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Renowned Civil Rights Advocate Charles J. Ogletree Jr. Dies, Leaving a Legacy of Justice and Empowerment

By Stacy M. Brown

Charles J. Ogletree Jr., a distinguished Harvard Law School professor, celebrated attorney, and leading civil rights advocate, has died at 70.

Ogletree, who had battled Alzheimer's disease since 2015, reportedly died at his home in Maryland.

"Charles was a tireless advocate for civil rights, equality, human dignity, and social justice," Harvard Law School Dean John F. Manning said, according to the Associated Press.

"He changed the world in so many ways, and he will be sorely missed in a world that very much needs him."

Dorothy Roberts, a writer, social advocate, and professor at Penn Law, praised Ogletree's impact at Harvard Law School.

She admired his role in inspiring confidence, promoting learning, and encouraging activism among Black students and future generations.



Ogletree, who had battled Alzheimer's disease since 2015, reportedly died at his home in Maryland.

"When I started at Harvard Law School in 1977, Tree was a third-year student and president of the Black Law Students Association," Roberts recalled in a tweet.

"Thank goodness he was there. He set a tone for me and the other Black students — then, and for generations to come — to be confident learners, lawyers, and activists. Rest in love and power."

Affectionately known as "Tree," Ogletree was born in

California and graduated with a law degree from Harvard Law School in 1978.

He became an influential legal theorist and a prominent figure in the legal community.

Throughout his illustrious career, Ogletree actively contributed to the National Bar Association (NBA) and its affiliate, the Washington Bar Association (WBA).

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"Everyone Is in Danger": Outraged Oakland Residents Want First Black Woman

Antonio Ray Harvey | California Black Media

Fed-up residents and concerned political advocacy groups in Oakland -- including the city's local branch of the NAACP -- are outraged over a tide of rising crime that overtaken the East Bay's largest city.

"Oakland residents are sick and tired of our intolerable public safety crisis that overwhelmingly impacts minority communities. Murders, shootings, violent armed robberies, home invasions, car break-ins, sideshows, and highway," Oakland NAACP president Cynthia Adams and Acts Full Gospel Church's Bishop Bob Jackson wrote in an open letter to Oakland residents. In the letter dated July 27, Adams and Jackson blame Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price for "failed leadership."

Price made history in 2022 when she became the first Black woman elected D.A. of



Screenshot from a public safety town hall on July 27 where Alameda D.A. Pamela Price and the police chief met with frustrated community members who expressed their frustrations over the rash of crimes in Oakland.

Alameda County. A graduate of Yale and the Berkeley School of Law, Price is a strong advocate for criminal justice reforms and is known for her progressive stances on policing and sentencing. Oaklanders have also criticized her office for not pursuing harsher sentences in high profile crime cases, including the shocking murder of Jasper Wu, a 2-year-old who

was killed by a stray bullet in a shootout on Interstate 880 in Oakland. "There is nothing compassionate or progressive about allowing criminal behavior to fester and rob Oakland residents of their basic rights to public safety," Adams and Jackson stated in the letter. "We need our elected leaders to take

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Vice President Harris to Announce Support for Historically Underserved Entrepreneurs in Bidenomics-Fueled Small Business Boom

By Stacy M. Brown

In a visit to local small businesses in Washington, D.C. on Friday, Aug. 4, Vice President Kamala Harris unveiled plans to provide grants to non-profit and community-based organizations as part of the \$125 million Capital Readiness Program (CRP).

The program seeks to bolster historically underserved entrepreneurs' access to capital, aligning with one of the critical pillars of what the White House has dubbed the Bidenomics economic plan.

The CRP, funded through the American Rescue Plan, represents the largest-ever direct federal investment in small business incubators and accelerators.

Run by the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), the program expanded and was made



The CRP, funded through the American Rescue Plan, represents the largest-ever direct federal investment in small business incubators and accelerators.

permanent by the president's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

It counts as the most significant project in the 50-year history of the MBDA.

During the announcement at Sycamore & Oak in the Congress Heights neighborhood of Southeast, D.C., Harris revealed 43 organizations selected as winners of the CRP awards.

These organizations,

comprising non-profits, community-based entities, private sector firms, and institutions of higher education, will form partnerships to assist underserved entrepreneurs seeking resources, tools, and support to start or expand businesses in high-growth, high-wage industries like healthcare, climate-resilient technology, infrastructure,

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Assemblymembers, Hearing Witness, Report N-Word-Laced Death Threats

Antonio Ray Harvey | California Black Media

Assemblymember Reggie Jones-Sawyer (D-Los Angeles), along with other Democratic lawmakers and April Grayson -- a witness who last month testified against a sex trafficking bill proposing stiffer penalties for repeat offenders -- have disclosed receiving death threats laced with the n-word and other racial slurs.

Jones and Grayson, who are both Black, said the threats and insults came by emails, telephone and social media.

"The number of death threats, people who threatened to rape members of the Assembly and their families, the number of times people were called the 'N-word,' and staff members who may be with the LGBTQ community, were called the 'F-word,'" are just a sample of what Jones-Sawyer told California



Asm. Reggie Jones-Sawyer (D-Los Angeles) is pictured here at a California Reparations Task Force Meeting on June 29. Jones-Sawyer and other members of the Assembly Public Safety Committee received death threats for not supporting Senate Bill 14 on July 11

Black Media (CBM) he was hearing. "They were calling like crazy. That's not a place for public discourse. You can disagree but you don't have to be disagreeable."

The hate-filled messages came after Jones-Sawyer, chair of the Assembly Public Safety Committee and other Democratic committee

members were criticized for not supporting Senate Bill 14 authored by Sen. Shannon Grove (R-Bakersfield). The legislation proposes adding the sex trafficking of minors to the list of "serious" crimes under California's Three Strikes law. A conviction, including previous felonies, would

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Editor/Publisher

WHITE BOATERS IN MONTGOMERY MESSED AROUND AND FOUND OUT

By Stacy M. Brown

Montgomery Police Chief **D a r r y l J. Albert** announced assault charges were filed against **Richard Roberts, 48; Allen Todd, 23; and Zachery Shipman, 25; at a Tuesday news conference. Albert said one of the men is in custody and the two others are expected to turn themselves over to police Tuesday afternoon.**

“There was no need for this event to take the path it did,” Albert told reporters. He said investigators do not believe the incident was racially motivated. “The people of Montgomery, we’re better than that. We’re a fun city and we don’t want this type of activity to shed a dark eye on what this city’s all about.”

In a quintessential mess around and find out moment, a group of white boaters on the riverfront in Montgomery, Alabama, attacked a Black security guard simply for doing his job.

Within moments, several African American men came to the guard’s rescue, pulverizing the aggressors.

Among those helping the guard was an individual

dubbed “Black Aqua man” because he swam across the river to intercede.

The guard had been diligently working and requested the boaters move their vessel to allow a ship to dock.

However, the white boaters violently refused, attacking the guard who tossed his hat in the air, apparently as a way of acknowledging that “it’s on.”

Eyewitness Lauren Spivey told CNN that for nearly 45 minutes the vessel obstructed the docking space at Harriott II Riverboat at Riverfront Park.

“The man, the white individual, hurried down there, and that’s when things escalated,” Spivey said, adding that the guard simply informed the man that he needed to relocate to create space for the larger riverboat.

“[The white boaters] just didn’t think the rules applied to them. It was so avoidable. This never had to have happened,” Leslie Mawhorter, an eyewitness to the incident, told Yahoo! News.

“Everything just spiraled from there,” Mawhorter said. “I knew something was going to go down, because their attitude was just, ‘You can’t tell us what to do.’ They were going to be confrontational



Within moments, several African American men came to the guard’s rescue, pulverizing the aggressors.

regardless of who you were.”

The confrontation escalated, with punches thrown and chairs wielded as weapons.

At least one individual was tossed into the water amidst the chaotic clash.

Police detained several individuals, and charges are pending.

At press time, the guard and others involved hadn’t been named.

Montgomery Mayor Steven Reed commended law enforcement for their rapid

response to detain those responsible for assaulting the security guard.

“Those who choose violence will be held accountable by our criminal justice system,” he said. “While there is a lot of activity and interest in this, we know that we’ll come through this together as a community collectively as we have other situations.”

Major Saba Coleman said an ongoing investigation has led to the issuance of four active warrants.

However, the number is flexible, as authorities meticulously review additional footage, indicating the likelihood of more warrants.

“It was inexcusable behavior,” Christa Owen, who was on the Harriot, told NBC News, adding that she believes alcohol was a factor.

“I can’t imagine anyone just disregarding moving their boat 2 feet so that a three-story dinner cruise boat could park back in that spot.”

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California DOJ, Legislators Warn of Growing Danger of 'Ghost Guns'

Manny Otiko | California Black Media

A new report released by the California Department of Justice warns of the danger of ghost guns (weapons assembled at home that have no serial numbers.) The weapons cannot be traced, making them a go-to for criminals who want to operate under the radar of law enforcement.

Over the past few years, the use of ghost guns has surged as people have been able to make them by producing gun parts with 3-D printers.

According to the California Department of Justice report, from 2020-21, the use of ghost guns jumped by about 10,000, from 13,000 to 23,000 incidents. However, the use of ghost guns recently decreased to about 21,000 incidents per year.

Since 2016, Assemblymember Mike Gipson (D-Carson) has been a

vocal opponent of ghost guns, pointing to the many threats they pose. Gipson said many Americans are unaware of the danger of ghost guns. This year, he authored Assembly Bill 1089, which bans the sale, purchase and possession of ghost gun technology.

The bill is currently under review in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

"Irresponsible companies have continued to sell machines that are explicitly designed as ghost gun manufacturing machines while deceptively claiming that these machines do not have the 'primary' purpose of manufacturing firearms," according to a factsheet from Gipson's office.

Existing law in California prohibits persons or corporations from manufacturing or assembling firearms that are not imprinted with a valid state or federal serial number.

"These companies fail to inform buyers that it is now unlawful in California to use

these machines to produce firearms without a firearm manufacturer's license.

Additionally, while California law currently prohibits unlicensed manufacturers from using a 3-D printer to produce firearms, state law does not regulate the sale of 3-D printers that are designed or marketed as ghost gun

manufacturing 3-D printers," according to Gipson's office's factsheet.

Gipson represents the 65th Assembly district that covers cities such as Willowbrook, Compton, Long Beach and parts of Los Angeles. His district has been plagued with gun violence arising from both registered and unregistered firearms.

In many cases, people who can't get legal guns, because they don't want to go through background checks, turn to ghost guns. And they are often used for nefarious purposes. Black and brown people are the main victims,

according to Gipson.

"This is a health issue," he said.

Ghost guns have been used in several California mass shootings. In 2022, David Mora, a father-of-three was banned from possessing a gun because of his criminal record. He later went on a gun rampage in Sacramento County, shooting his three children and a social worker. The gun was created with a 3-D printer.

According to Gipson, statistics show that one of the most dangerous times for shootings is between Friday and Monday.

He also stated that legislation on ghost guns was needed because technology is moving faster than the law.

"Technology has advanced faster than policies and bills," he said.

Gipson isn't the only legislator who has taken action on ghost guns.

Senate Bill (SB)1327, authored by Sen. Bob Hertzberg (D-San Fernando



According to the California Department of Justice report, from 2020-21, the use of ghost guns jumped by about 10,000, from 13,000 to 23,000 incidents.

Valley,) and approved by Gov. Gavin Newsom, allows Californians to sue people who manufacture, transport and distribute ghost guns for up to \$10,000.

"Our message to the criminals spreading illegal weapons in California is simple: you have no safe harbor here in the Golden State," Newsom said in a speech at Santa Monica College, the site of

a 2014 mass shooting that killed six people.

"As the U.S. Supreme Court expands the right to own guns, California continues to add new ways to restrict them. California will use every tool at its disposal to save lives, especially in the face of an increasingly extreme Supreme Court," said Newsom in a press statement.

Wage War: Four California State Employee Unions Are Demanding Pay Increases

Edward Henderson | California Black Media

Four California government employee unions are demanding salary increases from the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) and the State Legislature to keep up with the high cost of living in California.

When compared to their peers in the private sector, the employees say, there is a significant disparity in salaries.

Representatives of the unions say they are frustrated with stalled negotiations with the state over disparities in pay. Last week, one of the Unions, the American Physicians and Dentists, authorized a strike.

The other three unions are the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 1000 – California's largest labor union; the California Correctional Peace Officers; and the California Association of Professional Scientists.

In June, the SEIU employees initially demanded a 30% wage increase in their next

three-year contract. The legislature countered with an offer of a 2% annual increase over three years. That offer – which union members view as a move to low-ball them -- sparked a demonstration at the State Capitol in June that has been followed by an ongoing stalemate between the parties.

"It's moving slowly," said Local 1000's Vice President of Bargaining Irene Greene. "We're severely disappointed in the

state's movement to get this contract negotiated with bargaining team members."

According to the bargaining update, the state also rejected the union's request for paid time off to observe Juneteenth.

Local 1000 represents approximately 100,000 workers in jobs as diverse as prison librarians, janitorial staff and educators at California's schools for the deaf and blind.

In response to the state's 2% initial offer, the Union lowered its wage request to a 26% raise.

Greene believes the union's 26% compromise is reasonable, considering the high cost of

living in California.

"We have a large number of members that are unable to maintain a living wage in the state of California. They love the positions that they work in, however we've been delayed in our salary increase for a number of years," she said. "The reason we felt that the 30% and 26% were justified is because of the low income we are finding ourselves getting."

Greene said union jobs once ensured a comfortable standard of living, but this is no longer the case.

"We used to be able to have these jobs as middle class jobs, purchase a home, be able to provide for our families and retire with dignity," she added. "At this point, those who we represent are really struggling."

California Black Media contacted CalHR for comment, but Camille Travis, deputy director of communications for the state's human resource agency, said the department does not comment on or share proposals for ongoing negotiations.

For nearly three years now, the California Association of Professional Scientists have been in negotiations with the state, demanding up to 43% increases in pay.

Assemblymember Tina McKinnor (D-Inglewood) introduced a bill Assembly Bill (AB) 1677 that would commission the UC Berkeley Labor Center to assess the salary structure of scientists employed by the state. The Assembly Appropriations Committee is currently reviewing the bill.

Another study commissioned by Local 1000 and conducted by the UC Berkeley Labor Center released in March found that many Local 1000 members, particularly women, Black and Latino employees were struggling financially. The study also found that nearly 70% of the union's members did not earn enough to support themselves and at least one child.

While the majority of Local 1000's contracts will remain in effect until a new agreement is reached, members enrolled in CalPERS health insurance plans lost their monthly \$260



SEIU local 1000, representing the largest group of CA State employees, demanding a living wage, better benefits and improved work life conditions.

health care stipend on June 30.

Some consider this as an additional reduction in pay that workers must endure. Local 1000 proposed a new monthly payment of \$320 to cover those losses, but the state rejected that

request, according to the bargaining update. Instead, the state countered with a three-tiered stipend — \$30, \$70 or \$140 — depending on the employee's chosen health plan.

Despite the complications

and setbacks during current negotiations, Greene remains hopeful that an agreement will be reached that will benefit the workers she represents.

"I'm still optimistic. I still believe in my state, I believe in this negotiation process, and I still have hope that the state is going to live up to their end and that they're going to be there for those who work for them," she said. "My hope is still there. I believe we are going to get this done."

VP Harris Continued from page 1

and more. According to recent reports, the United States has experienced a record number of new business applications, totaling 12.6 million under the Biden-Harris Administration.

"This surge demonstrates the confidence entrepreneurs have in the efficacy of Bidenomics," a senior White House official stated on Friday.

The awardees include the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation, which will use the \$3 million grant to enhance business accelerator and incubator programs for underserved

entrepreneurs in Arizona, Nevada, and California.

Based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Bridgeway Capital will receive \$2 million to support at least 340 minority-owned and rural entrepreneurs in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio, scaling up business education programs for revenue-generating growth opportunities.

The Urban League of Greater Atlanta will utilize \$3 million to provide incubator and accelerator services to historically underserved entrepreneurs in high-growth industries.

The Northern Great Lakes

Initiative in Michigan will receive \$3 million to streamline support for entrepreneurs, focusing on West Michigan, from conceptualizing an idea to business incubation and capital for growth.

The Biden-Harris Administration also announced the first approvals of awards for up to \$58 million to 12 states as part of the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) Technical Assistance Grant Program.

The SSBCITAGrant Program, totaling approximately \$200 million, aims to give small businesses access to historic support included in

the American Rescue Plan, with an unprecedented nearly \$10 billion from the Treasury Department.

"Investing in small businesses is at the core of President Biden and Vice President Harris's strategy to grow the economy from the bottom up," a senior White House official said.

The White House noted that recent announcements through the Capital Readiness Program and the SSBCI TA Grant Program demonstrate the administration's commitment to ensuring all communities benefit from the ongoing small business boom.

These initiatives supplement additional actions taken under Bidenomics, such as delivering historic support to minority-supporting community financial institutions, making programs that boost lending to underserved communities permanent, expanding lending licenses, forming the Interagency Community Investment Committee (ICIC), and streamlining and simplifying small business lending.

Officials said the administration is leveraging federal spending to support small businesses and level the playing field for innovative small businesses.

That includes using federal contracting dollars to support small and disadvantaged businesses, ensuring CHIPS Act funding supports small businesses, creating contracting opportunities in clean energy and energy efficiency, and cutting energy costs for small businesses.

"Through these comprehensive efforts, the Biden-Harris Administration seeks to create a thriving environment for small businesses, support underserved entrepreneurs, and foster economic growth from the ground up," the White House official stated.

The Sun-Reporter

EDITORIAL

We wish to plead our own cause.
Too long have others spoken for us.

Freedom's Journal, March 16, 1827.

Unlikely Allies and Uncomfortably Large Coalitions

By Ben Jealous

“Spend your energy figuring out what’s the one thing that you can agree on with a political foe,” Gen. Colin Powell told me years ago. “Figure that out and you can get a lot done.”

We’re seeing that proven across the Midwest from Illinois to North Dakota where unlikely allies with different interests and perspectives are joined in fighting against several multi-state carbon

dioxide pipelines proposed by huge agribusiness and fossil fuels companies.

For some, it’s a simple as private companies trying to take private land that belongs to someone else to make private profit for themselves. For others, the pipelines would extend our reliance on dirty fuels and prolong pollution from industrial farming and the ethanol producers it supplies. Together they see the pipelines as unnecessary, destructive to precious land, and potentially dangerous.

“We might not agree on a lot of things, but this is something we will all oppose, these pipelines,” says Kim Juncker, who farms land with her husband in Butler County, Iowa, that could be grabbed for what’s called the Navigator project. “We will lock arms on this one.”

Juncker calls herself a “constitutional conservative” and explains her political leanings and in her view those of many landowners simply: “We like our property rights and we like our freedom.”

Environmental activists have seen that opposing pipelines demands the voice of the people who own land that they don’t want to sell to the developers.

For their part, landowners appreciate that environmental groups bring their organizing experience and their capacity to monitor the smallest details in the fight. One of the biggest challenges is farmers are busy farming and can’t make opposition a full-time job.

Tim Baughman, who owns land with his sister in Crawford County, Iowa, that could be disrupted by the Summit pipeline, attended a safety meeting with the developer last week; the only reason he learned of the session was hearing about from a farmer in another part of the state. In turn, he does his best to keep two other landowners informed. They’re among nine in the county who haven’t signed voluntary easements for the pipeline to cross their land and are less connected to the digital world, he says.

More than 150 landowners now join weekly Zoom calls with environmentalists to share information and strategy. One outcome is that more than 460 landowners have filed to intervene when the Iowa Utilities Board holds its hearing in a few weeks over



Ben Jealous

the Summit pipeline’s request to take land through eminent domain. That’s no small feat as Baughman’s own filing to intervene was 51 pages long.

Our system allows for the power of enough people to thwart the power of money, which the pipeline developers certainly have. That’s how opponents have managed to claim some big wins.

In North Dakota, the public service commission last week denied Summit the permit it needs to move forward, citing issues from impact on cultural sites and wildlife areas to property values; the company can reapply. In Iowa, the House of Representatives passed a bill that would have significantly limited the pipelines’ ability to take land involuntarily with nearly two-

thirds of Democrats and 80 percent of Republicans in support (the bill unfortunately was killed in the state Senate).

To really harness that people power, we need to build coalitions that are uncomfortably large. That’s what pipeline opponents have done. People who will question whether carbon is damaging the climate are fighting alongside people who will question the role of biofuels in prolonging our fossil fuel addiction.

In a country that can feel so divided, there’s promise in that beyond the pipeline fight. As General Powell told me, “As you win one victory together, you might just discover along the way that there’s something else you agree on.”

Federal Trade Commission Hindering Black Economic Achievement

By Julianne Malveaux

The Biden Administration has been pushing hard for credit for its significant economic successes. Coining the phrase ‘Bidenomics,’ the term is meant to direct attention towards the administration’s striking successful economic agenda.

Under President Biden, the rate of inflation has been more than cut in half, employers have created more than 13 million jobs, wage growth has outpaced inflation, and the unemployment rate of Black workers is at a record-breaking, historic low. Now, the administration wants the public to give them credit.

Yet, the key to widespread public support is not through grandiose statements or flashy catchphrases. Instead, it is through the ongoing prioritization of policy that enhances the everyday, lived experiences of Americans—especially Black Americans. On this front, the FTC can play a crucial role.

The Federal Trade Commission is charged

with protecting American consumers from everyday threats permeating the domestic marketplace. Appointed by President Biden, Lina Khan now serves as Chair of the Commission, and she has adopted a unique, ultra-progressive approach to the FTC’s mandate.

Soon after assuming leadership, Chair Khan deprioritized the consumer welfare standard, a time-tested precedent that puts individual wellbeing at the forefront of any and all policy discussion, deeming it “too narrow.” Instead, the Commission has embraced a broad view of consumer well-being, focusing on antitrust cases that could theoretically have sweeping, long-term impacts on the economy. While I appreciate this approach, a loss of focus on the FTC’s bread-and-butter consumer protection issues could have a devastating impact on Americans’ economic wellbeing, especially those most vulnerable.

We have already witnessed the consequences of a loss of focus on fundamental issues at the FTC. As the Commission focused their

energy on theoretical risks rather than real threats posed to consumers, consumer fraud cases soared. From 2021 to 2022, fraud losses increased by over 30%. Last year, alone, consumers lost \$8.8 billion to fraudsters—and Black Americans are disproportionately suffering from the consequences of this tragic phenomenon.

According to the FTC’s Serving Communities of Color report, “predominantly Black communities filed consumer reports at a higher rate than predominantly White or Latino communities.” Beyond that, Black and Latino individuals have reported higher instances of fraud via payment methods that do not have refundable protections. Without a solution from the FTC, they remain at a loss—exacerbating income inequality for consumers already working in traditionally marginalized communities.

Americans are increasingly turning to gig economy work to make up for losses to increasing fraud, to keep up with rapid inflation, or simply to gain extra spending money. In fact, Black and Hispanic individuals are most likely to take up gig-work,

compromising over half of workers in the industry. Nearly one-third of Hispanic adults have earned money through the gig economy, while over a quarter of African American adults have earned money through these platforms.

Despite this trend, Lina Khan has now turned her attention to gig economy workers, with the commission vowing to “use its full authority” to investigate gig companies and worker practices. At an FTC Open Meeting, app-based workers warned the Commission against pursuing unnecessary legislation. Advocacy groups like the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and National LGBT Chamber of Commerce called on the FTC to consider that these apps serve as a resource to members looking empower themselves through another income stream.

Yet their pleas went unconsidered, and Khan decided to release a policy statement giving the FTC the power to regulate the American labor market in the form of gig-worker regulation—despite the fact that opposing Commissioners claimed the decision “meanders in and



JULIANNE MALVEAUX

out of our jurisdiction into matters of employment law.” Once again, Khan prioritized her own agenda despite what Americans were telling her they needed on the ground. In the name of individual American wellbeing, this trend cannot continue.

The Biden administration claims its goal is to “lower costs and help entrepreneurs and small businesses thrive.” To achieve this, the FTC must recommit to its most fundamental pillar: the consumer welfare standard. This commitment will especially benefit Black Americans, who have become innocent bystanders as

foolhardy legislation renders them even more vulnerable at the hands of scammers.

When Americans feel the impact of thoughtful policy, they will be vocal in their support. From gig-economy workers to small business owners to high level corporate executives—every single American benefits from a vigorous FTC committed to protecting consumer interests.

It’s time that the FTC recommit to the day to day needs of consumers, rather than distant, theoretical policy ideals that do nothing benefit lived experiences of Americans.

Doctors Sue California Medical Board to Halt Implicit Bias Training

Joe W. Bowers Jr. and Edward Henderson | California Black Media

A group of doctors have filed a lawsuit against the Medical Board of California to halt a state requirement that mandates physicians study

how implicit biases, including racial preconceptions, affect how they treat patients.

Assembly Bill (AB) 241, a law passed in 2019, requires medical professionals to study implicit bias as part of the 50 hours of continuing education required every two

years for licenses.

The law states that “evidence of racial and ethnic disparities in health care are remarkably consistent,” noting that Black women are “three to four times more likely than White women” to die from pregnancy-related causes. Black patients “often are prescribed less

pain medication than White patients who present the same complaints.”

Black patients with heart symptoms are referred for advanced cardiovascular procedures less often than white patients with the same symptoms.

The plaintiffs in the suit are Dr. Marilyn Singleton, a Black anesthesiologist, Dr. Azadeh Khatibi, an ophthalmologist, and a Virginia nonprofit called Do No Harm.

“I reject the unscientific accusation that people are defined by their race, not by their individual beliefs

and choices,” Dr. Singleton wrote in a Washington Post opinion. “When we all took our oath to ‘first, do no harm’ we meant it, and we live it. I can’t imagine spending my entire career thinking my peers can’t uphold that oath without constant racial reeducation.”

THE SUN-REPORTER

RELIGIOUS SECTION

THE BAY AREA'S CHURCH NEWS & ACTIVITIES



Sunday School Lesson

By Shunda Criswell

A Story of Forgiveness

Lesson Text: Luke 15:11-24

Place: probably Rome

Time: A.D. 30

Golden Text: "This my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found" (Luke 15:24)

A man... had two sons; the contrast between his sons is the point of the parable. In Luke 15:12-20a, this section of the parable describes the actions of the younger son. He requested an unusual thing when he asked his father to give him his share of the estate. Normally an estate was not divided and given to the heirs until the father could no longer manage it

well. This father acquiesced to his son's demand and gave him his share of the inheritance. The younger son took that wealth, went far away, and squandered it in wild living, involving himself presumably, as his older brother said, with prostitutes (see verse 30 of this text). The younger son, like many who are rebellious and immature, wanted to be free to live as he pleased, and he had to hit bottom before he came to his senses. It often takes great sorrow and tragedy to cause people to look to the only One who can help them—Jesus. Are you trying to live life your own way,

selfishly pushing aside any responsibility or commitment that gets in your way? Stop and look before you hit bottom. You will save yourself and your family much grief. (Life Application Study Bible). The hearers immediately would have begun to understand the point of the story. Jesus had been criticized for associating with sinners. The sinners were considered people who were far away from God, squandering their lives in riotous living. In contrast with the younger son, the older son continued to remain with the father and did not engage in such practices. A famine occurred and the second son ran out of money so that he had to work for a foreigner feeding pigs, something detestable to a Jew. Perhaps the far country was east of the Sea of Galilee where Gentiles tended pigs (read Luke 8:26-37). In his hunger he longed for the pods—the food he fed the pigs. As a Jew, he could have stooped no lower. The pods were probably carob pods, from tall evergreen carob trees. In this low condition, he came to his senses (see Luke 15:17). He decided to go back

to his father and work for him. Surely, he would be better off to work for his father than for a foreigner. He fully expected to be hired by his father as a servant, not to be taken back as his son. In Luke 15:20b-24, the parable describes the father's response. He had been waiting for his son to return, for while he was still a long way off, the father saw him. The father, full of compassion for his son, ran to him, and hugged and kissed him. The father would not even listen to all of the young son's rehearsed speech. Instead, the father had his servants prepare a banquet to celebrate the son's return. He gave the son a new position with a robe... a ring... and sandals. Jesus intentionally used the banquet motif again. He had previously spoken of a banquet to symbolize the coming kingdom (see Luke 13:29 and also read Luke 14:15-25). Jesus' hearers would have easily realized the significance of this feast. Sinners (whom the young son symbolized) were entering into the kingdom because they were coming to God. They believed they needed to return

to Him and be forgiven by Him. (The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty). The older brother found great difficulty in accepting his younger brother when he returned, and it is just as difficult to accept "younger brothers and sisters" today. People who repent after leading notoriously sinful lives are often held in suspicion; churches are sometimes unwilling to admit them to membership. Instead, we should rejoice like the angels in heaven when an unbeliever repents and turns to God. Like the father, accept repentant sinners wholeheartedly and give them the support and encouragement that they need to grow in Christ. (Life Application Study Bible). Remember, within just a few days, the younger son was on his way—indicating that this had been his plan when he had asked for his inheritance in the first place. He packed all his belongings and traveled to a distant land. The young man apparently had wanted to live his own

way, be his own master, get out from under the rules of his home and his father. Money was his ticket out, so he took it and ran. In this distant land, he wasted all his money on wild living. But then his money ran out. To make matters worse, a great famine swept over the land and the boy did not even have money for food. Remember, so the son returned home to his father, not knowing what to expect—the best he could anticipate was a cold shoulder, a halfhearted welcome, or a chance to be hired as a slave. The father, however, seemed to have cast his eyes on the horizon many times since his son had left, hoping one day to see him returning. Finally, his father saw him coming even while he was far away. The father ran, embraced, and kissed his son. He was filled with love and compassion at the sight of his son who had come home. (Life Application New Testament Commentary). Remember, forgive others!!! Be Blessed Saints!!!

THE SUN-REPORTER

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Little Zion Baptist Church
1245 Divisadero Street
San Francisco, CA

Sunday School 9:00am
Morning Worship 11:am
Evening Worship 6:pm

El Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Keval L. McNeill,
Pastor

1320 Golden Gate
San Francisco, CA.
921-4850, 921-0878

Church School 9: am
Children's Church 10:am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Bible Study 1-2pm & 6:30-7:30pm
Prayer meeting Wednesday 12:00 Noon

St. Peter's Missionary Baptist Church

1601 Newcomb Avenue
San Francisco, CA.
94124
Rev. Dr. J.P. Alexander

Church School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 11: am
Tuesday Usher meeting 7:pm
Wednesday Bible Study 7: pm
Tuesday Choir Rehearsal 7: pm
Prayer and Teacher meeting Wednesday 7:30PM

Neighborhood Baptist Church

608 Hayes Street
San Francisco, CA
Rev. Lane Hawkins

Sunday School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 11: am
Evening Worship 6: pm
Bible Class Monday 5: pm

Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church

6190 3rd Street
San Francisco, CA.
94124
Phone: (415) 822-4071
Fax: (415) 822-0156

Rev. Kenneth R. Reece
Pastor

Sunday School 9:00 am
Morning Worship 10:25: am
Communion Every 1st Sunday
Baptism Every 2nd Sunday
Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 6:30-8:30 pm Wednesday
Abundant Life Recovery Ministry 6:30 pm Mondays

Evergreen Baptist Church

6270 3rd Street
San Francisco, CA.

Rev. Jackey Wilson
Pastor

Sunday School 9:15 am
Morning Worship 10:40: am
Wednesday Teacher's Meeting 6: pm
St. Mission 5: pm
Children's Bible Study 5: pm
Bible Study 6:45 pm
Saturday Food Pantry 10-11 am

Ascension Baptist Church

1311 Quesada ave.
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94124
(415) 822-9488

Rev. Anthony Anderson

Morning Worship 10:15: am
Bible Study Tuesday 6:30 PM
Church School Wednesday 7: pm
Communion every 1st Sunday

Shekinah Christian Fellowship

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San Francisco, CA.
94107
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TV: Tuesday and Friday 8:30am
KTLN Total Living Network

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Sunday School 9:15 am
Morning Worship 10:45: am
Evening Worship 7:30 pm

Mount Calvary Baptist Church

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(Cubberly Community CTR)
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Sun Reporter

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Ogletree

Continued from page 1

In 2001, he received the Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion of Merit from the Washington Bar Association.

Then, in 2010, he was inducted into the WBA Hall of Fame.

In a news release, the NBA remarked that Ogletree was known for his mentorship and service, in which he emphasized the need to use the law as “an instrument of social and political change” and “a tool to empower the dispossessed and disenfranchised.”

“Professor Ogletree was an invaluable member of our Association,”

said NBA President Dominique D. Calhoun.

“His contributions toward the profession and efforts to advance reparations for our people left an indelible mark on the conscience of America for generations to come.”

Calhoun called Ogletree a visionary leader and vowed that the Bar Association would continue strides toward justice and equality.”

Ogletree’s work mainly centered around race, class, and criminal justice.

He served as the lead counsel to Anita Hill during her sexual harassment allegations against Clarence Thomas, then a U.S. Supreme Court nominee.

His involvement provided legal counsel and helped Hill devise a media strategy, including a news conference to announce her successful lie detector test.

Ogletree credited much of his professional success to the opportunities afforded him due to the Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education*, which found segregated public schools unconstitutional.

He organized Harvard’s Criminal Justice Institute, establishing the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice and co-chairing the Reparations Coordinating Committee.

Many recounted how strongly he believed in using the law

as a catalyst for social and political change, advocating for the empowerment of marginalized communities.

He led efforts to improve clinical training in public and indigent defense.

By establishing Harvard’s Criminal Justice Institute, Ogletree paved the way for students to gain valuable experience in Boston’s juvenile and district courts.

Additionally, he created the Saturday School program, supporting Black students on Harvard’s predominantly white campus.

The program featured several influential speakers, including the Rev. Jesse

Jackson, philosopher and now presidential candidate Cornel West, and actor Danny Glover.

One notable attendee of the Saturday School was Barack Obama, who considered Ogletree a mentor and sought his advice frequently, even during his presidency.

“Michelle and I are heartbroken to hear about the passing of our friend Charles Ogletree.” Obama said in a statement.

“He took time on weekends to run something called ‘Saturday School’ for Black students who didn’t necessarily have the support systems at home to get them through the difficult first years of law school,” Obama recalled.

The former president noted that the school had become so popular that students from every background began showing up to hear Ogletree explain subjects in a way they all could understand.

“It was an example of the kind of person Charles has always been unfailingly helpful, and driven by a genuine concern for others,” Obama asserted.

“He was an advocate for social justice, an incredible professor, and a mentor to many – including us.”

Ogletree is survived by his wife, Pamela Barnes, and his children, Charles Ogletree III and Rashida Ogletree.

Oakland D.A.

Continued from page 1

responsible action to ensure public safety. The best way to start is to declare that we are in a public safety emergency.” In February, Oaklanders launched a Change.org petition to recall Price. As of Aug. 4, 24,504 people had signed it. Two weeks ago a spokesperson from Price responded to Adams’ and Jackson’s letter. “We are disappointed that a great African American pastor and a great African American organization would take a false narrative on such an important matter. We would expect more from Bishop

Bob Jackson and the Oakland Chapter of the NAACP,” said Price’s representative.

According to the Oakland Police Department, homicides are up 80% compared to 2019 (pre-pandemic) numbers. There have also been sharp spikes in assaults (40%) and robberies (20%). When you compare crime rates this year to last year, violent crime has increased by 15%; burglaries re up nearly 40% and vehicle theft is up by more than 50%. The Oakland branch of the NAACP also points that Blacks have been victimized most by the surge in crimes. “African Americans

are disproportionately hit the hardest by crime in East Oakland and other parts of the city. But residents from all parts of the city report that they do not feel safe. Everyone is in danger,” the letter explained. Women have been beaten and robbed by youths; Asian Americans have been assaulted in Chinatown; physical aggression has been used against street vendors; and cameras have been stolen from news crews working in the field; and utility crews are now required to have private security, the letter asserts.

Last week, after a request from Oakland Mayor Sheng

Thao, Gov. Gavin Newsom agreed to send the California Highway Patrol and automatic license plate readers to assist local law enforcement in their fight against crime. “I am committed to working with community partners and across agencies to ensure we are doing everything we can to both prevent violence and hold people accountable for carrying out crime in our city,” Thao said in a statement.

On Aug. 3, Oakland City Councilmember Kevin Jenkins, who represents District 6, one of the areas in the city most affected by the crime spike thanked Thao

and the governor. “I applaud @MayorShengThao for working with @CAGovernor to get Automatic License Plate Readers. I am committed to #TechforSafety in Oakland,” he posted on X, formerly known as Twitter. On July 27, Price and the Oakland police held a public safety meeting at Montclair Presbyterian Church. Frustrated residents at the meeting complained about the violence, brazen robberies in broad daylight, assaults on the elderly, and the low prosecution and conviction rates of people who commit crimes. “As lawyers we have to follow the law,” Price told

people in the audience who questioned her about criminals receiving lenient sentences. “The commission in 2017 issued a report that was a commission set up by Gov. (Gavin) Newsom to look for the first time in decades at our sentencing structure. They recommend that we stop using enhancements the way that we have done consistently,” Price continued. But Adams and Jackson insist that authorities should declare “a state of emergency” in Oakland.

“We need our elected leaders to take responsible action to ensure public safety,” they wrote.

Death Threats

Continued from page 1

increase prison sentences to 25 years to life. The trafficking of minors currently carries a prison term for up to 12 years, or 15 years to life.

On June 11, the Democratic majority on the Public Safety committee unanimously abstained from voting on the bill. The committee’s two Republican members voted for it. The bill’s failure to advance from the committee drew national attention and sharp condemnation from conservative groups.

“After passing the Senate with a unanimous, bipartisan vote, I had hoped Democrats on the Assembly Public Safety Committee, led by Assemblyman Reggie Jones-Sawyer, would agree to make sex trafficking of a minor a

serious felony. I am profoundly disappointed that committee Democrats couldn’t bring themselves to support the bill, with their stubborn and misguided objection to any penalty increase regardless of how heinous the crime,” Grove said in a statement after the committee vote. “Human trafficking of children is a growing tragedy that disproportionately targets minority girls, and California is a hotbed because of our lenient penalties.”

Two days after SB 14 failed in the Public Safety committee, it passed with a 6-0 vote. California Legislative Black Caucus members Assemblymembers Mia Bonta (D-Alameda) and Majority Leader Assemblyman Isaac Bryan (D-Ladera Heights) abstained from voting.

In a statement sent to CBM,

Grove who has been the main champion of SB 14, addressed the threats and said such attacks against lawmakers should be taken seriously.

“It can be a felony offense to threaten public officials in California. I urge any legislative member who has received a threat to contact the Capitol police immediately so that an

investigation can take place and those making threats can be held responsible for their abhorrent actions,” Grove wrote.

California Assembly Minority Leader James Gallagher (R-Yuba City), a strong supporter of SB 14, also condemned the death threats and hate messages and expressed his concerns about the attacks leveled at his colleagues from across the aisle.

“We need to get to a place where we can have a difference of opinion without the threat of violence...on any level,” Gallagher posted on X – formerly known as Twitter.

Jones has stated that he is committed to ending sex trafficking in California, but he wants to improve Grove’s bill so that it does not just result in more incarceration, considering that some of the offenders are victims themselves.

In the Legislature, Jones-Sawyer has also been a vocal supporter of shifting the focus of California’s criminal justice system from incarceration to rehabilitation. In California, Blacks make up under 6% of the state’s population but account for nearly 30% of prison inmates, according to the Public Policy Institute of California.

Grayson is one of those victim-offenders who was trafficked as a child but ended up spending 17 years behind bars. Born in Los Angeles, Grayson said she grew up in 22 different foster homes, going through one abusive experience after another.

Now, she is the statewide coordinator for the Young Women’s Freedom Center, Sister Warrior’s Freedom Coalition, a coalition of formerly and currently incarcerated women.

Since her release from prison in 2015, Grayson has been politically active. She worked on California Assembly Bill (AB) 124, which was signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom in 2021. The bill creates a channel for survivors of human trafficking to request a reduced prison sentence.

“(Grayson) broke my heart.

She told us about being trafficked and then she became a trafficker. When she got caught, they put her in jail,” Jones Sawyer said. “Nobody ever gave her any counseling or found her a safe place where she could go. They didn’t have that 20 years ago. She was not only victimized by the trafficker, but she was criminalized by our criminal justice system.”

When the state legislature reconvenes on Aug. 14, the Assembly Appropriations Committee could hold a hearing on SB 14 as early as Aug. 16.

Jones-Sawyer says he hopes members of that committee can examine the legislation without attracting the attacks he and other members of the Public Safety committee had to endure.

REPORT DETAILS INJUSTICES SOME RENTERS IN ALAMEDA FACE

Joe W. Bowers Jr. and Edward Henderson | California Black Media

Tenants’ rights advocates believe that renters in some of Alameda County’s unincorporated areas need housing protections. Those places include the area formerly known as

“Eden Township” where Hayward and San Leandro are currently located.

A new report released by My Eden Voice, a coalition of East Bay housing organizations in collaboration with other advocates, sheds light on injustices renters in Alameda County’s urban unincorporated

areas face daily.

It includes four key findings:

Renters face widespread and severe habitability issues, threatening the health of families. Rents in the Eden Area are rising, leaving long-term residents in fear of losing their homes. When faced with verbal harassment, many

tenants self-evict. And families living in single-family homes are left out of protections from state regulations.

The report also lists recommendations to alleviate these issues. A proactive rental inspection program, local just cause protections, increasing legal aid funding to reduce wait times, a rental registry

to enforce tenant protections, establishing a rent board to enforce existing law, and enacting a strong local rent stabilization policy.

According to the report, Eden communities have an 18% poverty rate and over 61% of people in the urban unincorporated areas are Black, Indigenous,

or people of color.

“We are aware that the conditions in the unincorporated area have been a great concern to the community,” Alameda County’s housing director Michelle Starratt told the East Bay Times. “These are exactly the concerns we’ve heard.”

Tory Lanez Receives 10 Year Prison Sentence for Shooting Megan Thee Stallion

By Stacy M. Brown

After a series of delays, legal maneuvers, and tumultuous proceedings that have stirred controversy within and beyond hip-hop, a California judge has sentenced rapper Tory Lanez to 10 years in prison for shooting Megan Thee Stallion.

The sentencing comes after a Los Angeles jury, in December, found Lanez guilty of all three charges linked to the July 2020 shooting in Hollywood Hills.

Lanez, who pleaded not

guilty, was convicted of assault with a semi-automatic firearm, possession of a loaded unregistered firearm within a vehicle, and reckless discharge of a firearm.

Megan Thee Stallion, whose real name is Megan Pete, had accused Lanez of shooting her in after they exited an SUV they'd been traveling in.

Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón said since the shooting, Lanez had repeatedly tried to intimidate Megan.

"Through the past three years, [Lanez] engaged in a consistent pattern of behavior aimed at intimidating

[Stallion], muzzling her, and obstructing her from defending herself and sharing her version of events," Gascón said.

"Despite enduring physical violence, verbal assaults, and endeavors to publicly disgrace her, she exhibited remarkable strength by recounting the events of that pivotal night to both the jury and the world."

The district attorney added that he's hopeful Megan's courage would inspire others who confront violence and hesitate to come forward.

"Numerous individuals in our community confront acts of violence from those in close proximity every day,

often feeling powerless to come forward," he stated.

"I trust that [Stallion's] bravery will kindle a sense of optimism for those grappling with helplessness."

He also read a statement issued by Megan.

"Every day I think of others across the world who are victims of violence and survive," the multiple Grammy award-winning artist stated.

"It is truly the most powerless feeling, especially when you question whether the justice system can truly protect you.

"Fortunately, the district attorney's office fought for



Tory Lanez

me. I'm incredibly grateful to imagine those who lack the resources and support systems to help them." Lanez has vowed to appeal his conviction. But if it can happen to me,

GOV. NEWSOM AND GOV. DESANTIS TO FACEOFF IN TELEVISED DEBATE

Joe W. Bowers Jr. and Edward Henderson | California Black Media

Last week, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis responded to

a debate challenge from Gov. Gavin Newsom. These two politicians have been diametrically opposed on various issues ranging from immigration

reform to COVID-19. During an appearance on Sean Hannity's Fox News show, DeSantis accepted the debate challenge saying "absolutely, I'm game. Let's

get it done. Just tell me when and where. We'll do it." Newsom proposed holding the debate on Nov. 8 or 10 in Nevada, Georgia or North Carolina. The debate would

be broadcast live during a 90-minute segment on Fox News and would not have a live audience. It would be moderated by Hannity and each governor

will have 90 seconds to answer alternating questions. Each participant will also be allowed up to four minutes for opening remarks and two minutes for closing remarks.

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No matter what you're into, streaming has never been easier than with the Xfinity 10G Network. With a reliable connection, you can sit back, relax and enjoy your shows. Or movies. Or live sports. All without missing a beat on the network made for streaming. Because cliff-hangers should come from plotlines—not your WiFi connection. So get way more into what you're into when you stream on the next generation Xfinity 10G Network.

<p>Xfinity Gig Internet</p>	<p>\$25 a month for 2 years</p> <p>with no annual contract when you add Xfinity Mobile. Requires paperless billing and autopay with stored bank account.</p> <p>Taxes and other charges extra and subject to change. See details below.</p>	<p>Unlimited data and WiFi equipment included</p>
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Restrictions apply. Ends 9/6/26. Not available in all areas. New Xfinity Internet residential customers only. Offer requires enrollment in both paperless billing and automatic payments with stored bank account. Without enrollment, the monthly service charge automatically increases by \$10 (or \$5 if enrolling with credit or debit card information). The discount will appear on your bill within 45 days of enrolling in automatic payments and paperless billing. If either automatic payments or paperless billing are subsequently canceled, the \$10 monthly discount will be removed automatically. Limited to Gigabit Extra Internet for 24 months. All other installation, taxes & fees extra, and subj. to change during and after promo. After 24 months, or if any service is canceled or downgraded, regular charges apply to internet service and devices. Service limited to a single outlet. May not be combined with other offers. Actual speeds vary and not guaranteed. For factors affecting speed visit www.xfinity.com/networkmanagement. All devices must be returned when service ends. Mobile: Requires residential post-pay Xfinity Internet service. Line limitations may apply. For Xfinity Mobile Broadband Disclosures visit: www.xfinity.com/mobile/policies/broadband-disclosures. Actual savings vary and are not guaranteed. Call for restrictions and complete details or visit xfinity.com. © 2023 Comcast. All rights reserved.