



Nate Holden— see page A-2



Kristen Calhoun — see page D-1

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“For Over Eighty Years The Voice of Our Community Speaking for Itself”

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024

US Bank, Destination Crenshaw Celebrate Black Heritage Community Branch Renovation



RODD A. AMOS/L.A. SENTINEL

USB Chief Diversity Officer Greg Cunningham and Slauson-Crenshaw Branch Manager Anita Shaw pose by the mural on the outside of the building.

BY RODD A. AMOS
Contributing Writer

Destination Crenshaw joined U.S. Bank in celebration of the grand opening of its newly renovated

Slauson-Crenshaw Black Heritage Community Bank branch with a community block party in honor of Black History Month.

An estimated crowd of 200 community members

joined local artists, community advocates, and businesses on Feb. 17 under cloudy skies to help place a cultural stamp of Blackness on the Crenshaw Corridor — a stamp akin to

other ethnic enclaves in L.A. such as Chinatown, Mariachi Plaza, and Little Tokyo.

“I’m excited to know {See US BANK MURAL on A-11}

McKinnor Introduces Bill to Protect Integrity of Restorative Justice Processes

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Assembly member Tina McKinnor, chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Restorative Justice, announced on Feb. 15, the introduction of AB 2833, the Restorative Justice Integrity Act, which will safeguard the integrity of Restorative Justice Processes statewide.

With the support of the California Restorative Justice Policy Coalition (CRJPC), this legislation seeks to address critical gaps in the current legal framework by providing comprehensive admissibility protections for people who participate in these Restorative Justice processes.

Restorative Justice programs are effective tools for addressing conflict and harm within communities, an impact recognized just last month in the results of a randomized control trial of San Francisco’s Make It Right program featured in peer-reviewed *Econometrica*. However, as noted in a recent R Street Institute



FILE PHOTO

Asm. Tina McKinnor

policy paper, the ability for participants to speak freely without fear of repercussion is essential for the success of these processes. Currently, the absence of clear legal protections leaves individuals hesitant to engage fully in Restorative Justice, undermining its potential for healing and restoration.

McKinnor’s bill aims to remedy this situation by establishing comprehensive protections for all Restorative Justice processes in California to ensure that information

{See TINA MCKINNOR on A-11}

Councilwoman Heather Hutt Hosts Women’s Empowerment Event at Baldwin Hill Crenshaw Plaza



LILA BROWN/L.A. SENTINEL

Many women were recognized during The Love Hutt event.

BY LILA BROWN
Contributing Writer

Councilwoman Heather Hutt opened the doors of the former Baldwin Hill Crenshaw Plaza Macy’s on Feb. 17, for an empowering and impactful afternoon specifically designed for the women of Los Angeles.

Affectionally labeled “The Love Hutt,” a space that was once an anchor department store was transformed into a lively event experience that offered a complimentary platform for personal

{See HEATHER HUTT A-10}

Mayor Bass Endorses Laura Richardson for 35th Senate District

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass has endorsed Laura Richardson for the California State Senate, 35th District seat.

“As a former Assemblywoman, Speaker of the Ca. Assembly, Member of Congress, and now Mayor of Los Angeles, I strongly endorse my former colleague, Laura Richardson, for 35th State Senate who has worked capably with me, side by side, to improve the lives of residents we represent,” said the mayor.

“Laura Richardson has a proven record of bold lead-

ership that will help strengthen the economy, protect good paying jobs, improve safety in our neighborhoods and partner to provide housing and treatment for the unhoused, so that all families might rise and thrive.”

In response to the endorsement, Richardson said, “I am honored to partner with Mayor Karen Bass again, having served together both in the State Assembly and Congress. Mayor Bass knows as she tackles needs of the unhoused, aging infrastructure and reduced budgets, I have a record of working together

to deliver funding, programs and resources to the people and communities we share.

“Both Mayor Bass and I were raised in Los Angeles, where we have committed to work hard to improve and increase the services and programs so that all residents may not only survive... but thrive.”

“City of Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass’ endorsement validates Laura Richardson’s record of hard work, commitment to the community, and best capable to do the State Senators job, solidifying Laura Richardson as the right vote on March 5,” stated Cam-

paign spokesman Mike Trujillo.”

Richardson was born in Los Angeles to interracial parents and is a longtime resident of San Pedro. She graduated with a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) and earned her MBA from the University of Southern California’s (USC) Marshall School of Business.

Senate District 35 includes the Los Angeles County communities of Carson, Compton, Gardena, Harbor Gateway, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, San



COURTESY PHOTO

Mayor Karen Bass and Laura Richardson

Pedro, Westchester, Wilmington and unincorporated communities of East and

West Rancho Dominguez, Lennox, West Athens, Westmont, and Willowbrook.



The Kinsey Collection
African American Art & History
at SoFi Stadium

CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH
FEBRUARY 22ND • 6PM

<https://www.sofistadium.com/stadium/stadium-tours/kinsey-collection>




Black Education Expo Features Free K-12 Resources

STAFF REPORT

The Black Education Expo is set for Saturday, Feb. 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Family Life Center at Lake Avenue Church, located at 393 N. Lake Avenue in Pasadena. Admission is free to the event and the public is invited to attend.

According to Victoria Williams, expo producer, more than 30 exhibitors will participate. Also, the program will include parent/caregiver and teen workshops along with the

Kids Zone featuring face painting, arts and crafts and storytelling. In addition, the Teen Zone will feature workshops, a Black History Knowledge Quiz and a current affairs panel.

"This expo is open to all students and families and will foster an inclusive environment where all can celebrate Black culture and educational diversity," said Williams.

"Together, let's build community access to a brighter future for Black education and beyond!"

The workshop topics



COURTESY PHOTO
Victoria Williams

will include "College Costs Got You Stressed? Learn

about the New FAFSA,"

"Build Money Smarts: Budgeting Basics for Teens," "IEP Basic Essentials," "Thinking About a Tech Career? 5 Paths to Lucrative Opportunities," and "Empowering Parents: Supporting Your Child's Math Journey." There will also be seven additional workshops.

The expo community partners include Los Angeles Urban League, Pasadena NAACP, Women in NAACP Pasadena, African American Parent Council (AAPC) of Pasadena Uni-

fied School District (PUSD), Adelante Youth Alliance, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Eta Lambda Omega Chapter, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated Eta Pi Lambda Chapter; Kappa Lambda Chapter; Kappa Alpha Psi, Pasadena Alumni Chapter; Community Women Vital Voices; Alkebu-Lan Cultural Center; Biddy Mason Global Network; Pasadena Sister Cities Committee; Pasadena Sister Cities Dakar-Plateau Sub-Committee; Aspires West Pasadena; Pasadena MLK Communi-

ty Coalition; Pasadena Community Coalition; Clergy Community Coalition; Connect 2 Rise Inc; Change Maker Community.

The sponsors include BWP Enterprises LLC; California Black Women's Health Project, Pasadena City College, Pasadena Black Pages, Pathways LA, and Pasadena Community Foundation.

To learn more, call www.blackeducationexpo.com, call (323) 475-6293, or email info@blackeducationexpo.com.

Supervisor Holly Mitchell Inducts GLAAACC Board of Directors



COURTESY PHOTO

L.A. County Supervisor Holly Mitchell (1st row center) inducted the board of directors for Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce and GLAAACC's Education Fund and Foundation on Jan. 17 at the City Club in downtown Los Angeles. GLAAACC Chairman Gene Hale (1st row far right), GLAAACC President Angela Gibson-Shaw (1st row far left) and GLAAACC's Education Fund and Foundation Chair Kim Carter (2nd row center).

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

L.A. County Supervisor Holly Mitchell swore in the board of directors for the Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce and GLAAACC'S Education Fund and Foundation before an audience of business associates, colleagues and corporate sponsors on Jan. 17, at the City Club in downtown Los Angeles.

For over three decades, under the helm of GLAAACC Chairman Gene Hale with the assistance of its board of directors, GLAAACC has upheld its mission to advocate and promote the economic growth and development of African American business by focusing on legislative advocacy, as well as identifying and developing business opportunities and strategic business alliances.

"The support of a good board of directors is the backbone of any corporation or agency," Hale said.

"GLAAACC has become the preeminent African American chamber because of the support and ingenuity of our board of directors and corporate

sponsors. We are truly fortunate to have these individuals on our team."

GLAAACC's premiere status results from the organization's focus on advocating for legislation that is beneficial to minority busi-



COURTESY PHOTO

From left are GLAAACC Chairman Gene Hale, L.A. County Supervisor Holly Mitchell, and GLAAACC President Angela Gibson-Shaw.

ness and providing its members with support, education, opportunity and access. GLAAACC's Business Evolution Program, Women in the C-Suite conference, Networking Mixers, technical assistance and access to elected officials and corporate contracts make it an essential affiliation for minority business owners. A strong board of directors

and corporate partners make these benefits possible.

Former City Club Chair and current GLAAACC board member Brent Stokes gave the greetings, followed by remarks from Hale and GLAAACC Ed Fund and

group to continue supporting and propelling the students who are following in our footsteps."

The GLAAACC Ed Fund and Foundation program includes a college-prep course that provides youth from disadvantaged backgrounds with academic support, financial assistance, and leadership training to become college graduates and community leaders. Since its inception, the GLAAACC Ed Fund has awarded over \$800,000 to 179 scholarships to minority high school seniors exhibiting entrepreneurial aspirations.

In addition to the support of their board of directors, GLAAACC and the Ed Fund and Foundation benefit from the support of elected officials who work towards leveling the playing field for minority business owners through legislation.

After swearing in the two boards of directors, Supervisor Mitchell outlined some of the county's initiatives, programs and efforts to address the barriers often faced by marginalized business owners, including the following:

Economic Mobility Ini-

tiative - The county invested \$25 million to provide technical and legal assistance, as well as entrepreneurship training and commercial lease opportunities, to small Black and Brown business owners throughout the county.

Employee Ownership L.A. County - This business succession and recovery service is aimed at preserving legacy small businesses. Business owners looking to retire can receive one-on-one technical assistance and explore whether selling their business to their employees is the right course of action for them.

Commercial Acquisition Fund - The county aids businesses seeking to acquire their commercial properties, thereby stabilizing communities by keeping businesses in the community and helping small business owners in economically disadvantaged communities build wealth.

Low-Interest Loans - In partnership with Inclusive Action, Mitchell's office knocked on over 900 doors of small businesses in the Second District to offer them low-interest loans, providing business owners

with much-needed capital to invest in their businesses, including funds for tenant improvements in their commercial spaces.

Equity in County Contracting initiative - Through the Office of Strategic Contracting Equity, technical assistance is provided to small, minority firms seeking to do business with the County. The county's small business procurement preference program is being expanded to be more accessible and include nonprofits. A pilot program that provided cash advances on certain county contracts was implemented to assist small businesses struggling with the county's 90-day pay cycle.

"We know that entrepreneurs of color are often excluded from the financing and supports that white entrepreneurs receive," Supervisor Mitchell said. "We want to make sure the County is tackling all of these barriers to give Black and Brown entrepreneurs a fair chance to grow and thrive in LA."

For more information on GLAAACC and GLAAACC Education Fund and Foundation, visit glaaacc.org.

CLBC and Black Chamber Join Hands to Honor Businesses Owners

BY ANTONIO RAY HARVEY
California Black Media

The California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) and the California Black Chamber of Commerce (CALBCC) celebrated Black-owned businesses from across the state at its 2024 Legislative Business Brunch, held at the Citizen Hotel in Sacramento on Feb. 12.

The event, part of the CLBC's Black History Month celebrations, honored the business owners for their outstanding achievements, impact on communities, enduring legacy, and high level of professionalism.

Jay King, CALBCC president/CEO and CLBC Chair, Assemblymember Lori Wilson (D-Suisun City) and CLBC Vice Chair, and Sen. Steven



ANTONIO RAY HARVEY/CBM

Cary Earle is the co-owner of Earle's Restaurant in Los Angeles, specifically in the Crenshaw community.

Bradford (D-Inglewood) hosted the event.

This year's Black History Month business awardees are Earle's Restaurant, South LA Café and Woody's Bar-B-Que (Los Angeles), Detour Hair Studios (Inglewood), Distributing Company (Compton), Flawless Cutz and

Stylez (Bakersfield), Imperial Electric Service (Fresno), OC Podiatry (Orange), Seashells Realty Group (San Jose), SER Transportation Services (Sacramento), Chez Soul (Fairfield), Beauchamp BLK

Girl Greenhouse (Oakland), D.R. Roberts Event Management (Oakland), Sal's Gumbo Shack (Long Beach), Leading Edge Learning Center (Moreno Valley), Urban Roots Brewery and Smokehouses



ANTONIO RAY HARVEY/CBM

Arzella J. Valentine, 97, accepted a CLBC/CBCC Business Award for owning Woods-Valentine Mortuary in Pasadena. The mortuary started in 1928 and Ms. Valentine and her now-deceased husband Fred Valentine bought the business in 1958.



ANTONIO RAY HARVEY/CBM

Asm. Mike Gipson (D-Carson) presents the CLBC/CBCC business award to Acelda Bevans, the owner of Sal's Gumbo Shack in Long Beach.

(Sacramento), and Spacebar Café (La Mesa).

All of the awards were presented by King and members of the CLBC.

One of the oldest Black businesses in the state, Woods-Valentine Mortuary of Pasadena, received a special recognition for its

longevity and contributions to its community. The mortuary was established by James and Annie Mae Woods in 1928 in the area now known as Old Pasadena.

Fred Valentine and his **[See BUSINESS OWNERS HONORED on A-10]**