



Black Community Unites to Re-Elect L.A. Mayor Karen Bass



E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS/L.A. SENTINEL

From left are Pamela Bakewell, Councilman Curren Price, former Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Mayor Karen Bass, Danny Bakewell Sr., Danny Bakewell Jr., Brandi Bakewell, and Councilwoman Heather Hutt.

By CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Managing Editor

Karen Bass has been Mayor of Los Angeles for a little under two years, but as the November 2024 elections roll around the Mayor has already started focusing

on her re-election campaign. With a great deal of anticipation and excitement a large contingency of Bass supporters piled onto the patio of Harold and Belle's restaurant united in an effort to re-elect Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass.

During a fundraising reception held on Sept. 7, a significant crowd of supporters pledged to utilize every available resource to ensure that Bass serves a second four-year term as the city's chief executive. "Mayor Bass has

already achieved great success in the areas of business, homeless prevention, public safety, and infrastructure improvement, and we know she will accomplish even more in her second term," said Danny J. Bakewell, Sr., one of the

event hosts. "As Los Angeles prepares to host the World Cup and the 2028 Olympics and Paralympics, we need Karen's exceptional leadership skills to guide us and to ensure that minority businesses benefit as well."

One of the key topics during an open Q & A format with the mayor was African American business and contracting opportunities during several key **{See KAREN BASS RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN on A-6}**

L.A. Sentinel Visits Western States Carpenters South L.A. Training Center

Local 323 leads new state-of-the-art facility

By E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS
Staff Writer

The Los Angeles Sentinel staff recently visited their Taste of Soul festival's labor partner, Western States Carpenters, at their Local 323 Training Center in Carson, CA. The South L.A. carpenters are the

backbone of the festival. Each year, the organization volunteers, taking on the massive task as builders and disassemblers of the annual event with over 350,000 attendees on Crenshaw Blvd. Leading the labor partnership is Kyle Patterson, regional manager of West-

ern States Carpenters; Wesley Crunk, president of Local 323 and Coordinator for Training Center; and Corey Crockerham, special representative for Western States Carpenters. Among eight training centers throughout California, the South L.A. facility is in Carson, but borders



E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS / L.A. SENTINEL

Special representative Corey Crockerham speaks to members of Western States Carpenters.



E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS / L.A. SENTINEL

Local 323 President and Coordinator Wesley Crunk (top) oversees the meeting as Brandi Bakewell (left), executive V.P. of The Bakewell Company and L.A. Sentinel, thanks the carpenters for supporting the Taste of Soul Family Festival.

Compton and South Central areas as well. The center's management team is a passionate group of leaders who share their craft and help others, particularly in Black and Brown communities, to become carpenters through training and mentorship. The apprenticeship pro-

grams offer earn-as-you-learn opportunities for in-demand construction skills, while earning competitive wages. The goal of the organization is to meet the challenges of the rapidly changing technology in their industry and provide members with broadly marketable skills.

Local 323 President and Coordinator for Training Center, Wesley Crunk introduced Brandi Bakewell, executive vice president of The Bakewell Company and L.A. Sentinel. She greeted the large crowd of carpenters, thanking them **{See SW CARPENTERS AT TASTE OF SOUL on A-6}**

Street Named in Honor of Watts Activist 'Sweet' Alice Harris

CITY NEWS SERVICE

A portion of a street in Watts was named Monday, Sept. 16, for longtime activist "Sweet" Alice Harris, celebrating her decades seeking to improve the lives of the community's residents through her work in education, housing and social services. The 90-year-old Harris was joined by Los Angeles City Councilman Tim

McOsker during a ceremony on Lou Dillon Avenue, near the eight homes she owns on the street where the social services organization she founded in 1967, Parents of Watts Working with Youths and Adults, is operated. "Dedicating the street that has uplifted so many Watts residents as Sweet Alice Row is a fitting testament to her decades of work in this community,"

McOsker said in a statement. "Lou Dillon Blvd., from 107th St. to Santa Ana Blvd. N., will now be known as Sweet Alice Row, serving as a permanent reminder of her impact and the legacy she continues to build at 90 years young." The councilman added that Harris has always inspired him with her **{See "SWEET" ALICE STREET NAMING on A-6}**



CITY OF L.A.

Community members cheer with the unveiling of Dr. "Sweet" Alice Row sign.



Sherlett Hendy Newbill

COURTESY PHOTO

Mayor Bass Endorses Newbill for LAUSD Board

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The list of impressive endorsements continues to grow for Sherlett Hendy Newbill, candidate for LAUSD School Board District 1. Her most recent endorsement is from Mayor Karen Bass.

Mayor Bass stated, “A seasoned educator with 25 years of teaching experience, Sherlett Hendy Newbill is the esteemed Dr. George J. McKenna III. As a teacher, a coach, a Dean of Students, and a parent of

two children in LAUSD Schools, Sherlett is ready to serve. I’m proud to support her campaign for School Board.”

Hendy Newbill responded, “This endorsement from Mayor Bass is very important to me because the mayor and I share a deep concern for student achievement and student safety. I look forward to collaborating on ways to achieve both.”

Others supporting Hendy Newbill include LAUSD School Board

Members Dr. George J. McKenna III, Scott Schmerelson, Dr. Rocio Rivas, and Board President Jackie Goldberg; Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove; Senator Lola Smallwood Cuevas; Assemblymembers, Tina McKinnor, Laura Friedman, Mike Gipson, and Rick Chaves Zbur; County Assessor Jeff Prang, County Supervisor Holly Mitchell; L.A. Councilmembers Heather Hutt, Imelda Padilla, and Katy Yaroslasky; Inglewood Councilmember Gloria

Gray, and Culver City School Board Member Triston Ezidore. Also, she has been endorsed by the Los Angeles Sentinel, the Los Angeles Times and the Los Angeles County Democratic Party.

Hendy Newbill is married to Ivano Newbill, a former professional basketball player who works for LAUSD and is a member of SEIU Local 99. They have two sons, both of whom attend LAUSD schools.

Learn more at www.sherlett.com

Plug In Ventures Hosts Founder Showcase and Demo Day in Culver City

By SHELBY STEPHENS
Contributing Writer

Earlier this year, growing tech company Plug In Ventures (PIV), received a \$1 million grant to help further its mission of supporting diverse, early-stage startups in underserved neighborhoods. On Thursday, Sept. 12, PIV hosted their fifth founder showcase and demo day in Culver City, powered by Amazon.

This event served as a



SHELBY STEPHENS/L.A. SENTINEL

Plug In Ventures Accelerator Cohort 5 Demo Day.



SHELBY STEPHENS/L.A. SENTINEL
Demo Day Founders

platform for business founders to celebrate their achievements from PIV’s 12-week program from December 2023. Businesses pitched for potential partners and investors, while the audience gained valuable insight into their operations and revenue by expanding their professional networks. Within their presentations, CEOs demonstrated their websites and apps to give a

visual representation of their business and how they connect with customers and consumers.

Derek Smith, founder and CEO, is orchestrating and connecting the dots between an entrepreneur’s dreams and the resources that make them reality. The L.A. native is reinvesting into his community with two progressive programs that track, engage, and validate new business owners through investment, men-

torship, commercial expansion, and business development.

When asked about Demo Day, Smith shared, “Demo Day was awesome! All the hard work showed up today in these presentations. I’m super excited to see these founders go out and handle their business to get their companies to the next level.”

“We are getting ready to roll out our next cohort at

the end of this year going into 2025, with a pre-accelerator program with other cohort founders. We’re going to help businesses find capital and support for our founders, and we’re super excited about that.”

Demo Day guests had the opportunity to meet PIV’s Founders and explore their companies, the customers they serve, and the industries they’re revolutionizing. These diverse compa-

nies span a range of sectors, including HealthTech, Digital Media, FinTech, Climate, Beauty, and Sustainability, among others.

The annual event featured Rica Elysee of Slay, Nyakio Grieco of Thirteen Lune, Marlon Nichols for MaC Venture Capital, Ben Bergman of Business Insider and Plug In founders, and a network with a curated group of L.A. tech leaders.

The event started with registration and keynote presentations and ended with a reception for networking and mingling. Smith and PIV have dedicated their professional careers to the advancement of minority-owned businesses.

To learn more about upcoming events with Plug In Ventures and how to connect with fellow investors, corporate partners, and accomplished entrepreneurs, visit <https://lu.ma/plug-inventures>.

Black Girls Code Launch ‘Delete the Divide’ Certified Tech Skills Program

By RODD A. AMOS
Contributing Writer

Black Girls Code (BGC) launched on Sept. 7 “Delete the Divide,” a certified tech skills program for Black girls and youth of color at Ethos Society, a communal workspace located at 3435 Wilshire Blvd in the Koreatown neighborhood of L.A. BGC offers a platform for students to learn about TECH career paths, foster meaningful connections, and build confidence.

About 23 middle and high school students with their parents filed into a spacious room on the 14th floor overlooking the busy Wilshire corridor to hear about how a computer programming education could nurture their careers in tech-

nology and build lifelong proficiency in problem-solving and abstract thinking.

“This workshop is for everyone,” stated Koby LeMoine, Program Manager of Black Girls Code for L.A. and Houston.

“It’s for every Black and Brown, female-identifying person interested in STEAM [Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics], specifically computer science, and engineering to understand the roadmap into tech.”

Regarding “Belonging In This Room,” BGC Marketing and Project Manager Sarady Merghani stated, “It’s about purpose. Traditionally, people of color have been left out of these spaces and the BGC mission is to ensure that our students feel confident enough to go into

these spaces and own them.

“With Coursera as our segue into the I.T. world,” she continued, “the students will be licensed to go into system management, system administration, data analytics, and data science. They’ll learn to code in HTML, Javascript, and Python. Our younger students will learn the basics of coding with Scratch, and the ones graduating high school can take a Google certificate and get a job.”

BGC enjoys partnerships with Coursera, Google, Verizon, GM, and others, including Delete the Divide, an initiative led by the County of Los Angeles to advance digital equity in underserved communities through partnerships, infrastructure investments, and technology resources that empower resi-



RODD A. AMOS /L.A. SENTINEL

BGC students strike a pose.



RODD A. AMOS /L.A. SENTINEL

Jamel Thomas of Delete the Divide leads the workshop.

dents and small businesses.

“Delete the Divide came about during the height of COVID,” said Jamel Thomas, lead instructor of DeletetheDivide.org, and program administrator of the workshop.

“The L.A. County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously that we have to do something about the gap between those with Internet access and those without it. [Director of the Internal Services for LA County] Selwyn Hollins was tasked with building a team to tackle the problem and I was fortunate to be on the ground floor of

“These young women are interested in coding,” he continued, “and we want to help foster that interest and give them some of the tools necessary to have success in tech through these self-paced courses made available free of charge to our members, courtesy of our partners and the Internal Services Department of L.A. County. Google IT certificates lead to jobs that start at \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year.”

Black Girls Code CEO, Cristina Mancini said, “Our partnership with Delete the Divide is a crucial step towards ensuring that Black girls in Los Angeles have

access to the tech and computer science opportunities they need to succeed. We’re excited to take this partnership further by hosting this workshop to introduce participants to DTD’s certificate program.

“This initiative is not just about education; it’s about inspiring the next generation of Black girls and gender-expansive youth to shape the future of tech and, in turn, launch them into their tech futures. We look forward to seeing the incredible impact these young minds will have on the industry,” she added.

For more information, visit <https://www.weare-bgc.org/>.



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² **Additional information about the Down Payment program:** Down Payment program is available with one mortgage product. Program funds can be applied toward down payment only. Borrowers cannot receive program funds as cash back in excess of earnest money deposits. Down Payment Grant program may be considered taxable income and a 1099-MISC will be issued. Consult with your tax advisor. May be combined with other offers. The Bank of America Down Payment Grant program may only be applied once to an eligible mortgage/property, regardless of the number of applicants. Homebuyer education is required.

³ **Additional information about the America's Home Grant program:** The America's Home Grant program is a lender credit. Program funds can only be used for nonrecurring closing costs including title insurance, recording fees, and in certain situations, discount points that can be used to lower the interest rate. The grant cannot be applied toward down payment, prepaid items or recurring costs, such as property taxes and insurance. Borrowers cannot receive program funds as cash back.

⁴ Maximum income and loan amount limits apply. Fixed-rate mortgages (purchases or no cash out refinances), primary residences only. Certain property types are ineligible. Maximum loan-to-value ("LTV") is 97%, and maximum combined LTV is 105%. For LTV >95%, any secondary financing must be from an approved Community Second Program. Homebuyer education may be required. Other restrictions apply.

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After ‘Popping Out’ With Kendrick Lamar, Mustard Drops New Album and Donates to Dorsey High School

BY IRVIN L. DAVIS
Contributing Writer

Kendrick Lamar’s “The Pop Out: Ken and Friends” concert on Juneteenth was a global cultural phenomenon. It brought together young Black men in Los Angeles from all areas and neighborhoods with a vibe of togetherness, swag and great energy as well as revitalized the local music scene.

Also, the concert featured Lamar’s premiere performance of his smash hit “They Not Like Us” with none other than Mustard on the Beat. Through his involvement with the Pop Out, Mustard showed



Kendrick Lamar and Mustard

trailer for his new album, “Faith of a Mustard Seed,” as well as in the video for the single “Pray for Me.”

launched this summer.

“We are overjoyed to receive this generous donation from Mustard. This program will be beneficial to the lives of many young people in our community,” said Dorsey Principal Orlando Johnson. Mustard also recently sponsored a backpack giveaway in the Baldwin Village area and distributed school supplies to young people in the community.

The world has witnessed Mustard’s outstanding production skills over the last fifteen years, writing producing and performing with top names in Rap and R&B. He has also produced more than 30 singles that have reached platinum certification, including 11 singles that sold over 5 million copies. In addition, Mustard is an excellent DJ and in his live performances, he adds flavor to the featured artist with great fills and ad libs.

Mustard has also produced four studio albums as a performing artist. His latest album “Faith of a

Mustard Seed” features 14 tracks which are a true testament to his outstanding production and beat making skills. The song “Ghetto,” featuring Young Thug and Lil Durk, is a smooth mellow depiction of the beauty of Black urban culture in L.A. The video shows incredible images of neighborhood dice games, low riding, BBQ’s at the park, the Slauson Swap Meet, Sole Folks in Leimert Park, Dulan’s Restaurant on Crenshaw, male and female relationships and fellas just hangin’ out in the true spirit of Black Los Angeles. It features the Divas of Compton dance troupe.

The song “Parking Lot” with Travis Scott is a smooth syncopated banger with a great vocal arrangement. “Pressured Up” has a monster G-Funk feel with expressive verses, a great hook and complex background vocals. “Truth Is” is

style, and “That’s Mine” is a mellow track with Ty Dolla Sign and Future featuring the legendary Charlie Wilson. Ella Mai, who Mustard won a Grammy with in 2019 for the song

tion. He gives honor to God as he reflects on his life and shares appreciation and prayers for those who gave him a foundation and those who are close to him. The listener can feel his



Dr. Dre and Mustard at the Pop Out Concert.

“Boo’ed Up,” puts a beautiful serenade to “911”, and “Worth A Heartbreak” is a club track featuring Blxst.

The climax of the album is the song “Pray for Me” where Mustard ven-

genuineness and his authenticity.

As an instructor at Dorsey High School for 34 years, I recall that Dijon McFarlane “Mustard” was genuine, respectful and honest as a student. He was a down to earth person who had a lot of common sense. He gave insightful perspectives in class discussions and was a great DJ at all of the school functions.

The Dorsey community is truly proud of Mustard and happy to partner with him to bring music education to our students. Senior Denzel Dawson stated, “I am so happy that Mustard is giving back to our school and helping us to build our Recording Arts Workshop. I would like to pursue a career in the music industry and Mustard is a great inspiration to myself as well as my peers.”



Dorsey Students Ethan Jackson, Denzel Dawson and Jordan Wilson use recording equipment donated by Mustard.

his love for his alma mater by making a generous contribution to the Dorsey High School Recording Arts Workshop, which has been developed in his honor. Mustard also recognized his alma mater on the

His donation, which was furnished through the promoter of the Pop Out, (pgLang and Free Lunch,) will be used to purchase equipment and resources for the Dorsey Recording Arts Workshop, which was



Mustard on Center Circle Stage at Dorsey where he made his name as the School DJ. At left is Principal Orlando Johnson and at right is Instructor Irvin Davis.

a melodic groove with Roddy Rich showcasing his unique harmonic vocal

tures into rapping for the first time and expresses spirituality and introspec-

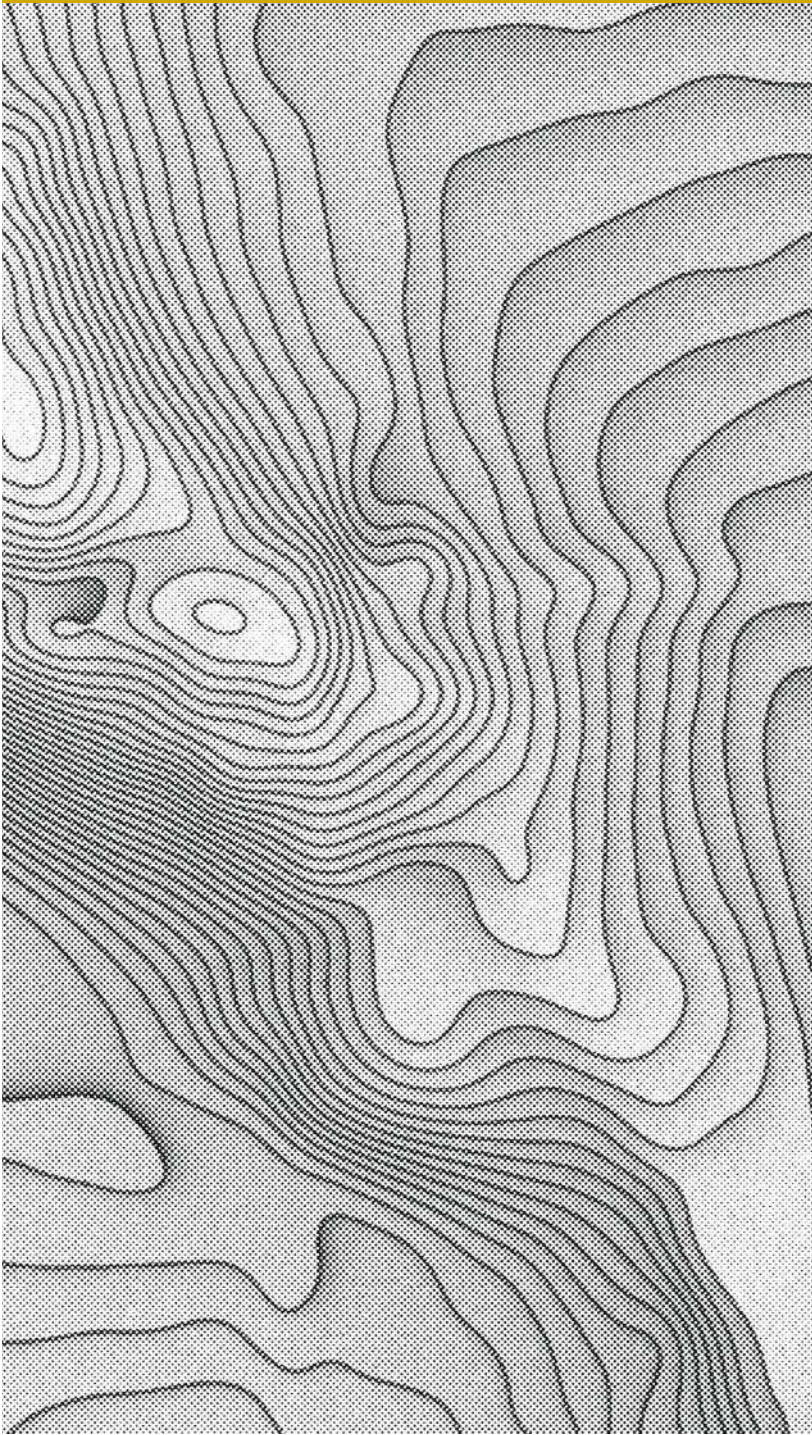
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I started vaping to try to deal with stress. I quit because of my son.



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Isaiah joined the military to provide for his family. While deployed, he tried vaping for the first time. “That’s how a lot of us tried to deal with mental issues. I was hooked like that.”

When Isaiah came home, his addiction followed. “I was collecting vapes like shoes.” Everything changed when he caught his 7-year-old trying to hit his vape. “My son’s like a little me. He does everything I do. That was it. I had to quit.”

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Tito Jackson, Member of Pop Group Jackson 5, Dies at 70

CITY NEWS SERVICE

Funeral services were pending Monday, Sept. 16, for Tito Jackson, one of the members of the influential pop group The Jackson 5, who has died at age 70, according to his sons.

Tito Jackson was the third of nine children in the family, including superstars Michael and sister Janet. The music-making family's songs are still beloved all over the world.

"It's with heavy hearts that we announce that our beloved father, Rock & Roll Hall of Famer Tito Jackson, is no longer with us," his sons TJ, Taj and Taryll said in a statement posted on Instagram late Sunday. "We are shocked,

saddened and heartbroken. Our father was an incredible man who cared about everyone and their well-being."

The post continued: "Some of you may know him as Tito Jackson from the legendary Jackson 5, some may know him as 'Coach Tito' or some know him as 'Poppa T.' Nevertheless, he will be missed tremendously. It will forever be 'Tito Time' for us."

He died of an apparent heart attack while driving from New Mexico to Oklahoma on Sunday, former Jackson family manager Steve Manning told Entertainment Monday evening.

The Jackson 5, made up of brothers Jackie, Tito,



Tito Jackson

Jermaine, Marlon and Michael, rose to fame with a string of No. 1 hits in the 1970s, including "ABC," "I Want You Back," and "I'll Be There." The group was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1997.

Guided by their father,

Joe Jackson, a steelworker and guitarist, the family became one of the biggest names in music.

After nonstop touring and winning numerous talent competitions, The Jackson 5 landed their big break in 1969, when they signed an exclusive seven-year deal with Berry Gordy's Motown Records.

Originally from Gary, Indiana, the family's musical success led them to relocate to California.

Tito Jackson and two family members had still been performing as The Jacksons, with upcoming concerts scheduled for Oct. 25 in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and Nov. 1 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

He managed his sons'

band, 3T, and all three were featured in the 2015 reality series "The Jacksons: Next Generation," which aired on Lifetime and followed the brothers as they tried to balance their music careers with family life and the pressures of being a Jackson.

Toriano Adaryll "Tito" Jackson, born on Oct. 15, 1953, was often the quietest member of the group, contributing as a background singer and guitarist. While his brothers pursued solo careers, including Michael, who rose to global fame as the "King of Pop," Tito remained more behind the scenes.

Michael Jackson left the band in 1984 after his

album "Thriller" became one of the best-selling albums of all time, winning him eight Grammy Awards as a solo artist.

Michael Jackson died at age 50 on June 25, 2009.

Tito Jackson was the last of the nine Jackson siblings to launch a solo career, making his debut with the 2016 album "Tito Time." In 2017, he released the single "One Way Street." Another solo album, "Under Your Spell," was released in 2021.

He intentionally delayed his solo pursuits to focus on raising his three sons.

Tito Jackson is survived by his sons, TJ, Taj and Taryll.

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KAREN BASS RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN

(Continued from A-1)

events scheduled for Los Angeles in the upcoming years. These events include not only the Olympics and Paralympics as well as the world cup, but the Los Angeles Clippers will play host to an NBA All Star Weekend at the Intuit Dome

as well as a Super Bowl in the upcoming years.

Assuring the audience that she is aware of these concerns, Bass said, "Councilmembers Curren Price and Heather Hutt and I — we are all committed to ensuring minority busi-

nesses can participate in these events" and to ensure that African American business get an opportunity to share in the multibillion dollar investments that are part of the international events.

The mayor has made

tangible changes for residents and businesses during her first term. Her deeds include decreasing homelessness by bringing thousands of people inside compared to last year, reducing timelines for affordable housing construction by 75%, and leading city department to answer 100,000 additional calls for services. Also notable are Bass' efforts to work with government at all levels resulted in millions in funding for public safety, housing and climate projects.

Other topics of concern was the planning and redevelopment of Ladera Shopping Center as well as the planning and proposed construction along Metro's newest line Crenshaw North, which is slated to bring the Crenshaw line from Exposition up to the



AKIL TIRCUIT/L.A. SENTINEL

Mayor Bass greets guests during the reception.

Wilshire Corridor.

In addition to Bakewell Sr., the hosts for the reception were Aline Bakewell, Danny Bakewell, Jr. and Kristina Smith, Pamela Bakewell, Brandi Bakewell, Taelor Bakewell-Diabate, Danny Bakewell III, Clifton Albright, Gene Hale, Tony Cornelius, Bish-

op Xavier Thompson, Sr., Cynthia Mitchell-Heard, Doug Moore, Kevin Murray, Charisse Bremond-Weaver and George Weaver, and the law firm of Ivie McNeil Wyatt Purcell & Diggs.

To donate or learn more about the re-election campaign, visit karenbass.com.



E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS/L.A. SENTINEL

Harold and Denise Legaux, owner's of Harold and Belle's with Mayor Bass and Danny J. Bakewell, Sr.

SW CARPENTERS AT TASTE OF SOUL

(Continued from A-1)

for their commitment and return to the upcoming festival.

"My father [Danny Bakewell, Sr.] bought the newspaper about 25 years ago, and he decided, 'you know what, I think I should do something a little more than just a newspaper,' and he came up with the Taste of Soul Family Festival. It's a free festival. This is going to be our 19th year, and we couldn't do it without the participation of people like the carpenters. So, we are so grateful to you. And thank you to Nicholas Vasquez who first introduced us," said Bakewell.

The Bakewell Company and the Los Angeles Sentinel team of coordinators, Nicole Williams, vice president of The Bakewell Company and Los Angeles Sentinel; Amira Elswify, proj-



E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS / L.A. SENTINEL

Training Center instructor Darryn Everage gives the L.A. Sentinel staff a tour of the state-of-the-art facility.

ect manager for the Los Angeles Sentinel; and Jelani

Minix, project coordinator; witnessed a carpenters'

new-membership ceremony and were given a tour of the

state-of-the-art center by instructor Darryn Everage.

The facility is filled with new machinery and tools. There are carpentry simulation stations throughout, along with classrooms that focus more on the academic aspect of carpentry certification.

Everage, who is on the outreach team and the Brothers Keeper pre-apprentice program as well, says the team wants to reach out to as many as possible.

"I go to different events and I give out business cards, meet people, and just network to inspire other youth to come in and want to become carpenters," he said.

Everage says that on top of just teaching the trade, the center teaches professionalism. "We don't want them just knowing to

do the work, but how to conduct ourselves in the right environment. I think this is an awesome facility and it's a great place to execute that."

Apprentice, Vasquez, highlighted the benefits of mentorship and community in the training program.

"You gain so much besides the skill. You gain mentorship, you gain camaraderie through the brotherhood. Just good people, like-minded people out here striving and just trying to better our lives and support our families," he said.

Come to the 19th Annual Taste of Soul Festival on Saturday, October 19, on Crenshaw Blvd. to visit Western State Carpenter's booth and learn more information. You can also follow them on Instagram @carpenterslocal323.

"SWEET" ALICE STREET NAMING

(Continued from A-1)

"unwavering commitment to uplifting everyone and her determination to never leave anyone behind."

"Before I even decided to run for office, I sought her wisdom, and she has been a guiding force ever since. Walking up to her porch and sitting beside her is a tradition shared by so many -- from congressmembers and senators to mayors, supervisors, and council members," McOsker said.

Harris is the executive director of the organization that encourages children to stay in school and always avoid drugs. It provides emergency food and shelter for homeless people, prepares teenagers for trade school, college and the job market, and also offers

drug counseling, health seminars and parenting classes.

Harris founded the organization in an attempt to alleviate tensions in the neighborhood after the 1965 riots. It focuses on creating a safe and nurturing environment for the youth, advocating for social change and providing support for families grappling with poverty and crime.

"The reason I've done this for so long is because I can remember when I needed help," Harris said in a 2015 interview. "In Alabama, a family gave me help when I was considered nothing. They gave me a job, so I promised them that whenever I find somebody in the same shape and

wearing the same shoes I wore, I would do for them what they had done for me.

"I won't stop. I'll be doing this until the Lord comes and gets me because I love it. I love to see people smile and I know how good they feel, because I know how good I felt."

Harris is known for speaking her mind in pursuing equal services and opportunities for her fellow residents and countering any resistance she gets from uncooperative parents, school administrators or city officials with her trademark question: "Do you want to be part of the building crew or the wrecking crew?"

Harris was born in Gadsden, Alabama on Dec. 29, 1933, and raised there. She

moved to Detroit, where she operated her own beauty shop. She moved to Los Angeles in the late 1950s, seeking better opportunities and a brighter future for herself and her family, only to face numerous challenges and hardships as an African American woman in Watts amid poverty, gang violence and social neglect, according to McOsker, whose 15th district includes Watts.

The naming of the street is the latest of a long series of honors for Harris, which also include receiving an honorary doctorate from USC, being selected by President George W. Bush as a "point of light" for the impact she has made on Watts through her volunteer work, being selected



CITY OF L.A.

"Sweet" Alice Harris and Councilman Tim McOsker

by Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante as "Woman of the Year," in 2002, receiving the Minerva Award created by California first lady Maria Shriver to honor remarkable women, having

the play park on Compton Avenue named for her and having the Oral Arts Room at King/Drew Magnet High School of Medicine and Science dedicate the room to her.

Prop 34 Aims to Expand Medi-Cal Prescription Drug Funding – With Restrictions

BY EDWARD HENDERSON
California Black Media

In less than two months, Californians will vote on Proposition (Prop) 32. This voter guide is one in a series of articles that will help you understand what supporters and opponents of each of California's 10 ballot initiatives are saying about each one.

Prop 34 would permanently allow Medi-Cal, California's version of the federal Medicaid program, to pay pharmacies directly for prescription drugs.

California started doing this in 2019 after Gov. Newsom signed an executive order allowing the payments. This initiative would codify the executive order into state law. The measure would also require healthcare providers to spend almost all the money (98%) they get from a federal prescription drug program directly on patient care -- instead of having the leverage to use it on other things.

Prop 34 would increase the money that comes to

California for Medi-Cal prescription drugs with a matching federal subsidy. However, it will restrict healthcare organizations and non-profits from spending that money on other health care-related social services.

Supporters of the proposition argue that, if approved, providers would be held accountable for their spending and provide more affordable care to individuals who need it. California Black Media (CBM) spoke to Elizabeth Helms, President and CEO of the California Chronic Care Coalition (CCCC), who has endorsed a YES vote for Prop 34.

The CCCC is an alliance of multiple patient organizations and provider groups with a focus on access to quality, affordable health care, wellness and prevention, and coordinated care.

"We are patient-centric," said Helms. "We care that people are able to access the care that they need, including their medications, seeing physicians. And when we see that not happening, or we start hearing it from the

field that (people are) having problems, (people) can't do this, (people) can't afford this, (people) can't get timely care; you know, (people are) having to choose food over medicine or all these other things. Proposition 34 is important. Especially to people who need care, who can't get it."

Some of those opposed to the proposition argue that the only reason it is on the ballot is to personally target The AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) and their CEO Michael Weinstein, who supports rent control legislation. The California Apartment Association Issues Committee has provided \$21.3 million in campaign support for the measure.

CBM spoke to David Kline, Vice President of Communications & Research at California Taxpayers Association who supports a NO vote for Prop 34.

"This is 100% financed by billionaire landlords and the California Apartment Association, and they don't have an interest in health care," said Kline. "This is a



Prop 34 will restrict healthcare organizations and non-profits from spending that money on other health care-related social services.

revenge initiative, a revenge against AIDS Healthcare Foundation for supporting rent control. And they've been very explicit on their website and videos they've put out about that have had at. But they don't mention the AIDS Healthcare Foundation in their argument because they know how popular the organization is. This is a wolf in sheep's clothing."

The proposition only applies to providers who spend at least \$100 million on expenses other than direct care, that also own and operate buildings and

that least 500 severe health and safety violations in the last 10 years. These stipulations have led many to believe it is aimed at The AIDS Healthcare Foundation because they are one of few organizations who meet these criteria

"(Passing Prop. 34) would have a terrifying chilling effect," said Kline. "What organization, you know, nonprofit would be safe who was speaking truth to power? I mean, taking on these billionaires, if they knew that all that they had to do was to put something on the ballot to take away their

nonprofit status and remove their licenses?"

When asked about their thoughts on the involvement of Prop 34 and a focus on Weinstein, the CCCC did not have a comment, reiterating that their focus is "100% on patients" and directing as much funding as possible to their wellbeing.

"The proposition does several things," said Helms. It protects up to \$2 billion in prescription drug rebates for the state of California annually. And these rebates will help offset the cost of the Medi-Cal program, protect access to critical services for millions of low-income patients. It prevents the worst abusers of the 340B program from misusing money that is supposed to be used to help patients."

A YES vote on this proposition would require Organizations like the AHF to spend nearly all of their money only on healthcare and no other endeavors.

A NO vote would repeal the proposition and keep things the way they already are.

Is Prop 36 the Right or Wrong Solution for Retail Theft?

BY EDWARD HENDERSON
California Black Media

Prop 36 would increase drug crime and theft penalties and allow a new class of crime to be called "treatment-mandated felonies," which also require some offenders to participate in drug and mental health treatment.

It would also make the crime of shoplifting a felony for repeat offenders and increase penalties for some drug charges, including those involving the synthetic opioid fentanyl. It would also give judges the authority to order those with multiple drug charges to get treatment.

Supporters of the proposition say that it is a good balance between California's 'tough on crime' days and the passing of Prop 47 which they blame for creating loopholes in state law that criminals use to avoid accountability for drug trafficking and retail theft. They also claim it will combat homelessness, which has risen 50% since the passing of prop 47.



Prop 36 supporters say it will ensure that repeat offenders of retail theft are held accountable.

The intent of Prop 47 was to reduce spending on imprisonment in California and reduce the state's prison population as mandated by a United States Supreme Court in 2011.

During the pandemic, the rate of shoplifting and commercial burglaries increased statewide. The Public Policy Institute of California found that reported shoplifting of merchandise worth up to \$950 increased 28% over the past five years.

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez (D-Pomona), a supporter of Prop 36, made his stance clear in a press release in August.

"As a strong advocate for both public safety and comprehensive treatment programs, I am proud to support Proposition 36. This measure strikes a necessary balance between accountability and rehabilitation, ensuring that repeat offenders of retail theft and serious drug crimes are held responsible while also offering a path to recovery for those struggling with addiction," Rodriguez wrote.

"It's time we prioritize the safety of our communities and provide the resources needed to help individuals turn their lives around," he added.

Opponents of the propo-

sition argue that it is misleading to present idea tough-on-crime policies as a solution to homelessness. They, instead, directly link so-called "tough" polices of the "War on Drugs" to the overcrowding of prisons in the state and the over-incarceration of Black Californians.

California Black Media spoke with Eric Harris and Carolina Valle of Disability Rights California who strongly oppose the Prop 36.

"The kind of rush to panic at this time is misplaced and misguided based on the actual data," said Harris. "The first folks who are going to get penalized by these types of policies -- and we know this based on our long history of criminal justice work in this state -- will be Black people, Latinos, and people with disabilities -- with intersections among the groups."

While supporters claim crime is increasing in California, Valle points to statistics that say otherwise. The Center on Juvenile & Criminal Justice released a study

that shows the latest crime trends for 48 California cities clearly show significant declines. The data show crime declines across almost every major crime category, including an 11% decline in theft and a 17% drop in burglary, in the first three months of 2024 compared to the first three months of 2023.

"Having a felony on your record has very drastic consequences for public safety and family togetherness," said Valle. "Because of Prop 47, they were able to avoid a felony conviction. That person is able to get a job that they need, housing that they need, they're able to vote, all these things that we really value for stability here in California. So, a few years ago, there was actually a ballot initiative to do exactly what Prop 36 aims to do: roll back Prop 47."

"And voters, again, really affirmed their commitment to preserving Prop 47 and rejected that ballot initiative because you really can't throw a rock in California without hitting some-

body who has been positively affected," continued Valle. "We want to, as voters, recommit our votes to preserving Prop 47, and we can do that by rejecting Prop 36."

A "yes" vote on Prop 36 supports making changes to Proposition 47, which was approved in 2014, including:

- classifying certain drug offenses as treatment-mandated felonies;
- increasing penalties for certain drug crimes by increasing sentence lengths and level of crimes;
- requiring courts to warn individuals convicted of distributing illegal drugs of their potential future criminal liability if they distribute deadly drugs like fentanyl, heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine; and
- increasing sentences for theft based on the value of the property stolen.

A "no" vote opposes changes to Proposition 47 (2014), thereby maintaining certain drug and theft crimes for items valued below \$950 as misdemeanors.

Political Playback: News You Might Have Missed – Sept. 19

BY BO TEFU AND TANU HENRY
California Black Media

At Black Caucus Conf. in D.C., Butler Talks About AI, Jobs, Black Newspapers, and More

At the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference, held from Sept. 11

tance of embracing AI in Black communities and using the technology to create economic opportunities. Other panelists included Megan Holston-Alexander, Partner and Head of the Cultural Leadership Fund at Andreessen Horowitz; Tyrance Billingsley II, Founder and Executive

Director of Black Tech Street; DeVaris Brown, CEO and Co-Founder of Meroxa and John Hope Bryant, Founder, Chairman, and CEO of Operation HOPE.



From left are James Lucky, publisher, Southern California Observer News Group; Lisa Collins, publisher, LA Focus; Senator Laphonza Butler (D-CA), Larry Lee, publisher, Sacramento Observer; and Brian Townsend, publisher, Precinct Reporter.

through the Sept. 15 in Washington, DC. Sen. Laphonza Butler (D-Calif.) participated in a number of panel discussions covering a range of topics, including Artificial Intelligence Black women's health and empowerment.

On Sept. 12, Butler hosted a panel discussion titled "AI and Economic Empowerment in Black Communities."

During that discussion, Butler joined other leaders in AI to emphasize the impor-

tant role of AI in Black communities and using the technology to create economic opportunities. Other panelists included Megan Holston-Alexander, Partner and Head of the Cultural Leadership Fund at Andreessen Horowitz; Tyrance Billingsley II, Founder and Executive

Director of Black Tech Street; DeVaris Brown, CEO and Co-Founder of Meroxa and John Hope Bryant, Founder, Chairman, and CEO of Operation HOPE. "Fewer people are going to be required across broader industries, particularly those in white-collar, traditionally white-collar positions," said Butler to conference attendees. "Let's take this moment today to get ahead of some of those workplace challenges."

That same day, Butler and Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) introduced a bill in the U.S. Senate called the Workforce of the Future Act. That bill proposes a \$250 million federal government investment in educating and preparing students and workers in marginalized communities for jobs in AI.

"The purpose of this legislation is to solidify our commitment to today's -- as well as tomorrow's -- workers, preparing them to work in tandem with AI and to be ready for the jobs of the future" said Butler in a statement released Sept. 12.

That evening, the National Newspaper Publishers Association, an organization serving and representing historically Black news outlets around the country, also honored Butler for her support of Black-owned media over the years.

Butler said she is intimately aware of the critical role Black-owned newspapers have played in informing the communities they have served over the last 197 years since the first Black-owned newspaper, Freedom's Journal, was published in the United States.

continue to inform our communities, making sure our voices are represented in the publishing and media space," said Butler.

At the conference, Butler also participated in a panel discussion on the Black women's maternal health crisis and delivered remarks on about Black communities gaining access to the financial sector and capital at an event hosted by The Connective Capital Consortium Braintrust.

Rep. Barbara Lee Named to Official Advisory Board for Vice President Harris' Presidential Campaign

On Sept. 10, Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA-12) was appointed as a senior member of the National Advisory Board for Vice President Kamala Harris and Tim Walz's 2024 presidential campaign.

Lee said she is proud to join the campaign supporting Harris, who is a Bay Area native.

"It is a responsibility I do not take lightly," she said.

"We must work hard to spread Kamala Harris' message and vision for the future of this country in communities everywhere from coast to coast," said Lee.

"A vision of hope, of

justice, of making it easier for low-income people and working people to not only get by, but to get ahead," she added.

Lee recalled her long-term friendship with Harris highlighting that she would make an excellent president. "I look forward to working with her and her team so that she becomes the first Black woman, first South Asian woman, and the first woman from the Bay Area to sit in the Oval Office," said Lee.

California Emerging Technology Fund Awards \$20,000 Grants to 36 Local Governments

Last week, the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) launched a program awarding grants worth \$20,000 to 36 jurisdictions in the state to participate in the Local Government Best Practices Check List Project.

Under the program, local governments can use \$20,000 in grants to help close the digital divide in their communities. The counties and cities are encouraged to distribute affordable internet service plans and available digital literacy training resources in digitally disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Sunne Wright McPeak,

president, and chief executive officer of CETF, expressed gratitude to its partners for promoting digital inclusion in efforts to achieve digital equity statewide.

"There is so much power and innovation that emerges when we join forces to deploy high-speed Internet infrastructure and get all residents online -- especially the most digitally disadvantaged residents in low-income communities," said McPeak.

The 36 local governments awarded \$20,000 grants include City and County of San Francisco; City of American Canyon; City of Artesia; City of Bell Gardens; City of Bellflower; City of Brawley; City of Cathedral City; City of Citrus Heights; City of Inglewood; City of Isleton; City of Long Beach; City of Los Angeles; City of Maywood; City of Moorpark; City of Ontario; City of Palmdale; City of Placerville; City of Rosemead; City of San Diego; City of San Luis Obispo; City of San Luis Obispo; City of Santa Paula; City of Santa Paula; City of South El Monte; City of West Sacramento; County of Del Norte; County of Inyo; County of Marin; County of Mono; County of Napa;

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Congressional District



Maxine Waters
CA - 43rd
Congressional District



Judy Chu
CA - 28th
Congressional District



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CA - 44th
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U.S. Senate



Adam Schiff

California State Senate



Sasha Renee Perez
CA - 25th
Senate District



Michelle Chambers
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Heather Hutt
- District 10

State Assembly



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CA - 54th
Assembly District



Isaac Bryan
CA - 55th
Assembly District



Sade Elwahary
CA - 57th
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City Council

City of Carson



Lula Holmes Davis -
Mayor



Jawane Hilton -
City Council

Superior Court Judge



George Turner
- Seat 39



Ericka Wiley
- Seat 48



Victor Avila
- Seat 93



Sharon Ransom
- Seat 97

City of Compton



Satra Zurita
- City Clerk



Deidra Duhart
- City Council



Barbara Calhoun
- Community College



Christmas Brookens
- Seat 115



Leslie Gutierrez
- Seat 130



Georgia Huerta
- Seat 135



Tracy Blount
- Seat 137

Gourmet Egg Rolls Are on the Menu Again at Taste of Soul

Mika's Catering Service is bringing back the perfect finger food to the festival.

By BRIAN W. CARTER
Contributing Writer

Mika's Catering Service will be bringing her gourmet egg rolls to Taste of Soul (TOS) once again on Saturday, Oct. 19.

"I started making eggrolls for the fun of it," said owner and founder of Mika's Catering Service, Shimikia Hagins.

She is the third oldest of 20 children and originally from Watts. Hagins attended 102nd St. Elementary, Markham Jr. High School and Jordan High School.

"I love to cook," said Hagins. "When I was 5-years-old, I used to be in the kitchen with my mom cooking some good meals for my siblings.

"Cooking is a therapy for me."

Established in 2018, Mika's Catering Service



Chili cheese pastrami egg rolls

COURTESY PHOTO

started rolling out gourmet egg rolls as they were a hit with everyone.

"I just come up with ingredients," said Hagins.

"I cook for family and friends and started making different type of egg rolls and letting my coworkers try them—they even came

up with different ones for me to make.

Hagins started taking orders and her catering business was born. This will be her second time as a vendor at TOS. She shared a little about her first TOS experience and why she is back this year.

"At first I was scared, but it was a great experience, that's why I decided to come back this year," said Hagins.

This year, Mika's Catering Service is bringing their famous and most popular egg rolls which includes Southwestern Turkey, Beefy Beef Chili Cheese Pastrami and Veggie Eggrolls.

"We also will be serving up some banana pudding cups and my new strawberry pudding pound cake cups," said Hagins.

TOS is the perfect place for Hagins and her egg



Southwestern egg rolls

COURTESY PHOTO

rolls but also, because she loves TOS Nation.

"I love being around good people," said Hagins. "I am a peoples' person and not afraid of criticism.

"That makes me different from others."

For information on vendors, stages and more, please visit www.tasteofsoulla.com.

Conaway Offers roasted Peanuts and More at Taste of Soul

By JOANIE HARMON
Contributing Writer

Among the delectable offerings that await attendees of Taste of Soul is an everyday treat that is by no means ordinary. Customers at Steven Conaway's vending truck, which is parked just south of the L.A. Sentinel offices on Crenshaw, provides more than his signature roasted peanuts.

gasoline when someone comes up empty. Most importantly, from Monday through Saturday, the truck provides a convivial gathering spot for the community, with a friendly word and healthy snacks.

"Walnuts and pecans, they're good for your brain," says Conaway, who started out selling nuts from his former boss's truck in 1980, before open-

ing his own business. "You have pistachios, they're good for your heart and your blood, and so are the pecans. The almonds are good for your eyes. If

you want memory [help], go for walnuts and pecans. Pumpkin seeds are good for the prostate, for men. Nuts are one of the best things for the body."

Among Conaway's 23 products are a variety of sweet or seasoned pista-

cholesterol. They're good for your blood, they're good for digestion."

Conaway's location near the Sentinel offices is serendipitous. After achieving his degree in public relations from CSU Long Beach, the Oxnard

just loved it.

"I was subbing at the Long Beach school district, and then got a job teaching at a business college in Long Beach," he says. "I left there and came to Los Angeles to help my grandmother, [as she] and needed somebody to help her. I moved in to take care of her and I decided to do this myself, get my own [truck]."

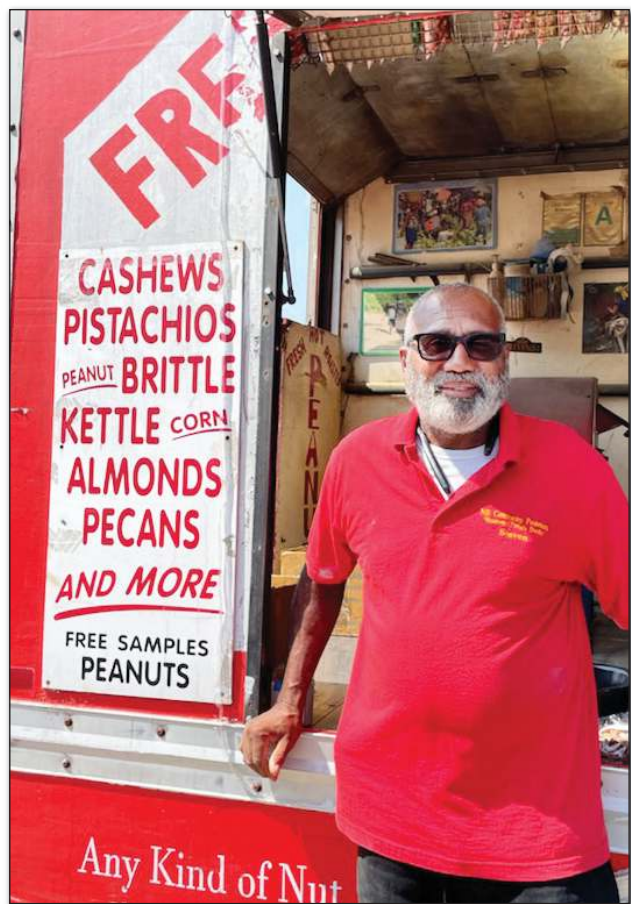
Conaway looks forward to returning to Taste of Soul, in which he has participated as a vendor for seven years.

"I love it," he says, "I have a good time every year It's one of the best events around. They did an



Steven Conaway roasts

JOANIE HARMON/LA. SENTINEL



JOANIE HARMON/LA. SENTINEL

Steven Conaway, a seven-time vendor for Taste of Soul, offers a variety of nuts, dried fruit, and other healthy snacks.

One might find him at his truck, which is equipped with a propane nut roaster and a warming oven, providing a jumpstart for a stalled car or a little

ing his own business. "You have pistachios, they're good for your heart and your blood, and so are the pecans. The almonds are good for your eyes. If



JOANIE HARMON/LA. SENTINEL

Willie Nixon (at right) shows off his loyalty card for Steven Conaway's nut vending truck.

chios and cashews, including those without salt; butter toffee peanuts and almonds; trail mix, mixed nuts, peanut brittle, and raw pecans, almonds, and walnuts. But the peanuts, which he roasts on-site and keeps in a warming oven, are the stars of the show.

"Peanuts are one of the best things for the body, actually," says Conaway. "There are two types of cholesterol, the good cholesterol and the bad cholesterol. Peanuts lower the bad cholesterol and raise good

native worked as a district circulation manager for the Long Beach Press Telegram. His supervisor, who had a side business selling nuts from a truck, offered Conaway a part-time job.

"He asked me to work for him part-time, selling peanuts," says Conaway. "I told him, 'No, I got my degree, I'm about to rule the world. I'm not going to sell peanuts.' But he talked me into it, and I liked it. I worked for him for six years doing that... and I

just loved it.

"I was subbing at the Long Beach school district, and then got a job teaching at a business college in Long Beach," he says. "I left there and came to Los Angeles to help my grandmother, [as she] and needed somebody to help her. I moved in to take care of her and I decided to do this myself, get my own [truck]."

Conaway looks forward to returning to Taste of Soul, in which he has participated as a vendor for seven years.

"I love it," he says, "I have a good time every year It's one of the best events around. They did an

excellent job of creating it, and I'm proud and happy they allow me to work it every year. As long as they have it, I'll keep doing it."

Despite the festive associations with nuts as a treat during the holidays or even at Taste of Soul, Conaway says there is joy with providing the community with a simple pick-me-up, six days a week.

"My mom always had nuts around the house during the holidays," he says. "Christmas and Thanksgiving, we had the bowl of nuts and the nutcracker and we had a good time. But I never knew I was going to get into the business. I love doing what I do."

★ ★ ★

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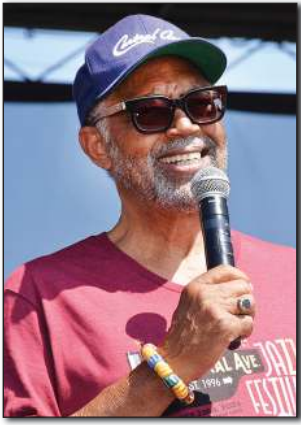
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Central Avenue Jazz Festival Set for Sept. 21

BY JOANIE HARMON
Contributing Writer

The 29th Annual Central Avenue Jazz Festival will take place on Saturday, Sept. 21, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., on historic Central Avenue between Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and Vernon Avenue. The annual event is free and



DEDEE VERDIN PHOTO/ OFFICE OF COUNCILMAN CURREN D. PRICE, JR. Councilman Curren D. Price, Jr. greets the crowd at the 2023 Central Avenue Jazz Festival, which takes place every year in the historic corridor between MLK Blvd. and Vernon Ave.

open to the public, presented by Councilman Curren D. Price, Jr. and The New Ninth, in conjunction with the Coalition for Responsible

Community Development and Concerned Citizens of South Central Los Angeles.

The family-friendly event will feature three stages of live performances, including jazz, blues, and Latin jazz, honoring jazz legends and showcasing up-and-coming artists. This year's lineup includes the John Beasley Big Band, jazz trumpeter Chief Adjua, the all-female salsa band Las Chikas, and global music sensation Extra Ancestral featuring Eduardo Palo Cuero. Jazz luminaries Carmen Lundy and Charles McPherson will also take the stage, continuing the festival's tradition of world-class performances. In addition, student musicians from LAUSD's Beyond the Bell and other youth programs will perform.

"We always take advantage of the opportunity to celebrate not only existing artists but those who are students," says Councilman Price. "We look forward to bringing the young folks from Beyond the Bell and other organizations that reflect the future."

The historic Dunbar Hotel, which played a key role in L.A.'s African Ameri-



DEDEE VERDIN PHOTO/ OFFICE OF COUNCILMAN CURREN D. PRICE, JR. Musicians take their stage to the streets, as guests at the Central Avenue Jazz Festival revel in the sounds.

can community for decades, will also be highlighted during the festival. Built by Dr. John Somerville in 1928, the hotel was the site of the first West Coast convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and provided first-class accommodations for African Americans in segregated Los Angeles. A gathering place for artists, intellectuals, and community leaders, the Dunbar was a major venue for jazz notables, including Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and Bessie Smith.

"We expanded the celebration to the Dunbar when

we came into office about ten years ago," says Councilman Price. "It's a great setting because it captures the past, the present and the future as well. We are very excited to highlight that and to encourage folks to know about the history and the legacy of that location."

During the festival, musical performances will take place at the Dunbar, as well as an opportunity to view extensive renovations to the historic site, which now serves as affordable senior housing, and the location of Delicious at the Dunbar, featuring classic Southern cuisine and Mexican favorites.

The Central Avenue Jazz Festival is also noted for its local food and beverage vendors, serving everything from soul food to Asian fusion. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Arts Pavilion, showcasing artwork from talent around the world. Healthcare partners will provide free and confidential services, including dental screenings on-site. A Kid Zone will feature arts

"There were a variety of businesses along Central Avenue, providing health, education, business services, attorneys, and doctors," notes Councilman Price. "It wasn't all about music, but music captured the imagination of not only Los Angeles, but the world. It became the epicenter for jazz and really [distinguished] the cultural arts in Los Angeles."

Due to limited parking,



DEDEE VERDIN PHOTO/ OFFICE OF COUNCILMAN CURREN D. PRICE, JR. The Central Avenue Jazz Festival honors the past and celebrates the future of the music, with young musicians of all age levels.

and crafts, games, and other activities for younger attendees. In addition, dozens of organizations will offer information and resources related to jobs, housing, and supportive services.

attendees are encouraged to use Metro or rideshare options. For more information, including the performance schedule and festival map, visit centralavejazzfest.com.



PHOTO BY MALCOLM ALI



PHOTO BY MALCOLM ALI

West Adams Jazz Festival Draws Big Crowds

People were dancing in the streets at the West Adams Jazz Festival on Labor Day Weekend



PHOTO BY MALCOLM ALI

Saturday night Community Music Groups, Urban Music SoCiety and Rush Hour brought the crowd to the feet and had them dancing in the Streets

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Labor, Civil Rights, And Elected Leaders Join Forces in Support of Proposition 6



Yvonne Wheeler



Asm. Reggie Jones-Sawyer



Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuervas



Asm. Tina McKinnor

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

A powerful coalition of labor leaders, elected officials, and formerly incarcerated individuals came together for a press conference to urge Californians to vote Yes on Proposition 6 – a groundbreaking initiative that seeks to end forced labor in California’s carceral system, expand rehabilitation opportunities for incarcerated individuals, and save taxpayer money.

The “Yes on Proposition 6” coalition wants to raise public awareness and educate voters on the critical need to shift from the current system of forced labor in prisons to one that prioritizes rehabilitation. The proposition encourages incarcerated people to participate in essential programs, such as education, vocational training, and counseling, which have proven effective in reducing recidivism.

According to formerly incarcerated Gloria Cabrera, who serving as campaign ambassador, forced labor in prison prevented

her from accessing crucial rehabilitative programs, such as GED and college courses, substance abuse disorder recovery programs like Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA), and vocational training programs. These programs play a vital role in helping individuals overcome personal challenges, develop skills, and reduce the likelihood of reoffending after release.

“I began drinking as a preteen at age 11, left my home at 15 years, and landed in jail by the time I was 19 years old. I didn’t know anything about the system and was released, but soon after, I landed in jail again,” said Gloria who is currently working as a paralegal at a Law Firm, received her GED with honors, and is currently in college.

“By the second time I landed in jail at 21 years-old, my attorney pointed out to me the need to register in a substance abuse recovery rehabilitation program to avoid a life of incarceration. Unfortunately, forced labor left little room for me to par-

ticipate in substance-abuse treatment programs that could have been instrumental in my recovery. These programs, often scheduled during work hours, were inaccessible to me, despite my desire to break free from the cycle of addiction and self-destruction. It took me years to finally engage in these recovery programs. If it weren’t for my attorney who pointed out to me that the root of my problems with the law were not my crimes but my substance abuse, I would’ve been caught in the jail system indefinitely.”

“Proposition 6 is a critical measure that aims to end modern-day slavery in carceral settings by allowing incarcerated individuals to focus on rehabilitation through education, counseling, and other programs. Evidence shows that participation in these programs not only helps individuals reintegrate into society but also saves taxpayer money,” said Senator Steven Bradford, District 35.

Currently, California spends \$134,000 annually to

incarcerate one person.

“Successful re-entry into society must be a priority for our prison system. By focusing on voluntary work programs and skill development and rehabilitative programming, we not only reduce recidivism but also give incarcerated individuals the tools they need to become productive, law-abiding members of their communities. When we invest in rehabilitation, we invest in safer, stronger communities for all Californians,” added Senator Maria Elena Durazo, District 26.

Proposition 6 also emphasizes the importance of allowing incarcerated individuals to work in jobs that enable them to access rehabilitative programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA), and substance programs. By providing incarcerated people with autonomy over their work schedules.

“Prop 6 ensures they have the flexibility to attend GED classes, vocational training, and substance abuse counseling. The ulti-

mate goal is to equip incarcerated individuals with the tools they need to succeed upon release, preventing homelessness and repeat offenses,” said Los Angeles County Federation of Labor President, Yvonne Wheeler.

Proposition 6 enhances public safety and reduces recidivism by prioritizing rehabilitation over forced labor.

“California Professional Firefighters strongly support Proposition 6, recognizing the profound need for prioritizing rehabilitation during time served over further punishment. We believe the incarcerated should be focused on rehabilitative, voluntary work, and educational programs that truly prepare them for successful re-entry into society. We urge Californians to end involuntary servitude by voting Yes on 6.”- Brian K. Rice, President, California Professional Firefighters

Forced labor in California’s prisons often prevents individuals from accessing the rehabilitative programs that are essential for personal growth and success-

ful re-entry into society. Proposition 6 prioritizes rehabilitation by allowing incarcerated individuals to choose voluntary work programs that accommodate their participation in educational programs like GED and college courses, vocational training, and counseling services like AA and NA. Research shows that access to these programs dramatically reduces recidivism and supports long-term reintegration into the community. This will not only improve public safety but also provide significant cost savings to the state, which can be invested in other essential services.

Press Conference participants included: Yvonne Wheeler, President, LA County Labor Federation; California Professional Firefighters President, Brian Rice; Senator Steven Bradford; Senator Maria Elena Durazo; Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuervas; Assemblymember Reggie Jones-Sawyer; Assemblymember Tina McKinnor; and a handful of formerly incarcerated ambassadors.

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#TOS2024



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September 1, 2024

Dear Crenshaw Residents, Businesses and Taste of Soul Nation:

Bakewell Media, the Los Angeles Sentinel, Mothers in Action and Radio FREE 102.3 KJLH will be hosting the

19TH ANNUAL "TASTE OF SOUL FAMILY FESTIVAL" SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024 FROM 10:00 AM TO 7:00 PM

"Historic" Crenshaw Blvd. between Stocker Street and Obama Blvd.

The purpose of this event is to capture a "taste" of the diverse creativity that exists in the "Crenshaw" community in a festive atmosphere. This event will feature live melodic music, tantalizing food, awesome arts, tremendous trade, free health screenings and resource information, as well as, fun for the entire family. Both public and private entities are joining together, in their own unique way to display their means of improving life in our community and we hope you will attend.

NO PARKING will be allowed on Crenshaw Boulevard, or its service roads between Stocker Street and Obama Blvd. from Friday, October 18, 2024 12:00 p.m. to Sunday, October 20, 2024, 6:00 a.m.

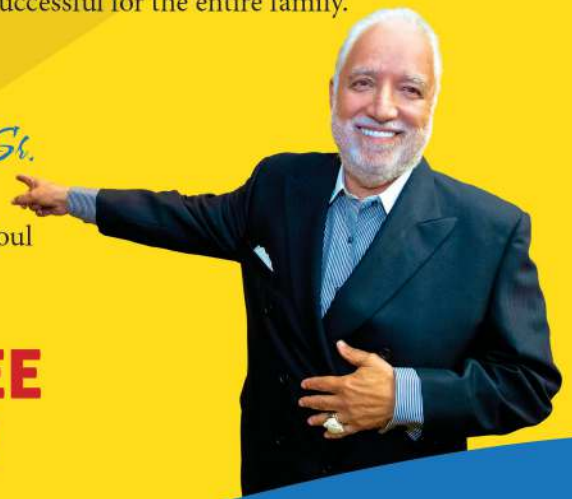
VIOLATORS PARKED IN NO PARKING AREAS WILL BE TOWED THIS YEAR - NO EXCEPTIONS - by Swanney and McDonald Towing Services (323) 733-6898.

It is our sincere hope this will not be a major inconvenience to you and your schedule will allow you to attend.

Thank you for your cooperation and being the best neighbors who have helped us to make this event successful for the entire family. Hope to see you there.

Sincerely, Danny J. Bakewell, Sr.

Danny J. Bakewell, Sr. Creator/Founder of Taste of Soul



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Victoria Ave. between MLK Blvd. and Obama Blvd.
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Chef Debbie Solomon is in her Golden Era

BY MYKO LYRIC
Contributing Writer

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor's 2024 statistics, Americans spend an average of 322 hours a year on cooking— and that doesn't even include grocery shopping. For many, it's a far-off dream to have a private chef and reclaim hundreds of hours that could be dedicated to family, work, or travel. For some, however, hiring a private chef is not just feasible, but necessary.

Chef Debbie Solomon caters to the latter, most notably as a private chef to Rihanna since 2013. She has also worked for a number of other A-list celebrities, most recently John Legend and Chrissy Teigen.

Chef Debbie's cuisine is a reflection of her blended story. She is native to Kingston, Jamaica with an upbringing marked by two periods: her time in Jamaica, and her time in Brooklyn, NY after her family moved there when she was 13 years old. She supported her mother's catering business as a sous-

chef as a child. "In the moment, when you're a kid and expected to do certain things like wash these meats and season them, you don't realize that it's really preparing you for your career," she explained to the Sentinel.

As she blossomed into her 20s as a New Yorker in the sales industry, she felt an underlying pull to attend the French Culinary Institute. "I'd ask myself, 'what is it that you're really into? What are you passionate about?' I knew I didn't want to be in sales forever [because] I was making a good living, but it didn't make me feel like I was living my purpose," she observed.

"I remember walking in [The French Culinary Institute] and I was like, 'wow'. I just knew. I registered and when I saw the cost of it, I figured out how to get together the down payment. It took me five years and when I turned 30, [my] school year started."

As she reflected on her lessons from FCI (now the Institute for Culinary Education), she is ultimately

grateful for learning how to elevate her cooking while remaining gustatorily truthful to her roots. Upon graduation, Debbie was aware that the deep, humbling work was just beginning.

"My uncle told me, whenever you go to school you also need to go and get practical experience. I needed to learn the trade," she reminisced. Through multiple different kitchens, she finally landed a job at the Sunset Marquis Hotel in West Hollywood.

It was during her time here that Rihanna's management reached out to her, and the rest is history.

"I knew I wanted to be a private chef. I saw how much my mom struggled [in the catering business] and I when I was young, I was like, 'I'll become a chef...but I don't want to struggle.'"

Now, Debbie calls herself a "whenever, whatever chef". Despite its blaise-blaise feel, this phrase really details her discipline: she provides any meal, whenever the client desires. "Usually, I get up at 4am to make a client's



COURTESY PHOTO

Chef Debbie Solomon

dinner, which doesn't take over 3 hours. Then I take my daughter to school, and the client has their meals by 10 a.m.," she explained.

"But, if a client tells me that they want a steak at 2 a.m., or a lasagna at 8 a.m. because they landed in a different country, then that's what the client gets. At the end of the day, [being a chef] is a service, as a client you need to be

able to tell me what you want and I provide it."

And provide it, she does. Debbie has worked in hotel kitchens across the world while touring with an artist, preparing to fulfill their culinary curiosities within a moment's notice. For those unfamiliar with that type of rockstar life, this included ensuring the artist receives a menu pre-travel. The artist and team

also develop a rider for each hotel location, detailing the types of foods and drinks they'd like stocked in the hotel kitchen.

It comes as no surprise that Debbie made multiple sacrifices to follow that pace of life. During the pandemic, however, her life slowed to a sustainable pace with the birth of her daughter. Now, three years later, she is focused on staying and cooking from home so that she can spend time with her "miracle baby" and family. Still, she remains a private chef to Rihanna: "She's a Caribbean girl, I'm a Caribbean girl. Just who I landed as a client, it's just divine intervention.

God provided me with the most perfect client."

Staying out of the limelight while always mastering her craft, Chef Debbie has gladly entered a new golden era of her career where she has the privilege to enjoy the fruits of her labor and devote time to those closest in her life.

Stay aligned via her Instagram, @chefdebbiesolomon.

Rural Communities of Color Find New Ways to get Health Care They Need

BY KENYA HUNTER
Associated Press

Haywood Park Community Hospital was the closest hospital for many in Brownsville, Tennessee, a rural city in the western part of the state.

Some residents believe it kept their loved ones alive. But others in this majority-Black

needs to start at the local level — especially in communities of color that may lack trust in the medical field.

It's already happening in Brownsville, where the hospital fully reopened in 2022; in North Carolina, where mobile clinics see farm laborers who lack permanent legal status after their work hours; and in California, where community

When a hospital does stay open in a large rural area where few people live, the facility may not see the number of patients it would need to see to be profitable, said Arrianna Planey, who researches health policy and management at the University of North Carolina.

Leaders in Brownsville tried to find a buyer for the hospital. The county eventually purchased it. Braden Health, a privately held company, then took over the hospital with two conditions from the county supervisors: It must be a full-service hospital with a 24-hour emergency room and staff had to be hired as quickly as possible. Local officials say the hospital is breaking even.

Tennessee is one of 10 states — many of them in the South — that haven't expanded Medicaid. Michael Meit, the director of East Tennessee State University's Center for Rural Health Research, believes doing so would be an obvious solution to the problem of growing rural health disparities. More people would be covered by insurance, Meit said, and hospitals could make more money.

"They're providing a lot of uncompensated care," he said of rural health systems in those states.

Miller acknowledged that Medicaid expansion can help, but argued that pinning hopes on that alone has "let the private insurance plans off the hook."

"In some cases, the small hospitals are losing more money on private insurance than they are on Medicaid, which is really kind of remarkable," he said, "but that's how little they get paid ... by the private insurance plans."

Doulas and mobile health clinics help

Low Medicaid reimbursements play a role in maternity wards closing in rural areas, along with worker shortages and declining birth rates. More than half of rural hospitals have stopped offering labor and delivery services, another recent analysis from the Center for Health-

care Quality and Payment Reform showed. That can lead to longer travel times and a higher risk of complications and death, and in the U.S., Black mothers have the highest rates of maternal mortality.

Alexis Ratliff, 29, had few options for maternity care when she was pregnant with her second child. There is no labor and delivery unit at the hospital in Rocky Mount, Virginia, and a hospital about 40 minutes away closed in 2022. Ratliff, who is Black, instead went to Salem — more than an hour away — for every prenatal visit. She ran through all of her paid time off, and had no paid maternity leave.

She did, however, have a doula. The doula is Black and her services were covered by Medicaid — a benefit Virginia started offering in 2022.

"I really did want somebody else to just help advocate, especially since with women of color, the mortality rates are higher. So I was like, 'anything can happen,'" she said. "My family members never had good experiences up here at these doctors' offices, even just for regular appointments."

In the state to the South, immigration status can complicate health care. About 150,000 farmworkers and their family mem-

bers live in North Carolina. Many of them speak Spanish, lack permanent legal status and don't qualify for Medicaid — so they'll pay out of pocket at clinics or go without medical care.

A few organizations in the state provide mobile health clinics. Campbell University's Community Care Clinic, in partnership with Sembrando Salud by NC FIELD did its first outreach in 2017 and diagnosed 68 people with diabetes. Four of them had very high blood sugar levels, said Dr. Joseph Cacioppo, a clinic volunteer, and chairman of the Community and Global Health program at Campbell.



NATALEE WATERS/CARDINAL NEWS, CATCHLIGHT LOCAL VIA AP

Alexis Ratliff sits with her daughter, Eleah, and son Ezekiel in Rocky Mount, NC, on July 9, 2024. With no hospital in Rocky Mount, Ratliff had a doula to help with the birth of Eleah.

city said they drove to a hospital miles away or skipped care completely. The facility eventually closed in 2014 after a decline in patients.

"Despite my ill feelings or experiences I had in that environment," said Alma Jean Thomas Carney, who described the hospital's white staff as unwelcoming, "you have indigent people living in Haywood County who need to get to the closest facility available."

It's more common for people in rural areas to die earlier than urban residents from things like heart disease, cancer and stroke, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But hospitals have closed throughout rural America in the last decade, leaving some of the 46 million people who live in these areas fewer options to get the care they need when they need it.

Advocates, hospital and health clinic administrators and rural residents say changing disparities in health outcomes and health care services in rural America

health workers in the Fresno area go door to door to help Punjabi Sikh immigrants, who often work on farms or at meatpacking plants.

"We've learned that we have to go to people, we have to go to where they're at, they're not going to come to us," said Mandip Kaur, the health director of the nonprofit Jakara Movement.

Rural hospitals at risk

More than one-third of the nation's rural hospitals — about 700 — are at risk of closing because of "serious financial problems," according to a July analysis from the Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform. Harold Miller, the center's president and CEO, said one hospital closure can ripple through a rural community.

"If the hospital didn't exist, there wouldn't be any physicians there," Miller said. "There is no place to go and get a lab test except for that hospital. There may be no nursing home or place to get rehab or long-term care other than these hospitals."

Simon Burris: Africana Diaspora Black History Month II Crossword

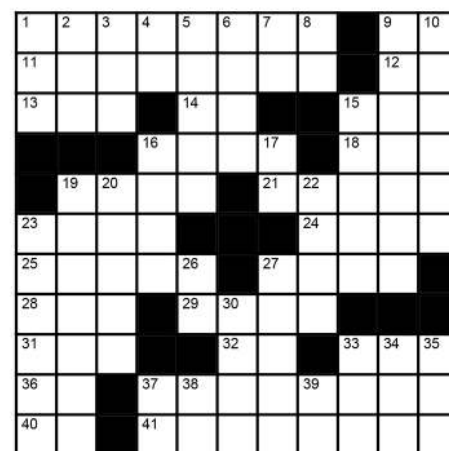
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Across

- 1. **Newspaper publisher Danny Bakewell; "Los Angeles ___"; (guardian)
- 9. * _OE _OUIS
- 11. **Newspaper publisher "The North Star" Frederick ___ (1847)
- 12. *Actor Epps' monogram
- 13. "Go to the ___ O sluggard..." (Proverb 6:6)
- 14. That thing
- 15. Threshold Set (abbr.)
- 16. Undertaking
- 18. *Uganda, Nigeria, Tunisia (Afr. Union trio); initials
- 19. West New Orleans District, briefly
- 21. Heartbeat
- 23. Composer ___ Carlo Menotti
- 24. Saint Stephen, Oregon (initials)
- 25. Broadcasting (2 wds.)
- 27. *"Billie ___" Michael Jackson song
- 28. Run for Cover (abbr.)
- 29. Time periods
- 31. Mister MNO_Q, for short
- 32. "I ___ the way," (John 14:6)
- 33. **Black Entertainment Media Group, for short
- 36. Actress of the past M ___ West
- 37. **Sengstacke Abbott founder of the newspaper "The Chicago ___" (protector) (1905)
- 40. The Empire State (abbr.)
- 41. *LeBron James and Stephen Curry, for example

Down

- 1. Contempt: DI ___ IN
- 2. Long, long time
- 3. Cashew or almond
- 4. Telegram (abbr.)
- 5. Long poem
- 6. *Turner and King Cole
- 7. The letter "S"



- 8. *Football champion Swann's monogram
- 9. **Ebony and Jet magazines publisher John H. ___
- 10. *NBC News anchor ___ Holt
- 15. *Black Wall Street massacre locale (1921)
- 16. **"Beloved" author Morrison
- 17. Knotty pine (abbr.)
- 19. **Publisher/producer Oprah
- 20. *Civil rights org.
- 22. Consumes
- 23. *Amanda ___; poet performed for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris
- 26. Concerning
- 27. *Singer Etta ___
- 30. Rose Alva, Florida (initials)
- 33. Bachelor of Dramatic Art (initials)
- 34. Always, in verse
- 35. Abbr. for Tax Relief Service
- 37. "Yes" in Russia
- 38. ___ Pollo Loco
- 39. North Tampa (initials)

(ANSWERS ON D-2)

Little Ethiopia Hosts 23rd Annual New Year Cultural Street Festival

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The vibrant streets of Little Ethiopia in Los Angeles were filled with festivities as the Ethiopian community came together to celebrate the Ethiopian New Year festival.

"The annual event, known as Enkutatash, marks the beginning of the Ethiopian calendar and is a time for friends and family

with the rich aroma of freshly-brewed coffee.

Ethiopian cultural bands and traditional dancers performed for hundreds of attendees. As the sun set, a traditional Ethiopian band took to the stage, playing upbeat music to inspire the crowd of all ages, dancing, clapping, singing into the night.

Overall, the Ethiopian New Year festival in Little

Ethiopia was a joyful and community-driven event that brought people together to celebrate their culture and heritage. It was a reminder of the importance of coming together as a community to celebrate traditions and create lasting memories.

Present were Councilwoman Heather Hutt, CD 10, primary sponsor of the event, along with representatives from the mayor's office,



CD10 Councilwoman Heather Hutt of CD10 (middle) with Little Ethiopia Business Association President Negest (Nikki) Legesse (2nd from right) and members of the Ethiopian soccer federation in North America, who were honored with certificates.



Traditional Ethiopian shoulder dance performed by festival attendees.

Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Hamilton, Congresswoman Sydney Kalmager-Dove, and Assemblymember Isaac Bryant.

Also present were police Captain Rodriguez and outgoing longtime Senior Lead Officer Adam

Green from the Wilshire Division Station. The business association partnered with Destination Little Ethiopia, a project of Community Partners; UCLA, Levitt Pavilion, Kitfo TV and Arty Kids.

"The 23rd Little

Ethiopia New Year Cultural Street Festival brought in more young people than ever before. We couldn't ask for anything more than the next generation keeping our culture alive," said Legesse.

Negest (Nikki) Legesse contributed to this article.

to come together to feast, dance and celebrate the coming year. It is 2017 in Ethiopia," said Negest (Nikki) Legesse, president of the Little Ethiopia Business Association.

The streets were lined with festivalgoers, mostly wearing cultural Ethiopian attires, and vendors selling traditional Ethiopian clothing, jewelry and food—while music and dancing filled the air. Children ran around playing games and enjoying the festive atmosphere.

One of the highlights of the festival was the traditional coffee ceremony, where coffee beans were roasted and brewed in front of visitors, filling the air



Hundreds of festivalgoers filled streets of Little Ethiopia.

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GRANT AME CHURCH MARKS 118TH ANNIVERSARY

By CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Religion Editor

Rejoicing filled the air as the members of Grant African Methodist Episcopal Church marked their 118th year of vibrant and tangible Christian service to the Watts community of Los Angeles.

Led by Pastor Timothy O. Coston, Jr., the congregation observed the momentous occasion with a spirited worship service on Sunday, Sept. 15. The theme of the anniversary celebration was “Rooted in the Past, Growing in the Future” based on Colossians 2:6-7.

The Rev. Dr. Barry Settle, pastor of Ward AME Church in Los Angeles, was the guest preacher. His uplifting message was entitled “He’ll Still Fight Your Battles” and his scripture reference was Exodus 14:1-16.

Other worship participants were James Parker,



Pastor Timothy Coston, Jr. and Rev. Dr. Barry Settle

Dexter Moon, Dr. Irene Pinkard, Angela Ross, Jacqueline Thomas, and Janice Hinton. Music was rendered by the Grant Adult Choir and the Ward AME Choir.

Grant AME members on the Anniversary Committee included Cheryl Baylark, Linda Bennet Lakey, Doris Broussard, Jacqueline Cochran, Aren

Coston, Martha Davies, Maxine Harrison, Audrey Horton, Dr. Arvis Jones, Brenda Jones, and Wanda Marshall.

Also on the committee were Irene Pinkard, Angela Ross, Rae Nell Simmons, Byron Smith, Shirley Smith, Gwen Stokes, Steven Swartz, Sylvia Swatz, Lorrain Hennington, Pamela Williams, and Donna



Rev. Rochelle Settle and First Lady Karen Coston

Wilson.

Grant AME has made considerable progress since its founding in 1906. According to historical records, the late Rev. S.E. Edwards started the church in a “tiny one-room house on Manhattan Street (now 113th Street).”

The edifice later moved to 114th Street and Compton, and by 1923, the mem-

bership numbered to several hundred.

“In 1954, under the leadership of the Rev. Henry W. Murph, the church built and moved to the current location of 10435 South Central Ave. During the Watts Uprising in 1965, Rev. Murph kept the doors of the church open to people seeking safety from the dangers happening in

the streets,” explained a spokesperson.

“This action by Rev. Murph set the tone of Grant as a church who cares for the community and the membership continues reach-out to those in need.”

Under Pastor Coston’s tenure, the church offers programs for all ages including Science Day Camp for youth, the Watts To Water Program, Kirkland Academy for Excellence Summer Day Program, an Alzheimer’s Sunday Service, Watts-Willowbrook Music Academy, and a food ministry that distributes free groceries each week.

“With an excellent foundation established since 1906 by pastors, officers and laypersons, Grant AME continues to strengthen its presence as a change agent for empowerment and redemption in the Watts community,” the spokesperson added.

Holman UMC Debuts Saturday School for African American History

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

While headlines feature distressing acts of cancel culture and the banning of books, Holman United Methodist Church has instituted a Saturday School for African American history.

The mission is to illuminate the path to knowledge, heritage, and empowerment for African American youth amid a national resurgence in the assault on Black and



Dr. Akua T.J. Robinson



Anthony Onwuegbuzia

Ethnic Studies programs. “We recognize the criti-

cal importance of preserving and celebrating African

American history and culture, and we are committed to fostering a nurturing and enriching environment where students can explore their identity, deepen their cultural awareness, and build a foundation for lifelong learning,” said Dr. Josephine Isabel-Jones, program chair.

Three sessions were held at Holman United Methodist earlier this year that included presentations by a judge, college president, aerospace educator, musicians, psychiatrist, science teacher, and a civil rights leader. The interac-

tive sessions are conducted by two notable professors from California State University - Dominguez Hills, Dr. Akua T.J. Robinson and Professor Anthony Onwuegbuzia.

The curriculum includes a call to order through drumming, sessions on African American literature, a game show competition on African American aerospace history, African American history presented by a rap poet, fitness and mindfulness, and cultural affirmations.

According to observers, students love the hands-on

interactive style of learning about their history.

The Saturday School is open to students from second grade through ninth grade. Classes will convene on Sept. 21, Oct. 12, Nov. 9 and Dec. 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., at Holman United Methodist Church located at 3320 W. Adams Blvd, in Los Angeles.

Register at <https://holman.churchcenter.com/registration/events/2422966>

For more information contact us at: SSAAH@Holmanumc.com

Haitians in Ohio Find Solidarity at Church After Chaotic Week of False Pet-Eating Claims

By LUIS ANDRES HENAO
Associated Press

For many Haitian immigrants, Sunday mornings in Springfield, Ohio, are spent joyfully worshipping God as they sing and pray in their native Creole. This past Sunday, they needed that uplifting balm more than ever.

Their community is reeling — confused, frustrated, hurt — from false accusations that they are eating their neighbor’s cats and dogs. The now viral and highly politicized rumors are being fueled by former President Donald Trump, his running mate JD Vance and others, and violent threats against the community are upending daily life in their city.

“Jesus is with us in truth, and the truth is that Haitians are not eating pets and geese in Springfield,” said the Rev. Carl Ruby, preaching at Central Christian Church. He invited community members to join his congregation in prayer and peaceful protest of the false rumors leveled against their Haitian neighbors.

They also demanded an apology.

“It is truth that a retraction of these rumors will help to restore peace in Springfield,” Ruby said.

“We respectfully call on all politicians and media figures who are promoting this rumor to help make Springfield great and safe again by speaking the truth about our community.”

Viles Dorsainvil, the leader of Haitian Community Help and Support



Marie Morette prays during mass at St. Raphael Catholic Church in Springfield, Ohio on Sept. 15, 2024.

Center in Springfield, accepted Ruby’s invitation to worship together at Central Christian, and was grateful to be relying on his faith.

“It’s important to be here because we’re Christian — despite everything, we worship in good times and bad times,” he said. “I’m relieved that I’m in the presence of God. It’s therapeutic.”

And he had a message for Trump and Vance: “If they have the heart of God, they will think differently and speak differently.”

The rumors, spread on social media and by Trump during Sept. 10 televised presidential debate against Vice President Kamala Harris, have exacerbated fears about division and anti-immigrant sentiment ahead of the election in the mostly white, blue-collar city of about 59,000 where more than 15,000 Haitians now live and work.

“There’s no evidence of this at all,” he said during

the program.

Despite the governor and local officials debunking the rumors, Vance reiterated the conspiracy theory on Sunday’s “Face the Nation” on CBS while blasting Harris on her U.S.-Mexico border policy.

At Central Christian Church, Ruby encouraged his congregation to help hand out thousands of cards around Springfield that had been printed in Creole and English with a message of support for Haitians. It reads, “I’m glad you are here. Christ loves you and so do I.”

As the service ended, Ruby praised parishioners for a beautiful moment amid what he called a storm of chaos. Looking at the Haitian members in the first pew and at the rest of his congregation, he asked them to come together in prayer: “Pray and think what it is to be a Haitian parent sending their child this week to school.”

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH POSTS PULPIT VACANCY FOR SENIOR PASTOR

The Second Baptist Church of Los Angeles (SBCLA) has posted a notice of pulpit vacancy for a Senior Pastor to lead their traditional African American congregation into the next phase of the 21st century. Founded in 1885, SBCLA has enjoyed an uninterrupted presence in the Los Angeles community for 139 years. For the past 37 years, the church has been under the leadership of the Reverend Doctor William Saxe Epps and First Lady Agretta Epps.

The mission of SBCLA is to acknowledge that “God was in Christ redeeming, reconciling and restoring the world unto himself” (2 Corinthians 5:19) and their vision is to continue the work of Christ by developing Ministries that address the needs of contemporary society.

Completed application packets for the pulpit vacancy will be accepted through **October 7, 2024.**

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Lead and oversee the spiritual wellbeing of the church with preaching and teaching the Word of God. Ability to lead within the framework of the Church Constitution. Administer the Church Ordinances: The Lord’s Supper and Baptism.
- Implement a visionary plan to increase membership and a culture of church giving (stewardship).
- Lead the church in an effective evangelism program.
- Embrace traditional and contemporary forms of music and worship and understand the intergenerational and cultural nuances that are critical in the continuing growth of the church.

Preferred Qualifications and Practical Experiences

- The ideology of the ideal candidate is supported by the teachings of the Holy Bible, as well as in the African American experience, spirituality, consciousness, and culture. Specific qualifications include:
 - Sound interpretation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the traditional African American pastoral preaching. Employ a preaching style that is textual, narrative, challenging, personal, engaging and makes God’s Word applicable to everyday life.
 - Superior oral and written communication skills that reach various ages and demographics.
 - Strong leadership, business and financial skills relative to the church’s interest in economic development, grants, projects, non-profit programs and investments.

Minimum Requirements

- At a minimum, the Candidate must be a baptized believer who is passionately committed and dedicated to the Ministry of Jesus Christ.
- At a minimum, the Candidate must have experience at a church similar or larger in size as an Associate pastor but preferably as the Senior Pastor.
- Adhere to a schedule that enables availability to members of the congregation, as needed.
- Experience leading in growing or rebuilding a church.
- Have Accreditation/Licensing/Ordination with the Baptist denomination.
- Hold undergraduate and graduate degrees, with a Master of Divinity and/or preferably, a Doctorate from an accredited Theological Seminary.
- Candidate must possess the following attributes: personal relationship with Jesus Christ, integrity, passion, vision, humility, fiscal responsibility, purpose driven, encourager, mentor, teacher and a peaceful patient man/woman of God.

Application Packet

- Applicant packets are confidential and not returnable to the applicants. Applicants must submit the following to the Pastoral Search Committee as part of the completed application packet:
 - Short Biography and Photo (recent photo of at least six months)
 - Letter of Interest (please answer the following questions)
 - Why do you believe that you might be a good fit as the Senior Pastor of Second Baptist Church Los Angeles? (Theoretical)
 - Describe your experiences in ministry and how you might be qualified to serve as Senior Pastor at our church? (Examples)
 - Resume
 - One public sermon and one recent public Sunday School or Bible Class teaching session. Please submit via thumb drive (examples include YouTube, video, etc.)

Application packets must be submitted electronically via email to SBCLAsearch24@gmail.com or Priority Mail with tracking to **Second Baptist Church, 6695 Green Valley Circle, P.O. Box 2605, Culver City, CA 90230-9997.** No calls to the church will be accepted regarding the search process.

Once application packets have been reviewed, the Pastoral Search Committee will contact potential candidates regarding the next steps in the process. All candidates will be subject to a background check as part of the application process.

• DR. MAULANA KARENGA •

Concerning Whites' Current and Historical Hating on Haiti; Unforgivable Blackness of Liberation, Resistance and Radical Refusal

The most recent fabricated, false and fear-mongering ranting by Trump, Vance and various other MAGA advocates and allies, claiming Haitian immigrants are eating White peoples' pets is another Hitlerian lie that has its roots and twisted rationale in the social virus and pathology of anti-Black racism. Like all viruses and opportunistic and persistent pathologies of the heart, mind and body, it attacks most viciously the weak and vulnerable.

We who have experienced and resisted it since we were forcibly brought here know that in the face of this species of human hosts, defined by their self-deforming hatred and hostility and the varied forms of oppression they pose, there is no reliable remedy except radical refusal to be like them and righteous and relentless resistance against them at every site and source of degradation and oppression.

Let's be honest and morally courageous enough, my fellow Americans, patriots and flag wavers all, to face the fact that this is the country we live in, and in spite of our rally and convention calls and claims about America the beautiful, there is an ugly, even monster side of America, and Trump is only the most visible activist and advocate for it.

It is the height of hypocrisy and bad faith self-blinding to refuse to see and concede that Haitians are the current focus for such hatred and hostility, but that all Blacks are each day vulnerable and victims of these and related patterns and practices of anti-Black racism. And it is difficult, indeed ethically impossible, for any moral person to delink our oppression from the oppression of other people of color who have suffered similar racist and anti-immigrant viciousness and violence.

Thus, it is important to recognize and concede quickly and honestly that the problem is not just Trump, Vance and the craven crowd of GOPers, genuflecting and groveling in fear and favor-seeking ways. It is also millions of Americans who support him and his radically evil ideas and policies, enable and defend him, and ultimately turn this racial hatred and hostility into legislation, public policy and socially sanctioned practice.

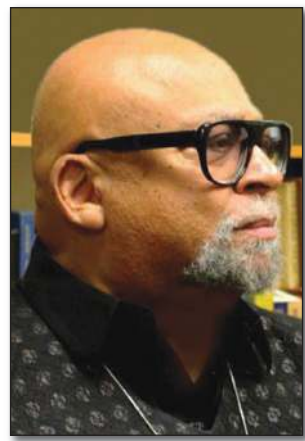
It is also liberals whose selective morality allows them to exclude, indict and harm others different and vulnerable who they too deem unworthy or to protect and support their own immoral interests, allies and arguments.

The righteous struggle going on now in communities, in Congress, in the presidential campaign and on campus against genocide in Palestine and resistance to those who would keep silent about it or vulgarly and immorally try to justify it, recalls Nana Dr. Martin Luther King's call during the war against Vietnam to conscience and commitment to our shared humanity and shared human rights even in times of war.

He declared that "We are called to speak for the weak, for the voiceless, for the victims of our nation and for those it calls 'enemy,' for no document from human hands can make these humans any less our brothers (and sisters)."

Trump and company's vile and vicious attack on the Haitian immigrants is also a reflection of a general anti-immigrant sentiment and savagery which also has a history in this country. But the hatred and hostility toward Haitians represents an extra measure of sadistic meanness as expressed not only in popular American culture with its Hollywood so-called "voodoo" priests who deny Haitians' Christian identities and reduc-

tively translate the religion of Vodun and its adherents in sick and sinister ways, as well as in the harsh and



DR. MAULANA KARENGA

racist treatment of Haitian immigrants by virtually every administration.

These administrations have routinely refused Haitian immigrants the right of asylum without a hearing, classified them as dangerous, diseased, disruptive and unworthy, mercilessly turned them back, and detained them as prisoners even at the notorious Guantanamo. So, Biden is right to condemn Trump for his racist lies, but he must also criticize himself and the country for how he and other presidents have treated Haitian immigrants and laid the basis for them being seen as a threat and unworthy of the human rights of other asylum seekers and human beings and provoking mob violence against them.

There's still another deep and enduring reason Trump and company attacked and whipped up hatred and hostility toward the Haitian immigrants. It is what Nana Dr. W.E.B. DuBois called their unforgivable Blackness. But

here I want to conceptually expand the concept of it as meaning not only hatred and hostility toward them because of their race, their and our beautifully blessed Blackness, but also because of their historic revolutionary self-liberation, their continuing resistance and their radical refusal to be defeated. Indeed, there was from the beginning of the world historical Haitian revolution a commitment of the White nations, especially France and the U.S., to reverse the revolution and perpetually punish Haitians.

It was a liberation struggle of world historical significance in the interest and expansion of freedom in the Western Hemisphere and the whole world. It is the only revolution made in the world by an enslaved people. It was the first modern state to abolish enslavement, and it was the first Black republic in the world and the second republic in the Western Hemisphere, and it supported the liberation struggles of other peoples in the Western Hemisphere.

Thus, it incurred immediate and enduring hatred and hostility from its former enslavers, France and France's fellow enslavers in the U.S. and Europe. It was for them a radical reversal of the world order of things causing cognitive dissonance. It was unimaginable that enslaved Africans could free themselves or strategize and win a war against several armed forces, the French army, the colonial army, the Spaniards, the British, and the Aryan hand of sabotage of the Ameri-

cans. It was an unforgivable expression of Black agency and excellence in strategy and struggle and thus Haiti had to be punished; its revolution reversed, and its model erased so that it could not offer an example to aspire to and emulate by other enslaved Africans and others.

Given this, France recovered and blockaded Haiti and with support from the U.S. and European countries put a price on Haiti's freedom, charging them for having the unforgivable Black audacity to free themselves and lend others assistance in their struggle for freedom. As Haji Malcolm taught, they turned the formerly enslaved victim into the criminal and the enslaving criminal into the victim. In addition, the U.S. took over France's role as the keeper of European dominance, invaded Haiti several times, seizing its resources, changing its constitution in order to steal its land, establishing segregation during their occupation, propped up a series of puppet dictators and dancers to colonial tunes, and has been disrupting the economy, politics and life of Haitian people since the beginning.

Having overthrown the first and only democratically elected president, President Jean Bertrade Aristide, it is now controlling Haiti along with France, Canada and other European members of the so-called CORE group. And it is trying to camouflage its control by using the UN and continental African troops as convenient cover and the

Organization of American States as compliant co-signers. But Haiti must and will be free and we as African Americans and Africans all over the world must play a vanguard and vital role in supporting their self-determined liberation struggle.

Finally, it is important to note here that the attacks on Haiti and Haitian people, whether in Haiti or in this country, are an attack on us also and African people everywhere. And we African Americans have a special obligation to resist and strive constantly in conscious and audacious ways to end racism and oppression of us all. For we are, as we used to say in the 60s, the frontline of struggle deep in the belly of the beast, in the entrails of the oppressor.

We must, thus, dare to be ourselves, free ourselves, continue the struggle, keep the faith and hold the line and emulate Haiti and Nana Harriet Tubman who understood that freedom is a shared and indivisible good, and thus self-consciously join in expanding and securing the realm of human freedom and good in this country and the world for all.

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.

• DR. LE ONDRA CLARK HARVEY •

It's Time to Address the Disproportionate Impact of the Opioid Crisis on Black Californians

The opioid crisis, once perceived as predominantly affecting rural, White communities, disproportionately impacts Black Americans. This is a result of long-standing health equity barriers, documented in both local reports and federal studies.

As overdoses continue to rise statewide and fentanyl continues to wreak havoc in our communities, California policymakers must take action. Slight declines or plateaus are not "wins." We need proactive, comprehensive solutions that improve education, provide wrap-around services, and increased access to proven treatment methods like medication assisted treatment and overdose reversal agents.

As an advocate, psychologist, and mother of two young children, today's fentanyl crisis is difficult to process. On one hand, I understand how challenging it can be to pass meaningful policies that will save more lives -- whether those of individuals injecting drugs on sidewalks or suburban teenagers poisoned by counterfeit pills they bought on Snapchat. These challenges are compounded by critical deficits, such as workforce shortages, minimal treatment beds and facilities, and a lack of culturally competent care, all of which disproportionately affect Black Californians.

On the other hand, I'm also just tired of waiting.

I have witnessed the devastating impact of fentanyl on Black families. These deaths shatter families, destabilize communities, and perpetuate cycles of

trauma and socio-economic hardship. For Black Californians specifically, grief is compounded by helplessness and frustration, knowing that more could -- and should -- have been done to prevent these tragedies. This crisis isn't just about numbers; it's about the lives of our children, our brothers and sisters, and our community.

As I sit in numerous health policy workgroups, task forces, and legislative hearings, I hear policymakers request more studies to better understand how vulnerable communities are impacted. This is critical, and it is not enough.

We don't have time to waste.

Naloxone, a well-known opioid reversal medication, has saved hundreds of thousands of lives. However, as the opioid landscape evolves, so too must our response. California must adopt flexible policies that evolve with the rapidly changing drug landscape. We cannot rely on outdated, product-specific policies when the illicit drug landscape is changing faster than we can blink.

Efforts to do just that at the statewide level have been aggressively rebuffed by the Administration. Last year, Senate Bill 641, authored by Sen. Richard Roth (D-Riverside) would have expanded California's statewide standing order for naloxone to encompass all FDA-approved opioid reversal agents. It passed out of the Legislature unanimously, yet Governor Newsom vetoed the bill.

Several months after the

veto, Assemblymember Jasmeet Bains, (D-Delano), a physician who treats sub-



Dr. Le Ondra Clark Harvey

stance use disorder (SUD), led a sign-on letter among her colleagues calling on the California Department of Public Health to update the statewide standing order to no avail.

Fortunately, Los Angeles County has stepped up in the absence of statewide legislation being signed into law.

For decades, Dr. Brian Hurley, Medical Director of the Bureau of Substance Abuse Prevention and Control for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and President of the American Society of Addiction Medicine, has

taken a comprehensive approach to addressing substance use disorder.

He has increased access to proven treatment models and implemented innovative initiatives to save lives. His department's efforts have contributed to the plateau in overdose rates, and we hope to see further improvement through the expanded standing orders for the Los Angeles Unified School District and the LA County Sheriff's Department, ensuring access to all FDA-approved reversal agents. By equipping first responders and schools with a full range of reversal agents, Dr. Hurley has enhanced Los Angeles' ability to save lives and reduce the impact of overdoses.

The time for action is now. With a united and informed approach, we can turn the tide on the devastating impact of opioid overdoses in Black communities.

Dr. Le Ondra Clark Harvey is the chief executive officer of the California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies and executive director of the California Access Coalition.

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Coach Wendy

Life Strategist / Consultant
Author / Speaker

What is Stopping You from Achieving Your Best Season?

I enjoy the various seasons throughout the year and I like them for different reasons. We are about to embark on Fall also known as Autumn, which symbolizes change. Fall can mean many things to different people, but it represents harvest time where we reap the rewards from the hard work, we put in the seasons prior.

It also represents maturity. Those of us who are in the "fall" season of our lives have gone through

many lessons to reach maturity and hopefully acquired some wisdom along the way. Part of that wisdom is learning when to let some things go that no longer serve us well and block us from becoming our best selves.

To keep growing we have to allow new things to blossom in our lives, we must make the necessary changes, shift our mindset if necessary, and be open to new possibilities. What is stopping you from enjoy-



ing the season you currently are experiencing, while preparing yourself to move forward to the next one? Do not let the vines and twigs of life hold you so tight you cannot bring yourself to cut them loose before you become so entangled, and you do not know how to get out and grow.

Life has a way of causing us to get distracted while we are on our journey. We love the beautiful colors of Fall such as the golds, ambers, and even browns, that we take our

eyes off the ball of what we need to focus on. It is good to enjoy what each season in your life brings or represents, but you should not allow it to make you complacent in staying steadfast to accomplish the goals you have set for yourself and achieve your best season.

Some of you reading this may say, Wendy, I am experiencing my best season right now. What I would say to you is great, but that does not mean you should not stretch yourself to see what else is still out there for you to achieve, or contribute, or help build. No matter what stage of life or season we may be in, we still have more to give, even if it is encouraging someone else along their journey. Your wisdom can help another person who is coming behind or alongside you from stepping on a land mine. Are you willing to get a little uncomfortable in your best season to help others achieve their best? Change can be scary,

and no one likes being uncomfortable, but to achieve our best sometimes we must get a little uncomfortable. Many of us have been our own worst enemy when it comes to really being our best. We limit our capabilities, we stop as soon as we have a roadblock, and we also sometimes blame others for our lack of achievement.

When I write my articles, much of what I share is from personal experience. I just experienced another year around the sun, and I am grateful for all that God continues to do in my life, but I know what it feels like to question oneself on what is next.

Can I really achieve more especially as I get older? Do people really care what I have to say? The answer is yes. However, we must believe in ourselves for others to believe in us. Do not get in your own way about how you feel about yourself, if it is not positive, it is never too

late to turn things around and experience your best season.

To achieve your best season or your best self, it must start with defining your win or what really matters to you. Take each day as it comes and do your best to fulfill your purpose for that day. Sometimes when we look too far down the road it can become daunting.

Just focus on today and keep your goals in front of you, and if you ever feel confused or turned around, just stop, find your core, and go back to your center. This may mean you need to forgive yourself for some things you did not get right. That is okay too. Just continue to dream big.

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Visit www.WendyGladney.com and www.forgivingforliving.org to learn more. Wendy is a life strategist, coach, consultant, author, and speaker.

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The Chameleon

The Chameleon is briefly described as an "Old World lizard." There are hundreds of species and more commonly known by their nature to change colors and shifting camouflage. They can shift to many different shades of bright colors and browns, reds, yellows, greens, and blues.

Chameleons have eyes that move independently. They see individually separate images of their environment. When hunting, the eyes focus forward in coordination with their prey, affording a special kind of vision. Their tails are quite useful in climbing and they can be tree-bound or on the ground. The ques-

tion can become, why are you writing this and what's your point?

Although people are not in fact chameleons, their behavior can be chameleon-like. In common language, one might say a person who has unpredictable behavior or flip-flops and changes according to however which way the wind blows, is problematic. They are inconsistent and liable to change according to whatever is convenient for whatever they say is their mission or goal no matter how many times they change things. What comes out of their mouth is not reliable. They will say one thing and then after getting



what they want, they will change according to their surroundings or preferences. They want to climb that ladder of power.

Interestingly, God is working all things out. Like Herod and Pilate who were not friends before they got together, joined in to hate and Jesus. They became friends because of their purpose of greed, arrogance, and political position.

John, the prophet was beheaded by Herod because of his lust and egregious behavior. He had married within the family. That was forbidden by law. The daughter of his wife was dancing in an intoxicating manner at a big party

with top officials and others. Herod became intoxicated because of his lust and the promise he made to his wife's daughter after he got so drunk, he made a promise that he would live and die to regret.

In doing so, because he had made a promise, he allowed Prophet John to be beheaded. Pilate was afraid of losing his political position; even after his wife had warned him of the dream she had "leave that righteous man Jesus" alone; he paid no attention and followed through with murdering John.

What does this tell us? Let's think about it. Some people will do anything and say anything to get what they want. Herod was greedy beyond words or description. He had a terribly tragic end. In his pompous oration before the priests, elders, and many others, the people pumped him on.

Their loud, intoxicating, lustful dancing and drinking, which he thought would raise him up to be a god, (and they raised their voices saying "he is a god! Acts 12:22." "the voice of a

god." Not the voice of a man!").

He has now been elevated by the drunken people who have been seduced by the music to deceit and hypnotized. The people call Herod "a god."! How wrong they are. Herod had struck a dead note with God. He was immediately struck by an angel of the Lord and eaten by worms Acts 12:23.

It's not happy hour time and no time to mock and confront "the Deed Holder to the earth!" Because He is omnipresent and omniscient, He knows everything. He has no darkness and sees through the darkness that people are creating. Have your emotions elevated to a level of blindness and frenzy? Has the music and hand waving seduced you? Or is it the presence of a celebrity?

God is watching. He is not impressed with the presence of big names and big advertising. He has His day in His timeframe {The Lord's Day}. His day will come.

There will be thousands of unhappy people who

think the things they are doing are okay with the Lord. They have become or are becoming so far from God; that they don't even know the difference. The adversary has gradually drawn them away by engaging them to draw their attention away from the truth. They have drifted away by their own cooperative permission and lust for grandeur. Think before you leap.

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, Wikipedia.org. Don't stop praying and hoping. "Today is another great day to do good and be successful."

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St pkg.Prefer 55+ \$1600 Call for more. Call (310) 677-6686</p> <p>Nice unfurn 1 bd apt Carpet, drape, sheer, wall furance. Full bth, large closet. Lndryroom. St pkg. Near SoFi \$1400 310-677-6686</p> <p>Long Beach Beauty!! Completely Remodeled: Large 1 bed and bath apt. for rent at: 29 W. Bort St. Long Beach 90805.New kitchen & Bath, new appliances, laminate floors, recessed lights. \$1350. Call Fred / 310 649-1990</p> <p>Apt for Rent Two bdrm 1 bath unit of 1,000 sq ft of living space located within the Historic West Adams area with a city view nestled in a peaceful cul-de-sac. Fully renovated unit including wall heaters and remote powered ceiling fans. The building includes a laundry room as well as monitored security cameras. / Rent: 2600 Deposit: 1400 SEC 8 Welcomed Contact Ron Smith, manager 909-312-8355</p>	<p>For Rent 1 Bedroom 91st and Budlong, \$1495 a month. Call Darryl 323-633-2079.</p> <p>Use 1 bd Section 8 for this 2bd 1 ba Duplex. Only \$2,375. 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Contact Murphy Richardson Agent Lic #00753317 3105702533- Call anytime</p> <p>760 Real Estate Wanted</p> <p>WE BUY HOUSES/UNITS 3 day close 213-479-5659 Francisco 310-420-9599 Tracy Call or text tracy@hubilu.com</p>

• Tony Wafford •

It's Rough But It's Real

I need to do my disclaimer up front. Can you please allow me to have a good 'ol barbershop conversation and share with you my thoughts about the debate last week and what I saw? For all of you that say 'OKAY' and will continue reading, buckle up Black people, this is going to be a rough ride!

Last week, we saw history in the making when Vice President Kamala Harris pimp slapped Donald J. (jackass) Trump all over the stage during their first and only presidential debate. It was beautiful for me to see because it so reminded me of my Mother. She, too, was a strong Black woman who could look evil in the face and confront it head on.

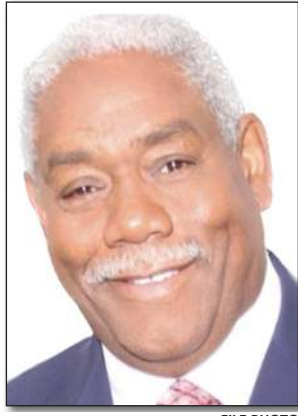
What made it so wonderful for me was that the debate came on the eve of my mother's transition

(9/11) which allowed me to celebrate and remember her strength as a Black woman and not so much mourn her passing.

Watching VP Harris walk out on that stage, and head directly over to the coward and look him in his eyes and say, 'Kamala Harris', as if to say, "Okay little man, let's do this."

Did any of you guys hear many of the political pundits before the debate saying, "Maybe she should try and not stand next to Trump because he's so much taller than her, and that may make her look weak?" Well, guess what, Goliath was much taller than David, and like Goliath, Trump got his ass kicked.

Another thing that was so lovely for me was to see this Black woman do what almost every cowardly White, Brown, Asian, and



Tony Wafford

..... a handful of house-negrorepublicans dared not to do — she put a punk in his place. I don't care what your political affiliation is, who you love (ya'll know what I mean), or how much you admire his money, Trump was totally over matched and was shown on the world stage to be an intellectual midget and to be a 78-year-old undiagnosed, early onset dementia patient.

I don't know if VP Harris won over any new voters after the debate. However, I do know that she totally eviscerated that clown on the world stage! And also showing the entire world that he is in no way mentally equipped to govern a country as dysfunctional as these yet-to-be United States of America.

To all my MAGA friends, if you have the courage to admit what we all know to be true, and you're still a supporter of this carnival barker — I pray that you're a part of the top one percent because if you're not, you're going to be in for a rude awakening if this fool wins.

If you have a modicum of knowledge about politics, then you know those rich folks that are supporting Trump are only doing so because they know that

they can and will pimp this idiot. Knowing all they need to do is stroke his ego and not his genitals, after all, not even Melania is doing that. I only wish we could say the same for Ivanka. I can hear some of you saying, "Now Tony Wafford, you're going too far now." No, I'm not! I'm only pointing out what he said, you do remember when Trump said and I quote, "If she (Ivanka) wasn't my daughter, I'd be dating her." How sick is that? I told you this was going to be a rough ride!

If this buffoon were to win you do know that those wealthy supporters, the one-percenters, are positioning themselves to rape, rob, pillage, plunder, pollute, and deplete this nation and the world. To all my red MAGA hat-wearing trailer park people and you hand full of house

negroes enamored by wealth and whiteness; y'all ain't got nothing coming!

The only thing the trailer park people will be able to celebrate is that the president, like them, is white and just as ignorant as they are, as they sit back in their recliners drinking beer. And all you Tim Scott house negros, the only thing you're going to be able to celebrate is that you were able to pick your master but you're still a slave.

I said it was going to be a rough ride, but as for me, I'm tired of us whispering what needs to be said out loud! I spoke up, so now let's get up and hit these streets. Let's call our family members, and friends, past and present, and together do our part to carry our sister across the finish line!

• BARBARA STANTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ENTREPRENEUR EDUCATIONAL CENTER, INC. •

Community Leaders and Organizations Unite to Express Gratitude for Senator Steven Bradford's Continued Commitment to Positive Change

In response to recent negative press surrounding the California Legislative Black Caucus's Reparations proposal, community leaders and non-profit organizations across District 35 have come together to voice their unwavering support and gratitude for Senator Steven Bradford's dedication to improving the lives of underserved communities. This press release serves to address the misrepresentation of facts and to highlight the profound impact Senator Bradford has made throughout his tenure.

Senator Bradford, vice-president of the California Legislative Black Caucus, has been at the forefront of the fight for reparations, advocating for justice for the Black communities of California. Despite full support from the Legislative Black Caucus during the development of the reparations proposal, internal disagreements within the Caucus have delayed the initiative from reaching the Governor's desk for approval. Some have wrongfully placed blame solely on Senator Bradford for the delay.

However, the organiza-

tions that have directly benefited from his leadership stand as a testament to his

resilience, tenacity, and unwavering commitment to positive change. A powerful compilation of interviews, directed by me, executive director of EECI, has been produced to emphasize the profound impact of Senator Bradford's work.



Changemakers of the community.

This compilation features testimonials from numerous community leaders, non-profit organizations, and key figures including Jenny Krusoe of AltaSea Los Angeles 15th District Councilmember Tim McOsker, Barbara Sul-

livan of Angels For Sight, Mac Shorty of Community Repower Movement, Del

change, with lasting impacts on the economic, educational, and social

infrastructure of District 35. The reparations proposal that Senator Bradford is championing is not about charity; it represents a debt owed to the generations of Black communities for the wage theft and discrimination they endured. This is a fight for justice and Senator Bradford's resolve has not wavered.

The support from community members and organizations affirms the transformative work being done through Senator Bradford's guidance. His com-

mitment to reparations is a call for justice not only for California but as a model

for the entire nation. This collaboration of community voices serves as a strong message of gratitude, faith, and ongoing support for Senator Bradford. Together, they stand firm in their belief that, with his leadership, the fight for reparations and equity for the underserved will not be in vain.

The backing from people in the community and various organizations confirms the efforts led by Senator Bradford's direction. The dedication to repara-

tions serves as a plea for fairness not within California but as an example for the entire country.

EECI's upcoming event is the Gaming and Animation Summit on Saturday, Sept. 28, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Senator Bradford Global Communications Center located at 555 W. Redondo Beach Blvd., in Gardena. This event is at no cost — it's open to all! The summit will highlight the developments in the gaming and animation industries in addition to career steps and employment opportunities within this \$108B industry. The summit will play a role in education and fostering community connections—a testament to the valuable work of Senator Bradford.

Save the dates: Get Out The Vote and Reparations Town Hall Meeting on Saturday, Oct. 12, and Saturday, Oct. 19, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Senator Bradford Global Communication Center, 555 W. Redondo Beach Blvd. in Gardena.

Barbara Stanton is the executive director of the Entrepreneur Educational Center, Inc (EECI).

Public Notices	Public Notices	Public Notices	Public Notices	Public Notices	Public Notices	Public Notices
<p>Agreement for Identification and Informational Signage Invitation Number: FE-24-06-RFB Once registered the Pre-Bid conference information and link to join the online presentation are located on the tab titled "Bid Information" under the "Pre-Bid Meeting Information" and "Other Details" sections. Questions shall be directed to the Online Vendor Portal. 9/19/24 CNS-3851593# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL</p> <p>REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS & PROPOSALS (RFQP) OPPORTUNITY WITH LACCD NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Los Angeles Community College District ("District") invites applicants to submit statements of qualifications and proposals for the following project: Digital Twin Meta-Initiative (PS-24-01-D) Through this procurement process, the Los Angeles Community College District ("District") and/or "LACCD" seeks to hire one qualified firm ("Consultant") to provide all services associated with implementation of the Digital Twin Meta-Initiative for the Build-LACCD Bond Capital Construction Program. This procurement will take place in one step through the issuance of this Request for Qualifications and Proposals ("RFQP"). Upon receipt of the Statements of Qualifications and Proposals ("SOQPs") from interested Applicants/Proposers submitted in response to this RFQP, a</p>	<p>District approved Evaluation Panel will review and score the submissions. This will be a best value (qualitative) based selection resulting in a recommendation to the Board of Trustees to award a Consultant Services Agreement to the selected firm. The selection criteria for determining the selected firm is described in greater detail in the RFQP document. The selected firm will be announced via a notification through PlanetBids Statements of Qualifications and Proposals ("SOQPs") shall be prepared in conformance with the RFQP using the forms included in the RFQP documents. All SOQP's must be uploaded to the Los Angeles Community College District Online Vendor Portal ("PlanetBids") (https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=21372) no later than: October 11, 2024 before 10:00 AM PST The Applicant assumes full and sole responsibility for timely receipt of its SOQP. The District will have no responsibility for SOQPs not submitted in a timely manner, no matter the reason. RFQP documents, including instructions to Applicants, will be available on September 6, 2024 at: PlanetBids Vendor Portal: https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=21372 or http://www.build-laccd.org/WorkWithUs and click on "Vendor Portal (PlanetBids)" Mandatory Pre-Submittal Zoom Video Conference will be held on September 20, 2024 at 10:00 AM access information is included at the</p>	<p>PlanetBids Vendor Portal - Procurement PS-24-01-D Digital Twin Meta-Initiative - Documents Tab. Questions shall be directed to the Online Vendor Portal. 9/12, 9/19/24 CNS-3850800# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL</p> <p>SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY RFP NO. SP621-25 FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES SCRRA is seeking proposals for Financial Advisory Services. Proposal documents may be downloaded at http://www.metroinktrains.com/contracts. Proposals are due on 10/31/24. For further information contact: Tammi Phillips, Contract and Compliance Administrator, at PhillipsT@scrra.net. 9/19/24 CNS-3845217# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL</p>	<p>has been filed by ANDRE COY in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that ANDRE COY 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: 10/01/24 at 8:30AM in Dept. 99 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file</p>	<p>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 ANDRE COY 339 E 64TH ST LOS ANGELES CA 90003 9/12, 9/19, 9/26/24 CNS-3851240# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL</p> <p>NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: OVARIE SMITH CASE NO. BP156967 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the</p>	<p>WILL or estate, or both of OVARIE SMITH. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by GLENN H. SMITH in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that GLENN H. SMITH be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. 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: 11/01/24 at 8:30AM in Dept. 99 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you</p>	<p>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 GLENN H. SMITH 2421 10TH AVE LOS ANGELES CA 90018 9/12, 9/19, 9/26/24 CNS-3850470# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL</p>



ENTERTAINMENT

Tyme Johnson Remembers Rapper Coolio in New Docuseries



BY KEITH L. UNDERWOOD
Contributing Writer

Tyme Johnson is a singer, screenwriter, and the director and producer of “The Fantastic Voyage.” It is a docuseries currently in development about the life and career of groundbreaking rap artist Coolio.

Coolio was born Artis Leon Ivey Jr. Johnson said she first met Coolio at an American Music Awards show. She was performing as a background dancer for the rap group Naughty By Nature.

“We became really close. We ended up moving in together,” said Johnson. “Yes, we had a relationship.”

Johnson said it was

right before Coolio signed his deal with Warner Bros. for his debut studio album *It Takes a Thief*.

“I was in a lot of sessions where him and his family, his friends, his business partners would be writing at our house,” said Johnson.

“It was automatic that I would be included in that,” continued Johnson. “We did a song together called *Dial a Jam* [with] 40 Thevz for the ‘Jerkey Boys’ soundtrack.”

Johnson’s co-producer on “Voyage” is long-time Coolio road manager and friend Clyde “Spoon” Colen. Johnson said she and Colen were introduced by Coolio.

“Spoon was always there,” she said. “Before I was there, he was always at the house. He was a part of Coolio.”

“You didn’t see Coolio



COURTESY PHOTO

Tyme Johnson the director and producer of “The Fantastic Voyage: The Coolio Story.”

without Spoon,” said Johnson. “It was like a family... with Coolio, with Spoon, and the different groups they ended up having under their banner Crowbar Management.”

Johnson said Coolio and Colen grew up together and lived together at Colen’s grandmother’s house in Compton. Sadly, Coolio passed away in 2022 of an accidental fentanyl overdose, but his

music lives on.

Some of Coolio’s greatest hits include “Gangsta’s Paradise,” “Fantastic Voyage,” “1, 2, 3, 4 (Sumpin’ New),” and “C U When U Get There.”

“Spoon and I hadn’t been in contact in many years, and I remember going to the life celebration [for Coolio],” said Johnson.

“I had left California and moved and learned a

lot in New York and came back. Spoon and I got back in contact on Facebook.”

Johnson continued, “I saw that Spoon was doing a documentary on Coolio. I reached out to Spoon and said, ‘Listen, now you know there’s no way you can have a documentary about Coolio and not include me.’”

Johnson said Colen agreed, and originally, she was only going to appear in the documentary.

However, when the

ing many of her posts showcasing her work.

“He [Colen] said, ‘I think you would be the perfect person to actually do this documentary,’” said Johnson. “He was like, ‘You know his story, and you’re a talented director.’ I was like, ‘I’d be honored.’ Why would I say no to that?”

Currently, Johnson said she and the “Voyage” production team are gathering interviews, while still in preproduction.



COURTESY PHOTO

Coolio speaking on stage.

original director who was slated to do the Coolio documentary passed away, then Johnson said she stepped in. Johnson said she noticed Colen was visiting her social media profiles often and he was lik-

“He commercialized hip-hop – he was one of the main people that did that in the 90s,” said Johnson, “and for him not to be getting that recognition that he deserves was really a motivation for me to do this docuseries.”



Coolio

COURTESY PHOTO

Darin Jones Shares Some Entertainment Business Management Advice

BY KEITH L. UNDERWOOD
Contributing Writer

Darin Jones is a Century City based senior business manager with Gelfand Rennert and Feldman, LLC. Jones has 17 years of experience in accounting, and he specializes in entertainment business management.

With an extensive background in city government,

banking, and real estate, Jones was driven to entertainment business management out of concern for how Black entertainers incorrectly manage their wealth.

“I saw how celebrities mismanaged their funds – particularly minority entertainers,” said Jones. “I wanted to get out there and help them manage their finances, their investments, managing their books –

managing their lifestyles.”

Jones likened what he does to being a concierge, because he helps his entertainment clients to manage their properties, vehicles, and overall financial portfolios.

“I really wanted to get involved in this part of accounting because I want to make sure that people not only make the money, but they’re also able to

have something down the road,” said Jones.

Jones said one of the most common mismanagement mistakes made by celebrities is not paying their taxes “for some odd reason.”

“Unfortunately, they think money is going to continue coming in,” said Jones. “They think the TV show is going to keep airing, they think touring is going to keep happening, and people are going to keep loving them, but it stops, and their spending continues.”

Jones continued, “It’s hard for us [accountants] because... it’s their money. So, when we’re trying to talk to them about, ‘Hey, you need to watch your spending. If you keep at this spending at this rate in three to five years you’re going to be out of money.’ They really don’t want to hear that.”

Jones said advising clients about their overspending is very sensitive, and when they take on a new client many are already in a difficult tax situation. He said it may be of no liability to the former business manager, but the clients’ funds may have run dry when they were supposed to pay taxes.

Jones advises his clients to put 40% of their net profits after commissions into an investment account. He said clients know it’s there, but they are less likely to spend it if it is set aside, and then it can be used later to pay their taxes.

“That’s how we mitigate them overspending and not having tax money when it counts,” said Jones.

As an entertainment



COURTESY PHOTO

Darin Jones at the 2024 Grammys.

business manager, Jones said he services music industry professionals, film producers and directors, high net worth entertainment executives, and social media influencers have become big business, too. However, music industry professionals have been Gelfand Rennert and Feldman’s biggest clients.

Jones said most entertainment business managers will not usually take on a client who does not have a talent representative. “If you already have a business manager or an agent, then the business manager knows this person is serious about their career,” said Jones.

Jones also said that new clients must have a minimum of \$250,000 to \$500,000 range of income. However, they will take on a new client who earns less than that if they see growth potential, and they have worked with their talent representative before with

another client.

Jones said when selecting an entertainment business manager take into consideration how often they will be providing you with financial reports, do they have a multitude of different types of clients, how long have they been in the business, and who are their current clients.

“We’ve had a couple of cases with minority clients that come in and say, ‘Hey, I want to know your minority roster.’ Who are some of your minority clients? A lot of times we don’t like to name drop, but sometimes we have to name drop,” said Jones. “We know the clients we can [name drop], because we’ve already cleared it with the client.”

Jones said the most important advice he can give when working with a business manager is always carefully review your finance reports, and stay aware of how your money is being spent.

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FUTURE ICONS

Diani: The Daughter of Hip-Hop Royalty

BY NATHAN J. LEE
Contributing Writer

Diani, daughter of legendary hip-hop lyricist Talib Kweli, was raised in Brooklyn, New York, at the heart of the culture. Rather than relying on her father's

pressure," she says, acknowledging the challenge while using it as fuel for her art.

"I've always been expressive," Diani reflects, speaking on her journey. "I've always told people how I felt. I've always kind

social justice, reaching its peak with her 2021 album "Dopamine." Deeply inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, the album delves into the struggles faced by the Black community while also reflecting her personal experiences as a Black woman. On the track "I Believe in Perfect," Diani delivers powerful lines that echo her pride and resilience:

*"I am black, I'm the blacker woman
Blacker than an orifice
I know that it's more to this, focus on the origin."*
Though activism has

and classic hip-hop.

"My sound is vintage," she says, describing it as "dusted-off gold." Tracks like "Fiberglass," with ICE9 show her versatility, effortlessly switching between laid-back vibes and sharp lyricism.

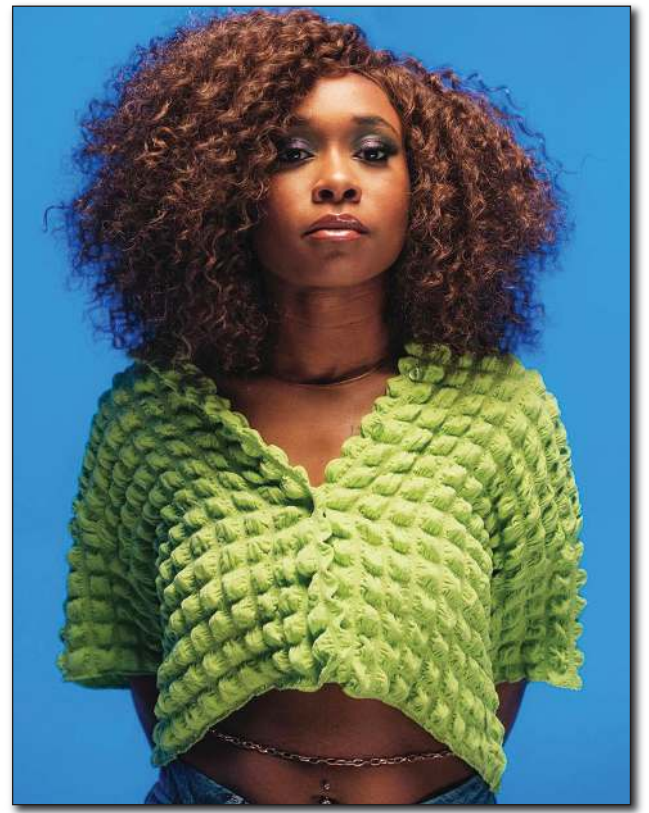
As Diani's art has matured, so has her focus. While music remains central, motherhood has reshaped her creative process. Her 2024 album Dion, named after her son, marks her most personal work yet. "This is the most emotional project I've ever put out," she shares. "I'm talking about my son, my



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Diani

legacy, she's carving her path—defined by authenticity, bold self-expression, and a deep commitment to social consciousness.

"Being the daughter of Talib Kweli comes with expectations," she admits, "But I don't let it define me. I need to give myself room to fail and grow." Diani embraces the weight of her lineage without letting it control her. "When it comes to rap, the pressure of being a good lyricist is a great

of had a mouth." This unapologetic boldness shaped her 2017 debut album, "Eshe," which she released at just 17 years old. The album laid the foundation for her unique voice in hip-hop. "My lyrics were always super serious, super political," she recalls, acknowledging the powerful social consciousness that has driven her from the start.

As Diani's music evolved, so did her focus on

always been in her blood, Diani's music today embraces a variety of influences, blending house, soul,

love for DeVaughn [her partner], and the confidence I've gained."

Beyond music, Diani is

diving into entrepreneurship. "I'm so much more than a musician," she says. Currently pursuing a business degree at the Los Angeles Film School, Diani has embraced new opportunities and directions.

"Going to business school made me realize I'm a businesswoman too," she says. Partnering with her close friend ICE9, she is launching a juice thrift shop—a unique concept that merges a juice bar with a curated selection of second-hand clothing.

"Starting my own business has given me another way to express myself, to build something meaningful that reflects who I am."

Diani stays grounded in her commitment to social activism as her career evolves. Like her father,

who took her to protests and marches like Occupy Wall Street, Diani is dedicated to using her platform to raise awareness about issues affecting the Black community.

One of her most powerful tracks, "Exposed," from Dopamine, serves as a call to action:

*"It is our duty to fight for our freedom
It is our duty to win."*

As hip-hop celebrates its 50th anniversary, Diani's contribution to the genre feels timely. Her music honors hip-hop's roots while pushing boundaries and paving the way for future generations. She isn't just following in her father's footsteps—she's creating her path that blends art, activism, and entrepreneurship.

'Reasonable Doubt' Sets the Precedent for Legal Dramas

BY ZON D'AMOUR
Contributing Writer

In season 2 of the Onyx Collective and Hulu series "Reasonable Doubt," actress Emayatzy Corinealdi stars as Jax Stewart, a high-powered attorney in the midst of one of the most challenging cases of her

career. When Jax's best friend Shanelle (actress Shannon Kane) claims to have taken the life of her husband, Jamarion "JT" Tucker (actor Christopher Mychal Watson), in self-defense, Jax presumes Shanelle will be cleared of any charges.

However, there's a new prosecutor in town who's determined to disprove Shanelle's claims and characterize her as a gold-dig-

ging housewife who committed a callous murder. In an attempt to protect her mental health while recovering from a traumatic experience, Jax solicits the help of attorney Corey Cash (actor Morris Chestnut) who's a staunch advocate for survivors of domestic violence. What ensues is a

clash of egos when Jax learns that she and Corey have conflicting strategies regarding the best way to go about proving Shanelle's innocence.

When asked how her character has grown from season one where Jax had to overcome two harrowing incidents involving her stepfather and a former client named Damon (actor Michael Ealy) who became a deranged paramour, Corinealdi says Jax is still dealing with the after-

effects.

"They're gone, but they're still there. And there are still unspoken things to be worked out with her mom. They've had conversations but nothing is perfect. While she doesn't have to see her stepfather or Damon every day, there are things Jax is navigating through including wanting to be super protective of her daughter, and even that can

be too much," she said.

Corinealdi tells the Sentinel that series creator Raamla Mohamed did a phenomenal job "threading the needle" and creating a seamless continuation between seasons one and two.

In addition to being a legal drama, "Reasonable

Lewis realizes that he has to check his own toxic masculinity and gender biases when it comes to boys participating in the performing arts over athletics. Now that Jax and Lewis are in couples therapy, actor McKinley Freeman gives insight into what Lewis is working through this season.

"He's reconciling the events of the end of last season because we've disrupted the foundation of the thing that allowed us to get this far. So how can we rebuild? What are we going to be standing on moving forward? Otherwise, we're going to be on shaky ground, and nothing like that ever lasts long," Freeman said.

"Lewis is also exploring his own insecurities and his own understanding of what it's like to not only be a husband and a father but also a man in a world where you may not have all the answers, but you're still trying to hold it together. From my perspective, there are so many unique, little situations to overcome in addition to being the partner of such a dynamic person like Jax/Emayatzy in this world."

Series executive producer Larry Wilmore tells the Sentinel that a part of his role is ensuring there's realism in the script.

"I've always felt story comes first, whether you're doing comedy or drama, find the human story in it.

So whenever I give notes, I say, 'I don't think that would happen' or 'What would they really say in this situation?' That's what drives me. That's what I'm excited about," he noted.

Wilmore went on to give insight into the nuances of Jax and Lewis being a "contemporary" couple. "This couple is complicated, and they're contemporary, which means maybe we're seeing something we haven't seen before and that's what's exciting about them. What are the permission slips in this relationship? What's great about them as well, because of the issues that are not as positively salient, these other intriguing elements help bal-

ance how we're telling the story in the show."

Wilmore goes on to say, "I've always been in the business of portraying positive Black men on screen...that's never at issue, that's never at stake. It's going to be a positive portrayal, but it's also going to be complicated. We may not be able to relate to all these moves, and that's a different issue. But how can you be messy and how can you be complicated without sacrificing the integrity of a character in the portrayal? That's always a challenge, but it's a fun challenge."

New episodes of "Reasonable Doubt" are released on Thursdays on Hulu and Disney+.



PARAS GRIFFIN / GETTY. COURTESY HULU

Series creator/writer Raamla Mohamed and the stars of "Reasonable Doubt" actors Angela Grovey, McKinley Freeman, Emayatzy Corinealdi and Tim Jo.

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PARAS GRIFFIN / GETTY. COURTESY HULU
Actress Emayatzy Corinealdi star of Onyx Collective, Hulu series, "Reasonable Doubt."

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Doubt" also shows the importance of fathers being present and supportive role models in their children's lives.

With Jax being so entrenched in Shanelle's case, her husband Lewis (actor McKinley Freeman) has some special moments with their kids, especially their teenage son Spenser (actor Thaddeus J. Mixson).



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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL
King/Drew pitcher Jordan Garcia was captain of the softball team as a sophomore.

Student Athlete of the Week: Jordan Garcia

By AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Editor

King/Drew senior Jordan Garcia is a pitcher for the Golden Eagles softball team. She has been a Varsity pitcher since the ninth grade.

Pitching for an entire game is something Garcia is used to doing. Her pitching career started at 11 years old.

"Pitching two hours, now it's easier but it takes a lot of not even physical strength but mental strength," Garcia said. "Those times when your team is going down

and you feel the energy dropping, you still have to be the one to be like "it's fine" because they're looking at you every play."

Garcia was team captain as a sophomore. She helped resolve communication issues that the team once had.

"Being a leader, they look up to me, they come up to me all the time, asking me questions," Garcia said. "At school, we all hang out all the time."

Along with playing softball for King/Drew, Garcia plays travel ball. She has

known her travel ball teammates since the age of 10. The team encourages players to prioritize their academics.

"If we had homework to do but we still had to go to practice, we had a whole room to just do homework," Garcia said. "Do homework for 30 minutes, go hit, come back, do homework."

King/Drew softball coach Chay Robinson holds Garcia and her teammates accountable for their schoolwork. She also consoled Garcia when she struggled with transitioning from trav-

el ball to high school softball.

"Coach [Robinson], she's a person who I can go to if I feel like I'm being dramatic," Garcia said. "There's times where I really was like "I don't think I can do it anymore" and she would send me these long paragraphs of how I mean so much to this team."

For Garcia, being a student athlete comes with challenges but the faculty at King/Drew help her excel.

"The academics are so hard, the teachers are really hard on you but they care for

you. They want you to succeed," Garcia said. "They want everyone to succeed and they want all the student athletes to be able to do both."

Garcia aspires to be a vet radiologist and work on a farm.

"I want to be able to do X-Rays on pigs and cows and work on the farm and be able to provide for my family like how my mom's giving me so much," Garcia said. "I might want to move out to Alabama, North Carolina and buy land, have a whole bunch of animals."

Black Surfers United for the Third Annual 'A Great Day in The Stoke'



Black surf enthusiasts pose for a group photo at A Great Day in the Stoke.

PHOTO BY EARL GIBSON III

By MONIQUE SHANNON
Contributing Writer

In Huntington Beach, CA, the largest gathering of Black surfers in history was united again this year. A Great Day in The Stoke was established to create a safe

space for Black surfers to connect. The event entails a surfing competition, recognition for leaders in the community, free surf lessons, and a free Yoga class.

Nathan Fluellen founded A Great Day in The Stoke in 2022. He is a travel TV show host, producer, award-winning creator, and avid surfer. He is also

known as Worldwide Nate (World Wide Nate: African Adventures). A Great Day in The Stoke is the marquee event under the Kavata Kids nonprofit organization. Their mission is to increase participation in aquatic activities, including swimming and surfing lessons, among Black youth.

"I can show that not

only do Black people know how to swim, they surf," Fluellen said.

From the South Side of Chicago at eleven months old, Fluellen was swimming. His parents had him and his eldest sister learning to swim. He learned how to surf in California. From Chicago to moving to California fourteen years



Julian Williams won the men's surf competition.

PHOTO BY EARL GIBSON III



PHOTO BY EARL GIBSON III
Nathan Fluellen founded A Great Day in the Stoke in 2022.



A Great Day in the Stoke provided a free yoga class.

PHOTO BY EARL GIBSON III

ago, Fluellen Worldwide travel is impacting communities to brave the Ocean waves.

He is a thrill seeker doing scuba diving with sharks with no cage, hiking to the top of a Volcano and hiking to see mountain Gorillas. Fluellen said, "If it's thrilling and adventure I want to do it!"

Tony Corley, was in

attendance this year. Corley is the Founder of the Black Surfing Association. He started the Black Surfers Association in the 1970's.

The goal is to expand to a two-day event. Fluellen said the Slogan is, "the Chocolate tide is Rising."

For more information about the event please visit [AGDITS](https://www.agreatdayinthestoke.com) and follow at [@agreatdayinthestoke](https://www.instagram.com/agreatdayinthestoke).

Students Take Lead in Rugby Documentary

By AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Editor

ICEF Rugby students tell their story in the documentary "An American Rugby Odyssey: Fiji-NZ The Student Cut." The documentary consists of footage shot by students when they traveled to New Zealand and Fiji in 2023. Along with filming footage

of rugby matches, activities, and sightseeing, the students interviewed each other on camera.

ICEF girl's rugby coach Lisa Finegan was selected in the 2023 "Champions Educate Here" Legacy program. The award came with grant money that Finegan used to buy cameras and Go Pros so that the youth could chronicle their experiences competing overseas.

Filmmaker James Brown taught the rugby players about filmmaking, and camera operating. He was the director of "An American Rugby Odyssey: Fiji-NZ The Student Cut," taking all the footage the students captured and editing it down to a film.

"He's impacting the kids and showing them how to express themselves in different ways," ICEF boy's rugby coach Stuart Krohn said.

Recent View Park graduate Kloey Bacchus helped with creating the documentary.

"It just so happened that I recorded a lot of key

moments," Bacchus said. "I was kind of in the editing process, I've seen some of the cuts. There were some things where I put my input in."

The new equipment also helped the students with their self-expression project: an assignment each rugby player must do that shows their perspective of the trip. It also gave students who aspire to be photographers and filmmakers more insight into the career path.

"I'm so proud of each and every single one of my teammates," Bacchus said. "I love seeing them do what they love because that makes me happy."



ICEF girls rugby team poses with their opponents in New Zealand.

COURTESY PHOTO

The documentary premiered at the Cinemark Baldwin Hills Theatre, formerly the Magic Johnson Theatre. Parents, students, alumni, and different organizations came out to

learn more about the students of ICEF Rugby.

"We did this screening of which there was about 50 kids there ... A lot of them didn't know nothing about it, they weren't all

rugby players," Krohn said. "Getting feedback from all them and non-rugby kids as well, I think it's worth doing it again."

Watching the documentary brought back positive memories for Bacchus, the culture and atmosphere of Fiji reminded her of Saint Vincent: the homeland of her family.

"It was nice to revisit it, it felt so refreshing," Bacchus said. "They know what it means to have those connections and even though we were strangers, they welcomed us in and we were a family within two seconds."



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL
ICEF Rugby hosted a screening of "An American Rugby Odyssey: Fiji-NZ The Student Cut" at Cinemark Baldwin Hills.



ICEF rugby players and coaches pose with rugby players from Fiji.

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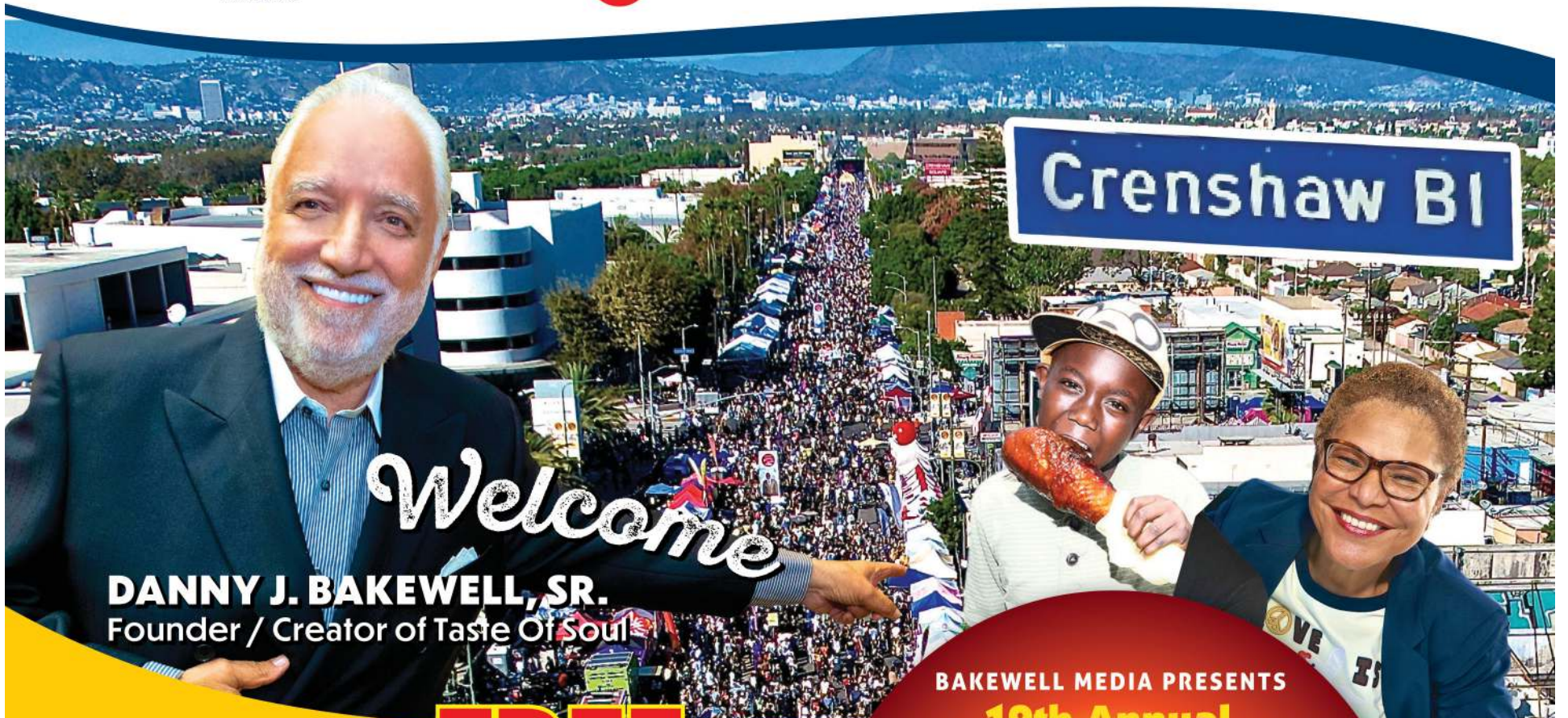


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