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VOLUME 80 - NUMBER 38 • THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2024

Reverend Townsend Funeral set for October 30th

By Lee Hubbard

he Reverend r n o l d Townsend, longtime Western Addition activist, mentor, and community leader, passed away recently at the age of 83.

Tuesday, October 29th, from 4 PM to 8 PM at Duggan's Funeral Service, located Francisco for over 50 years. at 3434 17th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110. The Celebration of Life service will take place on Wednesday, October 30th, at 11 AM at Third Baptist Church, 1399 McAllister Street, San Francisco, CA 94115. A repast will immediately follow at the African American Art & Culture Complex, located at 762 Fulton Street, San Francisco, CA 94115.

"There was a wellness check on Reverend Townsend, and he was found deceased in his apartment," said a saddened Reverend Amos Brown, president of the San Francisco NAACP and senior pastor at my road dog, and he got into good trouble, as John Lewis

in everything he did."

Townsend was a living legend in the Fillmore and across San Francisco. Jovial yet serious, he could be seen walking through Fillmore, at Safeway during the day, and at community meetings late into the night. He was on the Board of Directors A viewing will be held on of the African American Art and Culture Complex and fought for racial justice in San

> Born in Phoenix, Arizona, in 1940, and raised partially in Oklahoma, Townsend moved to Los Angeles with his family when he was six. After playing baseball in college, he was drafted into the Army and stationed in Korea. Following his service, he returned to California and lived between San Francisco and Los Angeles before enrolling at San Francisco State University. A member of the Black Student Union (BSU), Townsend was instrumental in helping lead the students to establish the Black Studies Department Fillmore in the 1960s. at the university.

"He, along with Danny Third Baptist Church. "He was Glover and other activists, were pioneers in pushing San Francisco State to found would say. He put his faith the first Black Studies into action and was consistent Department in the nation,"



Reverend Townsend was a fixture in the community, tirelessly working to make the Fillmore a better place for Black people in San Francisco.

"Arnold Townsend played a key role in that."

Townsend was also heavily involved in the fight against the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency in the Fillmore. He headed WayPac, a watchdog group that monitored the agency's actions after its redevelopment efforts effectively decimated the

He was a fixture in the community, tirelessly working to make the Fillmore a better place for Black people in San Francisco. Two days after his passing, people from across the city gathered at the Sheba

continued Reverend Brown. Lounge on Fillmore Street, one of Townsend's favorite spots, to remember him fondly and toast to his legacy.

> "Arnold was always there for the people of the Fillmore, and he dedicated his life to this community," said San Francisco Mayor London Breed, who visited the lounge to honor Townsend. "This is an incredible loss for our community." Mayor Breed recalled with a wide smile that Townsend baptized her at First Union Baptist Church when she was a child, underscoring how deeply intertwined he was

> > Continued on page 8

Rep. Barbara Lee Discusses Kamala Harris' Plan for Black Men

Edward Henderson | California Black Media

ast week, the Kamala Harris campaign unveiled its Opportunity Agenda for Black Men, a significant initiative aimed at addressing the unique challenges faced by this demographic.

On Oct. 16, California Black Media had the opportunity to speak with Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA-12), a surrogate for the Harris-Walz campaign. Lee provided valuable insights into the agenda and emphasized the critical importance of securing the Black male vote for Harris.

"[Harris] has made it clear that she wants to earn the vote of everyone, including Black men," Lee stated. She highlighted Harris's understanding of the systemic and historical challenges that Black men encounter. "You haven't seen a presidential candidate present such a concrete plan and policy agenda before," she noted.

The agenda was released following a series of podcasts and interviews in which Harris discussed her commitment to addressing issues specifically affecting Black men if elected President. This effort reflects a deeper engagement with the community, informed by discussions Harris hosted during her Economic Opportunity Tour.

The agenda includes five focus areas, derived from insights gained during her interactions with Black men:

Forgivable Loans: Harris plans to provide 1 million fully forgivable loans to Black entrepreneurs and other disadvantaged groups to help them start businesses and foster economic growth.

Education and Job Training: The agenda champions educational and mentorship programs aimed at equipping Black men with the skills needed for well-paying jobs in high-demand industries. It also seeks to create more accessible pathways for Black men to become teachers, thereby increasing representation in education.

Cryptocurrency Regulation: The initiative supports establishing a regulatory framework for cryptocurrency and other digital assets, ensuring



Lee reflected on how Harris's agenda aligns with her longstanding support for Black men, noting that in the 1990s, she established California's first Commission on African American Males to advocate for addressing urgent economic, health, and social challenges.

these assets are protected.

National Health Equity Initiative: Harris aims to launch a National Health Equity Initiative focused on addressing health challenges disproportionately affecting Black men, such as sickle cell disease, diabetes, mental health issues, and prostate cancer.

Marijuana Legalization: The agenda calls for the legalization of recreational marijuana and the creation of opportunities

that Black men who invest in for Black Americans to thrive in this emerging industry.

> The language of the agenda asserts that Black men have often felt unheard in the political process, and it underscores the untapped potential and leadership within the Black male community. "Black men and boys deserve a president who will help remove historic barriers to wealth creation, education, employment, health, and criminal justice reform," it states.

Sun Reporter

RecommendationsFor November 5th General Election

United States President Kamala Harris



United States Vice President Tim Walz

FEDERAL

United States Senator Adam Schiff

United States Congress District 11 Nancy Pelosi

United States Congress 12 District Lateefah Simon

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Sun Reporter



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> **Amelia Ashley-Ward Editor/Publisher**

1945-1997

On Your November Ballot: Prop 3 Aims to Remove Same-Sex Marriage Ban From Calif. Constitution

Edward Henderson | California Black Media

rop 3 would remove the ban same-sex marriage from the California Constitution.

The ban (Prop 8) was added by voters in 2008; however, the United States Supreme Court has blocked the enforcement of the ban since 2013. The amendment would remove current language in the state constitution stating that marriage "is only between a man and a woman" and change it to "the right to marry is a fundamental right."

State Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) and Assemblymember Evan Low (D-Campbell), both members of the Legislative LGBTQ Caucus, introduced the constitutional amendment as a preemptive protection after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned federal abortion protections in 2022. Justice Clarence Thomas, a marriage equality

conservative, said that the court should also reconsider the constitutionality of same-sex marriage, but other conservatives on the bench disagreed.

California is currently the home of the nation's largest LGBTQ+ population.

Supporters of the proposition believe the removal of the language in the state constitution would be guaranteed protection against any future attacks on a freedom that is already recognized by the Supreme Court.

Gov. Gavin Newsom is an outspoken supporter of the proposition. Newsom grabbed national attention in 2004 during his tenure as Mayor of San Francisco when he issued marriage licenses to same sex couples, defying a federal ban on gay marriage.

"Same sex marriage is the law of the land and Prop. 8 has no place in our constitution. It's time that our laws affirm

regardless of who you are or who you love. California stands with the LGBTQ+ community and their right to live freely."

Assemblymember Evan Low, who is part of the team who presented the amendment is on record stating: "California is ready for love, and these protections will protect against any future attempts to restrict marriage rights for same-sex and interracial couples."

Opponents of the proposition argue that Prop 3 is the beginning of a "slippery slope" that could serve as a precedent for other types of non-traditional unions, endangering youth, families and society in general. They also lean on Christian religious text that states marriage is a union between a man and a woman.

Jonathan Keller, President of California Family Council is on record stating: "In a society like ours, you never can count on what people are willing to do for legal and financial



Supporters of the proposition believe the removal of the language in the state constitution would be guaranteed protection against any future attacks on a freedom that is already recognized by the Supreme Court.

and political reasons. And which defined marriage as ACA 3, again, eliminates any of those safeguards, and it opens up Pandora's Box. You could have siblings getting married. You could have nephews and nieces marrying uncles and aunts. You could have, potentially even mothers and fathers marrying each other, or mothers and children, or fathers and children marrying each other."

A "yes" vote supports this constitutional amendment to:

repeal Proposition 8 (2008)

a union between one man and one woman, and declare that a "right to marry is a fundamental right" in the California Constitution.

A "no" vote opposes this constitutional amendment, thus keeping Proposition 8 (2008), which defined marriage as a union between one man and one woman, in the California Constitution. However, there would be no change to who can currently get married under current California law.

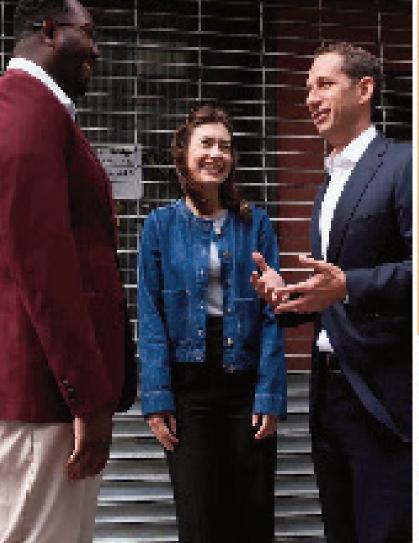


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The facts on five feet

How five feet of space could save your home during a wildfire.

TIPS FOR DEFENSIBLE SPACE

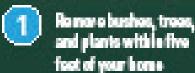
Defensible Space is an area around your home (out 100 feet or to your property line) which is free from flammable material or vegetation.

A 2019 CAL FIRE study found that structures were five times more likely to be destroyed by wildfire if they didn't follow defensible space guidelines.

Additional research shows that the area immediately surrounding the home is the most critical for preventing ignition from embers.*

Here are a few simple steps to create five feet of defensible space around your home:







(2) Clear est plee recelles and debris from your gutters and recf



FIVE REEK

Embers from a wildfire will.

often settle in the five feet around atructures. Removing combustible material is key to reducing ignitions.

Mayo 890 grills, path femiture, and anything combestible from the sides of your home

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"Reducing the Destructiveness of Wildfires Promoting Delenable Space in California, The California Legislature's Non Partis and Places and Policy & dylater, https://bxx.ca.gov/reports/2021/46537delenable-apace-095021.pdf



The Sun-Reporter

EDITORIAL

We wish to plead our own cause. Too long have others spoken for us. Preedom's Gournal. March 16, 1827.

Attacks on People's **Stories are Attacks** on People. Just **Ask a Librarian**

By Ben Jealous

and place in not real or valid. The history of your people is fiction.

That is the message a Houston, Texas suburb is sending to Native American kids. Just three days after Indigenous People's Day, October 17 was the deadline to move the book Colonization and the Wampanoag Story by Linda Coombs to the "Fiction" section in Montgomery County's public libraries. The problem is the book is not fiction.

My white ancestors on my dad's side of the family arrived at the Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts 400 years ago this year. When they arrived, the Wampanoag people had already been there

for 12,000 years.

The Wampanoag were the first tribe the Pilgrims encountered when they arrived on the Mayflower. According to the book's publisher, Colonization and the Wampanoag Story tells, from an Indigenous perspective, "the true story of the Indigenous Nations of the American Northeast, including the Wampanoag nation and others, and their history up to present day."

The book's author is a Wampanoag Tribe historian with 50 years of experience in her field. Colonization has been classified as a work of nonfiction by the Library of Congress and major library systems across Texas. However, back in March, Montgomery County adopted a library materials policy that gives

an unelected, uncredentialed Citizens Review Committee "sole authority" to review any challenges to children's, young adult, and parenting books in public libraries, basing their assessment on undefined "standards and values" of the County.

Virtually anyone can file a complaint about a book. There is not even a requirement for proof of local residency. The Committee then has the power to reassign the book to "a more restrictive portion of the library" or remove it altogether. And its determination cannot be appealed. Librarians can be involved in "an advisory capacity" at the discretion of the committee chairperson.

Terese Kenny, who owns Village Books in Montgomery County, told Lonestar Live in March, "A tsunami

of complaints from one individual outside of our state or even our country could deplete the parenting, children's and young adult shelves of books based on one person's biases alone."

American Library Association (ALA) president Cindy Hohl is a member of Santee Sioux Nation. She is the ALA's second Indigenous president and a former head of the American Indian Library Association. She notes that Indigenous Americans the first Americans - are still here by the millions and she laments the message this reclassification sends to Native kids.

Hohl told me, "This action by the citizen committee tells Indigenous kids that their ancestors are merely fictional characters, not actual human beings, and that their people's experiences and history are simply false, or even fantasy."

The harmful reclassification of books is an extension of the recent wave of book bans and other authoritarian attacks on the freedom to learn across the country. PEN America has tracked close to 10,000 book bans from July 2021 through the end of the 2023 school year. Among the banned books, 37 percent "had characters of color or themes of race and racism. 36 percent had LGBTQ+ characters or themes." According to PEN's count, the bans have happened in 41 states and at least 247 school districts. In addition to burying Black, Indigenous, and LGBTQ+ perspectives and history, the censorship brigade



Ben Jealous

is also targeting texts that tell the truth about climate change. Even children's classics, like Where the Wild Things Are and The Lorax, are not safe.

Last year, Illinois became the first state in the nation to ban book banning. Maryland and Minnesota have since followed suit. More states should. And they should also include protections against the kind of book reclassification happening now in Texas.

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias, who initiated the bill in his state, said, "What this law does is it says, let's trust our experience and education of our librarians to decide what books should be in circulation."

On that point, the ALA's Hohl was crystal clear:

"We as Library and Information professionals are credentialed to do this work. We went to school and earned the Masters of Library and Information Science degree. And we should be trusted to do the work in our communities."

She says we are seeing a consequence of not allowing librarians to do the job for which they were trained. "It

brings harm to a child to hear that no longer is the history of their people deemed valid."

Hohl also stressed the pride librarians take in helping their communities rise above the misinformation and disinformation spreading across America. "We are often quiet people but we stand up for justice and serve on the frontlines of democracy each and every day. Every day a library is open should be an opportunity for an American to access accurate information and we are the protectors of that access."

"Libraries are supposed to be safe spaces for everyone," Hohl says. "Strong communities have strong libraries, and it should be clear that all are welcome, that everyone belongs in a library."

Attacks on books like the Colonization and the Wampanoag Story send the opposite message. Marginalized groups should find safe haven in public libraries. But how can they if libraries become one more place where their stories, perspectives, and histories are erased and invalidated?

BY JULIANNE MALVEAUX

love election season! I love the act of voting. I've been loving it since I was seven, when my mom let me pull the lever on her vote for John F. Kennedy in 1960. The voting site was just a block from our house, in a neighbor's garage, where three voting booths were set up along with a coffee urn and some cookies on a paper plate. The thick Slavic woman checked Mom off without asking for ID—everyone in the neighborhood knew each other. "Help yourself to coffee, Marie," the lady said to Mom. "Little girl, you may have a cookie, and there's some juice over there." There was, indeed, a pretty pitcher of orange juice next to the plate of cookies. Mom poured herself a cup of coffee, took a sip, then told the lady in charge that she had to run to work and

On the short walk to the polling place, Mom told me about Black people in

get this one (me) to school.

Mississippi, where she was that day. I remember Mom's from, and how we fought for the right to vote. She spoke of Medgar Evers and Fannie Lou Hamer and told me to "remember those names." She said I should never miss the opportunity to vote, "no matter what." Then we stepped into the curtained "booth," and she said, "Who are we voting for?" and I said, "Kennedy." She said, "Show me," and I pointed to JFK's name on the ballot. She let me punch the card, then she did the other punches for state and local races. Then I got to push the lever that would allow our votes to be counted.

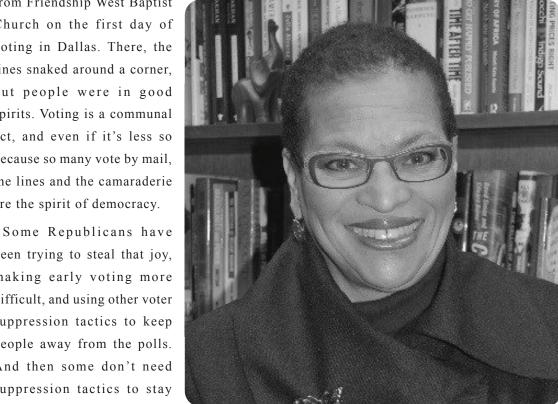
On the walk home, I peppered her with questions: "Who are those other people you voted for? Why is voting so important? Why were people killed just because they wanted to vote?" "Remember your questions," she said, "and we can talk this evening. But remember this, more than anything else: voting is a sacred duty." More than sixty years later, I still remember

intensity about voting. And I remember, that evening, her telling the five of us children about voting. Brother, a year or so younger than me, only partly understood. The twins were four, and they probably didn't fully follow the conversation, but they liked it when we all sat together and talked. From that day until this, I've loved voting. I don't think I've ever missed an opportunity to vote in my life.

I love going to a polling place and enjoying the buzz of activity as people sign in, queue up, and wait for an available voting booth. With technology, the energy is a bit different, as many as 45 percent of us vote by mail. Thanks to COVID, people have changed their voting habits, with mail ballots often far more convenient than going to a polling place. But I miss the buzz, the crush of people, the random conversation one engages in while waiting in line. I saw some of that energy when Roland Martin broadcast

from Friendship West Baptist Church on the first day of voting in Dallas. There, the lines snaked around a corner, but people were in good spirits. Voting is a communal act, and even if it's less so because so many vote by mail, the lines and the camaraderie are the spirit of democracy.

been trying to steal that joy, making early voting more difficult, and using other voter suppression tactics to keep people away from the polls. And then some don't need suppression tactics to stay away. These are the people who've decided that their votes don't matter, even though we know how powerful a single vote can be-not to mention collective votes. Rev. Jesse Jackson used to say, "The hands that picked peaches can pick Presidents." In other words, every single one of us holds power in our hands. If Black voters' turnout was reflective of our population size, we could have elected Stacey Abrams as governor of



Dr. Julianne Malveaux

Georgia. Our collective votes brought us two Democratic senators from Georgia, Rev. Raphael Warnock and activist Jon Ossoff. But some aren't swayed by these facts. preferring to sit out the voting opportunity because they think the system is warped.

I am saddened by those who will not experience the joy of voting. Voting is a joy, a pleasure, a privilege,

and an opportunity that every citizen must avail themselves of. Sure, the system isn't perfect. Indeed, it has inequality at its roots, when only propertied white men could exercise the franchise. Now, we can all vote, but many don't. I will proudly and gleefully cast my vote for Vice President Kamala Harris on November 5. Join the joy. Vote!





Jonah Runs and Is Found Out

Jonah1:7-17 Related Scriptures: 2 Kings 5:15-19; Numbers 26:52-56; Acts 17:24-27 Place: Joppa and the Mediterranean Sea Time: 780 B.C. Golden Text: "Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights" (Jonah 1:17).

Thank God for our studies and, after looking at Daniel, we now

turn to Jonah. Of course, Daniel modeled well how believers should live. However, Jonah's attitude toward the unbelieving world is less exemplary. Yet God loved Jonah as He loved Daniel. Let's examine God's love for the prophet Jonah. We will see how God's love for Jonah led Him to discipline and protect him. This lesson is for all Christians to understand that our sinfulness and disobedience will lead God to discipline us. The principle in this lesson simplifies the reality that God disciplines

us because He loves us as His

to accept any discipline from the Lord as pure evidence of His everlasting love for His own. Most importantly, we should always respond to God's disciplinary love. Jonah's actions resulted in a huge problem (Jonah 1:7-9). If vou're in God's will. He always supplies what He demandsthat is, He picks up the tab and provides what's needed. But when Jonah ran from the will of God, he paid the fare himself (see Jonah 1:3). Running from God's agenda can cost you time, money, health, peace, and joy. But make no mistake: it will cost you (Tony Evans Commentary). These days, we hear much about "Mother Nature" but little about Father God. He's the one who threw a great wind against Jonah. When you're running from God and things get windy, that's not a chance event. If you're a Christian and rebelling against God, He's coming after you. And one of the ways He does this is through circumstances. The negative circumstances in your life may be a storm with your name on it (Jonah 1:4). In Jonah 1:5-6, "the sailors were afraid and threw the ship's cargo into the sea to lighten the load." When Jonah disobeyed God, he not only messed up his own life but also the lives of those around him. If you think your sin only af-

run from God, the same storms we cause hit the people around us. Jonah was in the midst of the storm. You can get so far out of the will of God that you sleep through a storm designed to discipline you. My God! The captain roused him from his slumber and urged him to call on his God so they wouldn't perish. Notice the irony: the pagan sailor was telling the preacher to pray! When Jonah wouldn't respond to discipline, the Lord rebuked him through an unbeliever. The sailors decided to cast lots (a practice like rolling dice) to see who was the cause of their problems. In God's providence, this led them to Jonah. The prophet told them that he was a Hebrew who worshiped the Lord, the God of the heavens, who made the sea and the dry land (Jonah 1:9). When they heard that, they were terrified. It was clear to them that Jonah had made his God, the one who was apparently trying to kill them with the power of His sea, unhappy by fleeing (see Jonah 1:10). Though they attempted to avoid Jonah's counsel at first (Jonah 1:11-13), eventually they gave in and threw him into the sea. As a result, the sea stopped its raging (see Jonah 1:15). The problem that was causing their trouble was spiritual, not merely meteorological or social. And the

lems. Often, solutions must be based on a spiritual perspective. These sailors, who earlier were praying to their false gods (Jonah 1:5), suddenly called out to the Lord, offered a sacrifice to Him, and made vows (Jonah 1:14, 16). Within their actions is a reminder that God is sovereigneven when you are out of His will. Your disobedience doesn't stop His agenda; He will accomplish His purposes. The Lord used Jonah's disobedience to make these sinning sailors pray to Him. So, even in our rebellion, God can accomplish His work. Ultimately, you don't determine what God accomplishes; you only determine where you fit in the plan. Jonah was still unwilling to submit to God. He was willing to choose death instead (Jonah 1:12, 15). But once again, God wouldn't let him escape: the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah (Jonah 1:17). When you're running from a particular aspect of your calling, God will send circumstances, and they will find you. The wind obeyed, the sea obeyed, and the fish obeyed. But there was still a problem with the preacher. When Jonah identified himself as "I am a Hebrew," he was associating himself with the people of the Lord's covenant (see Genesis 14:13). "I fear the Lord"-

fear here indicates an ongoing activity of awe before the Lord, of piety in His presence, of obedience to His word, and of saving faith (Genesis 22:12; Exodus 20:20). Yet Jonah's actions contradicted his words. Many people say they have faith in God but live as if they do not. The God of heaven: The Lord is not merely a local deity worshiped by an obscure people; He is the Supreme Ruler over all people and all creation (see Ezra 1:2; Nehemiah 1:4, 5). But when Jonah was swallowed by a fish, he prayed. Some of us don't get right with God until circumstances are so adverse that they swallow us whole, but God knows what it takes to teach us to repent and pray. As a result, Jonah remembered the Lord (Jonah 2:7). He remembered that salvation belongs to the Lord; therefore, he was ready to fulfill what he had previously vowed (Jonah 2:9). The prophet was ready to fulfill his obligation to speak the words of God. Finally, in Jonah 2:10, "And the Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land." Glory to God! God is a God of another chance. Amen! (Tony Evans Commentary, King James, Jonah 2:1-9).

The Sun Reporter

A News Journal Dedicated To The Cause Of The People

SUN-REPORTER 11/4

Little Zion **Baptist Church**

1245 Divisadero Street San Francisco, CA

Sunday School Morning Worship **Evening Worship**

9:00am 11:am 6:pm

El Bethel Missionary **Baptist Church**

Rev. Keva L. McNeill, **Pastor**

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

Church School Children's Church 10:am Morning Worship

Bible Study 1-2pm & 6:30-7:30pm Praver meeting Wednesday 12:00 Noon

St. Peter's Missionary **Baptist Church**

THE

1601 Newcomb Avenue San Francisco, CA. 94124

Rev. Dr. J.P. Alexander

Church School 9:30 am Mornina Worship 11: qm uesday Usher meeting 7:pm Wednesday Bible Study 7: pm uesday Choir Rehearsal

Praver and Teacher meeting Wednesday 7:30PM

Neighborhood Baptist Church

608 Hayes Street San Francisco, CA

Rev. Lane Hawkins

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

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: qm 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

9:15 Sunday School Morning Worship 10:40: Teacher's Meeting 6: pm Sr Mission Children's Bible Study Childrens. Bible Study Saturday 5: pm 6:45 pm

Food Pantry

10-11 am

Ascension **Baptist Church**

1311 Quesada ave. San Francisco, CA. 94124 (415) 822-9488

> Rev. Anthony Anderson

10:15: Morning Worship

Bible Study Tuesday 6:30 PM Church School Wednesday 7: pm Communion every 1st Sunday

Shekinah Christian **Fellowship**

790 Tennessee St. San Francisco, CA. 94107 (415) 646-0747

Ella Henderson, Bishop & Founder of SCF

Tyrone and Demetra Hillman Pastor Sunday School - 9:am Morning worship - 10:15 am Radio: Sunday 9:30 am KDYA TV: Tuesday and Friday 8:30am KTLN Total Living Network

Ebenezer **Baptist Church**

275 Divisadero Street San Francisco, CA.

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

Mount Calvary Baptist Church

4000 Middlefield Rd. (Cubberly Community CTR) Palo Alto, CA. 94306 (650) 569-6944 Rev Roy Northington

Pastor

Sunday School - 10:am Morning worship - 11:00 am Wednesday
Bible Discussion 7: pm
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Living Word Church of God In Christ

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Rev. Derrick Lomax **Pastor**

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Rev. Townsend Funeral Continued from page 1

with her own life.

"Arnold was a standup man," said Madrid Johnson, an assistant pastor at First Union capacities, and he was always a positive and uplifting figure."

"Arnold was a neighborhood historian," said Ace when Townsend worked Washington. "He needed to put things in a book because

Church and a local business he had a wealth of information owner. "I knew him in different about Fillmore and San Francisco history."

> Washington first met Townsend in the mid-1970s as a radio personality on KPOO 89.5 FM. At the time,

Townsend was also working with Willie Brown, who was then a member of the California State Legislature. Over the years, Townsend collaborated with numerous San Francisco nonprofits and, before his death, was serving

San Francisco NAACP. "He did a lot politically and

as the assistant president of the

socially, securing housing, jobs, and civic involvement for Black San Franciscans," said Howard Smith, a Fillmore community activist. "Arnold was like an uncle, a mentor, and a pillar of the community. He was one of the key figures who went to Washington, D.C., to secure funding for the Ella Hill Hutch Community Center. He will be hard to replace."

California Increases Wages for Health Care Workers

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

wages for some of the lowestpaid healthcare workers in the state.

of California, Berkeley Labor Center, the new minimumwage increase to \$25 an hour over the next decade will affect approximately 460,00 workers in the health care industry. Under the new law, which took effect Oct. 16, professionals working at

facilities will earn a minimum of \$18 an hour immediately. Hospitals with at least 10,000 employees will now have a minimum wage floor of at least \$23 an hour.

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed the law last year, and the wage increase was supposed

According to the University rural independent healthcare to take effect on June 1, 2024. However, the state budget deficit of nearly \$46 billion at the time caused a delay in implementing the pay increase for some months.

> John Logan, professor of Labor and Employment at San Francisco State University, said that the wage increase will

help the health care industry retain and recruit workers in an interview with ABC News.

"It's a way of providing something approaching a living wage for hundreds of thousands of workers that didn't have it before," said Logan.

The minimum wage for

most workers in California is \$16 and voters will decide in November to increase the rate to \$18 an hour by 2026. Increasing the wage would make the rate the highest statewide minimum

wage in the country.

Black and Latino Men Lag in Developmental Education, Study Reveals

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

atino men have the lowest educational attainment in the state, according to a report on developmental education reform by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC). Recent state data shows that only 13% of Latino and 16% of Black men between the ages of 22 and 27 have at least a bachelor's degree, according to the report.

The level of educational attainment of Black and Latino women is nearly double that of their male counterparts.

When it comes to college enrollment and completion, "persistence may be the biggest challenge for Latino and Black men," with more than half of them leaving college without a degree or transferring.

The State Legislature implemented Assembly Bill 705, a law that mandated reforms in developmental education. The reforms allowed historically underrepresented students such as Black and Latino Men to use community

colleges as a primary gateway to higher education. The data also revealed that Black and Latino men lag in educational attainment compared to White and Asian students.

"The implications of the growing racial gap in bachelor's degree attainment are significant, considering that a growing share of California's future labor force will come from these groups," the report stated regarding the future contributions of Black and Latino men.

In California, community colleges are the primary access point to higher education for

Black and Latino students. Most underrepresented students transfer to a fouryear institution to attain a bachelor's degree. However, state data shows that transfer rates remain low among Black and Latino male students, and few students succeed in their goal to transfer and pursue a bachelor's degree.

Despite the low college graduation rates among Black and Latino students, AB705 has helped reform developmental education. The study recommended that institutions of higher learning create and implement



Recent state data shows that only 13% of Latino and 16% of Black men between the ages of 22 and 27 have at least a bachelor's degree, according to the report.

initiatives that help connect resources that cultivate a students to academic and broader sense of belonging student services, including for men of color.

OVER 60,000 PUBLIC SERVANTS FOR STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS

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

he Biden-Harris Administration a p p r o v e d roughly \$4.5 billion in student loan forgiveness for over 60,000 public service workers nationwide, a significant expansion of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program. The action brings the administration's total loan forgiveness to over \$175 billion for more than 4.8 million Americans, with \$74 billion explicitly benefiting public servants through PSLF, reaching over one million individuals, including teachers, nurses, social workers, and veterans.

The improvements to PSLF come despite continued opposition from MAGA Republicans and setbacks from the U.S. Supreme Court. "Higher education should be a pathway to economic opportunity—not a lifetime of debt," Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic

presidential nominee, said. "When President Biden and I took office, only 7,000 people had ever been approved for Public Service Loan Forgiveness. Today, I am proud to say that a record one million teachers, nurses, first responders, social workers, and other public service workers have received student debt cancellation."

Before the Biden-Harris Administration, the PSLF Program, which forgives the remaining student loan balance for borrowers who make 120 qualifying monthly payments while working in public service, had significant problems. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona pointed out that "countless public servants were trapped making payments on debts that should have been forgiven before the administration's reforms." Since implementing a limited waiver and regulatory changes, the administration has allowed borrowers to manage their PSLF applications and track progress entirely on studentaid.gov.

The latest data on PSLF

discharges and approvals reveal that borrowers in every state have benefited from substantial student loan forgiveness under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program and its recent expansions. In Florida, 55,330 borrowers saw \$4.65 billion in student loan debt canceled, making it one of the largest states for forgiveness.

 $O\;h\;i\;o\;,\quad w\;i\;t\;h\quad 4\;4\;,\;2\;4\;0$ borrowers, received relief totaling over \$3.08 billion, and Pennsylvania's 44,150 borrowers benefited from \$3.15 billion in debt cancellation. Michigan also saw significant relief, with \$2.5 billion forgiven for 35,400 borrowers, supporting a wide range of public servants across the state.

Georgia, with over 41,610 borrowers, received \$3.79 billion in relief, while Wisconsin reported 18,980 borrowers freed from \$1.17 billion in debt. In Nevada, more than 5,740 public servants benefited, with \$432.4 million forgiven. Public service workers in these states, ranging from educators to first responders, are among the one million Americans whose loans have been forgiven since October 2021 through PSLF, TEPSLF, and the limited waiver.

In the District of Columbia, over 5,500 borrowers received forgiveness, amounting to \$510.5 million. Maryland and Virginia saw relief for over 60,000 borrowers, with balances totaling nearly \$4.75 billion between the two states. Harris noted that the administration's push for PSLF goes beyond numbers, as it offers genuine relief to public servants who have dedicated their careers to helping their communities.

"As I travel our nation, I meet many of these public servants who say they now have more money in their pocket to put towards buying a home, renting an apartment, getting a car, starting a family, and saving up for the future," she said.

The Biden-Harris Administration has also tackled student debt through broader initiatives. Over \$56.5 billion has been

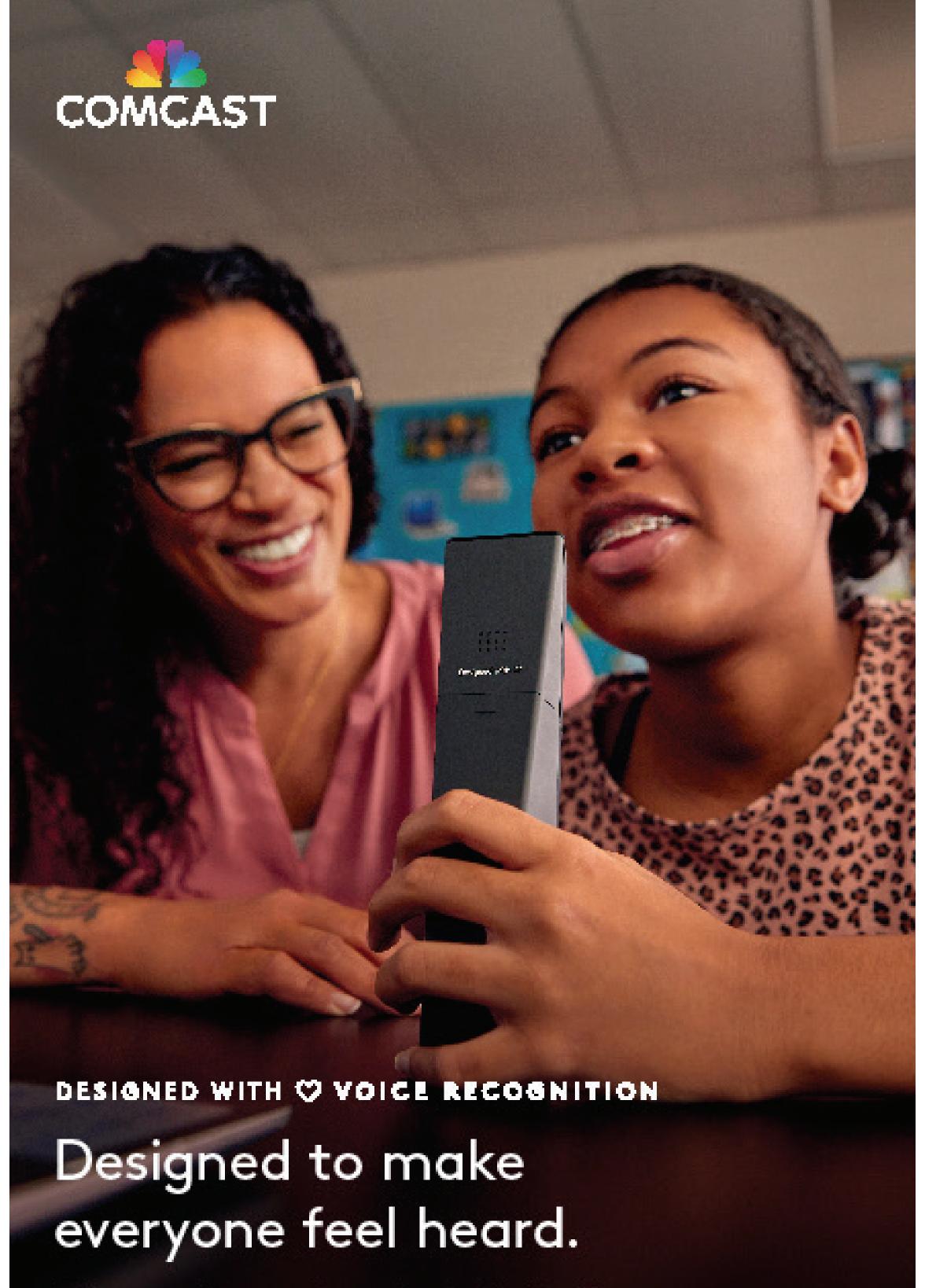


The Biden-Harris Administration has also tackled student debt through broader initiatives. Over \$56.5 billion has been approved under income-driven repayment plans, with adjustments helping borrowers move closer to forgiveness.

approved under incomedriven repayment plans, with adjustments helping borrowers move closer to forgiveness. The affected borrowers of an additional \$28.7 billion received relief, while those with total and permanent disabilities received \$16.2 billion. The administration has also taken steps to protect future borrowers from excessive debt, such as securing a \$900 increase to the Pell Grant—the largest in a decade—and finalizing rules to prevent institutions

from burdening students with unaffordable debt.

"While Republican elected officials do everything in their power to block millions of their own constituents from receiving this muchneeded economic relief, I will continue our work to lower costs, make higher education more affordable, and relieve the burden of student debt," Harris stated. "I am fully committed to doing what is necessary to build an economy that works for every American."

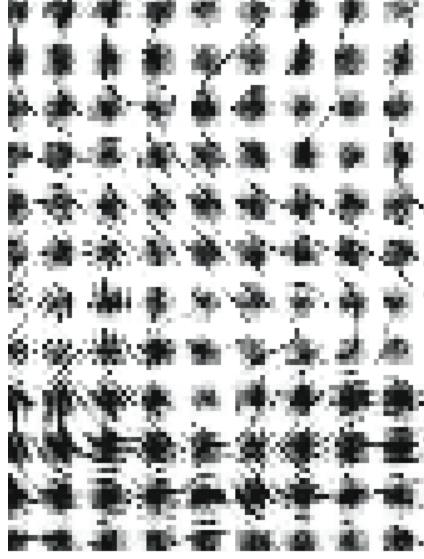


Leslie grew up around many types of voices in Puerto Rico. When she and her team engineered voice recognition technology, she was inspired to include different accents, ages, and abilities. Now, this technology processes over 50 million voice commands every day.

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



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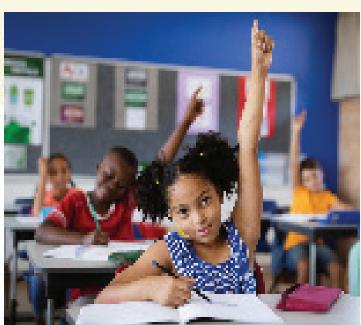












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