

Morris Brown – see page B-1



Dr. Safiya Noble – see page D-2

# Senator Laphonza Butler Makes Black Community a Priority

Black publishers from across the country, leaders and students at CSUDH, and celebrating Black History Month in L.A. Council Chambers were all part of the Senator’s visit to the Southland.



E. MESIAH MCGINNIS/L.A. SENTINEL

Senator Laphonza Butler, center, met with publishers of the Black press at the L.A. Sentinel office. Attendees included, from left, Dr. Benjamin Chavis, Terri Sanders, Danny J. Bakewell, Sr., Bob Bogle, Jackie Hampton, and Bobby R. Henry Sr.

BY DANNY J. BAKEWELL, JR.  
Executive Editor

California U.S. Senator Laphonza Butler has moved with urgency to address constituent concerns since her appointment to the position in October 2023 by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

In the past five months, she has conducted listening sessions across the state with people of all ages on topics including mental health, reproductive freedom, and the future of our democracy.

On Feb. 26, she visited Southern California to

attend a meeting of National Newspaper Publishers Association (Black Press of America) hosted by NNPA Chairman Emeritus and Sentinel Executive Publisher Danny J. Bakewell, Sr., to discuss issues and challenges Black media from across the country are hav-

ing with doing business with the federal government.

“We are so appreciative that Senator Butler would take time out of her busy schedule to come and meet with Black Publishers from across the nation,” said Bakewell.

“Laphonza Butler, even

before her historic appointment, has always been an advocate of the Black press and we are confident that she will take the concerns of publishers from across the country back to the Washington D.C. and advocate for the Black press that our voices and constituency

should and will be included in national advertising throughout the country,” he added.

NNPA President Dr. Benjamin Chavis also considered the meeting to productive and laid the

{See SEN. LAPHONZA BUTLER on A-10}

# Opinion: Black Women Are Running for Change

BY KELLIE TODD GRIFFIN  
Special to California Black Media Partners

This is a year of opportunity for Black women in Politics in California. Voters of all races across this state must collectively seize this moment to affect the kind of transformative change we are all hoping to see.

Here’s why.

We have an unprecedented number of Black women running for office throughout the state. Whether they’re running at the local or state level, or for a congressional or U.S. Senate seat, behind the candida-



FILE PHOTO

Councilwoman Heather Hutt is running to represent Council District 10 in Los Angeles.

cy of each, one stands a powerful tale a of triumph – an inspiring story showing

how determination, commitment to service and moral intelligence consistently defeat racism and sexism.

Their journeys running for office take them directly through the cultural and political barbs of race and gender, which are, far too often, concealed -- but no less dangerous.

Without fail, Black women running for office find their accomplishments, their public images, and their ideas in the crosshairs of scrutiny and skepticism, much more than their White male and female competitors.

Nevertheless, we must



FILE PHOTO

Michelle Chambers is a candidate for the State Senate 35th District seat.

continue to run because there is so much work to do for Black women and girls! California has the fifth largest Black population in

the country with more than 2.2 million residents, according to the US Census data. Of those, 51% are female.

In the golden state, approximately 67% of Black households are headed by single mothers. In the California Black Women’s Collective Empowerment Institute’s Quality of Life public opinion survey that polled more than 1,200 Black Women in the state, we found that nearly 2 in 5 Black women work multiple jobs and face significant challenges meeting basic expenses. Among Black women who are employed,



COURTESY PHOTO

Kellie Todd Griffin

two thirds are considered primary breadwinners in their households.

Although Black women in California have one of the

{See BLACK WOMEN CANDIDATES A-10}

## Battle for Black Voter Turnout Heats Up as the Trump Train Picks Up Steam

BY HAMIL R. HARRIS  
Trice Edney Newswire

The Donald Trump political train is picking up steam since it ran through

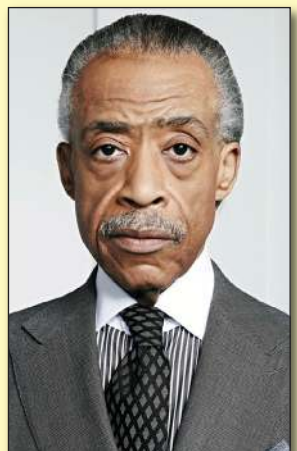
slow Trump down before his rematch with President Biden on November 5.

Trump received 60% or 451,905 votes cast Feb. 24 to defeat Haley to pick



COURTESY PHOTO

Melanie Campbell



COURTESY PHOTO

Rev. Al Sharpton

South Carolina and defeated Former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley by a 20% margin.

But Democratic lawmakers and Civil Rights groups are mobilizing to

47 delegates. But Haley, who lost big in a state she won twice for governor, is refusing to get out of the race even though she only

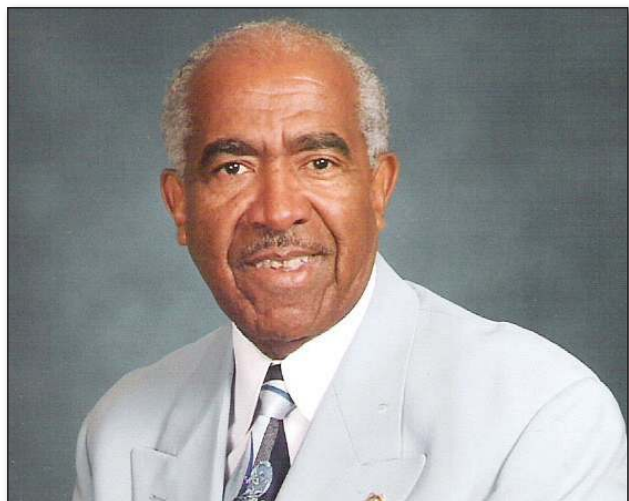
{See BLACK VOTERS AND TRUMP on A-11}

## Western Baptist State Convention Holds Mid-Winter Board Meeting



FILE PHOTO

Bishop Norman Hutchins



FILE PHOTO

Rev. Dr. J. Benjamin Hardwick

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The Western Baptist State Convention of California will hold its 134th Mid-Winter Board Meeting beginning Saturday, March 2, through Thursday, March 7, at Greater New Light Missionary Baptist Church, located at 1154 E. 92nd St. in Los Angeles.

The theme is “Being led by the Holy Spirit in Lawless Times” based on Matthew 10:16-20.

The Rev. Dr. J. Benjamin Hardwick, WSBCC president, and the Rev. Dr. Patrick D. Ross, host pastor, invite the greater Los Angeles community to attend.

The conference high-

lights include programing for youth and young adults on Saturday, a concert featuring Pastor Calvin Rhone and the L.A. Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America and recording artist Bishop Norman Hutchins on Sunday, Mar. 3, a prayer and praise service on Monday, and auxiliary services for Ushers,

Laymen and Women, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Featured speakers for the week include the Rev. Dr. Ivan Pitts, senior pastor of Second Baptist Church in Santa Ana, and the Rev. W. Edwards Jenkins, pastor

{See WESTERN BAPTIST MID-WINTER MEETING A-11}



# TGS L.A.'s 2nd Annual Black Excellence Awards

By SHELBY STEPHENS  
Contributing Writer

The Gathering Spot (TGS) Los Angeles hosted a night of opulence during their second annual Black Excellence Awards Ceremony, sponsored by Crown Royal on Monday, Feb. 20 in West Adams. Produced and coordinated by Amber Melvisha, the event was warm and inviting with all the makings of Black excellence.

Seven highly notable individuals were recognized throughout the evening while guests enjoyed a three-course dinner, live musical performances, and the opportunity to learn about members of the community who share parallel values that contribute to the city of L.A.

native and USC graduate Tulani Watkins is a technology entrepreneur and founder of A Peaceful Enterprise (APE), a business management and investment company. Watkins' achievements include deploying over \$600,000 to BIPOC founders, scaling businesses of over \$5M, and assisting in logistics for startups. Her award suits her perfectly, as she is definitely the one to watch.

Former educator, writer, television producer, actor and first comedian to participate in the Tribeca Film Festival, Dave Helem accepted his very first honor with the Heart of Creativity Award. Living through several professional lives, Helem is a multifaceted culture creator



Award honorees & their families.

Tracks.

Well-respected fashion stylist and costume designer Joe Exclusive, graciously accepted the Rich Auntie Award as the third honoree of the evening. For over 20 years the branding guru and lifestyle influencer has been

advancing brands, accessories, luxury goods, liquor, and music artists.

As appetizer salads and main courses flowed in and out of the space, a special musical performance from D.C. artist Shah Infinite, kept the vibes light and fun. In the spirit of diversity, the fourth honoree of the evening received the Community Inclusivity Award. Bruce Nahin is a Business Affairs Consultant and Executive Producer as well as the co-founder and CEO of Chippendales. He has over 300 IMDB credits and was a music lawyer throughout the 80s and 90s for recording artists and record labels. Bruce is an active TGS supporter and a member of the Producers Guild of American and Academy of Television Arts and Science.

Business mogul and co-founder of Luna Magic Beauty, Mabel Frias was awarded the SHE.E.O Powerhouse Award for her outstanding track record in retail, merchandising, and as a lifestyle enthusiast. Luna Magic Beauty is distributed nationwide at Target, Walmart, and CVS.

Frias has been featured in Forbes and on ABC's hit show Shark Tank, Good Morning America, Allure, Popsugar, Telemundo, and Cosmopolitan Magazine. The accomplished entrepreneur's quick rise to the top has solidified her as one of the best.

Etienne Maurice has been a household name since BET's Baldwin Hills. His influence has spanned over a decade on and off the screen through partnerships, nonprofit ventures and social impact. Maurice founded WalkGoodLA as a direct response to the murders of Breonna Taylor, Ahmad Aubrey, and George Floyd. The nonprofit is dedicated to uniting individuals from diverse backgrounds to advocate for racial equity and foster solidarity through the mediums of art, health and wellness. WalkGoodLA has received recognition from the Los Angeles Times and EBONY Magazine for the positive imprint it has in the city. Maurice accepted the Leaders of L.A. Award during the ceremony.

Last but certainly not

least, the Science and Technology Award was the final presentation of the evening. Technology entrepreneur and founder of Fascinate Media, Justin Shaffer a Forbes 30 Under 30, received the Science and Technology Award. Also known as Mr. Fascinate, Shaffer is a personal brand expert, creates meaningful education content, and has developed youth-based incubation programs to close the gap on the digital divide. His notable partnerships with LinkedIn and Chevy, along with Fascinate House, allows him to expand his reach in tech and create opportunities for the next generation.

Each of these honorees have made a strong impact in Los Angeles. These individuals are using their talents to live out their purpose to serve others through beauty, wellness, technology, laughter, and fashion. As the ceremony came to an end, guests were invited to network, mingle and bask in Black excellence. The Gathering Spot L.A. is expected to celebrate eight years in the community in March of 2024.



Award winners

Ceremony host Miss Justice provided comedic relief during the opening monologue, then proudly introduced the first honoree of the evening, Tulani Watkins with the One to Watch Award. Compton

from Chicago and TGS member. He has written on popular shows like HBO's Rap Sh!t, Fox's REL, Comedy Central's Hood Adjacent, and has worked as a consulting producer for TruTV's Mobb's Laff

considered the "Style Godmother" by celebrities and peers alike. Exclusive is the owner and founder of Destination 1610 Style House, a product placement, branding, marketing, and consulting firm that specializes in

## Black Education Expo and Assemblyman Chris Holden Celebrate Black History Month

By RODD A. AMOS  
Contributing Writer

Lake Avenue Church in Pasadena hosted the 2024 Black Education Expo on Feb. 24 in celebration of Black History Month and Black Children's Book Week. Reading and financial literacy were the main themes of this free, one-day event focused on Black and

Brown K-12 students, caregivers and parents in southern California and the many educational resources and opportunities available to them.

Presented by the California Black Women's Health Project, the Black Education Expo produced over 75 impactful higher education events offering students a chance to connect with like-

minded individuals who share a passion for advancing education within the Black community.

More than 30 exhibitors welcomed nearly 100 student attendees to the Family Life Center of this historic, congregational church to inspire and inform learners and celebrate Black culture and educational diversity. Among them are 100 Black

Men of Los Angeles, Black Writers on Tour, California Black Women's Project, Los Angeles Urban League, NAACP, Black 'N Animated, Delete the Digital Divide, Lexia, and more.

"The challenge was finding specific vendors that would lend themselves to our local families and centered communities of color, and as you can see, they rose to the occasion. I want students, parents, and caregivers to know that these resources are available to them," stated Black Education Expo Founder Victoria Williams.

"There are 30 additional vendors who expressed interest in making sure our communities of color are centered, including Black female educational therapists and neuropsychologists, so we'll be reconvening in March to plan the next Black Education Expo," she added.

Keynote speaker Assemblymember Chris R. Holden represents District 41 in the California State Legislature. He is currently running for the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

"This event is creating exposure to opportunities for young people to know how they can engage before they get to high school in preparing themselves for careers that take them beyond their boundary of thinking to see where the resources are and understand that their future is very bright," said Holden.

"Dual enrollment, a legislation I authored in 2015, laid the opportunity for high school students to take college courses while still in high school. The future is bright, and the horizon is there," he added.

Regarding the March 5 presidential primary, Holden stressed the importance of



RODD A. AMOS/ L.A. SENTINEL  
Assemblyman Chris R. Holden presents a certificate to Victoria Williams, founder of Black Education Expo.

public participation.

"With all elections, primary or general, it's critical that everyone gets out and votes and participates in the process. It appears the



RODD A. AMOS/ L.A. SENTINEL  
Samuel Freeman manning the booth for 100 Black Men of Los Angeles.

returning of absentee ballots are light. But with so much at stake, we're still excited about what this means in terms of my race and what I think I can bring to the L.A. Board," he said.

Sponsors of Black Education Expo included The City of Pasadena, Delete the Divide, California Black Women's Health Project, County of Los Angeles, NAACP, Neighbors Empowering Youth (NEY), Pasadena City College,

Pasadena Unified School District, Pasadena Black Pages, Drone Discovery, Music Saving Lives, and City of LA Office of the City Clerk.

Explaining why she was involved in the expo, Jayda Imanlinen, founder and executive director of Black Girl Film School, noted, "It makes me feel part of the rich tapestry of Los Angeles. It's brought us closer to other organizations also serving in meaningful ways.

"We're honored to be part of such an amazing event, especially during Black History Month, to



RODD A. AMOS/ L.A. SENTINEL  
Pearl Mathieu of Lexia stops for a pose.

continue to amplify our voices and provide new pathways to the future through education, training, mentorship and learning."

For more information, visit: [www.blackeducation-expo.com](http://www.blackeducation-expo.com).



RODD A. AMOS/ L.A. SENTINEL  
Jayda Imanlinen, founder of Black Girl Film School.

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## Community RECYCLING CLEAN UP EVENT

# March 23, 2024

Shred your confidential documents from 9am to 12:30pm ONLY.  
(2) - 33 Gallon Trash Bags per Customer

Waste Disposal from 9am to 3pm

**What TO bring:**

- Medications/Syringes/Sharps
- Gasoline/Fuels/Motor Oil/Oil Filters
- Lubricants
- Antifreeze
- Solvents/Paint Thinners
- Tires (Limit 9)
- Aerosol Cans/Paints/Stains
- Pesticides/Herbicides
- Glues/Adhesives
- Fluorescent Light Bulbs
- Mercury Thermometers
- Fire Extinguishers
- Compressed Gas Tanks/Propane Tanks
- Electronics

**What NOT to bring:**

- Containers over 5 Gallons in size
- Ammunition/Explosives
- Asbestos Materials
- PCB - Related Materials
- Medical/Biological Waste
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- Business/Commercial Waste
- Construction Waste
- Fireworks/Marine Flairs
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