

### **Chief Bill Scott** Steps Down, Heads South to Build L.A. **Metro Police**

#### By Evan Ward

ill Scott didn't rush. He clocked out smooth, the

way he clocked in.

Eight years running San Francisco's Police Department, and he calls it quits not with controversy, but with numbers, calm, and a clear conscience.

"You don't do a job like this for eight years unless you believe in something," Scott said Wednesday, standing next to Mayor Daniel Lurie on the steps of City Hall. "It's been the honor of my life."

He wasn't just spinning it. Crime's down nearly 30%, and this year's homicide rate is the lowest in San Francisco since the Beatles hit the charts. Under Scott's watch, the department pulled itself out of state oversight after a years-long reform process.

Now, he's headed back to Los Angeles, where he spent 27 years as a cop before getting tapped by then-Mayor Ed Lee in 2017 to lead SFPD. But he's not going back to retire. He's been named the firstever chief of the new L.A. Metro Police Departmentan agency being built from scratch to patrol trains, buses, and the infrastructure ahead of the 2026 World Cup and 2028 Olympics.

"This is about building something new," Metro officials said in their announcement. Scott's job: create a department from the ground up and steer it through global events.

At the San Francisco press conference, Lurie praised Scott as a "friend" and credited him with using modern tech to fight crime in a city facing



**Chief Bill Scott** 

a serious officer shortage. Scott agreed to stick around for the next six weeks to help with the transition.

No drama, no scandal, no torch-and-pitchfork exit. Bill Scott's heading back to L.A., but he leaves behind a leaner department, a safer city, and a legacy built on calm under fire.

The next chief hasn't been named, but they'll have big shoes to filland a bar set high.

'Love Must Be Louder Than Hate': NAACP Raises Over \$340K for **Black Child Targeted in Racist Verbal Attack** 

By Stacy M. Brown **Black Press USA Senior** National Correspondent

utrage has turned to action in **Rochester after** a white woman launched a racist verbal assault on a 5-year-old Black child at a public park—an incident that has sparked national condemnation, a surge of community support, and a flood of donations aimed at helping the young victim heal.

The Rochester Branch of the NAACP said the incident, which occurred on April 30, was a deliberate and threatening act of racial hate not a misunderstanding or isolated outburst. According to the organization, the child, targeted with repeated it was an intentional racist,



The Rochester Branch of the NAACP said the incident, which occurred on April 30, was a deliberate and threatening act of racial hate-not a misunderstanding or isolated outburst

n-word. The woman did not verbal attack against a child, express remorse and doubled down when confronted by the Rochester Branch of the who is also reportedly on a bystander. "This was not NAACP said in a statement. the autism spectrum, was simply offensive behavior-

racial slurs, including the threatening, hateful, and and it must be treated as such,"

Continued on page 4

**At Home in San Francisco:** 

### **PROPOSALS FOR NEW 100% AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN EAST CUT NEIGHBORHOOD**

**AN FRANCISCO** Mayor Lurie today announced a new request for proposals (RFP) to develop 100 percent affordable housing on Transbay Block 4 West in the growing East Cut neighborhood in downtown San Francisco.

Issued by the Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure (OCII), the RFP seeks proposals to develop, own, and operate approximately 300 units of mixed-use affordable rental housing for low-income families, low-income seniors, and households who have experienced homelessness. The project will also include one ground-floor communityserving commercial space.

Mayor Lurie has taken bold steps to make San Francisco more affordable for future generations while fostering a 24/7 downtown, including his



Project Will Create 300 Homes for Low-Income Seniors and Formerly Homeless Families

Family Zoning proposal and two ordinances to facilitate conversions of empty offices into much-needed homes. He also cosponsored legislation with District 6 Supervisor Matt Dorsey that unanimously passed the Board of Supervisors, unlocking potential for more housing in the East Cut and

SOMA neighborhoods.

"Our administration is working every day to ensure that the next generation of San Franciscans can afford to raise their kids here, but we must also keep doing everything we can to support our residents

Continued on page 2

### **Harris's First Major Speech Since Election Loss Was Rousing Call-to-Action**

By Edward Henderson, California Black Media

ormer Vice-President Kamala Harris delivered her first extensive public remarks since her defeat in the 2024 **Presidential Election.** 

To cheers and a standing ovation. Harris spoke at the 20th Anniversary Gala of Emerge, an organization that recruits and trains Democratic women to run for office. The event was held in San Francisco on April 30.

"Right now, we are living in their vision for America," said Harris, who some California capital insiders believe will soon announce her candidacy for governor.

"This is not a vision that Americans want. We are living in a moment when the checks and balances upon which we have historically relied have begun to buckle," continued Harris. "And we here know that when the checks and

balances ultimately collapse, if Congress fails to do its part, or if the courts fail to do their part, or if both do their part, but the president defies them anyway, well, friends, that is called a constitutional crisis. And that is a crisis that will eventually impact everyone."

In her speech, Harris praised Emerge for its work and impact around the United States. Since it was founded in 2002, the organization — founded in California — has trained over 6,500 Democratic women to run for office and more than 1,200 alums of the program serve in government today at different levels.

of Emerge has more than 200 women serving and an extensive list of alumnae preparing to run in upcoming elections across the state.

"I am not here tonight to offer all the answers, but I am here to say this," Harris continued. "You are not alone, and we are all in this together. And straight talk, things are



Kamala Harris

probably going to get worse before they get better. But we are ready for it. We are not going to scatter. We are going The California division to stand together, everyone a leader, and emerge. You have a special role to play. Organizing is as important as ever. Mobilizing is as important as ever. Running for office is as important as ever. So please, everyone here, please keep doing what you are doing. And to everyone,

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

### **California Now Ranks 4th** Largest Economy in the World

Bo Tefu | California Black Media

alifornia's economy has reached historic milestone, officially becoming the fourth largest in the world.

According to newly released data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), the Golden State's nominal GDP rose to \$4.1 trillion, positioning it just behind the United States, China, and Germany in global economic rankings.

"California isn't just keeping pace with the world, we're setting the pace," Governor Gavin Newsom said. "Our economy is thriving because we invest in people, prioritize

### Kamala Harris Continued from page 1

let's lock it in."

A'shanti F. Gholar, President and CEO of Emerge, says she is committed to developing new training strategies and empowering new candidates to help shift the balance of power in the country and combat some of the damaging policies the Trump Administration is trying to enact.

"California is where Emerge began and one of the many states where we have the power of innovation."

In 2024, California outpaced the world's top three economies in growth, posting a 6% GDP increase compared to the U.S. (5.3%), China (2.6%), and Germany (2.9%). The state's economy has grown steadily over the past four years, averaging 7.5% annual growth. While projections suggest that India may overtake California by 2026, the state remains a dominant force in the global economy.

This news underscores California's role as the economic engine of the United States. Home to Silicon Valley, Hollywood, and the Central Valley's vast agricultural belt, California leads the nation in job creation, venture capital investment, and green technology deployment. From

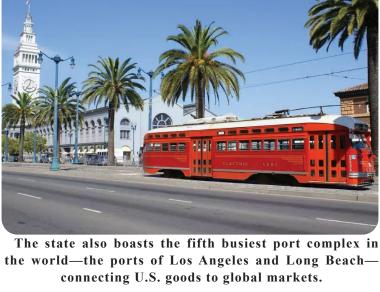
seen extraordinary growth and success," Gholar told California Black Media. "We're fortunate to count a number of inspiring candidates and electeds, among our alums in the Golden State, including U.S. Congresswoman Lateefah Simon, Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis, and Controller Malia Cohen, and look forward to continuing to provide our comprehensive training programs that help women run for office and win." Harris also took time to

sustainability, and believe in clean energy and artificial intelligence to biotech and entertainment, California's diverse industries have positioned it as a bellwether for global innovation and growth.

> The state also boasts the fifth busiest port complex in the world-the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beachconnecting U.S. goods to global markets. Meanwhile, California companies accounted for nearly half of all U.S. venture capital deals in 2023, a clear indicator of investor confidence and entrepreneurial strength.

> Cultural exports remain an underrated economic force. Events like Coachella and Stagecoach alone generate nearly \$700 million annually for local communities, while California's film and television industry

highlight other leaders in Washington who she believes are leading the charge in maintaining the checks and balances politically. She is inspired by Democratic leaders representing points of view across the political spectrum, "including congressional leaders like Cory Booker, Chris Van Hollen, Chris Murphy, Jasmine Crockett, Maxwell Frost, AOC, and Bernie Sanders. All who, in different ways, have been speaking with more this moment so here's one of



contributed over \$70 billion to a post-pandemic to the economy last year. Tourism, higher education, and renewable energy continue to drive regional development and employment. As the world transitions

economy, California's model of inclusive growth, environmental stewardship, and technological leadership offers a glimpse into the future of prosperity.

the other things I wanted emotions about how they to talk about tonight and to highlight so look some people are describing what's been happening in recent months the list of emotions: joyful, as absolute chaos."

Termed out, California Gov. Gavin Newsom is wrapping up his final stint in office.

Harris would be the frontrunner if she decides to run. A recent survey conducted by Politico Center asked "respondents to select from a list of possible

felt about Harris running for governor." Respondents could select multiple options from mostly excited, indifferent, outraged, hopeless, or other.

Among registered Democratic voters, 33% felt A number of pollsters believe joyful over her potential run and 41% felt mostly excited, Politico said. Roughly a quarter said they were and UC Berkeley's Citrin indifferent, and "negative emotions hovered in the single digits."Related

### **Gabriel Graves - College Corps Cohort Inspires Inland Empire Students** to Put Their Best Foot Forward

#### **By** Charlene Muhammad California Black Media **Contributor**

#### abriel Graves is not your typical eturning college student.

than most of his peers, his passion for technology led him back to school, putting his art business on hold to pursue his dream of becoming an engineering researcher.

The #CaliforniansForAll College Corps program has been instrumental in his journey. As a Riverside City College student representative and a member of the Math Engineering Science Achievement (M.E.S.A.) program, he values the opportunity to serve others while gaining hands-on experience.

**Mayor Lurie** 

Continued from page 1

Corps means waking up every day knowing that my time and efforts are helping others," Graves says. "It's about realizing that your life isn't just your ownpeople are relying on you With more life experience to show up and be present so the entire community can thrive together."

> Through College Corps, Graves has built relationships with inspiring mentors and peers. "Every day, I connect with people who motivate me—like Darci, my supervisor; Jess, my fellow Ambassador; Alex, my cohort fellow; and Myesha, my colleague and fellow Associated Students of Riverside City College (ASRCC) Senate Committee Chair. They keep me inspired and remind me why this work matters."

Though he doesn't always

"Being part of College think about it in the moment, Graves knows his participation aligns with his broader purpose. The feedback he receives from students reassures him that programs like College Corps have a meaningful impact—especially in underserved communities.

"Even if just one student tells me I helped them on a quiz, those small wins add up. Many students I work with feel overlooked by the system, and I strive to make sure they feel seen-not just academically, but personally."

Graves approaches every interaction with empathy. "When I walk into a classroom, I don't know if a student had breakfast or if they stayed up all night due to family struggles. That perspective shapes the way I engage with them, ensuring they feel supported."

Balancing his College Corps duties, academic workload, and personal life isn't easy, but Graves credits his M.E.S.A. counselor, Vanessa Nunez, for helping him find moments to rest. At the same time, his way of managing everything is simple-he works even harder.

His deep sense of purpose fuels his commitment to serving others. The recognition he receives is rewarding, but what drives him most is honoring the sacrifices of his loved ones.

"I owe so much to my mother. She gave everything to ensure my siblings and I had not just food and shelter, but a mother who truly cared. She was always present, always doing her best for us," he reflects.

For students considering College Corps, Graves has simple yet powerful advice:



When I walk into a classroom, I don't know if a student had breakfast or if they stayed up all night due to family struggles. That perspective shapes the way I engage with them, ensuring they feel supported." - Gabriel Graves

"This is an incredible I started as a participant, I program—but like anything in life, you only get out what you put in. Show up, give it your all, and you'll have a truly special experience."

He encourages others to take a leap of faith. "When

never imagined I'd be in a position to inspire others. You never know what's possible until you take that leap. Put your best foot forward, and you'll be amazed at what you can achieve!"#30#

### city's comeback."

OCII is driving the creation of three vibrant and inclusive today. That's what we are doing neighborhoods in San with this project," said Mayor Francisco. Beginning under Lurie. "As we reenergize the leadership of the San downtown, we are bringing Francisco Redevelopment 300 units of 100% affordable Agency Commission and now housing to the growing East under the Commission on Cut neighborhood. OCII is Community Investment and already bringing thousands Infrastructure, over 22,000 of new homes to our city, new housing units, including and I'm excited to continue supporting their work and our over 7,500 affordable units, are

being created in Mission Bay, Transbay, and Hunters Point Shipyard/Candlestick Point.

"We've made incredible progress on the Transbay plan that set forth a vision for a thriving, mixed-income and mixed-use neighborhood" said Supervisor Dorsey. "This request for proposals is an exciting next step in fulfilling the long-awaited affordable housing on this

site. These jobs, homes, and amenities will be an incredible addition and investment."

"Mayor Lurie is spearheading initiatives to bring more live, work, and play opportunities to downtown. This strategy means identifying where additional housing can and should be developed, and OCII's projects play a critical role in that strategy," said Thor Kaslofsky, OCII Executive Director. "Transbay Block 4 will provide critical affordable housing and will provide local professional and construction job opportunities. We look forward to bringing a development team on board that is as excited as we are to get started."

Block 4 West is an approximately 26,400 square-foot portion of the Block 4 parcel that was

acquired by OCII from the Transbay Joint Powers Authority in 2021. Block 4 West is at the corner of Howard Street and Beale Street, and adjacent to an approximately 18,975 square-foot eastern portion of Transbay Block 4 (Block 4 East). Block 4 East will be held for the future development of a mixedincome residential tower.

### SUN-REPORTER, THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025 PAGE 3 **The DEI Deception: White Women Benefit, Black Americans Blamed**

By Stacy M. Brown **Black Press USA Senior** National Correspondent

President Donald Trump and his allies at the Heritage Foundation work to gut diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs across America, a dangerous narrative continues to spread—that DEI is some handout to Black Americans.

But the truth, backed by decades of data and recent studies, reveals a different picture entirely: the primary beneficiaries of DEI have not been Black people, but white women. Since returning

has waged a relentless war on what his administration calls "woke" policies. His rhetoric has stoked resentment against DEI, falsely painting it as favoritism for Black Americans. Yet, according to experts and multiple studies, white women have long been the ones gaining the most from these very initiatives. "Actually, everyone but Black folks benefit [from DEI]," Texas Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett said in an earlier published interview. "We were always the intended target to benefit, but the way that most policies are written, people learned how to game the system."

Reecie Colbert, a political

to the White House. Trump

that this false narrative has been pushed strategically. "The notion that Black people are the primary beneficiaries of DEI, despite evidence to the contrary, has fueled irrational hostility-often from those who benefited most," she said. According to data compiled by Zippia and cited in The Root and Philly Women's Network, 76% of Chief Diversity Officers in corporate America are white, and 54% are white women. A Forbes analysis found that white women hold nearly 19% of all C-suite positions, while women of color account for just 4%. White women have also received the lion's share of affirmative action

commentator, told the Root benefits in both employment and education. A 2025 study cited by the League of Women Voters revealed that as early as 1997, at least 6 million white women held positions they would not otherwise have obtained without affirmative action.

> Yet Trump continues to vilify DEI, recently expanding tariffs that hurt companies like Nike and Adidas while using "anti-white" rhetoric to justify his DEI rollbacks. These moves are not just cultural, they are economic. McKinsey & Company reports that companies with diverse teams are 35% more likely to outperform their industry peers financially. Meanwhile, Black professionals are still fighting

2019 Coqual report, Being Black in Corporate America, found that Black professionals are more likely to face racial prejudice at work, less likely to receive sponsorship, and more likely to be passed over for promotions-even when equally or more qualified. Lanaya Irvin, CEO of Coqual, noted the disconnect. "The barriers Black employees face to advancement seem to be largely invisible to their white colleagues," Irvin stated in the report. With DEI programs now being slashed from corporations and universities and Trump purging federal workers and programs that support equity, the cost is not being borne by

to be seen and supported. The those who've benefited most but by those who've fought hardest just to be included.

> "Despite decades of DEI, white men still hold the vast majority of C-suite positions," diversity consultant Susan X Jane stated. "No matter what the administration is saying, there is no evidence of anti-white discrimination". Dr. Walter Greason put it plainly in a previously published interview. "Diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives offered a compromise to narrowly tailor goals in response to white fears," Greason stated.

"And now, those same people who benefited are trying to burn it all down."

### TARGET CEO ATTEMPTS DAMAGE CONTROL AFTER WEEKS OF SILENCE ND MOUNTING BACKLASH

By Stacy M. Brown

Brian Cornell

has lost more than \$15 billion dropped for 11 straight weeks, backlash from Black leaders with falling foot traffic, public The retailer is grappling with falling foot traffic, public in revenue this year, seen its with only a slight uptick boycotts, and criticism over its retreat from diversity goals. boycotts, and criticism over its and organizations. "Black stock price fall by as much during the week of April 14 consumers helped build Target retreat from diversity goals. as \$27.27 per share, and is who launched a national Target around and to Target that and April 21. Overall, foot into a retail giant, and now According to the Minneapolis facing multiple lawsuits tied Fast to protest the company's are out of its control." Both traffic declined 3.3% in April. they are making their voices Star Tribune, Cornell's to its DEI policy changes. direction, has called for Spieckerman and Saunders message to staff admitted it has heard," said Dr. Benjamin F. In recent weeks, Cornell Cornell's email still struck a continued mobilization described the message as been "a tough few months." It Chavis Jr., president and CEO tone of reassurance, calling met with Rev. Al Sharpton and accountability. Retail unfocused. "It's a really said media coverage, social of the National Newspaper the company's values of and leaders of the boycott consultant Carol Spieckerman jumbled email," Saunders said. media chatter, and internal Publishers Association "inclusivity, connection, movement to discuss Target's said the CEO's email failed to "And you know if it's conversations "may have left (NNPA). The NNPA is a trade drive" non-negotiable. "We're DEI pullback. He also met take responsibility. "His email come from Brian Cornell, you wondering." He insisted, association representing committed to sharing more of with Trump to outline the acknowledges but doesn't take it's probably been through however, that Target's the 198-year-old Black damaging impact of tariffs that impact with you and our responsibility for any of the about 30 different people Press of America. Earlier values have not shifted. "I guests because it reinforces on retailers. Neither meeting concerns and controversies recognize that silence from this year, the Black Press and various PR teams, and our values and shows the was believed to have been surrounding the company," us has created uncertainty, she said. "The tone implies it still comes out as this began a public education and real heart of our team," he mentioned in his message to selective buying campaign in wrote. Still, retail analysts employees. Rev. Jamal Bryant, that things are happening big, jumbled mess." so I want to be very clear:

We are still the Target you were sharply critical. Neil **Black Press USA Senior** know and believe in," Cornell its commitment to Black Saunders, managing director National Correspondent America. "If corporations at GlobalData Retail, said wrote. Since the beginning of the year, the retail giant has believe they can roll back the email fails to address the arget CEO diversity commitments root causes of public concern. faced a storm of challenges. acknowledged "They say, 'Our products without consequence, they President Donald Trump's in an email are mistaken," Chavis stated. and experience are second tariffs on global imports to employees this week to none.' Well, actually, no, have squeezed the company's The company has yet to that a months-long lapse they're not. That's not true order pickup margins. Target's decision to respond to repeated requests in communication has anymore," he said. According scale back its diversity, equity, for meetings and comment created uncertainty. to data from Placer.ai, foot and inclusion (DEI) initiatives from The Black Press. Target traffic to Target stores has The retailer is grappling prompted widespread

response to Target abandoning



### **Diddy's Day in Court: Jury Selection Begins**

is

By Stacy M. Brown **Black Press USA Senior** National Correspondent

ury selection began today in Manhattan in the federal trial of Sean "Diddy" Combs, who faces multiple charges, including sex trafficking, transportation to engage in prostitution, and racketeering conspiracy.

The music and business mogul has been held in custody since his arrest on September 16, 2024, at the Park Hyatt

on hotel surveillance video, was widely circulated. Combs initially faced three charges, but in April 2025, a superseding indictment added two more, bringing the total to five. Despite a request from his defense team to delay the trial due to the new charges, U.S. District Judge Arun Subramanian denied the motion. Opening statements are scheduled for May 12. The trial is at the Daniel Patrick Moynihan U.S. Courthouse in

Manhattan. While open to the New York. The arrest, caught public, it will not be televised due to federal court rules. Federal prosecutors accuse Combs of operating a longrunning criminal enterprise within the entertainment, fashion, and music industries. The government alleges that Combs used his influence to lure women into his circle, where they were coerced into commercial sex actssometimes under the guise of romantic or professional relationships. Prosecutors

argue that the acts meet the threshold of trafficking under federal law, even in cases where the exchange wasn't strictly monetary. The government's team includes six female prosecutors led by Assistant U.S. Attorney Maurene Comey, daughter of former FBI Director James Comey. The defense led by Marc Agnifilo and Teny Geragos, joined by Brian Steel, Alexander Shapiro, Anna Estevao, and Xavier Donaldson.

expected to testify. Only one-singer and ex-partner Cassie Ventura—is publicly named. The others will testify anonymously under pseudonyms. Ventura filed a civil lawsuit in November 2023 alleging sexual abuse and trafficking, which Combs denied before settling the matter privately the next day. A central piece of evidence in the trial is hotel footage showing Combs physically assaulting Ventura in 2016.

Four alleged victims are Prosecutors cited the footage as justification to deny bail. Combs' attorneys attempted to exclude the video, claiming it was edited and irrelevant to trafficking. The judge rejected that argument and ruled the footage admissible. Marc Agnifilo, Combs' lead attorney, said the video does not prove trafficking.

> "It's our defense to these charges that this was a toxic, loving 11-year relationship," Agnifilo stated during a pre-trial hearing.



### EDITORIAL

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

### **ALEXIS HERMAN: GRACE, GRIT AND GLUE**

#### **BY JULIANNE MALVEAUX**

ominated by President Bill confirmation was no easy feat. During her hearings, members of our sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Incorporated, crowded the Senate chambers in our unmistakable red and white. We made a point – Black women are here, and we have her back. Ultimately, the succumbed to our

voting in her favor.

Alexis was a southern Belle, Clinton, her a velvet hammer. She was full of grace, with graceful ways, but anyone who encountered her should know that grace was not to be confused with weakness. She was grace and she was grit, because who, without grit, could manage a strike between UPS and its unionized workers. Package delivery was hobbled for fifteen days, only settled when

presence, with 85 of them Secretary Herman moved into the same hotel that Teamsters leaders and UPS management stayed. She shuttled between conference room, not trying to be graceful, but simply direct. Yet she was graceful, because she carried herself that way, and a 1997 commercecrippling strike was settled.

> Alexis was grace, always grace, often administered with a bit of a southern twang. It's not fay-ar, she sometimes drawled when losing a card

game. It ain't riiight, she sometimes said, when losing. Win or lose, she was always gracious, always ready with the pat on the shoulder, the generous hug. She was, indeed, the perfect daughter of her mentor, Drouthy Irene Height, the longest-serving President of the National Council of Negro Women.

Alexis took her Height legacy seriously. After leaving government service, she created consulting firms that dealt with diversity and minority hiring issues. She served on Fortune 500 boards, including Coca-Cola and Exelon. She mentored hundreds of young people and helped place them in impactful positions. And she was the glue that brought people together.

If you attended a gathering in her sprawling home in Northern Virginia, you'd not only connect with friends and colleagues, you'd eat well, connect fulfillingly, celebrate milestones like new books, impending births or more, but you'd also observe Alexis taking a person or two aside for a private conversation. She was glue. She brought people together. She was committed to the collective.

I never heard Secretary Herman raise her voice, but I often saw her firm. She was grace, but she didn't play.



Dr. Julianne Malveaux

She was kind but she didn't roll over. She attracted a coterie of loyal friends and colleagues, because she was, lift her up as they do the indeed loyal and graceful.

I am among the many mourning the loss of the Honorable Alexis Margaret Herman, among the many grateful for her legacy. As labor is being attacked in the graceless shadow of this feckless administration, her voice is missed and her legacy looms large. She was committed to women's empowerment, especially Black women's empowerment. And she was committed to diversity, having worked to convince corporate America that Black women were more

than cooks and maid. She passed the baton to Black women leaders, who will work of advancing women in the workplace.

Her loss is a national loss, but for me it is also a personal loss. I met her as an undergrad, and she welcomed me to Washington, DC when I moved here in 1994. She graced me with her presence when I left Bennett College in 2012.

She was present during many of my milestones, gracious, kind, supportive, amazing. She will rest in grace and power, her legacy a blessing and lesson for each of us.

### WHEN THE BIRDS STOP SINGING

#### By Ben Jealous

here I grew up in California, on quiet mornings, you could hear the birds before anything else – finches, warblers, sparrows. They made the dawn feel like something alive. Those songs filled the sky with beauty and made the world feel whole.

Now, those voices are going silent.

on for food. We are building with - and eventually, if we in places that block nesting and migration. And, of course, we are heating the planet in ways that are driving entire species to the edge.

This study is not just a report. It is a warning. And we should treat it as such.

in our natural systems. They pollinate plants. They eat pests. They spread seeds grow. When birds vanish,

are not careful, for ourselves. And yet, there is still hope. We have done hard things before. We have solved problems that once seemed impossible. In the middle part of the last century, America's greatest birds Birds are essential workers of prey were pushed to the edge of extinction. The bald eagle. The peregrine falcon. The osprey. All were that help entire forests being poisoned by DDT, a

We also saw what the world could do when faced with the hole in the ozone layer another man-made crisis. In the 1980s, scientists sounded the alarm. The world came together to ban the chemicals causing the damage. Now, the ozone layer is healing. We are seeing progress because we acted boldly and together.

We can do the same for birds - and for nature itself.

It starts with honesty. We must name what is happening:



**Ben Jealous** 

A new study published last week in Science brought stunning news. Three out of every four of the 500 North American bird species in the study are in decline. Seventy-five percent. It is a collapse happening in real time, in our backyards, in our forests, in our skies.

This is not a mystery. It is not a natural cycle. The reasons are clear - and they are all human-made.

We are destroying bird habitats across this continent. Wetlands, forests, grasslands - paved over or poisoned. We are using pesticides that kill off the insects birds depend

entire ecosystems unravel. The decline of birds is not a small crisis. It is a signal of something much bigger.

We are not just losing birds. We are losing balance. We are watching the Earth's systems go out of rhythm. That is the extinction crisis.

Many people still do not realize we are living through a mass extinction - what scientists are calling the sixth in Earth's history. But unlike the one that killed off the dinosaurs, this one is driven by us. Species are disappearing at a rate thousands of times faster than normal. We are making this planet unlivable for the creatures we share it

pesticide that was weakening their eggshells until whole generations were lost.

But in 1962, a scientist named Rachel Carson wrote a book called Silent Spring. She told the truth. She connected the dots. And people listened. The movement she sparked led to the banning of DDT. It led to the creation of the EPA. And it helped bring our great raptors back from the brink.

Today, in places like Chicago, peregrine falcons are nesting on skyscrapers. In Maryland, where I live, bald eagles fly over the Chesapeake Bay again. That happened because people fought for it. That is the power of action guided by truth.

man-made collapse of ecosystems. We must reject the lies coming from those who want to bury the science, downplay the damage, or pretend that nothing is wrong. We know the truth. And the birds – or the silence where they used to be -

are telling it too.

Then we must act. We need to protect the land birds depend on – from forests to shorelines to native grasslands. We need to reduce pesticide use and restore pollinator-friendly habitats. We need to pass strong laws that defend biodiversity. And most of all, we need to stop burning the fossil fuels that are driving the climate crisis and accelerating species

loss all around the world.

Birds are not the only canaries in this coal mine. When I was a boy in Pacific Grove, CA - known as Butterfly Town, USA - they came by the tens of thousands. These charismatic critters, each one lighter than a feather, were heavy enough in their great numbers to bend the tree limbs on which they would land. The same butterfly sanctuary that was home to that marvel this year counted fewer than 250 monarchs. From the monarchs to the meadowlarks, we are watching life itself vanish in plain sight. Simply to go outside - to

walk through a field, sit under a tree, hike through a park, or step into the ocean - reveals the deep truth that we are not separate from nature. We are part of it. What happens to the birds, happens to us.

And what history shows from banning DDT to saving the ozone layer - is that we still have the power to change course when we choose to face the truth.

Let this study be our alarm. Instead of having to face the terrible question of how much time we have left, let us focus on what we do now: that the time to act is right now.

#### NAACP \$340K Continued from page 1

"Public parks should be safe, inclusive spaces for children and families-not sites of hate and trauma."

A widely circulated video of the incident drew sharp backlash, as did the woman's subsequent move to launch a fundraising campaign for herself. She identified herself as Shiloh Hendrix and claimed she needed financial help to relocate in the aftermath.

In less than 24 hours, her across the country and around campaign raised nearly \$150,000. As of this week, it has surpassed \$600,000, with many of her supporters openly defending her use of racial slurs and demonizing the child. In response, the Rochester Branch of the NAACP acted quickly, launching a GoFundMe campaign to support the young victim and his family. That campaign has since raised \$341,484 in just two days, thanks to an outpouring of support from

the world. The NAACP has since closed the fundraiser at the family's request. "From the beginning, this campaign was rooted in a powerful truth: no child should ever be dehumanized, and love must always be louder than hate," the NAACP said. According to the organization, 100% of the funds raised-minus standard platform fees-will be placed in a trust account solely managed by the child's parents. "No member of the Rochester Branch of the NAACP has received-or will receivefunds from these donations," the organization clarified.

The incident has drawn attention to a rising tide of hate and bigotry not only in Rochester but across the nation. Over the past year alone, the Rochester NAACP has documented a troubling number of racially motivated acts in the area, including racist slurs painted on a bridge near Century High School,

a noose and effigy used to intimidate a Black family, and swastikas and racial epithets spray-painted on the home of a local representative. Islamophobic and antisemitic acts have also increased. "This is not an isolated incident," the NAACP said. "It is part of a troubling and painful trend that continues to escalate across the country." Community members seeking to do more are encouraged to support the NAACP's ongoing work through the Rochester Branch's Fighting Fund for Freedom at https:// rochesterbranchnaacp. betterworld.org/donate.

"This is about more than one incident. It's about who we are as a community and what we choose to stand for," the Rochester Branch of the NAACP said. "Help us match the funds raised in defense of hate with an equal force of love, justice, and action."

HE SUN-REPORTER KELIGIOL THE BAY AREA'S CHURCH NEWS & ACTIVITIES



### The Holy New Jerusalem

### Lesson Text: Revelation 21:9-14, 22-27 **Related Scriptures: Hebrews** 11:8-16; 12:22-29; 1 John 1:5-7 **Place:** from Patmos *Time: 96 A.D.* Golden Text: "I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon to shine in it; for the glory of God did lighten it"

(Revelation 21:22-23). Here in Revelation 21:9, "One of the angels of chapter 16 who had poured out a bowl of wrath on the earth then invited John to see the New Jerusalem as a bride. Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb. Carried by the Spirit to a high mountain, John saw the New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, shining with the glory of God. One of the seven angels, who had held the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues (see Revelation

Revelation 16:1–21), 21:9; shows John the new Jerusalem (see Revelation 21:10). Although believers will dwell across the entire new creation, the angel focuses John's attention on the new earth's capital. Because it will be arrayed with God's glory, this city will be more radiant than a cut diamond (The Tony Evans Commentary, Revelation 21:11). The overall impression of the city as a gigantic, brilliant jewel compared to jasper, clear as crystal indicates its great beauty. John was trying to describe what he saw and to relate it to what might be familiar to his readers. However, it is evident that his revelation transcends anything that can be experienced. The jasper stone known today is opaque and not clear. It is found in various colors, and John apparently was referring to the beauty of the stone rather than to its particular characteristics. Today one might describe that city as a beautifully cut diamond, a stone not known as a jewel in the first century. As in the earlier references to

the New Jerusalem as a bride, here again it is a city, not a person or group of people. This is confirmed by the description of the city which follows. (Revelation 21:9-11, The Bible Knowledge Commentary). In Revelation 21:12-14, "The city's massive high wall (see Revelation 21:12) signifies the identity of its inhabitants. First, the names of the twelve tribes of Israel's sons [are] inscribed on the gates (see Revelation 21:12), signifying that believers from Old Testament Israel will be present within it. Second, the city wall is pictured with twelve foundations and the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb are written on the foundations (see Revelation 21:14). This signifies the presence of believers from the church, which was established in the New Testament era. Old and new covenant followers of the Lord will dwell together in the new creation. John saw a gigantic city, "square" in shape (v. 16), and surrounded by a great, high wall with 12 gates. The 12 gates bore the names of the 12 tribes of Israel. The number 12 is prominent in the city with 12 gates and 12 angels (v. 12), 12 tribes of Israel (v. 12), 12 foundations (v. 14), 12 apostles (v. 14), 12 pearls (v. 21), 12 kinds of fruit (22:2), with the wall 144 cubits—12 times 12 (21:17), and the height, width, and length, 12,000 stadia, about 1,400 miles (v. 16). The city has walls north, south, east, and west with three gates on each side (v. 13) and with an angel standing guard at each gate (v. 12). (Revelation 21:12-13, The Bible Knowledge Commentary). There will be a temple in Jerusalem during the tribulation and during the millennium. But there will be no temple in the new Jerusalem because a representation of God's presence will no longer be necessary. We will have his direct presence. (Revelation 21:22). In Revelation 21:23-26, "There will be no sun or moon needed in the city because the glory of God illumines it, and its lamp is the Lamb (Revelation 21:23). Our sun is ninety-three million miles away, yet its power is

sufficient to illumine the earth. God's presence, though, can replace the sun with ease because the Lord possesses an even greater degree of power and radiance. That it will never be night there, it suggests believers' glorified bodies will never get tired and need to sleep. Moreover, we won't get bored. On the new earth, there will be nations and kings (Revelation 21:24) functioning in a national context and bringing their glory and honor into the city (Revelation 21:26). Everyone will come to the new Jerusalem as a highlight of their lives on the new earth. And why not, given its splendor? (The Tony Evans Commentary). And finally in Revelation 21:27, "While the invitation to dwell in this city is universal, the requirements to enter are specific: Nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those written in the Lamb's book of life, who have received Jesus as their Savior by faith. Hallelujah!!! Be Blessed Saints!!!,

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10

Little Zion **Baptist Church** 

1245 Divisadero Street San Francisco, CA

11:am

6:pm

Sunday School 9:00am Morning Worship **Evening Worship** 

> Ascension **Baptist Church**

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

> Rev. Anthony Anderson

10:15: Morning Worship qm Bible Study Tuesday 6:30 PM

Church School Wednesday 7: pm Communion every 1st Sunday

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 10:45 Morning Worship am Bible Study 1-2pm & 6:30-7:30pm Praver meeting Wednesday 12:00 Noon

> 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

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: qm uesday Usher meeting 7:pm Wednesday Bible Study 7: pm uesday Choir Rehearsal pm Praver and Teacher meeting Wednesday 7:30PM

Ebenezer

**Baptist Church** 

275 Divisadero Street

San Francisco, CA

9:15 am

10:45: gm

7:30 pm

iunday Schoo

Morning Worship

Evening Worship

#### 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 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: 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: qm Wendesday Teacher's Meeting 6: pm Sr Mission 5: pm Children's Bible Study 5: pm

Childrens. Bible Study Saturday 6:45 pm 10-11 am Food Pantry

Living Word

**Church of God In Christ** 

12 Westlake Ave

Daly City CA. 94014

Rev. Derrick Lomax

Pastor

**Mount Calvary Baptist Church** 

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

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

#### PAGE 6 ■ SUN-REPORTER, THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025

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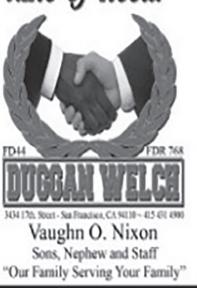


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