

Sun-Reporter



A NEWS JOURNAL DEDICATED TO THE CAUSE OF THE PEOPLE 77 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE ENTIRE BAY AREA

(USPS 526-500)

VOLUME 80 - NUMBER 47 • THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025

.30¢
BEST BUY IN THE WEST

“We Mean Business”: Reparations Supporters Return to State Capitol for Day of Advocacy

Bo Tefu | California Black Media

More than 100 advocates gathered at the California State Capitol on Jan. 7 for the first-ever Reparations Education and Advocacy Day (R.E.A.D.), organized by the Coalition for A Just and Equitable California (CJEC).

The event marked a return for activists who had protested in August after two key reparations bills were denied a floor vote. Attorney Kamilah Moore, former chair of California’s Reparations Task Force, emphasized the determination of the movement, stating, “We are not taking no for an answer.”

CJEC continues to push for reparations despite legislative setbacks. The group has been meeting privately after Senate Bills 1403 and 1330—both introduced by former Sen. Steven Bradford—stalled in the



Chris Lodgson, an organizer for CJEC, addresses supporters in front of the California State Capitol, reaffirming their commitment to pursuing reparative justice.

Assembly. SB 1403 aimed to create the California American Freedmen Affairs Agency to oversee reparations eligibility, while SB 1330 sought to establish a reparations fund in the State Treasury. Advocates have since lobbied nearly every state senator and assemblymember, pressing for the bills’ reintroduction under

new legislative leadership.

The debate over reparations remains centered on eligibility criteria. CJEC and its allies support lineage-based reparations, limiting compensation to Black Californians who can trace their ancestry to enslaved or free Black people in the U.S.

Conscious Reflection: Black Caucus Observes MLK Day Amid California Firestorms

Antonio Ray Harvey | California Black Media

Amid the damage and despair caused by firestorms in the Los Angeles area, the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) held its annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast in Sacramento on his birthday, Jan. 15.

All 12 members of the CLBC attended the event, including six Black lawmakers from the Los Angeles region who expressed their deep concerns about constituents displaced or impacted by the fires.

Vice-chair of the CLBC Assemblymember Issac Bryan (D-Ladera Heights) shared with the diverse crowd attending the breakfast that he and Chair, Sen. Akilah Weber-Pierson (D-La Mesa), received numerous messages inquiring whether the event would be



Pictured at the CLBC's MLK Breakfast, left to right: Assemblymember Mia Bonta (D-Alameda), California State Controller Malia Cohen, Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Los Angeles), and Assemblymember Tina McKinnor (D-Inglewood).

called off because of the fires. Bryan said it was important to move forward with the celebration considering the disaster’s aftermath and the transfer of presidential transition happening in Washington on Jan. 20.

“Hell no, we are not canceling the breakfast,” Bryan said he told callers. “We need to think about the legacy and impact of Martin Luther King, Jr., more than ever. In fact, he would be ashamed if we canceled

Continued on page 7

Gov. Newsom, Legislature Reach \$50 Million Deal to Counter Trump-Era Policies

Bo Tefu | California Black Media

California Democrats, led by Gov. Gavin Newsom and legislative leaders, have reached a \$50 million agreement to counter the impact of potential federal policies from the incoming Trump administration, including mass deportations. The deal, announced before President Trump’s inauguration, aims to protect immigrants and strengthen legal defenses against the White House.

Half of the funding, \$25 million, will be allocated to the state Department of Justice to litigate against federal actions. The remaining \$25 million will fund legal nonprofits and immigration support centers to defend immigrants against deportation, detention, and wage theft. Senate Budget Chair Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) praised the initiative, calling it a



Fifty percent of the funding, totaling \$25 million, will go to the state Department of Justice for litigation against federal actions. The other \$25 million will support legal nonprofits and immigration aid centers in defending immigrants from deportation, detention, and wage theft.

necessary step to counter “Trump’s extremist agenda.”

Republicans have criticized the move, accusing Democratic leaders of prioritizing partisan issues over addressing devastating wildfires in Southern California. Assembly Minority Leader James Gallagher called the fund a “slush fund” for government lawyers and

expressed concern about the state’s focus during a crisis.

The funding proposal is part of a larger special session package, with floor votes expected this week. Newsom, while addressing criticism, has remained active in wildfire recovery efforts in Los Angeles and hinted

Continued on page 7

Fund Launched to Aid “Cherished” Black Communities Impacted by Fires

Edward Henderson and Charlene Muhammad | California Black Media

The California Black Freedom Fund (CBFF) and California Community Foundation have partnered to launch the Black LA Relief & Recovery Fund to support community organizations on the ground working to meet the immediate and long-term needs of Black communities displaced by the wildfires.

The fund will particularly benefit residents of Altadena, an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County that has historically been a haven for Black homeowners who could not at one point buy homes elsewhere because of redlining.

“Over the last few days, we have gained a better sense of how expansive the devastation was, and we decided we needed to take action,” Marc Philpart, CEO of CBFF told California Black Media. “Black families that had settled in that region



Marc Philpart, Executive Director of the California Black Freedom Fund, emphasized that every legislator and the Governor of California should support the coalition’s efforts.

really did so because those were the only regions that they could settle in, so we wanted to be a part of helping those individuals who were impacted find some relief and begin to start the long road to recovery,” he continued.

The recent fires in Los Angeles County have claimed 25 lives, burned over 40,000 acres of land, forced more than 150,000 people to evacuate

and caused nearly \$275 billion in damages.

In Altadena alone, where 18% of the population identifies as Black and where Black homeownership is nearly double the national average, the Eaton Fire, named after the canyon where it started, destroyed 9,300 structures, killed at least 17 residents and

Continued on page 7

Sun Reporter



(ISSN 0890-0930)

Dedicated to the cause of the people-- that no good cause shall lack a champion and evil shall not thrive unopposed.

Published weekly by Sun-Reporter Publishing Co. 1286 Fillmore Street San Francisco, CA. 94115 Periodicals Postage Paid At San Francisco, California

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to - Sun-Reporter Publishing Co. 1286 Fillmore Street San Francisco, CA. 94115 Phone: (415) 671-1000 Fax: (415) 671-1005

E-Mail address:

SunReporter@SBCglobal.net Website:

www.TheSunReporter.com

Subscription Rates:

\$20 per year; 30 cents per copy. Member of National Newspaper Publishers Association, Inc., and California Publishers Association. Sun-Reporter has a six-column format, 1.895" per column with .125" between each column.

Carlton B. Goodlett, PH.D., MD., Editor/Publisher 1945-1997

Amelia Ashley-Ward Editor/Publisher

New Research Shows African Americans Face Sharply Higher Dementia Risks

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

A new study reveals that Americans over the age of 55 have a 42 percent chance of developing dementia, a figure more than double that reported in previous research.

The significant increase in estimated risk means that roughly 514,000 Americans could develop dementia this year alone, with projections rising to approximately 1 million new cases annually by 2060.

Dementia, characterized by progressive declines in memory, concentration, and judgment, is becoming more prevalent due to the

aging U.S. population, the study concluded. Factors such as genetics, high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, poor diet, lack of exercise, and mental health challenges also contribute to the rising dementia rates.

According to the study, earlier underestimations of dementia risk were likely due to unreliable recording in health records and death certificates, insufficient monitoring of early-stage cases, and underreporting of cases among racial minorities, who are especially vulnerable.

Conducted by a team from NYU Langone Health with contributions from Johns Hopkins University and other institutions, the research utilized data from

the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Neurocognitive Study (ARIC-NCS). Since 1987, this study has monitored the vascular health and cognitive function of nearly 16,000 participants, making it the longest-followed cohort of African Americans studying cognition and heart health.

The study, published in Nature Medicine, indicates that women and Black adults, along with individuals carrying the APOE4 gene variant, face higher risks of developing dementia, with lifetime risks ranging from 45 percent to 60 percent in these groups.

Dr. Josef Coresh, the study's senior investigator from NYU Langone, noted the expected increase in dementia cases due to longer life expectancies



The significant increase in estimated risk means that roughly 514,000 Americans could develop dementia this year alone, with projections rising to approximately 1 million new cases annually by 2060.

and the high number of support for hearing aids to Americans now over age 65. promote healthy hearing.

He underlined the importance of early intervention strategies that target heart health to potentially slow cognitive decline and reduce the onset of dementia.

The study also links hearing loss among older adults to increased dementia risk, recommending enhanced testing and government

“The pending population boom in dementia cases poses significant challenges for health policymakers, who must refocus their efforts on strategies to minimize the severity of dementia cases, as well as plans to provide more healthcare services for those with dementia,” Dr. Coresh stated.



Struggling with rising costs?

We have assistance programs to help.

Learn more at pge.com/billingresources



A TIME FOR UNITY, NOT BLAME

Jay King | *Special to California Black Media Partners*

In the wake of the unprecedented fires that have ravaged Southern California -- devastating cities like Pasadena, Altadena, Pacific Palisades, and Malibu -- there has been an alarming rise in the blame being placed on Mayor Karen Bass.

This is not only unfair, but it reflects a troubling shift in our national psyche. The reality is that no one, not even the most seasoned leader, could have prevented this once-in-a-lifetime catastrophe. Fires of this scale are the result of a perfect storm of conditions -- extreme weather, dry landscapes, and unpredictable winds -- that even the best-

equipped fire departments can only do so much to contain.

Yet, in these trying times, rather than supporting our leaders and rallying around our communities, some have chosen to point fingers. Why? Because, sadly, it's easier to assign blame than to step up and make a difference. Our collective instinct should not be to demand the head of our mayor, but to come together and ask the question: How can we help?

This firestorm has left countless families devastated, but it also offers a chance to test the strength of our character. In the face of destruction, we have a choice. We can choose to embrace the America that once prided itself on unity, on coming

together in times of crisis to lift each other up, regardless of political affiliation. Or we can allow partisanship and political divides to further erode the fabric of our society.

What happened to the days when Americans would band together -- Democrats, Republicans, and Independents alike -- to rebuild in the aftermath of disaster? What happened to the America that offered its hand to help a neighbor, not condemn them? We are all part of the same community, bound by a common purpose: to support one another when the worst happens.

Instead of demanding that Mayor Bass take the fall for forces beyond her control, we should be asking how

we can stand with her. We should be saying, "What do you need from us? How can we help rebuild?"

It is easy to be critical when we are sitting in the comfort of our homes, far from the horrific flames and fires. But for those on the ground -- the firefighters, the first responders, the families who have lost everything -- the real question is not who is to blame but how we can rebuild, will we be able to hold on to our property or will we get mortgage and property tax relief, there are so many unanswered and overwhelming questions to answer. The recovery will take time, and it will take a collective effort from all of us: residents, leaders, banks, government,

homebuilders, labor leaders and volunteers too.

Mayor Bass was elected to lead, but leadership in times of crisis isn't about finding a magic solution. It's about coordination, resilience, and community. Blaming her for something that was simply beyond anyone's control is not only unfair, but counterproductive. We need to focus on what we can control: coming together, offering support, and finding ways to help each other recover.

So, let's stop the finger-pointing. Let's stop the partisan bickering that has no place in the midst of a tragedy. Instead, let's unite in the true spirit of community. Reach out to the mayor, reach out to your neighbors, and ask what you

can do. Whether it's offering resources, volunteering, or donating, now is the time to act—not with anger, but with compassion.

When the ashes settle and the flames are extinguished, we can look back at this moment and be proud of the way we responded -- not with blame and division, but with love, unity, and a shared commitment to rebuild a better, stronger, and more connected community.

This is how we rise from disaster, not by tearing each other down, but by lifting each other up.

Let's be the America we all want to see.

Fund Launched to Aid “Cherished” Black Communities Impacted by Fires

Edward Henderson and Charlene Muhammad | *California Black Media*

The California Black Freedom Fund (CBFF) and California Community Foundation have partnered to launch the Black LA Relief & Recovery Fund to support

community organizations on the ground working to meet the immediate and long-term needs of Black communities displaced by the wildfires.

The fund will particularly benefit residents of Altadena, an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County that has historically been a haven for

Black homeowners who could not at one point buy homes elsewhere because of redlining.

“Over the last few days, we have gained a better sense of how expansive the devastation was, and we decided we needed to take action,” Marc Philpart, CEO of CBFF told California Black Media.

“Black families that had settled in that region really did so because those were the only regions that they could settle in, so we wanted to be a part of helping those individuals who were impacted find some relief and begin to start the long road to recovery.”

The recent fires in Los Angeles County have claimed

25 lives, burned over 40,000 acres of land, forced more than 150,000 people to evacuate and caused nearly \$275 billion in damages.

In Altadena alone, where 18% of the population identifies as Black and where Black homeownership is nearly double the national average, the Eaton Fire, named after

the canyon where it started, destroyed 9,300 structures, killed at least 17 residents and displaced thousands.

Historically Black communities in Altadena and Pasadena have been hit particularly hard by this disaster.

TRUMP OUTLINES AMERICA FIRST AGENDA: WHAT IT MEANS FOR BLACK AMERICANS

By Stacy M Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia

President Donald Trump has unveiled his American priorities, which include measures addressing border security, economic policies, government restructuring, and social values. While the policies aim to bolster what the administration calls “American values and safety,” they carry profound implications for Black Americans and other marginalized communities.

Border Security and Immigration

The president plans to reinstate hardline immigration policies, including ending “catch-and-release,” reinstating the “Remain

in Mexico” program and expanding the border wall. The proposed suspension of refugee resettlement could disproportionately affect Black migrants from African and Caribbean nations who seek asylum in the U.S. Increased deportation operations targeting undocumented immigrants, including those with minor infractions, may further contribute to fears of racial profiling and discrimination in Black and immigrant communities.

Additionally, deploying the military, including the National Guard, to the border raises concerns about the militarization of immigration enforcement. The designation of certain cartels as foreign terrorist organizations could lead to broader enforcement measures that risk overreach and collateral harm to

immigrant populations, many of whom are Black.

Economic and Energy Policies

Trump's plan to “Make America Affordable and Energy Dominant Again” centers on reducing costs through expanded energy production and deregulation. While these measures aim to lower living expenses, they could have mixed consequences for Black Americans. Communities of color often bear the brunt of environmental harm caused by deregulated industries and fossil fuel expansion, raising questions about long-term health and environmental justice.

The administration's withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord and rejection of renewable energy investments could also slow progress in creating green

jobs, an industry where Black workers have begun to gain traction.

Government Reform

In his pledge to “Drain the Swamp,” Trump proposes freezing hiring in non-essential areas of the federal workforce, with a specific focus on reducing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives. This could result in fewer opportunities for Black professionals and reduced attention to addressing systemic inequities in federal agencies.

Plans to reduce remote work among federal employees could disproportionately affect Black workers, who often rely on flexible arrangements to manage systemic disparities such as longer commutes and caregiving responsibilities.

Social Policies

Under “Bring Back American Values,” the president has vowed to uphold traditional gender definitions and push back against what he terms “radical gender ideology.” While the policy may resonate with some, critics argue it risks undermining protections for LGBTQ+ individuals, including Black transgender and nonbinary people who already face high levels of discrimination and violence.

Additionally, the administration's promise to rename American landmarks to “appropriately honor” U.S. history raises concerns about erasing the recognition of Black leaders and historical figures in public spaces.

Implications for Black Americans

Trump's America First agenda presents a mix of challenges for Black

communities. Policies targeting immigration, environmental regulations, and government reform could exacerbate existing inequities, while the rollback of DEI programs threatens to stall progress toward racial justice.

As the administration prepares to implement these policies, the impact on Black Americans will depend on how federal and state agencies carry out the president's vision. Critics warn that many of these proposals risk further marginalizing Black communities in an era of increasing social and economic disparities.

“No administration can ignore the lasting impact of its policies on communities already fighting systemic barriers,” a civil rights advocate said.

The Sun-Reporter

EDITORIAL

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

Freedom's Journal, March 16, 1827.

President Trump Will Raise Your Energy Bills

By Ben Jealous

Rate payers beware. Team Trump's eagerness to enrich his fossil fuel industry cronies with his "drill baby drill" (and export baby export) agenda is going to raise energy costs for American households.

Burning fossil fuels is deadly on many levels. The pollution in our air and water from burning coal, oil, and gas kills people. The pollution from extracting fossil fuels from the ground and transporting them kills people. And the climate crisis and its extreme weather events – extreme heat waves, supercharged wildfires and hurricanes – kill people.

Just as our continued reliance on fossil fuels kills people and entire ecosystems, slowing down our transition to clean energy kills jobs. Because of

President Biden's signature legislative achievements, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), and the CHIPS and Science Act we have seen clean energy projects create more than 406,000 new jobs across this country. Hundreds of thousands additional jobs are being created as an indirect result of these new clean energy jobs.

We are reshoring entire supply chains for the products and technologies that will be the foundation of the new global economy. American manufacturing is back. And after losing 65,000 American factories since the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) went into effect 30 years ago, factories are now coming back – this time, building solar panels, wind turbines, electric vehicles, and batteries.

But it is not enough for fossil fuel interests and their allies in the Trump administration to put our lives and livelihoods in jeopardy. They are sprinting to make those factories empty once again, sending American jobs anywhere but America as they kill our pocketbooks with higher energy costs.

Energy from solar and wind power is not only already less expensive and more resilient than energy from fossil fuels, it keeps getting cheaper. So efforts by the Trump administration and its allies in Congress to slow the transition to clean energy are not just anti-climate, they are anti-consumer. When they say they want to come after the IRA or undo "Green New Deal" policies, they are talking about jacking up the cost of lighting and heating your home.

It is all based on the big

lie that increasing fossil fuel production and supply will lower energy costs. That is hardly the case. Especially when we are talking about exporting those fossil fuels. And that brings us to "liquefied natural gas," or LNG.

The US is already the world's leading exporter of LNG. Methane gas is a powerful greenhouse gas – more than 80 times more powerful at warming that carbon dioxide. And the lifecycle of LNG – from fracking and transport to liquefaction and refinement to shipping and burning – is fraught with methane leaks, making it nearly as harmful to the climate as coal. But the LNG market is also volatile, and the oil and gas companies that have such ambitious plans for expanding exports to countries and markets that will pay far more for it than the domestic market rate. That drives up the price of methane gas here at home.

The Department of Energy released a report confirming that unfettered LNG exports would drive up domestic energy prices – further supporting the Biden administration's pause of LNG export projects as the right choice.

But Big Oil and Gas can get rich from the higher prices other countries are willing to pay, so they don't care about household energy burdens here at home. And they are even willing to undermine our national security by supplying LNG to our rivals, like the



Ben Jealous

Chinese government, who can then resell it and leverage their role as an energy supplier elsewhere in the world. All the while, domestic consumers potentially face paying billions more in annual energy costs.

President Trump has made big promises to Big Oil and Gas in exchange for their support of his reelection. At one campaign fundraiser, Trump told oil and gas executives if they collectively contributed \$1 billion to his reelection they would essentially get whatever they want and it would be a "deal" for them. They got the message. In addition to many other high-dollar contributions from the industry, the CEO of the country's largest LNG exporter Cheniere Energy kicked in \$250,000. Cheniere continues to rapidly develop more export capacity at new and existing LNG terminals on the Gulf coast.

LNG is not the only way Trump could increase energy costs for everyday Americans. If his threatened 25% tariffs on Canadian and Mexican

imports happen, prices at the pump could end up rising between 35 and 75 cents a gallon. That is according to GasBuddy's head of petroleum analysis Patrick De Haan, who says the increases might be steepest in the Midwest and Rocky Mountain regions but would likely happen across all regions. And Trump's baffling war on energy efficient home appliances threatens utility bill savings that would benefit millions of households and are especially important to low-income families. Those families spend as much as four times more on energy bills as a portion of their household income.

Trump has talked a big game on bringing down energy prices. But most of his proposed policies – from more oil and gas drilling to his attacks on clean energy and energy efficiency standards – are far more likely to drive the cost for consumers up. Americans need relief from punishingly high energy prices, not to be sacrificed on the altar of fossil fuel industry profits.

JANUARY 20, 2025 – JOY AND PAIN

BY JULIANNE MALVEAUX

What would Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. do to celebrate his 96th birthday?

Would he sit on the sidelines and cheer the incoming president who stands for everything that King was opposed to? Would he be wheeled to a protest to deliver rousing resistant remarks? Would he use the opportunity, the occasion of his holiday, to introduce young and vibrant new leaders? Would he embrace Rev. William Barber and invigorate the Poor People's Campaign? Dr. King is not here to tell us what he would do, but we can guess at his profound dissatisfaction at this moment in history.

We must know that Dr. King would be "no ways tired" because he never was. He was a man of audacity who, in accepting the Nobel Peace Prize spoke of his "audacity"

to believe in justice. In his many speeches, he spoke of issues of distribution, getting to the economic bottom line – who gets what, when, where and why? What would Dr. King do for his birthday. He'd be fighting!

There are those who are about to give up. We have an incoming President who wants to turn the clock backwards. He wants to eliminate DEI, set back progress in education, eliminate public broadcasting, and more. We aren't surprised. He told us what he was going to do through Project 2025, which he now somewhat disavows. No one should be surprised about anything that happens in these next few year. I am not surprised about anything but the ways so many have rolled over with resignation. Civil rights advocates did not roll over for the Bushes (although they were kinder, gentler Republicans that Mr. Trump is). We didn't roll over for Ronald Reagan,

whose racist rhetoric, while repugnant (remember the "welfare mother" with 13 kids), did not prevent him, under pressure, for making Dr. King's birthday a holiday. We didn't roll over the first time the Orange Man had a bite at the presidency apple, and we won't roll over now.

So the road isn't going to be easy, but it never was. Ask Sojourner Truth or Harriet Tubman. Ask Mary McLeod Bethune or Sadie Alexander. Ask Whitney Young or A. Philip Randolph. Take our leaders out of the history books, sit down with them and ask them. Was it easy? And they will tell you that it was not.

So what would Dr King do? What will you do? We keep fighting for equality. For reparation. For criminal justice fairness. We keep talking about the nonsense that the incoming President embraces. We keep showing up at rallies, and we engage

in radical self-care so that we do not burn out. And we build community together, mindfully, purposefully and willingly.

Progressive people and civil rights advocates experienced a devastating blow in November. But we have been down this path before. I think of the days after President Lincoln was assassinated when, in the words of poet and playwright James Weldon Johnson wrote of the days when "hope unborn had died". Our Negro National Anthem, Lift Every Voice and Sing" melodiously walks us through aspects of our struggle. It is our lesson, our blessing, our history, our reminder.

What would Martin Luther King, Jr. do about poverty, inequality, homelessness, unequal education, resistance? What would he be doing in a nation that has still not fully accepted his brilliance? In too many states, the King holiday has been paired with



Dr. Julianne Malveaux

something Confederate, even though we know that the Confederates lost. It is a genuflection to Caucacity that allows some stats, Southern in particular, to attempt to erase the meaning of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He will not be erased; we can't let it happen. Thus, and so, the struggle continues.

There will be King Day

celebrations all over the country, along with a putrid inauguration of a man that King would be repulsed by. But King was among those who embraced the spiritual "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around". WE are climbing a steep hill, and we are climbing. What would Dr. King do this birthday? He would fight!

THE SUN-REPORTER

RELIGIOUS SECTION

THE BAY AREA'S CHURCH NEWS & ACTIVITIES



Sunday School Lesson

By Shunda Criswell

Jesus Restores Peter To Service

Lesson Text: John 21:15-25
Related Scriptures: Jeremiah 23:1-4; Matthew 26:69-75
Place: by Sea of Tiberius
Time: 30 A.D.
Golden Text: "Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, Lovest thou me more than these? He sayeth unto Him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee.

are (a) to reveal how Jesus reinstated Peter after his great fall, and (b) to correct a serious error about the Lord's return. After breakfast, Jesus had a talk with Simon Peter. He asked him, Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these? —that is, "more than these other disciples do?" Why would Jesus ask this? Because when he had predicted that the disciples would fall away, Peter had vowed, "Even if everyone falls away because of you, I will never fall away" (Matthew 26:31-33; Luke 22:33 and John 13:37). Peter had wanted Jesus to

know that though the devotion of the other disciples might waver, he could count on Peter remaining steadfast. He would be the one disciple that Jesus could trust. But here, after Peter had shamefully denied Jesus three times, Jesus basically asked Peter, "Are you still the most committed disciple?" Yes, Lord ... you know that I love you. When Jesus asked Peter if he loved him, the Greek verb used is agapaō, often used to describe self-sacrificial love. But when Peter affirmed his love for Jesus, the Greek verb is phileō, a brotherly kind of love and affection—a love between good friends. Previously, Peter had claimed that his love for and commitment to Jesus was superior to that of the others. But after his failure and denial, he wasn't willing to arrogantly say that he loved Jesus with a sacrificial love. In light of this humble response, Jesus told him, Feed my lambs. In other words, "Since you're not thinking so highly of yourself anymore, I can use you to lead and care for my people. (Tony Evans Commentary, John 21:15). Three times Peter said he did not even know the Lord (John 18:17, 25, 27); now three times he said he loved the Lord (John 21:15-17). No matter how great a person is, he may fall (read 1 Corinthians 10:12). But God's grace and forgiveness will restore the repentant. This provision of grace would be important, for the church would soon face great persecution and even church leaders would

waver in their commitments. Three times Jesus commissioned Peter to care for the flock: Feed My lambs; (v. 15); Take care of My sheep (v. 16); Feed My sheep (v. 17). (The Bible Knowledge Commentary, John 21:15-17). We should love how Scholar Mr. Tony Evans displayed Peter's trio denials. For instance, A second time, Jesus asked, Simon, son of John, do you love me? (using agapaō). Peter responded again, Yes, Lord ... you know that I love you (using phileō). And again, Jesus commanded him to look after his people: Shepherd my sheep (21:16). Then, for a third time, Jesus asked, Simon, son of John, do you love me? This time the verb is phileō. So, seeing Peter humbled, Jesus came down to Peter's level and met him where he was. Peter was grieved. His three denials of his Lord had now been matched by a question from his Lord repeated three times: "Do you love me?" Its broke Peter's heart. All he could do was say, Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you (John 21:17). And since Jesus knew all things, Peter was convinced that Jesus also knew that Peter loved him in spite of his prior failure. Again, Jesus told him, Feed my sheep. Thus, Jesus was restoring his humbled disciple to ministry. Peter's repentance allowed for restoration. Though Peter had previously thought highly of himself, he had come to adopt Jesus's view of leadership in minis-

try. Peter understood that being a leader of God's people is not about arrogantly exercising power. After this restoration, Jesus prophesied about Peter's future: When you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will tie you and carry you where you don't want to go (Read John 21:18). John explains Jesus's mysterious prophecy: He said this to indicate by what kind of death Peter would glorify God. According to tradition passed down in the early church, Peter was martyred in Rome under Emperor Nero for his faith in Jesus Christ: he was crucified upside down. In spite of what was to come, Jesus urged Peter, follow me (read John 21:19). And the New Testament shows that Peter did indeed humbly follow his Lord and devote himself to gospel ministry. Are you prepared to follow Jesus in good times and bad, at whatever the cost? (John 21:18-19). (Tony Evans Commentary). Peter, having been informed about God's plan for his life, naturally wondered what the future held for his friend John, the disciple whom Jesus loved. Jesus sharply rebuked Peter for being curious about God's will for another's life: What is that to you? You must follow Me. Some disciples can be easily distracted by unnecessary questions about God's secret will; as a result, they neglect God's plainly revealed will. God's plans for Christians vary and His reasons are not often made known. Peter was

to commit himself to God's plain commands to him John then corrected a faulty inference made by some believers that John would not die. Interestingly Jesus' last words recorded by John in this Gospel refer to His return. Of course, Jesus gave no indication when He would return. The false rumor about Jesus' words to Peter show the possibility of misunderstanding God's promises. Christians must seek to understand God's Word accurately. (See John 21:20-23). This disciple—the one Jesus loved—is the one who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. The Gospel of the apostle John, then, is based on his eyewitness testimony. And we know that his testimony is true (See John 21:24). But this Gospel contains only a small sample of what Jesus did and taught. There are also many other things that could have been written. If every one of them were written down, I suppose not even the world itself could contain the books that would be written (See John 21:25). The apostle John has only given us a highlight reel! But God providentially determined that what we have in Scripture is enough. You don't need to know everything that Jesus did and spoke. But, John says, you do need to "believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (Read John 20:31). Amen. (Tony Evans Commentary). Be Blessed Saints!!!

SUBSCRIBE

The Sun Reporter

A News Journal Dedicated To The Cause Of The People

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. Keva 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
 Sr. 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.
 San Francisco, CA.
 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

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 KQVA
 TV: Tuesday and Friday 8:30am
 KTLN Total Living Network

Ebenezer Baptist Church

275 Divisadero Street
 San Francisco, CA.

Sunday School 9:15 am
 Morning Worship 10:45: am
 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
 Come and Listen to Rev. Roy Northington, a gifted speaker, as he delivers the most powerful and timely message of our day and age. Prepare to be changed. Expect to be changed

Living Word Church of God In Christ

12 Westlake Ave
 Daly City CA. 94014

Rev. Derrick Lomax
 Pastor

Sunday School - 10:00: am
 Morning worship - 11:30 am
 Wed Bible Class 8:00 pm
 Friday Prayer Service 8:00 pm

Sun Reporter

CLASSIFIED ADS (415-671-1000)

ADOPTIONS

PREGNANT? CONSIDERING ADOPTION? Call us first. Living expenses, housing, medical, and continued support afterwards. Choose adoptive family of your choice. Call 24/7. 1-877-879-4709 (Cal-SCAN)

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Place these house ads sporadically throughout your classified sections to promote the network - Thank you!

DID YOU KNOW 7 IN 10 Americans or 158 million U.S. Adults read content from newspaper media each week? Discover the Power of Newspaper

Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email cecelia@cnpa.com (Cal-SCAN)

DID YOU KNOW 144 million U.S. Adults read a Newspaper print copy each week? Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email cecelia@cnpa.com (Cal-SCAN)

EVERY BUSINESS has a story to tell! Get your message out with California's PRMedia Release - the only Press Release Service operated by the press to

get press! For more info contact Cecelia @ 916-288-6011 or <http://prmediarelease.com/california> (Cal-SCAN)

AUTOS WANTED

DONATE YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR BOAT TO HERITAGE FOR THE BLIND. FREE 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care of. Call 800-731-5042 (Cal-SCAN)

Got an older car, boat or RV? Do the humane thing. Donate it to the Humane Society. Call 1-800-743-1482 (Cal-SCAN)

GET CASH FOR CARS/TRUCKS!!! All Makes/Models 2000-2016! Top \$\$\$ Paid! Any Condition! Used or wrecked. Running or Not. Free Towing! Call For

Offer: 1-888-417-9150. (Cal-SCAN)

AUTOS WANTED/LUXURY KILL AD - DO NOT RUN

WANTED! Old Porsche 356/911/912 for restoration by hobbyist 1948-1973 Only. Any condition, top \$ paid 707 965-9546 (Cal-SCAN)

CABLE/SATELLITE TV

Switch to DIRECTV. Lock in 2-Year Price Guarantee (\$50/month) w/AT&T Wire-

less. Over 145 Channels PLUS Popular Movie Networks for Three Months, No Cost! Call 1-800-385-9017 (Cal-SCAN)

DISH TV - BEST DEAL EVER! Only \$39.99/mo. Plus \$14.99/mo. Internet (where avail.) FREE Streaming. FREE Install (up to 6 rooms.) FREE HD-DVR. Call 1-800-357-0810 (Cal-SCAN)

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS. Unable to work? Denied benefits? We Can Help! WIN or Pay Nothing! Contact Bill Gordon & Associates at 1-800-

966-1904 to start your application today! (Cal-SCAN)

ELIMINATE CELLULITE and Inches in weeks! All natural. Odor free. Works for men or women. Free month supply on select packages. Order now! 844-703-

9774. (Cal-SCAN)

HEALTH / MEDICAL NEW AD - OXYGEN - Anytime. Anywhere. No tanks to refill. No deliveries. The All-New Inogen One G4 is only 2.8 pounds! FAA approved!

FREE info kit: 844-359-3976. (Cal-SCAN)

VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! Cut your drug costs! SAVE \$\$! 50 Pills for \$99.00. FREE Shipping! 100% Guaranteed and Discreet. CALL 1-800-624-9105 (Cal-SCAN)

Stop OVERPAYING for your prescriptions! SAVE! Call our licensed Canadian and International pharmacy, compare prices and get \$25.00 OFF your first prescription! CALL 1-800-273-0209 Promo Code CDC201625. (Cal-SCAN)

Got Knee Pain? Back Pain? Shoulder Pain? Get a pain-relieving brace - little or NO cost to you. Medicare Patients Call Health Hotline Now! 1-800-796-5091 (Cal-SCAN)

HELP WANTED

Sales Representative/California Trade Association located in Sacramento is seeking someone with strong knowledge for Advertising, print, digital and social media solutions, great with detail, an amazing attitude, and a passion for selling content and integrated partnerships. 3-5 years experience a plus.

We offer a competitive base salary, commission and bonus plan, along with great benefit package. Email Resume and Salary History to jobs@cnpa.com. EOE (Cal-SCAN)

Protect your home with fully customizable security and 24/7 monitoring right from your smartphone. Receive up to \$1500 in equipment, free (restrictions apply). Call 1-800-918-4119 (Cal-SCAN)

INSURANCE/HEALTH

Lowest Prices on Health & Dental Insurance. We have the best rates from top companies! Call Now! 888-989-4807. (Cal-SCAN)

NORTHERN AZ WILDERNESS RANCH \$236 MONTH - Quiet & secluded 37 acre off the grid self-sufficiency ranch bordering 640 wooded acres of State Trust

lands at cool clear 6,200' elevation. Minutes from historic pioneer town & fishing lake. True wilderness with free roaming wildlife, no urban noise & dark sky nights. Blend of evergreen woodlands & grassy

meadows with sweeping views across surrounding uninhabited wilderness mountains and valleys. Abundant groundwater, rich loam garden soil & maintained road access. Camping and RV use ok.

\$27,500, \$2,750 dn. with no qualifying seller financing. FREE BROCHURE with additional property descriptions, prices, photos, topo map, weather chart, area info. 1st United Realty 800.966.6690. (Cal-SCAN)

LEGAL SERVICES

Xarelto users have you had complications due to internal bleeding (after January 2012)? If so, you MAY be due financial compensation. If you don't have an attorney, CALL Injuryfone today! 1-800-425-4701. (Cal-SCAN)

PERSONALS-ADULT
Meet singles right now! No paid operators, just real people like you. Browse greetings, exchange mes-

For more information call Cecelia @ (916) 288-6011 or www.capublicnotice.com (Cal-SCAN)

MEDICAL SUPPLIES/EQUIPMENT

Safe Step Walk-In Tub! Alert for Seniors. Bathroom falls can be fatal. Approved by Arthritis Foundation. Therapeutic Jets. Less Than 4 Inch Step-In. Wide Door. Anti-Slip Floors. American Made. Installation Included. Call 800-799-4811 for \$750 Off. (Cal-SCAN)

MISCELLANEOUS

SAWMILLS from only \$4397.00- MAKE & SAVE MONEY with your own bandmill- Cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship! FREE Info/DVD: www.NorwoodSawmills.com 1-800-578-1363 Ext.300N (Cal-SCAN)

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SAL

HOME BREAK-INS take less than 60 SECONDS. Don't wait! Protect your family, your home, your assets NOW for as little as 70¢ a day! Call 855-404-7601(Cal-SCAN)

PERSONALS-ADULT

Meet singles right now! No paid operators, just real people like you. Browse greetings, exchange mes-

sages and connect live. Try it free. Call now: 800-945-3392. (Cal-SCAN)

DID YOU KNOW Information is power and content is King? Do you need timely access to public notices and remain relevant in today's highly competitive market? Gain an edge with California Newspaper Publishers Association new innovative website capublicnotice.com and check out the Smart Search Feature. For more information call Cecelia @ (916) 288-6011 or www.capublicnotice.com (Cal-SCAN)

A PLACE FOR MOM. The nation's largest senior living referral service. Contact our trusted, local experts today! Our service is FREE/no obligation. CALL 1-

800-550-4822. (Cal-SCAN)

TAX SERVICES
Do you owe over \$10,000 to the IRS or State in back taxes? Our firm works to reduce the tax bill or zero it out completely FAST. Call now 855-993-5796 (Cal-SCAN)



We're here during your time of need.

It's one of the most difficult times you'll ever face. Whether sudden or somewhat expected, you are never really prepared to deal with the loss of a loved one. There are so many details to take care of. Where do you begin? Who do you call?

As your local funeral home, we will help you incorporate your heritage into a meaningful "going home" celebration. With compassion, sensitivity and integrity, we will listen, counsel, lighten difficult decisions, and handle the smallest of details as you capture memories and honor the life of your loved one.

And while you may prefer not to think about it, you can take comfort in knowing we are here when you need us most.



FDH FDR 768
DOUGAN WELCH
344 17th Street - San Francisco, CA 94110 - 415 691 4991

Vaughn O. Nixon
Sons, Nephew and Staff
"Our Family Serving Your Family"

St. John Missionary Baptist Church
825 Newhall Street
Reverend Mervin Redmond, Pastor
San Francisco, CA 94124
(415) 826-5639 or 550-9324

Sunday
Sunday School 9:00 AM
Morning Worship 10:25 AM
Children's Ministry 10:25 AM
Nurture for Baptist 6:15 PM
Wednesday
Prayer Services/Bible Study
Midday 11:30 AM
Evening 6:45 PM
Communion - 1st Sunday
For information about other activities
Call (415) 826-5639 or visit us at
www.stjohnsf.org

COSMOPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH SF PRESENTS

Sunday **MORNING GATHERING**

EXPERIENCE

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL | 9:30 AM
MORNING WORSHIP | 11 AM

COSMOPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH SF
199 Farallones St., San Francisco, CA 94112
Reverend Dr. A. Ray Gentle, Senior Pastor

(669) 900-9128 Meeting ID 897 8156 8380 [LIVE facebook.com/CosmopolitanBaptistSF](https://www.facebook.com/CosmopolitanBaptistSF)

Black Community Fires Continued from page 1

displaced thousands. Historically Black communities in Altadena and Pasadena have been hit particularly hard by this disaster. Patrice Marshall McKenzie, a representative of Pasadena Unified School District 5, spoke with California Black Media about the scale of the devastation in the area and needs of displaced families. "I am very fortunate and blessed that my immediate home, is not threatened, but I cannot begin to count the number of people whose homes are," said McKenzie. "It has just been a really, really harrowing week.

We are really working to support families, standing up graphical locations to provide food to families, providing childcare resources to parents who still have to go to work and so being able to support the needs of our students while they're unable to be on campus full time or that they really want to be," she continued. In addition to the destruction of the entire business corridor on Lake Avenue, five public schools have been damaged significantly, and four of them are almost total losses. McKenzie highlighted the need for monetary donations for many of the displaced individuals living in hotels. "Once they're able to be more stabilized in terms of

their temporary housing, then they probably will need things to be able to make sure that their home starts to come together again," she said. For thousands of displaced Black residents like those mentioned by McKenzie, the road to rebuild is just beginning. Historic and systemic inequities add hurdles to the prospect of rebuilding. The Black LA Relief & Recovery Fund seeks to address those critical challenges so Black communities can return, reclaim, and rebuild just like other communities. The days, months, and years ahead will require hope, healing, and our collective resources to recover. "In the wake of these devastating fires, we can't just rebuild. We must ensure

communities heal and flourish for generations to come. This is about more than recovery. It's about restoring the heart and soul of neighborhoods that hold so much history, culture, and promise," said Miguel Santana, President and CEO of the California Community Foundation said in a statement. "Through our partnership with the California Black Freedom Fund, we are committed to addressing the urgent needs of Black communities displaced by the wildfires, especially in the cherished, historically Black neighborhood of Altadena. Thanks to this partnership with the California Black Freedom Fund, we are able to help safeguard a cultural treasure of Southern California,

ensuring the vibrancy of these communities is a legacy passed down to future generations." Money raised by the fund will go to 12 grassroots organizations vetted by CBFF that are on the frontlines of the disaster, giving aid, counseling, housing, food rations, and other services to those most in need in the Pasadena and Altadena area. "We're in a prime position to be able to move quickly to support them," said Philpart. "And many of these organizations have been starved. They haven't had the investment that's necessary for them to be able to do the work that's needed in this critical moment. They're small, they're scrappy and we really rely on that ability to reach unique sets of entities

and platform them as a way to help them get more investment and introduce them to a broader set of folks who wouldn't necessarily know them otherwise." Since 2020, CBFF has distributed over \$40 million dollars to over 142 organizations working on behalf of Black communities. The California Black Freedom Fund works to strengthen and coordinate California's ecosystem of local, regional and state organizations dismantling cultural and systemic anti-Black racism. **For more information or to make a donation to the Black LA Relief & Recovery Fund, please visit <https://www.pledge.to/BlackLA> or text BlackLA to 707070.**

MLK DAY Continued from page 1

this breakfast a week before (Donald) Trump takes office." The event was held at the Elk's Tower three blocks north of the State Capitol under the theme, "Black Power, Progress, and Purpose." Martin Luther King would have turned 96 on the day of the event. It marked the first time that all CLBC members were in the same room since the 2025-2026 legislative session began in December. The CLBC holds the event each year to honor the legacy

of Dr. King and the celebrate the Caucus' commitment to service in Black communities across the state. Speakers included California Secretary of State Shirley Weber and Attorney General Rob Bonta. Black California constitutional officers -- State Controller Malia Cohen and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond -- also attended the event. "This annual gathering is not only a time for reflections but also a time for renewal (and) a moment to recommit to the values that Dr. King

fought and gave his life for," Weber-Pierson said during her remarks. The keynote speaker was Lurie Daniel-Favors, who serves as Executive Director at the Center for Law and Social Justice (CLSJ) at Medgar Evers College in New York. The CLSJ is a community-based legal organization that specializes in addressing racial injustice. Daniel-Favors reflected on a time in recent history that she the Black community could "explicitly, proactively, and unabashedly" advocate for racial equality. She said that

freedom is now threatened. Conservative ideas like those contained in Project 2025 and anti-DEI activism are now the status quo, Daniel-Favors lamented. She believes that the push back against equity policies is a way to say, "No, we will not absolutely consider what qualifications you have. This position by default is not for you." "The only reason we needed diversity, equity, and inclusion, and Affirmative Action programs as policy is because we needed a way to disrupt the flow of power

which, up until that time, reserved all opportunity access resources to White Americans, regardless of metrics, qualifications and merit," she said. "Now we are in a time and place where the whole world has shifted and the Supreme Court has stepped in and we are returning to what I like to call the 'Jim Crow' era of jurisprudence when it comes to Civil Rights, social justice, and advancing equity for the nation," Daniel-Favors added. The breakfast celebration featured a drum dance performance by David

Bowman and Company, the singing of the Black National Anthem "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" by Olevia Wilson, and additional musical selections by Huie Lovelady and a community choir. **"Many don't realize the fact that the (CLBC) caucus was the first ethnic caucus in the nation. Eventually, other caucuses were formed," Secretary of State Weber reminded the guests. "We are proud of the fact that this caucus has been in existence for over 55 years and has served and served well during the hard times in between."**

Gov. \$50 million deal Continued from page 1

at the possibility of a fire-focused special session. The urgency of the

immigration-related funding stems from Trump's previous pledges to enact mass deportations. Under President Biden,

immigration enforcement actions have intensified in California's Central Valley, adding to the concern. Democrats argue the funding

reflects California's leadership in resisting federal policies they view as harmful. Wiener highlighted the importance of supporting

legal aid services that can effectively assist millions of vulnerable residents. **If approved, the deal positions California as a**

national leader in opposing federal actions and protecting immigrant communities, underscoring its role as a stronghold against Trump administration policies.

Congresswoman Simon Ceremonially Sworn in by Vice President Kamala Harris

By Stacy M Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia

On Jan. 7, 2025, Rep. Lateefah Simon (D-C A - 1 2), who succeeds former Congresswoman Barbara Lee, was sworn into office by former Vice President Kamala Harris in a ceremony held in the Vice President's office in the U.S. Capitol. The event marked a significant

milestone in Simon's career, which has been closely influenced by her decades-long professional relationship and friendship with Harris. Simon was accompanied by her friends and family, as she reflected on the moment's significance. "I am so honored to have my mentor and former boss, Vice President Kamala Harris, administer this oath. She has been instrumental in shaping my public service career and paving the way for women

like me to serve at the highest levels," said Simon. The relationship between Simon and Harris began in the late 1990s, when Simon worked at the Young Women's Freedom Center and Harris was an Assistant District Attorney in San Francisco. Their collaboration deepened in 2005 when then-District Attorney Harris tapped Simon to lead the "Back on Track" program. This initiative, designed to provide alternatives to

incarceration for first-time, nonviolent offenders, gained national recognition and inspired similar programs across the country. **Simon serves a constituency that includes the cities of Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda, Albany, Emeryville, Piedmont, and parts of San Leandro. She has pledged to advocate for social justice, equity, and progressive policies as a member of Congress.**



The relationship between Simon and Harris began in the late 1990s, when Simon worked at the Young Women's Freedom Center and Harris was an Assistant District Attorney in San Francisco. Their collaboration deepened in 2005 when then-District Attorney Harris tapped Simon to lead the "Back on Track" program.

State Schools Chief Tony Thurmond Visits Southern California Campuses Devastated by Wildfires

By Stacy M Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond visited wildfire-affected

school communities in Southern California last week to assess damage, provide support, and secure resources for recovery. He emphasized the California Department of Education's

(CDE) commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of students, educators, and families. "Schools are the heartbeat of any community's ability to recover," Thurmond said,

pledging continued support alongside local leaders. During his visit, Thurmond met with school officials, teachers, and students to address their immediate and long-term needs, highlighting

the importance of mental health services for those affected. He secured funding for temporary classrooms, educational materials, and infrastructure repairs to expedite recovery.

Additionally, the CDE partnered with Airbnb to provide temporary housing for Pasadena Unified staff and teamed up with SupplyBank.org, curriculum providers, and tech manufacturers to replace lost resources.



Stop the price hikes now, not later.



PG&E customer, Craig, Oroville

If you're one of the PG&E customers struggling with higher energy bills, you've got every reason to be upset. Many of you have called us out, and we want you to know we are listening.

Fact is, rates have increased. And we know, because you've told us, that it doesn't help to hear about how much safer and cleaner our energy system is. We get it. You're not running the state; you're running your household. You want to know our plan to fix it. So here goes. One big cost is vegetation management. We spend 1.8 billion dollars a year to cut back trees around powerlines, only to have them grow back, forcing us to do it all over again. Burying powerlines, as we've been doing in high fire risk and surrounding areas, is actually cheaper in the long run. Not only can we eliminate tree trimming, but lines underground require less maintenance.

Please understand not a day goes by that we're not tackling the price issue. We're working with customer advocates who scrutinize every dollar we spend, and we'd like to keep hearing directly from you as well. Our goal is to lessen the burden of your PG&E bill without sacrificing your safety, reliability, or peace of mind.

We're keeping our lines of communication open. It's your right to speak out. It's our job to hear you.

pge.com/open-lines

