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News Observer

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Becerra to Bakersfield Caregivers: "You are my family"

By Cecil Egbele
Contributing Writer | California Local News Fellow

Becerra pitches improved healthcare, housing, and pushback on ICE during SEIU 2015 rally

Xavier Becerra asked a ballroom full of home care workers at the Bakersfield Marriott a simple question: "How many of you are caregivers?"

"Me too," the Democratic candidate for California governor replied when many arms were raised.

Becerra told the crowd at the Oct. 22 rally, hosted by Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 2015, that his mother, who just turned 93, lives with him, and that his father died in his home while Becerra, his wife and family cared for him.

"You don't make enough money. You don't get enough attention. You have to fight every time for your health care," he told the workers. "Yet you are caring for California."

He added: "You are my family. When I go to the governor's office, I'm going to take care of you."

Becerra, a former U.S. secretary of health and human services and former California attorney general, faces Republican Steve Hilton, a political commentator and former Fox News host, in the Nov. 3 general election. The winner will replace Gov. Gavin Newsom, who is term-limited.

Health care at the center

Becerra's selling point at the rally was H.R. 1, the federal tax-and-spending law famously called the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

He said the law "gutted $1 trillion out of health care and sent the money to tax cuts for billionaires and corporations."

Becerra accused Rep. David Valadao, R-Hanford, of breaking a promise to Central Valley families by voting for the act. Days before the July 2025 vote, Valadao said he would not support a final bill that made harmful cuts to Medicaid, then voted yes.

Valadao argued that he backed the bill because it protected Medi-Cal, California's version of Medicaid, for the most vulnerable, including children, pregnant women, people with disabilities and seniors.

"As governor, I'm going to protect families' health care," Becerra said in an interview with reporters during the SEIU 2015 rally. He said he has a record of lowering costs, calling himself "the first person to ever negotiate lower drug prices against the large pharmaceutical companies," a reference to his time leading the federal health department.

Gas, groceries and housing

Becerra said Californians are paying up to $2 more per gallon of gas because of what he called the "insane" foreign wars the country is involved in, and more at the grocery store because of tariffs he said are unconstitutional.

Asked about Senate Bill 237, also called the California Energy Affordability and Security Act, which a reporter described as allowing more oil drilling in Kern County, Becerra said the state must keep fuel prices steady as it moves toward clean energy.

"We're on that path; we have to make sure we stabilize the prices so everyone can get down to that day of clean energy together," he said.

On housing, Becerra said he would cut what he called unnecessary rules that slow construction and keep permits from stalling for years.

"Housing is a statewide policy," he said. "No local government should get in the way of statewide policy that's meant to provide housing for our families."

A warning to ICE

Becerra, the son of immigrants, said the state has legal tools to push back against federal immigration agents who break the law.

"ICE, you come into California, you better watch your step," he said. "You do not have a right to chase people without a warrant."

He urged residents to learn their rights and to record immigration enforcement on their phones, saying video of illegal conduct gives the state grounds to act.

To immigrant families afraid to take their children to the doctor, he said California wants them to keep "getting the health care that you need, being able to go to the grocery store or to church."

California gubernatorial candidate Xavier Becerra addresses home care workers during an Oct. 22 rally hosted by SEIU Local 2015 at the Bakersfield Marriott. Becerra shared his family's caregiving experiences and discussed health care affordability, housing and his priorities for California. (Photo courtesy of SEIU Local 2015)

Making the case in Kern

Kern County favored Hilton in the June primary. Becerra countered by pointing to his resume in the state Legislature, Congress, the attorney general's office, and a presidential Cabinet position.

"If you want someone who's going to need training wheels the moment he walks into the governor's office because he's never done any of these things, then I could see where you might vote for my opponent," he said.

On how he would differ from Newsom, Becerra pointed to his life story and simply added, "What others have done, that's history. What I will do is what sets the future for California."

Becerra closed his speech at the rally by asking caregivers to spend the race's final 12 days knocking on doors, making phone calls, and helping elderly and disabled neighbors get their ballots in.

"You cannot buy people power," he said. "People power is priceless."

Proposition 40: What Californian's Billionaire Tax Would Do

By Observer Editorial Desk

California voters will decide Nov. 3 whether to impose a one-time wealth tax on the state's billionaires, a proposal that has generated a heated debate over health care funding, taxation and the state's economic future.

Proposition 40 would establish a tax equal to 5% of the covered net wealth of qualifying California billionaires. The measure generally applies to individuals who were California residents on Jan. 1, 2026, and whose net worth exceeded $1 billion.

Unlike the state's income tax, which applies to annual earnings, the proposed tax would be based on wealth, including certain investments, business interests and other valuable assets. Real estate and certain retirement accounts would generally be excluded.

Where would the money go?

Under the measure, 90% of the revenue would be designated for health care services. The remaining 10% would support education, food assistance and administration of the tax.

California's Legislative Analyst's Office estimates the proposal could raise tens of billions of dollars in temporary state revenue over several years. However, analysts caution that the final amount is uncertain because asset values can change and wealthy taxpayers may take steps to reduce their tax liability.

The analysis also projects a possible ongoing reduction of less than $1 billion annually in state income tax revenue if some wealthy residents relocate or change their financial arrangements.

Supporters and opponents disagree

Supporters argue that California's wealthiest residents should contribute more to public health care at a time when the state faces mounting costs and pressure on government-funded services.

Opponents warn that the measure could encourage wealthy taxpayers and businesses to leave California, reducing future tax collections and creating economic uncertainty.

They also question whether the temporary revenue would provide a lasting solution to the state's health care funding needs.

Another complication involves Propositions 41 and 42, which are also on the ballot. State analysts say those measures could conflict with Proposition 40, potentially preventing it from taking effect depending on the election results and subsequent court decisions.

A "yes" vote supports establishing the one-time wealth tax. A "no" vote rejects the proposal. Voters can review the complete nonpartisan analysis in California's official voter information guide at voterguide.sos.ca.gov.

Healing the Wounds Behind the Walls

By Cecil Egbele
Contributing Writer | California Local News Fellow
This story was produced for the USC Center for Health Journalism's Ethnic Media Collaborative.

Inside a 12-week program teaching incarcerated people to confront pain, grief, and the patterns that shaped their lives.

In a corner of a large visiting hall at California State Prison, Corcoran, six men in purple caps and gowns sat in a circle on an early August afternoon, waiting to graduate.

The ceremony did not reflect a typical academic exercise, but the culmination of a unique and emotional 12-week journey through trauma, grief, accountability, and healing known as SAGE.

Serving sentences for crimes ranging from sex crimes to murder, the graduates took turns describing the impact the course had on their incarcerated lives.

"In the prison system, they see population," Clifford E. Lewis Jr. 49 said, referring to the prison staff. "But groups like this help create community. To be rehabilitated, you have to learn how to move from a population to belonging to a community."

"Before now," Lewis continued, "I saw each person here as an inmate, but now when I pass by, I don't see another inmate. I see a brother."

Taiwan Reed, 43, who said he joined as a survivor of childhood abuse, said the course "helped to heal from the trauma I had as a kid."

SAGE is among a patchwork of programs across California prisons where experts say there is little structured help, therapy, or processing for grief and trauma, despite high instances of both among the incarcerated.

"Prison doesn't stop for grief," said Nena Messina, a retired UCLA research criminologist who has studied trauma programming in California prisons since 2014. "There's no compassion."

Eddie Brown, 64, who said he has served 26 years in other facilities including Corcoran, said the course has, "taken away my anti-social behavior." He added: "I am more self-aware now."

Teresa 'Tree' Moses, a 43-year-old woman with short micro-curls wearing black pants and a colorful, multi-colored sequined jacket, ran the room. Everyone calls her Tree. Her organization, **Tree's House Soul 4 Sole**, champions SAGE, or Standing And Guiding Experiences.

Teresa "Tree" Moses uses an image of a flock of geese to illustrate her approach to leadership and followership.

"I do soul work so that the sole of your feet can continue to maneuver," Moses said. "Which means we navigate tough terrain of trauma, grief, childhood experiences, so that no matter where you go in life, your feet is always able to move."

Moses launched SAGE in 2022, six years after she was released from a decade of custody and court-ordered treatment related to the death of her 8-year-old son.

Raijon Daniels died in 2006 after years of abuse, which the Contra Costa County coroner attributed to battered child syndrome. Moses, who was then 23, was charged in connection with his death. In 2009, three court-appointed doctors concluded Moses was legally insane at the time of the abuse. A judge found her not guilty of murder by reason of insanity and committed her to Napa State Hospital.

"I spent three and a half years in jail fighting this case, fighting being the murderer of my eight-year-old son," she said. "I was held accountable, and I have served the time."

In 2013, a judge allowed Moses to leave the hospital for state-supervised outpatient treatment, and in December 2016, court records show she was granted unconditional release.

"Honestly, my son never had a chance because I had so many different wounds from childhood that had gone unaddressed," Moses said. She said she was sexually abused by relatives starting when she was 5, and that she became a mother at 14.

Moses said she grew up never understanding what a healthy relationship looked or felt like, or how to speak up for herself and ask for help. Violence and abuse were normalized, she said of her rough upbringing. "It cost me to not know how to use my voice and ask for help…It cost me to normalize what abuse was in the household…It cost me everything."

Moses said she built SAGE's curriculum from the pain of her own life's journey.

While at Napa State Hospital, Moses enrolled in a six-month decision-making course, during which the facilitator asked Moses to read a book on making better choices and teach a class on the findings herself; Moses spent the next two and a half years co-facilitating these courses alongside the hospital's three teachers.

"That is where my roots started growing," she said.

After Moses' release, she enrolled at Coastline Community College, earning associate degrees in

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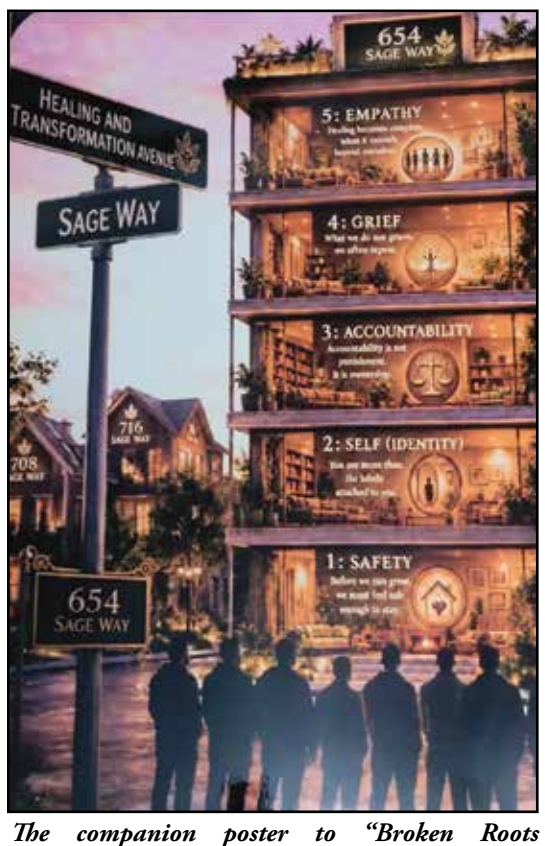
Stephanie Covington, co-director of the Center for Gender and Justice, and author of Exploring Trauma+

A training poster from Teresa "Tree" Moses' SAGE curriculum depicts "Broken Roots Community," a ruined street where different buildings name the various challenges and conditions she says often put men in prison.

Nena Messina is a criminologist, researcher, and President and CEO of Envisioning Justice Solutions



The companion poster to "Broken Roots Community" shows 654 Sage Way—a five-story building where each floor represents a stage of Teresa "Tree" Moses' 12-week SAGE curriculum.

Election Day is Near: What Kern County Voters Need to Know

By Observer Editorial Desk

With California's Nov. 3 general election less than a week away, Kern County voters still have several options to cast their ballots, check their registration status and make sure their votes are counted.

Election officials are encouraging residents to return completed mail ballots early rather than waiting until Election Day.

All active registered California voters were mailed ballots beginning in early October. Voters can return them by mail, place them in an official ballot drop box or deliver them to an authorized voting location.

Important deadlines

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Ballots returned in person must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day. Ballots returned through the mail must be postmarked no later than Nov. 3 and received by county election officials by Nov. 10.

The Secretary of State recommends mailing ballots well before Election Day to avoid problems with late postmarks. Voters mailing ballots at the last minute should ask a postal employee for a manual postmark.

Missed the registration deadline?

California's regular voter registration deadline was Oct. 19, but eligible residents who missed it can still register and vote through the state's conditional voter registration process.

Often called same-day registration, the process is available at county elections offices and authorized in-person voting locations through Election Day. A conditional ballot is counted after election officials verify the voter's eligibility.

Voters who have not received their ballots or need a replacement should contact the Kern County Elections Division for assistance.

Tracking your ballot

California also offers a free tracking service called "Where's My Ballot?" that allows voters to receive updates by text, email or telephone.

Residents can register for notifications at wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov to learn when election officials receive and accept their ballots.

Kern County residents can contact the Elections Division at (661) 868-3590 or visit kernvote.com for official voting information and drop-box locations.

With Election Day approaching, officials urge residents to verify their voting plans and avoid relying on unofficial information about polling locations or deadlines.

World & Nation

Kickstarter CEO Everette Taylor Shares Tips on Creating and Growing a Business

By BlackPress
USA Newswire

WASHINGTON (HUNS) — "The future belongs to creators who are bold," Everette Taylor, CEO of crowdfunding platform Kickstarter, told students at Howard University during a recent visit.As Taylor discussed his journey, he tested the boldness of students by inviting them to share their ideas during an impromptu pitch session at the Cathy Hughes School of Communications' new speaker series in the Browsing Room of Founders Library. The inaugural speaker then shocked one group of students by pledging to invest in their thesis film, paying forward the opportunities that have lifted him as he struggled to pursue his dreams. Taylor grew up in a low-income neighborhood in Richmond, Virginia, where he frequently encountered gang violence and drug dealing amid periods of homelessness.Not feeling as if he conformed to conventional ideas of success, he eventually found inspiration in Jay-Z who balanced being an artist and an entrepreneur. Similarly, Taylor carved his own route, launching and growing various businesses.He gained enough recognition to land on the 2018 Forbes' 30 Under 30 list in marketing and advertising. In 2022, Forbes also named him as one of the top 50 most entrepreneurial CMOs when he was chief marketing officer of Artsy, an online art gallery and marketplace. That same year he took over Kickstarter, and the company reported a year-over-year revenue increase of 50% in the first quarter of 2026.Taylor encouraged the audience through his story, but he also gave practical advice to help students who share his zeal to create and grow their business.He explained that his mentor, Artsy CEO Mike Steib, helped him make the transition from being a CMO to becoming CEO at Kickstarter."These opportunities I don't take for granted," Taylor said, adding that Steib was "the first leader I had to take me under his wing."When he began his position at Kickstarter, Taylor said, "I had zero imposter syndrome, because I felt like I was ready for it, and it was because this person invested in me over the past few years.""A lot of my journey was me just hustling and being bold enough to ask for what I want, but I also need people to give me an opportunity."This idea of giving people opportunity impacts his business philosophy, as Taylor estimates that the number of African American employees grew exponentially since he's been in leadership."Kickstarter was I think less than 2% Black, and at our peak I had gotten it to 20-something percent Black," Taylor said.Even then, Taylor also saw a need for representing other perspectives. "We still serve people globally, so we need people from different countries and cultures," he said. "If you're building a global company, it's important to build a diverse base of people.""I always want to impact more lives, and that always leads to more results."

Kickstarter CEO Everette Taylor discusses entrepreneurship with Dean Kimberly Moffitt as the inaugural speaker of a new speaker series in the Cathy Hughes School of Communications. (Photo: Solomon Goins/HUNews Service.com) — Solomon Goins/HUNews Service.com)

Everette Taylor, CEO of Kickstarter

With the success Taylor had after becoming CEO of Kickstarter, he also found a need to prioritize his health."This is the first year that I've started the year with zero business goals," he said. "For the first time, my goals have been centered around my health."He cites the illness of a friend who appeared to be healthy. Seeing his friend, who is also a successful entrepreneur, endure illness pushed him to prioritize his health."Business, I can do that in my sleep, but for me right now I'm so much more focused on setting goals for myself, and I know that's going to impact the work that I do by feeling healthier and being a better version of myself."Samantha Housen, a sophomore public relations major and interior design minor from Harlem, attended the event to gain knowledge to grow her non-profit and for-profit businesses."I'm here because I want to explore more of the details of entrepreneurship from an actual professional," Housen said, and to "see how his mindset could help me in my entrepreneurship.""My biggest takeaway is that I'm bold, and it's OK to be bold," she said. "I very much have the authority to do whatever I seek to do."Kimberly Moffitt, Ph.D., dean of the Cathy Hughes School of Communications and host of the event, said she was excited about the speaker series."It's because of students," Moffitt said. "They felt like they weren't hearing enough from people who are already post-graduation and successful. They wanted to hear those voices. So, this is an opportunity for me to bring folks to campus so they could reach out, talk and interact with folks that they aspire to be like or will be inspired by."Moffitt was excited for students to see someone who looked like them and carried themselves authentically in a position of high acclaim."He is showing you a different path, and letting you know that it's OK to be who you are and show up in that space and not have to apologize," Moffitt said of Taylor.Moffitt also wants to encourage students to make the most of the speaker series. She gives details on upcoming speakers and the importance of hearing these people tell their stories."Those of you who want to be in TV and film, those jobs are different now," she said. "You have to hustle in a different way.""I need our students to think about entrepreneurship in all that they do," Moffitt added. "I want students to leave with that so that they have it in their back pocket should they need to draw on it."After the event. Taylor explained why boldness is essential to his success at Kickstarter."It's for the grind and the ambition — not settling for status quo and mediocrity, and really going for it," he said. "I always want to impact more lives, and that always leads to more results."Solomon Goins is a reporter for HUNewsService.com.Based on reporting by Howard University News Service.

Kickstarter CEO Everette Taylor gives advice to a student at Howard University. (Photo: Solomon Goins/HUNewsService.com)

Columbus' Oldest Businesses Still Open:

10 That Have Lasted 75+ Years

By Mark G
Black Press USA Wire

The historic Springer Opera House in downtown Columbus, Georgia, opened in 1871 and stands as one of the city's oldest surviving cultural institutions.

Some Columbus businesses have been around longer than the automobiles, shopping centers and neighborhoods that now surround them. A handful date back to the 1800s, when cotton mills powered the local economy and the Chattahoochee River carried goods between communities. Others survived the Great Depression, two world wars, economic downturns and decades of changing consumer habits.

While hundreds of businesses have opened and closed across Columbus over the generations, these 10 have histories stretching back at least 75 years. Some remain family-owned, while others have survived mergers, ownership changes or major transformations. Together, their histories tell the story of how Columbus grew from a riverfront trading town into a regional center for banking, manufacturing, commerce and culture.

This list includes businesses, commercial institutions and their surviving successors with documented Columbus roots before 1951. It is not a definitive ranking of every surviving business, and several entries have changed ownership, names or operating models over time.

1. Columbus Ledger-Enquirer — 1828 (198 Years)

One of Columbus's oldest surviving commercial institutions is its longtime newspaper, the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer. Its history began in 1828 with the founding of the Columbus Enquirer, the same year Columbus was established. The Columbus Ledger followed in 1886, and the two newspapers eventually became a single publication in 1988.

Over nearly two centuries, the newspaper has documented wars, elections, industrial expansion, economic downturns and major changes throughout the Chattahoochee Valley. Its ownership changed again in July 2026, when the Georgia Trust for Local News purchased the Ledger-Enquirer from McClatchy. The newspaper continues operating, although the modern publication is the product of mergers and transformations rather than an unchanged business established in 1828.

2. Willcox-Lumpkin Co. — 1848 (178 Years)

Insurance agency Willcox-Lumpkin traces its history to 1848, making it one of Columbus's oldest documented commercial enterprises. Historical city directories identify the business as an insurance agency that protected homes, businesses and property long before automobiles became common. The company remained associated with generations of the Willcox and Lumpkin families.

Its history is supported by advertisements appearing in Columbus directories more than a century ago. Georgia Secretary of State records currently list Willcox-Lumpkin Co. as active and in compliance, with its corporate registration dating to December 1923. That distinction matters because the business's claimed operating history is considerably older than its present corporate registration.

3. Springer Opera House — 1871 (155 Years)

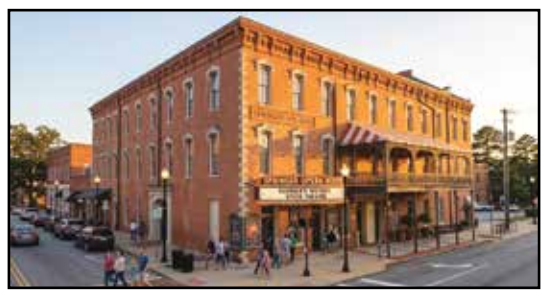
The Springer Opera House opened in 1871 and became one of the city's most important entertainment destinations. Built by businessman Francis Joseph Springer, the theater attracted nationally recognized performers and helped establish Columbus as a cultural center. Its ornate Victorian architecture remains one of downtown's most recognizable landmarks.

The Springer nearly disappeared during the 1960s after declining attendance and years of deterioration. Preservationists rescued the building, and theatrical performances returned in 1965. Although it has not operated continuously in the same form, the Springer remains an active performing arts institution and an example of how historic properties can find new economic life.

4. Schomburg's Jewelers — 1872 (154 Years)

Few Columbus retailers can claim a family history as long as Schomburg's Jewelers. Carl Frederick Schomburg established the jewelry business in 1872 after working as a clockmaker, and the company gradually expanded into watches, jewelry and other luxury goods. Five generations of the family have been associated with the business.

Today, Schomburg's operates on Rollins Way and identifies itself as Georgia's oldest fifth-generation jeweler. Its longevity reflects a business model built around specialized craftsmanship,



customer relationships and family continuity. While many traditional jewelry stores have disappeared or become part of national chains, Schomburg's has maintained a recognizable local identity.

5. Goldens' Foundry & Machine Co. — 1882 (144 Years)

Two brothers, Theodore and J. Poitevent Golden, established Goldens' Foundry & Machine Co. in 1882. The company began as a small foundry and machine shop during an era when Columbus was expanding rapidly as a manufacturing center. Its products helped supply the machinery and industrial equipment needed by businesses throughout the region.

More than 140 years later, the business remains associated with descendants of its founders. Goldens' continues manufacturing industrial castings while also developing consumer products through its Goldens' Cast Iron brand. Its survival is especially significant because many of the textile mills and industrial operations that helped create its original market have long since closed.

6. W.C. Bradley Co. — 1885 (141 Years)

The W.C. Bradley Co. traces its origins to 1885, when William Clark Bradley entered the cotton business in Columbus. Over time, his growing enterprise expanded into groceries, fertilizer, transportation, manufacturing and financial services. The company eventually became one of the most influential business organizations in the Chattahoochee Valley.

Its business interests helped shape the development of modern Columbus, including the city's banking and manufacturing sectors. The company also became closely associated with Char-Broil, the nationally recognized outdoor cooking brand. Today, W.C. Bradley Co. maintains its corporate headquarters near the Chattahoochee River, continuing a business legacy that began when cotton dominated the regional economy.

7. Synovus Banking Legacy — 1888 (138 Years)

The banking institution that became Synovus began in 1888 with the establishment of two Columbus banks. According to company history, the idea developed partly from the need to provide textile workers with a safe place to keep their earnings. Those early banking operations eventually evolved into Columbus Bank and Trust and later Synovus Financial Corporation.

A major change occurred in January 2026 when Synovus merged with Pinnacle Financial Partners, ending its existence as an independent corporation. The combined organization continues serving Columbus customers under the Synovus name during the transition to Pinnacle branding, which is scheduled for 2027. Pinnacle also announced plans in June to expand its downtown Columbus workspace, reinforcing the city's continued importance to the banking operation.

8. Dinglewood Pharmacy — 1918 (108 Years)

Dinglewood Pharmacy opened on November 13, 1918, and became one of Columbus's most recognizable neighborhood businesses. While generations of customers have visited for prescriptions and pharmacy services, the business is equally famous for its traditional lunch counter. Its signature scrambled dog has become closely associated with Columbus food culture.

The pharmacy celebrated its centennial in 2018, an achievement relatively few independent neighborhood businesses reach. Its ability to combine traditional pharmacy services with a popular local dining experience has helped preserve its reputation across generations. Dinglewood remains an especially visible example of a business whose appeal extends well beyond the original service it was established to provide.

9. Striffler-Hamby Mortuary — 1923 (103 Years)

Striffler-Hamby Mortuary traces its business history to 1923, when David Abraham Striffler opened his own funeral establishment in downtown Columbus. Striffler had entered the local funeral industry in 1908 before eventually establishing an independent operation. In 1930, he moved the business into a building constructed specifically for funeral services.

The mortuary became an established name as generations of Columbus families turned to it for funeral arrangements. Today, the business operates as part of the Dignity Memorial network, showing how a longstanding local institution can continue under different corporate ownership. Its history also offers a look at how funeral services evolved from small undertaking establishments into modern funeral homes.

10. WRCG Radio, Originally WRBL — 1928 (98 Years)

Columbus entered the broadcasting era on May 10, 1928, when WRBL began transmitting radio programs to local listeners. The station was established through the efforts of early radio pioneer Bill Lewis and became the city's first radio broadcasting operation. Its original programming helped bring news, entertainment and live events into Columbus homes.

The station eventually changed ownership, frequencies and call letters, becoming WRCG in 1977. Historical research by Columbus State University and Historic Columbus confirms the connection between the original WRBL radio operation and its later identity. Today, WRCG represents a surviving broadcasting legacy that predates television's arrival in Columbus by approximately 25 years.

What These Businesses Reveal About Columbus

The survival of these institutions reflects the major industries that shaped Columbus over nearly two centuries. Banking, manufacturing, retail, insurance, entertainment and communications all played important roles in the city's economic development. Several businesses adapted to changing markets, while others survived by maintaining relationships with generations of local customers.

Their histories also demonstrate that longevity does not necessarily mean remaining unchanged. Some businesses were acquired by larger corporations, others moved into new industries, and several preserved their names despite major changes in ownership. For Columbus residents, these institutions provide a tangible connection to the city's past while continuing to influence its economic and cultural identity.

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Practitioners of African Traditional Spirituality Offer Ancestral Reverence Ritual Oct. 31

By BlackPress
USA Newswire By Special to The Post

The Council for Global Ancestral Reverence (C4GAR), a group of elders who practice African traditional spirituality, will lead a three-day gathering of prayer and discussion from Oct. 31-Nov. 2.Called 'Ancestral Souls Rising,' the council members and 21 priests will lead the prayers from many parts of the African diaspora: Africa, Portugal, and across the U.S. from Maryland to the Bay Area.Now in its seventh year, the annual ritual began during the 2020 pandemic when hundreds of thousands of people died alone and were buried in mass graves without rites and rituals according to loved ones' traditions.This prayer event was and is intended to give peace to the departed and comfort for the living who still mourn. Each year, we gather names of new ancestors from living elders to elevate them into the "Great Hall of the Titans."In ensuing years, C4GAR added themes to the prayer gathering that referenced current events. In 2024, before the consequential presidential election, C4GAR called on people to vote, invoking the memory of Civil Rights Movement heroes and heroines like John Lewis, who urged "Good Trouble," and Fannie Lou Hamer, who famously declared that she was "sick and tired of being sick and tired."The day of global Prayer on Oct. 31 will be followed by a two-day conversation inspired by "The Blueprint," an Afro-Beat song by UyiosaEl, to write our new blueprint that supports solidarity and action in the Black community. "Our elders have, for many generations, known the power of prayer, ritual and breath," the council said in a statement.It was and is their intention, then, to use the cultural wisdom, the gift of prayer "and the most sacred thing we have, our breath, to send energy into the world that invokes and honors our ancestors," the council statement continued."Doing this creates a vibration that protects us and employs their ancient wisdom for the well-being of our communities," the elders said.The councilmembers, all over the age of 60, recognize that what is now history for so many was once their lived experience. And that history, those joys and sorrows, are now in their bodies.To them, the uttered prayer and the sacred breath are oaths to an unfolding future that people can still shape.The council members are Dr. Iyabeji Cathy Royal, Iyalocha Jennifer Dillard, Manbo Charlene Desir (Florida), Nana Sula Spirit (Louisiana), Baba Obafemi Feyemi, Ohen Nedra T. Williams, and Iyalocha Wanda Ravernell-Stewart Emeritus (Oakland).This year, they also encourage everyone within their reach to VOTE because it is not only a secular and political act, but a sacred one. Remember, the ancestors were denied that right and died for it.

Oakland native Nedra Williams writes sacred symbols on the ground in San Leandro. Courtesy photo.

Entertainment

Jermaine Jackson Wins Reversal of $6.5M Default Judgment; Lawsuit Continues

he officially changed his name to "Jermaine LaJuane Jacksun" in 2013.

Jermaine Jackson, one of the members of the Jackson 5, has won a court ruling that overturned a $6.5 million default judgment in a Los Angeles sexual assault lawsuit tied to a 1988 allegation. The judge ruled he was not properly notified, which invalidated the earlier decision.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Elaine W. Mandel issued the ruling on June 30. She reviewed filings from both sides and decided to void the judgment that had previously gone in favor of the plaintiff.

According to People, the default judgment was entered after Jackson did not respond to the lawsuit within the required deadlines. That earlier ruling allowed the court to side with the plaintiff and assign damages.

Jackson, the older brother of Michael Jackson, argued that he was incorrectly identified in the case. He said legal documents used the name "Jermaine Jackson" even though he officially changed his name to "Jermaine LaJuane Jacksun" in 2013.

He also told the court he was living in Bahrain when attempts were made to serve him legal papers. According to his account, notices were sent to his mother's home in Encino, California, and he never saw them. He also said a summons published in the Los Angeles Times did not reach him.

The plaintiff's legal team argued that Jackson had been properly served and simply failed to respond. They maintained that the case should have moved forward based on that service.

In her ruling, Judge Mandel said the combination of an incorrect legal name and service issues overseas made the default judgment invalid. She noted that while serving someone abroad can be difficult, the errors in how Jackson was identified and notified could not be ignored.

The lawsuit was filed in December 2023 by Rita Butler Barrett. She accused Jackson of sexually assaulting her in 1988 after he allegedly entered her home without permission. She also claimed the incident caused lasting emotional and financial harm.

Barrett further alleged she reported the incident to Motown founder Berry Gordy the next day, but said it was covered up to protect Jackson's career. Those claims remain part of the ongoing case.

Jackson's attorney, Bret Lewis, said his client denies all allegations. He added that the defense team plans to continue fighting the case in court.

Jermaine Jackson or is it Jermaine LaJuan Jacksun?

Independent Black Film "Jack's Story" Delivers a Timeless Message About the Future of Our Youth

"One bad decision can change your life." That powerful message is at the heart of Jack's Story, a thought-provoking new film that explores the pressures facing today's youth and the life-changing consequences that can come from a single choice. Through Jack's journey, the film tackles an issue families and communities face every day: young people navigating peer pressure, difficult circumstances, and critical moments when choosing what is right may not always be what is easy.

More than a film, Jack's Story is a conversation starter, challenging young people to think beyond the moment and understand that the decisions they make today can shape their tomorrow.

Following its premiere, Jack's Story will be available on Patreon beginning on 15 November 2026. https://www.patreon.com/c/MIGKontentHouse

With its timely message of accountability, decision-making, family, and hope, Jack's Story seeks not only to entertain audiences, but to inspire meaningful conversations among youth, parents, educators, mentors, and communities. One choice. One moment. One life that can be changed forever.

Snoop Dogg's 55th Birthday Party Had One VIP Guest That Stole the Whole Show

Snoop Dogg turned 55 this morning, and the birthday footage is everything you didn't know you needed. The rapper, born Calvin Cordozar Broadus Jr., celebrated his birthday from his couch with a very specific VIP guest: his French bulldog, Baby Boy Broadus.

He shared the video on social media, and we can see Snoop sitting comfortably, holding Baby Boy on his lap when someone walks in carrying a birthday cake. They lean in and blow out the candles together. It's as wholesome as it sounds.

The famous rapper has always loved dogs. He has owned several French bulldogs over the years, including two named Juelz and Frank.

Baby Boy Broadus is his current top dog. He isn't just any dog. Broadus has his own Instagram page, a strong following, and kind of unbothered confidence you would expect from someone raised in the Dogg household.

On Instagram, fans quickly flooded the comments. "Baby Boy Broadus is huge now," one person wrote. Another kept it simple: "Happy Birthday Doggy, bow wow."

Celebrity birthday celebrations often come with decorations, big parties and plenty of attention. Sometimes, the moment people remember is the one that feels most familiar and relatable.

For dog parents, that means having a furry baby nearby, whether they're opening presents, eating dinner or simply settling onto the sofa after a long day.

Snoop didn't organize a massive club party. Instead, he kept it simple—just a man, his dog and a cake. You could argue that the iconic rapper has done every possible version of a birthday celebration throughout his long, storied career. At this point, the flex is simplicity. Baby Boy seems to agree, sitting on Snoop's lap with the relaxed posture of a dog who has never questioned his place in the family hierarchy.

Frenchies, the Ultimate Couch Companions

French bulldogs were practically designed for this scenario. They're compact, affectionate, and their idea of a perfect evening involves being as close to their person as physically possible. They're also known for being expressive without being hyperactive, which is probably why Baby Boy looked completely at ease being held up next to a lit birthday cake.

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Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 25CLB01438
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
Ashley Jean Cottrell, an individual; Keith John Cottrell, an individual; and DOES 1 to 5, inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): Lendmark Financial Services, LLC, a limited liability company
N O T I C E !
You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.
Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.
Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.
The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Kern County Superior Court
1215 Truxtun Avenue,
Bakersfield, CA 93301
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Lawrence J. Dreyfuss
The Dreyfuss Firm, PLC
25108 Marguerite Pkwy., Suite A212,
Mission Viejo, CA 92692
Tel. (949) 727-0977
DATE (Fecha): 7/24/2025
TARA LEAL
By Nina Moralez, Deputy (Adjunto)
(SEAL)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served.
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

County of Kern, State of California

NOTICE TO SUBCONTRACTORS, MATERIAL SUPPLIERS AND WORKERS

CONTRACT NO. CD#23.21.2, 23.23.2, 23.24.1

The Buttonwillow County Water District is actively soliciting bids from prospective subcontractors or materials suppliers whose businesses qualify as a small business under the criteria in 13 CFR part 75 and/or qualify as Section 3 Business Concerns, as well as individuals who qualify as Section 3 Workers in connection with the Community Development Buttonwillow County Water District Improvements, Buttonwillow County Water District Well Site #2 Improvements, & Buttonwillow County Water District Water Site Improvements (Phase II) project to be located in the County of Kern and funded by the HUD.

A Section 3 Business Concern is a business:

(1) The business is at least 51% owned and controlled by low- or very low-income persons;

(2) The business is at least 51% owned and controlled by residents who currently live in public housing or Section 8-assisted housing; or

(3) Over 75% of the labor hours performed for the business over the prior three-month period were performed by Section 3 workers.

A Section 3 Worker is:

(1) Is a low- or very low-Income worker that fell below HUD income limits for the previous or annualized calendar year. Low- and very-low-household income limits may be obtained from: http://www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/il.html; or

(2) The worker employed by a Section 3 business concern. (see Section 3 Business Concern)

(2) The worker is a YouthBuild participant. (YouthBuild is a community-based pre-apprenticeship
program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor that provides job training and educational opportunities for at-risk youth ages 16-24 who have previously dropped out of high school.)

A Targeted Section 3 Worker is:

(1) A worker employed by a Section 3 business concern (defined below), or

(2) Currently fits or when hired fit at least one of the following categories, as documented within the past five years:

a. Living within the service area or the neighborhood of the project (defined below).
b. A YouthBuild participant. (YouthBuild is a community-based pre-apprenticeship program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor that provides job training and educational opportunities for at-risk youth ages 16-24 who have previously dropped out of high school.)

Qualified individuals and firms may obtain a list of plan-holding general contractors at Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group, 1518 Mill Rock Way, Bakersfield, CA 93311 until **10:00 a.m. on November 24, 2026**. General Contractors should be contacted directly for possible use in their bid proposals on this project.

The Buttonwillow County Water District and prospective General Contractors are seeking such subcontractors in compliance with the procurement standards found at 24 CFR 85.36(e) and Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968, which provide that Small Businesses (SBs) and Section 3 Business Concerns/ Residents be given the maximum practical opportunity to participate in HUD funded contracts.

Hiring is anticipated for the following trades:

- General construction labor
- Underground pipeline installation
- Electrical work
- Pump and mechanical equipment installation
- Welding and metal fabrication
- Concrete construction
- Crane and rigging services
- Equipment operators and truck drivers

Subcontracts may be let for the following categories of work on this project:

- Underground pipeline installation
- Electrical work and controls
- Pump and mechanical equipment installation
- Concrete construction
- Steel fabrication, welding, and pressure vessel construction
- Crane and rigging services
- Excavation and site work
- Trucking and hauling

Published Bakersfield News Observer October 14, 21,28 & November 4, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): BCL-25-017277
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
Yasmin Paglinawan and Does 1 through 20, inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): Newrez LLC
N O T I C E !
You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.
Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.
Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.
The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Superior Court of California, County of Kern
1215 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
THE DUNNING LAW FIRM APC
James MacLeod (249145)
Christina C. MacLeod (283945)
California DFPI Debt Collector License #10059-99
9619 Chesapeake Dr., Suite 210, San Diego, CA 92123
Tel. (858) 974-7600
DATE (Fecha): December 16, 2025
Tara Leal, Clerk (Secretario)
(SEAL)
By: Yoselyn Ramirez, Deputy (Adjunto)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served.
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 25CLB01438
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
Ashley Jean Cottrell, an individual; Keith John Cottrell, an individual; and DOES 1 to 5, inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): Lendmark Financial Services, LLC, a limited liability company
N O T I C E !
You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
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The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Kern County Superior Court
1215 Truxtun Avenue,
Bakersfield, CA 93301
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Lawrence J. Dreyfuss
The Dreyfuss Firm, PLC
25108 Marguerite Pkwy., Suite A212,
Mission Viejo, CA 92692
Tel. (949) 727-0977
DATE (Fecha): 7/24/2025
TARA LEAL
By Nina Moralez, Deputy (Adjunto)
(SEAL)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served.
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5903
Doing business as:
LA HACIENDA GRILL, INC. at 9910 ROSEDALE HWY SUITE H, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
Mailing Address: 10907 CILANTRO AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
LA HACIENDA GRILL, INC. at 9910 ROSEDALE HWY SUITE H, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **BRUCE ESCALANTE, PRESIDENT**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 07/10/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/28/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: S CEJA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/28/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5880
Doing business as:
BAKERSFIELD TOOL REPAIR, INC. at 215 SUMNER ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: PO BOX 71207, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93387
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
BAKERSFIELD TOOL REPAIR, INC. at 215 SUMNER ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **Wendy Higgins, Secretary**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 01/01/2011
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/25/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/25/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5732
Doing business as:
BELOVED LINKS at 5003 VIA SIENNA DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 5003 VIA SIENNA DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
EMMA BREANNA ROJAS at 5003 VIA SIENNA DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **EMMA BREANNA ROJAS**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/12/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/18/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H MENDOZA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/18/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5932
Doing business as:
SWEET TREE FARMS at 306 OLEANDER AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 306 OLEANDER AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
CROP DROP, INC. at 306 OLEANDER AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **Ann Marie Florendo, CFO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 06/01/2005
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/28/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/28/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5885
FILE NO: 2026-B5886
Doing business as:
SEEDS / BURNING BUSH HOMES at 4217 NEWCOMBE AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
Mailing address: 4217 NEWCOMBE AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
SOCIAL EQUITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS, INC at 4217 NEWCOMBE AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **Kevin Bush, CEO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 11/29/2025
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/25/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H MENDOZA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/25/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5905
Doing business as:
OSTEOSTRONG BAKERSFIELD at 4000 STOCKDALE HIGHWAY STE E, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309, KERN COUNTY
Mailing Address: 4000 STOCKDALE HIGHWAY STE E, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
DEEP RESERVES, INC. at 4000 STOCKDALE HIGHWAY STE E, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
State of incorp. or org.: MO
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **Harjit K. Deol, Secretary**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 01/01/2019
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/28/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/28/2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5979
Doing business as:
BEAUTY BAR BY MARCY at 8301 BRIMHALL RD., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 5516 SAN MATEO DR., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
MARCELINA LOPEZ GARCIA at 5516 SAN MATEO DR., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **MARCELINA LOPEZ GARCIA**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/30/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: J PADILLA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/30/2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5682
Doing business as:
EVERGREEN SENIORS LIVING at 10609 PLEASANT VALLEY DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311, KERN
Mailing address: 10609 PLEASANT VALLEY DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
G&K UNITY CARE, INC. at 10609 PLEASANT VALLEY DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **KETAN PATEL, CEO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/26/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/16/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H MENDOZA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/16/2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5512
Doing business as:
FILTHY CLEAN at 15011 ADOBE RD, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 15011 ADOBE RD, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
BLAKE GENTRY at 15011 ADOBE RD, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **BLAKE GENTRY**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/09/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H MENDOZA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/09/2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5889
Doing business as:
KERN EDC at 8528 NORTHSHORE DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312-4989, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 8528 NORTHSHORE DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312-4989
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
LAWRENCE JOSEPH SILVA at 8528 NORTHSHORE DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312-4989
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **LAWRENCE JOSEPH SILVA**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/25/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H MENDOZA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/25/2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5957
Doing business as:
FLAMES N' STITCHES at 8222 RIDGEGATE CT., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
Mailing address: 8222 RIDGEGATE CT., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
DYNAMIC SECTION LLC at 8222 RIDGEGATE CT., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Syed Hussaini, Member**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 06/23/2023
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/29/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/29/2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5325
Doing business as:
BRUNDAGE LIQUOR at 401 BRUNDAGE LANE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
Mailing address: 401 BRUNDAGE LANE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
GOLDEN BARREL INC at 5209 WINTERWOOD CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **MANJINDER KAUR, CEO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 07/15/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/28/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M HERNANDEZ,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 08/28/2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6060
Doing business as:
KERN MOBILE DETAILS at 2714 GARY PL, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 2714 GARY PL, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
DAVID GABRIEL VAZQUEZ GUITERREZ at 2714 GARY PL, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **DAVID GABRIEL VAZQUEZ GUITERREZ**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 03/30/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/02/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 08/28/2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6001
FILE NO: 2026-B6002
FILE NO: 2026-B6003
Doing business as:
Burlington / Burlington Coat Factory / Burlington Stores at 6203 Gosford Road, Bakersfield, CA 93313, Kern County
Mailing address: 1830 Route 130 North, Attn: Legal Department, Burlington, NJ 08016
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
Burlington Coat Factory of Texas, Inc. at 1830 Route 130 North, Burlington, NJ 08016
State of incorp. or org.: Florida
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **Christopher Schaub, Vice President**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 04/02/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/01/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: J. Padilla,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/02/2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2022-B7335
Business Name you wish to abandon:
FILTHY CLEAN at 15011 ADOBE RD, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
Mailing Address: 15011 ADOBE RD, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
County: KERN
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name:
GREG TUNNEY EDWARDS at 15011 ADOBE RD, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
SIGNED: **GREG TUNNEY EDWARDS, Owner**
The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: 11/02/2022
Original File No: 2022-B7335
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: 09/09/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
H MENDOZA
Deputy
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/29/2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2024-B0616
Business Name you wish to abandon:
BRUNDAGE LIQUOR at 401 BRUNDAGE LANE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
Mailing Address: 5619 WARREN RIDGE DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
County: KERN
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name:
LIQUOR MERCHANT INC at 5619 WARREN RIDGE DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
SIGNED: **CHARANJIT SINGH, PRESIDENT**
The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: 01/26/2024
Original File No: 2024-B0616
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: 08/28/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
M HERNANDEZ
Deputy
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/29/2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2026-B6018
Business Name you wish to abandon:
THIRSTY TRICK TREATS at 5500 GINGER DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309, KERN COUNTY
Mailing Address: 5500 GINGER DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
County: KERN
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name:
SARAH IRENE DZIUK at 5500 GINGER DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
SIGNED: **SARAH IRENE DZIUK**
The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: 10/09/2026
Original File No: 2026-B6018
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: 10/09/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M CEJA,
Deputy
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/09/2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 14, 21, 28, Nov 4, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6174
Doing business as:
IRON MOOSE NETWORKS at 120 PORTALES REAL, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 120 PORTALES REAL, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
JIM ALLEN MASON at 120 PORTALES REAL, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **JIM ALLEN MASON**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/09/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M CEJA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/09/2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 14, 21, 28, Nov 4, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6176
Doing business as:
PICANTE FOODS LLC at 4420 FJORD ST, APT B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 4420 FJORD ST, APT B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
PICANTE FOODS LLC at 4420 FJORD ST, APT B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Jasmine Pacheco, CEO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/09/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H MENDOZA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/09/2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 14, 21, 28, Nov 4, 2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER 26CUB04000
Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN
1215 Truxtun Ave, Bakersfield 93301
Kern County Superior Court-Metro Justice Building
PETITION OF: **MARIA CASTRO**
FOR CHANGE OF NAME
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: **MARIA CASTRO** Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name
ALEXANDER SEVERIN LARES CASTRO-TORRES
Proposed name
ALEXANDER SEVERIN CASTRO-TORRES
THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: December 16, 2026
Time: 8:30 am
Dept: L
Room:
The address of the court is: same as noted above
A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
Date: **October 13, 2026**
Gina M. Cervantes,
Judicial Officer
By: Monique Silva,
Deputy Clerk
Attorney for Petitioner:
Ruby Dhaliwal 345846
Dhaliwal Law Firm
1810 Westwind Drive,
Bakersfield, CA 93301
6615191444

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 21, 28, Nov 4, 11, 2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER 26CUB03957
Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN
1215 Truxtun Ave,
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Bakersfield Metro Division
PETITION OF: **TRACEY ANN MUELLER**
FOR CHANGE OF NAME
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: **TRACEY ANN MUELLER** Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name
TRACEY ANN MUELLER
Proposed name
TRACEY ANN MILLER
THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: December 14, 2026
Time: 8:30 am
Dept: L
Room:
The address of the court is: same as noted above
A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
Date: **October 12, 2026**
Gina M. Cervantes,
Judicial Officer
By: Monique Silva,
Deputy Clerk
Attorney for Petitioner:
Rachele Berglund
Herr Pedersen & Berglund LLP
100 Willow Plaza, Ste. 300,
Visalia, CA 93291
(559) 636-0200

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 21, 28, Nov 4, 11, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6194
Doing business as:
ADVANCED CONSTRUCTION at 8210 ROCKHAMPTON DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
Mailing address: 8210 ROCKHAMPTON DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
ADVANCE MAINTENANCE INC. at 8210 ROCKHAMPTON DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **Joseph Ruiz, CFO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 10/29/2021
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/12/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D. HINOJOSA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/12/2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 21, 28, Nov 4, 11, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5958
Doing business as:
BYOU VENUE at 1111 19TH ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 10123 COBBLESTONE AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
LRNR CORPORATION at 10123 COBBLESTONE AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **Liliana Rodriguez, CEO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/29/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H MENDOZA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/29/2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 21, 28, Nov 4, 11, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6087
FILE NO: 2026-B6088
Doing business as:
JEWETT MOBILE HOME PARK / JEWETT MHP at 3530 JEWETT AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 638 LINDERO CANYON ROAD #102, OAK PARK, CA 91377
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
JEWETT MOBILE HOME PARK LLC at 638 LINDERO CANYON ROAD #102, OAK PARK, CA 91377
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **BRIAN DIBARNABA, MANAGING MEMBER**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 10/01/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/05/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: S CEJA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/05/2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 21, 28, Nov 4, 11, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6220
Doing business as:
MAX NUTRITION 661 at 5711 HESKETH DR., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: PO BOX 9432, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93389
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
ELITE PERFORMANCE VENTURES LLC at 5711 HESKETH DR., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Christopher Bryan Booth, Member**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 10/13/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/13/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H MENDOZA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/13/2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 21, 28, Nov 4, 11, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6246
Doing business as:
RALPH'S JUNK REMOVAL AND HAULING at 7850 WHITE LANE SUITE E PMB 409, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309-7689
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
RAFAEL CASTILLO GOMEZ at 7850 WHITE LANE SUITE E PMB 409, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309-7689
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **RAFAEL CASTILLO GOMEZ**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/14/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H MENDOZA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/14/2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 21, 28, Nov 4, 11, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6274
Doing business as:
SERVLYGO REPAIR & MAINTENANCE at 4620 NEW HORIZON BLVD, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313, KERN
Mailing address: PO BOX 21012, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93390
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
PACIFIC CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, INC. at 4620 NEW HORIZON BLVD, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **RICK MARTINEZ, President**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/15/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/15/2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 21, 28, Nov 4, 11, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5704
Doing business as:
HOME & FASHION at 5630 LAKE ISABELLA BLVD., LAKE ISABELLA, CA 93240, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 15815 ALTON CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
HARPREET SINGH PADDA at 15815 ALTON CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **HARPREET SINGH PADDA**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 10/14/2014
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/17/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H MENDOZA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/17/2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 21, 28, Nov 4, 11, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5699
Doing business as:
SAFE HANDS MULTI DOC SERVICES at 2546 S UNION AVE STE B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
Mailing address: 15815 ALTON CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
AMBER1 ENTERPRISES INC at 15815 ALTON CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **JASPAL KAUR, CEO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/17/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M CEJA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/17/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 21, 28, Nov 4, 11, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6275
FILE NO: 2026-B6276
Doing business as:
CALL HARBISON / HARBISON STANDARD at 1520 18TH STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 14505 CHECKERBLOOM DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
OQP HOMES, LLC at 303 E H ST, TEHACHAPI, CA 93561
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Nathanael Harbison, CEO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 11/04/2019
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/15/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/15/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 21, 28, Nov 4, 11, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5541
Doing business as:
MOLD PRO at 13061 ROSEDALE HWY, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: PO BOX 6243, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93386
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
STEVEN LAFRANCE at PO BOX 6243, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93386
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **STEVEN LAFRANCE, Owner**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/10/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D. HINOJOSA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/10/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 21, 28, Nov 4, 11, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6294
Doing business as:
PROVIDENCE PEAK PROPERTIES at 3512 COFFEE RD STE A, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
Mailing address: 9530 HAGEMAN RD STE B-123, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
NICOLE MARIE GOMEZ at 9530 HAGEMAN RD STE B-123, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **NICOLE MARIE GOMEZ**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 04/17/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/16/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H MENDOZA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/16/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 21, 28, Nov 4, 11, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2026-B6088
Business Name you wish to abandon:
JEWETT MHP at 3530 Jewett Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301
Mailing Address: 638 LINDERO CANYON ROAD #102, OAK PARK, CA 91377
County: KERN
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name:
JEWETT MOBILE HOME PARK LLC at 638 LINDERO CANYON ROAD #102, OAK PARK, CA 91377
SIGNED: **Brian DiBarnaba, Managing Member**
The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: 10/05/2026
Original File No: 2026-B6088
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: 10/13/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
M SALES
Deputy
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 21, 28, Nov 4, 11, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2022-B0042
Business Name you wish to abandon:
MERIDIAN 102 PARTNERS at 4825 CALLOWAY DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
County: KERN
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name:
ALEXANDER RETIREMENT INVESTMENTS, LLC at 4825 CALLOWAY DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
HOGG RETIREMENT INVESTMENTS, LLC at 4825 CALLOWAY DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
LANTZ RETIREMENT INVESTMENTS, LLC at 4825 CALLOWAY DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
SIGNED: **LANTZ RETIREMENT INVESTMENTS, LLC, Manager**
The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: 01/03/2022
Original File No: 2022-B0042
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: 10/15/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
H MENDOZA
Deputy
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 21, 28, Nov 4, 11, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2026-B2435
Business Name you wish to abandon:
PROVIDENCE PEAK PROPERTIES at 9530 HAGEMAN RD STE. B123, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
County: KERN
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name:
PROVIDENCE PEAK PROPERTIES CORP. at 9530 HAGEMAN RD STE. B123, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
SIGNED: **NICOLE MARIE GOMEZ, CEO**
The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: 04/17/2026
Original File No: 2026-B2435
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: 10/16/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
H MENDOZA
Deputy
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 21, 28, Nov 4, 11, 2026

NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE SALE
WHEREAS, on **02/05/2011**, a certain Mortgage was executed by **DICK SOTELLO** as Mortgagor, in favor of **MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., SOLELY AS NOMINEE FOR NEW DAY FINANCIAL, LLC** as Mortgagee, and was recorded on **02/15/2011**, as Serial Number **0211020453**, in the Office the Recorder of Deeds, Kern County, California and
WHEREAS, the Mortgage was insured by the **UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT** (the SECRETARY) pursuant to the National Housing Act for the purpose of providing single family housing; and
WHEREAS, the Mortgage is now owned by the SECRETARY, pursuant to an Assignment of Mortgage dated **04/17/2018**, and recorded on **04/19/2018**, as Serial Number **218046768**, in the Office of the Kern County Recorder of Deeds, California and a default exists; and
WHEREAS, a default has been made in the covenants and conditions of the Mortgage in that the payment due on **07/28/2026** was not made and remains wholly unpaid as of the date of this notice, and no payment has been made sufficient to restore the loan to currency; and
WHEREAS, by virtue of this default, the SECRETARY has declared the entire amount of this indebtedness secured by the Mortgage to be immediately due and payable;
NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the powers vested in me by the Single Family Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1994, 12 U.S.C. 3751 et seq., by 24 CFR Part 27, subpart B, and by the SECRETARY'S designation of me as Foreclosure Commissioner, dated September 15, 2016, notice is hereby given that on **11/23/2026** at **8:30 AM** local time, all real and personal property at or used in connection with the following described premises located at ("Property"), will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder.
P.I.N.: 355-353-02-00-6
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 6301 EDGEMONT DR., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: LOT 20, TRACT 3785, AS PER MAP RECORDED NOVEMBER 29, 1976 IN BOOK 26, PAGES 170 AND 171 OF MAPS IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF SAID COUNTY. EXCEPTING THEREFROM ALL OIL, GAS, MINERALS AND OTHER HYDROCARBON SUBSTANCES WITHIN OR UNDERLYING SAID LAND, AS RESERVED IN DEED OF RECORD.
The sale will be conducted online on Zoom at: Meeting ID: **648 483 3997**; Password: **743891**. There is a Zoom call-in option at **312-626-6799**.
THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT will bid **$217,384.31** plus per diem interest, advances, fees and costs. There will be no proration of taxes, rents or other income or liabilities, except that the purchaser will pay, at or before sale, his prorata share of any real estate taxes that have been paid by the Secretary to the date of the foreclosure sale.
The Special Commissioner shall accept advance, sealed written bids at Pleadings@Nevellaw.com. The successful bidder, except the SECRETARY, must submit a deposit totaling at least 10% of the bid in the form of a certified check or cashier's check made out to the SECRETARY OF HUD at the close of bidding sent to the Special Commissioner at the address below by express mail next-day delivery. The deposit is non-refundable. The remainder of the purchase price must be delivered within thirty (30) days of the Sale or at such other time as the SECRETARY may determine for good cause shown, time being of the essence. This amount, like the bid deposits, must be delivered in the form of a certified check or cashier's check made payable to the SECRETARY OF HUD. If the SECRETARY is the high bidder, he need not pay the bid amount in cash. The successful bidder will pay all conveyancing fees, all real estate taxes and other taxes that are due on or after the date of sale and all other transfer taxes and State, County and Municipal costs associated with the transfer of title.
There is no right of redemption, or right of possession based upon a right of redemption, in the mortgagor or others subsequent to a foreclosure completed pursuant to the Act. Therefore, the Foreclosure Commissioner will issue a Deed to the purchaser(s) upon receipt of the entire purchase price in accordance with the terms of the sale as provided herein. HUD does not guarantee that the property will be vacant.
IRA T. NEVEL
Foreclosure Commissioner for the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
175 North Franklin, Suite 201
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 357-1125
13138-970460
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 28, Nov 4, 11, 2026

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
Trustee Sale No. 26-06-1159 Loan No. Title Order No. 2839316CAD APN 117-082-03-00-8
YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 01/09/2024. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.
On **11/18/2026** at **10:00AM**, **Dominga Arenas** as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded on **3/13/2024** as Instrument No. **224028009** of official records in the Office of the Recorder of **Kern County, California**, executed by: **Chow Organization, LLC, a California Limited Liability Company**, as Trustor, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state).
At: **THE FRONT ENTRANCE TO THE CITY HALL**
1501 TRUXTUN AVENUE,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County, California describing the land therein: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST.
The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: **206 China Grade Loop, Bakersfield, CA 93308**. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale.
Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to-wit: **$955,107.84** (Estimated). Accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. The Beneficiary may elect to bid less than the full credit bid.
The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation.
The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call **(626) 579-5350** or visit **www.lendersforeclosureservices.com**, using the file number assigned to this case **26-06-1159**. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale.
10/13/26
Dominga Arenas, as Trustee
By Dominga Arenas
c/o Lender's Foreclosure Services
2158 Durfee Ave
El Monte, CA 91733
(626) 579-5350
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 28, Nov 4, 11, 2026

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED February 24, 2021 **UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY; IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANTION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.**
On November 23, 2026 , at 2:00 p.m. ,
LeBeau Thelen, LLP, successor Trustee as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust or Mortgage recorded on **March 2, 2021** as Instrument No. **221039238** , Book --- , Page ---, of Official Records of the County Recorder of **Kern** County, California, executed by **Shinda Upple and Paramjeet K. Upple, husband and wife, Charnpreet Upple, a single man, and Manjot Upple, a single man** as Trustor, in favor of **Kundert Family Farm, L.P. and Michelle D. Kundert, as Trustee of The Michelle Kundert Trust dated June 15, 2015** as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state).
At: **the front entrance to City Hall located at 1501 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301** all right title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust or Mortgage in the property situated in said County, California describing the land therein:
See Exhibit A for the legal description of all properties, which will be sold invidivually.
Assessor Parcel Number: See Exhibit A
The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The Street Address or other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: **See Exhibit A**. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for incorrectness of the street address or other common designation if any, shown herein.
Beneficiary Phone: **661-325-8962**
Beneficiary: **Kundert Family Farm, L.P. and Michelle D. Kundert, as Trustee of The Michelle Kundert Trust dated June 15, 2015**
NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property.
NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call **661-325-8962** or visit this Internet Web site_____, using the file number assigned to this case **Kundert**. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale.
Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to-wit: **$1,334,276.16** (Estimated). Accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. The Beneficiary May elect to bid less than their full credit bid.
The Beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the County where the real property is located and more than 3 months have elapsed since such recordation.
Trustee or party conducting sale:
LeBeau Thelen, LLP; 9801 Camino Media Ste 103, Bakersfield, CA 93309
(661) 325-8962

Date: **October 19, 2026**
LeBeau Thelen, LLP, successor Trustee
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 28, Nov 4, 11, 2026

LIEN SALE

2020 KIA OPTIMA FOR SALE ON 11/10/2026
VIN: **5XXGT4L31LG392430**
Lien Sale will take place at 10:00 AM at **NICK'S TIRE & LUBE CENTER 130 DR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR B BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307**
(661)281-7459
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 28, 2026

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF MAHALIA SMITH
CASE NUMBER: 26PRJ00656
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of MAHALIA SMITH.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Ophir Ben Israel in the Superior Court of California, County of Kern.
2100 College Ave. Bakersfield, CA. 93305
Juvenile Justice Center
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Ophir Ben Israel be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows:
Date: 12-03-2026
Time: 8:30 AM
Dept.: J-1
Address of court: same as noted above
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Petitioner:
Ophir Ben Israel
7203 Cattail Creek Way, Bakersfield, CA 93311
Telephone: 661-900-5309
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 28, Nov 4, 11, 2026

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 26CUB00237
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
CHELSEA EDWARDS, DOES 1 to 50
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): JAZZLYN MCQUEENIE
N O T I C E !
You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.
Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.
Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales.
AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.
The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Superior Court of California, County of Kern
1215 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, California 93301
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
BRANDON B. HOLLADAY
THE LAW OFFICES OF YOUNG & NICHOLS
1901 TRUXTUN AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
Tel. 6618617911
DATE (Fecha): 03/04/2026
Tara Leal
By Gricelda Evans, Deputy (Adjunto)
(SEAL)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served.
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 28, Nov 4, 11, 18, 2026

STATEMENT OF DAMAGES (Personal Injury or Wrongful Death)
CASE NUMBER: 26CUB00237
To: CHELSEA EDWARDS
Plaintiff: JAZZLYN MCQUEENIE
Case Number: 26CUB00237
Seeks damages in the above-entitled action, as follows:
1. General Damages:
a. Pain, suffering, and inconvenience $100,000.00
2. Special Damages:
a. Medical expenses (to date) $6,413.44
b. Future medical expenses (present value) according to proof
c. Loss of earnings (to date) according to proof
d. Loss of future earning capacity (present value) according to proof
SIGNED: Brandon B. Holladay
Date: April 22, 2026
Attorney for Plaintiff:
BRANDON B. HOLLADAY
THE LAW OFFICES OF YOUNG & NICHOLS
1901 TRUXTUN AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
Tel. 6618617911
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 28, Nov 4, 11, 18, 2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER 26CUB02677
Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN
1215 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301
Civil - Metropolitan Division Justice Building
PETITION OF: **ROSA MARIA SMITH AND LEON R. SMITH III**
FOR CHANGE OF NAME
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: **ROSA MARIA SMITH AND LEON R. SMITH III** Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name
LE'ONISTY RYAN SMITH
Proposed name
LE'ONISTY RITA ANN SMITH
THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: November 30, 2026
Time: 8:30 AM
Dept: L
Room:
The address of the court is: same as noted above
A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
Date: **September 28, 2026**
Gina M. Cervantes,
Judicial Officer
By: Monique Silva,
Deputy Clerk
Petitioner:
Rosa Maria Smith and Leon R. Smith III
4900 Nordic Dr. Apt #9,
Bakersfield, CA 93309
(661) 376-4385
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 28, Nov 4, 11, 18, 2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER 26CUB04139
Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN
1215 Truxton Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301
Metropolitan Division - Justice Building
PETITION OF: **ELIZABETH ANN HERRIN**
FOR CHANGE OF NAME
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: **ELIZABETH ANN HERRIN** Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name
ELIZABETH ANN HERRIN
Proposed name
BETTY ANN ALLISON
THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: January 4, 2027
Time: 8:30 am
Dept: L
Room:
The address of the court is: same as noted above
A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
Date: **October 20, 2026**
Gina M. Cervantes,
Judicial Officer
By: Monique Silva,
Deputy Clerk
Petitioner:
Elizabeth Ann Herrin
174 Hickorywood ln, Bakersfield, CA, 93308
(661) 677-2833
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 28, Nov 4, 11, 18, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6315
Doing business as:
CENTRAL CAL CONSULTING at 7000 LUKE AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 7000 LUKE AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
SERGIO JONATHAN OLMOS at 7000 LUKE AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **SERGIO JONATHAN OLMOS**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 09/30/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/19/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/19/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 28, Nov 4, 11, 18, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6227
Doing business as:
HELPING HANDS ESTATE LIQUIDATORS at 2103 BASILONE WAY, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
Mailing address: 2103 BASILONE WAY, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
CHERIE KAY BARROW at 2103 BASILONE WAY, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **CHERIE KAY BARROW**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/14/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/14/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 28, Nov 4, 11, 18, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6327
Doing business as:
The Red Chickz at 4420 Coffee Rd Suite B, Bakersfield, CA 93308
Mailing address: 4420 Coffee Rd Suite B, Bakersfield, CA 93308
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
Patiala Restaurants LLC at 4420 Coffee Rd Suite B, Bakersfield, CA 93308
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Gurdish Kaur, Manager**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/19/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: Aimee X. Espinoza,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/19/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 28, Nov 4, 11, 18, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6360
Doing business as:
SIMPLY CENTERED at 15522 SANTA CLARA CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 15522 SANTA CLARA CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
JOEY LEE ROLAND at 15522 SANTA CLARA CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **JOEY LEE ROLAND**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 02/01/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/21/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/21/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 28, Nov 4, 11, 18, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6344
FILE NO: 2026-B6345
Doing business as:
Sunrise Wellness Care / Sunrise Wellness Care Seniors at 5500 Ming Ave, Ste 170, Bakersfield

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

or names listed above on: 02/06/2020
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/21/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D. Hinojosa,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/21/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 28, Nov 4, 11, 18, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6406
Doing business as:
LA COCINA MICHOACANA INC at 5800 AQUAMARINE PEAK DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
LA COCINA MICHOACANA INC at 5800 AQUAMARINE PEAK DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **ANDREA GABRIELA VEGA, CEO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/22/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H. Mendoza,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/22/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 28, Nov 4, 11, 18, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6393
Doing business as:
DESENDER'S at 1408 FIELDSPRING DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 1408 FIELDSPRING DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
LIERECHT DESENDER at 1408 FIELDSPRING DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **LIEBRECHT DESENDER**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 04/10/2015
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/22/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: J PADILLA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/22/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 28, Nov 4, 11, 18, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6338
Doing business as:
CEDAR & SPARROW PRESS at 2530 SAN EMIDIO ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 2530 SAN EMIDIO ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
MATTHEW LEE DARKE at 2530 SAN EMIDIO ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **MATTHEW LEE DARKE**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/20/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/20/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 28, Nov 4, 11, 18, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6432
Doing business as:
DITTOED_X at 4000 S REAL RD., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
Mailing address: 4000 S REAL RD., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
VICTOR ANTHONY SANCHEZ III at 4000 S REAL RD., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **VICTOR ANTHONY SANCHEZ III**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 04/01/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/23/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M CEJA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/20/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 28, Nov 4, 11, 18, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6433
Doing business as:
AULAKH TRANSPORT at 3308 DAYBREAK CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311, KERN
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
DEVENDER SINGH at 3308 DAYBREAK CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **DEVENDER SINGH**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 02/13/2018
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/23/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M VACA RAMOS,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/23/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 28, Nov 4, 11, 18, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6342
Doing business as:
TAIL SWAG UNLIMITED at 7804 WESTDUMFRIES CT., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
Mailing address: 7804 WESTDUMFRIES CT., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
LAURA GENEVA ALBITRE at 7804 WESTDUMFRIES CT., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **LAURA GENEVA ALBITRE**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/20/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H MENDOZA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
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Features

The Black Church Writes AI's Next Chapter

By BlackPress
USA Newswire

For generations, the Black church has stood strong in our communities through every historical change this country has experienced. During the civil rights movement and in recent times, faith leaders have helped uplift Black sanctuaries to register voters, keep food pantries open for people in need, and sit with families in hospital rooms in their most desperate moments. When our people faced new trials, they could always look to our faith leaders and the church to lean in to help us be included in these transformative changes.

Artificial intelligence is the latest revolutionary change to impact our society, and much like other transformations before us, underserved communities often get left behind.

I was recently featured in a report entitled "Faith, Community & AI" and it found that people send ChatGPT more than 70 million messages a week about religion. Nearly 22 million involve studying sacred texts, and 16 million ask about religious practices and holy days. Our members make up part of those numbers. They bring questions of faith to these tools every day.

Pastors have noticed, and according to a September 2025 Lifeway Research survey of 1,003 Protestant pastors, 42 percent said they use or experiment with AI in ministry. I count myself among them.

I write my sermons by hand, through prayer and study. When I finish a draft, I ask ChatGPT this question: "Where might this sermon become unclear or difficult to follow for someone early in their walk of faith?" It shows me gaps in my preparation, like where I incorrectly assumed everyone would know the context of who the Pharisees were. Then, change comes from my own pen, not the robot. The tool helps me reach the person in the back pew while the message still comes from me.

Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA

If I could have my wish, our whole community would take a similar posture. We must use these tools, understand them, and most importantly be present to help shape them if we want to be included in the coming change.

I implore my fellow faith leaders to use these tools. Start now and use them with wisdom. We count on each and every one of you to make sure our communities help write the next chapter of this story. This rapid change is not as unfamiliar as it may sound. My first understanding of AI came from using a calculator for the first time in grade school. We did not call it AI, but it was a tool that helped me work through mathematical equations hours more efficiently.

It starts with training; there is no involvement without understanding. Free AI trainings have begun in our churches and community centers across the nation. Every faith leader should sign up and, when possible, encourage members of your congregations to join you. By learning how to use AI, we can better understand what it can do, make up our own minds about its impact, and have a say in how it shapes our communities."

Next, we must be at the tables where the builders of these tools make decisions. Presence is the first step toward understanding, and that gap is only bridged through a coordinated effort. How can any tool serve a community well if that community is not part of the conversation? Our traditions, needs, and concerns must be accounted for, and Black faith leaders are already making that happen. OpenAI's recent Faith report states plainly that AI should never become an arbiter of religious truth. I fully intend to hold the company to its word, and the most effective way I can do that is from inside.

I will close with this—we must diligently protect what only the church can give. A believer in Seoul, Korea quoted in the report warned, "if you pour every struggle into a private chat, your pastor and your friends may never learn you need help." A chatbot will not sit with a grieving family or pray with you at two in the morning. As we adopt this technology, it is up to us to ensure it keeps people connected to each other and to their church.

Is Creativity a Superpower in Early Education?

By Karen D'Souza
EdSource BlackPressUSA

Singing the ABC song. Learning the days of the week from a nursery rhyme. Making a finger-painted collage of little handprints.

Arts education has always been center stage in early education because little children are naturally creative, filled with wonder and the burning desire to express themselves. Arts and crafts not only help nurture a child's natural imagination, they also boost small motor skills, sharpen hand-eye coordination and feed the insatiable need to play.

"Children don't just play, they learn fundamental skills through play," said Daniel Mendoza, a California visual artist and specialist in early childhood education art practices. "Children are in a creative mindset all the time."

While this may well be as true for teenagers as it is for toddlers, there is far more time and space allotted for playfulness in the early grades, when the crucial role of play in particular and creativity in general has long been a matter of common sense.

"Really, I'm just a common-sense professor, and somehow it became rogue," said Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek, a professor of psychology at Temple University and an expert in the key role of play in learning. "What if we taught children the way we know the brain learns?"

Bringing joy back into the classroom is also what motivates Cindy Hoisington, an early childhood expert who specializes in reaching out to children from historically marginalized communities at the Education Development Center (EDC), a national education nonprofit.

"This is not anything new, knowing that play is so critical to children, whether it's dramatic play, building play, creative arts play or physical play," said Hoisington, a STEM expert who taught preschool for decades. "But as soon as they hit kindergarten and first grade, there's this dichotomy that sets in. Play is something you get to do after you do the learning when, in fact, we know that play is an incredible vehicle for learning."Play, some experts suggest, may be the superpower of the young. A growing body of research suggests that play may even be a way to help close achievement gaps. One report, analyzing 26 studies from 18 countries, found that in communities from Rwanda to Ethiopia, children got higher learning boosts in literacy, motor skills and social-emotional development when attending child care centers that use a mix of instruction and free play as opposed to those focused solely on academics.

"Children are so naturally, intuitively ready with their curiosity, their motivation to explore the world and everything in it, to the point where that's why the twos are so terrible, because you're constantly chasing after them," said Hoisington, who helps evaluate digital media for PBS. "Science, for instance, tends to have a bad rap as this dry body of knowledge that we have to learn, but really it's a process of exploration that is very much integral with play."

Tapping into that spirit of discovery with hands-on experiences is often best, experts say. Curiosity burns brightest in the early years, so letting kids loose to investigate the world is part of building a rich, play-based learning environment.

"Where young children are free to investigate by observing, touching and acting on the objects in their world," said Deborah Stipek, an expert in early childhood at Stanford University. "This is how they learn about the world — for example, that some objects float and some sink. Through their own experimentation and observation, they may even arrive at hypotheses about the qualities that differentiate the two."

From "The Wheels on the Bus" to "Baby Shark," kiddos love to sing and love to learn, so why not teach through music? Singing the "Old MacDonald had a Farm" song can be educational, experts say, as well as a ritual for community building. Children can take turns deciding on which animal to pick, which builds vocabulary as well as sharing skills.

"Young children learn best by doing," said Stipek. "Counting objects is better than counting dots on a worksheet because they can move the objects to help them keep track of how many they have counted. Worksheets are not all bad. They can provide opportunities to practice and consolidate skills. But children don't develop new skills doing worksheets, and they are typically not nearly as engaging and fun."

Tracing the alphabet in shaving cream or making tin-foil sculptures may seem like basic exercises, but they often teach sophisticated concepts. Playing make-believe games can teach numerous skills at once. Pretend restaurants need someone to write a menu, calculate a bill and greet diners, fostering literacy, numeracy and special-emotional learning all in one game, Hoisington notes.

Songs are a clever way to remember stuff because they make memorization easy and fun for little ones. Melodies and rhymes make the most of our limited working memory to help children embed basic facts into their long-term memory, bolstering depth of cognition.

"I still sing the ABC song in my head sometimes, if I want to know which letter comes before which letter," admits Hoisington.

What's often missed in the discussion of the role of play is that older children also need time for creativity and free play, as well as the arts. While there is much talk about the need to engage students, there is little focus on low-hanging fruit like increasing time for arts, sports and recess. Putting too much emphasis on academic skills in isolation undercuts the love of learning, some warn.

"Kids try to buck it, but certainly by first grade we've started to ruin them," said Hirsh-Pasek. "We pound the curiosity right out of kids."

Mendoza firmly believes teachers should be guides to adventure instead of taskmasters.

"You don't have to be a dictator," as he puts it, "you can be a Sherpa."

So, why doesn't the role of play get more respect in education? Why do we emphasize test scores over deep learning?

"We got to this place because people are scared," said Hirsh-Pasek. "They're feeling like they're losing control, and they want to make sure their kid is ahead. We push it younger and younger and younger, and as we do that, we're creating a situation where our kids are anxious wrecks and the parents are anxious wrecks."

Some experts suggest that children need more time for play and creativity in the wake of the pandemic, not less. Credit: Lillian Mongeau / EdSource

Too few teachers and parents are aware that play helps build the architecture of the growing brain, experts say.

"Play is not frivolous; it enhances brain structure and function and promotes executive function (i.e., the process of learning, rather than the content), which allow us to pursue goals and ignore distractions," as an American Academy of Pediatrics report put it. "When play and safe, stable, nurturing relationships are missing in a child's life, toxic stress can disrupt the development of executive function and the learning of prosocial behavior; in the presence of childhood adversity, play becomes even more important."

Some experts fear that the laser focus on falling test scores in recent years has led to a decrease in playful learning. They suggest that children need more time for play in the wake of the pandemic, not less. Amid the crisis of chronic absenteeism, engaging students on a compelling level may be more vital than ever.

Creativity is the secret formula, experts say, in a world where machines will always compute faster than humans. Drill and kill won't help children master high-level intellectual inquiry and conceptual analysis.

"You have to ask yourself, what's it going to take to outsmart the robots?" as Hirsh-Pasek put it. "We need kids who don't just memorize and take tests well, which AI will do better than our kids ever will. We need kids to be explorers and problem solvers."

For Us It's Feel-a-Nomics

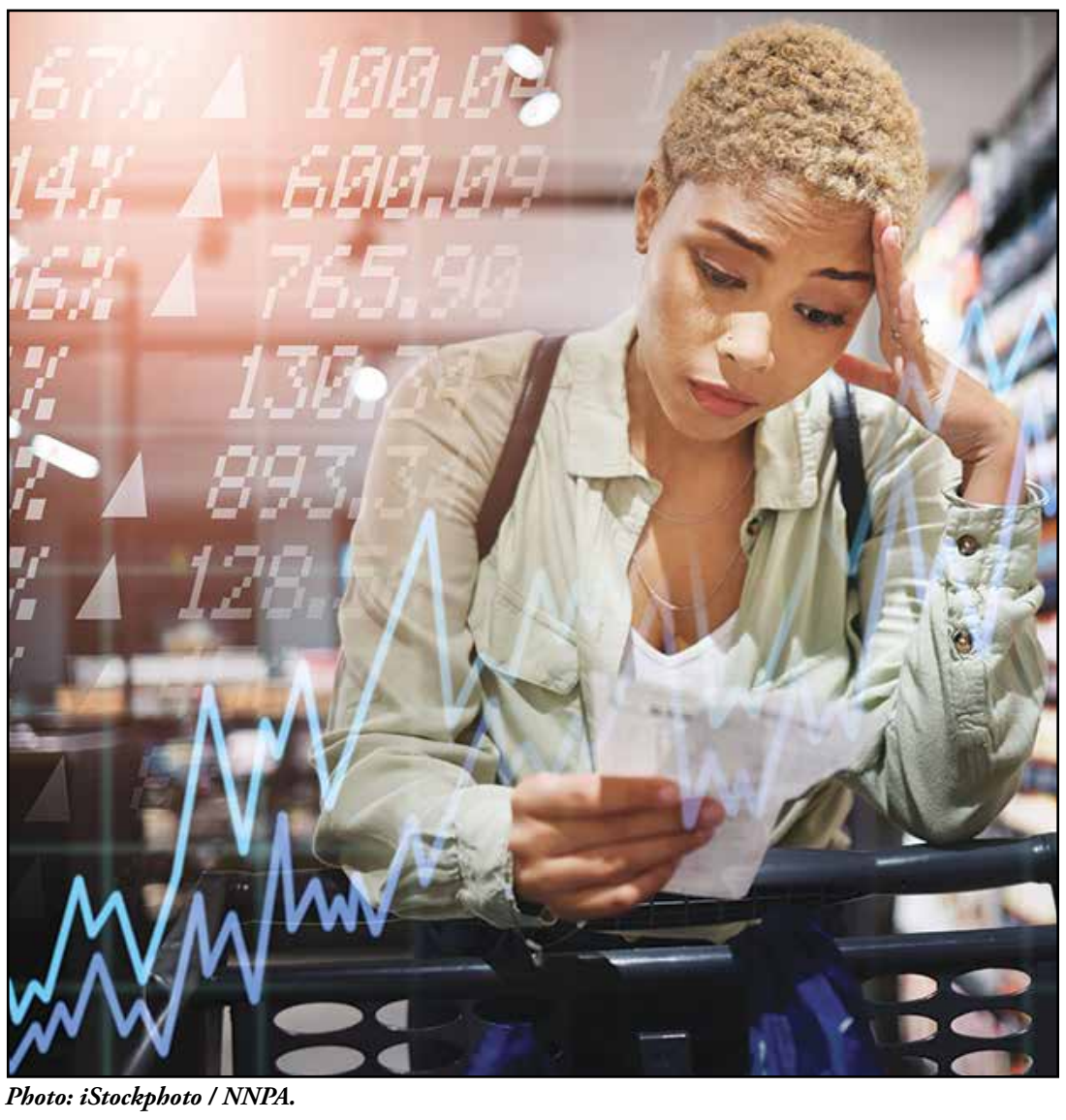


Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA.

BlackPressUSA

I often refer to the economic conditions we see in our Black community is Black-a-nomics. But that description is truly rooted in Feel-a-nomics: the economy that you can feel.

Feel-a-Nomics gets past the philosophical abstractions you hear about so much on the news that politicians use to paint a rosier picture than the reality you're facing. Feel-a-Nomics doesn't care about corporate profits or dividend projections because those earnings don't trickle down to your wallet. It doesn't pay any attention to inflated job numbers when we know that it takes at least two of those jobs to earn a living wage.

Feel-a-Nomics is the economy that affects every day of your life.

Foreclosure rates are skyrocketing up 21% for the first half of 2026 and car repossessions were up 43% as of January. That's Feel-a-Nomics because it's your home on the chopping block and that's the car you need to get to and from your job.

Credit card debt is surging as more than half of Americans are forced to rely on credit cards to pay for basic needs like groceries, rent and utilities. Student debt has jumped since the Trump administration reversed course on Biden repayment and forgiveness plans. This unconstitutional war has brought us record high diesel prices and fertilizer costs along with 16 unnecessary American deaths with a Feel-a-Nomics impact of higher prices at the pump and the grocery store as it costs our farmers more not just to grow our food, but to send it to us too.

Consumer confidence is at its lowest level since 2014. The median household income in America is $87,460 but it takes a median income of $150,000 to buy a home. Affordable housing is sitting vacant because folks still can't afford it particularly with the dramatic cuts to SNAP and Medicaid we saw in Trump's "Big Ugly Bill."

The MAGA healthcare cuts are piling on new premiums and high deductibles. High inflation, particularly at the gas pump and the grocery store, is cutting our legs from under us. The value of our dollar is shrinking at every turn and it doesn't matter anymore if you want to get a second or third job because, according to another piss poor jobs report, the work just isn't out there.

According to the Federal Reserve, the net worth of Black households is down 25%. That's our home. That's our community. Those are our families! That's Feel-a-Nomics and, here in the Black community, it hurts. So let's turn that pain into progress.

After gutting the Voting Rights Act and more, President Trump and the MAGA Congress has done everything they can to cripple Black progress and Black communities. They've picked our pockets and our bodies to the bone. But there's something we can do about it.

The economics of voting are undeniable and, try as they might, they can't keep us out of the voting booth. That's why we have groups like State Voices, Repairers of the Breach, Common Cause, No Kings and more coming together to drive voter mobilization and participation. That's why Repairers of the Breach is organizing 1,000 marches to the polls across the South and battleground states like North Carolina where 201,609 voters cast their ballots on Thursday's first of early voting.

That's a 46.7% increase in early voting from 2022. That's huge! But it's just the start.

We need a generational, Presidential year-type turnout if we're going to turn this ship around and find the Feel-a-Nomics relief we need in our communities. That means we all have to do our part from the streets to the suites.

We need everyone from the PhDs to folks who don't have a GED. We need the farmers and forklift drivers, college students to life students, front line workers for everyone who works on the line.

We need everyone.

We've all felt the impact of MAGAnomics and Trumpism. We've all felt the pain whether it's that empty feeling looking at bills you just can't pay no matter what you cut or the cramp in your stomach because you're skipping meals trying to keep the lights on.

We've all felt the pain of these Feel-a-Nomics. But the good news is that we have an opportunity right now to do something about it. We have the opportunity to make a change at the ballot box.

But it's going to take all of us to make it happen. It's going to take every shoulder against the wheel to push back on the big money holding us down. It's going to take all of us but we've done it before.

Are you ready to do it again?

Political

Political Playback: California Capitol News You Might Have Missed

Shutterstock

By Bo Tefu
California Black Media

AG Bonta Announces Action on Cryptocurrency, Sextortion Fraud -- Increasingly Targeting Gen-Z

California Attorney General Rob Bonta warned residents about rising cryptocurrency fraud and online sextortion scams, urging Californians to recognize warning signs and protect themselves as scammers increasingly target younger people through social media.

Speaking at a news conference on Oct. 19, Bonta said Americans lost $20.9 billion to internet-based scams in 2025, including $11.4 billion to cryptocurrency scams. He said artificial intelligence, deepfakes, and malicious smart contracts have made fraud easier to carry out and more difficult to detect and prevent.

While older Californians remain targets, Bonta said his office has seen a sharp rise in reports of Gen Z consumers being targeted on platforms such as Twitch, TikTok, and Instagram.

One growing scheme involves so-called rug-pull scams, in which fraudsters promote low-priced stocks or volatile cryptocurrencies through online investment groups and streaming communities. After generating interest and driving up prices, scammers sell their holdings, causing values to collapse and leaving investors with losses.

Bonta also warned about sextortion, in which scammers trick or coerce victims into sharing explicit images before threatening to distribute them to friends and family unless they pay. He advised victims not to give in to demands, saying scammers often do not release the images when victims refuse to pay. Instead, he recommended ignoring and blocking the perpetrators.

Another scheme, known as recovery fraud, targets people who have already lost money to cryptocurrency scams. Fraudsters impersonate blockchain recovery specialists or law enforcement officials and demand additional payments while promising to recover stolen assets.

Bonta urged Californians to be skeptical of promises of large returns on small investments, fake cryptocurrencies resembling established ones, and celebrity endorsements that may have been generated using artificial intelligence. He also warned that scammers can use AI to impersonate loved ones through manipulated video and audio.

"Never use a crypto ATM," Bonta said, emphasizing that transactions can be difficult to trace and reverse and that the machines lack adequate consumer protections.

His office has shut down more than 100 fraudulent websites over the past two years that collectively scammed victims out of at least $8.3 million, he said.

Bonta also highlighted Senate Bill 1208, which he said was recently signed into law. The measure allows law enforcement to petition a court to return seized cryptocurrency to victims, including when alleged perpetrators are outside U.S. jurisdiction.

Residents who have fallen victim to scams can report them to the California Department of Justice at oag.ca.gov/report.

Bonta also urged victims not to feel embarrassed, stressing that scammers are responsible for the harm they cause.

Steve Hilton Blasts Xavier Becerra for Condescending Remark About Black Americans

Republican gubernatorial candidate Steve Hilton criticized Xavier Becerra over remarks about Black Americans during a recent radio interview, arguing that Becerra's response overlooked concerns about housing, education and the rising cost of living.

In an Oct. 19 statement, Hilton condemned Becerra's comments during an interview on KBLA Talk 1580 with host Tavis Smiley. Asked what he would do for Black voters, Becerra said he would not "promise you 40 acres and a mule" before citing cash bail reform as an example of his commitment.

Hilton called the response condescending and said it reflected a narrow understanding of Black Californians' priorities.

"Instead of talking about expanding homeownership, improving schools, or lowering the cost of living, Becerra's first concrete example was bail reform," Hilton said.

Hilton contrasted Becerra's answer with his own policy priorities, which include streamlining housing construction, expanding vocational and career pathways, and addressing affordability challenges that he said have driven working families out of California.

He argued that Black Californians deserve policies that expand economic opportunities rather than what he described as symbolic gestures and recycled political talking points.

Seneca Scott, an Oakland activist and host of the Gotham Oakland podcast, also criticized Becerra's remarks. Scott recently joined Hilton at a town hall in San Jose.

In a post on X, Scott said Becerra delivered the comment as a punchline and questioned the results of Democratic leadership in California. He cited concerns about schools, neighborhood conditions, homelessness and family stability.

Hilton's campaign said the candidate has prioritized outreach to Black communities, pointing to a recent interview with the Los Angeles-based newspaper OurWeekly. The campaign also said Black Californians consistently rank economic opportunity, quality schools, safe neighborhoods and the cost of living among their leading concerns.

"Black Californians deserve better than symbolic gestures and recycled talking points," said Hilton. "They deserve a governor who will actually expand opportunity—not one who treats their aspirations as a political box to check."

Hilton has discussed his vision for California in previous appearances with Smiley and attended KBLA's recent "California Voices: A Political Town Hall and Ballot Forum," according to his campaign.

The campaign's statement did not include a response from Becerra to Hilton's criticism or the full context of the radio interview.

A Fresh Start: Newsom Announces New Plan to Help Incarcerated People Prepare for Reentry

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced a new rehabilitation-focused housing community at California State Prison, Corcoran, designed to help incarcerated people develop job skills, take responsibility for their actions, and prepare for life after release.

The initiative, announced Oct. 21, establishes an "honor dorm" that currently houses about 100 incarcerated people. The program is part of the state's California Model, which emphasizes rehabilitation, personal responsibility, and preparation for returning to the community.

Participation is voluntary and subject to eligibility requirements, including behavior, classification, and willingness to engage in programming. Residents have access to education, vocational training, rehabilitative programs, and employment preparation.

"Public safety doesn't end at the prison gate. It means holding people accountable while giving them the tools to change, prepare for a job and return to their communities ready to contribute," Newsom said.

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Secretary Jeff Macomber said the initiative connects housing and programming with expectations for accountability.

"The goal is for people to use their time in prison productively and leave better prepared for the responsibilities ahead," Macomber said.

The Corcoran initiative builds on the state's rehabilitation efforts at San Quentin Rehabilitation Center, which Newsom announced in 2023. In February 2026, San Quentin opened an 81,000-square-foot Learning Center to expand access to education, workforce training and reentry preparation.

State data cited in the announcement found that 81.5% of people who earned Rehabilitation Achievement Credits remained conviction-free three years after release. The rate was 76.7% for those who earned Educational Merit Credits and 66.7% for people who participated in general rehabilitative programming.

The figures reflect outcomes among participants in different programs but do not establish that rehabilitation alone caused the results.

The state says the California Model aims to reduce repeat offending and improve public safety by helping incarcerated people build skills and prepare for employment and community life after release.

California also provides services to crime victims and survivors through its Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services, which assists with rights, notifications, and access to support.

Sen. Akilah Weber Pierson Tackles Food Insecurity, Barriers to Eating Healthy

California state Sen. Akilah Weber Pierson (D-San Diego) convened a hearing in San Diego on Oct. 21 to examine food insecurity, barriers to accessing nutritious meals, and the role of state programs in improving public health.

The Oct. 21 hearing at the San Diego County Operations Center in Kearny Mesa brought together experts in food access, health care, and education to discuss the challenges facing families across California and potential policy solutions.

Jared Call, director of public policy and advocacy at the California Association of Food Banks, told lawmakers that 24% of California adults experienced food insecurity in 2025. Call also said 16 million Californians live in communities where the cost of basic needs, including housing, health care, transportation, child care, and food, exceeds their income.

Feeding San Diego estimates that about 430,000 people in San Diego County, including 123,000 children, experience food insecurity.

"Addressing inequality means listening to our community," Weber Pierson, a Democrat representing the 39th Senate District, said as the hearing began. Sen. Steve Padilla (D-Chula Vista) also participated.

Witnesses emphasized that food insecurity can have serious consequences for physical health. Dr. Alexandra Kharazi, a cardiothoracic surgeon who advocates for cardiovascular health, described how poor nutrition and limited access to fresh food can affect patients before and after surgery. She also highlighted disparities in food access in San Diego's South Bay.

The hearing also focused on California's Universal Meals program, which provides public school students with breakfast and lunch at no cost. Kim Frinzell, director of Nutrition Services at the California Department of Education, said schools served more than 868 million breakfasts and lunches during the 2025-26 school year.

Frinzell urged lawmakers to maintain funding for the program, citing research linking universal school meals to reduced food insecurity and improved educational outcomes. Alicia Hauser, executive director of Food and Nutrition Services for San Diego Unified School District, also called for continued investment in school kitchens and enough time for students to eat their meals.

Other proposals raised during the hearing included expanding community gardens, improving nutrition education, and strengthening food assistance programs. Public commenters also urged lawmakers to protect access to CalFresh benefits and support food banks facing increased demand.

Weber Pierson said the hearing would inform future policy discussions in Sacramento, including efforts to sustain school meal funding during a difficult budget year.

The discussion highlighted the connections between food access, household costs, health, and education, as lawmakers consider ways to help Californians obtain nutritious food.

Three Black Californians Among Governor Newsom's Latest Appointees

Gov. Gavin Newsom has announced several appointments and reappointments to state boards and commissions, including three Black Californians: San Diego community advocate Shane Harris, Oakland City Councilmember Kenneth Houston, and accounting professional Kristian Latta of Eastvale.

The appointments span youth justice, financial oversight, water management and public

administration.

Shane Harris, appointed to the State Advisory Group on Youth Justice, brings experience in community outreach, government affairs and communications.

Harris has served as director of communications and community partnerships at Gomez Trial Attorneys since 2024 and founded S Harris Communications in 2021. Previously, he directed government affairs for the National Black Contractors Association and San Pasqual Academy. He also worked with Just in Time for Foster Youth and served as a senior pastor

Kenneth Houston, who has represented Oakland's Seventh District on the City Council since 2025, was also appointed to the State Advisory Group on Youth Justice. Houston previously served as director and project manager at the Beautification Council from 2012 to 2024. He also serves on the Oakland Coliseum AEG Community Advisory Board.

Neither youth justice appointment requires Senate confirmation, and both positions are unpaid.

Kristian Latta was reappointed to the California Board of Accountancy, where she has served since 2022.

Latta currently works as an event accounting consultant at Insomniac Events. Her previous positions include financial reporting consultant at Snap Inc., accounting consultant at Alo Yoga and head of finance at Danger Jones.

She previously founded The Chic CPA and serves as second vice president of the National Association of Black Accountants' Los Angeles chapter.

Newsom also appointed political consultant Garry South of Marina del Rey to the California Water Commission. South previously advised former Gov. Gray Davis and worked on Newsom's gubernatorial campaign.

Nancy Corrigan of Glendora was reappointed to the California Board of Accountancy. A partner at Singerlewak LLP, Corrigan has served on the board since 2018.

Beatriz Gonzalez of Indio was reappointed to the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board. A former Coachella Valley Unified School District administrator, Gonzalez also serves on the Desert Community College District Board of Trustees.

SEIU Local 1000 and State of California Will Continue to Negotiate New Labor Contract

By Antonio Ray Harvey
California Black Media

After the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 1000 labor contract expired June 30 and talks with Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration stalled, the union stepped up its efforts to secure a new agreement, saying its demands had gone unheeded.

On Oct. 21, thousands of state employees represented by SEIU Local 1000 staged a one-day walkout to protest alleged unfair labor practices during negotiations with Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration.

Although the strike has ended, SEIU Local 1000 President Anica Walls said further demonstrations or an expanded strike are highly likely if contract negotiations remain stalled. The union represents approximately 100,000 public employees statewide.

"We are out here because our jobs matter," Wells said. "If they continue to refuse to bargain with us in good faith, we are prepared to escalate."

Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Los Angeles) expressed support for SEIU Local 1000's labor action in an Instagram post, emphasizing the importance of fair treatment for workers.

"I stand in complete solidarity with SEIU Local 1000," Smallwood-Cuevas stated. "More than 100,000 state workers they represent are on strike today fighting for good-faith bargaining, fair treatment, and a contract that reflects the value of the essential public services they provide every day—all things that should be a given for the workers our state relies on the most."

Smallwood-Cuevas, a member of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) added, "When California's workers hold the line, the whole nation pays attention."

According to union representatives, SEIU Local 1000 is seeking a contract that addresses rising living costs and provides greater workplace flexibility. The

California state workers staged a one-day strike Oct. 21 to protest alleged unfair labor practices and stalled contract negotiations over wages, remote work requirements and health care costs. The workers' previous contract expired June 30. CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey.

SEIU Local 1000 President Anica Walls led a one-day strike by state workers in downtown Sacramento on Wednesday, Oct. 21. The union and the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) are scheduled to resume mediation Oct. 30. CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey.

Tia Orr, executive director of SEIU California, joins demonstrators preparing to march from California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) headquarters at 1810 16th St. to the Capitol Annex Swing Space near the state Capitol during the one-day strike Oct. 21. CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey.

union is demanding a 20% wage increase over three years and an end to Gov. Gavin Newsom's requirement that state employees work in person four days a week. Workers want more opportunities to telework to reduce fuel and commuting expenses.

The union is also seeking increased state contributions toward employee health care benefits to reduce workers' out-of-pocket costs.

On Sept. 18, Newsom vetoed Assembly Bill 1729, authored by Assemblymember Alex Lee (D-San Jose), which sought to expand telework opportunities for state employees.

The bill would have required state agencies to offer telework options or provide written justifications for requiring employees to work in person. Supporters argued that telework could save taxpayers approximately $225 million annually by reducing office space and parking costs while lowering vehicle emissions and improving employee retention.

Newsom said the legislation would limit state departments' flexibility to manage their workforces and evaluate telework exemptions individually. He has also emphasized the benefits of in-person collaboration.

"I want people to come back to work, reengage, rediscover, collaborate, coordinate, develop relationships, friendships, and fall in love," Newsom said in July. "You get three-day weekends. Four years ago, that would've been a triumph. Now it's a burden."

Union organizers described the Oct. 21 walkout as a one-day unfair labor practice strike, rather than an indefinite work stoppage. The action was intended to demonstrate solidarity and increase pressure on the state during negotiations.

SEIU Local 1000 has been without a contract since its previous three-year agreement expired June 30. Negotiations are expected to resume as both sides seek a new agreement.

Responding to the statewide walkout, the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) said it "remains focused on achieving a fair and responsible agreement with SEIU Local 1000 and continues to be available at the bargaining table."

Local

Villegas Rallies SEIU Caregivers in Bakersfield in CD-22 Race Against Valadao

By Cecil Egbele
Contributing Writer | California Local News Fellow

Standing before a room packed with home care workers, Randy Villegas shared a memory of his father yelling at him for holding the flashlight wrong in the family auto shop.

Randy Villegas speaks at an SEIU Local 2015 rally in Bakersfield on Oct. 22. The Bakersfield native, who is challenging Rep. David Valadao for California's 22nd Congressional District seat, emphasized his working-class upbringing and called for protecting access to affordable health care. (Photo courtesy of SEIU Local 2015)

Villegas, 31, seemed to be suggesting that he is from the working class, presumably like many in the audience."Tell me who you're with, and I'll tell you who you are," he said, this time recounting a favorite saying of his mother.

Villegas, who is challenging Rep. David Valadao, R-Hanford, in California's 22nd Congressional District, spoke Oct. 22 at a Service Employees International Union Local 2015 rally at the Bakersfield Marriott. He was joined by Xavier Becerra, who is running for governor.

The race for Congressional District 22, which covers parts of Kern, Kings, and Tulare counties, is one of the most closely watched House races in the country.

Valadao has won six congressional elections. He's now running for a seventh term in the district, which was redrawn following passage of Proposition 50 last year. Democrats hope to flip the seat.

A son of the Valley

Villegas lacks the political experience of his Republican opponent, but said to the people that he's one of them.

He told rally attendees that he is the son of Mexican immigrants and that he grew up in a working-class Bakersfield family that worked Sundays at the swap meet.

Villegas attended Golden Valley High School, Bakersfield College and Cal State Bakersfield. He said free and reduced-price school meals let him "focus in the classroom instead of my stomach grumbling."

He said he earned a doctorate on a full scholarship and now teaches political science at College of the Sequoias. He also serves as a board member of the Visalia Unified School District. He has lived in Visalia since 2021.

Asked why Bakersfield voters should back a candidate who now lives outside the district, Villegas said, "Bakersfield is my hometown," and said he would move into the district before the election.

Randy Villegas, Democratic candidate for California's 22nd Congressional District, addresses SEIU Local 2015 members during an Oct. 22 rally at the Bakersfield Marriott. Villegas discussed health care funding, working families and his campaign against Republican incumbent Rep. David Valadao. (Photo courtesy of SEIU Local 2015)

Randy Villegas, left, joins California gubernatorial candidate Xavier Becerra, second from left, and union supporters onstage during an Oct. 22 SEIU Local 2015 rally in Bakersfield. Participants raised their hands in a show of solidarity as the union highlighted health care and issues affecting caregivers ahead of the Nov. 3 election. (Photo courtesy of SEIU Local 2015)

'Decisive vote' on health care

Villegas called Valadao "the decisive vote" on H.R. 1, the federal tax-and-spending law Republicans dub the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

He said it will cut $880 billion from Medicaid, along with money for In-Home Supportive Services and SNAP food aid, and claimed it will take health care from 70,000 people in the district.

During an Oct. 6 KGET-TV debate with Villegas in Bakersfield, Valadao said he voted for the bill because it protected Medi-Cal for the most vulnerable, including children, pregnant women, people with disabilities, and seniors.

"It is not an actual cut," Valadao said during the debate. "We need people to actually put in and make a fair effort to try to cover their expenses and be a part of their community. This is not an unreasonable ask."

About 496,100 people in the district were enrolled in Medicaid in 2025, more than in any other Republican-held House district, according to an October 2026 analysis by KFF, a nonprofit health policy research group. That is roughly six in 10 residents, according to KFF Health News and NPR.

Villegas asked the SEIU 2015 crowd to raise their hands if they or a loved one have had to drive to Tijuana for cheaper dental care or medicine.

"Look at all these hands," he said. "This should not be happening in the richest country in the history of the world. Nobody should have to fight cancer and their congressman at the same time."

Speaking to the press, Villegas said his priority in office would be restoring health care funding, while pushing for lower prescription drug prices through direct negotiation with drugmakers.

Immigration enforcement

Villegas called the recent immigration raids in the Valley "a direct result of David Valadao's vote to triple ICE's budget without any meaningful reforms or accountability whatsoever."

He said agents have stopped street vendors, farmworkers, U.S. citizens, and veterans. He called for a path to citizenship and for prosecuting agents who break the law.

Villegas also spoke about his wife, Karina, a doctoral student and UAW member at UC Santa Cruz. He said the administration's cuts to science caused her cancer research lab to lose funding.

"I am proud to stand with our caregivers, our union members, our teachers and nurses," Villegas said as he closed. "Are you with me?"

Healing the Wounds Behind the Walls

Continued from page A1

psychology and in social and behavioral sciences.

"I became the ward president over every unit that I lived on there, because somehow I can get 80 patients in a room to have a conversation and be able to advocate for them."

Filling the Gaps Grant by Grant

In 2022, the American Psychiatric Association added prolonged grief disorder a severe, persistent grief that lasts for more than 12 months and disrupts everyday functioning — to the DSM-5 as a formal condition.

California's prison mental health system has been under federal court supervision since a class action filed in 1990 on behalf of prisoners with serious mental illness, a case now captioned Coleman v. Newsom. That oversight has produced a public record of what the state provides, including levels of care, staffing, crisis beds, and suicide prevention, through a court-supervised program guide and periodic monitoring reports by a court-appointed Special Master.

The Ninth Circuit has also described persistent problems with staffing and the state's compliance with court-ordered mental-health requirements. While the Coleman case covers prisoners with serious mental illness, trauma and grief are more widespread and often harder to recognize, experts say, which makes them harder to treat.

Stephanie Covington, co-director of the Center for Gender and Justice, whose trauma-focused programs are used in correctional settings, said people entering the criminal justice system have higher rates of trauma histories than the general population.

"Corrections needs to become trauma informed," she said. "They need to have trauma-informed programming in every institution, just like they have substance use programming."

"Some people may not even recognize what they have experienced as trauma," Covington continued. "When adversity has been part of someone's life for years, it can seem normal even when it affects how that person responds to stress, conflict, or relationships."

Covington's program, Exploring Trauma+, is a six-session course delivered by trained peer facilitators who are themselves serving long sentences.

Nena Messina, who runs the non-profit Envisioning Justice Solutions, led the first randomized controlled trial of a trauma intervention for men incarcerated for violent offenses in 2014. The trial was conducted at Corcoran.

"Often there's punitive reaction to normal displays of grieving behaviors," said Messina.

She said incarcerated people often have to hide or suppress signs of grief, like crying or withdrawing, to avoid consequences.

Of the 221 men in the Corcoran trial, 131 men completed the course, showing significant improvement over the remaining control group on 11 of 13 trauma-related measures like anxiety, depression, psychological well-being, current traumatic distress, and several measures of anger.

"Not only do they impact their trauma symptomology and their trauma-related psychological symptoms, but they're reducing their anger and aggression and hostility as well," Messina said.

California pays for some of this work, but the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) does not directly fund trauma or other programs for residents, Messina said.

The CDCR funds outside nonprofits through competitive grants, totaling $4 million a year. SAGE is one of about two dozen programs funded in the current three-year cycle, which began in July 2025. So is Covington's program Exploring Trauma+.

The continuation of these services depends solely on community organizations securing additional funding; Messina explained, who continues to advocate for a dedicated funding source for these programs.

"For a decade, I have been writing the proposals on a hamster wheel to keep things going, when they should be 'in place' as regulations," Messina said, as "policy to direct treatment needs."

Inside the Curriculum

The SAGE program combines pictures, writing assignments, animals, group exercises and personal stories to get participants to examine experiences they may have never had the language to describe.

Moses said participants climb what she calls a pyramid of restorative transformation: safety, identity, accountability, grief, and empathy. Those who complete the course are not called graduates, but 'practitioners' because Moses believes that the work does not stop at 12 weeks.

Eight digital posters were hung on the walls in the prison room where the six men gathered on this August day.

One of the posters featured a neighborhood of burned-out buildings labeled Broken Roots Community. The image is meant to convey the enduring realities of growing up in a world of crime, gangs, addiction, grief, and other adverse childhood experiences.

Another drawing showed a well-lit, five-story, plant-laden building on a street called Sage Way. Each floor carried words of hope.

SAGE is built as the five floors shown on the Sage Way poster. Most correctional programming, Moses said, opens at the offense and works backward.

But Moses said she does not begin by asking participants what crime brought them to prison. Instead, she asks them to examine what happened leading up to the crime, what they learned to do to survive the violence around them, and ultimately, how their actions have affected those around them.

"I didn't get to see my son graduate, I didn't get that experience," Moses said. "I didn't get to pour my best self into him. All I had was pain and trauma and grief and all of these experiences. And I poured what I had."

Moses said she is grateful for the opportunity to channel her pain into helping others heal.

"If you can't use words, use pictures. If you can't use pictures, use textures. If you can't use textures, use colors," Moses said. "There is a way to express, so that nobody's voice is ever left behind. And you don't have to stay in that pain."

Moses begins each 12-week program by reciting a line by writer Isabella de Bruno: If you do not heal old wounds, you will bleed on people that never cut you.

"Sometimes you're surviving from a place of pain," Moses said, "and you're not able to see how that's rippling an impact of pain across the community and future generations."

Six of the 10 SAGE graduates pose with their 'diplomas' alongside facilitator Teresa "Tree" Moses at California State Prison, Corcoran

A SAGE graduation cake celebrates the completion of Moses' 12-week training

"And the truth is, I absolutely miss my son," she said. "But I also understand that I have a room full of someone else's sons, and I'm going to give [them] the best that I have."

For Moses, creating a space for raw emotional expression is essential because the prison environment forces individuals to lock away deep, personal grief.

"It's not just the loss of freedom that people are experiencing inside," Moses said, "but not being able to go to Big Momma's funeral, not being able to watch their children grow up. And then not having space where you feel welcome enough and safe enough to even express it."

Moses tells participants that crying is not weakness.

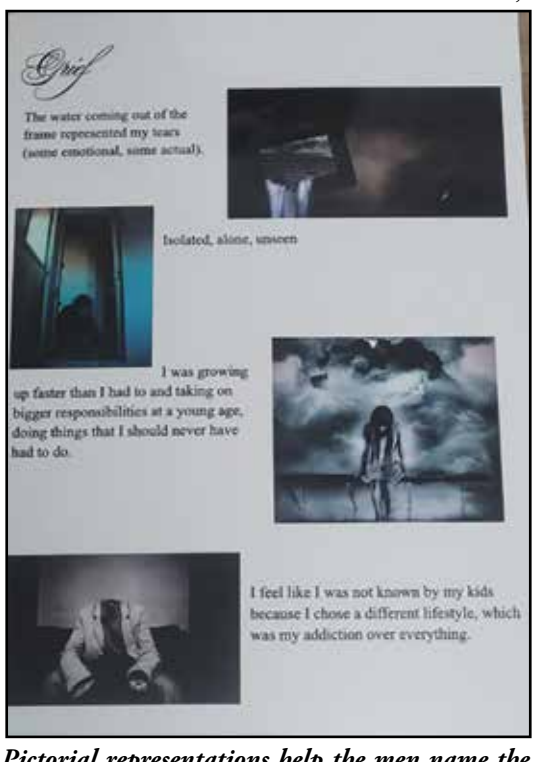
"I believe crying is a libation," she said.

Moses has proposed extending the SAGE experience to family members so that people returning home and those waiting for them can develop a shared vocabulary and resources to navigate difficult conversations.

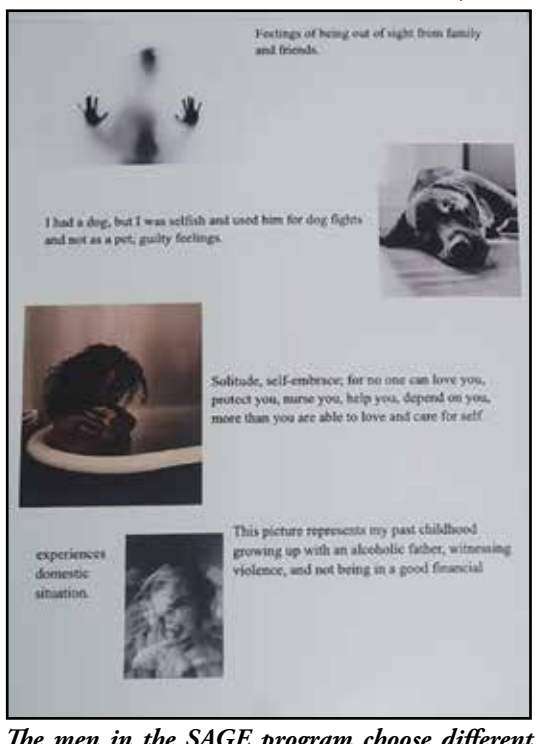
Marqese Clark, another inmate at Corcoran, said he enrolled in SAGE because of grief and loss he experienced while incarcerated. He has since begun passing on the lessons of the program to other men, including writing two new curricula — one on decision-making and the other on relationships — for folks to use when he is released.

"Attending this program makes me feel like a therapist now," Clark said. "I talk to some of the men here, helping them and myself not to repeat the same cycle."

All six men remain incarcerated.



Pictorial representations help the men name the grief they're feeling and may never have had the space to process



The men in the SAGE program choose different images to express their grief

Local

A cross-section of different cultural outfits during the fashion show, representing various regions of Nigeria (Photo by Cecil Egbele)

Nigerian Independence Celebration

Brings Bakersfield's African and Black Communities Together

By Cecil Egbele
Contributing Writer | California Local News Fellow

Bakersfield's African and Black communities came together in a vibrant display of song, dance, and historical remembrance to commemorate Nigeria's 66th anniversary of independence from British colonial rule.

Held at A Royal Palace in Bakersfield, the Oct. 3 event brought several generations together under one roof to foster cross-cultural solidarity and pay tribute to the Nigerian diaspora's unique identity in Kern County.

Dr. Joseph Ohens, president of the Nigerian-American Association of Bakersfield (NAAB), used his keynote address to recall the powerful moment when the British Union Jack came down, and Nigeria's green-white-green flag went up for the first time.

"This was the prayer that filled the air," he said.

City and Civic Recognition

Bakersfield City Council Member Andrae Gonzales presented a proclamation honoring the NAAB and "the rich culture, heritage and traditions of the Nigerian people."

The proclamation also thanked Nigerian residents for "the invaluable contributions" they make "to enhance the quality of life of our community.

"Population alone makes us a big city, but it doesn't make us a great city," Gonzales said "What makes Bakersfield a great city is our diversity. It's our culture."

Patrick Johnson, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Bakersfield, thanked the Nigerian community for including the wider Black community in its traditions.

He described the effort as connecting "the homeland with those that are here in America" and helping people "understand and connect with our roots."

A History Lesson From the President

Ohens referenced Nigeria's national anthem - "Nigeria, We Hail Thee"- being restored to its original form in 2024 by the country's president, Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

Ohens called the anthem's restoration "not merely a change of lyrics" but "a profound return to our roots."

Ohens said the anthem reflects three modern-day core Nigerian values: an unapologetic declaration of unity over division, integrity and a prayer for justice and equity.

Ohens said the nation will be blessed with peace and plenty only when it protects the weak.

"An anthem is not just a song you stand up for. It is a code of conduct you live by," he said.

Ademola Adenuga, chairman of the event's planning committee, noted that more than 200 languages are spoken in Nigeria, a country of almost 250 million people in West Africa.

"But we are bound together by something very, very powerful, and that is the fact that we are Nigerians," Adenuga said.

He said Nigerians are expressive, warm, and welcoming people with a "remarkable ability to keep moving forward."

The Next Generation Finds Its Voice

While Ohens brought history to the evening, the children brought the future.

NAAB's essay competition asked students from elementary through high school to write about their Nigerian heritage. For many of the children, that meant sitting down with their parents to ask questions they had never thought to ask.

Aderayo Awoleke, 11, winner of the elementary contest and a student at Ronald Reagan Elementary, said the contest opened up "fascinating things" that she had never known existed.

She learned from her father that some people call Lagos "The Town of Festivals" while her mother got her laughing with the knowledge that people in Edo State could wear so many beautiful traditional beads "that you may need help carrying them."

"It was very fun getting to interview my parents and learn many things I never knew about," Aderayo said.

Jotham Solomon Imie, 14, who won the junior high competition, said the honor meant a lot to him.

"It's so shocking to see myself chosen as the winner out of all other participants in my category. I really appreciate it," he said.

Teni Awoleke, 15, won the scholarship essay for grades 10 through 12. His essay was about how young African Americans can embrace their dual identity in the United States.

"People shouldn't feel divided by their mixed nationality, because it's all of those parts that really make you who you are," he said.

He urged other students to enter the contest next year.

"Don't think you won't win it. Be confident in yourself because you never know," he said.

College and university students received scholarships.

Culture on Parade

The evening also featured an elaborate celebration of African culture.

Attendees enjoyed a colorful parade of traditional outfits showcasing the diverse attire of Nigeria's distinct regions. Parade coordinator Judith Eghre-Bello explained to the audience the meaning behind each outfit's elaborate yet deliberate designs, colors, and patterns.

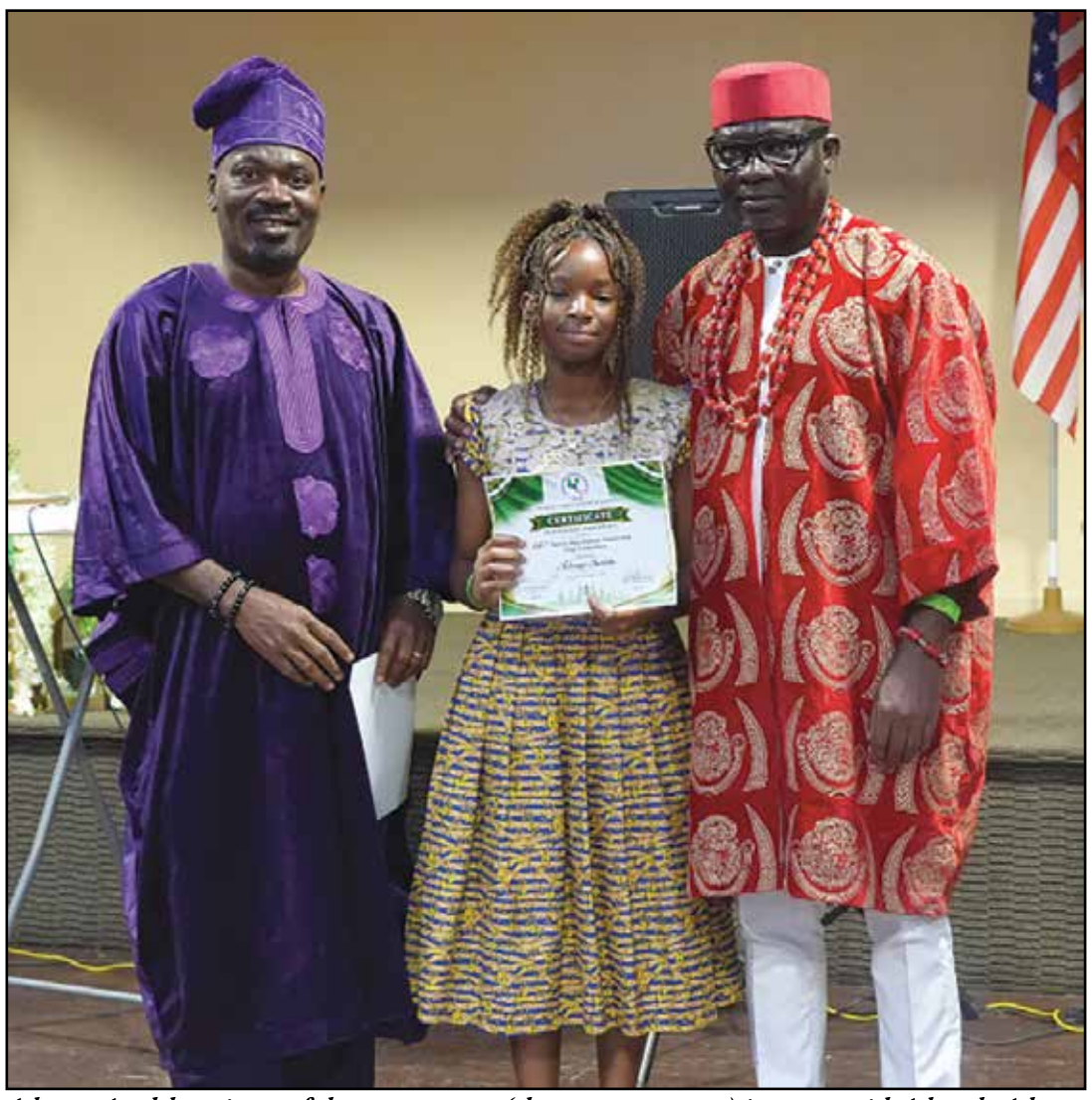
Young Bakersfield entertainers, including emerging Afrobeat artist Damila, energized the room with contemporary African rhythms, drawing guests to the dance floor.

The community cut an anniversary cake, while guests shared Nigerian dishes with friends from across the community. As is typical of a Nigerian party, there was plenty of dancing.

Teni Awoleke left the room with a message that summed up the night:

"Don't try to change yourself to fit in. Always be unapologetically you."

Igbo traditional dancing troupe (Photo by Cecil Egbele)

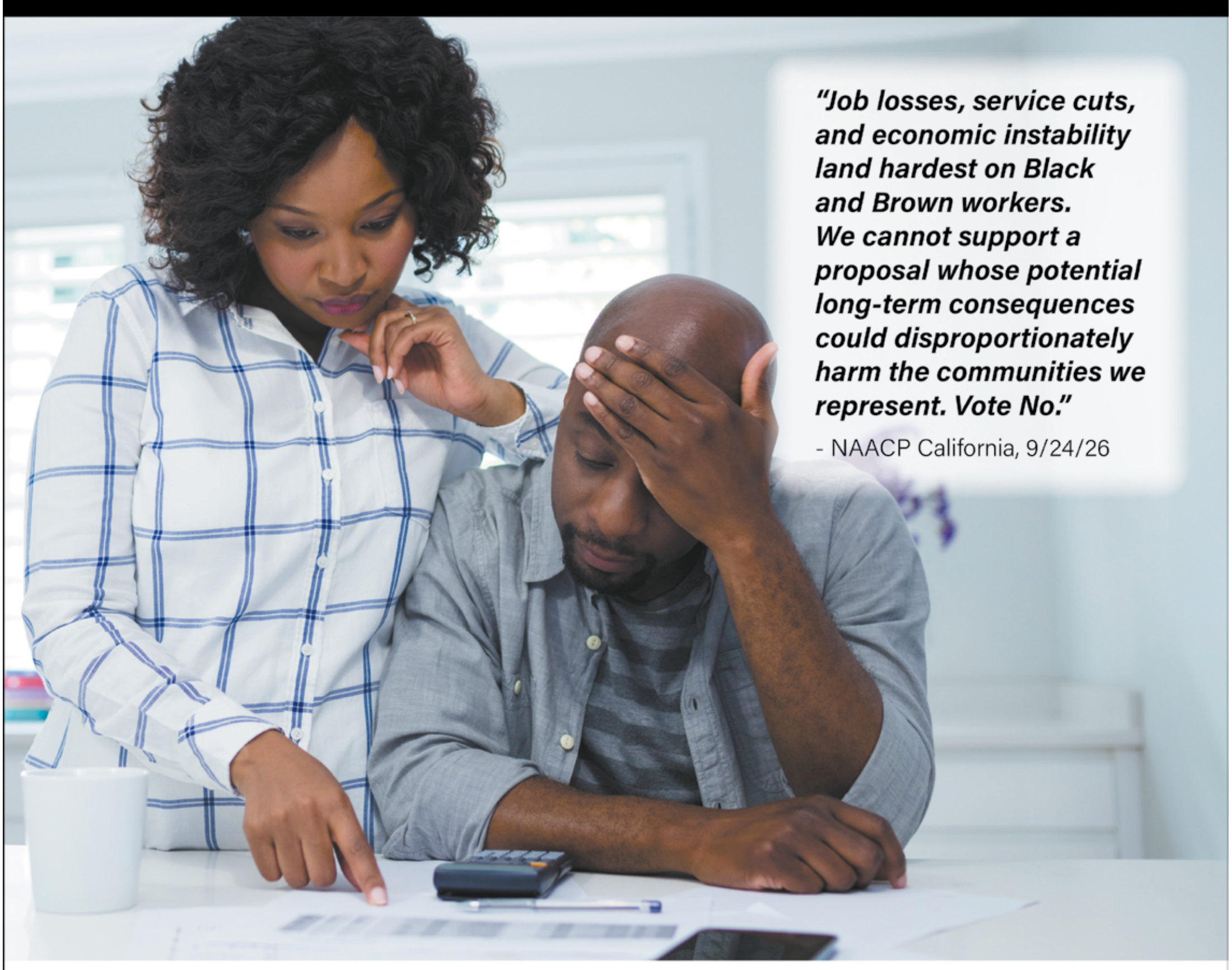


Aderayo Awoleke, winner of the essay contest (elementary category) in a pose with Ademola Adenuga (L) and Joseph Ohens (R) (Photo by Cecil Egbele)

Jotham Solomon Imie, winner of the essay competition (junior high category) in a pose with Ademola Adenuga (L), Joseph Ohens (R) and Sophia Duru (far right) (Photo by Cecil Egbele)

They're all voting No on Prop 40:

- ✓ California African American Chamber of Commerce
- ✓ Citizens for Accountable Leadership
- ✓ Asm. Mike Gipson
- ✓ California Primary Care Association
- ✓ NAACP California/Hawaii State Conference
- ✓ California Medical Association
- ✓ California School Boards Association



"Job losses, service cuts, and economic instability land hardest on Black and Brown workers. We cannot support a proposal whose potential long-term consequences could disproportionately harm the communities we represent. Vote No."

- NAACP California, 9/24/26

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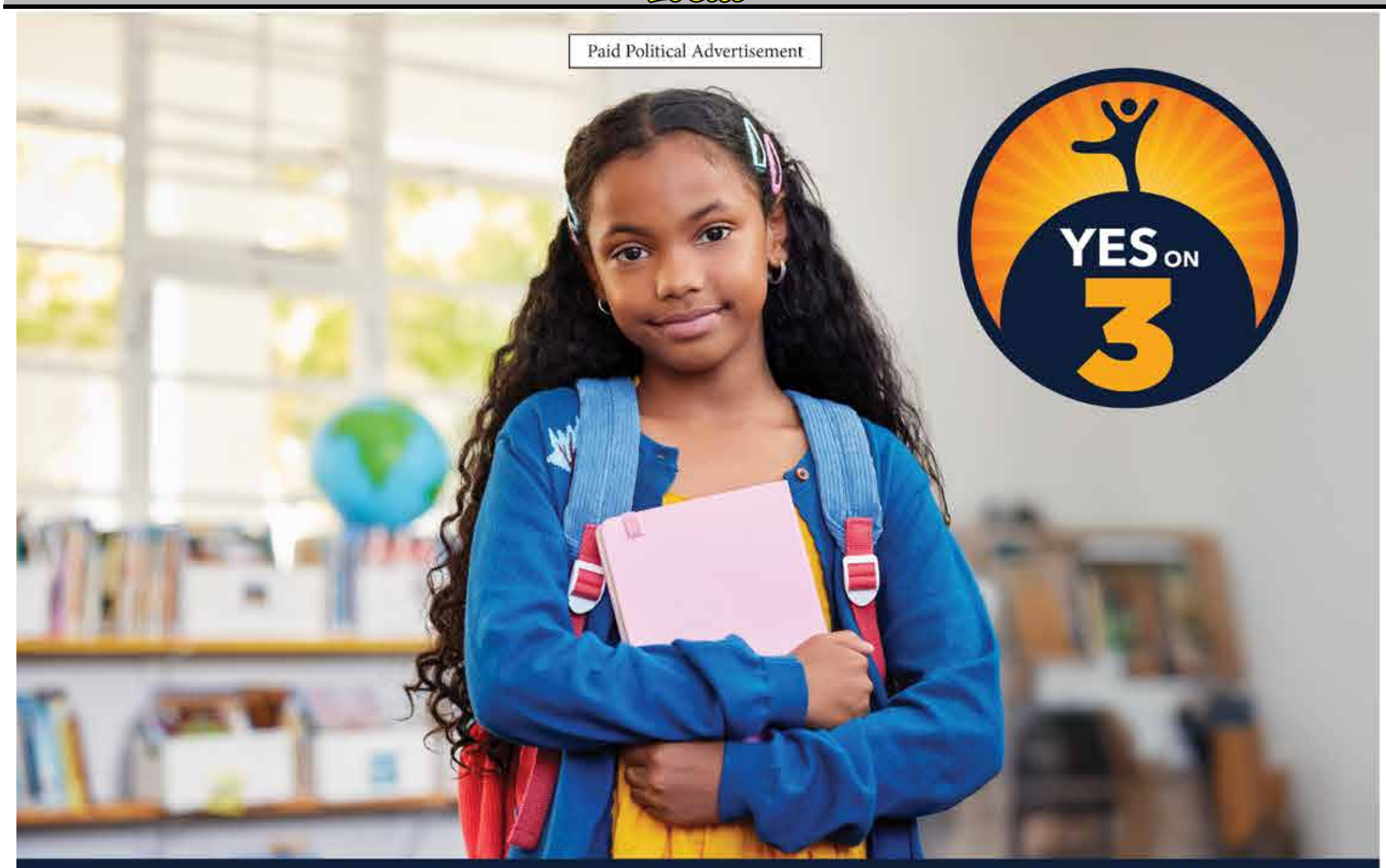

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It keeps the current income tax rate on the wealthiest 2%. Nobody else pays a dime.

3 Every dollar is accounted for.
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