

Sun-Reporter



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BEST BUY IN THE WEST

Kamala Harris: A Career Built on Iconic Dedication to Justice and Progress

By Evan Ward

Vice President Kamala Harris embodies ambition, tenacity, and dedication. Her life's work has inspired generations, earning her the honor of EBONY's 2024 Power 100 Icon of the Year.

Harris's journey began at Howard University, a place she calls "The Mecca," where her political career took root. Winning a freshman class representative race was her first taste of public service. "Howard taught me... you can do anything and you can do everything," she told graduates during a 2017 commencement speech.

In 2003, Harris became San Francisco District Attorney, defeating an incumbent and making history as the first Black woman and South Asian American to hold the position in California. Her platform focused on criminal justice reform, reducing recidivism, and tackling



Vice President Kamala Harris

systemic inequalities.

By 2010, Harris broke barriers again, becoming California's Attorney General. Despite doubts, she stood firm against Big Banks during the foreclosure crisis and championed reforms benefiting marginalized communities. Her win marked her as the first African American and South Asian woman in the role.

In 2016, Harris ascended to the U.S. Senate, becoming the second Black woman in history to serve. Her platform—

addressing income inequality, police accountability, and healthcare access—resonated with underserved communities nationwide.

In 2020, Harris shattered another glass ceiling as the first woman, Black, and South Asian Vice President, following in the footsteps of trailblazers like Shirley Chisholm. Her legacy of breaking barriers now sets the stage for her 2024 presidential run, inspiring generations to come.

Black Women Make History as California and U.S. Senators

By Evan Ward

There is one African American woman currently serving in the California State Senate, Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Ladera Heights).

It's the same in the U.S. Senate.

In October of 2023, Gov. Gavin Newsom appointed Sen. Laphonza Butler (D-Calif.) to complete the term of Sen. Dianne Feinstein after she passed away in September 2023. Butler will likely be replaced in January by Adam Schiff, who is projected to win the seat after the Nov. 5 general election.

Now, two more Black women are on pace to become California State Senators.

In the United States Senate, two Black women have already won seats. Lisa Blunt-Rochester of Delaware and Angela Alsobrooks of Maryland will be going to Capitol Hill in January after winning their respective U.S. Senate races.

It will be the first time in U.S. history that two Black women have served in the



Top row, from left, are Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Los Angeles), Assemblymember Akilah Weber (D-San Diego), and Laura Richardson – candidate for CA State Senate District 35. Bottom row, from left, are Lisa Blunt-Rochester (Delaware), Angela Alsobrooks (Maryland), and Michelle Chambers – candidate for CA State Senate District 35.

Senate at the same time.

"It is remarkable to think that in two years, America will celebrate its 250th birthday and in all those years, there has been more than 2000 people who have served in the United States Senate and only three have looked like me," said Alsobrooks in her victory speech on Nov. 5.

In Southern California, as of Nov. 9, Laura Richardson

leads Michelle Chambers with 107,255 votes to 103,638 votes in Senate District 35. Both women are Democrats. The 35th Senate District encompasses an area in South L.A. County, including parts of Inglewood, Compton, San Pedro, Hawthorne, and Carson.

That seat is currently held by California Legislative Black Caucus vice chair Sen. Steven

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3rd Street Youth Center Gets \$2.5M from Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sánchez for Housing Aid

SAN FRANCISCO – (November 20, 2024): 3rd Street Youth Center & Clinic ("3rd Street"), a community-based nonprofit centered in Bayview-Hunters Point and dedicated to serving young people and families living across San Francisco, announced that it has received a \$2.5 million grant from Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sánchez through the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund.

This donation is the largest gift in the organization's history. This is the seventh year that the Day 1 Families Fund has awarded grants to organizations across the country that are leading the way to move the needle on family homelessness with the goal of ensuring that no child sleeps outside.

"Every young family has the desire and potential to live a healthy life," said Joi Jackson-Morgan, 3rd Street's executive director. "It is impossible for families to work towards a better future without having



40 organizations across the U.S. receive a total of \$110.5 million from the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund to help end homelessness for families

a safe and stable place to call home. The families we serve possess the resilience to succeed—they just need the opportunities to do so."

Family homelessness in the U.S. rose dramatically from 2022 to 2023, and families now represent more than 28 percent of the country's homeless population, according to a 2024 report from the National Alliance to End Homelessness. With its one-time Day 1

Families Fund grant, 3rd Street work to reverse this national trend by serving families experiencing homelessness in San Francisco.

Specifically, 3rd Street's comprehensive housing program will offer vital support to families experiencing homelessness through specialized case management and housing placement

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Dr. Ephraim Williams, Sacramento Faith Leader, Passes Away at 91

By Evan Ward

Dr. Ephraim Williams, a pillar of Sacramento's faith community and longtime pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, passed away on Nov. 9 at the age of 91.

Born in Summit, Mississippi, Williams became pastor of the Oak Park church in 1971. Over the decades, he turned St. Paul into a sanctuary not just for worship but for hope, community, and progress. Under his leadership, the church grew to become one of the region's largest, tackling challenges in both the congregation and the neighborhood.

"Pastor Williams is a true Sacramento icon," said Daniel Hahn, Sacramento's first Black police chief and an Oak Park native. "He was selfless, principled, and a comforting presence in hard times. You could count on him for counsel and accountability."

Sacramento's first Black



Williams' impact extended far beyond the pulpit. He championed health and fitness, youth mentorship, literacy, and job assistance

mayor, Kevin Johnson, considered Williams both a mentor and father figure. In 2010, Johnson declared September 26 as Dr. Ephraim Williams Day. A year later, he handed Williams the key to the city, an honor Mayor Darrell Steinberg echoed in 2020.

"To call him a pillar of the community doesn't come close," Johnson said. "He believed faith wasn't confined to the church walls, and his work rippled into every

corner of this city."

Williams' impact extended far beyond the pulpit. He championed health and fitness, youth mentorship, literacy, and job assistance. The church's Family Life Center carries his name, as does a middle school in the Fortune charter school network. Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama both invited him to the White House,

Continued on page 7

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1945-1997

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Advocates: Calif.'s Maternal Health Blueprint Ignores Systemic Racism, Community Solutions

By McKenzie Jackson, California Black Media

Black mothers in California experience a maternal mortality rate that is three times above the average in the state.

The California Coalition for Black Birth Justice Co-Founder and Executive Director Dana Sherrod said although Black women have higher rates of chronic conditions going into pregnancy, the root cause of their high maternal mortality rate is racism.

"When all things are equal when we look at protective factors — education level, healthy weight, marital status — they aren't as protective for Black women," she explained.

"We see Black women without pre-existing conditions, who have protective factors and are still fairing worse — having worse birthing outcomes, added Sherrod. "Racism is really what is undergirding this crisis and it's been prevalent and evident for centuries."

To reduce the maternal mortality rate for all women in the state, particularly Black women, California Surgeon General Dr. Diana E. Ramos unveiled the California Maternal Health Blueprint and announced the Strong Start & Beyond movement in September.

The 20-page blueprint serves as a strategic framework for improving reproductive and maternal health by cutting the maternal mortality in the state by 50% by December 2026. The blueprint also calls for reproductive-aged individuals to understand the health risks they could encounter in future pregnancies by completing a questionnaire over the next 25 months.

In her announcement, Ramos highlighted that the best way to ensure a newborn's health is to ensure the health of the mother.

"By leveraging powerful partnerships and pioneering cutting-edge solutions," she said, "we can help California mothers, pregnant people, and newborns have a strong start and healthy future."

Late last month though, Sherrod, and various health advocates and experts — midwives, doulas, physicians, and community organizations — sent a six-page letter to Ramos urging her to delay actions the blueprint recommends due to concerns they have about omissions and oversights in the document.

Sherrod says moving forward with the blueprint as it is may "cause harm" to Black and Indigenous communities." She says there are shortcomings in the document's development process, and its analyses blame individuals for health

challenges rather than addressing systemic failures."

"Black women, in particular, have been pushing against these harmful narratives for years, and this feels like a significant step backward," Sherrod said.

Members of the collective met with Ramos, according to Sherrod, but the surgeon general seemed to be moving forward with the blueprint.

"We are hoping to have an open dialogue to redirect some of the strategies in the blueprint," Sherrod said.

In an email to California Black Media last week, the Office of the California Surgeon General expressed its commitment to engaging the community to enhance existing programs that support new mothers during the postpartum period.

"The immediate opportunity for the community lies in the fact that over 62% of maternal deaths occur after delivery, when the mom is at home and in the community," the statement read. "Community resources will be the bridge between the healthcare system and the pregnant person and new moms."

The office said the Strong Start & Beyond initiative aims to showcase an array of existing programs and best practices to improve maternal outcomes and that communication channels like social media and webinars will be used to highlight the campaign.



"In terms of clinician representation alone, the process did not include participation from midwives," the letter states. "The contribution of midwifery and of midwife leaders is grossly undervalued in California's health care system, despite midwives making up nearly a third of birth providers in the state."

"The most impactful action in reducing maternal mortality among Black mothers is for local community programs serving Black mothers to cross collaborate with other state and local communities and existing programs to increase awareness of resources for mothers before, during, and after pregnancy," the office said. "An example of one of these programs is the California Department of Public Health Black Infant Health program."

California First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, who announced Strong Start Beyond with Ramos, said in a September statement that California has proven initiatives that enhance maternal health and reduce disparities.

"We are setting critical goals to improve maternal health outcomes and creating a robust support network for mothers, from preconception through postpartum care, addressing the diverse needs of our population and setting an example for the nation," she said.

The blueprint reveals that every five days a mother in California loses her life to pregnancy-related complications. Health statistics show from 2019 to 2021 Black mothers have the highest pregnancy-related mortality rate per 1,000 in the state at 49.7%. Hispanic women had a rate of 17.7%, Asian women were at 14.4%, and white women were at 14.0%.

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Black Friday Approaches with Fewer Bargain-Hunting Options Nationwide

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia

As Black Friday approaches, shoppers across the United States prepare for the holiday shopping rush against widespread retail closures. More than 2,000 stores are set to shut their doors by the end of 2024, with 13 major retail chains accounting for a total of 2,055 closures.

The shakeup reflects a retail landscape grappling with changing consumer habits, financial pressures, and shifting strategies.

Family Dollar tops the list, closing at least 600 locations this year. The chain's decision is part of a broader trend among large retailers reassessing their footprints to focus on profitability. While some, like Walmart and TJX (the parent company of T.J. Maxx and

Marshalls), are also closing underperforming locations, they plan to open new stores in more lucrative markets.

Pharmacies have also seen significant reductions. CVS is in the final stages of its three-year plan to close 900 stores, citing demographic changes and new shopping patterns. Rite Aid has announced another 77 closures, adding to the 150 stores it shuttered last year as part of its bankruptcy restructuring. Walgreens, meanwhile, has announced plans to close 1,200 stores over the next three years, though those closures won't begin until 2025.

The restaurant sector has not been spared. Denny's plans to close 50 locations by the end of this year, targeting lower-volume locations. Another 100 restaurants are set to close in 2025.

Retail Closures Hit Communities Hard

The closures are being felt deeply in communities

across the country. In the District of Columbia, Aurora Market, a family-owned and veteran-operated store in the Brookland neighborhood, recently announced its indefinite closure after being targeted by thieves in nearly a dozen incidents. The store served as a vital resource for underserved communities, and its closure reflects the difficulties smaller businesses face amid rising crime and economic pressures.

Larger retail chains have also faced challenges. Foot Locker closed 113 stores this year as part of a strategic overhaul, while Macy's began a three-year plan to shut 150 stores, starting with 50 in 2024. Financially struggling brands like Express have closed 95 flagship locations and 12 UpWest-branded stores.

Advance Auto Parts, one of the nation's leading automotive aftermarket retailers, announced it would shutter more than 700 stores as part of a broader plan to

improve profitability. Other chains, like LL Flooring, formerly Lumber Liquidators, are going out of business entirely, with the company holding liquidation sales for its remaining 200 stores before shutting down.

The Future of Retail

Experts predict the pace of closures will continue. UBS analysts estimate that as many as 45,000 stores could close across the U.S. over the next five years, driven primarily by the collapse of smaller businesses. Even as retail giants like Costco, Target, and Home Depot expand, many retailers are scaling back due to shifting consumer preferences and financial pressures.

7-Eleven's parent company, Seven & I Holdings Co., announced it would close 444 North American locations, citing underperformance. Declining tobacco sales, bans on flavored nicotine products, and reductions in



The shakeup reflects a retail landscape grappling with changing consumer habits, financial pressures, and shifting strategies.

SNAP benefits affected the company's profitability.

For many communities, the loss of retail options goes beyond inconvenience. In urban neighborhoods like D.C.'s Brookland, closures leave gaps in access to essential goods and services while also impacting the sense of connection and identity that local businesses foster.

As shoppers prepare for Black Friday, the closures serve as a reminder of the ongoing transformations within the retail industry. A veteran store owner reflected on the challenges, saying, "Stores like ours aren't just businesses—they're part of the community fabric. When they close, it leaves a void that's hard to fill."

Tony Thurmond Vows to Protect Education in California

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia

In the wake of the general election and Donald Trump winning another term as president, State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) Tony Thurmond is on a mission to protect public education in California.

On Nov. 8, Thurmond, members of the California legislature, educators, union leaders, and other elected officials expressed their concerns at a news conference about the possibility of the Trump

Administration dismantling the U.S. Department of Education (DOE).

"To tear down and abolish an organization that provides protections for our students is a threat to the well-being of our students and our families and of Americans," Thurmond said.

Thurmond said losing \$8 billion dollars in federal funding is at stake. During his campaign, Trump didn't hesitate to take barbs at the DOE.

Closing the doors of the DOE could affect a range of scholastic programs such as Special Education, English as a Second Language (ESL), free lunch, federal grants for college students

and Title I, a program that provides support to educate disadvantaged families.

Sen. Aisha Wahab (D-Hayward) and Assembly member Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance), the chair of the Assembly Education Committee, spoke at the news conference held in the boardroom of the California Department of Education building.

Muratsuchi said, "We need to get ready now for what is going to start on Jan. 20 (2025)."

"It is the job of every teacher, every school board member, every principal, every elected representative in the state of California who believes in public education," he said.

"It is time for us to stand up to protect all of these kids. When we are facing a bully who is targeting our most vulnerable students, we all need to stand up."

Trump has said that he prefers the Choice School initiative, a policy that provides parents and students the choice to use public funds to attend a school other than their district or local public school.

Thurmond and supporters of the traditional public school system are asking President-elect Trump and the U.S. Congress to continue federal supporting the funding of the programs.

Thurmond said he has started reaching out to lawmakers in



California Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, along with lawmakers, union leaders, and educators, appeals to President-elect Donald Trump to commit to supporting public education.

Washington, D.C., and in the California legislature to get in front of Trumps policy plans.

"I'm prepared to sponsor legislation that would call

on the California State Legislature and the Governor to backfill that funding to preserve and protect that funding for the students of California," Thurmond said.

CALIFORNIA VOTERS EMBRACE STRICTER CRIME LAWS WITH PROP 36

By Bo Tefu and Antonio Ray
Harvey, California Black Media

California voters have approved Proposition 36, a ballot measure imposing stricter penalties for retail theft, property crimes, and drug offenses, effectively rolling back aspects of the state's 2014 Proposition 47.

Prop 47 aimed to reduce California's prison population by reclassifying some non-violent felonies as misdemeanors, shifting funds from incarceration to toward drug treatment and victim services. However, supporters of

Prop 36 argue that Prop 47's leniency has contributed to increased property crime, homelessness, and drug addiction.

Mike Gatto, a Democratic former state assemblymember from Los Angeles is a proponent of Prop 36 and anticipates that the initiative will curb retail crime in the state.

"The voters recognize that Prop 36 is a sensible measure and that it will be the first step in stopping the retail thefts that make shopping miserable," said Gatto.

Backed by law enforcement, business

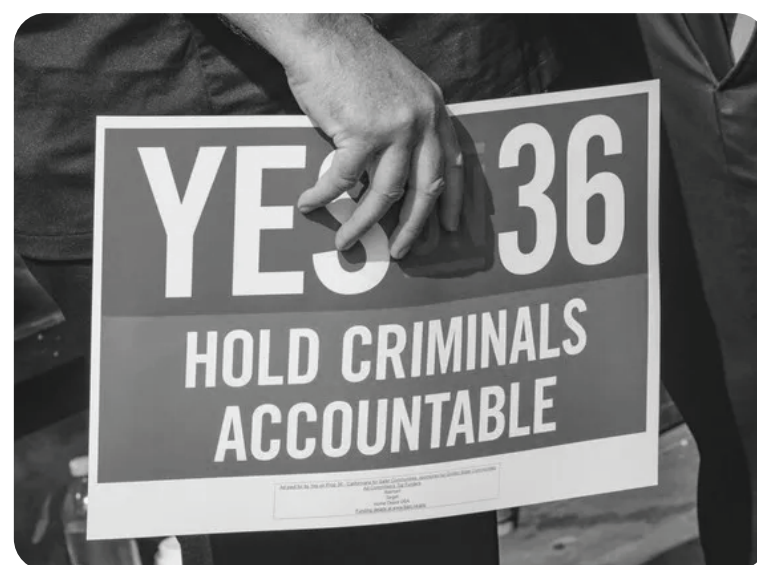
groups, and a mix of political leaders, including outgoing San Francisco Mayor London Breed, Prop 36 seeks to address homelessness and the fentanyl crisis through longer prison sentences for drug dealers and a mandatory treatment program for individuals with addiction issues.

Opponents say the measure will increase California's prison population and court system costs, estimated in the tens of millions.

Critics, including social justice groups, warn that Prop 36 undermines the

progress achieved under Prop 47, which has reallocated over \$800 million to treatment and behavioral health initiatives. Opponents like Californians for Safety and Justice argue the new law preys on public fear, exacerbated by viral retail theft incidents, to push a "tough-on-crime" agenda that may drain resources from essential support programs.

Proponents, however, contend that addressing rising crime rates justifies these increased expenses, with Gatto expressing



Critics, including social justice groups, warn that Prop 36 undermines the progress achieved under Prop 47, which has reallocated over \$800 million to treatment and behavioral health initiatives. Opponents like Californians for Safety and Justice argue the new law preys on public fear, exacerbated by viral retail theft incidents, to push a "tough-on-crime" agenda that may drain resources from essential support programs.

confidence that the legislature can allocate funding to offset any cuts to treatment services.

The Sun-Reporter

EDITORIAL

We wish to plead our own cause.
Too long have others spoken for us.

Freedom's Journal, March 16, 1827.

America's Healing Can Start with Family Around the Holidays

By Ben Jealous

With the holiday season approaching, it seems that our country could not be more divided. That division has been perhaps the main overarching topic of our national conversation in recent years. And it has taken root within many of our own families.

Blood may be thicker than water, but for many American families it seems like it is not as thick as politics. Or, if not politics specifically, then the

cultural rifts that have been widened and inflamed within our political debate.

Maybe our national healing can start with our families, around the holiday table.

There are mixed views within my own family, just like there are in millions of American families. And within my family there are stories of division and stories of healing.

My family traces its roots in America on my dad's side back 400 years to Massachusetts — the home of the first Thanksgiving. My mom's family has also been here the better part of 400 years, but in Virginia and

Maryland, tracing back to that area's earliest white settlers and their African slaves.

When my parents fell in love as young civil rights activists in Baltimore and got married, their marriage was illegal in Maryland. Their relationship was taboo at the time. My father's family disowned him for marrying a Black woman and he lost his inheritance.

So, I grew up on America's racial fault line. And learning about my own family's history has provided an important perspective on the nature of division both within the family itself and the country — our big, messy American family.

Using DNA research to trace my own family's origins, I discovered that like President Barack Obama, I am distant cousins with former Vice President Dick Cheney. That revelation was interesting. But the revelation that I am also distant cousins with Robert E. Lee was a little harder to swallow. I was the youngest ever national president of the NAACP. He was the Confederate general who essentially fought to preserve the institution of slavery.

The Civil War itself was a conflict that famously divided families. "Brother against brother" is a phrase commonly used to describe those divisions that emerged within many American families, especially in the border states like my home state of Maryland.

And after the Civil War, America's divisions certainly did not go away. But there are inspiring stories of coming together as well that simply have not been told as much as the stories of division and oppression.

My grandmother's grandfather was at the center of one of those stories. In the years immediately following Reconstruction, Edward David Bland — who had been born into slavery — led Virginia's Black Republicans into coalition with former white Confederate soldiers to form a third party that took over the Virginia state government.

How many of us grew up learning that freedmen and the

same Confederates that had fought to keep them enslaved actually came together to form a winning political party based on the common desire to save their state's public schools?

Known as the Readjusters, the bipartisan, multiracial movement won all statewide elected offices and controlled the Commonwealth of Virginia from 1881 to 1885. In that time, they abolished the poll tax and the whipping post, radically expanded Virginia Tech and created Virginia State University, and readjusted the terms of the Civil War debt to save the free public schools and take the state from a financial deficit into a surplus.

That is just one story that illustrates how as a country we have managed to work through our divisions and move forward. We have common ground. We just need to look for it. And it should not be that difficult to search for and find that common ground within our own families.

Families can be great composites of many different backgrounds and experiences, just like America itself. And just like America, there can also be room for different viewpoints within families.

Most of us want the same things: a better life for our children, safe communities, good schools, freedom. That we might have different perspectives on what some of these things mean does not make for insurmountable differences. Instead, it begs for conversation and ultimately understanding of why we see things differently. Because whether our ancestors arrived as settlers or immigrants, were enslaved or were among this land's Indigenous peoples, what we have in common is we are all in the same boat now.

Whether we sink or float, it will be together. And to truly thrive, we must heal our divisions. Within our own families is as good a place as any to start.

Ben Jealous



Three Percent of Calif's Doctors are Black. Advocates Want Increased Representation

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia

Only 3% of doctors in California are Black, compared to about 5% nationwide.

The California Black Health Network (CBHN), Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU) in Los Angeles, and other health advocates are working to change that.

On Nov. 14, CBHN hosted

its Health Equity Forum titled "Improving Workforce Development for Better Health Outcomes." The organization, now over 40 years old, calls itself a trusted resource for Black health equity in California. CBHN uses outreach, education, advocacy, and policy work to drive its mission forward.

The forum is the fourth in a webinar series called "The Health 4 Life: Healthy Black People Campaign." The goal? To equip Black Californians with tools to navigate healthcare, advocate for themselves and their communities, and push

back against discrimination.

"Where there are Black doctors, we tend to see better health outcomes for Black communities," said Rhonda Smith, Executive Director of CBHN.

Smith pointed out a critical issue: California's medical education system isn't producing enough Black physicians. "Half of California's Black medical students leave the state for residency programs and often don't return. So, what can we do to ensure a stronger pipeline of healthcare

professionals who reflect the communities they serve?"

The forum featured Dr. David M. Carlisle, MD, President of CDU, the only Historically Black Medical School in the western United States.

Carlisle explained how CDU's commitment to social justice and health equity trains more Black and minority doctors while building trust with underserved communities.

"Our vision is excellent health and wellness for all in a world without health disparities," said Carlisle. "We train young

people from under-resourced neighborhoods near our university and turn them into healthcare professionals. Many go back to the communities they grew up in to make a difference."

CDU is ranked #3 in the nation by the Brookings Institute as a value-added university, helping students from challenging socioeconomic backgrounds succeed in their fields. The school's goal is to grow its enrollment to 1,000 undergraduates and 1,000 graduate students.

"Our students are unique,"

Carlisle said. "About two-thirds received Pell Grants in college—more than twice the national average among medical students. A third are first-generation college students. That's also twice the national average."

Carlisle highlighted how CDU's mission resonates with students. "If you ask why they came to CDU instead of a UCLA, USC, or Stanford, they'll say, 'Because CDU's mission aligns with my personal mission to become a healthcare professional. I couldn't get that anywhere else.'"

OP-ED: A RACIAL RECKONING IN COLUMBUS, OHIO

By Dawn Montgomery, Culture Critic

Irefuse to utter his name. Since the announcement of his presidential re-election, I've tried to stay calm, to remain, as they say, "very demure."

But after what unfolded this past Saturday, when a group of masked white nationalists stormed the Short North Arts District area in Columbus, Ohio, waving swastika flags and shouting racial slurs—a ratchet display of pure hate—I just can't. I am annoyed, but we knew this was coming. Classic American terrorism, live and in color. And make no mistake—when "that man" ascends to his concocted throne, these events will only intensify.

Social media documented

every angle of the chaos, showing what Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther called a "cowardly display." The mayor said he would not allow "our neighbors" to be "intimidated, threatened or harmed." Governor Mike DeWine echoed this sentiment, posting on X, "We will not tolerate hate in Ohio."

Yet, despite these words of condemnation, the police did nothing. They were called to intervene but stood by as the violence unfolded. Ohio's anti-KKK law explicitly bans masked groups from committing misdemeanors, with violations carrying felony-level penalties. Still, not one masked white nationalist was arrested—not even those who pepper-sprayed patrons during an altercation outside a local bar.

Let's be clear: everyone has a right to their beliefs, even their bigotry. But harassment, intimidation, and violence are not rights—they are crimes.

Failing to act is more than negligence—it's an invitation. Emboldened by inaction, white nationalist demonstrations are growing. According to the Anti-Defamation League, white supremacist-organized events hit a record high of 282 in 2023—a staggering 63% increase from the 173 incidents reported in 2022. These aren't just statistics; they're warnings. They're flashing signals from a society on the verge of re-normalizing hate.

What will it take for this to stop?

The next day, a different group took to the same streets. This time, an influential group of Black men marched—

unmasked and unafraid. They came not to threaten but to protect, peacefully standing as a barrier against hate. "We are seeing a lot more people blatant with their racism, their hatred, and it's just sad," Sean Walton, a local attorney, told NBC4. "Let's figure out how to come together and how to lead and love. There's so much fear, and I think it's important that we practice community care."

This is what leadership looks like—unifying, protective, and restorative.

America has a problem. And like those in Columbus, citizens must demand action from politicians who ignore the very laws designed to protect us. Words of condemnation are not enough. The failure to enforce legal protections only signals complicity.



America has a problem. And like those in Columbus, citizens must demand action from politicians who ignore the very laws designed to protect us. Words of condemnation are not enough. The failure to enforce legal protections only signals complicity.

Let me be crystal clear: are not going back. Not just Black women may have lost for us but for generations this battle, but not the war. who refuse to inherit We said what we said—we a legacy of hate.



THE SUN-REPORTER

RELIGIOUS SECTION

THE BAY AREA'S CHURCH NEWS & ACTIVITIES



Abram's Exemplary Faith

THE SUN-REPORTER

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Little Zion Baptist Church
1245 Divisadero Street
San Francisco, CA

Sunday School 9:00am
Morning Worship 11:am
Evening Worship 6:pm

El Bethel Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Keva L. McNeill, Pastor
1320 Golden Gate
San Francisco, CA.
921-4850, 921-0878

Church School 9: am
Children's Church 10:am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Bible Study 1-2pm & 6:30-7:30pm
Prayer meeting Wednesday 12:00 Noon

St. Peter's Missionary Baptist Church
1601 Newcomb Avenue
San Francisco, CA. 94124
Rev. Dr. J.P. Alexander

Church School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 11: am
Tuesday Usher meeting 7:pm
Wednesday Bible Study 7: pm
Tuesday Choir Rehearsal 7: pm
Prayer and Teacher meeting Wednesday 7:30PM

Neighborhood Baptist Church
608 Hayes Street
San Francisco, CA
Rev. Lane Hawkins

Sunday School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 11: am
Evening Worship 6: pm
Bible Class Monday 5: pm

Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church
6190 3rd Street
San Francisco, CA. 94124
Phone: (415) 822-4071
Fax: (415) 822-0156
Rev. Kenneth R. Reece Pastor

Sunday School 9:00 am
Morning Worship 10:25: am
Communion Every 1st Sunday
Baptism Every 2nd Sunday
Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 6:30-8:30 pm Wednesday
Abundant Life Recovery Ministry 6:30 pm Mondays

Evergreen Baptist Church
6270 3rd Street
San Francisco, CA.
Rev. Jackey Wilson Pastor

Sunday School 9:15 am
Morning Worship 10:40: am
Wendnesday Teacher's Meeting 6: pm
Sr. Mission 5: pm
Children's Bible Study 5: pm
Bible Study 6:45 pm
Saturday Food Pantry 10-11 am

Ascension Baptist Church
1311 Quesada ave.
San Francisco, CA. 94124
(415) 822-9488
Rev. Anthony Anderson

Morning Worship 10:15: am
Bible Study Tuesday 6:30 PM
Church School Wednesday 7: pm
Communion every 1st Sunday

Shekinah Christian Fellowship
790 Tennessee St.
San Francisco, CA. 94107
(415) 646-0747
Ella Henderson, Bishop & Founder of SCF
Tyrone and Demetra Hillman Pastor
Sunday School - 9:am
Morning worship - 10:15 am
Radio: Sunday 9:30 am KDYA
TV: Tuesday and Friday 8:30am
KTUN Total Living Network

Ebenezer Baptist Church
275 Divisadero Street
San Francisco, CA.

Sunday School 9:15 am
Morning Worship 10:45: am
Evening Worship 7:30 pm

Mount Calvary Baptist Church
4000 Middlefield Rd.
(Cubberly Community CTR)
Palo Alto, CA. 94306
(650) 569-6944
Rev Roy Northington Pastor
Sunday School - 10:am
Morning worship - 11:00 am
Wednesday Bible Discussion 7: pm
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Living Word Church of God In Christ
12 Westlake Ave
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Rev. Derrick Lomax Pastor

Sunday School - 10:00: am
Morning worship - 11:30 am
Wed Bible Class 8:00 pm
Friday Prayer Service 8:00 pm

Sun Reporter

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Dr. Williams
Continued from page 1

recognizing his leadership among Black pastors. Locally, Williams earned

accolades from the Sacramento NAACP, the California Black Chamber of Commerce, and the California Black Legislative Caucus, among others.

Even in retirement, his legacy endured. In 2020,

Williams passed the torch to Rev. Kenneth Reece, who said, "His leadership and compassion shaped our church and inspired countless lives."

To his daughter Gwen Williams, though, he was

simply "the best dad." She recalled his kindness and unwavering commitment to his faith, which was as present at home as it was in the pulpit. "The way he conducted himself at church—that's how

he was at home. He never changed," she said.

Dr. Williams was preceded in death by his wife, Carrie Sue Martin-Williams, and son, Ephraim "Butch" Williams Jr. He leaves

behind his daughter Gwen, brother Roosevelt Williams, four grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, a great-great-grandchild, and his extended St. Paul family.

Black Women History
Continued from page 1

Bradford (D-Inglewood), who terms out in December and is running for lieutenant Governor in 2026.

Richardson served in the California State Assembly in 2006-2007 before she was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where she served from 2007 to 2013.

"As a dedicated housing advocate for the past decade, I stand unwavering in my commitment to ending

homelessness," Richardson stated on her campaign website. "With a profound understanding of the pressing issues at hand, my top priority is to spearhead the creation of more affordable housing options."

Chambers is a former Compton City Councilwoman who has worked for the State's Attorney General's office.

"Our campaign is about fighting for the needs of working families," Chambers posted on the social media

platform X, formerly called Twitter, on Oct. 11. "I'll always stand up for our #SD35 communities – not special interests."

In San Diego, Assemblymember Akilah Weber (D-La Mesa), is leading her Republican opponent, Bob Devine, in the race for the 39th Senate District seat. Weber has 219,465 votes (62.4%) so far to Devine's 132,044 (37.6%).

Weber and Devine are vying for a seat that is currently

held by Sen. Toni Atkins (D-San Diego), who will be running for governor in 2026.

"I am extremely humbled and incredibly grateful for the support you've shown me throughout the election," Weber posted Nov. 6 on X. "San Diego has just made history by electing the first African American woman to the CA State Senate south of Los Angeles. Thank you for believing in me. Now let's get to work."

Eight years ago, Blunt-

Rochester first made history in Congress as the first Black person and woman elected to represent Delaware. Alsobrooks was a Maryland states attorney and a County Executive in Prince Georges County before running for the Senate.

Vice President Kamala Harris, the first Black person elected as U.S. Senator from California, served from 2016 to 2020. Blunt-Rochester pointed out that Kamala Harris had only four months to launch her presidential

campaign, highlighting the significant challenge of such a tight timeline.

"From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank Vice President Kamala Harris for stepping up to run when our country needed her leadership, tenacity, and commitment to serve the American people," Blunt-Rochester stated. "Because of the trails she blazed, the lives she touched, the communities she fought for, the stories she uplifted, we are better."

3rd Street Youth
Continued from page 1

services. Their dedicated team helps families navigate the complex housing market, access subsidies and connect with essential services including healthcare, counseling, education and job training opportunities.

A group of national advisors who are leading experts on family homelessness and its solutions, including

the intersection of homelessness and housing policy, child welfare, racial equity and service provision,

identified the organizations selected for funding.

Since 2018, the Day 1 Families Fund has awarded 248 grants totaling nearly \$750 million to organizations serving families in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The grants are uniquely flexible and enable organizations to support families experiencing homelessness—including those who are unsheltered or staying in shelters—to regain safe, stable housing and achieve well-being.

This year, the Fund issued a total of \$110.5 million in grants to 40 organizations, and for the first time, nonprofits in Kansas and New Jersey are among the awardees. The other organizations receiving grants in California are: Arcata House Partnership, Catholic Charities CYO of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, Homeward Bound of Marin, Hope Solutions, Jenesse Center and My Sister's House. The full list of awardees is available at bezosdayonefund.org/day1familiesfund.

About 3rd Street Youth Center & Clinic

3rd Street Youth Center & Clinic emerged from a grassroots community initiative in 2005 to ensure that young residents of Bayview-Hunters Point had equal access to healthcare, employment, and educational opportunities. Celebrating 20 years of community impact in 2025, 3rd Street has evolved into one of San Francisco's leading youth services providers, serving young people and families across the city with a full-service health clinic,

mental health and substance abuse counseling, housing services, and a range of youth development programming.

About the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund

Launched in 2018, the Bezos Day One Fund made a \$2 billion commitment to focus on making meaningful and lasting impacts in two areas: funding existing nonprofits that help families experiencing homelessness, and creating a network of new, nonprofit tier-one preschools in low-income communities. The

Bezos Day 1 Families Fund issues annual leadership awards to organizations and civic groups doing compassionate, needle-moving work to help families experiencing homelessness—including those who are unsheltered or staying in shelters—regain safe, stable housing and achieve well-being. The vision statement comes from the inspiring Mary's Place in Seattle: no child sleeps outside. For more information, visit www.BezosDayOneFund.org/Day1FamiliesFund.

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