Ida B. Wells: Using the Power of Words

Page 2

Quicken Loans IPO Could Help Fight California's Homeownership Crisis

Page 2

CA Voters to Decide Whether or Not Parolees Should Be Allowed to Vote ...Page 5

Kaiser Permanente Commits $63 Million to Support Contract tracing in California

Page 9

San Francisco Post

"Where there is no vision, the people perish..." Proverbs 29:18

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Presidential candidate Joe Biden (left) with Senator Kamala Harris after he announced Harris as his VP pick on Aug. 10. Photo courtesy of newslagoon.

Joe Biden Picks Sen. Kamala Harris as Democratic VP Nominee

By Kiki

Presumptive Democratic Party presidential nominee Joseph R. Biden Jr. chose California Sen. Kamala Harris as his running mate.

Biden came through on his promise on March 15, 2020, to pick a woman to be vice president.

Kamala Devi Harris, born in Oakland, Calif., is the first Black woman on a major party ticket and the fourth woman following Geraldine Ferraro in 1984, Sarah Palin in 2008, and Hillary Clinton in 2016.

Congresswoman Barbara Lee says "[a]lmost 50 years after my mentor Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm ran for President, we are finally able to vote for a Black woman candidate on a national ticket. I know Congresswoman Chisholm is smiling down today. Together, Joe Biden and Senator Harris will bring the country together and restore honesty and integrity to the White House."

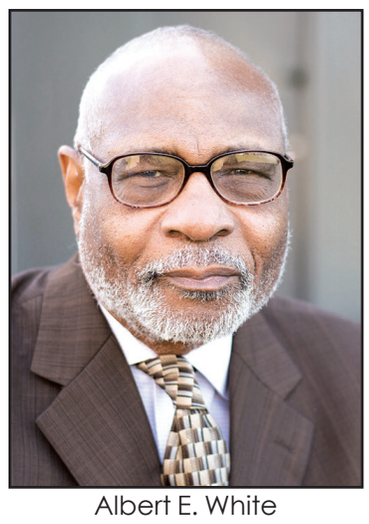
Harris, who sought the office of president herself last year, is the second Black woman and

Continued on **Page 12**

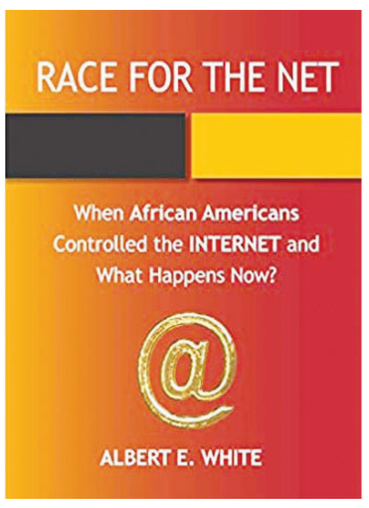
'Race for the Net' reveals

Business and Job Opportunities Now and After COVID-19 Pandemic

Part 2
By Albert E. White



Albert E. White



As I was writing my most recent book, "Race for the Net," over the last 30 months, I did not envision an economic Pandemic, but a recession (that we did get).

My focus was on the changes in the labor market due to a shifting economy based on mechanization and robotics. The noted firm McKinsey Consulting states in their recent report that over the next five years, more than 345 million persons around the world will be changing their current jobs (pre-pandemic).

Many of these jobs are in the service sector, in which a preponderance of African Americans generate their income. The technological shift in industries at all levels will result in a reduction of jobs in the following sectors: fast food, public transportation, retailing, manufacturing at level, back-office processing, and education, to name a few.

Public and private sector entities would be shifting from a human-dependent economy to mechanization and robotics. What is driving these changes is a focus on cost-cutting, labor shortages, and a desire for increased productivity. Many businesses were already facing a labor shortage due to workers not being willing to accept lower wages.

I suggested in my book that the African American community should now focus on accessing training and education programs in the growth areas of digital technology, coding, software development, health science, and cybersecurity.

The COVID-19 virus disaster has substantially reduced the size of our economy and created enormous pools of unemployed individuals in the service industries.

This technology transition will take a minimum of five years, beginning within two years under the current economic conditions. This shift to a robust digital economy is at our doorstep today.

Major business entities today are restructuring their human resource strategy with a focus on less human involvement due to health and insurance issues. These companies realize that mechanization and robotics have to be a primary focus if they are to survive in the post-pandemic era. With this in mind, the African American community must start considering alternative areas of employment and entrepreneurial opportunities not dependent on a service economy today.

Excerpted below are a few business areas covered in my book. For a complete description of the business and job opportunities, please read my book. Most of these options are entrepreneurial endeavors.

• Internet Commerce. This will continue to be a growth area. The potential market exceeds 4.2 billion potential customers and growing. Peo-

Continued on **Page 12**

Caltrain Sales Tax To Be Placed On Nov. Ballot After SF Supervisors Pass Measure

San Francisco (BCN)

San Francisco's Board of Supervisors unanimously approved an eighth-cent sales tax measure for the November to fund Caltrain during a special meeting Friday -- the last day to place the measure on the county ballots.

If ultimately approved by two thirds of voters across San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, the tax would generate an estimated $108 million annually. The funding is desperately needed to operate the system as ridership has plummeted during the COVID-19 pandemic., who authored the measure, said.

San Francisco supervisors already approved the tax measure, authored by Supervisor Shamann Walton, during a meeting last week. That version, however, included conditions calling for Caltrain to change its governance structure and separate itself from the San Mateo County Transportation District, which operates Caltrain.

Supervisor Shamann Walton

The move drew criticism from San Mateo County officials, many of whom alleged the condition would make the tax harder for voters to approve, putting Caltrain funding and service altogether in danger.

However, since then officials from all three counties have agreed to remove the governance issues from the measure and pass a new amended version that solely calls for the tax, in the hope that it could get approved by county leaders in all three counties by the Friday deadline.

"Since our last meeting, we have been working with San Mateo and Santa Clara counties literally nightly and in the mornings for most of this last week in order to come up with an agreement that would address our governance concerns and be best for Caltrain," Walton said.

The governance issues instead were presented as recommendations to the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, which oversees Caltrain and is made up of representatives from the three counties, during a meeting on Thursday. The recommendations, which include, among others, allowing the JPB to appoint its own ex-

Continued on **Page 12**

Assembly Bill AB 767 Eliminates Barriers to State Support for Victims of Violence

By Kiki

In a virtual press conference on Aug. 6, legislators announced Assembly Bill 767, which will make it easier for victims of violence, including by police, to get state compensation.

AB 767 is authored by Assembly members Tim Grayson (D-Concord), Shirley Weber (D-San Diego), Buffy Wicks (D-Berkeley), David Chiu (D-San Francisco), Sydney Kamlager (D-Los Angeles), Rob Bonta (D-Oakland), Cristina Garcia (D-Downey), and Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco).

Present at the press conference were survivors of violence, including members of community organizations Youth Alive! and Californians for Safety and Justice, who are co-sponsors of the bill, and the family of Sean Monterrosa, who was killed by Vallejo police.

Monterrosa, a 22-year-old Latinx man from San Francisco, was fatally shot by Vallejo police officer Jarrett Tonn on June 2.

Kyndra Simmons. Photo courtesy YouthAlive.org

According to Youth ALIVE! Policy and Advocacy Manager, Gabriel Garcia, the bill "would address numerous barriers that have disproportionately denied survivors of color compensation. Among other things, A.B. 767 would:

• make victims of police brutality and their families eligible for victim compensation

• not require applicants to make statements to law enforcement at the scene of the crime or while recovering at the hospital in order to qualify

Continued on **Page 12**

District, Teachers Union Reach Agreement for Distance Learning

San Francisco (BCN)

The San Francisco Unified School District and the United Educators of San Francisco announced Friday that they reached a tentative agreement for distance learning for the upcoming school year.

The memorandum of understanding between the two parties was necessitated by the COVID-19 coronavirus that is preventing much of the state from starting fall semester classes in person.

The agreement requires students to have no less than two hours of "daily live interaction" with a "certified district employee," who will also supervise students during the school day.

Superintendent Dr. Vincent Matthews

Teachers will be available to speak with students via computer during their normal seven hours as outlined in their contracts.

"We heard from parents and students that they wanted more connection with their peers and teachers than was possible last spring. We are listening and share a commitment to making distance learning better this fall," district Superintendent Dr. Vincent Matthews said.

Supervised instruction for students will include social interactions, check-ins between teachers and students and the use of printed educational materials, according to the district and the UESF.

The MOU states that instruction should include content that engages students and "is consistent with student interaction with their teacher/classmates."

"We know that nothing will ever fully replace in person instruction, but educators are excited to welcome our students and families back remotely for now and continue to work together on plans to get us safely back to our classrooms and schools," UESF President Susan Solomon said.

District officials plan to coordinate with schools to provide students with access to internet and technology required to participate in distance learning classes.

The district will also provide one-time $400 stipends to students and their families for costs accrued in preparing for the semester, including improving home internet bandwidth and acquiring educational materials not provided by the district.

Continued on **Page 12**

Voting is the Centerpiece of Our Democracy

Opinion

By Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.

August 6 is the 55th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. If the constitutional amendments passed after the Civil War — the 13, 14 and 15th Amendments — were the "second founding" of democracy in America, the Voting Rights Act, which after nearly a century of segregation gave legal effect to the 15th Amendment that outlawed discrimination in the right to vote, should be considered the "third founding."

Selma was its Philadelphia. John Lewis, Martin Luther King Jr., and Lyndon Johnson were its founding fathers. Over the last decade, the Act and the right to vote have come under unrelenting attack, an attack that is now escalating dramatically.

The Voting Rights Act outlawed the various tricks and traps that states in the South used to deprive Blacks of the right to vote. It outlawed discrimination against racial and language minorities, providing Hispanics with protection, among others. It identified states with an egregious history of discrimination and required pre-clearance of any changes in their election laws by the Justice Department.

The results were immediate. African American, Hispanic American and Asian American registration increased dramatically.

In the former confederate states, African Americans elected to the state legislators increased from three to 176 in 20 years. Local elected officials went from less than 1,500 to 10,500. In 1964, there were five African American representatives in Congress and no senators. Now, there are 51 representatives, three senators and two non-voting delegates. The stunning increase in political participation by people of color culminated in the election of Barack Obama to the presidency in 2008.

The reaction to the law began almost immediately. Republicans under President Nixon sculpted their infamous "Southern Strategy" to capture white voters in the South. In 2013, Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts, in a shameless act of legislating from the bench, marshaled the right-wing majority of the Court in Shelby v. Holder to decide that the geographical focus of the act was "out of date," despite the fact that it had just been renewed by overwhelming bipartisan majorities of both houses of Congress after extended investigation.

Roberts' assertion that discrimination was behind us was immediately belied by a flood of actions aimed at making it harder for Blacks and other minorities to vote. Without prior review, Republican-led states, particularly those in the South, enacted partisan gerrymandering, dual primaries, and voting roll purges; and closed voting sites, limited early voting, required specific forms of voter ID and more.

Today, this reaction has moved to new extremes. Donald Trump — aided and abetted by Republican senators and governors — has sought to discredit voting by mail, blocking funds for the U.S. Postal Service and the states to gear up for mass voting by mail, the sensible, safe way to vote in the midst of the pandemic.

Trump has even argued that only those votes counted on Election Day should determine the election, knowing that a full count for massive voting by mail will necessarily take several days. Not surprisingly, polls show a higher percentage of Democrats plan to vote by mail, while most Republicans plan to vote in person.

Once more, our elections are endangered by partisan, racially biased efforts to constrict the right to vote. Once more, it is time for a renewed drive to protect the vote, the centerpiece of democracy. A sensible reform agenda, summarized by President Barack Obama in his address at the memorial for John Lewis, includes making voting day a national holiday, extending early voting, having efficient and widespread vote by mail, automatic and same-day voter registration, and strengthening of the Voting Rights Act.

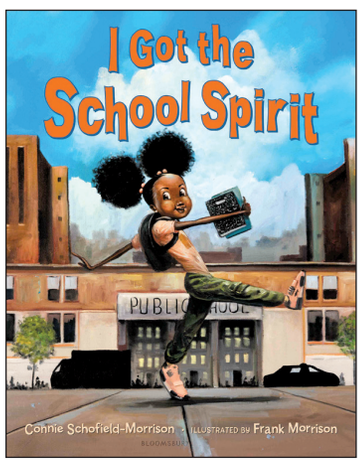
Importantly, senators Elizabeth Warren and Dick Durbin have taken up the cause of amending the Constitution to guarantee the right to vote, a guarantee that shockingly does not now exist.

Enforcing the right to vote should not be controversial. It should enjoy support across the political spectrum. However, there are always those who want to limit that right for their own political purposes. Reform is invariably met with reaction.

The right to vote won't be inherited; each generation must fight to preserve and to extend it. Now more than ever, those who care about our democracy must rally to protect that right once more.

Book Review

"I Got the School Spirit"



By Terri Schlichenmeyer, The Bookworm Sez, LLC

Connie Schofield-Morrison

A brand-new, shiny box of crayons.

That's just one of the things you're looking forward to when you finally start school. Mom says you can't have them yet, though, you have to be patient. So why not read "I Got the School Spirit" by Connie Schofield-Morrison, illustrated by Frank Morrison in the meantime?

Fall arrived, summer was done, and that meant that it was finally here. It was time for her and all the kids in her city to "start the new school year!"

As soon as she got out of bed, she brushed her teeth and fixed her hair. She put on her best clothes and her new shoes that told the world she had "the spirit." Then she ate a good breakfast. Fried eggs make a kid full of the spirit, too.

Everything was in her backpack, including the spirit. And as she waited for the school bus with other kids in her neighborhood, she noticed the spirit come "driving up the street." One of the other kids was crying – she must've been scared about her first day of school – so she hugged her new friend, and shared the spirit.

Inside the school building, she had to admit being nervous. She'd never been to school before, so she breathed deep and counted the spirit. She taught her new friends to do it, too.

And when she reached her classroom, she waited for attendance. That's when the spirit called her name and she spoke up loud and clear: "HERE!"

There's so much to learn at school and pretty soon, it was time for lunch. The spirit was at the table, and she shared. Her friends shared, too. Was the spirit hungry?

Not really but it was at the playground. It was there at story time. It sat on the floor and paid close attention. It was kind and friendly and happy to be learning. And when it was time to go home, the spirit hugged everyone hard and put them on the bus. Who knew what would happen at school tomorrow?

"I Got the School Spirit" is cute. And too repetitive. And unfortunate.

If the enthusiasm by author Connie Schofield-Morrison doesn't get a kid in the mood to learn, then the illustrations by Frank Morrison surely will. Even the most reticent, scared-stiff child will clearly see that going to school is something to be excited about but alas, the word "spirit" is a bit a lot on the overused, tiresome side.

Your child might not mind that so much but you might mind the rest of the story: the kids in this book don't social distance. They hug, sing, and share food, squished on a crowded table in a crowded lunchroom. The last-year-normal of it all may give today's parents pause, with timing that's unfortunate.

Know your child, and know her school. Bring "I Got the School Spirit" home, or put it aside with the knowledge that there'll be other First Days of School. At that time, for your little student, this book will shine.

"I Got the School Spirit" by Connie Schofield-Morrison, illustrated by Frank Morrison, c.2020, Bloomsbury Children's Books, $17.99 / $24.50 Canada,32 pages.

Biden Picks Sen. Kamala Harris as VP Nominee

Continue from page 1

the first South Asian person to serve in the U.S. Senate.

Harris has been consistent in working for justice for women and girls who were victims sexual of sexual abuse and/or domestic violence in her job as a prosecutor.

As San Francisco district attorney, she helped develop a program with the San Francisco Department of Public Health to help emergency rooms spot evidence of child sexual abuse, and she co-founded the Coalition to End the Exploitation of Kids, according to the Mental Floss web site.

In 2005, Harris launched Back on Track [PDF], a program designed to reduce recidivism by offering nonviolent, low-level drug-trafficking defendants job training, life skill-building, and the chance to avoid prison, Mental Floss reported.

Rep. Barbara Lee (left) and Senator Kamala Harris (right). Harris was born in Oakland which is Barbara Lee's district. Photo from Twitter.

In 2013, Harris officiated the first same-sex marriage in California between Prop. 8 plaintiffs' Kris Perry and Sandy Stier from Berkeley.

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC), a national LGBTQ rights organization has applauded Biden's pick of Harris.

Harris received her undergraduate degree from Howard University and received her law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

Harris, 55, became a U.S. Senator in 2016 after serving as California attorney general and San Francisco district attorney.

Harris dropped out of the presidential primary race in November 2019. During the debates that had more than 20 candidates on the stage, Harris showed her grit by challenging Biden, the longtime senator and former vice president under Pres. Barack Obama, on his record on race.

Biden had compromised with Senate colleagues who held segregationist policies: "You also worked with them to oppose busing," she said. "There was a little girl in California who was part of the second class to integrate her public schools and she was bused to school every day. That little girl was me."

The Democratic National Convention is next week and "that little girl" is in line to be the Vice Presidential Democratic Candidate.

Caltrain Sales Tax To Be Placed On Nov. Ballot

Continued from page 1

ecutive director, special counsel and auditor, separate from SamTrans, were approved.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors is the last body needed to approve the sales tax measure, effectively placing the measure on the November ballot.

The JPB, the Santa Clara County Valley Transportation Authority Board of Directors, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors, the SamTrans Board of Directors, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, and the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors have all already approved the measure.

"Even though we've had a tumultuous fight and we've had to go through a lot of adversity to get to this point, we will be making history if we can get this two-thirds measure passed, as this will be the first ever dedicated funding source for Caltrain. So, that is something we can all be excited about," Walton said.

"It's official, the measure has passed and will be on the November 2020 ballot! Thank you to everyone who made this happen!" Caltrain officials said Friday on Twitter, following San Francisco supervisors' vote.

If approved by voters, Caltrain could start seeing the funds as early as April 2021.

District, Teachers Union Reach Agreement

Continued from page 1

UESF members will vote on the agreement in the coming days.

Assuming the union ratifies the MOU, the San Francisco Board of Education will vote on the agreement at the board's next meeting Aug. 11.

The San Francisco school district and teachers union on Friday announced an agreement that requires students to have at least two hours of "daily live interaction" with a district employee.

The San Francisco Unified School District and the United Educators of San Francisco announced Friday that they reached a tentative agreement for distance learning for the upcoming school year.

Assembly Bill AB 767 Eliminates Barriers to State Support for Victims of Violence

Continued from page 1

for compensation

• prevent the state from denying applications or labeling the victim as uncooperative just because the survivor delayed reporting the crime

• not require a police report to be filed or an arrest or conviction to be made in order to establish that a crime occurred

"We cannot continue to let the police decide who is a 'deserving' victim," said Youth ALIVE! Intervention Director Kyndra Simmons. She adds "[t]his has prevented many survivors and victims, including victims of police violence, from accessing the resources and support they need to heal."

Tonya Lancaster, trauma survivor and Youth ALIVE! Client, said "[v]ictim support is so needed for everyone who has lost a loved one, suddenly, from violence. Qualifying for victim compensation was life-changing for me after my son Jordan Holmes was killed—I want to see that support for everybody who needs it."

Oakland attorney John Burris is representing the Monterrosa family, which is suing the city of Vallejo and Tonn in federal court for wrongful death. Burris said Tonn was "a trigger-happy officer and potentially a homicidal officer," and added "clearly not a person who should be in a Black and Brown community. . . . This officer in my view was a panicky guy . . . scared to death of any little thing. . . . That is unconscionable to me. . . . [it's] flat-out murder."

Tonn has shot at people four times in five years: Monterrosa in 2020, two others in 2017, and one in 2015.

On June 17, Tonn was named in a federal lawsuit for excessive force in an incident of mistaken identity on Nov. 4, 2018.

Monterrosa's family also called on state Attorney General Xavier Becerra to investigate the Vallejo Police Dept. for what they said is a culture of ignoring injustice in police shootings.

Monterrosa's shooting was the latest police killing in Vallejo, which include the rapper Willie McCoy, aka "Willie Bo," in February of 2019; Ronnel Foster in 2018; and Angel Ramos in 2017.

The District Attorney of Solano County, Krishna Abrams, recused herself from both the McCoy and Monterrossa cases, deferring to Becerra.

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'Race for the Net' reveals

Continued from page 1

ple are becoming millionaires every day, leveraging Internet technology.

• Health Care Service. This industry is expected to grow by $4.6 trillion, with the increasing need for service providers and monitoring specialists to track data from home or remote locations.

• Disaster Support Services. A vast potential of job and business opportunities with the increased numbers of floods, fires, and hurricanes every year.

• Broadband transmission services and development. Billions of dollars are authorized to solve the Digital Divide and Broadband Transmission issues

• Small Business Innovative Research program (SBIR), a federal government program that funds inventions and ideas in various areas through the use of federal grants.

Finally, I am a big supporter of Science Technology Engineering and Math programs (STEM) in our communities for young people. I have personally mentored two young men who have successfully become software and app developers with little prior experience.

In less than three years, they secured management positions with software and cybersecurity companies. Each has garnered a salary of more than six figures. It required hard work and determination of these young men to achieve the first step in their goal of eventually having their own business.

You have the opportunity to change your life even through a pandemic. Do not waste this time to learn something that can help you after this disaster is over.

Albert E. White is the author of "Race for the Net." The book can be ordered at www.raceforthenet.com