

Sun-Reporter



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BEST BUY IN THE WEST

SAN FRANCISCO POLICE RECRUITING EFFORTS YIELD PROGRESS: POLICE ACADEMY AT HIGHEST LEVELS SINCE PRE-PANDEMIC

San Francisco, CA – Today Mayor London N. Breed and Police Chief William Scott announced that the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) has welcomed its latest Academy Class, bringing the total of three Police Academy classes currently training. The presence of these three SFPD Police Academy classes is the highest number of cadets training at any one time since before the pandemic.



New Police Academy class starting today joins two other classes currently training at SFPD Academy – higher cadet levels reflective of efforts to strengthen recruitment through increased pay, expanded outreach, and streamlined hiring

This puts SFPD on track to graduate more recruits in 2024 than any year since the pandemic began.

Current classes at SFPD Police Academy:

Academy Class 282 started January 16th, with 19 new candidates.

Another 41 recruits are currently training in Academy Classes 280 (started in July) and 281 (started in September).

Class 280 is scheduled to graduate in February and Class

281 is set to graduate in May.

These three Academy Classes reflect the increase in applications the Department began to experience at the end of 2022, when applications to join SFPD began to increase back to 2018 levels after years of being down during the pandemic. Mayor Breed and SFPD have improved

recruitment efforts by increasing pay, streamlining testing and hiring, and expanding outreach, including:

Increasing starting pay for SFPD officers to be among the highest of any large Bay Area City. SFPD officers are paid more than officers

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President Biden Accelerates Student Debt Relief with Early Implementation of SAVE Plan

By Stacy M. Brown

Again, attempting to fulfill a key promise made during his 2020 campaign, President Joe Biden announced the accelerated implementation of a crucial provision under the Student Aid for Voluntary Education (SAVE) plan. The president reaffirmed his commitment to reforming the student loan system and ensuring that higher education remains a pathway to the middle class, “not a barrier to opportunity.”



The president asserted that his administration’s SAVE plan has helped 3.6 million Americans by canceling their student debt.

“From Day One of my Administration, I vowed to fix the student loan system and make sure higher education is a pathway to the middle class—not a barrier to opportunity,” Biden stated.

The president asserted that his administration’s SAVE plan has helped

3.6 million Americans by canceling their student debt. The plan’s goal is to create a more affordable student loan repayment structure while providing life-changing support to students and their families, Biden said.

“I am proud that my administration is implementing one of the most impactful provisions

of the SAVE plan nearly six months ahead of schedule,” Biden asserted. “Starting next month, borrowers enrolled in SAVE who took out less than \$12,000 in loans and have been in repayment for ten years will get their remaining student debt canceled immediately.”

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Advocacy Group Report Card: California Is Underinvesting in Its Children

By Tanu Henry

Children Now, an Oakland-based advocacy organization released a report card on Jan. 10 that claims California is lagging in several areas key to the wellbeing of children, including preventing substance abuse, preventive screening, supporting mental health and providing resources for birthing health.

“The California Children report card grades the state on its ability to support better outcomes for kids from pre-natal to age

26” the report states. “Each grade is based on the state’s progress (or lack thereof) on passing and implementing state policies and making investments in the supports and services needed for all kids to reach their full potential.”

In California, the total number of children within the study’s age range is 13.7 million. Of that number, 5 %



In California, the total number of children within the study’s age range is 13.7 million. Of that number, 5 % (roughly 685,000 children) is Black or African American (roughly 685,000 children) is Black or African American.

After Gov. Newsom presented his annual budget to the California Legislature on Jan. 10, Ted Lempert, Children Now’s President said, “California has consistently underinvested in its kids.”

“While we recognize the large deficit affecting the Administration’s budget proposal, we can’t

continue down this path of deprioritizing kids that has led to alarmingly poor outcomes,” Lempert wrote. “We applaud the Administration’s renewed commitment to childcare rate reform, but are particularly concerned with some proposed reductions, including the elimination of the 24/7 hotline for youth in foster care and taking dollars back from state preschool.”

Annual Black Caucus MLK Jr Breakfast Uplifts King’s Legacy; Need to Generate Wealth

Antonio Ray Harvey | California Black Media

On Jan. 11, the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) honored the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at a breakfast celebration held at the Grand Ballroom of the Town and Country Event Center in downtown Sacramento.

The annual CLBC event was attended by about 200 people, including members of the Legislature from diverse backgrounds, community leaders, staffers from the State Capitol, among other attendees.

“It was an honor to host this year’s annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day breakfast. The California Legislative Black Caucus put on another lively event with great discussion on ways we can honor Dr. King’s legacy and uplift all Californians,” CLBC Chair, Assemblymember Lori A. Wilson (D-Suisun City),



Sen. Steven Bradford shared with attendees at CLBC’s annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast, revealing a captivating historical tidbit: the civil rights icon was originally born Michael King, Jr. His father made the decision to change both their names in 1934 after a visit to Germany

posted Jan. 11 on the social media platform X.

At the breakfast, Assemblymember Reggie Jones-Sawyer (D-Los Angeles), a member of the CLBC, served as the master of ceremonies at the breakfast held four days prior to the date that would have marked King’s 95th birthday on Jan. 15.

CLBC members Assemblymember Chris Holden (D-Pasadena) provided the invocation and Assemblymember Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento) led the Pledge of Allegiance. Sen. Steven Bradford (D-Inglewood), Vice Chair of the CLBC, shared a

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1945-1997

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Editor/Publisher

Assembly Initiates First Move Toward Banning Youth Tackle Football

By Tanu Henry

Last week, the California Assembly moved one step closer to banning tackle football for children in the state younger than six years old.

On Jan. 10, the Assembly Arts Entertainment Sports and Tourism committee voted 5-2 to advance Assembly Bill (AB) 734, which was authored by California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) member Assemblymember Kevin McCarthy (D-Sacramento).

Capitol insiders say the full 80-member state Assembly may take a floor vote

on the bill soon.

“On and after 2025, a youth sports organization that conducts a tackle football program, or a youth tackle football league, shall not allow a person younger than six years of age to be a youth tackle football participant through the organization or league,” reads the bill’s language.

McCarthy’s says there is credible research indicating that tackle football can affect the brains of young children.

The bill has drawn some criticisms from a number of other politicians and policymakers.

“Youth football isn’t just about pastime and tradition,

it serves as a safe space for our young boys and girls to not just play a game, but a place for structure, discipline, and positive attention many in our community don’t find at home,” said Sacramento County Sheriff Jim Cooper, who opposes AB 734.

“Kids learn about teamwork and serving a purpose bigger than themselves,” added Cooper, who is a former member of the Assembly and CLBC.

Supporters of bill, on the other hand, say the legislation is not taking organized sports away from children.

“It is simply saying that we’re going to move from



McCarthy’s says there is credible research indicating that tackle football can affect the brains of young children.

tackle football to flag football and we can still have the same learning experiences,” said Assemblymember Mike Gipson (D-Carson), who is also a member of the CLBC.

S.F. Police Continued from page 1

in almost any other major city in the nation. Shifting to a dynamic academy class model to quickly start classes once they hit a certain level instead of waiting long periods of time between Academy classes, and losing out on recruits.

Expanding outreach nationwide, including with a focus on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Reducing the hiring process by up to three months by conducting Physical Ability Test (PAT), Oral Interview, and Written Test in one day.

Expanding free one-

day testing events to college campuses around Northern and Southern California and offering test preparation resources and practice sessions for potential recruits.

Streamlining of the Lateral Hiring Process by immediately hiring lateral candidates as soon as they complete the hiring process rather than waiting to fill a class.

Participating in the 30 x 30 Initiative to increase the representation of women in SFPD with the goal of 30% women recruits by 2030.

These recruitment efforts, as well as key retention efforts have helped SFPD stabilize staffing and start building

up again. While SFPD is about 500 officers short of its citywide staffing goal, police staffing has recently stopped declining. Now the efforts are focused on retaining the current officers, while bringing in new recruits to see police staffing in San Francisco begin to rise again.

“Our work to strengthen recruiting and retaining officers and to build the support to have the best police force in the country is leading to results,” said Mayor London Breed. “A lot of this work has been happening behind the scenes for a long time, and now we are starting to see a real change in our Academy. I’m thankful for everyone who is signing up to put on a uniform and serve

our residents, our businesses, and our city. This is how we create a safer, more just San Francisco.”

“Efforts to boost recruiting in San Francisco are paying off,” said Chief Bill Scott. “The SFPD is moving in the right direction, and I’m overjoyed to see so many applicants wanting to join our department. They have begun their journey to be part of one of the most historic police forces in the nation that stands as a model for how reform and public safety go hand-in-hand.”

Despite staffing challenges, SFPD’s efforts have made San Francisco safer over the last year. Most recently during the 2023 holiday season:

Larceny theft (car break-ins and retail theft) decreased by 48%

Motor vehicle theft decreased by 17%

Burglaries decreased by 26%

Violent crime rates in San Francisco remain lower than other cities and both violent and property crime remain below pre-pandemic levels. SFPD’s homicide clearance rate is consistently far above the national average.

The next Police Academy class will begin later this spring and applications continue to come in at a high level. For more information and to view career opportunities with the SFPD, visit this page.



CEI PACE East Oakland Care for Every Part of You.

At the Center for Elders' Independence (CEI) in East Oakland, seniors aged 55 and above receive all their medical services through a personalized PACE program that adapts to their needs.

We provide transportation to their doctor’s appointments and to our health centers, where they can get help with their daily routines, exercise, and even make new friends. Most importantly, our program provides home care so seniors can stay where they feel their best: at home.

Because caring for every aspect of our seniors' health means taking good care of the little things that make them whole.



Visit Elders.org or call 833.802.1150

Federal Prosecutors Seek Death Penalty for White Man Who Fatally Shot 10 Black People in Buffalo Grocery Store

By Stacy M. Brown
 NNPA Newswire Senior
 National Correspondent
 @StacyBrownMedia

Federal prosecutors announced on Friday, Jan. 12, their intention to pursue the death penalty for Payton Gendron, a 20-year-old white man responsible for a racist rampage that claimed the lives of 10 Black shoppers at a Buffalo grocery store in May 2022. Prosecutors revealed the decision in a court filing before a scheduled status conference hearing at the Robert H. Jackson Federal Courthouse in Buffalo.

Gendron is already serving a life sentence without parole

after pleading guilty to New York state murder charges in November 2022. Defense attorneys have expressed Gendron's willingness to plead guilty to federal hate crimes and weapons violations if prosecutors choose not to pursue the death penalty.

"Today's decision by the Department of Justice provides a pathway to both relief and a measure of closure for the victims and their families," said civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump. "They have been pleading for full justice for nearly two years, and today they are one step closer. We thank the DOJ for its diligence and for fighting for those whose lives were so tragically affected

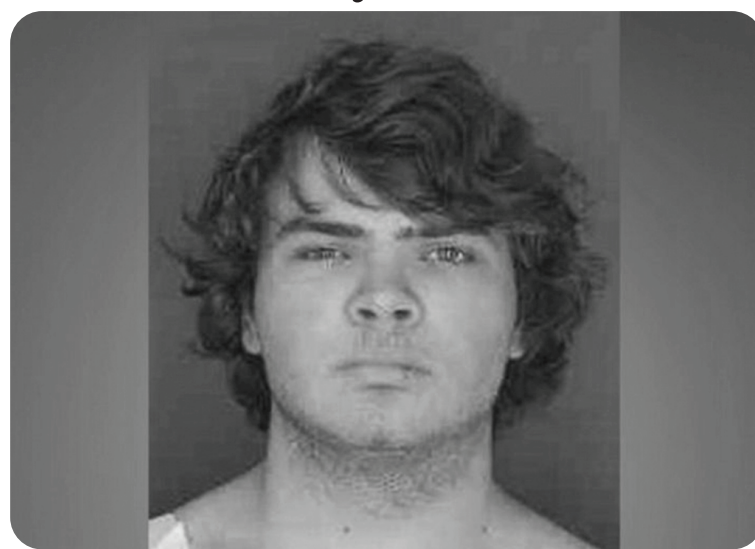
by this atrocity. We ask that you continue to keep the victims, their families, and the entire Buffalo community in your prayers as they continue to grieve and pursue full justice for those who were stolen from them."

The announcement follows a nearly 20-month Justice Department case review, marking the first time Attorney General Merrick Garland has authorized a new capital prosecution. President Joe Biden, who campaigned against the death penalty, faced criticism from civil rights groups, arguing that the death penalty historically and disproportionately affects racial minorities and the poor. Garland issued a moratorium

on federal executions in 2021, which remains in place but does not prevent prosecutors from seeking a death sentence.

In 2023, emotions ran high at a sentencing hearing as the sister of one of the victims confronted Gendron. Chaos erupted when an enraged man charged at the defendant, leading to authorities rushing Gendron out of the courtroom. After returning, Judge Susan Egan acknowledged the pain experienced by the victims' families but emphasized the need for appropriate conduct.

Gendron, who had targeted a specific predominantly Black Buffalo zip code, admitted to the racially charged massacre. He said he regretted his actions,



Gendron is already serving a life sentence without parole after pleading guilty to New York state murder charges in November 2022.

attributing them to online hate and the belief in the "replacement theory." Gendron was sentenced to life in prison by Judge Egan, who condemned his ideologies as "ignorant, hateful, and evil."

Four Black Californians Among 10 Inductees Into State's 17th Class of Hall of Famers

By Tanu Henry

On Jan. 11, Gov. Gavin Newsom, First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom and the California Museum announced inductees into the 17th Class of the state's Hall of Famers.

Among this year's 10 inductees -- both groups and individuals -- are four Black Californians: Former San Francisco Mayor and California Assembly Speaker Willie Brown; award-winning filmmaker Ava Duvernay;

Federal Judge and civil rights leader Thelton E. Henderson; and basketball Hall of Fame player and broadcaster Cheryl Miller.

Other 2024 inductees are: master chef and "mother of fusion cuisine" Helene An; computer scientist and "father of the internet" Vincent A. Cerf; all-female pop punk band The Go-Gos; Chicano Rock band Los Lobos; former U.S. Secretary of Defense and Congressman Leon E. Panetta; and artistic director and choreographer Brenda Way.

This year's honorees join 150 other Californians who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame.

"The contributions of this newest class of the Hall of Fame will have an impact on California -- and the nation -- for generations

to come. Through their boundless qualities and trailblazing achievements, these visionaries embody the spirit of California and will continue to inspire millions more," Newsom said in a press release issued after videotaped

announcement last week.

First Partner Siebel Newsom also welcomed the "spectacular new group of trailblazers."

"With a penchant for challenging the status quo, these individuals wholly reflect the courageous, ambitious, and bold spirit of California, and have made an indelible mark on our state, nation, and world," she said.

Inductees are selected annually by the Governor and First Partner.



Former San Francisco Mayor and California Assembly Speaker Willie Brown

NEW AFFORDABLE HOMES FOR SALE IN SOMA 988 Harrison Street, San Francisco

12 Below Market Rate homes for sale: 1 studio, 6 one-bedroom, and 5 two-bedroom homes priced from \$346,899 - \$470,707 without parking, and \$381,208 - \$519,730 with parking.

Applicants must be a first-time homebuyer and earn no more than the income levels listed below:

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	1 person	2 person	3 person	4 person	5 person
MAXIMUM ANNUAL INCOME	\$100,850	\$115,300	\$129,700	\$144,100	\$155,650

Applications must be received by 5PM on Thursday, February 22, 2024. Apply online through DAHLIA, the SF Housing Portal at housing.sfgov.org.

For more information and assistance with your application, contact HomeownershipSF: (415) 202-5464 or info@homeownershipsf.org. For questions about the building and units, contact Loring Racine: (415) 738-2151 or l.racine@js-sullivan.com.

HOW TO APPLY

- 1 Sign up for a free Program Orientation at HOMEOWNERSHIPSF.ORG
- 2 Complete homebuyer workshops and individual counseling
- 3 Get pre-approved for a mortgage loan by a MOHCD-approved lender
- 4 Submit a lottery application before application deadline.

OPEN HOUSE DATES

Wednesday, 1/17/24: 5pm - 7pm
 Thursday, 1/18/24: 9am - 11am
 Saturday, 1/20/24: 10am - 12pm

LOTTERY DATE

Thursday, March 14, 2024, 11:00 am
 View lottery results at <http://housing.sfgov.org>

BMR UNIT	BEDROOM COUNT	BATH COUNT	SQUARE FEET	FLOOR	PRICE W/ PARKING	PRICE W/O PARKING	MONTHLY HOA DUES W/O PARKING	MONTHLY HOA DUES W/ PARKING
203	1	1	551	2	\$452,139	\$397,159	\$552.13	\$657.13
207	2	2	849	2	\$518,072	\$469,050	\$591.96	\$686.96
214	Studio	1	401	2	\$381,208	\$346,899	\$535.08	\$630.08
301	2	2	789	3	\$519,730	\$470,707	\$584.13	\$679.13
305	2	2	840	3	\$518,100	\$469,078	\$591.96	\$686.96
309	1	1	619	3	\$450,272	\$408,478	\$560.94	\$655.94
408	1	1	622	4	\$450,263	\$408,468	\$560.94	\$655.94
410	1	1	621	4	\$450,266	\$408,471	\$560.94	\$655.94
413	2	2	835	4	\$518,116	\$469,094	\$591.96	\$686.96
502	2	2	853	5	\$518,060	\$469,037	\$591.96	\$686.96
503	1	1	551	5	\$452,139	\$410,344	\$552.13	\$647.13
511	1	1	615	5	\$450,285	\$408,490	\$560.94	\$655.94



Units are monitored through the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development and are subject to owner occupancy and other restrictions. Visit www.sfmohcd.org for program information.

All adult household members who will be on the title of the BMR unit must complete first-time homebuyer education through one of the City's 5 approved housing counselling agencies in order to apply. Applicants can visit <https://homeownershipsf.org/homebuyers> for upcoming program orientations and workshops. Please sign up right away, as classes tend to fill up quickly.

Applicants for 988 Harrison must obtain a loan pre-approval from one of the approved participating lenders listed at <https://sfmohcd.org/lender-list> to apply.

All applicants are encouraged to apply. Lottery preference will be given to: *Certificate of Preference, **Displaced Tenant Housing Preference holders, ***Neighborhood Residents and households that currently live or work in San Francisco.

Please contact 415-701-5500 or visit www.sfmohcd.org for more information about lottery preferences.

The Sun-Reporter

EDITORIAL

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

Freedom's Journal, March 16, 1827.

WHAT WOULD MARTIN DO?

By JULIANNE MALVEAUX

Years ago, young people used to wear a wristband that said WWJD, or What Would Jesus Do? Today, we should have a real or imaginary wristband that says WWM, or what would Martin Do.

Why? On Dr. King's birthday, January 15, liberals and conservatives invoked the name and memory of Dr. King. But what would he do today? Would he support legislators who are taking us to the brink of a government shutdown with programs that benefit women, children, and older people on the chopping

block? Would he support restrictions on a woman's right to choose? Would he appreciate the banning of more than 1600 books? Given his love for history, would Dr. King support state laws that prevent teaching about race? Given his appreciation for the beloved community, would Dr. King support attacks on Diversity, Equity, and inclusion? The people who tout Dr. King today must read him to be reminded of his commitment to justice and economic restructuring.

I claim Dr. King as an economist. In his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, he said, "I have the audacity to believe that people everywhere

can have three meals a day for their bodies, education, and culture for their minds, peace, and freedom for their spirits." In his book, *Where Do We Go From Here*, he spoke of economic restructuring, questioning the very nature of the capitalist economy and saying, "If the world is two-thirds water, why do we pay water bills?"

What must you do to celebrate Dr. King? This is what Dr. King wrote in *Where Do We Go From Here*:

I choose to identify with the underprivileged. I choose to identify with the poor. I choose to give my life to the hungry. I choose to give my life to those who have been

left out of the sunlight of opportunity. I choose to live for and with those who find themselves seeing life as a long and desolate corridor with no exit sign. This is the way I'm going. If it means suffering a little bit, I'm going that way. If it means sacrificing, I'm going that way. If it means dying for them, I'm going that way because I heard a voice saying, "Do something for others."

People will be invoking Dr. King through January and February, but he is to be remembered through his words and our deeds. We can celebrate Dr. King by doing something for others through small acts and large ones, through activism and simple acts of kindness. And, more impactfully, we can celebrate Dr. King by considering the intractable nature of poverty and the things we can do to eliminate it. King wrote, "the curse of poverty is an abomination in our age. It is socially as cruel and blind as the practice of cannibalism at the dawn of civilization, when men ate each other because they had not yet learned to take food from the soil, or to consume the abundant animal life around them." Those are strong words, totally appropriate words. We are cannibalizing our nation's future with persistent poverty, especially when so many children are



Dr. Julianne Malveaux

consigned to poverty.

The day after Dr. King's birthday, Congress announced a bipartisan deal to expand the child tax credit. About 16 million children in low-income families will benefit, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Democrats pushed hard for this, and had to agree to reviving some of the Trump tax cuts that had expired, including more tax deductions for businesses. Senate Finance Chair Ron Wyden (D-Ore) wants to pass this legislation before the end of this month, but Congress must first pass a budget to avert a government shutdown, scheduled for January 19.

Conceding to business tax deduction extracts a high price, but keeping millions of children out of poverty may be worth it. Even as the expansion

of the child tax credit is a victory, it is important to note that it is a far cry from the economic restructuring that Dr. King called for. Few who celebrate King focus on economic restructuring. Indeed, when King called for restructuring he lost the support of foundations, government, and even many in the African American community. When he died, he'd lost much esteem. It took nearly 20 years to turn his birthday into a federal holiday.

What would Martin do? He'd keep fighting, keep trying, to restructure the economy and do something for others. He'd continue his bold attacks on a predatory capitalist economic structure. If we celebrate King, no only on his birthday, but throughout the year, we can do no less.

SEN. BUTLER MARKS FIRST 100 DAYS IN OFFICE WITH MESSAGE AND MEETINGS

By Tanu Henry

U.S. Sen. Laphonza Butler (D-Calif.), a former labor organizer and advocate for women in politics, marked her first 100 days in office on Jan. 13.

Butler commemorated the occasion with a message to constituents and hosting two open houses in Los Angeles and San Diego for community members and youth organizations.

"My first 100 days have

been filled with opportunities to listen, to learn and to lead on behalf of generations of Californians demanding a government that works for them and protects their fundamental freedoms," said Butler, who Gov. Newsom appointed in October to replace Sen. Dianne Feinstein after she passed away on Sept. 29.

"From voting rights and housing affordability to mental health and reproductive rights, young people and especially young women are facing headwinds, and I'm committed to using my time in the Senate

to hold the door open for them," continued Butler.

On Jan. 13 and Jan. 14, Butler held two roundtables with young people in Los Angeles and San Diego that were closed to the press, according to her office.

"At a time of pervasive cynicism about our government, it is more important than ever to invest in restoring confidence in our democracy and to build a partnership with the next generation of leaders," said Butler, who has announced that she will not join the

race for the U.S. Senate seat she currently holds.

In the U.S. Senate, Butler, who has been a strong supporter of pro-labor legislation at the federal level, serves on the Judiciary Committee.

Since her appointment, Butler has also supported the Youth Voting Rights Act, which would allow eligible 16-year-olds to pre-register to vote; and other legislation that would improve the lives of women and children, including the Women's Health Protection Act of 2023, which would protect access



U.S. Sen. Laphonza Butler

to abortion; the Child Care and the Protect Vulnerable for Working Families Act Immigrant Youth Act.

California African American Chamber of Commerce to Host Economic Summit in Los Angeles

By Tanu Henry

The California African American Chamber of Commerce (CAACC) and California African American Action Fund (CAAAF) will hold their 2nd Annual State of California African American Economy Summit in L.A. on Jan. 24 and Jan 25.

The Summit will be held at the Westin Los Angeles Airport located at 5400 W Century Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

The Conference is designed to discuss specific economic topics as well as provide opportunities for business owners, entrepreneurs, advocates and other guests to connect, learn, and grow.

Speakers at the summit will include Dr. Julianne Malveaux (Economist), Dr. Anthony Samad (Executive Director Mervyn Dymally Institute), and Tara Lynn Gray (Director of The California Office of Small Business Advocate - CalOSBA), among others. They will also participate in the State of California Economy Panel.

Another discussion will be a Mayor's Roundtable, featuring African American mayors from Northern, Central, and Southern California. Regional perspectives on African American participation in the California economy will be shared by these panelists as well as challenges and opportunities for businesses in their respective cities.

Deborah Robertson, Mayor of Rialto, will be the roundtable's moderator.

CAACC Chairman Timothy Alan Simon Esq. will host a fireside chat with keynote speaker Janice Bryant-Howroyd. Bryant-Howroyd is the founder and chief executive officer of Los Angeles-based The ActOne Group, the largest privately

held, minority-woman-owned personnel company founded in the United States.

Vaughn M. Williams III, Principal Supplier Diversity Advisor for SoCalGas Company will be the moderator for Business Matchmaking, a session that facilitates networking among business owners across sectors.

L.A. County Supervisors Vote to Back U.S. Sen. Padilla's Suicide Crisis Line Bill

By Tanu Henry

On Jan. 9, all five members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted to throw their support behind federal legislation Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) introduced in the U.S. Senate.

Supervisors Janice Hahn and Kathryn Barger led the effort.

The bill, titled the Local 988 Response Act of 2023, would require the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to mandate that all incoming calls to the national 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline be routed based on

location of the caller, instead of the person's area code.

"This system leads to callers oftentimes being connected to centers that cannot connect them with additional mental health assistance," read a press release Padilla's office issued.

"When someone calls 9-8-8 and needs help that we

can't provide over the phone, we need to be able to send mental health professionals to them quickly -- but that can't happen if LA County residents with out-of-state area codes are diverted away from our local call center," said Hahn, who represented California's 36th and 44th districts in Congress, respectively,

from 2011 to 2016.

"One of my goals when I went to Washington last spring was to get the ball rolling on solving this problem and I am grateful that on top of Congressman Cardenas' bill in the House, we have this new bipartisan bill by Senator Padilla," Hahn added.

In addition to using geo-location technology to route calls, if the legislation passes, the FCC will instruct carriers to allow calls and texts to 9-8-8 even if the caller's phone is inactive or experiencing interruptions. It would also require multi-line

THE SUN-REPORTER

RELIGIOUS SECTION

THE BAY AREA'S CHURCH NEWS & ACTIVITIES



Sunday School Lesson

By Shunda Criswell

A High Calling

Lesson Text: Ephesians 4:1-16
Place: from Rome
Time: A.D. 60

Golden Text: "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called" (Ephesians 4:1)

"There is one body," says Apostle Paul. Unity does not just happen; we have to work at it. Often differences among people can lead to division, but this should not be true in the church. Instead of concentrating on what divides us, we should remember what unites us: one body, one Spirit, one future, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God! Have you learned to appreciate people who are different from you? Can you see how their differing gifts and view-

points can help the church as it does God's work? Learn to enjoy the way we members of Christ's body complement one another. (See 1 Corinthians 12:12, 13 for more on this thought.) The Amplified Bible records 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 as such, **1 Corinthians 12:12-13 (AMP)** 12 For just as the body is a unity and yet has many parts, and all the parts, though many, form [only] one body, so it is with Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). 13 For by [means of the personal agency of] one [Holy] Spirit we were all, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, baptized [and by baptism united together] into one body, and all made to drink of one [Holy] Spirit. No one is ever going to be perfect here on earth, so we

must accept and love other Christians in spite of their faults. When we see faults in fellow believers, we should be patient and gentle. Is there someone whose actions or personality really annoys you? Rather than dwelling on that person's weaknesses or looking for faults, pray for him or her. Then do even more—spend time together and see if you can learn to like him or her. The Oneness of all believers' rests on these spiritual facts: Believers are one in body, the fellowship of believers, the church. Believers have the Holy Spirit activated within and motivating to love and live in unity with one another. Believers bear in their body the hope of the glorious future to which we are called. Believers serve God, our Lord to whom we are all called. And most importantly, our faith is the commitment to Christ for which we stand and worship until the day of eternity. Too often believers are separated because of minor differences in doctrine. But Paul here shows those areas where Christians must agree to attain true unity. When believers have this unity of spirit, petty differences should never be allowed to dissolve that unity. (SAC & Life Application Study Bible). One of the emphasis of unity Paul makes mention is based on Ephesians 4:3, "To build unity is one of the Holy Spirit's important roles. He leads, but we have to be will-

ing to be led and to do our part to keep the peace." We do this by focusing on God, not on ourselves. For more about who the Holy Spirit is and what He does, see John 3:6; Acts 1:5; and (Life Application Study Bible). All believers in Christ belong to one body; all are united under one head, Christ himself (see 1 Corinthians 12:12-27). Each believer has God-given abilities that can strengthen the whole body. Your special ability may seem small or large, but it is yours to use in God's service. Ask God to use your unique gifts to contribute to the strength and health of the body of believers. (Ephesians 4:4-7). God is "over all"—this shows his overruling care (transcendence). He is "in all" and "living through all"—this shows his active presence in the world and in the lives of believers. (Ephesians 4:6). Also, in Ephesians 4:8, "we are gifted with yet another scripture in Psalm 68:18, God is pictured as a conqueror marching to the gates and taking tribute from the fallen city. Paul uses that picture to teach that Christ, in his crucifixion and resurrection, was victorious over Satan. When Christ ascended to heaven, He gave gifts to the church, some of which Paul discusses in Ephesians 4:11-13). The "lowly world" may be (1) the earth itself (lowly by comparison to heaven), (2) the grave, or (3) Hades (many believe Hades is the resting place of souls

between death and resurrection). However, we understand it, Christ is Lord of the whole universe, past, present, and future. Nothing or no one is hidden from him. The Lord of all came to earth and faced death to rescue all people. No one is beyond his reach. (Life Application Study Bible). (Ephesians 4:9). Furthermore, our oneness in Christ does not destroy our individuality. The Holy Spirit has given each Christian special gifts for building up the church. Now that we have these gifts, it is crucial to use them. Are you spiritually mature, exercising the gifts God has given you? If you know what your gifts are, look for opportunities to serve. If you don't know, ask God to show you, perhaps with the help of your minister or Christian friends. Then, as you begin to recognize your special area of service, use your gifts to strengthen and encourage the church. (Life Application Study Bible Ephesians 4:11, 12). God has given his church an enormous responsibility—to make disciples in every nation (Matthew 28:18-20). This involves preaching, teaching, healing, nurturing, giving, administering, building, and many other tasks. If we had to fulfill this command as individuals, we might as well give up without trying—it would be impossible. But God calls us as members of his body. Some of us can do one task; some can do another. Together we can

obey God more fully than any of us could alone. It is a human tendency to overestimate what we can do by ourselves and to underestimate what we can do as a group. But as the body of Christ, we can accomplish more together than we would dream possible working by ourselves. Working together, the church can express the fullness of Christ. (Life Application Study Bible, Ephesians 4:12, 13). Christ is the truth (John 14:6), and the Holy Spirit, who guides the church, is the Spirit of truth (John 16:13). Satan, by contrast, is the father of lies (John 8:44). As followers of Christ, we must be committed to the truth. This means both that our words should be honest and that our actions should reflect Christ's integrity. Speaking the truth in love is not always easy, convenient, or pleasant, but it is necessary if the church is going to do Christ's work in the world. (Life Application Study Bible, Ephesians 4:14-16). How can we grow more and more like Christ? The answer is that Christ forms us into a body—into a group of individuals who are united in their purpose and in their love for one another and for the Lord. If an individual stumbles, the rest of the group is there to pick that person up and help him or her walk with God again. We are one in the Spirit of God. Be Blessed!

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Radio Icon Donnie Simpson Takes Final Bow After 55 Years in Broadcasting

By Stacy M. Brown

Legendary radio and media personality Donnie Simpson signed off, possibly for the last time, on Friday, January 12. The illustrious career that spanned an incredible 55 years ended with a heartfelt message from the iconic DJ himself.

"Today's the day," Simpson posted on X. "Please make sure you tune into my last day ... Let's celebrate together as I thank each & every one of you for your support during my 55 years in radio."

An icon, trailblazer, and media legend, Simpson held a commanding presence in Washington, D.C.

He gained international fame as a television and movie personality. From his early beginnings in Detroit to his stints at WKYS and WMMJ in Washington, he etched his name in the history of radio.

A true industry pioneer, Simpson was one of America's first video jockeys, hosting iconic shows like BET's "Video Soul." His achievements reached new heights when, in 1988, Billboard Magazine recognized him as both the best top radio personality and top program director in the nation.

After retiring in 2010, Simpson triumphantly returned to the airwaves and television screens in 2015. As the afternoon drive host on WMMJ, Majic 102.3 in Washington D.C., and the face of TV-One's "Donnie After Dark," he continued to captivate audiences with his signature style.

As noted in his bio, Simpson started in Detroit as the "Love Bug." Simpson's passion for music, nurtured in his mother's record shop, laid the groundwork for an extraordinary career. He connected with the biggest stars globally throughout the years, showcasing his

talent and versatility.

Simpson's television career soared as he anchored sports and hosted "Video Soul" on BET. In 2021, he announced the revival of "Video Soul."

Honored with inductions into the BET Walk of Fame (2004) and the R&B Hall of Fame of Class of 2020, Simpson's legacy is cemented in the annals of entertainment history.

"I'm going to miss doing the show, Donnie's going to miss it, too, but he's got some great things planned," wrote News4 anchor Tony Perkins, who joined "The Donnie Simpson Show" in



An icon, trailblazer, and media legend, Simpson held a commanding presence in Washington, D.C. the 3 p.m. slot six years ago. "We loved doing the responses on social media."

The Unchecked Path: Trump's Victory in Iowa Sparks Concerns Over Accountability

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia

A good parent usually chastises and punishes their child when they've egregiously misbehaved. Jaywalkers get tickets, and murderers have received the death penalty. Generally, no one goes unpunished for breaking the law. Not in the United States. Not unless you are of a particular social and financial status, and the crime, for the most part, isn't

much more than white collar.

But that's not the case with Donald J. Trump. Undoubtedly, Trump is the kid who has never been chastised or punished. And, as a grown-up, and certainly since his false election claim in 2020 and his egging on a deadly riot at the U.S. Capitol, the twice-impeached and four-times indicted former president hasn't seen a scintilla of punishment. One could argue that America, or his parents, have rewarded his unprecedented bad behavior.

Just one day before his

second sexual assault civil trial was to begin, Trump cruised to a landslide victory in the Iowa caucuses, solidifying his front-runner status for the Republican presidential nomination. As several outlets reported, losing one-term presidents rarely mount subsequent successful primary campaigns, much less pull off landslides that demonstrate utter dominance of their party.

Trump transformed the GOP in 2016. By claiming 50% of the vote in the biggest win in caucus history, putting him on course for his third consecutive nomination,

Trump showed that the current GOP is now entirely his party.

President Joe Biden beat Trump in the 2020 general election, 81 million popular votes to 75 million. And while both numbers were stunning, Trump's was more telling, as it demonstrated that 75 million could vote for a man who single-handedly destroyed American Democracy, who championed white supremacy, caged babies, mocked the disabled, and called cowards American troops whom the enemy captured. Not all Trump followers are racist, but there's no doubt that

you must be a racist to be a Trump follower.

Biden's victory over Trump came in part because his slogan, his message, "saving the soul of America," resonated. It was the first time since President Obama's "Yes We Can" that Dems had a message folks could understand and get behind. Mainly a message that the ultimate swing voters, African Americans, could embrace. During the current campaign, when Biden says there's a need to "save Democracy," the message falls flat particularly to African Americans who

have come to a reckoning that Democracy today, like the Confederacy of decades ago, doesn't work for Black people.

So, what are they saving? A system that fosters outright racism from politicians, the emphatic truth that Black Lives really don't matter, and more than 75 million, including a few who were born Black (Ben Carson, Clarence Thomas, Candace Owens, Jason Whitlock, etc.) show the worst of African Americans with their allegiance to slavery and their slave master Trump

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President Biden
Continued from page 1

He noted that this step should benefit community college borrowers, low-income individuals, and those facing challenges in repaying their loans.

Biden further stressed the importance of swift action to provide borrowers with necessary relief, enabling them to move forward and pursue their aspirations without the weight of student loan debt.

"I encourage all borrowers eligible for early debt

cancellation to sign up for the SAVE plan at studentaid.gov. Already, 6.9 million borrowers are enrolled in the plan, and 3.9 million have a \$0 monthly payment," urged Biden, highlighting the existing enrollment numbers and the program's potential impact.

The president's announcement builds upon the administration's broader efforts to tackle the complexities of student loans. He cited accomplishments such as fixing the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, increasing Pell Grants for

families earning less than \$60,000 a year, and holding colleges accountable for leaving students burdened with unaffordable debts.

"In the wake of the Supreme Court's decision on our student debt relief plan, we are continuing to pursue an alternative

path to deliver student debt relief to as many borrowers as possible as quickly as possible," Biden insisted. "I won't back down from using every tool at our disposal to get student loan borrowers the relief they need to reach their dreams."

MLK JR
Continued from page 1

message from members of the Black Caucus.

Bradford revealed a little unknown fact about Dr. King's name. He was born Michael King, Jr., on Jan. 15, 1929. In 1934, his father, a pastor, traveled to Germany where he was inspired by Protestant Reformation leader Martin Luther, Bradford said.

"As a result, King, Sr. changed his own name as well as that of his 5-year-old son," Bradford shared.

To the delight of the audience

at the event, sponsored by Vertex Pharmaceuticals, vocalist Nia Moore-Weathers performed a powerful rendition of the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," a hymn written as poem by National Association for the Advancement of Color People (NAACP) leader James Weldon Johnson in 1900.

Wilson held a 30-minute fireside chat with guest speaker Kwame Anku about Dr. King's life, achievements, and vision, and the importance of building wealth in Black families and communities.

Anku is the founding

managing partner and chief investment officer of Black Star Fund, an early-stage venture capital fund. He got the idea to start the fund on the urging of Roger "Prince" Nelson, the singer, songwriter, multi-music instrumentalist who passed away in 2016.

Anku was named the 2022 Entrepreneur of the Year by Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and was also among 21 distinguished recipients of the prestigious Aspen Ascent Fellowship awarded by the Aspen Institute. He said King's famous 1963 address at the Lincoln Memorial in

Washington, D.C., the "I Have a Dream speech," could have

been more aptly titled "America, It's Time to Look in the Mirror" reflecting its core messages of accountability and denied justice.

"We're telling ourselves how great we are but we're not living up to the promise that we've made to ourselves because that's the bedrock of what we do when he said we have come here today to cash the check," Anku told Wilson. "So, we've come to cash the check because this check guarantees us the riches of freedom and the security of

justice. So now we're not just cashing that check. Now, we are writing those checks."

This year marks the 57th Anniversary of the CLBC. For nearly six decades, the CLBC has been a key advocate for issues such as fair housing and the prevention of homelessness.

Historically, the coalition of Black lawmakers has actively resisted redlining in banking and insurance in California, and fought against apartheid in South Africa, among other issues.

The CLBC plans to continue the legacy of Dr. King by

developing legislation around its current priorities, which include pursuing reparations for eligible Black Californians, criminal justice reform, environmental justice, and helping to ensure greater access to education and enterprise for African Americans. During the 2024 legislative session, the CLBC aspires to secure funding for critical programs and organizations working to enhance the lives of Black Californians.

There are 12 members of the CLBC serving in the California Assembly and Senate.

MAYOR LONDON BREED APPOINTS DANIEL ADAMS AS NEW DIRECTOR OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

San Francisco, CA -- Mayor London N. Breed today announced the appointment of Daniel Adams as the new Director of the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD). Dan has years of leadership experience within MOHCD and has most recently led the City's strategy to acquire hotels and other buildings to provide permanent

supportive housing as part of Mayor Breed's efforts to reduce homelessness in San Francisco.

The Director of MOHCD is responsible for coordination of the City's affordable housing policy; to provide financing for the development, rehabilitation, and purchase of affordable housing in San Francisco; and to strengthen the social, physical, and economic infrastructure

of San Francisco's low-income neighborhoods and communities in need.

"Dan brings significant experience in all aspects of affordable housing development," said Mayor London Breed. "In addition to his strong technical background and leadership skills, Dan has the ability to bring new innovative approaches and ideas to tackling our affordable housing needs. During the

pandemic, he stepped in to lead our work to acquire hundreds of new homes for the formerly homeless. I also want to thank Eric Shaw for his leadership of MOHCD during the COVID-19 pandemic. Under his tenure we were able to deliver on rental assistance and community development needs, while also continuing to break ground on more affordable housing projects."

Dan previously served as the Acting Director of

MOHCD from the summer of 2019 until April 2020 and prior to that he served as the Deputy Director. In addition to his leadership roles at MOHCD, Dan has extensive experience in the private sector as a developer of affordable housing and has spent the last two years helping implement the Mayor's vision for acquiring former hotels and other properties to use as affordable housing.



Daniel Adams



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