COVID-19 COVERAGE
IN BLACK AMERICA

Tanu Henry, Managing Editor of California Black Media
“The cost of unequal healthcare is measured in human life.”
- Dr. Stephen Lockhart, African American Chief Medical Officer, Sutter Health

Get Ahead of the Game: Actress Wendy Raquel Robinson tells Californians ‘Be ready for emergencies'

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Tanu Henry | California Black Media

Through all the chaos of the COVID-19 crisis, Wendy Raquel Robinson says she has managed to hold it all together. The actress, known for her roles in several films and television shows, says she has several reasons to be grateful, too.
Jonathan Burgess co-owns Burgess Brothers with his twin brother Matthew. It is a popular American bistro-slash-barbecue restaurant and food supply company based in Sacramento. Locals treasure them for their delicious waffles; handcrafted gourmet barbecue sauce; sweet and spicy smoked sausages; among other specialties.

The African American entrepreneur says small family-owned businesses like his are tempted by what digital food delivery services might offer them: A broader customer base and online advertising on highly trafficked apps.

But that exposure comes with a crippling cost.

"There's only like a very thin 5% profit margin for most small restaurants. It's simple math. If you give Uber, Doordash or one of the others a nice chunk of that, it just doesn't work out for you."

Burgess says food delivery services should offer special rates for mom and pop shops that are lower than what they charge chain restaurants. Those corporation-owned eateries typically buy their ingredients wholesale at much lower costs and they can make up for losses on delivery fees by what they make in volume.

The cost of unequal healthcare is measured in human life, says Dr. Stephen Lockhart, the African American chief medical officer at Sutter Health, a non-profit healthcare network centered in Sacramento that serves 3 million people in 24 hospitals located across Northern California.

Lockhart made this chilling observation while talking about the growing body of evidence that is confirming that more minorities and disadvantaged people are getting infected, being hospitalized and dying from COVID-19 than white, middle class and wealthier Americans.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has ripped a Band-Aid off of the structural inequities that exist within our society. We must address these disparities right away," Lockhart said, adding "We have a moral obligation to do so."
HEATED CHARTER SCHOOL DEBATES IGNORE ONE KEY FACT: BLACK STUDENTS ARE UNDERPERFORMING IN OUR SCHOOLS

By Tanu Henry | California Black Media African American children are California’s lowest performing group of students, only able students with special needs. Only 2 percent of black kids in the state attend schools that are considered “high performing.” And only 10 majority African American schools, located mostly in hard-to-count, high-poverty census tracts around the Bay Area [...]

GOV. TAPS DIVERSE GROUP FOR COVID-19 RECOVERY TASK FORCE

Tanu Henry | California Black Media “It’s been like tons, or gallons of alcohol being thrown on the open wounds of inequality and racism in this country. And as we think about how to recover, we’re going to have to think about how to make sure that we don’t go back to where we were [...]

WHAT’S NEXT FOR CALIFORNIA’S CHARTER SCHOOLS? MUCH AWAITED TASK FORCE REPORT IS HEAVY ON ADVICE – BUT FALLS SHORT ON DATA

By Tanu Henry | California Black Media In February, Gov. Newsom asked Tony Thurmond, Superintendent of Public Instruction, to set up a task force charged with looking at the impact public charter school funding has on district-run public school finances. The team submitted its report to the governor last week. The 10-page document is expected [...]

THREE AFRICAN AMERICANS STEP INTO TOP CALIFORNIA LEADERSHIP

Tanu Henry | California Black Media On Monday, the full California state Senate confirmed the appointments of two African Americans who have already stepped into top jobs at departments critical to the smooth operation of the state. Yolanda Richardson and Adesokunbo “Tokki” Omishakin, are officially assuming their roles as state government executives in Sacramento at a time when the state is implementing deep cuts to its fiscal year 2020-21 budget in response to the global COVID-19 crisis. [...]

CALIFORNIANS CAN GET $300 EXTRA A WEEK IN UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS — FOR NOW

Tanu Henry, California Black Media On July 25, the federal government’s Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program ended for most states, leaving millions of Californians without the extra cash many of them had been relying on for months to make ends meet. The $600 extra in federal stimulus pay was added cushion to the amount states [...]

TANU HENRY | UNECATEGORIZED
**Chida Rebecca and Tanu Henry | California Black Media**

Across the country, barbers and hairstylists are feeling the effects of COVID-19. In the Black community, the impact is more severe.

Black-owned salons and barbershops have always served as a hub for men and women to congregate and catch up on the latest news, gossip and overall happenings within the community.

These “meeting places” of sorts have also proven to be extremely profitable for its owners; but, per executive orders from Gov.Gavin Newsom, all non-essential businesses in California have been forced into temporary closure, among them, barbershops, beauty salons, nail technician shops and other cosmetology centers.

**Tanu Henry | California Black Media**

“It’s been like tons, or gallons of alcohol being thrown on the open wounds of inequality and racism in this country. And as we think about how to recover, we’re going to have to think about how to make sure that we don’t go back to where we were before,” said Angela Glover Blackwell, an African-American author and policy specialist based in Oakland.

Blackwell is the founder and president of the non-profit PolicyLink, a research institute and social action organization that advances racial and economic equity, according to the group’s website.

“It was unacceptable then and it will be unacceptable going forward,” Blackwell continued, pointing out the “painful” economic and health disparities the COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare across the United States and here in California.
Some Black church leaders say their revenues have dipped by an average between 40 and 50 percent.
“George Floyd should be alive today.”
- Assemblymember Shirley Weber, D-San Diego, Chair of the CLBC
"The money will help people, businesses and non-profits impacted; and to pay for government programs related to the pandemic."

The federal government has approved $2 trillion dollars as well to aid states in their efforts to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. The money will help people, businesses and non-profits impacted; and to pay for government programs related to the pandemic.

Two weeks ago, after Gov. Newsom issued a state of emergency in California, the legislature wrote a $1 billion blank check to the state, giving it broad authority to spend the money "for any purpose" related to the Coronavirus crisis.
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