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After five years,  
Reshanda Gray  
finds WNBA home

~ PAGE 8



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New documentary illuminates  
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~ PAGE 9

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**STREET BEAT**

'Should the U.S. track athlete have been suspended from the Olympics?'



MONA S.  
LOS ANGELES

"At this time, with the political climate, a year after George Floyd, something smells fishy to me. It seems like some sort of retaliation."



MARIE R.  
LOS ANGELES

"I think the suspension was motivated by malice. She's a very flamboyant individual and the powers that be said 'no, we're going to give her a chance to reevaluate the way she presents herself.'"



LISA T.  
LOS ANGELES

"As terrible as her situation was with losing her mom, knowing that she was about to go and do the tryouts, the choice to take the substance probably wasn't good."



ELBERT THOMPSON  
LOS ANGELES

"I believe she should have been disqualified. At the same time, the education should have been 'You shouldn't be smoking marijuana, period.'"

Compiled by Cynthia Gibson in Marina del Rey.

**This Week in Black History**  
July 23, 1962

Georgia native Jackie Robinson, the first black player to play Major League Baseball in the modern era, becomes the first black person to be inducted into baseball's Hall of Fame.

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# \$1 million fund created for victims of explosion

Councilman launches an emergency fund for victims of blast

By MARGARET SHUTTLEWORTH  
Contributing Writer

**S**OUTH LOS ANGELES (CNS) — City Councilman Curren Price announced a \$1 million emergency fund has been established to help residents impacted by a destructive fireworks explosion set off by an LAPD bomb squad June 30.

Price said the money will come from his office's Environmental Equity and Reimagining Public Safety dollars, and will provide long-term housing, repairs and financial assistance to residents whose homes were damaged by the blast.

"It should never have hap-



Curren Price

pened in the first place and it is clear that the city is at fault in this explosion," Price said at a press conference July 21. "But the damage and destruction has been done, and it is now time to restore our family and rebuild our community."

The detonation sent 17 residents and first responders to

"It should never have happened in the first place and it is clear that the city is at fault in this explosion."

— City Councilman Curren Price

hospitals, destroyed a bomb squad truck and damaged 22 residences, 13 businesses and 37 vehicles. Since the explosion, victims forced to evacuate their homes have been provided with access to housing, funds needed to satisfy their basic needs, along with three meals a day.

The councilman said his fund will give displaced residents "first-class quality long-term housing," help them with home repairs — including broken windows, plumbing and structural repairs — as well as provide \$10,000 no-strings-at-

tached grants to 25 households that have been pre-identified as being severely impacted.

"I want to make sure that we're doing all we can, as quickly as we can, to restore these families to some sense of normalcy," Price said. "Our families need help now. Not two weeks from now, not two months from now, not two years from now, but now."

Price said the Los Angeles Police Department did not notify his office before detonating the explosives, contradicting LAPD Chief Michel Moore, who told the Los Angeles Police

Commission July 20 that the department did so.

"I've said it before and I'll say it again, my office was not notified of the detonation of this dangerous explosive, and had we been notified we would have said no, said hell no, you can't do that out here, not like that," Price said.

Members of Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles and several other people who phoned in to the Police Commission meeting called for Moore to be fired and for the city to pay reparations to residents.

"There's no reason, there's no excuse, there's no rationale," Black Lives Matter's Paula Minor said. "You do not detonate explosives in a neighborhood, and we believe, as so many believe, that if this had been another neighborhood, not a working class Black and brown

See EXPLOSION, Page 10

# A star is born



Actress and singer Marla Gibbs received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame during ceremonies July 20. Gibbs is best known for her role as the sassy maid Florence Johnston on 'The Jeffersons' from 1975 to 1985. See story on Page 9.

Photo by Ian Fox

## Meth addict 'felt death' after partying with Ed Buck

By FRED SHUSTER  
Contributing Writer

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — A self-described crystal methamphetamine addict told a Los Angeles federal jury July 20 that he "felt death" creeping up on him after Ed Buck injected him repeatedly with the drug during "party and play" sessions for which the former West Hollywood-based political donor paid him \$250 for each of four encounters.



Buck

Jermaine Terrell Gagnon, 31, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, who also lived for a time in Los Angeles, testified that he met Buck through a gay dating app in March 2018 — and was paid \$250 for an initial nine-hour session involving "tina" — a street name for methamphetamine — and sex play.

Gagnon said he went to Buck's apartment three additional times, See BUCK, Page 10

# Waters calls for federal probe of sheriff 'gangs'

## STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters is calling for a federal probe into the reported existence of an alleged gang of Los Angeles sheriff's deputies at the Compton Sheriff's Station who call themselves the "Executioners."

In a letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland July 21, Waters, D-Los Angeles, requested action from the U.S. Justice Department.

"I write to ask that the United States Department of Justice take immediate action to address the reported existence of a rogue, violent gang of law enforcement officials, who call themselves the 'Executioners,' operating within the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, specifically the ... Compton station," she wrote.

A sheriff's spokeswoman told City News Service that a statement from Sheriff Alex Villanueva would be forthcoming. He has insisted on multiple oc-



A vigil for Andres Guardado of Gardena, who was killed by sheriff's deputies in June 2020 was held last month, marking the anniversary of his death. Guardado's death was mentioned by U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters in her request for a federal investigation into sheriff's department 'gangs.'

Photo by Lorenzo Gomez

casions that he has cracked down on deputy gangs.

Waters wrote that a deputy acting as a whistleblower provided sworn testimony identifying more than a dozen deputies with matching tattoos to symbolize their association with the alleged gang.

"Deputies at the ... Compton Station reportedly 'chase ink,' a slang term for a deputy who attempts to win favor with the 'Executioners' by committing violent acts in hopes of receiving the group tattoo denoting gang membership," Waters wrote.

"The gang allegedly sets illegal arrest quotas, threatens and harasses fellow deputies, and holds parties after shootings, called '998 parties,' which are in part a celebration that a new deputy will be inked by the gang," Waters said. "The tattoos worn by the police gang reportedly feature Nazi imagery in disturbing evidence of the violence perpetrated against the Los Angeles community by the ... gang."

The whistleblower reportedly

identified two deputies involved in the death of 18-year-old Gardena resident Andres Guardado in June 2020 as members of the "Executioners."

The shooting of Dijon Kizzee in South Los Angeles in August 2020 was also described by Waters as an "example of the department's excessive and brutal tactics in the Los Angeles community."

The sheriff's department has said Guardado was reaching for the gun when he was shot while working as an informal security guard for a nearby auto body shop. Guardado's family has filed a lawsuit against the county alleging wrongful death and civil rights violations.

Kizzee, 29, was killed after sheriff's deputies allegedly tried to stop him from riding a bicycle in the wrong direction. The sheriff's department contends Kizzee was fatally shot after he picked up a handgun he had dropped during a struggle with one of the deputies.



# Water conservation stressed as drought worsens

Newsom, Garcetti call for 15% reduction in water consumption

## STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

LOS ANGELES — Mayor Eric Garcetti is urging Angelenos to reduce water usage by 15%, as first requested by Gov. Gavin Newsom, amid a severe drought in California and throughout the western United States.

Speaking July 16 from Owens Valley, which has provided water to the Los Angeles Aqueduct since 1913, Garcetti said, “In Los Angeles, conservation is a way of life, because we know that living with limited water resources isn’t just a phase — it’s the new normal.”

“Angelenos have always stepped up when asked to lower their water use, and today, I’m asking them to do their part again to meet this new statewide goal. [The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power] has made it easier than ever before for Angelenos to save water, and we’re in a better position today because of it,” he said.

Garcetti highlighted drought resiliency efforts by the DWP and the city’s pledge that by 2035 it will: reduce per capita water consumption by 25%, source 70% of the city’s water locally, recycle 100% of the city’s wastewater by 2035 for potable use and capture 150,000 acre-feet of stormwater per year by 2035.

The city also pledges to reduce DWP’s purchase of import-



Mayor Eric Garcetti, left, looks out over the Owens Valley last week during a visit to the area that supplies much of the water Los Angeles imports through the Los Angeles Aqueduct. The mayor is asking Angelenos to reduce their water consumption by 15%.

Photo courtesy of the Mayor’s Office

water by 50% by 2025.

Newsom called on Californians on July 8 to voluntarily reduce water use by 15% to protect the state’s water reserves and maintain water flow for fish and wildlife.

“The realities of climate change are nowhere more apparent than in the increasingly frequent and severe drought challenges we face in the West and their devastating impacts on our communities, businesses and eco-

systems,” the governor said. “The entire state is in a drought today, and to meet this urgent challenge we must all pull together and do our part to reduce water use as California continues to build a more climate resilient water system to safeguard the future of our state.”

Scaling back urban water consumption by 15% would save as much as 850,000 acre-feet of water over the next year, which is enough to supply more than 1.7

million households with water for a year, according to Newsom’s office.

Newsom drought-emergency proclamation July 8 added nine more counties to the list of counties considered to be affected by water shortages, meaning that 50 of the state’s 58 counties are covered by the proclamation, accounting for 42% of the overall population.

The only counties not covered by the proclamation are Los

Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, San Bernardino, Imperial, Ventura and San Francisco.

Although Southern California is excluded from the proclamation, the general manager of the region’s water wholesaler said residents need to do their part in reducing water use.

“Southern California must be part of the statewide movement to address the significant water supply challenges created by drought and climate change,” Adel Hagekhalil, general manager of the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) of Southern California, said in a statement. “We are one when it comes to water, and our state’s river ecosystems and snowpack-reliant supplies are under greater and greater stress.”

“The governor’s call for the public to voluntarily cut back water use by 15% demonstrates the seriousness of this growing drought yet preserves the flexibility local managers need,” Hagekhalil said. “Southern Californians have done a great job maintaining lower water use since the last drought, yet this drought demands that we all re-examine and renew our water-saving habits and do everything we can to use this precious resource as wisely as possible.”

Two members of the Los Angeles City Council have called for the DWP and MWD to develop water resiliency strategies during the drought.

Councilmen Paul Koretz and Mitch O’Farrell introduced a motion last month that a review on the pending update to the Colora-

do River Compact, a 1922 agreement between states, native tribes and jurisdictions in the Southwest that govern the allocation of Colorado River water rights. The agreement hasn’t been updated in nearly a century, but a drought contingency plan was put into place in 2019 by seven Colorado River Basin states, local water agencies, non-governmental organizations, Mexico and the U.S. Department of the Interior in an effort to protect the river.

“Given the enormity of the alarming drought crisis across the Southwest, we need to do everything we can sooner rather than later to protect the future of our great city,” Koretz said. “We are at a critical juncture with new leadership at MWD, the Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan in place and rapidly worsening climate breakdown occurring all around us.

“Now we must work collaboratively with our partners across the Southwest toward a healthy, resilient tomorrow.”

“Los Angeles is leading the way on sustainability and environmental initiatives, and we must lead the way on addressing our worsening drought conditions,” O’Farrell added.

Angelenos who want help conserving water can take advantage of the city’s financial incentive program, including rebates for high-efficiency clothes washers and turf replacements. The city also provides free efficient faucet aerators and shower heads. More information is available at <https://bit.ly/3eshDW9>.

# Delta variant continues to fuel rise in COVID cases

## FROM CITY NEWS SERVICE

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles County’s COVID-19 hospitalization numbers and testing positivity rate continued their steady climbs, as the county marked its 11th consecutive day

of new case numbers topping 1,000.

The county Department of Public Health announced 1,233 new COVID infections July 19, a number that is likely artificially low due to traditional delays in reporting of test results from the

weekend.

The new cases brought the county’s cumulative total from throughout the pandemic to 1,269,090. Two more fatalities were also reported, lifting the county’s death toll to 24,585.

According to state figures,



A man is vaccinated against COVID-19 at Magic Johnson Park in South Los Angeles last month. County health officials are encouraging people to get vaccinated because the Delta variant has created another surge in coronavirus cases.

Courtesy photo

The mandate means customers are again required to mask up when entering any indoor public establishment, including retail shops, grocery stores, restaurants and workplaces. Indoor dining remains open, but customers must remain masked while they are not eating or drinking.

“The spread of the more infectious Delta variant through intermingling of unmasked individuals where vaccination status is unknown has caused a rapid spread of COVID-19 that is resulting in a significant increase in cases and hospitalizations,” county Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said in a statement.

“By wearing masks indoors at public places and worksites, we can get back to slowing the spread of the virus. Many businesses and worksites are doing their part by posting signs and asking employees and customers to mask up while indoors. Please do your part and cooperate.

“If you are not yet vaccinated, please know that we need you to take extra precautions,” she said. “Since vaccines remain the most powerful tool for reducing spread, now is the time to get your vaccine. We need to bring down transmission rates so that when schools open next month, there is much less risk.”

The most recent figures from the county show that 69% of residents age 16 and over have received at least one dose of vaccine, while 61% are fully vaccinated. Black and Latino residents continue to lag behind the rest of the population when it comes to vaccinations, particularly among younger residents.

In hopes of encouraging more people to get vaccinated, the county is continuing to offer incentives. Through July 22, anyone who gets vaccinated at sites operated by the county, the city of Los Angeles or St. John’s Well Child and Family Center will be entered for a chance to win one of seven concert ticket packages, with tickets to see the Harlem Globetrotters, Disney on Ice and the Gold Over America Tour with Simone Biles at Staples Center.



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there were 544 people hospitalized in the county due to COVID-19, with 121 people in intensive care units. The hospitalization numbers have been slowly but steadily climbing for several weeks.

The numbers are still well below the roughly 8,000 people who were hospitalized due to COVID-19 during the winter surge of cases. The current number, however, is double the 218 hospitalizations reported on June 15, when COVID restrictions were largely lifted statewide.

The average daily rate of people testing positive for the virus also continued rising, reaching 4.1% as of July 19 and well above the 0.4% rate on June 15.

Health officials continue

to blame the current surge in infections to the highly contagious “Delta” variant of the virus through the unvaccinated population. There are nearly 4 million county residents who have not been vaccinated, including 1.3 million children who are ineligible for the shots.

Rising case numbers prompted the county to re-institute a requirement that everyone wear masks in indoor public settings, regardless of vaccination status. Previously, only unvaccinated people were required to wear masks indoors, however, since compliance was based solely on the honor system, officials said many unvaccinated people were likely failing to comply with the rule.

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# Inglewood implements citywide permit parking system

By 2URBANGIRLS  
Contributing Writer

INGLEWOOD — The city's Public Works department has successfully implemented a citywide permit parking district program to address the incoming influx of cars related to SoFi Stadium and other entertainment venues.

The department began the process in April 2020, asking the City Council to consider an ordinance amending Chapter 3 of the city's municipal code to implement the program, which would exempt residents in Council District 2.

The city will implement the program citywide although one area will not be activated immediately.

The staff report detailed that District 2 was the "furthest from SoFi Stadium and the Los Angeles Sports Entertainment District and because of single-family type residents and lower density" those residents would experience less non-residential parking intrusion.

The city will still implement parking restrictions, but would only activate them in Council District 2 if necessary.

Permits will be required for any vehicle parked beyond two hours, but from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., no permit is necessary. The initiative aims to preserve quality of life for residents and prevent increased traffic. The program will be enforced with fines and towing and signs will be installed to warn motorists.



The city of Inglewood has created a citywide permit parking district program to address the incoming influx of cars related to SoFi Stadium and other entertainment venues. Permits will be required for any vehicle parked on city streets for more than two hours.

Photo by 2 Urban Girls

According to Public Works Director Luis Atwell, residents will be allowed to register as many vehicles as they wish, although only two of those cars will be allowed on the street during enforcement.

The city is launching an "IPark&Go" remote parking and shuttle program for visitors to the stadium, which has limited on-site parking. The program offers more than 4,000 parking spaces throughout Inglewood and surrounding areas for people to park before attending SoFi Stadium.

Visitors can then catch shuttles to the Inglewood Intermodal Transportation Facility, near the stadium. The trip will typically take 30 minutes or less.

The IPark&Go program is operated by LAZ Parking.

Some residents questioned what they considered excessive amounts of documentation to determine residency, voicing concerns about addresses on driver's licenses not matching home addresses.

Bill Thompson, a representative for LAZ Parking who administers the Inglewood program, said that wouldn't be an issue.

"ID doesn't matter," he said.

"Utility bill or proof of residence works."

The city is requiring that addresses on vehicle registration must match the resident's address.

Thompson previously worked in the Inglewood Police Department, where he reportedly was a former partner of Butts.

Butts was previously investigated for allegations of awarding contracts to companies based on their hiring of his family and friends, after a complaint was filed with the district attorney's office by a former member of the City Council.

The issue arose when companies competing for the city's trash hauling contract in 2012, told investigators they were alerted to the mayor's brother needing a job. His brother was eventually hired by the company that won the contract.

Thompson previously held a position with the Forum, as the liaison to the Inglewood Police Department, to schedule deployment for law enforcement staffing.

Parking in the city is an ongoing issue, and some residents welcome the new permit system as it will ensure there is ample parking for the residents.

"I am glad we are finally getting something that is going to help with the parking crisis in the area," said D. Doe, who didn't want to be fully identified. "I'm tired of cars being left for days, people parking that don't live in the neighborhood and people with way too many cars that aren't even registered and I am looking forward to being able to park in front of my own home."

Parking became a sore subject during the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, with the city forced to allow residents to park in city-owned lots along Arbor Vitae and city parking structures, due to the lack of parking during the stay-home mandate.

The city also caught the ire of residents in 2017, when the Inglewood Park Cemetery doubled as an overflow parking lot for events at the Forum, at the city's request.

"It is just wrong, at the base, at the core, it is wrong," said Karen Keyser. "At no time should a cemetery be considered for parking."

Cemetery officials said they provided the parking at the city's request.

"The city of Inglewood asked Inglewood Park Cemetery, along with some other establishments around the city, the Hollywood Park Casino and local schools," said Rick Miller, CEO of Inglewood Park Cemetery.

The city continues to face challenges as there aren't enough parking spaces for the city's residents, let alone the estimated tens of thousands expected when the NFL season begins next month.

"We are becoming hostages to the city because of the stadium and we were constantly told this would be at no cost to the residents," said Earl Anderson, who lives in District 4. "First Metro makes us pay to drive in the car-pool lanes, now I have to pay to park in front of my house, and my rent is scheduled to increase soon. This is ridiculous."

Mayor Butts is adamant the citywide permit parking is necessary to ensure the residents aren't overrun by venue attendees trying to avoid paying to park.

"This program is to ensure that when the time comes, and when the arenas open, on event days we will be able to protect neighborhood parking from people who chose to disobey the signs and directions and attempt to park for free in neighborhoods," Butts said.

# Valley real estate agent enters 2022 race for mayor

FROM CITY NEWS SERVICE

LOS ANGELES — Real estate agent and former MTA board member Mel Wilson has announced that he is running for mayor in 2022.

"I'm a servant leader," Wilson said in a campaign video. "I'm willing to put my hand in there and get them dirty to get the job done."

"The L.A. I grew up with doesn't exist anymore. I can change that. I believe I can bring people together — people from the private sector, the public sector, the nonprofit and the faith communities — all working together to make a better L.A."

Wilson — who would be the second Black mayor of Los Angeles, after Mayor Tom Bradley — launched his campaign at a Pacoima shopping center anchored by

a Food 4 Less store to highlight his work getting the Van Nuys Boulevard center built 35 years ago and address the area's need for grocery stores, calling the area a former "food desert."

Similar to the priorities of other Los Angeles elected officials and mayoral candidates, Wilson said at his campaign launch that his priorities are to move un-housed residents into housing, help small businesses as they re-

cover from the COVID-19 pandemic and grow "smart transit and affordable housing corridors."

According to his website, Wilson also wants to eliminate the city's gross tax on businesses.

The Cal State Northridge graduate moved to the San Fernando Valley from Alabama when he was 10 years old and years later was active in a movement to have the Valley become independent of the city Los Angeles. The

secession bid went before voters in the Nov. 5, 2002, election, and failed.

Along with serving on the Los Angeles County Transportation Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors from 1993-97 and 2010-13 — he was appointed by former Los Angeles mayors Antonio Villaraigosa and Richard Riordan — Wilson spent four years on the Los Angeles Fire Commission.

He also served on the Business Tax Advisory Commission and the Small Business Advisory Commission, as well as president of the United Chamber of Commerce of San Fernando Valley.

Wilson joins several already announced candidates in the Nov. 8, 2022, mayoral election. The two most prominent contenders thus far are Councilman Joe Buscaino and City Attorney Mike Feuer.

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# Organization provides mentors for at-risk young people

BY DARLENE DONLOE  
Contributing Writer

Ken Martinet, the president and CEO of Catholic Big Brothers Big Sisters of Los Angeles County, was honored recently for his 26 years of service to the organization.

Martinet said he's "loved every minute of it."

"Being of service and working with an organization like this is in my DNA," said Martinet, a married father of three. "My parents were very inspiring. My mother was a Latina and my father was Creole from New Orleans. It was instilled in me from an early age to help people have a chance in life.

"I learned about social justice. That was a big aspect of my education. I always wanted to turn all of that into an opportunity to pay it forward," Martinet added.

Martinet, who turns 80 in August, has had several careers, but calls his current role "The most fulfilling."

"The real attraction is to give back and pay it forward," he said. "I have a great staff, some of whom have been here longer than me. We've had thousands of kids we've helped and matched with volunteers. Having a mentor in a child's life is an important thing for them while they are trying to navigate into adult life."

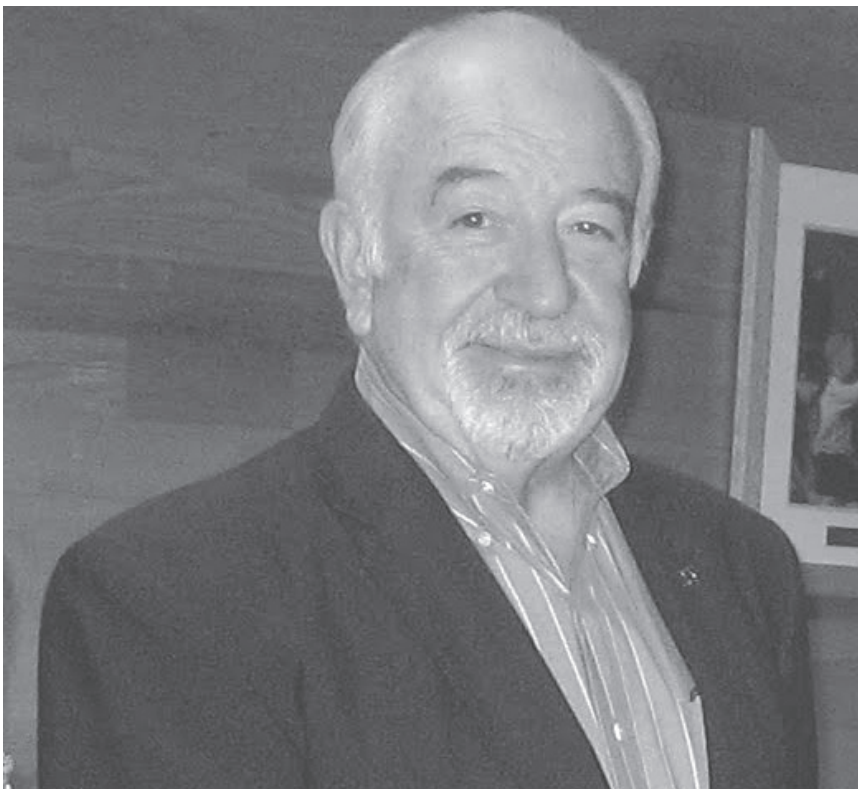
Founded in 1925, the vision of Catholic Big Brothers Big Sisters is to create a lasting, positive impact on youth by empowering them through mentoring to help them succeed in school and in life.

Its mission is to bring equity to low-income, underserved youth of all beliefs, backgrounds and identities, by providing strong, enduring, and professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationships with caring adult mentor volunteers that inspire youth potential. The organization believes every child is born with potential and with a mentor they achieve milestones and reach long-term success.

The volunteers that work with the program are called bigs and the children they work with are called littles.

The bigs, are matched with littles

Darlene Donloe is a freelance reporter for Wave Newspapers who covers South Los Angeles. She can be reached at [ddonloe@gmail.com](mailto:ddonloe@gmail.com).



Ken Martinet, president and CEO of Catholic Big Brothers Big Sisters of Los Angeles, was honored recently for 26 years of service to the organization. He calls his years of service 'fulfilling.'

Courtesy photo

who meet one-on-one from four to eight hours per month (at least two times per month) during the course of a minimum one-year period.

"They can do more, but we don't want it to be overwhelming," Martinet said. "We are very watchful about not getting too intimate. We don't want any competition with their family life."

Martinet said the organization, which operates on a \$1 million annual budget through foundations, government grants and fundraisers, and is part of the Big Brothers Big Sister Federation and has a long history of working with youth facing adversity.

It serves between 700 and 800 kids annually. Each year approximately 300 to 400 young people have one-on-one mentoring matches.

The organization assesses another 400 children and their families for services (and other social service referrals), and screens and trains 500 adults as potential mentors or skilled volunteers. Some of the services include providing health information, food, and rent supplements.

"The organization survived through

the Depression and recessions," Martinet said. "We have been working with bringing equity to our community ever since we started. We were started by Community Chest, which is now United Way. Back then it was for boys who had been incarcerated or were from broken families. We have, of course, since expanded."

Martinet said most of the children who participate in the Big Brothers Big Sister program come from disadvantaged, underserved neighborhoods.

"All of the children come from not-so-good zip codes, underserved and under-resourced communities like Central and South Los Angeles, the San Gabriel Valley, and more, areas where opportunities to get in trouble is prevalent," he said. "Most of our children come from single-parent homes, mostly with women as the head of household."

"We want the children to have a good education. There is very little equity in the system and not enough funding. These children need someone in their life. That's what we do."

Some of the children that participate in the program are in the foster care sys-

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE



tem. About 70% are Latino, and 20% are African American. The organization added Big Sisters in 2004 and is now 50% boys and girls.

Martinet noted that the organization doesn't just serve Catholics.

"We were started by a Catholic," he said. "We work with everyone including people who don't have a religion."

The organization, which recently received its eighth quality award in a row from the National Federation of Big Brothers Big Sisters, certifying that it is among the top 1 or 2% in the quality of the program, offers various programs.

Each child is paired with a mentor/volunteer. The organization hopes to bring on more. They also hope to bring on more children. The need is so great, there are still children waiting to be paired.

Specific activities are determined by each mentoring pair and typically include museums, movies, help with homework, Dodge games, sports, playing in the park, hiking, outings for ice cream, help with chores and more.

"Sometimes it's their first time going to a park, the beach or a ballgame," Martinet said. "Thousands of children have gone through the program with a 100% high school graduation rate. Some go to college. That is a sense of achievement for us, knowing the child has a chance for a better life."

There is also a workplace mentoring program, where young people are connected to opportunities to learn about various professions and trades. At the same time, generous executives and business people can cultivate a culture of corporate service by opening up their worksite offices and staff to the children they serve.

The children go to the worksite once a month to meet with their mentors to learn about the organization and participate in a curriculum that encourages academic achievement, life skills and professional development. Bigs and littles then meet one-on-one with each other for follow-up discussions.

The bulk of the program's services are done in the community and not at schools.

"We used to do mentoring at schools, but not anymore," Martinet said. "Today, the mentor picks children up at home and they go to the park, the library, a game, a show, or out to eat in the community."

"We do stringent background checks on volunteers," he added. "Social workers are in contact with them constantly. We have some matches who have stayed together for almost five years."

Martinet is the biggest cheerleader for the organization. He considers what the organization does as an investment in both the children and the community.

"For every dollar invested in mentoring there is a return of \$10 to the community, calculated on the reduction in violence, mental health and risky behavior," he said.

Martinet, whose great uncle was Louis A. Martinet, the first African-American graduate of Straight University Law School, now Dillard, said the Big Brother Big Sister model of mentoring has worked because of the human connection.

"Where else can you get a person in a child's life — a kind of coach, teacher, medical watchdog, friend all wrapped up into one person?" he asked. "The mentor provides a good shoulder to cry on, if needed. That's what we do when we ask for a volunteer. We want them to really be involved because we want these children to know someone cares. We want them to know they are important and that there are opportunities for them out there."

"There is a saying, 'you can't be it unless you see it.'"

*"Making a Difference" is a weekly feature profiling organizations that are serving their communities. To propose a "Making a Difference" profile, send an email to [newsroom@wavepublication.com](mailto:newsroom@wavepublication.com).*

# Community colleges play vital role in minority communities

BY JANICE HAYES KYSER  
Contributing Writer

LOS ANGELES — A recent study conducted by the Los Angeles Economic Development Commission (LAEDC) examining the disparities in education and career opportunities for people of color in the Los Angeles region concludes that community colleges can and must play a vital role in closing the educational attainment and opportunity gap by partnering with local industry and creating mentorships for people of color by people of color.

"We sit on a ton of data that confirms the inequities and the question is how do we employ that data to make a difference," said Jessica Ku Kim, vice president of economic and workforce development and leader of LAEDC's Center for a Competitive Workforce, which conducted the study.

"One important way to close the gap is to meet people where they are by exposing them to people who look like them, sound like them and understand their story. Our outreach has to be real and representative. If people don't see themselves, the message is not going to resonate. They need relatable role models."

Ku Kim points to Gladeo.org, an online resource that features culturally relevant information and real and relatable stories with the goal of creating a more inclusive, equitable and prepared workforce.

The Gladeo platform uses



Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti kicks off the Los Angeles College Promise program in September 2020. The program allows many Los Angeles community college to get two years of tuition-free college at Los Angeles' nine community colleges.

Courtesy photo

videos, storytelling, an extensive digital library of informational interviews, as well as data-driven, personalized education and resource recommendations to facilitate the dissemination of all the kinds of knowledge Ku Kim says is crucial for successful career development.

Although the region that encompasses Los Angeles and Orange counties is home to an extremely diverse employment base, the report found that persistent inequality hinders the ability for every worker to take advantage

of the region's economic offerings. For example, according to the report, people of color are woefully underrepresented in some of the fastest growing segments of the economy such as construction, business services and health care and when they are represented, they are often paid less.

Part of the solution, the study concluded, is stronger alliances between business and community colleges to provide opportunities that will create a strong pipeline into these sectors of the economy.

Eric J. Williams, interim as-

sociate dean of health sciences at Santa Monica College, says that while he agrees with the study's findings, it's time to move from research to redesigning the system. Currently, Williams says despite the diversity of L.A. and the nation, 85% of the nurses in the country are white. He says diversifying the health care workforce will improve the health and well-being of people of color and the country as a whole.

"There is so much power in giving students the opportunity to work with people and learn from people who look like them and who are saying to them yes you can, you can stand next to me, not behind me," Williams said.

Williams knows that power firsthand. As one of nine children of a single mother growing up in New Orleans, he has lived the challenges many people of color face.

The immediate past president of the National Black Nurses Association says he wouldn't be where he is today without the support of mentors who look like him.

He also has mentored many Black and brown individuals along the way. One of the recipients of his knowledge and experience is Michael Simmons, a nurse Williams met through the college's partnership with the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System. Simmons says the insights, contacts and support he received from Williams helped him to expand his goals and reach higher.

"He showed me that there was no limit to my potential," said Simmons, who is now the chief

nurse at Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, 35 miles north of his hometown of Chicago. "I am reaching back and trying to encourage others to explore the health care field and that is what we all have to do. We have to reach out early, often and engage business and academia to make sure we have health care professionals who look like the population they are serving."

Williams says Santa Monica College's Health Science division continues to work with a number of local entities including the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, churches and local school districts to expose more Black and brown candidates to careers in health care.

Jameca Marshall, director of programs for the Los Angeles Urban League, applauds Williams' efforts, saying that mentoring students of color and formulating partnerships with community organizations should be standard operating procedure.

"There are a lot of things that are happening, we are all working harder, but we need to work smarter," Marshall said. "We can't keep doing things one off. It has to be systemized, organized and intentional."

One strategy Marshall would like to see community colleges employ is to set up satellite recruiting stations in Black and brown communities.

Rafael Chavez, spokesperson for the Chancellor's Office of the Community Colleges of California, said last week the office began a targeted outreach to the

state's African-American population touting the opportunities and support available at community colleges throughout California.

According to Chavez, last June the Chancellor's Office released a plan to actively strategize and take action against structural racism throughout the system through a six-point Call to Action that included conducting audits about the climate on campus and in the classroom.

The report urged colleges to engage and support on- and off-campus programs, organizations and individuals to help cultivate an environment of inclusion for students so they can succeed. For years, Chavez says the Chancellor's Office has collaborated with local institutions to help raise awareness about the community colleges through community-based outreach and partnerships with community and faith-based organizations throughout the state.

While the Urban League's Marshall commends the efforts, she says a mandate, not a recommendation is what will make a meaningful difference for Black and brown residents of Los Angeles.

"One thing is clear," Marshall said. "If we really want to close the gap, we have to work together and we have to get creative. We can't keep doing things the way we have been."

For more information or to read the full LAEDC report visit the webpage at: <https://competitiveworkforce.la/race-and-ethnicity/>.

# Job fair results in 200 new jobs for South L.A. residents

WAVE STAFF REPORT

CRENSHAW — A job fair designed to match up residents of South Los Angeles with employers affiliated with SoFi Stadium in Inglewood resulted in more than 200 people getting hired earlier this month.

The fair, held July 10 at the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza, was a collaborative effort be-

tween City Councilman Marqueece Harris-Dawson's office, Legends, Contemporary Services Corporation, the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza and the West Adams Worksource Center.

"I know how difficult it can be to find a job during this crisis," Harris-Dawson said. "I wanted to create an opportunity for a win for job seekers, through an event where they can apply and be hired the same day."

Job seekers who attended the fair applied and interviewed for thousands of open positions in retail, culinary, concessions and security.

Many were encouraged prior to the fair to register in advance for specific interview slots. Many of those were hired on the spot, Harris-Dawson said. More than 200 job seekers received offer letters at the fair.

"We're grateful for our part-

nership with Council District 8, which allowed us to host a successful job fair and bring ample opportunities to our local community," said Quintin E. Primo III, chairman and chief executive of Capri Investment Group, which operates the mall. "As we begin our return to a normal life — post-COVID — we hope events like this will help residents hardest hit by the pandemic get back on their feet."

"The successful job fair that resulted in the hiring of 233 Angelenos for various positions with Contemporary Services Corporation and to work at the SoFi Stadium is a testament to our strong partnership," said Mike Watanabe, president and CEO of the Asian American Drug Abuse Program that operates the West Adams WorkSource Center. "I look forward to similar collaborative efforts in the future."

Harris-Dawson said the coronavirus pandemic has devastated the economy, resulting in struggling businesses and high unemployment rates. Now that the state has fully reopened, the need to access stable employment remains high.

He said it is his top to bring economic stability to South Los Angeles and to continue to create partnerships and bring quality jobs to the community.



# Smiley returns to broadcasting with KBLA Talk 1580

BY SHIRLEY HAWKINS  
Contributing Writer

SOUTH LOS ANGELES — It's only been on the air for a month, but already the buzz is building for KBLA Talk 1580, the Los Angeles radio station that made its debut on Juneteenth, launched by media personality, author and philanthropist Tavis Smiley.

After almost four years off the air, Smiley is back on the airwaves with the only 24-hour, seven-days-a-week Black-owned and operated talk radio station in Southern California.

"We have never had talk radio that is Black-owned in Los Angeles," Smiley said. "The line in talk radio has always been all day, all night, all white."

Smiley held a media luncheon July 15 to brief those in attendance about updates on the station, which he said is already becoming a powerhouse after being on the air for a month.

The former PBS host, who calls his new station "unapologetically progressive," said the station carries 50,000 watts of broadcasting power with a reach of 12 million people in its coverage area. The station will not only cover local news, but national and international news as well.

And with a provocative lineup

Shirley Hawkins is a freelance reporter for Wave Newspapers. She can be reached at [metropressnews@gmail.com](mailto:metropressnews@gmail.com).



Tavis Smiley addresses the local media July 15. The owner of radio station KBLA 1580, Smiley has introduced a 24-hour talk radio station geared toward the Black community.

Courtesy photo

of talented radio hosts, he said he hoped listeners will be captivated by the round-the-clock stimulating talk.

Award-winning radio host Dominique DiPrima, who after 16 years at radio free 102.3 KJLH-FM, is now the host of KBLA's morning drive time show "First Things First. DiPrima made history by becoming the only African American woman in Los Angeles to host her own commercial talk radio show, which airs from 6 to 9

a.m. Monday through Friday.

Some were surprised when DiPrima joined KBLA after 16 years at 102.3 KJLH-FM. But Smiley said there are no hard feelings with KJLH's owner Stevie Wonder, adding that KJLH is primarily a music station while KBLA 1580 is 24-hour talk radio.

"Stevie and I have been friends for years," Smiley said. "I felt our friendship would be over once DiPrima joined KBLA, but Stevie got on the air and said, 'I

want to congratulate my pal Tavis Smiley.' There's no competition between me and Stevie. There is room for two radio stations."

DiPrima is followed by Smiley, whose "Tavis Smiley" show airs from 9 a.m. to noon.

Comedian Alonzo Bodden brings his commentary to KBLA Talk 1580 with his own show, "Alonzo Bodden: Who's Paying Attention?"

Listeners also can call in to chat with comic and politi-

cal commentator DL Hughley, whose "The DL Hughley Afternoon Show" is heard around the country and can now be heard in Los Angeles on KBLA Talk 1580 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Other shows airing on KBLA 1580 include "Middays With Danny Morrison" Monday through Friday from noon to 2 p.m., "Let's Get Intimate with Dr. Jeshana Johnson" Monday through Friday from 7 to 9 p.m., and "Don Amiche vs. Everybody with Crysta and Kiara" Monday through Friday from 9 p.m. to midnight.

"The Best of KBLA Talk 1580" runs each night from midnight to 6 a.m. Weekends are anchored by Black Lives Matters' "This Is Not A Drill," featuring co-founder Melina Abdullah along with "The Best of State of the Black Union," heard exclusively on KBLA.

"There's nothing like word of mouth," said Smiley, who added that local listeners have been tuning in to the station at a rapid rate while listeners across the country have been tuning into the station by downloading the KBLA Talk 1580 app.

Smiley is optimistic about the station's chances and said that he is in it for the long run.

"What makes the venture unique is that it is not about me, it's not a Tavis Smiley project because I have a great team on board carrying the load," he said. "It's about the community having a platform and we're definitely off to a good start."

Smiley has plans to expand KBLA to other cities as well.

"Los Angeles is the flagship station," he said, adding there are a number of Black populated cities that lack a Black talk show radio station.

"The plan is to buy and lease other networks across the country that will take our programming," Smiley said. "We have already talked to investors and calls to syndicate KBLA 1580 are already pouring in."

Smiley, who said he was good friends with the late musician Prince, said that the artist passed on some lifelong valuable advice.

"Remember when Prince scrawled the word 'slave' across his face?" Smiley asked. "That's because Prince didn't own any of the masters of his own music. He said to me, 'Ownership is everything. Make sure you own all the copyrights to your work.'"

"I took that to heart and I have made certain that I own all of my material," Smiley said.

Smiley said that being off the air for four years due to allegations of sexual misconduct that resulted in PBS taking his show off the air was one of the toughest periods in his life. During his four-year absence, Smiley said he went into a period of introspection and was angered and appalled to hear about the rash of police shootings that were killing Black men across the country.

"They're covering us now because we are in the streets, but what happens when we're not in the streets anymore and folks supporting us have dissipated?" Smiley reflected. "[Cops] are not going to stop killing us."

# Local teens accepted into prestigious golf caddie academy

BY 2URBANGIRLS  
Contributing Writer

INGLEWOOD — The Western Golf Association's Caddie Academy is returning for its 10th summer, providing a select group of under-resourced students from across the nation the opportunity to caddie at golf clubs along Chicago's North Shore.

High school students will caddie daily for seven weeks at one of 13 participating clubs, while living at Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart in Lake Forest, Illinois. In addition, 27 female students will participate in the summer program virtually.

"The Caddie Academy provides a unique opportunity for hard-working young women and men to be introduced to the game of golf through caddying," said WGA Chairman Kevin Buggy. "Along the way, they learn plenty of important life lessons, including perseverance, dedication and communication and money management skills.

"The ultimate reward is a chance to earn a full housing and tuition Evans Scholarship to college," he added.

Among the summer participants are three students from St. Mary's Academy, in Inglewood.

London Harris, Angelina Hernandez and Idaly Sanchez are joining other teens at this year's academy and they are excited to be participating in person this summer.

"I joined the program during summer 2020 and my first year was online, but this year I get to experience caddying firsthand at Conway Farms in Lake Forest, Illinois," said Hernandez, 16. "I like the program because it gives me an opportunity to meet other girls my age that I never would have the chance of meeting. I also gain job experience and understand the value of hard work."

The participants are not only excited about earning money during the summer, but also enjoy learning much needed life skills.

"I have learned the impor-

tance of a genuine human connection and being an out-going person," Harris said. "Being from L.A. and coming so far to Chicago, I have learned how important it is to make yourself known and to not hesitate under pressure.

"While caddying, I learned so much about a golfer during a short period of time. That is something truly amazing because I could not experience that anywhere else. This is attributed to the fact that I caddie every day."

Through the Caddie Academy, students have the chance to earn money, meet role models and learn valuable life lessons on the golf course. After successfully completing three summers of the program, they become eligible to apply for the Evans Scholarship, a full tuition and housing college scholarship. Participants come from economically under-resourced backgrounds, and more than 90% are minorities.

To date, more than 90 graduates of the Caddie Academy have been awarded the Evans Scholarships since the program began in

2012. The ladies give the program high remarks and encourage other girls to consider applying.

"I would definitely recommend the WGA Caddie Academy to other students because it gives someone the opportunity to connect with others nationwide while earning money," Harris said. "It is also a great opportunity for college and beyond."

"I would absolutely recommend other students to join the Caddie Academy because of the things they would learn, the experience they would have during the summer, and the idea of being out of their comfort zone," said Sanchez, 16. "It is a way to strengthen your own character as a person and a way to gain experience in a whole new environment within the dorms and on the

golf course." Caddie Academy participants are chosen during their freshman year of high school, based on academics, demonstrated financial need and promising leadership and character.

The Caddie Academy is funded by the Souder family. Proceeds from the women's invitational golf event also benefit the program.



Angelina Hernandez



Idaly Sanchez



London Harris

# Foster Farms workers threaten strike

FROM CITY NEWS SERVICE

COMPTON — Nearly 250 employees at the Foster Farms' poultry plant here are preparing for a possible strike after rejecting the company's latest contract proposal, union officials said July 20.

The workers, represented by Teamsters Local 630, voted overwhelmingly against the offer July 18. According to the union, the workers' contract with one of the largest poultry producers on the West Coast expired June 14, 2020, and they are working under an extension agreement that can be terminated with seven days notice by either party.

The sides have met 18 times since then, mostly via Zoom but in person for the three most recent sessions.

Oscar Ruiz, the union representative for the Compton facility, told City News Service that negotiations are continuing, and the union will re-evaluate whether to go on strike based on what happens over the next couple of days.

Ruiz said the main issue is medical costs. The union says production, sanitation, warehouse and maintenance workers — approximately 70% of whom are Latina and Black women — voted "nearly unanimously" against a contract proposal that would shift thousands of dollars of health care costs onto them.

Attempts to reach Foster Farms for comment were not immediately successful.

"Foster Farms makes billions every year; it is the hard work of our members that makes the Foster family very wealthy," said

Lou Villalvazo, secretary-treasurer of Local 630. "It is outrageous how the Foster family is treating its frontline employees. Many of them are women of color with families and young children who have loyally worked there for 20 or 30 years.

It's also unconscionable that Foster Farms is trying to force workers to accept a health care plan that could easily bankrupt their families. These are our neighbors and community members who came to work throughout the pandemic to keep Californians fed."

Foster Farms is headquartered in Livingston, California, but has facilities throughout the West Coast and some on the East Coast.

Its Compton plant is located at 1805 N. Santa Fe Ave.

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## More Blacks needed on school boards

BY JULIANNE MALVEAUX  
Guest Columnist

Critical race theory asserts that racism is woven into the very fabric of our nation's institutions. This is not new information for those who have studied how race affects our economy, politics, education, health care and more.

Critical race theory is not an attempt to "blame" white America for its origins as much as it is a pedagogical approach to reality. Through critical race theory, we can see the many ways that the uneven application of laws allowed envious white people to destroy Tulsa's Black Wall Street, colonizers to gentrify Black neighborhoods, doctors to experiment on Black people and more.

Critical race theory helps us understand how California stole parts of Mexico, Chinese people were imported here (without wives or families) to build railroads, and how our Constitution defined Black folks as fractions of people.

Attorney and professor Derrick Bell (1930-2011) wrote about the many ways our racist gendered patriarch systematically oppressed Black people and others at the periphery. He used both legal theory and fiction to amplify his points.

Critical race theory has been taught in our nation's colleges and universities, and especially in our law schools, for decades. Now white legislators are passing laws in several states to outlaw its teaching because it hits too close to home.

Much of this legislation demonstrates how ignorant some of these legislators are. It also illustrates how heated the battle for fact and knowledge is.

Some think the South won the Civil War, which they describe as the war of "northern aggression." Though the statues are coming down, there are still those who believe those statues were erected for heroism, not resistance to equality.

And every time you see a Confederate flag flying, you must know that those stars and bars were only added to state flags after Brown V. Board of Education became law, and white southerners wanted to communicate their allegiance to racism.

The legislators who oppose critical race theory also oppose knowledge. Now, their fearlessly foolish conservative leaders are

urging them to "take over" the schools by running for school boards around the country.

Rich Lowry, the National Review editor, wrote a piece, "The Point of the Anti-CRT Fight Should Be To Take Over the Schools." What he means is to take over young people's brains.

Lowry is smart enough to know that the historical white-wash conservatives are attempting cannot withstand historical scrutiny. So he and his conservative minions would instead inject their ideology into our schools, using low-turnout, low-budget races to grab power.

Roland S. Martin deserves credit for lifting this. He has been looking at the damage school boards do for years. He says, and Lowry echoes, the power school boards have to choose book vendors, to shape the curriculum and to select teachers and trainers.

The anti-critical race theory crowd would shut this down. But we also shut ourselves down when we get stuck at the top of the ballot. It is essential to choose a president and vice president, a senator and congressional representative, and it is equally important to select a zoning commissioner or a school board member.

Lowry's piece makes it clear and makes it plain. He says that "education is too important to be left to educators." He wants rabid (he didn't say white, but I will) parents to run for school boards and to use their passion to lock knowledge out.

So this is my plea to woke, progressive Black folk. Please run for school board. There are tens of thousands of Black women who have retired from education.

Would you please run for the school board? There are young people of color who understand the flaws in the education that was delivered to them.

Please run for school board. There are entrepreneurs who decry the inadequate education that so many young people bring when they apply for new jobs.

Please run for school board. Many of these posts can be won with a few hundred votes and a few thousand dollars.

The right wing has its marching orders. We need to have ours, too. We can serve our communities and our nation by standing up for knowledge. Please run for school board.

*Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author and dean of the College of Ethnic Studies at Cal State Los Angeles. She also is president of PUSH Excel, the education arm of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition. You may contact her at juliannemalveaux.com.*

Critical race theory has been taught in our nation's colleges and universities, and especially in our law schools, for decades.

## THE HUTCHINSON REPORT



President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris share a laugh at the White House. Columnist Earl Ofari Hutchinson says the Republicans continue to attack Harris because they feel she could be the Democratic presidential nominee in 2024, should Biden not seek a second term.

Courtesy photo

## The GOP watchword on Harris is attack

BY EARL OFARI HUTCHINSON  
Contributing Columnist

It started almost the instant that Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden announced that California Sen. Kamala Harris was his pick for vice president in 2020. The



Hutchinson

"it" was the sniping, rumor mongering, and flat out attacks on Harris.

The knock on her was that she was the perennial "angry Black woman."

This ancient stereotype types Black women as bossy, loud, outspoken, domineering and emotionally high strung.

A parade of Republican officials and candidates has snatched at that hit tag on Harris since she assumed office. The latest is Alabama senatorial candidate Jessica Taylor, who vented her spleen on Harris in a series of campaign ads.

The hit job on Harris is more than simply a case of Republicans playing the subtle gender and race card to pick at her. Though a strong dose of both underlays the attacks.

No, Harris will be the Republicans perennial whipping woman for two very transparent reasons. Both have one, and only,

one aim. That's to take back the White House in 2024.

The first reason Harris is a prime target is Biden. He's a tough nut for the Republicans to crack. He's white, male, a very mature adult, from a border state, and has a lot of Republican friends in the Senate from his long tenure there.

So far, he hasn't said or done much that will give the GOP attack squad much to flail at him with. The attackers would have loads of ammunition to fire at him if he had moved to dump the filibuster or to plop more liberal Democratic friendly judges on the Supreme Court.

Biden has pretty much closed the door on either of these possibilities. He's generally gotten high poll marks and his likability generally remains high. Barring any earth-shattering controversy, the politically cautious image of Biden is likely to remain intact.

Harris is a far different story. That points to the second reason for targeting her. The speculation on the possibility that Biden may not be the Democrat's presidential candidate in 2024 continues non-stop.

His age and questions about possible health challenges fuel the talk about 2024. Biden has repeatedly made clear that he intends to seek reelection and intends to serve two full terms.

This hasn't stopped the speculation about his running again. And more importantly for the GOP, the hope that he will pack it in after one term.

The GOP will exaggerate and magnify Harris's vulnerabilities at every turn no matter how small, trivial and just downright silly they are. Republicans, for instance, made much about her not touring the border and then when she did go, beat up on her for supposedly not doing anything to solve the problem.

Some dredge up the old charge that her presidential bid in 2020 was largely a flop, that she was a poor campaigner and a candidate who had limited appeal to the general voting public.

The comparison is oft made to Barack Obama. Harris, unlike Obama, supposedly did not stir any excitement among Black voters. The criticism from some Blacks that during her stint as California attorney general she was too law and order, pro-police comfy is cited. Her admirable reform record in office is ignored.

Harris certainly broke barriers in being the first female of African American and Indian ancestry to bag the vice presidency. However, the vice presidency is still largely viewed as a ceremonial, take the back seat to power post, to the president. The other Harris vulnerability is the same one the GOP played on to tar Hillary Clinton.

Strong, tough, decisive, and, yes, aggressive, are the exact qualities that voters and millions of Americans want and expect in their leaders. For many, that means the presidential office is a man's office. Polls still show that

a significant number of voters say they have reservations about a woman president.

Donald Trump exploited that sentiment to the hilt. He was the biggest sexist, misogynist, female abuser that ever sat in the White House. But he was still seen as brash, tough, and outspoken.

For many women, that seemed to mark him as having the right stuff to be president. More than 73 million voters still thought that about him in his losing bid for reelection. Millions of those voters were women.

So far, Republican shots at Harris haven't done much harm. One June poll shows that her favorability rating is still high.

But in the months ahead she will have the hard, uphill task of assuring millions in the general voting public that she has the experience and political savvy to handle the wheel of governing.

The GOP isn't taking any chances on 2024. The vice president who could well be the Democrat's candidate for president in 2024 will be under its harshest glare. The watchword on Harris will be attack and attack hard now just in case it's her and not Biden in 2024.

*Earl Ofari Hutchinson is an author and political analyst. His latest book is "Bring Back the Poll Tax! — The GOP War on Voting Rights" (Middle Passage Press). He is the host of the weekly Hutchinson Report on KPFK 90.7 FM Los Angeles and the Pacifica Network.*

## Voter suppression is attack on democracy

BY MARC H. MORIAL  
Guest Columnist

"The 21st century Jim Crow assault is real. It's unrelenting, and we're going to challenge it vigorously. While this broad assault against voting rights is not unprecedented, it's taking on a new and, literally, pernicious form. It's no longer just about who gets to vote or making it easier for eligible voters to vote. It's about who gets to count the vote -- who gets to count whether or not your vote counted at all. ...



Morial

It's the most dangerous threat to voting and the integrity of free and fair elections in our history."

— President Joe Biden

Last week, I had the opportunity to meet with President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris to discuss the appalling attack on democracy that is ongoing in state legislatures across the country, as well as other is-

The courts are used to undercut the Voting Rights Act, all to subvert the democratic process and overturn the will of the people.

sues of racial justice.

A few days later, President Biden delivered one of the most impassioned speeches of his presidency, echoing many of the themes we discussed in our meeting. He alluded to our meeting, reminding Americans of our commitment to "stay vigilant and challenge these odious laws in the courts."

I was proud that we pushed the president to address the issue, and we intend to continue pushing.

The National Urban League helped lead the meeting between the White House and a group of leaders from eight legacy Black civil rights organizations.

Joining me were Melanie Campbell, president and CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation; Johnnetta Cole, national chair and president of the National Council of Negro Women; Wade Henderson, interim president of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; Damon

Hewitt, president and executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; Sherrilyn Ifill, president and director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund; Derrick Johnson, president and CEO of the NAACP; and Rev. Al Sharpton, president of the National Action Network.

I was grateful for the opportunity to impress upon the president and vice president the urgency of confronting the wave of anti-voter legislation that is surging through state legislatures. When we look at what is happening in this nation, we see an effort to impose a system of American apartheid on our grand and glorious multicultural nation.

State laws are used to suppress the vote, the filibuster process is used to obstruct congressional oversight. The courts are used to undercut the Voting Rights Act, all to subvert the democratic process and overturn the will of the people.

We urged President Biden to put the full moral prestige and the power of the presidency behind voting rights, to help frame the debate for the American people. As a candidate, he talked about the soul of the nation. No issue cuts to the soul of the nation more than voting rights.

I was glad to hear President Biden and Vice President Harris reconfirm their determination to push for passage of the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act — two vital bills that would protect voting rights and the integrity of the elections process.

We also discussed the frustrating delay in securing passage of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which is currently being negotiated in the Senate. Days after the meeting, Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, who is leading the negotiations for Senate Republicans, said he hopes a police reform package is approved by the end of this month.

We look forward to continuing the discussion and holding the president and vice president to their commitments.

*Marc H. Morial is the president and chief executive officer of the National Urban League.*

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# VOICES

## Stirring up ‘good and necessary trouble’ in Texas

By **BEN JEALOUS**  
Guest Columnist

One year after the death of the great civil rights icon John Lewis, a group of Texas Democratic lawmakers is following Lewis’s lifelong call for people to make “good trouble” and “necessary trouble” to secure equality and justice for all.

Congressional Democrats should bring the same level of commitment to resisting and overturning a new wave of voting restrictions that voting rights activist Stacey Abrams has labeled “Jim Crow 2.0.”

Here’s why dozens of Texas lawmakers were in Washington, D.C. last week.

Texas is the latest Republican-run state where legislators and the governor are trying to impose new voting restrictions — banning drive-through and 24-hour early voting, restricting distribution of absentee ballots, imposing new voter identification provisions — that they hope will make it harder for Democrats to win future elections. Their voter suppression laws are aimed at Black and brown voters and others more likely to support Democratic candidates.

Republican officials are also trying to make former President Donald Trump happy by giving credibility to his false claims that the 2020 election was stolen from him. They’re using his lies about “election fraud” and “election integrity” to justify new restrictive voting rules.



Jealous



U.S. Rep John Lewis, who died a year ago, was a legend of the civil rights movement, particularly when it came to voting rights. The U.S. Senate is currently debating the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, which would restore many of the provisions of the 1965 Voting Rights Act that have been overturned by U.S. Supreme Court decisions.

Courtesy photo

In Texas, Republicans control the state House and Senate. And hard-right Gov. Gregg Abbott is eager to do Trump’s bidding.

Back in May, Texas Republicans tried to push their election bill through the House just before the close of the legislative session. Because the Texas House is required to have two-thirds of its

members present to conduct official business, Democratic legislators stopped the bill from passing by walking out of the chamber.

But Gov. Abbott is so set on getting his new voting law that he ordered legislators to come back into session this month to push it through. To prevent the state’s Republicans from forcing new

voting restrictions into law, more than 50 Democratic legislators left the state.

Gov. Abbott and Republican Senate leaders have threatened lawmakers with arrest to try to force them to attend the session. And he has said he will keep calling special sessions until he gets his way.

That’s why the Texas legislators came to Washington, D.C. They brought an urgent message to members of Congress: the only way to protect voters from voter suppression at the state level is to pass national voting rights legislation.

The House of Representatives has previously passed the For the

People Act, which would reverse many new voting restrictions and includes a number of priorities specifically outlined by John Lewis during his lifetime, and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, which would help prevent future voter suppression efforts from taking effect. Both are essential to protect democracy and voting rights.

But right now Senate Republicans are using the filibuster to block the For the People Act, and they could do the same to the Lewis Voting Rights Act.

President Joe Biden has just made a strong speech in defense of voting rights. He denounced new voter suppression efforts. And he called for the Senate to pass the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.

I am grateful that President Biden has called attention to the urgent need for congressional action. Now we need him to use his leadership to get voting rights legislation through the Senate. And if Republicans continue to block it using a filibuster, he must work with Senate leaders to break through that obstruction.

John Lewis nearly died in the struggle to pass the national Voting Rights Act. He dedicated his career in Congress to defending it.

I am steeling myself for the disgust I will feel when Republican officials praise him on the anniversary of his death at the same time they are undermining the cause to which he devoted his life.

Texas Democrats are honoring John Lewis by making good and necessary trouble. It is time for Democrats in Washington, and any Republicans committed more to country than party, to do the same.

*Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way. He is a former president and CEO of the NAACP.*

## John Lewis, a founding father of American democracy

By **JESSE JACKSON SR.**  
Guest Columnist

When John Lewis died July 17, 2020, editorials and columns paid tribute to his leadership, his courage, his moral example. The praise was well deserved.



Jackson

A broader context helps understand his true contribution.

John Lewis was born one of 10 children of a sharecropper in Troy, Alabama. He should be remembered now as one of the founding fathers of American democracy.

When he led that famous march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, in 1965, America was not yet a full democracy. Yes, a brutal Civil War had been fought to end the scourge of slavery. Nearly a century later, the Supreme Court ruled in *Brown v. Board* that segregation — legal apartheid — was a violation of

Lewis was a leader, but he was more workhorse than show horse. Show horses preen to win the blue ribbon. ... Workhorses pull the wagon — and get the job done.

the Constitution.

Yet, in 1965, blacks still had no right to vote. Their efforts to register and vote were routinely suppressed, often violently throughout the South. The same was true for Latinos and Asian Americans. Young people could serve in the military but had no right to vote.

At Selma, John Lewis walked with amazing courage into mounted police blocking the way. He was beaten badly in the police riot that followed, fearing for his very life. That scene outraged a nation.

Two weeks later, President Lyndon Johnson pledged that “We shall overcome” and introduced what became the Voting Rights Act of 1965 into Congress. That act outlawed discrimination in the right to vote by race, color, or language minority status.

After that act, young people received the right to vote. Women’s

rights were expanded. Full American democracy was born.

John Lewis was a true hero, but he did not act alone. As he would always teach, he found his place in the civil rights movement that had been building when he was a young child.

Thurgood Marshall spearheaded the legal strategy that ended with the *Brown* decision in the Supreme Court. Rosa Parks sat on that bus in Montgomery, Alabama, and was arrested for ignoring white-only rules. Her courage and sacrifice drew the Rev. Martin Luther King to the struggle in Montgomery. King’s organizing drew the attention of a young John Lewis in Troy, Alabama.

Lewis was a leader, but he was more workhorse than show horse. Show horses preen to win the blue ribbon and the applause of the crowd. Workhorses pull the wagon — and get the job done.

John Lewis, with his quiet courage and his forceful moral vision, pulled people with him. Elected to Congress, he put Congress on his shoulders and tried by example and by organizing to make it better.

He never stopped. He took joy in how far we had come.

There was a direct line from that horrible Bloody Sunday in Selma to the election of an African American president. Yet he knew we still have a long way to go.

No longer do we face separate and unequal public facilities. Our right to vote is clear, even if efforts to suppress it continue. But the final chapter of the civil rights movement — the effort to achieve economic justice — has been frustrated.

Today economic inequality is as great as it was 60 years ago. We witness the structural racism that ends with African Americans three times more likely than whites to be infected by the pandemic and two times more likely to die. We witness the entrenched discrimination that ends in the police killing of George Floyd and many others.

That’s why the Black Lives Matter movement, the extraordinary, unprece-

dent outpouring of protests for black lives, is so important.

Lewis has left us, but millions have picked up the baton that he once carried, focused now on equal justice under the law, and on ending the structural racism that makes racial inequality a pre-existing condition. May his example — his courage, his devotion of nonviolence and to a lifetime of making “good trouble” — help inform that struggle as it goes forward.

The democracy of 1787, where only white male landowners could vote, referencing blacks as three-fifths human, without regard for working class whites and women, was very incomplete — it has no export value in the world today.

But the democracy of 1965, where blacks can vote, white women can vote and serve on juries, Latinos and native Americans, 18 year olds, can vote on college campuses, that Selma democracy is the envy of the world.

Let us cherish it.

*The Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. is founder and president of the Rainbow Push Coalition. This piece was originally published July 23, 2020.*

## The lives of Black women and children also matter

By **E. FAYE WILLIAMS**  
Guest Columnist

While in the midst of proclaiming Black Lives Matter, (and I agree) I want to make it clear that all Black Lives Matter, including Black women and children. It shouldn’t be necessary to say that, but it is.



Williams

To matter is to have value. There’s little doubt that Black Lives Matter. Thousands have demonstrated their support of that belief in streets across the nation

and, for unnumbered reasons, many more support that belief in

The United States was hypocritically established under a set of principles and laws ...worthy, but impractical to implement.

the privacy of their consciences.

The real challenge for those of us dedicated to broadening the understanding of Black Lives Matter is changing the concept from a slogan to a way of life. In so doing, we develop the ethic of embracing actions and ideas that encourage and stimulate positive growth in our communities.

It means rejecting those actions and ideas that produce no tangible positive outcomes in the lives of Black people — especially Black women and children.

It could be said that in the 1960s, the Black Panther Party was a precursor to the Black Lives Matter movement. Their

10 point program parallels the safety and physical concerns for the Black community of today’s movement.

In the early 1990s, Dr. C. DeLores Tucker, founder of the National Congress of Black Women, broadened those concerns with a campaign against “gangsta rap,” a campaign that addressed the psychological destruction of our youth and persons unduly influenced by the media.

Tucker understood that the information we feed our minds is intrinsically linked to how our reality is shaped and the conduct we can be expected to exhibit in our daily lives. If Black lives are

to really matter, we must re-examine how we think of each other and how we treat each other.

If Black lives are to really matter and we are to rise above the common discord we see in the daily intrigues of our nation, we must recalibrate how we value each other and regard each other with the respect we demand for ourselves.

It’s time for Black women to bring back our complaint about being constantly bombarded with unspeakable terms in what some call music. Gangsta rap, when it comes from Black men or Black women, has no regard for Black women or children.

No other women have to endure being bombarded and brutalized with such filthy language in their music. It’s long past the time to change that.

Bob Law, esteemed radio personality and leader of the National Black Leadership Alliance, Kwabena Rasuli of Clear the Airwaves and I have made every appeal possible to radio stations that play the offending music, to corporate thugs that finance radio stations playing the pornographic language that glorifies drugs, violent behavior, rape, murder, that disrespects Black women and have no regard for children.

This garbage is pumped into the minds of Black youth throughout the day. Many who pay to keep the filth on the radio in Black neighborhoods are in the fast-food industry that helps to damage the psyche of our youth, as well as damage their health.

We’ve concluded that it’s time to stop talking about it and move to the next step. We must move to action that takes the profit out of those who pay to make that kind of music possible.

If you’re a parent, you must listen to the words used in what your children are listening to. Identify the companies advertising on the stations playing the offensive music and stop doing business with them. Money speaks louder than words.

We’re in a period where we’re working hard to rescue our children and heal the wounds of circumstance. All of us have a duty to cleanse and clear our airwaves.

*E. Faye Williams is national president of the National Congress of Black Women. This column was originally published July 16, 2020.*



L O S A N G E L E S W A V E

# SPORTS

## After five years, Reshanda Gray finds WNBA home

BY SUE FAVOR  
Contributing Writer

Former Washington High School standout Reshanda Gray seems to have finally found a pro basketball home, after several seasons of uncertainty.

The South L.A. native was signed by the WNBA's New York Liberty July 1 for the rest of the season, after a couple of one-week stints on the roster as a replacement player. She returns to a franchise where she played the entire 2019 season.

"It's always great to feel wanted and I definitely feel wanted," Gray said. "It's a great group. I've always said 'stay ready so you don't have to get ready.' I think I did a great job of staying ready."

Gray didn't receive any invitation to training camps last spring, despite playing for the L.A. Sparks during the 2020 season. She signed a hardship contract with the Liberty prior to the season opener May 14, and impressed in the two games that followed with her defense, her paint presence and her energy.

She was brought back three weeks later and capped off three game appearances — which included a trip to L.A. to play in front of friends and family — with a 17-point outburst in a loss. Liberty general manager Jonathan Kolb then cut a player the franchise had for five years and signed Gray. She said she hadn't expected that.

"Jonathan's and my relationship is always honest. Whether good or bad, it's always honest," Gray said. "When I got the call from him telling me to come back, I felt like I'd worked so hard for it."

Gray's successful fight to get back into the WNBA, which only has 144 slots for players, is a testament to her resilience. After a successful career at Cali-



Reshanda Gray of the New York Liberty gets off a jump shot in a recent game. Gray, who attended Washington Preparatory High School in South Los Angeles, is averaging 17.5 minutes a game for the Liberty this season, the most in her five-year WNBA career.

Courtesy photo

fornia, where she set several single-game scoring records, helped guide the team to the Final Four in her second year and was named Pac-12 player of the year as a senior, Gray was drafted by the Minnesota Lynx in 2015.

Midway through her first season, she was traded to the Atlanta Dream, where she also played the following year. In January 2017, Gray was traded to the Connecticut Sun and was cut in training camp. The Liberty signed her to

a training contract in 2018, and she was one of the last to be cut prior to the season.

During the winter, Gray did what most players in the league do: She played overseas.

She suited up for two years

in Italy, two in Korea and one in Hungary. Besides earning a living as a professional athlete, Gray also worked diligently to improve her game, taking advantage of any time back in L.A. to work with a trainer.

Her work paid off two years ago, as she played in every game for the Liberty, starting 10, and averaging 5.2 points and 5.2 rebounds per game. But in May 2020, as the WNBA's season was on hold due to the COVID pandemic, the Liberty inexplicably cut Gray — a move that she said threw her into a funk for a while.

"I was big on my support system and who I was around," she said. "I had people who believed in me so if I was down, someone could pick me back up."

The Sparks came calling, and Gray played in the WNBA's "bubble" in Florida. But she saw action in just 10 games, and averaged 1.4 points and 2.8 rebounds per contest.

Seeing a place for herself in the league this year required her to "dig deep" within herself.

"Faith played a big part — what is meant for me won't be missed by me," Gray said. "I continued to workout, get treatment and act as if was in the league, so when the opportunity came, it would be a smooth transition for me."

Still, having to twice leave a New York team that she says is special was difficult.

"Being in and out was playing with my emotions, and theirs too, because they felt comfortable with me," Gray said. "Now they can have me for the rest of the season, which is great because I love this team. They're a group of dope individuals, and I'm excited."

So far this season, Gray is averaging 7.9 points and 4.2 rebounds per game, while averaging 17.5 minutes. But just as important, her teammates say she has added intangibles to the

roster. "You always know what you're going to get with her," veteran guard Sami Whitcomb said. "It's really hard to come to ... a team where you don't know everyone personality-wise, and bring positive energy and just get along with everybody is a massive reflection of her."

"On court, the word I think of when I think of her is toughness," Whitcomb added. "In every facet, whether it's rebounding, whether it's defense, whether it's offense, she catches everything we throw at her that's in her vicinity. And she just brings a toughness that, honestly, I think we were missing from top to bottom, and it's really contagious. It was really great to get her back. The whole coming in and coming out was difficult, but she didn't skip a beat, and that's really special."

As a Washington General in high school, Gray was a City Player of the Year, a McDonald's All-American, and she led the team to a Marine League championship as a junior. Her former coach, Ricky Blackmon, said Gray's relentlessness as a pro is par for the course.

"I'm never surprised at her resiliency, because that's who she's been," Blackmon said. "She has a tenacity about her that's always been there. She's never looked as a setback as an ending. It's always been in her to keep fighting and moving forward."

Gray said she is working daily to improve for the Liberty, because "there's always another level."

"I brought to the table what they asked of me," Gray said. "And I feel like there's another door that I haven't unlocked in myself, and I'm still looking for the key to open that door."

The WNBA schedule is paused for the Olympics, and will resume Aug. 15.

You can bet Gray will be ready when the season resumes.

## Community organizations to receive Super Bowl legacy grants

### WAVE STAFF REPORT

INGLEWOOD — The committee that will stage next February's Super Bowl with the National Football league has recognized 56 community and nonprofits organizations as part of the official Super Bowl LVI Legacy Program.

Los Angeles Super Bowl Host Committee hosted representatives of the 56 organizations at SoFi Stadium where it was announced that the organizations would receive a \$10,000 grant, a professionally produced vignette-style video spotlighting the organization and public recognition in the lead-up to the Super Bowl.

"The organizations recognized here today embody the very best of what our city has to offer," committee Chairman Casey Wasserman said during the event. "And we're thrilled to see them benefit from the Super Bowl's far-reaching economic and philanthropic legacy."

Six of the 56 organizations will receive a total grant award of \$50,000 to make an even bigger impact in their community. The additional grant awards will be announced later this year.

Each of the 56 organizations were chosen by the Super Bowl LVI Legacy Program from throughout Los Angeles County by a public nomination process which called on Angelenos to nominate "the changemakers, inspiration leaders and those who embody the diversity of our region."

Some of the 56 are focused on specific neighborhoods and communities within the region, including South Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, Crenshaw, Marina Del Rey, Hollywood, Inglewood, Long Beach, Burbank, Venice, Watts and Compton.

According to Renata Simril, president and CEO of the LA84 Foundation, the selected organizations were drawn from than 400 nominees.

Simril said she remembered



Representatives of 56 Los Angeles County nonprofit community organizations gathered with officials from the Los Angeles Rams and the NFL for the announcement of the recipients of the Super Bowl LVI Legacy Program this year. Each organization will receive a \$10,000 grant as part of the program.

Courtesy photo

her and Wasserman's pitch to NFL owners five years ago on L.A. hosting Super Bowl LVI being about not only hosting a game, "but the boundless possibilities that is Los Angeles," as well as the power of sport and major sporting events "to make our city better, one kid and one community at a time."

"Through the Champions Live Here Legacy Program, the Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment Commission and the Los Angeles Super Bowl Host Committee is harnessing the tremendous spotlight of the Super Bowl to recognize and elevate the spirit of access and opportunity that these 56 unsung hero organizations bring to the families and the communities they serve," Simril said.

Representatives from each organization walked out onto the field as they were introduced by "Entertainment Tonight" co-host Kevin Frazier, who emceed the event. After they took their seats along the west sideline, Frazier welcomed Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford and head coach Sean McVay to the stage to offer congratulations, discuss the importance of community and talk about the upcoming season.

Stafford understands the importance of using his visibility to set an example for others, knowing that if people see him doing something positive out in the community, it might inspire them to do the same.

"I think the biggest thing for [my wife] Kelly and myself, when we were trying to figure out what we wanted to do in Detroit, is we wanted to be passionate about it," Stafford said. "I feel like when you're passionate about something, that's when you do the best job."

"It's the easiest way to affect change when you really believe in what you're doing. We'll search high and low to figure out what we want to dive into, make sure we make an impact here."

McVay said he recognizes the importance of community from his partnership with the LA84 Foundation and Play Equity Fund that began last August.

"When you pour into people, it always comes back to you, but you always feel better about yourself," McVay said. "Because what a blessing it is to be able to do what we do, and when you use it for the right reasons, just good feelings all around, and that's what's so special about being a

part of this community."

One of the 56 organizations honored was PVJOBS, an organization that seeks to provide at-risk youth, adults and veterans

with job training and employment opportunities.

"We are so proud to be recognized for the work PVJOBS has done in connecting at-risk youth and adults with new careers in the construction industry," said Mary Taylor, executive director of PVJOBS. "Our participants literally helped build SoFi Stadium while rebuilding their own lives and we are incredibly thankful for partnerships like this that will enable us to amplify our message and help even more people in Los Angeles break the cycle of gangs, drugs and poverty."

"Major events like the Super Bowl leave a lasting legacy on our communities through philanthropic programs that are focused on giving back to the host city," said Kathryn Schloessman, president and CEO of the Los Angeles Sports & Entertainment Commission. "We are proud to select these 56 organizations that are doing tremendous work in

the community as part of the Super Bowl LVI Legacy Program.

"Thanks to our ChampionLA donors, the NFL Foundation, the LA84 Foundation and the Play Equity Fund, we were able to identify the organizations that will most benefit from this grant award and the exposure from Super Bowl LVI, to further their missions."

"Each season, the NFL Foundation looks to leave a lasting legacy in our Super Bowl host city through the Super Bowl Legacy Grant program," said Alexia Gallagher, NFL vice president of philanthropy and executive director of NFL Foundation. "This season being no exception, we're proud to partner with the Los Angeles Super Bowl Host Committee to identify 56 deserving nonprofits and provide them with funding, knowing that their great work and impact will be felt in the Los Angeles community long after Super Bowl LVI is played."

### Selected nonprofit organizations

The 56 organizations, listed, in alphabetical order, are:

2nd Call  
40 Love Foundation  
A New Way of Life Reentry Project  
Alliance for Children's Rights  
Angel City Sports  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles  
Black Emotional and Mental Health Collective  
Black Cooperative Investment Fund  
Brothers, Sons, Selves Coalition  
Business of Student Success  
CASA of Los Angeles  
Challenged Athletes Foundation  
College Match  
Community Build Inc.  
Covenant House California  
Destination Crenshaw  
East Side Riders Bike Club  
Esperanza Community Housing Corporation  
Food Forward  
Girls Inc. of Greater Los Angeles  
Harvest Home  
Hollenbeck Police Activities League  
Homeboy Industries  
I Have A Dream Foundation - Los Angeles  
InsideOUT Writers  
Jenese Center, Inc.  
Jovenes  
Kedren Health  
Kids in the Spotlight, Inc  
LA Conservation Corps  
Las Fotos Project  
Legacy LA Youth Development Corporation  
Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice  
Los Angeles Walks  
Loving Hands Community Care, Inc.  
Mar Vista Family Center  
Mental Health Advocacy Services  
Miry's List  
Operation Progress LA  
Our Own Non Profit Inc.  
Playa Vista Job Opportunities and Business Services  
PLUS ME Project  
Project Blue  
Project KnuckleHead  
Pukuu Cultural Community Services  
Reading to Kids  
Safe Place for Youth Inc  
School on Wheels  
Search to Involve Pilipino Americans  
Sisters of Watts  
Teen Line  
The RightWay Foundation  
Urban Peace Institute  
Urban Scholar Academy  
URBAN TXT: Teens Exploring Technology  
Village for Vets



LOS ANGELES WAVE  
ENTERTAINMENT

# New doc illuminates Bill T. Jones' landmark work

By **BILL VAUGHAN**  
Entertainment Writer

A new documentary, opening in Los Angeles and theaters and virtual cinemas nationwide July 23, reaches beyond the world of dance to focus on one of the most important works of art to come out of the AIDS crisis.



**BILL VAUGHAN'S**  
**Tasty Clips**

"Can You Bring It: **Bill T. Jones and D-Man in the Waters**" brings to life the creative process of the renowned choreographer-dancer-director ("Fela," "Spring Awakening") in creating his tour de force ballet which in 1989 gave physical manifestation to the fear, anger, grief and hope for salvation that the emerging Bill T. Jones/**Arnie Zane** Company (both partners at the time) felt as they were embattled by the AIDS epidemic.

As a group of young dancers in the present re-interpret the work, they deepen their understanding of its power — exploring what is at stake in their own lives in order to commit and perform it successfully.

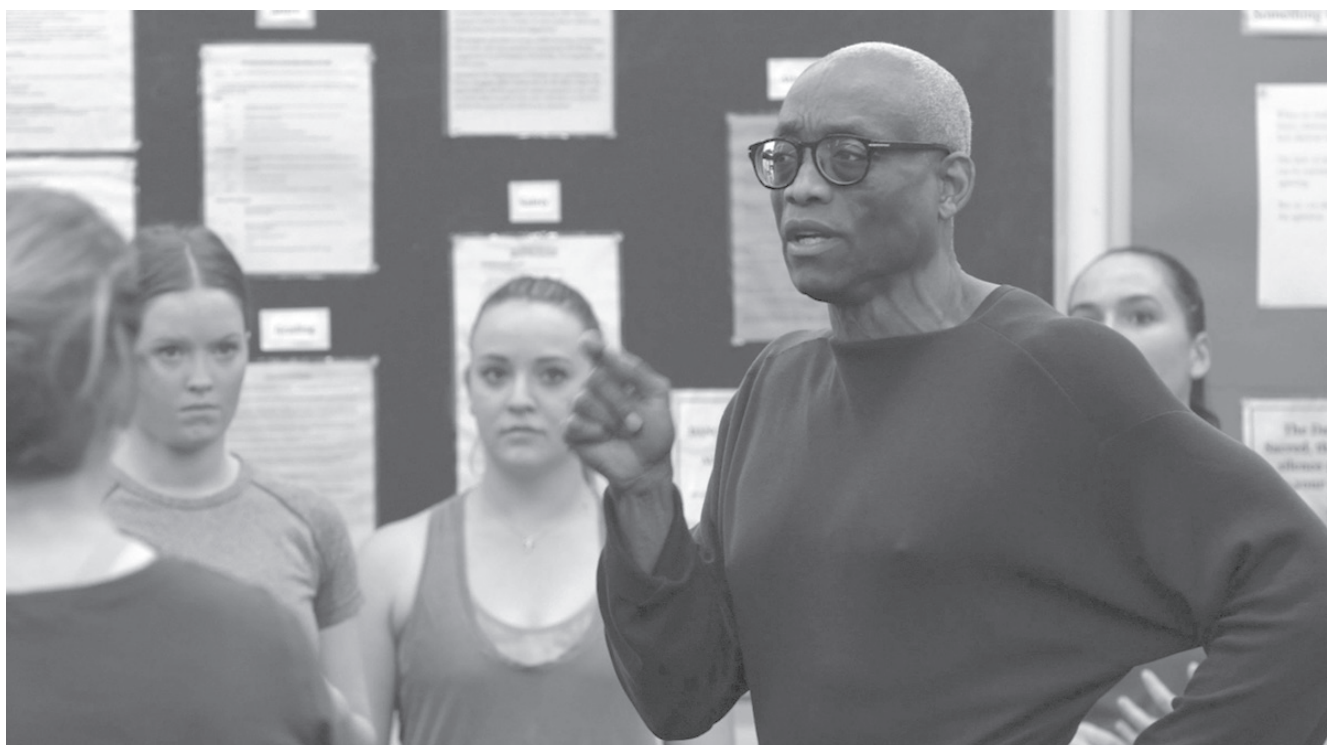
Through an extraordinary collage of interviews, archival material and uniquely powerful cinematography, this lyrical movie uses the story of this iconic dance to illustrate the power of art and the triumph of the human spirit.

"[Directors **Rosalyn LeBlanc** and **Tom Hurwitz**] succeeded in telescoping the story of 'D-Man in the Waters' into the future," Jones said. "I look forward to the journey of this film. Because this film should not let people forget — you're lucky in your life if you have one moment where you're at once strong enough, brave enough and resourceful enough to throw down and make something like 'D-Man in the Waters' come into being."

"This work is not about anybody's epidemic. It is about the dark spirit of what is happening in the world and how you push back against it."

**Felix Mendelssohn's** soaring "Octet for Strings" propels the non-stop momentum, sending the dancers hurling across the stage in a whirlwind of leaps, rolls and slides.

Jones has said that the fact that Mendelssohn was just 16 years old when he composed the work resonated strongly with him.



Dancer and choreographer Bill T. Jones is the subject of a new documentary opening July 23 in theaters nationwide. 'Can You Bring It: Bill T. Jones and D-Man in the Waters' looks into the creative process that went into his tour de force ballet in 1989 at the height of the AIDS epidemic.

Courtesy photo

"This piece was created when we were dealing with a lot of death," he said. "So creating this work was for us a way of dealing with grief, by finding the joy in the music this 16-year-old boy created."

**BRIGHT LIGHTS:** The Black Theatre Network, the nation's premiere organization of artists, scholars, educators, practitioners, students and theater lovers, announced its 35th annual conference, "Access Granted: About Us, By Us, For Us, Near Us," July 28-Aug. 1.

The free virtual conference will offer an eclectic mix of performances, panels and conversations, including marquee events featuring actor, director, playwright and Tony Award winner **Ruben Santiago-Hudson**, poet/playwright and Black Arts Movement luminary **Sonia Sanchez**, acclaimed stage and screen director **Charles Randolph-Wright**, and BTN's inaugural Student Monologue Competition.

For more information, visit [www.blacktheatrenetwork.org](http://www.blacktheatrenetwork.org).

**CLIPPETTES:** The amazing **Ledi Sings Nina Simone** at the Hollywood Bowl on July 24. She will perform the songbook from her PBS tribute special from the same stage where Simone herself sang so many times ...

Also that evening **Chance The Rapper**, **Justin Bieber**, **Jaden Smith**, **Tori Amos**, **Chandler Moore** and **Kari Jobe** unite for The Freedom Experience at the brand new SoFi Stadium. Get the details at [1DayLA.com](http://1DayLA.com) ...

Meanwhile, Operation Comedy with **Bill Burr**, **John Mayer**, **Bob Saget**, **Jeff Ross** and more is at The Wiltern ...

PBS' landmark civil rights docuseries "Eyes On The Prize" is now streaming on HBO Max with a new special "Eyes On The Prize: Hallowed Ground" to premiere in August from Oscar-nominated filmmaker **Sophia Nahil Allison** ...

Comic actor **Deon Cole** ("black-ish") brings his Disco Sunday Fellowship to the decks in L.A. under the Long Beach

sky July 25 for The House Music Boat Party. Joining him is Soulnic co-founder and resident DJ **Derrick Wize**. Tickets are at [WavesandFrequencies.eventbrite.com](http://WavesandFrequencies.eventbrite.com) ...

Simultaneously, four-time Grammy winning country bluesman **Keb' Mo'** and **The Brother Brothers** perform at San Juan Capistrano's The Coach House ...

**BET+** and **CBC** series "The Porter" has landed **Alfre Woodard** ("See") as a cast member and executive producer. She'll play a powerful 1920s brothel owner in the "Harlem of the North" called Black settlement in St. Antoine, Montreal ...

In **Jason Momoa** news, the "Aquaman" star has started filming the sequel and will dye his hair blond for more synergy with the hero's original comics look. He also just got an eight-episode order from HBO Max for a rock-climbing competition series to be called "The Climb" ...

**Childish Gambino**, aka **Donald Glover**, **Little Dragon**, **Michael Kiwanuka**, **Earthgang** and **Georgia Anne Muldrow** are among the artists covering **Brittany Howard** songs on the album "Jaime Reimagined," out now.

**TASTY QUIP:** "It doesn't make sense to me why the folks at that particular network — which I think we all know who we mean — would want to kill their own viewers. Their viewers are older. Their viewers are more susceptible to COVID and I don't understand what the point is of killing them." — **MSNBC** host **JOY REID** about anti-vaccination messaging from certain Fox News anchors to Stephen Colbert on "The Late Show"

**TC ON TV: July 23** — "Olympic Summer Games" (NBC): Watch the Daytime Opening Ceremony live. "Jolt" (Amazon): **Kate Beckinsale** stars in this action revenge drama with **Laverne Cox**, **Susan Sarandon**, **Stanley Tucci** and **Bobby Cannavale**. "Ted Lasso" (AppleTV+): The breakout **Jason Sudeikis** hit comedy

about an American football coach bringing his positive outlook to a British soccer team returns for a second season. "Secret Celebrity Renovation" (CBS): **NBA All-Star Chris Paul** surprises his "Granny and Pops" with a transformation of the Winston-Salem, North Carolina home they have lived in for 50 years. "Classic Albums" (PBS): Tonight's episode explores the story behind the fourth **Queen** album "A Night At The Opera."

**July 24** — "The Chi" (Showtime): After a sliding season, last week's "Love Jones" episode marked a return to the heartstrings that made the show in the first place. "Gordon Ramsay: Uncharted" (NGC): "Michigan's Yooper Cuisine"

**July 27** — "The Haves And The Have Nots" (OWN): **Egypt Sherrod** (HGTV's "Flipping Virgins" and "Property Virgins") hosts this two-part "Final Cast Reunion." "In Their Own Words" (PBS): Take a riveting ride on the **Chuck Berry** train exploring the life, the legend, the music, and the man who is regularly credited as the father of rock and roll, through his family, fellow players and stars who were inspired. "American Masters" (PBS): "Buddy Guy: The Blues Chase The Blues Away" dives into the career of the famed guitarist, a pioneer of Chicago's West Side sound and major influence

on rock titans like **Jimi Hendrix** and **Eric Clapton**. Featuring new performances and interviews with **Carlos Santana** and more.

**July 28** — "Turning The Tables With **Robin Roberts**" (Disney+): The "Good Morning America" and ABC News co-anchor will host and executive produce (along with **LeBron James**) this four-episode series featuring intimate round table conversations with female celebrities from all walks of life including **Debbie Allen**, **Sheila E.**, **Melissa Etheridge**, **Mickey Guyton**, **Betsey Johnson** and **Raven-Symoné**.

**July 29** — "The Good Fight" (Paramount+): The addition of **Charmaine Bingwa** as new firm hire **Carmen Moyo** has lit a quiet fire to the legal drama that was just renewed for a sixth season. "Behind the Music" (Paramount+): The groundbreaking and prolific music documentary series returns with several new episodes and the best of the vault remastered and updated for today's audiences. Up first: **LL Cool J** and **Ricky Martin**. "Fboy Island" (HBO Max): Three women get tropical to look for love — only they have to pick from 24 men — half of which are "Nice Guys" with the others conniving for money. "Jellystone!" (HBO Max): **Yogi Bear**, **Boo Boo**, **Magilla Gorilla** and an ensemble cast of Hanna-Barbera characters return in this all new, reimagined take on these characters. "Resort To Love" (Netflix): **Alicia Keys** produced this romantic comedy movie starring **Christina Milian** as an aspiring singer on a journey to find herself in paradise — but what she actually finds is her ex-fiance (**Jay Pharoah**), his new bride (**Christiani Pitts**) and a hunky fling (**Sinqua Walls**). "The Boy Behind The Door" (Shudder): A night of unimaginable terror awaits twelve-year-old **Bobby (Lonnie Chavis** of "This Is Us") and his best friend when they are abducted on their way home from school.

**IN MEMORIAM:** "I can remember so many times trying to beat box like you until my lips was sore& whenever we saw each other your energy was always so full of Life/Love/& Good Vibes Your impact in the culture is 4EVER & you will NEVER be Forgotten Rest king." — **MISSY ELLIOTT** about **BIZ MARKIE**

As featured in the Los Angeles Wave and Independent, Tasty Clips is one of the leading entertainment columns in the nation, serving nearly one million weekly readers. Bill Vaughan may be reached at [tastyclips@yahoo.com](mailto:tastyclips@yahoo.com), via Twitter @tastyclips, or Instagram @tasty\_clips.

## Marla Gibbs receives star on Walk of Fame

FROM CITY NEWS SERVICE

**HOLLYWOOD** — Five-time Emmy-nominated actress Marla Gibbs, best known for portraying sassy maid Florence Johnston on "The Jeffersons," received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame July 20 in a ceremony that was abbreviated when Gibbs appeared to suffer a bout of heat exhaustion.

After about 15 minutes, Gibbs recovered and sat on a chair behind her new star as it was officially unveiled. She then remained seated as she posed for photographs with family and other celebrity guests.

Legendary television producer Norman Lear, who developed "The Jeffersons" as a spinoff from "All in the Family," and Tisha Campbell were among those who spoke at the ceremony outside the El Capitan Entertainment Centre on Hollywood Boulevard. Gibbs guest starred as a tough new housekeeper in a 1995 episode of the Fox comedy "Martin," whose cast included Campbell.

Gibbs' grandchildren and great-grandchildren witnessed the star being made and assisted on it, Hollywood Walk of Fame producer Ana Martinez told City News Service.

Born Margaret Theresa Bradley in Chicago on June 14, 1931, Gibbs was a divorced mother of three children who was working as a reservations clerk for United Airlines in Detroit when she was transferred to Southern California in the early 1970s and decided to pursue an acting career.

She initially studied at the Watts-based Mafundi Institute and Watts Writers Workshop and appeared in several plays in the Los Angeles area, including "Medea," "The Amen Corner" and "The Gingerbread Lady."

After minor roles in the films "Sweet Jesus, Preacherman" and "Black Belt Jones," she was cast for "The Jeffersons," which ran on CBS from 1975-85 and brought her five consecutive best supporting actress in a comedy series Emmy nominations from 1981-85.



Marla Gibbs

Following the cancellation of "The Jeffersons," Gibbs starred in the 1985-90 NBC comedy "227," portraying a sharp-tongued housewife living in an apartment building in northeast Washington, D.C.

Gibbs' other television credits include recurring roles on the NBC daytime drama "Passions" and the 1998 ABC/UPN comedy "The Hughleys" and guest-starring roles on "NCIS," "The King of Queens" and "Touched by an Angel."

This year, Gibbs has appeared on the CBS comedy "Young Sheldon" and the Disney+ girls' high school basketball series "Big Shot."

Gibbs' other film credits include "The Visit," "El Camino" and "Stanley's Gig." Gibbs sang and co-wrote the theme songs for "227" and "Checking In," "The Jeffersons" spinoff that ran for four episodes in 1981 in which Johnston was the executive housekeeper at a New York City hotel. Gibbs released the CD "It's Never Too Late" in 2006.

Gibbs also operated a jazz supper club in South Los Angeles, Marla's Memory Lane, in the 1980s and 1990s and co-founded the Crossroads Theater and Acting school with her daughter Angela.

BOOK CORNER

## New book chronicles family's road to success in Hollywood

By **MARISSA WELLS**  
Contributing Writer

After being bitten by the acting bug during a brush with fame during a vacation, a family of four makes the decision to leave behind their home in North Carolina for Los Angeles in pursuit of the Hollywood dream.

That's the basis for "Until Tomorrow, Little People," by **Matt DeBoer**. Described as a "modern Beverly Hills meets Modern Family," DeBoer's book was birthed from DeBoer and his family's pursuit of acting.



Matt DeBoer

"I wanted to capture this experience and give our kids a written record of their time in L.A. chasing their dreams," DeBoer said. "I figured it would be a thought here and there, but it turned into a daily ritual."

Inside the book, DeBoer invites readers into the lives of his family as he shares some of the obstacles they faced during their journey, including leaving the safety and security of their life in North Carolina, downsizing and more. Taking chances and facing one's dreams is also highlighted.

Writing a book has been a lifelong dream for the author.

"I knew in the back of my mind that time was ticking to accomplish this goal and when we took this trip, my creative juices just flowed for some reason and writing became something I had to do every day," De-

Boer said. "Until Tomorrow, Little People" is intended for a universal audience and will provide laughter and entertainment.

"I just want readers to laugh," DeBoer said. "I want to be the reason they escape their everyday world and live in mine for a little while, so they realize they are not the only crazy person or family out there."

It's the author's hope that after reading his book, readers are inspired to "find the funny in their own lives."

"My whole perspective on life changed when I stopped being annoyed and looked at events as something I can turn into a funny story," DeBoer said. "It helped me deal with the idiotic happenings of everyday life."

In addition to being an author, DeBoer is an actor



and a consultant in the food industry. DeBoer and his family are based in Los Angeles and North Carolina. For more information about the author, visit [untiltomorrowlp.com](http://untiltomorrowlp.com).

"Until Tomorrow, Little People" is available for \$14.99 via Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Goodreads, and other online bookselling outlets.



# Bomb squad personnel misjudged weight of explosives

**EXPLOSION from Page 1**  
neighborhood in South L.A., they would not have detonated those explosives.

“We stand up, we are insistent, we say over and over: Chief Moore must go.”

According to Moore, a preliminary investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Explosives’ National Response Team found that the bomb squad significantly underestimated, based on a visual assessment, the weight of explosive material that was being loaded into the truck for detonation.

The truck — which had been used 41 previous times over the last decade, including for three detonations in June — can safely contain the detonation of up to 15 pounds of explosive materials for repeated use or up to 25 pounds for one-time use that would render the truck out-of-service in the future.

Bomb technicians followed department protocols to limit handling of the explosive devices and estimated the total amount of explosive material being loaded into the truck at 16 1/2 pounds, Moore said. The National Response Team’s physical weighing of the materials found that the actual amount was 42 pounds.



The wreckage of a Los Angeles Police Department bomb squad truck after an estimated 42 pounds of explosives were detonated June 30 in a South Los Angeles neighborhood. Police Chief Michel Moore said July 19 that the bomb squad significantly underestimated the weight of explosive material that was loaded into the truck for detonation.

Courtesy photo

Price said he was “infuriated” by the findings that the bomb squad likely overloaded the truck with explosives. He called the error “by far one of the LAPD’s largest blunders in recent history, which has further betrayed the trust of our South L.A. community.”

Moore insisted that bomb squad technicians were “operating with the best intentions” in a stressful situation. But he said if mistakes were made in estimating the weight of explosive material placed in the truck, “I will hold the appropriate individuals accountable.”

He said the bomb squad has already begun implementing new procedures as a result of the explosion, including the required presence of a commanding officer during future detonations. The department will seek best practices from other departments to evaluate what other changes should be made, according to Moore.

City Attorney Mike Feuer said July 20 that his office has received 56 claims filed against the city related to the explosion, and is addressing them within a day of their filing.

The city opened a resource center July 19 to assist affected residents at the YMCA at 1006 E.

28th St. It will serve as the designated location where victims can connect with a wide range of services, including opportunities to file a claim, obtain mental health and wellness referrals, as well as other supportive services. The office is open weekdays from 3 to 6 p.m.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Explosives’ National Response Team responded to the scene on July 2 and conducted a week-long investigation. It will formalize a “cause and origin report” based on its field work, 40 interviews with witnesses and personnel, forensic tests and evaluation of damage and surveillance footage. The report will be sent to the National Center for Explosive Training and Research for review, and the LAPD expects to have it in 30 days.

Authorities have said about 32,000 pounds of fireworks were being stored at a home on East 27th Street, where they were being sold. The home’s resident, Arturo Ceja III, 27, was charged with illegally transporting tons of explosives. He is set to be arraigned Aug. 2.

Prosecutors said Ceja purchased most of the explosives from a dealer in Pahrump, Nevada.

## Prosecution expected to conclude case in Buck trial

**BUCK from Page 1**

including once when Buck paid for him to fly to Los Angeles from Iowa, and then later for a plane ticket to Florida.

Buck’s profile on the dating site noted he was “generous” and liked men’s “bulges,” Gagnon said, explaining that generous meant willing to pay for sex.

“I liked drugs and needed money,” Gagnon told the jury. “He had the drugs already.”

Gagnon said he didn’t know at the time that a 26-year-old man, Gemmel Moore, had died of a drug overdose at Buck’s apartment eight months earlier. A second man, 55-year-old Timothy Dean, would be found dead in the apartment 10 months after Gagnon’s first visit.

Buck faces nine felony counts, including two counts of distribution of controlled substances resulting in death, stemming from the deaths of Moore in

July 2017 and Dean in January 2019. If convicted, each of the two charges carry 20-year mandatory minimum sentences.

Buck is additionally charged with knowingly enticing Moore to travel to Los Angeles to engage in prostitution.

He also faces a second count of enticing a different man to travel with the same intent; one count of knowingly and intentionally distributing methamphetamine; and one count of using his West Hollywood apartment for the purpose of distributing narcotics such as methamphetamine and the sedatives gamma hydroxybutyric acid (GHB) and clonazepam.

Gagnon, testifying on the fifth day of Buck’s trial, told the jury that he had never injected methamphetamine before Buck insisted he try it. At one point, during his fourth visit to Buck’s apartment, he said he lay down and felt his

heart beating rapidly.

“My head felt like it was going to pop off,” he told the jury, adding that he “felt death” coming upon him, but “something in my head said get up.”

The witness said he left the apartment and went to a nearby store, where he purchased two knives and a Taser electroshock weapon “for protection.”

Asked by Buck’s attorney, Chris Darden, why he went back to Buck’s apartment after the initial visit where he was injected with meth, Gagnon said, “I’m a drug addict. I needed the drugs and the money. That’s why I went back.”

Darden tried to suggest to the jury that Gagnon was a con man with a criminal record who, after learning that Buck was linked to the two deaths, “sold his story” to the Daily Mail and a film production company which is making a documentary on the Buck case.

Gagnon admitted that he received \$500 from the British tabloid for an interview and expected to be paid a total of \$5,000 by the film company.

Darden told the panel during opening statements last week that his client was unfairly “selected” for prosecution for unexplained reasons. Party and play, the attorney told the jury, is “conduct millions of people engage in.”

The defense is also expected to put forth evidence that both Dean and Moore had underlying health problems that caused their deaths, not the drugs they may have ingested in Buck’s presence.

Prosecutors contend Buck had a “fetish” for paying Black men he met online to smoke and shoot methamphetamine, sometimes to the point of unconsciousness. He also faces state charges of running a drug den, but the federal

case is proceeding first.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Chelsea Norell, Buck’s alleged “ritual” involved injecting men “over and over” with methamphetamine.

She alleged in her opening statement that even after Moore died, Buck “continued to insist that his dates get as high as possible,” and called Gagnon to the stand to back up the allegation.

Best known for being part of the prosecution team in the murder trial of O.J. Simpson, Darden previously described Buck as an advocate for LGBTQ and Black civil rights, animal rights and a supporter of Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama.

Buck has been in custody at a downtown federal lockup since his arrest.

The defense case is expected to begin July 22 and closing arguments could take place July 23.

## Supervisors express frustration with homeless numbers

**BY ELIZABETH MARCELLINO**  
Contributing Writer

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — The county Board of Supervisors expressed frustration over the rising numbers of people living on the street while approving \$527.1 million in funding for strategies to battle homelessness in fiscal year 2021-22.

Despite the massive inflow of cash from Measure H and dozens of carefully crafted initiatives that make up the county’s Homeless Initiative, visible encampments continue to grow and the situation on the street remains dire.

Supervisor Kathryn Barger highlighted one sobering statistic, noting that 739 homeless people died in Los Angeles County in the first six months of 2021.

That number, generated in response to Public Record Act requests from a KNX Newsradio reporter, amounts to a 20% increase over 2020 deaths.

“This is a life-or-death situation, and it should encourage us to act with urgency and a new sense of direction,” Barger said.

Efforts to count the homeless have been stymied by the pandemic and lockdown orders, but residents are growing increasingly vocal about massive encampments encroaching on public spaces countywide.

Supervisor Janice Hahn said she was worried about residents and other jurisdictions losing patience.

“I am particularly concerned that more and more cities are moving to enforce their anti-camping laws, and there are more calls to criminalize our homeless,” Hahn told her colleagues.

“We have an L.A. City Council member that’s trying to with-



Supervisor Sheila Kuehl

draw the whole city from the joint powers agreement of (the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority). Judge (David) Carter is questioning our response to Skid Row. Our own sheriff is threatening to clear encampments,” she said. “The longer we take to solve this problem humanely and compassionately, the more likely people are to ... turn to inhumane strategies.”

Supervisor Holly Mitchell had offered a motion seeking to establish a group of Los Angeles city and county officials to rethink the structure of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, which manages funding for nearly 100 service providers countywide.

Though the board agreed more than a year ago to look at how the authority might be more effectively structured and a motion similar to Mitchell’s was proposed to the Los Angeles City Council by Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas, Mitchell failed to garner the support of her colleagues.

Barger, Hahn and Supervi-

sor Hilda Solis abstained from the vote, with Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Mitchell’s co-author, providing the only other vote in favor.

Barger said the proposal did not go far enough and called for a complete overhaul.

“I believe [the homeless authority] is broken, and I believe we need to seriously reconsider the structure of this agency,” Barger said. “Putting a Band-Aid on something that needs major surgery is a disservice.”

Barger said input from all 88 cities in Los Angeles County and the local Councils of Government was necessary to make a real difference, though Mitchell’s proposal did call for a mechanism to engage the councils of government.

Kuehl pushed back against the idea that the increase in homelessness is the homeless authority’s fault and said more focus should be placed on what she sees as the root cause of new homelessness — a lack of affordable housing.

Since Measure H revenue

“This crisis was decades in the making, and every year we are committed to making more progress in building the system that will solve it.”

— County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl

became available in July 2017, the county’s homeless services system has placed nearly 67,000 people in permanent housing and nearly 90,000 people in interim housing, though there is some double-counting of people who move from interim to permanent housing.

Project Roomkey and Project Homekey, which placed unsheltered individuals in hotel rooms with supportive services, showed the county’s ability to move at speed.

However, the board’s discussion highlighted a high level of frustration as the county rolls out program after program, builds interim housing and creates new supportive services capacity without being able to stem the tide of homelessness.

An average of 207 people exit homelessness every day in Los Angeles County, but 227 more people fall into homelessness during the same period, according to numbers tracked by the Homeless Initiative.

“Every year, over the last four years, we have dramatically scaled up the housing and services necessary to re-house those who are experiencing homelessness, and to end the inflow into homelessness caused by skyrocketing rents and evictions,” Kuehl said. “This crisis was decades in the making, and every year we are committed to making more progress in building the system that will solve it.”

Highlights of the nearly

half-billion dollars in spending approved include:

- \$150 million for 5,441 interim housing beds, including emergency shelter beds as well as various types of bridge housing with services geared toward specific needs.

- \$132 million for permanent supportive housing, which lifts people out of chronic homelessness and provides them with a rental subsidy and intensive case management services.

- \$89 million for rapid rehousing, which enables clients to quickly exit homelessness by helping them pay rent and provides them with supportive services for a limited period.

- \$39 million for street outreach teams that aim to connect people living on the street with housing, health care, mental health treatment and other supportive services.

- \$23 million for homeless prevention services, like rent subsidies, to help rent-burdened, low-income families and individuals resolve crises that would otherwise cause them to lose their housing.

A new program designed to rapidly increase affordable housing incentivizes owners of multifamily buildings to rent out their entire properties to people experiencing homelessness and provides property management services.

The California Housing Partnership reports that by the end of 2020, L.A. County and local partner jurisdictions had

helped developers and service providers leverage state and federal resources to create more than 120,000 affordable homes, a 4% increase from 2019 inventory levels. Yet the same report concluded that the county needs to add approximately 499,430 affordable homes to meet the current demand among renter households at or below 50% of the area median income.

“Homelessness is a deeply rooted and complex societal problem that was decades in the making and cannot be fixed overnight, but Los Angeles County is pulling out all the stops to alleviate the crisis on our streets,” said Cheri Todoroff, interim executive director of the Homeless Initiative.

Hahn said she wanted to see a detailed reevaluation of what’s working and what isn’t. That analysis, already in the works, is likely to come before the board in November, according to Todoroff.

More than 85% of the money to fight homelessness comes from Measure H, a quarter-cent sales tax approved by voters in 2017, and is supplemented by federal stimulus dollars and state grants, among other sources.

Todoroff said making sure current dollars are being used effectively is critical, but said the county would need additional support from the federal and state government to effectively meet the challenges posed by homelessness in L.A. County.



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There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees de \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

**[AVISO!]** *Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.*

**Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO** después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de costas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

*Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio*

**LEGAL NOTICES**

de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. **AVISO:** Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 o más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desear el caso.

The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, California 90012

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: Todd F. Haines, Esq. (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Law Offices of Todd F. Haines, 30495 Canwood Street, Ste. 100, Agoura Hills, CA 91301 818-597-2240 (402-9711)

**DATE / Fecha:** 05/25/2021  
Sherri R. Carter Executive Officer/ Clerk of Court, Clerk (Secretario), by D. Diaz, Deputy (Adjunto) (SEAL)

**7/15, 7/22, 7/29/21**  
**WWA-3488943#**  
**SOUTHWEST WAVE**

**LEGAL NOTICES**

of identify form.

The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Original Filing 7/1, 7/8, 7/15, 7/22/21

**WWA-348604#**  
**INGLEWOOD/HAWTHORNE WAVE**

**GOVERNMENT**

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (LACMTA) INVITATION FOR BID**

LACMTA will receive Bids/Proposals for **MA77279 - 3-POINT BELT DRIVER SEAT ASSEMBLIES** at the 9th Floor Receptionist Desk, Vendor/Contract Management Department, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

A Pre-Bid conference will not be held. All Bids must be submitted to LACMTA, and be filed at the reception desk, 9th floor, VCM Department, on or before 11:30 a.m. Pacific Time on **Thursday, August 12, 2021**, at which time bids will be opened and publicly read. Bids received after the above date and time may be rejected and returned unopened. Each Bid must be sealed and marked **Bid No. MA77279**.

For a copy of the Proposal/Bid specification visit our Solicitation Page on our Vendor Portal at <https://business.metro.net> or for further information email Tanya Allen at [allenm@metro.net](mailto:allenm@metro.net).

**7/22/21**  
**WWA-349387#**  
**SOUTHWEST WAVE**

Pre-Qualification Opportunity with LACCD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Los Angeles Community College District ("District") invites Constructability Review and Cost Estimating Services, Multiple Award Task Order Contract (MATOC).

This procurement process will take place in two steps: the instant Request for Qualifications step ("RFQ"), the SOQ's will be scored and evaluated using the District's Uniform System of Rating, and the Qualified Applicants will be identified. A qualified firm will enter into Multiple Award Task Order Contract. Thereafter, the District will publish and issue a Request for Proposal only to the Firms who have pre-qualified. Only Pre-Qualified Firms will be permitted to submit a proposal.

All Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) must be uploaded to the LACCD Planetbids vendor portal by:

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**August 9th, 2021 by 2:00 PM.**

The Applicant assumes full and sole responsibility for timely receipt of its SOQ and any other documents required to be submitted with the SOQ, by the District. The District will have no responsibility for SOQ's not submitted in a timely manner, no matter the reason.

RFQ Documents, including instructions to Applicants, will be available to Applicants No Later Than **July 15th, 2021**, at the:

**Online Vendor Portal** <http://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=21372>, or

(<http://www.build-lacccd.org/>). Click on "register with PlanetBids" link)

**Non-Mandatory Pre SOQ Zoom Video Conference will be held on July 21st, 2021 at 10:00 AM** access information included at the **Online Vendor Portal**.

Questions shall be directed to the Online Vendor Portal.

**WWA-3492572#**  
**SOUTHWEST WAVE**

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (LACMTA) REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

LACMTA will receive proposals for **PS77608 - Joint Development On-Call Financial Advisor** at the 9th Floor Receptionist Desk, Vendor/Contract Management Department, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

This project is a Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Set-Aside contract. To participate in this RFP, proposers must be SBE certified with LACMTA prior to proposal due date. For information on the Set-Aside Program, visit: <https://business.metro.net/VendorPortal/faces/home1/certifications>.

All proposals must be submitted to LACMTA in one of two ways, either (1) sealed envelopes by mail or hand delivered to the address below, or (2) electronically via email to [bids@metro.net](mailto:bids@metro.net). All proposals must be received on or before **2:00 p.m. Pacific Time on Wednesday, August 4, 2021**. Proposals received later than the above date and time will be rejected and returned to the proposer unopened. Additionally, it is recommended that proposer's email(s) are sent with a Delivery and Read receipt for their records. Lastly, proposers should send a verification email to the named Contract Administrator of the RFP after the email submission(s) of proposal to [bids@metro.net](mailto:bids@metro.net). The verification email should indicate that a RFP# on X number of emails.

A Virtual Pre-Proposal conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 15, 2021. Refer to solicitation for details.

For a copy of the Proposal/Bid specification visit our Solicitation Page on our Vendor Portal at <https://business.metro.net> or for further information email Ni Paul at [pauln@metro.net](mailto:pauln@metro.net).

**7/15, 7/22, 7/29, 8/5/21**  
**WWA-3489684#**  
**SOUTHWEST WAVE**

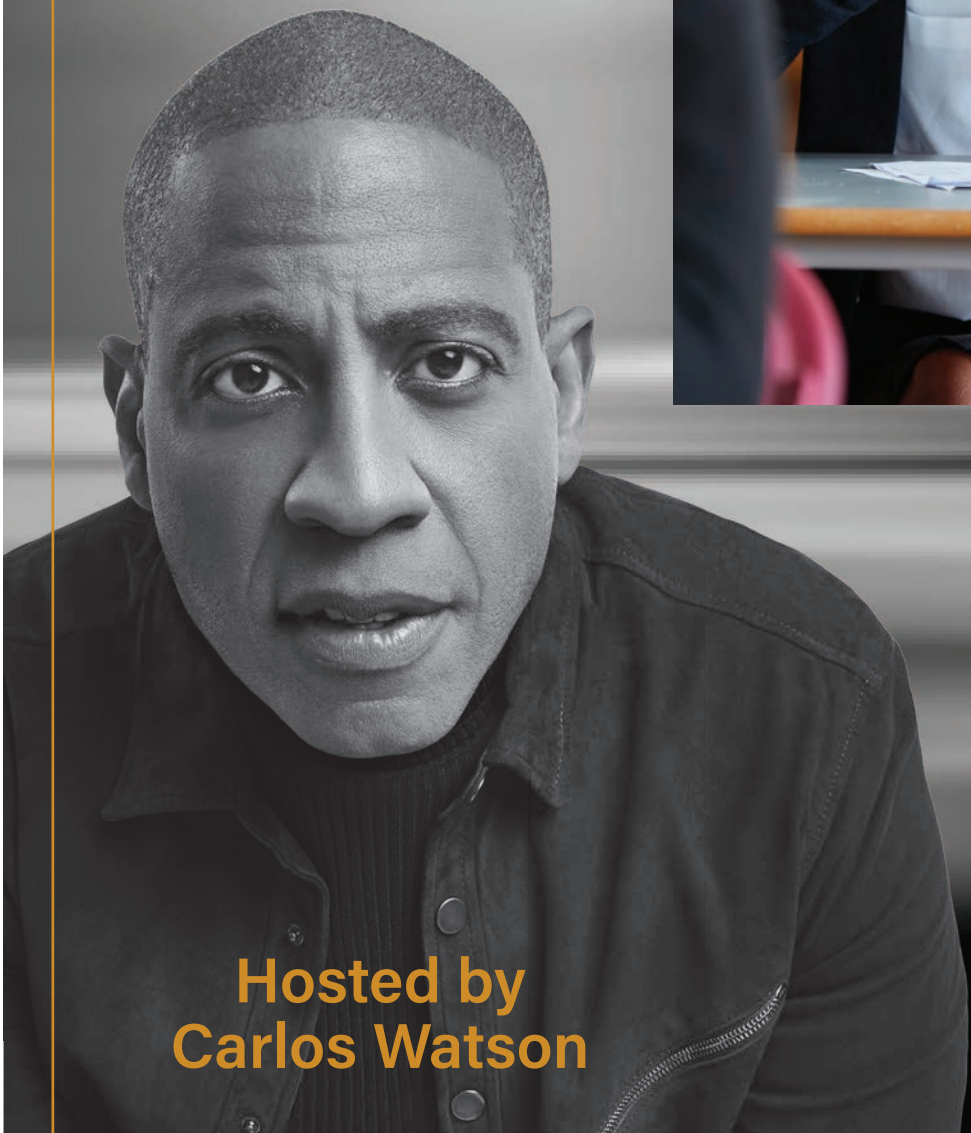


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Hosted by Carlos Watson

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