather than president; it is also a systemic sickness, a pathological practice deadly to dissent, violently coercive and controlling the major aspects of society: politics and the economy, education and the media. It is also racially and religiously supremacist, sadistically suppressing others different and vulnerable. And it is deeply committed to militarism, constantly warmongering and waging war at home and abroad.

If we and other progressive forces, who are willing to read and respond rightfully to the signs of the times, are to successfully resist this promised imposition and societal evil, then, we must think clearly about what is at stake and work and struggle hard to prevent a fascist victory. This means, as Nana Amilcar Cabral taught, that we must "mask no difficulties, tell

no lies and claim no easy victory." For even victory in this election for the presidency or even the Senate and House of Representatives will not mean the struggle is over.

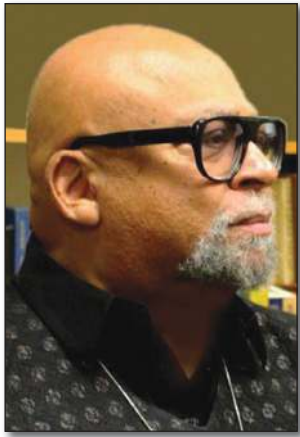
Indeed, elections are only one battlefield on which we and all progressive forces must fight and win for a deep and enduring transformation of this country for a shared and inclusive good for everyone. And for us, as a people, as Haji Malcolm taught, "wherever a Black person is, there is a battleline." In fact he said, "You and I are living in a country that is a battleline for all of us." Thus, we in Us say, "Everywhere a battleline, everyday a call to struggle."

So, we must give it our all, this struggle to win over fascism in whatever form it is imagined and proposed. And if this critical battle is lost, we must reject all the attempts to blame us, whether Black men or women for the loss. For regardless of the infinite variety of specious and spurious spins by pundits and peddlers of racist pathology explanations, it is solely the responsibility of White people, the majority, who will have outvoted us and who chose to face and move backward rather than forward for new and inclusive good for all.

Yes, it will be White people, not whether Black people turn out or turn up. It will be the Whites, male and female, straight, gay and trans, urban and suburban, less educated and highly educated, the rich and poor, the Christian and Jew, the working class and ruling class. And it will be the Democratic Party, who alienated progressives and people of conscience from all races by their viciously and vulgarly immoral support of Israel's genocide of the Palestinian people, and the segregation and silencing of their voices in this country.

It will be the corrupt

and conscienceless corporate media that constantly refused to engage Kamala's serious conversation, plagued her with racist, sexist and trivial question-



DR. MAULANA KARENGA

ing and gave ample space to Trump's cognitive decline gibberish about genital fantasies, Martians and Madhatter musings and muddle of all kinds without even a pretense of challenging his lies, saneness and worthiness for office.

And it will be the billionaire elite and the ever-present Aryan hand that indeed share Trump's fascist fantasies and aspirations and use manipulation, money and media as usual to achieve their ends.

But regardless, we owe it to ourselves and the world to resist, to bear witness to truth and set the scales of justice in their proper place, especially among the vulnerable through righteous and relentless struggle on every battlefield for the good, the right and the possible. Electoral politics is one such battlefield, and this election is too important,

too critical and consequential for us not to lend our voice, vote and efforts to halting the right-wing move, march and maneuverings towards fascism.

Also, it is important to remember and remind each other that the critical issue here is not simply voting for a candidate, but rather voting for the best post-election conditions for our people, our continuing struggle and the good of the world and all in it. Our liberation struggle is beyond candidates, election cycles and such, and is a struggle for a just and good society in which we and all people can live lives of dignity and decency and see a meaningful and promising future unfolding for those who come after us.

And we struggle for a shared and inclusive good for humanity as a whole, a repaired, renewed and remade world for us humans and the earth itself. And thus, we vote as part of our struggle to bring, increase and sustain good in the world as our honored ancestors taught and teach us.

Even if we were not at such an urgent hour in the history of this country and the world, we still owe it to ourselves, our ancestors and our descendants to vote, as I've argued before elsewhere. For us to vote is not simply to cast a ballot, it is also to exercise a hard-won right and responsibility to raise our voice, and make known our vision, values, needs and aspira-

tions for the good. We vote too because it is a legacy achieved and gifted to us through service, sacrifice and righteous and relentless struggle by those who came and fought for freedom and justice before us.

Moreover, we vote to influence, occupy and control critical space for policy and resources. We vote also because failure to resist, assert ourselves and advance our interests is to collaborate in our own oppression, for there is no neutrality in the struggle for freedom, justice and other vital human goods. And we vote, as noted above, because electoral politics is another battleground in our righteous and relentless struggle to expand the realm of African and human good and achieve the well-being of the world and all in it.

In the midst of a crucial election during the savage era of segregation, Nana Fannie Lou Hamer stated, "There is nothing symbolic about this election...we are fighting for our lives." And so it is at this critical juncture, we are still fighting for our lives, for the best conditions for our lives after the election: food security, clean water an air, housing and health care, reproductive rights, adequate income and quality education, the end of police and systemic violence, erasing racism, sexism and other antihuman isms and phobia, a real democracy, halting environmental degradation and militarism, and achieving a new histo-

ry and hope for human life and the well-being of the planet and all on it, above it and under it. Yes, it is a larger struggle we wage, but we start where we are and move irreversibly toward our ultimate liberation goal.

Finally, regardless of the vicissitudes of history, victories won or delayed, we, as a people, will ultimately and inevitably win our righteous and relentless struggle to be ourselves and free ourselves and contribute definitively to building the new world we all want and deserve. And no matter how this election turns out, we will not only survive, but ultimately prevail, for it is the teachings of our honored ancestors that we are a people who "ride the storm and remain intact," who "conduct their blooming in the noise and whip of the whirlwind," and who "specialize in the wholly impossible." Thus, regardless, we must never despair, be dispirited or diverted, but must continue the struggle, keep the faith and hold the line.

Dr. Maulana Karenga, Professor and Chair of Africana Studies, California State University-Long Beach; Executive Director, African American Cultural Center (Us); Creator of Kwanzaa; and author of Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture and Introduction to Black Studies, 4th Edition, www.OfficialKwanzaaWebsite.org; www.MaulanaKarenga.org.

• NICHELLE HENDERSON •

PRESIDENT, L.A. COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD

Yes on Measure G to Build a Fairer, More Accountable L.A. County

For far too long, the people of Los Angeles County have lived with a system of government that doesn't reflect who we are or serve the needs of all our communities. Measure G is our opportunity to change that—to build a County government that is not only more accountable but also more representative of the diverse voices that make up this great region.

Throughout my years advocating for justice, equity, and fairness, I've seen firsthand how important it is to have a government that works for everyone, not just a privileged few. Unfortunately, LA County's outdated system has left too many communities behind. Measure G is the solution we've been waiting for.

One of the key reforms Measure G introduces is open and transparent budget hearings. For the first time, residents of LA County will have the opportunity to see exactly how decisions are made about the \$46 billion County budget. This ensures that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and that our government is working in the best interests of the people, not behind closed doors.

The measure also introduces an independent Ethics Commission, a long-overdue reform that will hold our County leaders accountable to the people they serve. We've seen what happens when there is no meaningful oversight—political corruption and unethical behavior erode trust in government. With an independent body overseeing ethics and transparency, we can restore public confidence and ensure our leaders are

working in the best interests of the people.

Measure G would modernize County government by expanding the Board of Supervisors from five to nine members. Right now, each supervisor represents two million people. These massive districts drown out too many voices, especially from underrepresented communities. Expanding the Board will bring government closer to the people, ensuring that every community has a real voice in County decisions.

For the first time, Measure G will create an elected County Executive, a position directly chosen by the people. Similar to how Mayors, Governors, and even Presidents are elected to lead cities, states, and our nation, LA County will finally have a clear separation of powers. The County Executive will be responsible for managing operations while the Board of Supervisors focuses on legislation. This system mirrors the structure we see at every

other level of government in the U.S., ensuring better accountability to our communities.



Nichelle Henderson

And while the County Executive will bring essential checks and balances, we will still have dedicated civil service staff with the expertise to manage day-to-day operations. This balance of leadership and professional expertise will strengthen how the County serves the people.

Crucially, Measure G will implement these reforms without additional cost to taxpayers. With LA County's massive \$46 bil-

lion budget, we have the resources to reallocate existing funds without cutting any current programs or services. By making smarter use of our budget, we can ensure that these much-needed reforms are implemented without burdening our communities.

For too long, marginalized communities—Black, Brown, AAPI, LGBTQ+, and more—have been left without a seat at the decision-making table. Measure G changes that. It gives us a chance to create a County government that truly reflects the people it serves. A government that fights for justice and fairness. A government that listens to our concerns and works for real solutions.

I urge you to join me in voting YES on Measure G. This is our moment to build a better, stronger, and more inclusive Los Angeles County for all of us.

Nichelle Henderson is the president of the L.A. Community College District Board.

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Coach Wendy

Life Strategist / Consultant
Author / Speaker

Is it Time for a Sabbatical?

Over the past couple of years, I learned that several of my colleagues and friends were able to experience sabbaticals. What caught me by surprise when I heard this news was whenever I heard about sabbaticals, it was connected to the academic world. I did not know those of us in the nonprofit world should consider this philosophy.

When I looked up the definition of what a sabbatical is, it is a period of extended leave or break from work. Why does this

have to be limited to those just in academia or employees in the corporate world? The purpose of a sabbatical is to allow time for personal development, rest, research, travel, or other things that can help us pursue things that can help us grow without the daily responsibilities of our job for a moment without any quilt.

For those of us who are committed to giving back to the community, whether it is through nonprofit



work, social activism, politics, or just caring about our community, planning a sabbatical for personal growth could be what is on the agenda. Most sabbaticals are for an extended period, but even if you do not have the financial means to do an extended time off, you can designate some time to step away from the hustle and bustle of life for whatever amount of time you can lay out.

A sabbatical differs from a vacation or just a day off here and there. The time is used to develop a structured, purposeful time to release, relax, rest, reju-

venate, restore, and understand who and what is your refuge. Basically, it is a time to be still in a fast-paced world brimming with demands and distractions. It is a time to listen to your inner voice and hear from God. Another word for it could be a Wellness Retreat.

Most of us keep going and going through all the expectations we put on ourselves and that we allow the world to put on us. The world never slows down, but we can. We must learn how to silence the noise externally and internally. Life throws us so many distractions that it can be difficult to lay down the various anxieties and concerns to be in control of everything.

This became relevant to me when I felt the weight of personal and professional pressures that were consuming me in so many ways. Not only am I a caregiver for two loved ones, but I also carry the responsibilities of a few things that affect the lives of others, and I just learned about

the death of a dear friend that was a bit tragic. I knew it was time for a pause that was not just a vacation, but a time to be still, heal, and reset.

I decided to do a little research to find out what I could put in place to have my own sabbatical, even if it is for a short period of time. I investigated local hotels and alternative locations that I could book and stay for a few days, but I also realized it would be necessary for me to have the right mindset to prepare for such a journey and opportunity.

I knew I had to be willing to surrender any worries, personal plans, and my need to be in control if I was going to really get the best out of this adventure. I had to make sure I was prepared to also be open to whatever may come out of this magnificent opportunity. I realized this was exactly what I needed, so I talked to my husband, and I let him know I needed to get away for a bit to just unplug, and he gave me his

blessings.

As I write this article, I am about to embark on my own sabbatical. It will only be for eight days, but I am excited about what is before me believing it will prepare me for 2025. I know there is so much still yet for me to discover that God has for me to do, and I believe when I am still and quiet I will hear what He has to say to me.

I would encourage each of you to think about scheduling your own form of a sabbatical. Who knows it could be a great time for you to quiet your soul and see what lies ahead for you as we all prepare to close out the last quarter of the year and prepare for 2025. It is never too early or too late to take care of yourself.

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30 Seconds of OOO La La!

This will prove to be quite a family saga. Esau and Jacob were in the womb at Rebekah's same time. The birthright was the object of Jacob's desire. Why? Because there were elements of superior recognition and fame, the benefits alone gave reason for the birthright to be desired.

Or one might say Jacob would be elevated to a higher level of supremacy: (a) Superior rank in the family; (b) a double portion of the father's property (c) the priestly office (d) A conditional promise of heavenly inheritance (e) the promise of the seed in which all nations should be blessed.

Jacob, the brother of Esau, was a fast thinker and

favored by his mother. She was the one who coached Jacob in the process of cheating Esau out of the birthright. She sent Jacob to substitute for Esau using hairy clothing as a part of the disguise. At the same time, we learn that Esau was not a deep thinker. Through his greed, when he wanted to eat the stew that Jacob was cooking, he sold his birthright to Jacob for the cheap price of some delicious stew!

Because of his "slick" handling of securing the birthright, Jacob had to leave home in a hurry. Esau sought his life. Esau was happy for a short time. Jacob and Esau had each their 30 seconds of OOO La La.



His parents were not pleased with him. He married women who were of idolatrous tribes. He learns that his non-serious behavior was displeasing to his parents. It was many years before he would meet back up with his brother. His 30 seconds of OOO La La was short-lived. This is how we learn to avoid quick, misguided decisions.

During Jacob's life, after he was driven away by his parents to go and live with Uncle Laban, he finds there too were disappointing events. Although, he found the most beautiful Rachel to marry, Laban cheated Jacob and snuck in his other daughter, Leah, into bed with Jacob. To eventually marry Rachel,

Jacob had to serve more time working for Laban to marry Rachel.

Jacob becomes the father of 12 sons, including Judah, and of course, Joseph, who was later sold by his other brothers and became enslaved to the Egyptians. Judah married a woman of Canaan (Shuah) and when she dies, he is grief-stricken.

He had sons Er, Onan, and Shelah. Er married to woman named Tamar, and soon after he died. Judah was required to bestow upon the widow his second son, Onan. It would seem quite reasonable that he would be reluctant to give his last son, the third over the third to Tamar.

In the meantime, Tamar remained in her father's house waiting for Judah to pass on his last surviving son, Shelah. According to patriarchal law, if a son dies childless, that wife was to marry the next son in succession and try again to have a child.

The eldest son, Er, died childless. His wife, Tamar, decided when she saw that the third son promised her was not being given to her, she went into the neighbor-

hood and disguised herself as a loose woman.

Judah sees her and invites her to sleep with him. So, she says, in essence, he hasn't given me the third son. That meant she would remain a widow, and in addition, if caught committing adultery, she could be burned. My! What a choice. She risked it...dressed like a prostitute, Judah came to her for that purpose not knowing it was his daughter-in-law.

She requires of him some royal proof of his position: a ring, his seal, bracelet, and staff which he had left for a pledge. When he finds out there was a prostitute there where he had been, he still doesn't know it was his daughter-in-law. When he learned about it, he ordered the woman who committed this crime to come forth.

When she came, she presented the evidence that the pledge that she brought was his. Obviously, he was prepared to have her burned, but seeing the evidence, he confessed that they were his and she was more righteous than he.

Judah's 30 seconds of OOO La La proved to be

short-term enjoyment - only 30 seconds! Two sons, Zerah and Pharez, illegitimate sons, were born to Tamar by Judah. In spite of all these circumstances, Judah didn't allow his life to be totally misguided and took authority over his future.

Next time learn more about overcoming difficulties in light of the ugliness in our lives.

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

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Reading Tutor Grades K-2 CA credentialled Call 424-455-2302</p> <hr/> <p>380 Psychics</p> <p>Psychic Palms and Card Readings by Maya One quick question by phone for happiness, jobs, etc. 818-696-6271</p> <hr/> <p>400 Auto/Trucks (New & Used)</p> <p>LIEN SALE 11/18/24 10AM AT 2112 W 177H ST, LONG BEACH 13 JEEP LIC# 9CQS643 CA VIN# 1C4RJEAGODG650853 13 KIA LIC# 6YDU050 CA VIN# 5XVKT3A1XDG372468</p> <hr/> <p>LIEN SALE 11/12/24 10AM AT 18653 PARTHENIA ST, NORTHRIDGE 20 FORD LIC# 8NHX812 CA VIN# 3FAG6P05U8LR170705</p>	<p>REVERSE MORTGAGE SPECIALIST SME HOME SERVICES REVERSE MORTGAGE SPECIALIST Our Mission is to find the best Reverse Mortgage that fits your needs. An FHA Insured Reverse Mortgage enables homeowners 62 or older to tap into the equity in their home. Unlike traditional home loans, no repayment is required until you no longer occupy the property. Reverse mortgages are popular with seniors who have equity in their homes. 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Regarding LAT Decision to Withhold Endorsement of Candidate for the Office of President of the United States

BY ALVIN M. HALL, ESQ.

Dear Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong (owner of the Los Angeles Times Newspaper),

While in Paris, France last week the electronic version of the Los Angeles Times appeared on my cell phone. I opened it and began to read an article chronicling the plight of a person of Mormon faith. His challenges encountered arose as a result of his decision to support the candidacy of United States Vice President Kamala Harris.

Shortly after reading several paragraphs describing the ill-treatment this individual was receiving, based solely upon his decision to follow his moral compass, suddenly the article stopped in the middle of communicating his un-

fortunate circumstances. A brief notification describing what were essentially deemed technical difficulties appeared. In short, any person exposed to the current political climate in the United States was deprived of the balance of the story. That included Americans like me, as well citizens of France and other countries with access to the electronic version of the Los Angeles Times.

I was instantly curious about the reason why the remainder of the article was missing. Certainly, I thought, it would not have been intentionally omitted to preserve the illusion of democracy, in its true form, as it relates to what appears to be a dead heat involving former, twice-impeached felon and con man, Donald J. Trump. Until today, I gave the Los Angeles

Times the benefit of my doubt. The decision by the Los Angeles Times, however, to decline to support any candidate at such an important and critical time in American History has compelled me to re-examine your newspaper's motives by reviewing its past.

The Los Angeles Times, since the publication of its first edition, then known as the "Los Angeles Daily Times," on December 4, 1881, has exhibited a pattern of repeatedly landing on the wrong side of right. Since the outset, it has, for example, in 1910 and prior thereto, engaged in overwhelmingly anti-union sentiments.

In 1942 your newspaper was a staunch supporter of Japanese internment, which forcibly imprisoned Japanese Americans in remote concentration camps

during World War II. Mind you, these were American citizens who were confined without evidence of compromised loyalty and due process.

In 1946, the Los Angeles Times endorsed and launched the candidacy political career of one Richard Millhouse Nixon by actively asserting opposing candidates for Congress were soft on communism and essentially un-American. During my lifetime, in

June, 1954, the Los Angeles Times jumped on board and actively supported "Operation Wetback". Notably, that effort was remarkably similar to one of the current mass deportation proposals presently advanced by candidate Trump. Let us not forget that again, many Americans, only this time of Mexican descent, were also

rounded up and removed from the country without due process.

I suspect that repeated decisions to ignore publishing and supporting what was right, in favor of embracing wrong, contributed to TIME magazine voting the Los Angeles Times the second-worst newspaper in the country in 1957. That opinion was based, in part, on the caliber of its journalism, or lack thereof.

I imagine the Los Angeles Times promoting the City of Los Angeles as, "The White Spot of America", up until the time of the Watts riots was additionally not helpful to its reputation.

Multiple individuals have owned the Los Angeles Times. As a native of Los Angeles, I have always hoped each succession would produce someone with a sense of morality

that would overcome very apparent shortcomings and repeated failure to land on the right side of right. At last, your newspaper's decision to, dare I say, disregard the very obvious differences between Trump and Harris, while abdicating your responsibility to express an opinion, has dimmed and extinguished my sense of optimism.

As owner of the Los Angeles Times, you have the ability to decide the direction of your business. I, as a consumer, possess the power to decide my future as well.

In light of the foregoing, please be advised I have elected to immediately terminate my subscription to the Los Angeles Times. I thank you in advance for your expeditious assistance with removing me from your distribution list.

A Mega GOTV Goal: 100,000,000 Votes for Harris

BY MICHAEL A. GRANT

The best way to overcome "The Big Lie" is with a bigger truth! For this reason, supporters of Kamala Harris and Tim Walz should set a stretch goal of securing 100,000,000 votes on November 5, 2024.

This is 19,000,000 more votes than Joe Biden received in 2020. Only 66 percent of eligible voters turned out for that contested election. Even with overwhelming evidence that no fraud took place in the tabulation of the vote and after over 60 court challenges, Donald Trump stubbornly held on to the lie that the election was stolen from him. And while it is clear that he knew he lost,

the closeness of the count in a number of battleground states allowed him to convince his followers that he had, in fact, won the election.

Therefore, this time around, Trump should be defeated by such an overwhelming number of votes cast that there will be little room for any plausible dispute about who won the election. Governing with a divided and suspicious electorate undermines the legitimate authority of candidates who win in a free and fair election. So what are the persuasive arguments in favor of a Harris / Walz candidacy? Well, to begin, let's start with the economic plan being advanced by Harris. Even

the business community is lining up behind her plans to strengthen the U.S. economy. In a recent Wall Street Journal poll (conducted October 4th – 8th), 68 percent of respondents said they thought inflation would rise under a second Trump term compared to a Harris plan.

In the same Wall Street Journal article, 65 percent of economist said they saw Trump's policies adding more to the nation's deficits compared to Harris' policy agenda. Also, 45 percent to 37 percent of economists expect economic output to expand faster under Harris.

Harris is also considering tax breaks for large companies that share profits with their workers. She

wants to jump-start her economic opportunity for Americas proposal with the following:

\$25,000 for down-payment assistance for first time home purchases;

\$50,000 for small businesses;

\$6,000 child tax credit.

Building on the work of the Biden-Harris Administration, she intends to continue growing the number of infrastructure jobs and employment opportunities in the "Green economy." Job training is also a critical component of her plans to reach out to those left behind during the ongoing tech revolution.

There is a string of powerful reasons that Harris-Walz must aim

for 100,000,000 votes to win:

Kamala Harris wants a Justice Department that is used to protect all Americans and not for retribution or revenge against the president's adversaries.

Kamala Harris wants women to control their own bodies and not have governmental invasion of the womb. One of America's most cherished ideals is freedom which is also one of the most galvanizing themes of her candidacy.

Harris wants an immigration policy that defines the best in the American tradition, policies that secure the border in an orderly and systematic fashion but it is also humane and respects the dignity of all

human beings.

Finally, Harris wants to bring Americans together. She has reached out to Republicans and Independents in an effort to unify a very polarized country. She knows that the wisdom in sacred scripture is instructive: "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

Her aspirations are quintessentially American. Her policy pronouncements are inclusive. She is ready to be president for all Americans. For these and other reasons, setting a goal for 100,000,000 votes just makes good sense!

Michael A. Grant, J.D. is president emeritus of the National Bankers Association.



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LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (LACMTA) REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL LACMTA will receive Proposals for **TS127584 - P3010 Light Rail Vehicle (LRV) Coupler Overhaul** at the 9th Floor Receptionist Desk, Vendor/Contract Management Department, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012. A Pre-Proposal conference will be held on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, 11:00 a.m., Virtual Meeting: Microsoft Teams, Meeting ID: 287 431 400 618, Passcode: N9Pgoc or call in (audio only) +1 213 279-1001,,912726770#. Phone conference ID: 912 726 770# A Site Visit (optional) will be held on Thursday, November 7, 2024, 11:00 a.m., Division 16, 5698 W. Arbor Vitae Street, Los Angeles, California 90045. All Proposals must be submitted to LACMTA, and be filed at the reception desk, 9th floor, V/CM Department, on or before **2:00 p.m.** Pacific Time on **Wednesday, November 27, 2024**. Proposals received after the above date and time may be rejected and returned unopened. Each proposal must be sealed and marked **Proposal No. TS127584**. For a copy of the Proposal/Bid specification visit our Solicitation Page on our Vendor Portal at <https://business.metro.net> or for further information email Mildred Martinez at martinezml@metro.net. 10/31/24
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NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) NO. 24-08
Notice is hereby given that

the Los Angeles Community College District ("District") is inviting interested firms to submit sealed Proposals ("Proposals") for consideration to provide: Bond Program Monitor services for LACCD Propositions A and AA and Measures J, CC and LA. Proposals shall be prepared in conformance with the requirements of the RFP Documents, which shall be available free of charge commencing October 18, 2024, to download at: <https://www.laccd.edu/offices/business-services/contract-services/bids-proposals>. All proposals shall be hand delivered or mailed to the Los Angeles Community College District, 770 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90017, with attention to Jason P. Cascio, Senior Procurement Specialist, no later than 2:00 pm on January 6, 2025. Proposers assume full and sole responsibility for timely receipt of their Proposals by the District. Proposals shall thereafter be opened and evaluated in accordance with the criteria and conditions set forth in the RFP documents. All questions should be directed by e-mail to: Los Angeles Community College District 770 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90017 Attention: Jason P. Cascio CascioJP@laccd.edu. Subject line: "QUESTIONS FOR RFP 24-08 BOND PROGRAM MONITOR LACCD PROPOSITIONS A AND AA AND MEASURES J, CC AND LA". The deadline for submitting questions regarding this RFP is November 26, 2024. 10/24, 10/31/24
CNS-3863154#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

PROBATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: KENNETH WILLIAMS AKA KENNETH A. WILLIAMS

CASE NO. 24STPB10173
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of **KENNETH WILLIAMS AKA KENNETH A. WILLIAMS**. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by **ELLA MAE ROGERS** in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that **ELLA MAE ROGERS** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 12/27/24 at 8:30AM in Dept. 11 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and

mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. In Pro Per Petitioner **ELLA MAE ROGERS** 1650 E. 108TH STREET LOS ANGELES CA 90059 10/31, 11/7, 11/14/24
CNS-3866435#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: MILDRED L. MORGAN CASE NO. 24STPB11448
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of **MILDRED L. MORGAN**. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by **ETHEL M. HARDWICK** in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that **ETHEL M. HARDWICK** be appointed as personal representative to administer

the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 11/13/24 at 8:30AM in Dept. 67 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file

kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. In Pro Per Petitioner **ETHEL M. HARDWICK** 3950 W. 226 ST. #113 TORRANCE CA 90505 10/17, 10/24, 10/31/24
CNS-3862325#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: BERNARD HART JR CASE NO. 24STPB08789
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of **BERNARD HART JR**. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by **LA SANDRA HAMLIN** in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that **LA SANDRA HAMLIN** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested

person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 01/16/25 at 8:30AM in Dept. 67 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. In Pro Per Petitioner **LA SANDRA HAMLIN** 1858 W 74TH ST LOS ANGELES CA 90012 10/17, 10/24, 10/31/24
CNS-3861832#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

• JULIANNE MALVEAUX, ECONOMIST AND AUTHOR •

What's at Stake – Vote Now

I was on a Black Women's organizing call the other week, when one of the leaders challenged each of us to reach out to ten people to encourage them to vote. I don't know a soul in my close circle who does not vote, and I don't seek out folk who proudly say they are not voters. I do collide with a few from time to time, like when I was walking up the street one day when a brother, recognizing me, wanted to argue that voting was a waste of time. I gave him five minutes (set my watch) and then moved on. Most people I know are politically aware, political activists, civic and social justice activists and more. Maybe my circle is too narrow, and I'm all right with it.

This column is not for those who "do the right thing", vote despite their skepticism about our extremely flawed country and our equally flawed political system. This column is for those who won-

der about their votes and whether they make a difference. What's at stake? Every single election since I can remember – 1972 – we say that this is the "most important" election in our lifetimes". Tricky Dick Nixon had 61 percent of the popular vote and swept the Electoral College, winning every state except the District of Columbia and Massachusetts. Nixon steamrolled the liberal McGovern. Was it our most important election ever? One can both argue that and also wonder how our nation might have evolved under a McGovern presidency.

I recall hearing the "most important election ever" every four years and while it sometimes reads as an exaggeration, sometimes it is more real than we would like to admit. When the Supreme Court stole the 2000 election from then-Vice President Al Gore, that was a consequential election. Did Senator Hillary Rodham Clin-

ton concede too soon in her race against Mr. Trump? To be debated, but many think so. 2020 was such a



Julianne Malveaux
COURTESY PHOTO

consequential election that the dark forces of Mr. Trump tried to overturn the government to steal the election. Now he says he will pardon them if elected in 2024.

So in many ways this is a most consequential election. What's at stake? Some think describing the 45th President as a "threat to democracy" is extreme and untrue. But Project 2025 shift our system from

one with checks and balances to one with imperial power. We have a robust civil service, that a President that adheres to Project 2025 would shatter, in a system that would allow Presidential appointments to replace civil servants. Black folks, especially Black women would lose from this shift.

All women, but especially Black women, lose when reproductive rights are restricted. We are also when draconian policies eviscerate public assistance in the name of "welfare reform" and make even basic health benefits contingent on work. We don't have the infrastructure to require work, but we do have the ability to punish those who do not have jobs.

The Department of Education is on the Project 2025 chopping block, and its elimination would have a widen the achievement gap. Project 2025 would eliminate Head Start, one of our most demonstrative-ly successful government

programs. It would eliminate Pell grants, which help hundreds of thousands of student from low and moderate income families to attend college. It would eliminate race-specific programs and affirmative action, by outlawing programs that consider DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) in selection and allocation. Indeed, project 2025 digs into the details of curriculum, regulating the ways subject matter is taught, including history, enslavement and other subjects. Project 2025 would punish universities based on the way some subjects taught. While Project 2025 purports to streamline government, instead it expands government by creating ideological regulators who would eliminate "left liberals" and "Marxists" from classrooms in elementary and secondary schools, and also in colleges and universities.

Contrasting the Project 2025/Agenda 47/Republican platform is to under-

stand the redundancies of these closely related documents. Mr. Trump says that Agenda 47 reflects his positions, and he tries to distance himself from Project 2025, although more than 100 of his allies, associates, and former government appointees worked on it. If you read these documents carefully, you'll understand what's at stake.

Law enforcement. The environment. Immigration. Elections. Consumer Protection. Union rights. Wages, Vice President Kamala Harris a distinctively different approach to policy and government than Mr. Trump. Are you willing to live in an oligarchy where one President has the unchecked authority to investigate, fire or prosecute. Are we willing to shrug off our freedoms for a narrow-minded vituperative bigot? What's at stake? Our very freedoms. Staying home is not an option. VOTE!!!

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist and author.

• KEYONDRIA BUNCH, PHD, PSYCHOLOGIST IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA •

Measure A Answers the Call for Added Mental Health Services

I've spent over 15 years working in mental health services in LA County, and in that time, I've seen just how tough it can be to get help when you need it most. Some years, the wait to see a therapist might be just a few weeks, but often, it stretches into several months.

If you or a loved one is in crisis, you can call the right number and be placed in a hospital ward for 72 hours, but the ongoing support that makes real healing possible? That's often nowhere in sight when you walk out of the hospital doors.

I pursued a Doctorate in Psychology because I'm passionate about the power

of mental health care. After ten years of school and more than a decade in this field, I know how critical long-term support is. But the reality on the ground often feels like we're putting band-aids on deeper wounds—applying temporary fixes to problems that demand so much more.

When you think about it, the average Angeleno is just two paychecks away from losing their housing. Now imagine what happens when someone dealing with ongoing, untreated mental health challenges face that same situation—it's a recipe for disaster. Multiply that risk by ten, and it's easy to see why we've got such a crisis on

our hands.

Over the past few years, we've seen "housing first" solutions show real promise. This approach—getting people into safe, stable housing before tackling other issues like medical needs, mental health, or addiction—just makes sense. Many people who are struggling with addiction are doing so because they're trying to cope with a mental health crisis.

When someone has a roof over their head and a place to call home, it's so much easier to provide the care they need. More than 100 cities across the country are now committed to this approach because it works. It's simple: when

people feel safe, they're more open to treatment.

Measure H helped connect more people with mental health services, but the demand is still overwhelming, especially for low-income and unhoused individuals. And now, Measure H is set to expire. That's why Measure A is so crucial right now. On any given night, there are nearly 6,000 long-term board and care beds sitting empty. These are beds that could provide safety and stability to people in need.

But under the current system, Measure H funds can't be used to pay for those beds. Measure A would change that. It would allow us to house

people in a safe space and begin providing them with the treatment they need—before they're forced to sleep on the streets, in shelters, or in unsafe conditions.

In my work, I've seen how much of a difference housing can make. I've had clients who were living on the streets and unable to take their medication regularly because they had no safe place to store it, let alone a consistent routine. But once they were housed, things started to change. When clients are living in stable environments they can take their medication every day, reconnect with family, and even start looking for work again. These

are life changing opportunities!

There are so many reasons someone might be in a mental health crisis, and each situation is unique. But one thing is universal: the first step toward healing is safety. When people feel safe and secure, they're more likely to trust us and take the steps needed for recovery. Housing is the foundation of that safety.

We need to pass Measure A. It's not just about housing—it's about giving people the chance to rebuild their lives, starting with the most basic need: a safe place to call home.

Keyondria Bunch, PhD is a practicing psychologist in the Los Angeles area.

• DAVID W. MARSHALL, COLUMNIST FOR TRICE EDNEY NEWS WIRE •

Democracy Dies in Darkness

As owner of the Washington Post, one has to wonder if Jeff Bezos reads his own newspaper with any sense of appreciation or concern.

For the first time in over 30 years the Washington Post announced its editorial board will not endorse a candidate in the 2024 presidential election. The Post has regularly endorsed presidential candidates since 1976 starting with Democrat Jimmy Carter.

As a nation we have a free press. As responsible journalists, newspapers have a professional obligation to state the facts and the truth to the public, but newspapers are also allowed to express their opinions. In addition, the owner of any newspaper has the right to weigh in on decisions made by its editorial board.

But this election cycle is different. This presidential election is unlike any from previous years. The surprising non-endorsement ignores the paper's own factual reporting which, for years, outlined

in specific details Donald Trump's threat to the future of American democracy.

Politically, the Washington Post is a center left newspaper which is highly respected for its accuracy and direct presentation of events in this toxic environment of "fake news". It has always fulfilled its role in sustaining democracy by being a reliable and consistent source of information.

The non-endorsement comes off as unfinished business. Similar to a court case, the newspaper endorsement would have served as the final argument presented to the jury of voters. By failing to provide a much-needed summation, the silence resulting from a non-endorsement has become itself an endorsement.

The non-endorsement was a one-man decision, according to a statement from the Washington Post Guild. It states, "According to our own reporters and Guild members, an endorsement for Harris was already drafted, and the decision not to publish was made by the Post's owner,

Jeff Bezos." Columnist Karen Attiah wrote that "today has been an absolute stab in the back."



David Marshall
COURTESY PHOTO

Attiah is not alone in feeling betrayed. Readers of the paper also feel betrayed. The Post is already seeing subscription cancellations from loyal readers. Current and former staff members feel betrayed. Robert Kagan—a former advisor to Republican John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign, who last year warned that a "Trump dictatorship is increasingly inevitable" resigned from his position as the Post's editor at large in response to the paper's

decision.

Apparently, Jeff Bezos didn't heed the warning. Michele Norris followed Kagan by also resigning as opinion columnist, a position she held since 2019.

After multi-billionaire dollar Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos bought the Washington Post in 2013, the Post's news operation used its abundant resources to thoroughly investigate the danger of a second Trump presidency. "Democracy Dies in Darkness" became the newspaper's official slogan in 2017.

It illustrates how good journalism is essential to democracy. When journalism is at its best, it helps citizens to hold those in power accountable, uncovers corruption and ensures transparency. If the press is silenced, democracy will suffer. Darkness represents ignorance, lack of knowledge and oppression. The phrase "Democracy Dies in Darkness" is a warning to us all. If people are kept in the dark, their ignorance could lead to oppression.

The press is the light that illuminates the dark-

ness. It ensures that people are aware of what is going on around them and empowered to make necessary changes. The phrase acknowledges the fact that the free press is under threat from those in power who prefer to operate in the dark.

The Washington Post is making a powerful and defiant statement that they will not be intimidated or silenced while continuing to keep those with power accountable for their actions. Unfortunately, Jeff Bezos didn't hold up to the test when submitting to the political and economic pressures. He may have turned a defiant statement of truth into harsh reality which is about to come true.

Amazon holds contracts with the government worth billions. Amazon and the space exploration company Blue Origin are among Bezos-owned businesses that still compete for lucrative federal government contracts. Executives from Bezos' aerospace company met with Donald Trump on the same day the

newspaper prevented its editorial team from publishing an endorsement for Kamala Harris.

A retired Washington Post metro reporter, Robert McCartney, wrote on social media that there is "speculation in the newsroom that owner Jeff Bezos may want to avoid risk of endangering Amazon's government contracts if Trump wins."

Regardless, of who wins or loses the election, the Washington Post, as a strong pillar in the free press, took a major credibility hit. The Washington Post reporters and editors who remain the light that illuminates the darkness may not be able to overcome its owner who places the business interest of Amazon and Blue Origin ahead of American democracy.

David W. Marshall, a columnist for the Trice Edney News Wire, is the founder of the faith-based organization, TRB: The Reconciled Body, and author of the book *God Bless Our Divided America*.



Student Athlete of the Week: Crystal Jones

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Editor

Jordan sophomore Crystal Jones has been playing flag football since a young age. Throughout the years, she has been playing at quarterback and running back.

"I could tell them the plays and I could tell them where to go," Jones said. "I'm depending on if they get a touchdown or not."

This is her first season playing for the Bulldogs girl's flag football team. Being at the helm of the

team can be challenging, especially when playing against more experienced squads.

"It's tough because they know a lot more than us," Jones said. "It's tough when they get the ball and we have to get them."

Going up against Coliseum League foes like Crenshaw and King/Drew taught Jones the importance of remaining agile and diligent. She also learned the importance of having a short memory.

"Don't get in our feelings about the game,"

Jones said. "I know because I get in my feelings a lot but I have to just push through it."

Jones instills the importance of not giving up and having a short memory into her teammates. She makes sure to root for them on the sidelines to keep them encouraged during games.

For Jones, being a student athlete means to have good grades and good student conduct.

"Keep my grades up, that's when it means," Jones said. "To not get grade cut, to not fight in

school."

Jones had to work hard to get into good academic standing. When she has a game, she makes sure to discuss to her teachers what classes she will miss and what assignments she will have to turn in.

"I had to catch up on all the work that I missed ...that's really hard," Jones said. "But the athlete part is really easy because it's after school but when it's games, that's when I miss out a lot of my classes."

Along with flag football, Jones plays basketball

and runs track. She competes in the 100m, 200m and the 4x100m relay. The teamwork in the relays helped Jones in flag football.

"It's more team work in the 4x100m, it's more effort to put in," Jones said. "That's how flag football is, you have to put effort and teamwork."

Jones aspires to be a professional flag football player. He older brothers helped train her as a quarterback. They taught her to not back down during games.



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL
Jordan sophomore quarterback Crystal Jones also plays basketball and runs track.



CREDIT ANS PHOTOGRAPHY
Westbrook poses with wife, Nina, and three children.

AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Editor

NBA star Russell Westbrook continues to assist the youth throughout Los Angeles with his Why Not Foundation. In September, Westbrook held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for his newly renovated West-

brook Academy campus.

The new campus is operated by the L.A. Promise Fund. Why Not Foundation managing director Amelia Williamson worked to get the new campus running, which provides a state-of-the-art learning experience for middle and high school students.

Why Not Foundation Champions Youth

"Over the last few years, we've really been working in partnership with the L.A. Promise Fund team to co-locate both schools," Williamson said. "It really was a team effort to first get the building and now the kids are there."

The campus has several amenities including two multimedia and film rooms, science labs, and two wellness centers that offer mental health resources.

"We're unveiling a few different experiences for the kids," Williamson said. "It's been really great to see those come to life."

The school features legacy rooms that were sponsored by several partners, including The Thomas Tull Family Foundation and the Leap Theory/Pillars to Prosperity. The Westbrook Academy also has murals of Kobe Bryant, Rosa Parks, Cesar Chavez, and Nipsey Hussle among other prominent figures.

The Why Not Foundation provides workforce development, educational assets, and mental health resources to marginalized communities. Their partner-



CREDIT ANS PHOTOGRAPHY
Denver Nuggets guard Russell Westbrook cuts ribbon at the grand opening of the new Westbrook Academy in South Gate.

ships help provide what resources those communities need the most. Along with the L.A. Promise Fund, the Why Not Foundation has collaborated with TEC Leimert, LeadersUp, and Conservation Corps.

"We just recently did a really cool event with [TEC Leimert] where it was just about the creative economies," Williamson said. "It's really about investing in the folks who

know how to do this work."

Along with partnerships, the Why Not Foundation holds fundraisers to support their causes. In September, the foundation partnered with World Poker Tour for their fourth annual Poker Night event in Las Vegas.

During his time with the Oklahoma City Thunder, the foundation used to do bowling events. The idea of a poker tournament

sparked during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's something [Westbrook] enjoys doing and wanted to bring his friends along to support the foundation," Williamson said. "We're getting creative with how we think about the fundraising strategy within the event."

For more information, visit <https://westbrookacademy.org/> and <https://whynot-foundation.org/>.

The James and The Griffey's: Talented Legacies in Sports

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sport Editor

Prior to the Lakers taking on the Minnesota Timberwolves in their season opener, a historic photo was taken at center court. Lakers forward LeBron James along with his son and teammate Bronny posed with MLB stars Ken Griffey Sr. and Jr.

The four athletes made history in their respective sport by creating a father and son tandem on the professional level.

"It's a great feeling to get to be together for what we love to do," Bronny said. "I'd say at the same time that he's gone away doing his job, I'm doing my own basketball, I've been able to get through that from the love of the game."

In his 17th season as a major league player, Griffey Sr. had been released by the Cincinnati Reds. The junior Griffey was called up to the Seattle Mariners in 1989. Griffey Sr chose to join his son in Seattle and played their first game together on August 31, 1990, they battled against the Kansas City Royals.

"I learned how to actually hit watching him because how he set up



AP PHOTO/ERIC THAYER
From left, Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, Ken Griffey Sr., guard Bronny James and Ken Griffey Jr. interact after posing for a photo before an NBA basketball game against the Minnesota Timberwolves, Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024, in Los Angeles.

pitchers, what he did," Griffey Jr. said in an interview with sportscaster Shannon Sharpe. "I got to see somebody who I look like perform right in front of me."

The Griffey's created a rare historic moment on September 14, 1990 when they slugged out back-to-back home runs. The 1990 official batting order of the Mariners had Senior batting second and his son batting third.

"[Griffey Jr.] just did a little drive, just went over the wall and I hit straight away center field," Griffey Sr. said to MLB Network. "I had the most pop

19 years older than their sons. Griffey Sr. and Jr. were 40 and 20 respectively when they made history. LeBron and Bronny are 39 and 20 respectively.

The Lakers sealed the historic moment with a 110-103 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves. LeBron scored 16 points, five rebounds and four assists. Bronny earned his first NBA rebound in the three minutes he competed.

"Obviously, that moment, us being at the scoring table together, checking in together. It's a night I'll never forget, no matter how old I get, no matter how my memory may fade," James said. "We wasn't trying to make it

about us, we wanted to make it a team."

Bronny will play for

both the Lakers and the South Bay Lakers throughout the season.

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Sacramento Kings and Black-Owned Digital License Plate Firm Enter History-Making Partnership

By ANTONIO RAY HARVEY
California Black Media

Reviver, the world's first digital license plate and connected vehicle platform, has entered into a history-making jersey patch partnership with the Sacramento Kings, team officials announced right before the team's season opener on Oct. 24.

The collaboration establishes Reviver as the first Black-founded technology jersey patch partner in the National Basketball Association (NBA).

The Reviver logo now appears on the left front strap of Kings' uniforms.

Reviver founder and Chief Strategy Officer Neville Boston was in attendance to see the company's patch worn by the Kings, during a game with the Minnesota Timberwolves at Golden 1 Center in downtown Sacramento.

"It was an absolutely amazing night. More than I ever expected," Boston told California Black Media (CBM). "The Sacramento Kings have been incredible. On a national, and maybe a worldwide level, this partnership raises the profile of Reviver with the assistance of (Kings chairman and CEO) Vivek Ranadivé and the Kings."

According to the Kings' brass, Reviver, supported by the Black Star Fund, a Black-led venture capital firm based in Sacramento, is now an official "innovation partner" of the Kings and Golden 1 Center; a presenting partner of "Capitalize Technology," a King's corporate social investment initiative; and the exclusive digital license plate of the



The Reviver logo now appears on the left front strap of Sacramento Kings' uniforms, marking a historic collaboration as Reviver becomes the first Black-founded technology jersey patch partner in the NBA.

Sacramento Kings.

Headquartered in Granite Bay, a suburb of Sacramento, Reviver was born from a vision to modernize and streamline the vehicle registration renewal process. On Jan. 1, 2023, the state of California joined Georgia, Colorado, Michigan, and Arizona as states that have approved digital license plates for use statewide, after Reviver completed a four-year pilot program that evaluated a replacement for metal plates.

About 10,000 California drivers bought digital plates during the pilot program. Vehicles registered with the state are eligible to adopt the new high-tech tags. Reviver existence was made possible when Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 984 in September 2022.

Under that law, California vehicle owners can update their titles, registrations, and other records remotely. In addition, the digital license "RPlate" includes a flashing message if a vehicle is reported stolen or if there is an Amber Alert.

Ranadivé is spreading the news that Reviver has international potential.

"This jersey patch part-

nership with Reviver continues the Kings long tradition of using our global platform to promote innovation and technology," Ranadivé stated. "It's particularly exciting to showcase a homegrown company that was part of our Kings Capitalize program. This is just the beginning of our work together, and we look forward to helping Reviver in its mission to modernize the driving experience."

The commercial use of patches in professional basketball all began in 2009 when the Women's Basketball Association (WNBA) Phoenix Mercury removed its name to replace it with sponsor, LifeLock, an identity-theft protection company. The landmark deal netted a contract worth about \$1 million annually.

During the 2017-2018 season, the NBA approved a three-year pilot patch-sponsorship program. The success has since been extended permanently. Teams will showcase one client on the front left shoulder of a player's jersey.

In 2020, the Los Angeles Clippers expanded their partnership with Honey to include the team's jersey

patch sponsorship. The technology company is headquartered in Los Angeles and has employees stationed in six continents, including North America and Europe.

In September 2021, the Los Angeles Lakers inked a five-year, \$100 million agreement with the South Korean food company Bibigo to feature its logo as a patch on players' jerseys.

After the Clippers' rela-

facilitator who assisted Boston and his team in connecting with the sports franchise that is boasting 40 years in the Capital City.

"This partnership between the Kings and Reviver, backed by the Black Star Fund, will invest in the Sacramento community to promote technology and innovation in the region," Montgomery-Block stated. "Reviver will

to ensure Reviver is efficient and functional.

"This partnership is a testament to the power of collaboration, bringing together Sacramento-based businesses across multiple industries, all aligned in a shared mission to drive economic growth while supporting our vibrant community," Anku stated.

Boston added that the partnership is in a position



Reviver founder and Chief Strategy Officer Neville Boston attended the Sacramento Kings' season opener at Golden 1 Center, witnessing players debut the company's patch. Reviver proudly supports the Sacramento Kings' community and diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.

tionship with the dating app Bumble ended at the end of the 2019-2020 campaign, the vacancy opened the doors for the team to replace Bumble's patch with Bibigo's.

Rakuten's patch, a Japanese e-commerce company, is worn by the players of the Golden State Warriors. Rakuten first became a sponsor of the team in 2017 and extended its contract with the sports organization in 2021.

Kindra Montgomery-Block, vice president of diversity, equity, and social impact for the Sacramento Kings, was the integral

support the Sacramento Kings community and diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives."

The Kings' Capitalize: Technology competition launched in 2016 as the NBA's first crowdsourced startup competition. In 2019, Reviver was a contestant in the fourth annual Capitalize: Technology competition, where founder Neville Boston was introduced to Kwame Anku, the Founding Managing Partner and Chief Investment Officer of Black Star Fund. Within the last five years, the two innovators have continued to work together

to "develop something that will be the standard of how partnerships work," he said.

Boston, majored in political science and business but applied his academic training to create a product that attracted high-level investors, software and hardware engineers, and financial consultants. He said he knew when he first met Ranadivé that the owner of the Kings' was all about avant-garde technology.

"He's smart, understands it, and respects it," Boston said of Ranadivé. "We're about to do some incredible work. We're going to change the world."

Boxing Dreams Live On in Congo's Grassroots Clubs 50 Years After 'Rumble in the Jungle'

By Ruth Alonga
Associated Press

A punch crunches into the side of Daniella Muleketsi's face. She grimaces at the sting of it and the crowd holds its breath in fear for their homegrown boxing hope.

It is the 20-year-old Muleketsi's first professional fight and it's in her hometown of Goma in eastern Congo. It's a mark that will be on her record forever—a triumphant debut or a bitter loss.

This tournament was held over the weekend by the Nyama Boxing Club to remember perhaps the greatest fight ever. Muhammad

Ali came to the central African country and beat then-undefeated George Foreman in the "Rumble in the Jungle" on Oct. 30, 1974, to become the undisputed world heavyweight champion again.

That fight a half-century ago made Ali a legend. It also offered a glimpse of Congo, then called Zaire and in the grip of the dictator Mobutu Sese Seko.

As Congo marks the 50th anniversary of the Rumble on Wednesday, boxing dreams live on not only in the capital, Kinshasa—where the Ali-Foreman fight happened—but also in the grassroots promotions like Nyama's out in Goma, a



AP PHOTO/MOSES SAWASAWA

The referee holds up the right arm of Mulekets after winning her first professional boxing match against Charity Mukami in Congo on Oct. 26.

city in the heart of a region that has seen decades of conflict, displacement and crisis.

While that shadow of suffering and hardship hangs over nearly everything that happens in Goma now, the boxing tournament drew a surprisingly large and enthusiastic crowd to the open-air arena in the Volcans neighborhood.

In the ring, Congo's Muleketsi shook off the blow that rocked her backwards and rallied against her more experienced opponent, "Scary" Charity Mukami of Kenya. Mukami is a 12-fight veteran and a one-time contender for world titles. Muleketsi ground her way to a win on points and a victorious professional debut.

The referee held up her right arm as she reveled in the applause and cheers. She gripped a blue, red and yellow Congolese flag in her

other hand.

"My goal is to one day be a world champion. I won't stop working until I get there," said Muleketsi, who stands 5-foot-3, weighs

Ali beat Foreman but she has, like so many Congolese, heard tales of the Rumble in the Jungle.

"The fight of the century between Mohammed Ali



AP PHOTO/MOSES SAWASAWA

Daniella Mulekets, 20, practices in the Congo prior to her first professional fight on the 50th anniversary of the "Rumble in the Jungle" fight between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman.

74 kilograms (163 pounds) and began boxing at age 16 under the tutelage of her uncle, a regional boxing official.

She wasn't born when

and George Foreman inspires every professional boxer," she said. "I want my name to be registered in boxing in my country and throughout the world."

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