



IN MEMORIAM:
The Mighty Sparrow,
King of Calypso, Dies at Age 91
in New York
- Page A2



South Central Artist
Turns the Hollywood Bowl
into a One-Night
"Funk Opera"
- Page A3

Bakersfield News Observer

Volume 53, Number 6 Observer Group Newspapers of Southern California Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Kern County Fair Closes 12-Day Run with Heat, Music And a Calypso Send-Off

By Cecil Egbele
Contributing Writer | California Local News Fellow
On the last day of the Kern County Fair, the sound of calypso drifted near the entrance to Shopping Hall 2.
Under a lime-green canopy, a 70-year-old steel drummer, Prince Bernard, in a straw hat and beads, worked a pair of gleaming steel pans, serenading passersby. Originally from Trinidad and Tobago and now based in Los Angeles, the traveling musician was one small part of a fair that, for 12 days, offered something for nearly everyone.
The 2026 fair, themed "The Place to Be," ran Sept. 23 through Oct. 4 at the Kern County Fairgrounds on South P Street. It closed Sunday under a National Weather Service heat advisory.
A 110-year tradition
The fair traces its official start to Aug. 5, 1916, when it was held on 106 acres on Chester Avenue, where the Kern County Museum now stands. In 1952, it moved to its current 168-acre site.
NaTasha T. Johnson, a Bakersfield native and first Black chair of the Kern County Fair Board,



The Ferris wheel standing high on the fairgrounds (Photo Credit: Cecil Egbele)

Kern County Public Works was among the county agencies using the gathering to share information with residents. County electoral officials were also on hand to encourage residents to vote and to answer questions ahead of the Nov. 3 general election.
The Stages
Then there were the stages with different performances, like the Drumheads— a duo in blue jumpsuits with drums for heads playing loud, fun



A Drumhead performer entertaining family at the fair (Photo Credit: Cecil Egbele)

beats that had the little children giggling with laughter; The Wilder Show brought laughs with high-flying unicycle stunts; and Bakersfield's own Mento Buru, filling the night air with their upbeat, dancing Latin and reggae rhythms.
Each night brought a concert at the Budweiser Pavilion, free with fair admission. Country singer Ernest opened the series Sept. 23. Others on the lineup included R&B star Mario, who filled the pavilion with smooth vocals and nostalgic throwback vibes, Chandler Moore, who treated the crowd to a night of live worship music, and a

90s Rewind show featuring Treach of Naughty by Nature.
Braving the heat
A Heat Advisory was in effect Sunday, with the National Weather Service forecasting a high of 103 degrees in Bakersfield.
But the triple-digit heat on the final weekend did not deter fairgoers, who still made their way through the gates, seeking shade, cold drinks, and the air-conditioned shopping and exhibit halls when the sun became too intense.
The Fair board chairwoman, Johnson, said final attendance and other 2026 figures have not yet been released.
Last year's fair drew more than 300,000 guests, a 9% decline from the year before, and the junior livestock auction brought in \$1.45 million.
The 12 days of the Kern County Fair once again offered Kern County a place to gather, browse, eat, play, and simply enjoy being together.
And on its final day, it offered a little Calypso music for the road.



Prince Bernard serenading fairgoers...pso music with two steel drums (Photo Credit: Cecil Egbele)

Wisconsin High School Students Stage Walkout in Support of Nolan Wells

Students at Wauwatosa West High School in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, organized the walkout and marched from the school to the city's Firefly Park.



Source: Photo courtesy of WLOX / Nolan Xavier Wells

It has been nearly three months since Nolan Wells went to a party with several friends on an island off the coast of Mississippi on July 4, and we still have no idea why he died on that trip instead of returning with his travelling companions.
Last week, a Mississippi grand jury determined that there was no evidence of criminal wrongdoing in Wells' death, and that there was no evidence that his so-called friends had anything to do with his death. And there are certainly people invested in putting Wells' story to bed once and for all. Unfortunately for those people, that's not how it works. We don't just stop calling for justice and transparency because some court system said there was no justice to be had.
And that's why, on Monday, students at a high school in Wisconsin staged a walkout on Wells' behalf.
According to CBS 58, students at Wauwatosa West High School in Wauwatosa, Wis., organized the walkout and marched from the school to the city's Firefly Park.
"The justice that he deserves, it wasn't there," one student told CBS. "Obviously, they let them walk away, and I feel that wasn't right, so I'm just here to show my support for the family of Nolan Wells and for himself...just so I can contribute."
Look, we can expect that many people, mostly white people (and Brandon Tatum), will say these kids are misguided and that they've fallen for a hoax perpetuated by race-baiting sensationalists, but the fact is that this walkout is only one example of Black people's unwillingness to let Wells' story go. We're not going to stop saying his name just because some people are more invested in silencing Wells' supporters than in actually getting to the bottom of what happened to him.
It's still "Justice for Nolan Wells" until his family, his community, and the rest of us are satisfied that truth and justice are being appropriately pursued. We won't accept "he just died" as a conclusion, and if he wasn't a young, Black man, white America wouldn't either.

Diddy Moved To Solitary After Report Shows Him Living The High Life In NJ Prison

A report from NBC News showed disgraced Hip-Hop mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs living a VIP lifestyle in prison that included liquor and massages.
Sean "Diddy" Combs is back in solitary confinement as he serves out his four-year prison sentence for transporting individuals to engage in prostitution. But this time, he's reportedly been moved there following an NBC News report on the VIP lifestyle he's been allowed to live while in lock-up, where he's been since



Rulings Leave Questions Lingerin in Nolan Wells Case

By Stephanie Gadlin
Black Press USA Wire
A grand jury declines charges in the Nolan Wells case, a Jackson man pleads not guilty in Tasia Fortune's hanging death, and a Maryland suicide ruling lands on raw nerves.
A Mississippi grand jury has declined to charge anyone in the death of Nolan Xavier Wells, the 18-year-old Black college football player who disappeared during a July Fourth boat trip with a group of white friends and was found dead two days later off Horn Island. His parents rejected the decision on Sept. 22, telling reporters they do not believe their son simply drowned and vowing to keep fighting for answers.
The grand jury's report was made public late on Sept. 21, the same week a Jackson man pleaded not guilty to murder in the hanging death of Tasia Fortune and Maryland officials ruled that a Black man found hanging from a tree in Prince George's County died by suicide.
All three cases now join the Crusader's ongoing "Lynchings By Suicide" investigation, which began after Demartravion "Trey" Reed, a 21-year-old Delta State University student, was found hanging from a tree on the Cleveland, Miss., campus on Sept. 15, 2025. The state medical examiner ruled Reed's death a suicide within days, a finding his family continues to dispute.
Nolan Wells: 'We'll Never Stop'
Wells, a wide receiver at Southwest Mississippi Community College, went to Horn Island, a barrier island reachable only by boat, with high school friends on July 4. When the group returned to the mainland that afternoon, Wells was not with them. A park ranger found his body in the water off the island on July 6.
Investigators have long said Wells chose to stay behind. His family never believed it, and an independent autopsy that attorney Ben Crump released in July at the NAACP National Convention in Chicago found an unexplained area of discoloration at the back of Wells' head and ruled the cause of death undetermined.
The grand jury, which heard from 43 witnesses, found Wells' death "consistent with drowning," Jackson County District Attorney Angel Myers McIlrath said there is "absolutely no evidence" that race played a role, according to NBC News. The state medical examiner, however, also ruled the cause and manner of death undetermined.
"Elmore and I do not believe that Nolan simply



Nolan Wells.
and accidentally drowned," Christine Wonsley, Wells' mother, said, according to CNN. His father, Elmore Wonsley, reminded supporters that his son is "not a hashtag, he's our son."
Crump said the district attorney wants the public to accept "We'll never know," while the family answers, "We'll never stop." The family is asking the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate and demanding release of the full case file and the state's autopsy report. Mississippi has no statute of limitations on homicide.
Tasia Fortune: An Arrest, Not an Ending
Fortune, a 29-year-old mother of four, was found Aug. 3 hanging from a tree behind a vacant house on Road of Remembrance in west Jackson. From the start, her family insisted she did not take her own life.
After the state medical examiner ruled her death a homicide on Sept.10, Jackson police arrested Jacques "Jock" Ratliff, 51, the next day as he walked along Capitol Street and charged him with murder. Ratliff is African American, as was Fortune, according to Mississippi Today. Police said the two knew each other but have not said how.
Ratliff pleaded not guilty on Sept. 14 and was denied bond as a flight risk. His attorney, Tony Baldwin, called him "a pillar of the community" and said his client made no confession.
Jackson Police Chief RaShall Brackney called the arrest "not the conclusion" and said more arrests are expected. "We understand this case is

being viewed through a broader lens, a global lens," Brackney said, according to ABC News.
Christy Spivey, Fortune's mother, said that when police told her about the arrest, "I just started crying and told them 'thank you, thank you, thank you.'
Activists want more. Byron Brumfield of Medgar Evers Reloaded: A Mission and a Movement said Ratliff "should be charged with a hate crime also, just like anybody else," according to WLOX. Ward 3 Jackson City Councilman Kenneth Stokes has asked U.S. Attorney Baxter Kruger's office for federal assistance.
Prince George's County: A Ruling in Hours
In Upper Marlboro, Md., a Black man was found hanging from a tree outside a business on D'Arcy Road on the morning of Sept. 20. Within hours, the state medical examiner ruled his death a suicide with no other signs of trauma. He has not been publicly identified.
Police Chief George Nader said the man's family agrees with the ruling. Relatives asked that his name be withheld and said the public attention had made his death "more unbearable," according to the Maryland Daily Record.
County Executive Aisha Braveboy urged residents not to share images or spread speculation online. "This is a tragedy. A person is dead," Braveboy said, according to WUSA9.
A Pattern the Crusader Has Tracked
Mississippi is where Emmett Till, a 14-year-old Chicago boy, was abducted and murdered in 1955, and where Mack Charles Parker was dragged from a Poplarville jail and lynched in 1959.
In February, JULIAN, the civil rights organization founded by attorney Jill Collen Jefferson, released "A Crimson Record," a report documenting more than 70 suspected modern-day lynchings across seven Southern states since 2000. The report calls the federal Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act, signed in 2022, "toothless."
The Wells family is pressing for a federal investigation. Jackson police have promised more arrests in Fortune's killing, and activists are calling for hate crime charges. More than a year after Trey Reed was found on the Delta State campus, his family is still waiting on answers of its own.
Across these cases, families and advocates have made the same demand: release the grand jury findings, the autopsy reports and the evidence behind every ruling.
Based on reporting by Chicago Crusader.

IN MEMORIAM: The Mighty Sparrow, King of Calypso, Dies at Age 91 in New York

By nycaribnews
Black Press USA Wire

USA Charge d’Affaires Margaret B. Diop with the Mighty Sparrow Date 14 January 2015. Author U.S. Embassy Trinidad and TobagoNEW YORK — For anyone raised in the Caribbean, or in a Brooklyn, Bronx, or Queens household where the radio stayed tuned to home, there was never a time without the Mighty Sparrow. His voice was simply part of the furniture of our lives: at Carnival, at weddings, at Sunday lunch, in the car on the way to JFK. On Sunday, that voice went quiet.

Slinger Francisco, known to the world as the Mighty Sparrow, died Sunday, September 27, in New York. He was 91. His family said he passed peacefully after a brief illness, with loved ones at his bedside.

He was born in Grand Roy, Grenada, in 1935, and was still a small child when his family moved to Trinidad. Port of Spain made him. Its yards, its rum shops and its calypso tents gave him his rhythm and his sharp tongue. He sang in a church choir as a boy, but the city had a louder music, and by his late teens he was performing under the name that would become a title.

The breakthrough came in 1956 with “Jean and Dinah,” his mischievous farewell to the American servicemen leaving Trinidad after the war years. The song swept Carnival, winning him both the Road March and the Calypso King crown. It introduced

a young performer who could be funny and fearless at once, who could make an entire nation laugh at itself and then think hard about what it had just laughed at.

He was fearless offstage too. A year after that first crown, he refused to compete over the paltry prize money offered to calypsonians, a stand that helped push the art form toward the respect and the pay its practitioners deserved.

Over six decades, he recorded hundreds of



Mighty Sparrow show ad in New York Amsterdam News Date Published on Jul 26, 1969

songs. He could turn a love story, a boast or a bit of bedroom comedy into a hit, but he was just as formidable when the subject was power. “Dan Is

the Man in the Van” took apart a colonial schooling that taught Caribbean children nonsense about themselves. “Congo Man,” “Mr. Walker,” “The Lizard” and “Both of Them” became standards sung by people who had never set foot in a calypso tent. Long before anyone printed it on a poster, audiences had already crowned him the Calypso King of the World.

For New York’s Caribbean community, Sparrow was never just a visiting star. He made this city his home for many years and played its biggest rooms, including Madison Square Garden, before crowds of immigrants who heard in his voice the islands they had left behind. A Sparrow show here was less a concert than a homecoming.

Trinidad and Tobago honored him with the Trinity Cross, then its highest national award, and generations of calypsonians and soca artists have named him as the standard they measured themselves against. Fans called him “Birdie,” and the affection in that nickname said everything.

Tributes are already pouring in from across the region and the diaspora, and they will keep coming for weeks. But perhaps the truest tribute is the simplest one: somewhere tonight, in Port of Spain, St. George’s, Flatbush and beyond, someone is putting on a Sparrow record, turning it up, and singing along.

Based on reporting by New York Carib News.



USA Charge d’Affaires Margaret B. Diop with the Mighty Sparrow Date 14 January 2015. Author U.S. Embassy Trinidad and Tobago

Consumers and States Awarded \$694 Million After Predatory Auto Lender Settles Lawsuit

By Charlene Crowell,
Special to The InformerBlack Press USA Wire

An estimated 55,000 consumers will benefit from a \$694 million class-action settlement against a predatory auto lender reached by attorneys general in 40 states and the District of Columbia.

The settlement announced on Sept. 18 with Credit Acceptance Corporation (CAC), one of the nation’s largest subprime auto lenders, will provide the following financial relief for affected consumers:

- \$630 million in debt relief for consumers — \$388 million to consumers whose cars have been repossessed; the remaining \$246 million for those whose vehicles have not been repossessed and will now keep their autos.
- \$60 million in restitution to thousands of additional consumers who were misled and lost their cars within months of taking out their loans.
- \$15.5 million in reimbursement to each state office that comprised the multistate working group, and the National Association of Attorneys General.

“CAC preyed on consumers in New York and across the nation with false promises of affordable loans, only to exploit them with outrageous interest rates that ruined their credit and cost them their cars,” said New York Attorney General Letitia James, who led the multi-state effort. “While their customers struggled to make payments, CAC made

millions. By continuing our case to hold CAC accountable, we secured hundreds of millions of dollars in debt relief and restitution for all those who were taken advantage of by their schemes.”

The lawsuit, originally filed in 2023, alleged that CAC projected, down to the penny, how much money it could extract from borrowers through loan payments, late fees, repossession and auction, debt collection, and wage garnishment, without considering a consumer’s ability to repay their loan, according to James. CAC then offered to split the projected collections with its affiliated dealers.

Low-income borrowers with either low credit scores or little credit history were routinely pushed into purchasing vehicles that were worth far less than their loans. CAC states on its own website: “Approval decisions are typically available in 30 seconds or less, and nearly 80 percent of deals are approved for funding within 24 hours.”

Further, CAC misstated key terms on loan agreements, including the principal and interest amounts, and did not disclose thousands of dollars in credit charges. Although the average loan carried an annual interest rate of more than 38%, other rates reached over 100%. These predatory debt trap loans soon defaulted within 12 or 18 months.

“Credit Acceptance Corporation set car buyers up to fail by making loans it knew they would never be able to afford, and by allowing dealers to inflate the cost of financing agreements with hidden add-ons. As a result, the company profited, even while customers lost their cars and continued to struggle with debt,” said District of Columbia Attorney General Brian L. Schwab.

Other state officials had similar reactions to the settlement.

“Credit Acceptance Corporation closed its eyes to deceptive origination practices and made predatory, high-cost auto loans that were likely to result in repossession and leave consumers trapped in a cycle of debt,” said California Attorney General Rob Bonta.

Consumers eligible for restitution will be notified by a claims administrator. Consumers with questions about the settlement can call CAC’s customer service number at 800-634-1506.

The settlement also provides additional terms that will free affected consumers from many of the other financial harms inflicted, while other

stipulations carry long-term, consumer-friendly reforms.

In the short term, CAC must contact and clearly inform consumers of any products they purchased and offer them a process to cancel those

Limiting a price cap for vehicle prices to no more than 109% of retail book value for certain consumers.

Implementing procedures that prevent dealers from raising car prices due to creditworthiness or



Photo by Pixabay on Pexels.com — Pixabay on

products while keeping their vehicles. It must also notify all affected consumers that their car loan accounts have been closed, no further payments are owed, any lien held has been released, and the certificate of title has been sent. Credit bureaus will also be notified of these actions.

For the next five years, CAC is required to submit written reports that demonstrate how it is complying with all aspects of the consent order. Any failure or shortcomings related to the order will prompt a mandatory remediation plan with details that identify how compliance will be achieved.

Other long-term settlement stipulations that CAC must observe:

- Providing consumers with pre-loan disclosures about the risks of default and the value of the vehicle.

above advertised prices.

Comments in a report released earlier this year by the Center for Responsible Lending showed how consumers with subprime credit scores, most of whom are Black, were left reeling from the effects of predatory car loans.

As Nicole, one participating consumer, noted, “You pay that and nothing, nothing ever changes.”

As CAC faces court-ordered reforms and restitution, Nicole and similar consumers can finally receive well-earned financial fairness.

Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

Based on reporting by Washington Informer.

Bakersfield

News Observer

Adjudicated a Newspaper of General Circulation August 11, 1980, Kern County Superior Court Decree, Case No. 16964, Government Code 6023.

Bulk Mailing Permit 724 Bakersfield, CA 93385

Published By Observer Group Newspapers of Southern California, Inc. Corporate Office 1219 20th St. Bakersfield, CA 93301 (661) 324-9466

Member of The National Newspaper Publishers Association, Associated Press, and The Better Business Bureau

President: Ellen Coley
CEO: Jon Coley
Publisher/ Editor: James Luckey Jr.
Operations Manager: James Luckey
Intern: William Clark Coley

Credo-The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from racial and national antagonisms when it accounts to every person, regardless of race, color, or creed full human and legal rights. Hating no person, fearing no person, the Black Press strives to help every person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as any one is held back.

The Observer Group Newspapers reserves the right to publish views and opinions that may not necessarily reflect those of the staff and management and are solely the product of the responsible individuals who submit commentaries published in these newspapers. Letters, articles and comments appearing in the Observer Newspapers reflect the opinions of the contributor and do not constitute the opinion or endorsement by The Observer Newspapers or its staff. The Observer Group Newspapers assumes no responsibility for photographs, articles, letters, press releases and unsolicited materials. Decisions as to the editing and publishing of materials are at the discretion of the Publisher and Editors. All rights are reserved on materials accepted for publication unless otherwise specified.

Bakersfield News Observer
Los Angeles News Observer
The Valley’s News Observer

1219 20th St. Bakersfield, Ca 93301 Mailing Address P.O. Box 2341 Bakersfield, CA 93303 Phone (661) 324-9466 Fax (661) 324-9472
Emails and general info: observernews@gmail.com.
Advertising: observeradvertising@gmail.com
Available online: www.ognsc.com

Why Parents of Children with IEPs Should Know Their School Bus Driver

By Anthony Tilghman
Black Press USA Wire

As the father of a young daughter with autism, I have learned that getting your child to school is not always as simple as putting them on the bus and waiting for them to come home.

When your child has an Individualized Education Program, you pay attention to things other parents may never have to think about.

Who is working with my child today? Does

is incredibly important. The same bus, the same driver, the same seat and the same routine can provide a sense of comfort before the school day even begins.

Then one morning, something changes.

The bus is late. There is a substitute driver. The route changes. The bus does not arrive when expected.

For many families, that is an inconvenience. For some of our children, it can change the entire

every detail of your child’s disability or educational record. But appropriate information about communication, behavior, safety or transitions can help the adults responsible for transporting your child better understand how to support them.

And when a transportation problem occurs, you are no longer starting the conversation with a complete stranger.

That does not mean parents should be responsible for fixing school transportation. We shouldn’t.

School systems remain responsible for providing required transportation services, including services identified in a student’s IEP. When buses are repeatedly late, accommodations are not being followed or transportation problems interfere with a child’s education, parents should document those concerns and raise them with the appropriate school and transportation officials.

Building a relationship with a driver should complement accountability, not replace it.

That distinction is important.

As a father navigating special education, I have learned that advocacy is not only about what happens during an IEP meeting.

Advocacy happens in the hallway. It happens at pickup. It happens through an email to a teacher. And sometimes it happens at the bus stop at 7 o’clock in the morning.

Our children’s educational experience begins before they enter the classroom and continues after they leave it.

Think about the person behind the wheel.

For some children, their bus driver is the first school employee they see every morning and the last one they see every afternoon.

That person is part of your child’s school experience.

So tomorrow morning, if you haven’t already, introduce yourself.

Learn the driver’s name.

Let them learn your child’s name — and, when appropriate, a little about what helps your child succeed.

It won’t prevent every late bus, substitute driver or transportation problem.

But if there is one thing I continue to learn as both a father and an advocate, it is that relationships matter.

And for children with IEPs, one more adult who knows, understands, and cares about your child can make a difference.

Based on reporting by Washington Informer.



Photo by Mary Taylor on Pexels.com — Mary Taylor

this person understand her needs? What happens if her routine suddenly changes? If something goes wrong and she cannot fully explain it to me, who will be able to tell me what happened?

Those questions do not stop at the schoolhouse door. They follow our children onto the school bus.

That is why one of the simplest pieces of advice I can give another parent of a child with an IEP is this: Get to know your child’s bus driver and attendant.

Learn their names. Introduce yourself. Say good morning. Ask how your child is doing on the ride.

Those few minutes can matter more than we realize.

For some children with disabilities, consistency

morning.

As parents, we also know that our children may not always come home and tell us exactly what happened during the ride. That makes the adults who interact with them even more important.

A bus driver may notice that your child suddenly does not want to get on the bus. An attendant may notice that your child seems upset at the same point along the route every day.

They may notice a change in behavior, a problem with another student, or simply that something seems different.

That information can be valuable to a parent. But relationships work both ways.

Parents can also help transportation staff understand our children. You do not have to share

The Last Decade Has Been Great For Black Entertainment

10 Black ‘Oddball’ Films, TV Shows That Prove The Last Decade Has Been Great For Black Entertainment

The last decade should go down as one of the best, most unconventional, freest, least confined, least pigeonholed eras in Black film and TV history.

By Zack Linly

If you ask a lot of Black people — especially Black people of a certain age — what the golden era of Black TV and film is, I imagine most of them would say the 1990s, or maybe the ‘80s. They’d probably say it was the Spike Lee era. The prime Eddie Murphy era. The Cosby Show, A Different World, Martin, Living Single, and Fresh Prince of Bel-Air era.

And they might be right. When I think about my favorite Black classics — Friday, Harlem Nights, Do the Right Thing, Malcolm X, Devil in a Blue Dress — they’re mostly from that era.

Still, whenever I hear people — especially Black people — lament that “they just don’t make ‘em like they used to,” I find myself wanting to sit them down and wake them up to everything they’ve been sleeping on over at least the last 10 years.

In fact, I would argue that the last decade should go down as one of the best and certainly the weirdest, most unconventional, freest, least confined, least pigeonholed, most out-of-the-box eras in Black film and TV history.

Our actors and filmmakers aren’t nearly as confined to the boxes of comedy, rom-com, drama, and historical drama as they’d been for generations. We’re getting surrealism, afro-futurism, and stories that don’t so often have to come with a heaping side of trauma or buffoonery.

I’m just saying, Robert Townsend’s Hollywood Shuffle came out in 1987, and the issues raised in the film continued to plague Black creatives for decades to come. Even shows like Chappelle’s Show and The Boondocks, which were much more nuanced, ended up being cut short due to the interference of white showrunners and executives who were not of the culture and did not care about it.

Now, Black creatives have knocked down all those doors. We’re dabbling in all the genres. We are now in what I like to call our oddball era, and it’s the kind of consistent Black programming I’ve been waiting for my whole life.

That being said, here are some of the best, oddest, most innovative Black movies and TV shows gifted to the entertainment world over the last decade.

Atlanta

Now, I’ve already written about how Donald Glover’s Atlanta is one of the greatest shows in TV history. If someone had only watched the first scene of the pilot, they might have thought it was just another hood dreams show, with a rapper trying to escape street life. And the show was that. And also not that at all. Atlanta was a show that didn’t care about conventional storytelling.

It didn’t care about catering to any particular audience. This was a hilarious, dramatic, weird, surrealist, artistic masterpiece that can’t be categorized in a single genre, and had a method to its madness that was simply up to the viewer to navigate. And what a ride it was. This series catapulted the careers of Brian Tyree Henry, LaKeith Stanfield, and Zazie Beetz because those three actors,



Sinners trailer Source: Warner Bros. Pictures / Warner Bros.

teamed up with Glover, brought to life some of the most well-written and well-crafted characters in TV history, and they bodied those roles. The show was that good, and it left us wanting so much more.

Insecure

First of all, we can’t even talk about HBO’s Insecure without talking about what preceded it: Issa Rae’s hit web series Awkward Black Girl. Rae gave us her authentic self: a quirky, awkward, nerdy-but-still-very-much-Blackity-Black girl, navigating relationships, her career ambitions, and the day-to-day of living in her skin.

Then, in 2016, not long after Atlanta came to FX, Insecure came to HBO. Issa Rae blessed the world with Issa Dee and an ensemble cast of friends, boyfriends, love interests, enemies, frenemies, and neighborhood characters with neighborhood shenanigans, living the millennial life in Los Angeles. Insecure was far from your average rom-com. It kept a focus on dating and relationships, but it also addressed racism, anti-Blackness, the public education system, the world of Black art and Black writers. And don’t get me started on Issa’s solo freestyle sessions in the mirror.

This show was an instant classic for a reason.

The Get Down

If anyone were to ask what canceled show I would bring back if I could, I’m answering The Get Down every time. This series about the birth of hip-hop — depicted through a more modernized lens — was an ode to the culture that never got the accolades it deserved. The style, the cinematography, the celebration of Black music, including rap music and the genres that inspired it — it was a fictionalized hip-hop history lesson told from its birthplace in the South Bronx. It had all the makings of a cultural masterpiece. It would’ve been nice to see where that ride was going.

Get Out

When I first saw Jordan Peele’s thriller-slash-horror-slash-dark comedy Get Out in the theater in 2017, I was blown away. I went in not knowing what

to expect—but it wasn’t that. When I saw the trailer for Get Out, with a Black guy (Daniel Kaluuya) and his white girlfriend (Allison Williams) pulled over to the side of a road in the middle of nowhere, being questioned by the police, I half expected it to be another movie that tries to tackle racism, but ends up doing so in ways that are ham-fisted and corny. But Peele hit it out of the park with a clever, spooky, funny, brilliant piece of art with a fresh approach to confronting racial dynamics in America. Such a great film. And so wonderfully weird.

Sorry to Bother You

Alright, it’s time for us to enter into the wild world of rapper, producer, songwriter, and filmmaker Boots Riley, and talk about his first feature film, Sorry to Bother You. In this dark comedy-slash-sci-fi-slash-sociopolitical satire-slash-rom-com-kinda, Cassius “Cash” Green, played by LaKeith Stanfield (y’all remember him from Get Out and Atlanta; I told you that show made them all stars), is a Black telemarketer in Oakland who uses a “white voice” to achieve massive corporate success before uncovering a massive biological conspiracy. It’s like Living Large if that movie did LSD. It’s really weird, and awesome.

A Black Lady Sketch Show

Another Black gem that was cut short before it really got to shine as bright as it might have was Robin Thede’s A Black Lady Sketch Show, which, of course, did bless us with four seasons, so I won’t complain too much. This Emmy Award-winner, which made history by having the first all-Black women’s writers’ room, turned the sketch comedy genre on its head. The sketches were smart and original. Even when they weren’t necessarily laugh-out-loud funny, you would still marvel at the creativity. Not since Chappelle’s Show had I seen a sketch comedy series that made me ask, “Who could even think of that?” as often as BLSS.

Lovecraft Country

OK, this is another one that is hard to explain to people who have never seen it. Misha Green’s

Lovecraft Country is basically Indiana Jones if the wicked curse our heroes were trying to save the world from was white people. I’m joking — kinda. This story begins with Atticus Freeman, a young Black veteran played by Jonathan Majors, embarking on a journey across the U.S. in search of his father, Montrose Freeman (Michael K. Williams). Joined by his friend Letitia (Jurnee Smollett) and his Uncle George (Courtney B. Vance), Atticus and his team end up on a dark, twisted adventure that, again, you would just have to see for yourself. Lovecraft Country is another Black show that got canceled far too soon, especially considering how popular it was. It’s a shame how much harder our brilliant creatives have to be in an industry that has defaulted to whiteness for the overwhelming majority of its existence. A damn shame.

The Book of Clarence

Stanfield is back again in Jeymes Samuel’s 2023 biblical comedy-drama film The Book of Clarence. In this religious satire, Clarence is a down-on-his-luck resident of 33 AD Jerusalem, where he’s in deep debt to a local loan shark named Jedediah the Terrible, who lives up to his moniker. Anyway, a bunch of other stuff happens, and Clarence starts his own ministry, or cult, or alternative Jesus following, or something like that. Clarence is basically performing “miracles” behind a paywall. I won’t give away anything else. It’s a great film. Go watch it if you haven’t yet.

They Cloned Tyrone

“I ain’t been right with Jesus since I pimped this girl named Mary!” — I swear this was my third favorite Jamie Foxx role behind Ray and Django Unchained.

They Cloned Tyrone is another piece of beautiful Black art that, much like Atlanta, is like a Trojan Horse that comes to you looking like a regular-degular hood flick, but then busts out of its sides, revealing a sci-fi mystery comedy about a secret government shadow conspiracy controlling an inner-city neighborhood called The Glen, where the lead character, Fontaine (John Boyega), is a local drug dealer who gets shot and killed one night, kinda, but not really. Fontaine, back from the kinda-but-not-really-dead, works with local pinp Slick Charles (Foxx) and sex worker-slash-aspiring detective Yo-Yo (Teyonah Parris) to uncover a mystery you just have to see to believe.

Sinners

Alright, y’all, I’m not even going to insult your Black intelligence by trying to tell you anything you don’t already know about Ryan Coogler’s masterpiece, Sinners. You already know, and if you don’t, we at NewsOne have already talked about it at length here, here, here, here, here, here, here, and here. I mean, it — it was kind of a big deal.

In fact, all you really need to know about the greatness that is Sinners is this...

This is a short list of Black films and TV shows that could have gone on and on. It could’ve included I’m A Virgo, I Love Boosters, The Harder They Fall, Swarm, The Vince Staples Show, Us, Nope, HBO’s Watchmen, Supacell, Grand Crew, Abbott Elementary, and everything else I’ll probably kick myself for not remembering to include later. It has been a great decade for Black entertainment, y’all. The doors have all been kicked down, and our creatives are running through them three or four at a time. Don’t sleep on that.

Why Black Artists Struggle to Sell Tours

By Amaka Watson
Black Press USA Wire

The internet chatter about Black artists struggling to sell concert tickets points to a much larger crisis reshaping the touring business, according to recent industry reporting and artists’ own comments.

Since spring 2026, a wave of major touring acts across genres have canceled or postponed shows due to sluggish ticket sales, a trend some in the industry have dubbed “blue dot fever,” a reference to the blue markers that indicate empty seats on Ticketmaster’s

venue maps.

The phenomenon is not limited to Black performers, but several recent examples involving Black artists have fueled online conversation about whether Black touring acts face extra hurdles. For a market like Houston, home to a large hip-hop and R&B fan base and a steady stream of major tour stops, the debate carries added weight.

Here are five reasons the touring business has gotten tougher for artists trying to fill seats.

Blue dot fever is spreading industrywide

View this post on Instagram

A post

shared by CBS Mornings (@cbsmornings)

Black hip-hop megastars like Ludacris, T.I., Rick Ross, and BigXThaPlug felt the impact of Blue Dot Fever after struggling to sell tickets. Industry watchers say many artists are being booked into venues too large for their current draw, leaving sections visibly empty, discouraging last-minute buyers. The trend cuts across genres, but it has compounded challenges already facing some Black touring artists this year.

Fans keep comparing every artist to music’s biggest superstars

Grammy-winning singer Melanie Fiona recently weighed in on the online conversation about canceled shows and slow sales, explaining that most artists do not have the resources or reach of music’s top-tier headliners. The trade outlet Ticket News has made a similar point, noting that few artists can match the pricing structure or demand generated by superstar-level tours. When any artist falls short of that bar, fans and social media users are quick to call it a flop, even when the artist is still performing at a healthy level for their career stage.

Stadium bookings are outpacing actual demand

A hip-hop stadium concert set to take place in Louisville in October 2026, featuring Ludacris, T.I., Rick Ross, and BigXThaPlug, reportedly had nearly 47,000 seats still available as showtime approached. The example illustrates a broader booking problem. Venues sized for arena or stadium crowds do not always match the number of fans willing or able to buy tickets, regardless of an artist’s streaming numbers or name recognition. Some promoters are now facing pressure to book smaller, more intimate venues that better match an act’s current draw.

Rising costs are squeezing fans’ entertainment budgets

Housing, groceries, and everyday expenses have climbed for many households, and live music



The struggle for modern Black artists in hip-hop and R&B to sell out concert tours is influenced by high ticket prices, changing fan demographics, and increasing production costs. Credit: Gemini

is often one of the first expenses fans cut. Older or legacy acts leaning on nostalgia appear to be hit hardest, since higher ticket and fee prices make attending a bigger financial decision than it once was. Newer or lower-profile Black artists competing for the same limited entertainment dollars face an uphill climb, especially when fans have to choose between one or two shows a year instead of several.

Black artists in hip-hop and R&B often compete for airplay and playlist placement within genre-specific categories rather than mainstream ones, which can limit the crossover exposure that turns streaming success into ticket sales. Artists working outside those two genres, including gospel, jazz, and Afrobeats-influenced acts, face a similar challenge in reaching audiences beyond their dedicated fan bases. Whether that structural gap is driving today’s sales slump remains an open question that industry analysts and artists are actively debating.

South Central Artist Turns the Hollywood Bowl into a One-night “Funk Opera”

By OGNESC Staff

LOS ANGELES — The Hollywood Bowl looked a lot like South Central on Sept. 29, when visual artist Lauren Halsey took over the entire amphitheater for emajendat, a one-night event she described as a “funk opera.”

Halsey, a native Angeleno whose large-scale sculptures and installations have been shown at museums around the world, remade the Bowl from the entrance to the stage. Grounds opened at 6 p.m. with carnival-style games, a basketball booth, a Double Dutch area and installations built from her signature collage of hand-painted signs and neighborhood imagery. The headline concert followed at 8 p.m.

Erykah Badu and producer The Alchemist topped the bill, performing ahead of their upcoming collaborative album. Anderson .Paak spun as his alter ego DJ Pee .Wee, Red Hot Chili Peppers bassist Flea sat in, and the Charles Gaines Collective joined L.A. jazz group Black Nile and saxophonist Devin Daniels. Actress Yvonne Orji of “Insecure” hosted. The night closed with fireworks.

The title, pronounced “imagine that,” comes from Halsey’s 2024 exhibition at London’s Serpentine galleries. She has said the Bowl project grew out of her relationship with Badu, whom she

invited to DJ the Hammer Museum’s 2025 gala, where Halsey was honored alongside Jane Fonda.

Halsey told LAist she wanted to bring her



work to what she calls “the people’s venue” and reach audiences who may never set foot in a gallery. She also hopes the sold-out evening serves as proof of concept for more artist-led takeovers of major stages.

Tickets had ranged from \$44 to \$209. The LA Phil, which runs the Bowl, announced the event in April as a late addition to its 2026 season.

SKYLIGHT GUITARS

BIG CITY SELECTION • NOT BIG CITY PRICES

Buy • Sell • Trade

Quality Guitars • Fair Prices • No Nonsense

- GIBSON
- FENDER
- CUSTOM SHOP
- VINTAGE & HARD-TO-FIND

REPAIRS • SETUPS • CONSIGNMENTS

WE BUY GUITARS!

1221 20th Street Bakersfield CA 93301
(661) 432-1492
SKYLIGHTGUITARS.COM

★★★★ 5-STAR RATED • LOCALLY OWNED ★★

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

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: November 6, 2026
Time: 8:30 A.M. Dept: J1 Room:

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.

Attorney for Petitioner:
IAN ISAAC BRADY, ESQ.
OF KAHN, SOARES & CONWAY, LLP
219 North Douty Street,
Hanford, CA 93230
Telephone: (559) 584-3337

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 23, 30, Oct 7, 2026

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 26CLM00350
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): TERESA WILLIFORD, an individual; and DOES 1 to 10, inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO) EL DEMANDANTE): DEERE & COMPANY, a corporation
NOTICE !
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.

AVISOS! 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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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: November 6, 2026
Time: 8:30 A.M. Dept: J1 Room:

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.

Attorney for Petitioner:
IAN ISAAC BRADY, ESQ.
OF KAHN, SOARES & CONWAY, LLP
219 North Douty Street,
Hanford, CA 93230
Telephone: (559) 584-3337

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 23, 30, Oct 7, 2026

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 26CLM00350
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): TERESA WILLIFORD, an individual; and DOES 1 to 10, inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO) EL DEMANDANTE): DEERE & COMPANY, a corporation
NOTICE !
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.

AVISOS! 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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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 desear 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
1773 Hwy 58,
Mojave, CA 93501
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): James MacLeod (249145); Christina C. MacLeod (283945) THE DUNNING LAW FIRM, APC 9619 Chesapeake Dr., Suite 210,
San Diego, CA 92123
TEL (858) 974-7600
DATE (Fecha): April 1, 2026
Tara Leal, Clerk (Secretario)
By: Janise Reese, Deputy (Adjunto)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED:
You are served.

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: 26CUB03405

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: JIMEKA ROCHELLE JOHNSON
FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: JIMEKA ROCHELLE JOHNSON Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name: JIMEKA ROCHELLE JOHNSON
Proposed name: MEKAAH OSBORNE
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 9, 2026
Time: 08:30 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 1, 2026
Gina M. Cervantes, Judicial Officer
By: Vanessa Guerra, Deputy Clerk
Petitioner: Jimeka Rochelle Johnson
3901 Q St #5A, Bakersfield, CA 93301
661-218-0437

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5609
Doing business as:
REALIZA TAPATIA JEWELRY REPAIR at 206 MCCORD AVE APT 2, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308, KERN
Mailing address: 206 MCCORD AVE APT 2, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): SERGIO URIBE SUAREZ at 206 MCCORD AVE APT 2, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
County: Kern
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: SERGIO URIBE SUAREZ
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: 09/14/2026
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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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: 09/14/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5405
Doing business as:
PONCE CLEANING at 4301 FRUITVALE AVE APT 222, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
Mailing address: 4301 FRUITVALE AVE APT 222, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): JORCHI KENNY HERRERA ARROYO at 4301 FRUITVALE AVE APT 222, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: JORCHI KENNY HERRERA ARROYO
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: 09/02/2026
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: 09/02/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5629
Doing business as:
FOSTER PROCESS SERVICES at 7107 MING AVE APT 42, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 7107 MING AVE APT 42, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): JOSHUA IMAN FOSTER at 7107 MING AVE APT 42, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: JOSHUA IMAN FOSTER
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: 09/15/2026
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: 09/15/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5657
Doing business as:
CALREY TECHNOLOGY at 2900 PEEERLESS AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308, KERN
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): AUNER ENRIQUE CALDERON LOPEZ at 2900 PEEERLESS AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: AUNER ENRIQUE CALDERON LOPEZ
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: 09/16/2026
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: 09/16/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5679
Doing business as:
PRIMOS TIRES AND AUTO REPAIR at 2599 1/2 S UNION AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
Mailing address: 2599 1/2 S UNION AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): RICARDO OCEGUERA ALMARAZ at 2599 1/2 S UNION AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: RICARDO OCEGUERA ALMARAZ
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: 09/16/2026
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: 09/16/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5547
Doing business as:
BLANQUITAS AGUITAS at 6032 MOONSTONE PEAK DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
Mailing address: 6032 MOONSTONE PEAK DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): BLANCA ESTELA RAMOS at 6032 MOONSTONE PEAK DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: BLANCA ESTELA RAMOS

PUBLIC NOTICE

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5390
Doing business as:
BAKERSFIELD ELITE BOXING GYM at 4440 GRISSOM ST #102, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 4440 GRISSOM ST #102, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): ANDREW LEO LOPEZ at 4440 GRISSOM ST #102, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: ANDREW LEO LOPEZ
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: 08/27/2026
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: 08/27/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5537
Doing business as:
TATEDBYADRIAN at 3250 COFFEE RD, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 3250 COFFEE RD, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): ADRIAN LOERA CARRILLO at 3250 COFFEE RD, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: ADRIAN LOERA CARRILLO
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: 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: 09/10/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5734
Doing business as:
NXT UP REGISTRATION SERVICES at 1211 CHESTER AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: P.O. BOX 12649, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93389
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): AVP MANAGEMENT, LLC at 1211 CHESTER AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: Paul Nesheiwat, 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: 09/18/2026
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: 09/18/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5714
Doing business as:
M & N TREASURES AND COLLECTIBLES at 6110 SMOKY QUARTZ DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 6110 SMOKY QUARTZ DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): NANCY ELIZABETH CAMACHO at 6110 SMOKY QUARTZ DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
MANUEL CHAVEZ at 6110 SMOKY QUARTZ DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
The business is conducted by: Married Couple
SIGNED: Manuel Chavez
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 09/01/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/18/2026
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: 09/18/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5670
Doing business as:
THE DIVINE TOUCH at 3020 STINE RD #13, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 3020 STINE RD #13, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): PROMISE DIVINE CRADDOCK at 3020 STINE RD #13, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: PROMISE DIVINE CRADDOCK
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 07/01/2022
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/16/2026
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: 09/16/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5735
Doing business as:
NXT UP INSURANCE SERVICES at 1211 CHESTER AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: P.O. BOX 12649, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93389
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): AVP MANAGEMENT, LLC at P.O. BOX 12649, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93389
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: Paul Nesheiwat, 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: 09/18/2026
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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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: 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: 09/10/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5736
Doing business as:
NXT UP at 1211 CHESTER AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: P.O. BOX 12649, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93389
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): AVP MANAGEMENT, LLC at 1211 CHESTER AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: Paul Nasheiwat, 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: 09/18/2026
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: 09/18/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5734
Doing business as:
NXT UP REGISTRATION SERVICES at 1211 CHESTER AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: P.O. BOX 12649, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93389
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): AVP MANAGEMENT, LLC at 1211 CHESTER AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: Paul Nesheiwat, 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: 09/18/2026
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: 09/18/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2022-B4665
Business Name you wish to abandon:
DRIPPED OUT BABES at 13017 NANTUCKET PL, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
Mailing Address: same
County: KERN
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name: DRIPPED OUT BABES LLC at 13017 NANTUCKET PL, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
SIGNED: ATHANASIA KIUFFIS, CEO
The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: 07/01/2022
Original File No: 2022-B4665
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: 09/18/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
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: 09/18/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2026-B4832
Business Name you wish to abandon:
CALREY TECHNOLOGY at 2900 PEEERLESS AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
Mailing address: same
County: KERN
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name: AUNER ENRIQUE CALDERON at 2900 PEEERLESS AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
SIGNED: AUNER ENRIQUE

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: 09/18/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5736
Doing business as:
NXT UP at 1211 CHESTER AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: P.O. BOX 12649, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93389
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): AVP MANAGEMENT, LLC at 1211 CHESTER AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: Paul Nasheiwat, 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: 09/18/2026
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: 09/18/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2022-B4665
Business Name you wish to abandon:
DRIPPED OUT BABES at 13017 NANTUCKET PL, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
Mailing Address: same
County: KERN
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name: DRIPPED OUT BABES LLC at 13017 NANTUCKET PL, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
SIGNED: ATHANASIA KIUFFIS, CEO
The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: 07/01/2022
Original File No: 2022-B4665
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: 09/18/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
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: 09/18/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2026-B4832
Business Name you wish to abandon:
CALREY TECHNOLOGY at 2900 PEEERLESS AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
Mailing address: same
County: KERN
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name: AUNER ENRIQUE CALDERON at 2900 PEEERLESS AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
SIGNED: AUNER ENRIQUE

PUBLIC NOTICE

CALDERON, Owner
The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: 08/06/2026
Original File No: 2026-B4832
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: 09/16/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
S 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
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 23, 30

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

ADMINISTER ESTATE OF SHARON BARGER CASE NUMBER: 26PRJ00965

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of SHARON BARGER. **A PETITION FOR PROBATE** has been filed by DANIELLE CASTRO in the SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF KERN. 2100 COLLEGE AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305 Juvenile Justice Center. **THE PETITION FOR PROBATE** requests that DANIELLE CASTRO 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: October 29, 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:** DANIELLE CASTRO 6620 FRANKLIN AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306 Telephone: 661-932-7457 **BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER** **PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 2026**

SUMMONS (CITATION JUDICIAL)

CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 26CLB00420

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): Brian Chuong Nghiem, an individual; and Does 1 through 20, inclusive

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): AltaOne Federal Credit Union

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!** Lohan demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, 10 corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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. 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 de 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 desearchar 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, 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): Thomas J. Prenovost, Jr. (SBN 77813) Prenovost, Normandin, Dawe & Rocha, 2122 North Broadway, Suite 200, Santa Ana, California 92706 Tel. (714) 547-2444 DATE (Fecha): February 23, 2026 Tara Leal, Clerk (Secretario) (SEAL) By: Sadie Cazares, Deputy (Adjunto) **NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED:** You are served. **BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER** **PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026**

Summons - BCV-25-100923

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMAN DO): SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

CURTIS DEAN FITTS, an individual; CAROLEE KIT FITTS, an individual; SOLARCITY CORPORATION, a corporation; SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, a government agency; TESLA, INC., a Delaware Corporation; THE ESTATE OF CURTIS DEAN FITTS; THE TESTATE AND INTESSTATE SUCCESSORS OF CURTIS DEAN FITTS; THE ESTATE OF CAROLEE KIT FITTS; THE TESTATE AND INTESSTATE SUCCESSORS OF CAROLEE KIT FITTS and DOES 6 through 25, inclusive, **YOU ARE BEING SUED BY: BANKUNITED, N.A.,** **NOTICE!** 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 11en 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!** Lohan demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, 10 corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lea la Informacion a continuacion. Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDAR IO 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 11aya 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 mas cerca. Si no puedc1 pagar la cuota de presentación, Pida al secretario de 10 corte que le de un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llamea un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión de 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 del 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 cte derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desearchar el caso. The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Kern County Superior Court 1215 TRUXTON AVE BAKERFIELD, CA 93301 CASE NUMBER: (Numero del Caso): BCV-25-100923 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): Name Brian S. Thomley #275132 Street Address: Malcolm Cisneros, A Law Corporation,4 Venturo, Suite 395, Irvine, CA 2618 Telephone Number: (949) 252-9400 Email Address: bthomley@mclaw.org **BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER** **PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026**

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER 26CUB03685

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: LUCIA OROZCO FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: LUCIA OROZCO Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present name LORENZO MATEO HERNANDEZ Proposed name MATEO HERNANDEZ

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 17, 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 18, 2026

Cynthia L. Loo, Judicial Officer

By: Monique Silva, Deputy Clerk

Petitioner: Lucia Orozco 5005 Oswell Park Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93307 661-809-9027 **BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER** **PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026**

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER 26CUB03520

Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN

1215 TRUXTUN AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301

KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT - CIVIL DIVISION

PETITION OF: KAYLEEN MARIE TELLEZ

FOT CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: KAYLEEN MARIE TELLEZ Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present name

PUBLIC NOTICE

KAYLEEN MARIE TELLEZ

Proposed name **KAYLEEN MARIE BELLE JACKSON**

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 24, 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 22, 2026

Gina M. Cervantes, Judicial Officer

By: Monique Silva, Deputy Clerk

Petitioner: KAYLEEN MARIE TELLEZ 12519 VALENTANO AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312 (928) 350-0605 **BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER** **PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-B5223

Doing business as: ZANIS at 4601 CHALET ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313 Mailing address: 4601 CHALET ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): HSZ11313 INC at 4601 CHALET ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313 State of incorp. or org.: CA The business is conducted by: Corporation SIGNED: SUKHMAN GREWAL, 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: 08/25/2026 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: 08/25/2031 **BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER** **PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-B5701

FILE NO: 2026-B5702

FILE NO: 2026-B5703

Doing business as: FROST MEDIA / FROSTSPORTSMEDIA / FROSTMEDIASERVICES at 16041 SCREAMING EAGLE AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314, KERN COUNTY Mailing address: 16041 SCREAMING EAGLE AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): TYLER JOSEPH FROST at 16041 SCREAMING EAGLE AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314 The business is conducted by: Individual SIGNED: TYLER JOSEPH FROST The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 01/14/2025 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/17/2026 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: 09/21/2031 **BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER** **PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-B5209

FILE NO: 2026-B5210

FILE NO: 2026-B5211

FILE NO: 2026-B5212

FILE NO: 2026-B5213

FILE NO: 2026-B5214

Doing business as: Hronis Ranch / Sierra Vista / Grapeco / Hronis Vineyards / Hronis Farms / Hronis at 10443 Hronis Rd., Delano, CA 93215, Kern County Mailing address: 10443 Hronis Rd., Delano, CA 93215 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): Ag Funding SC III LLC at 5465 Mills Civic Parkway, Suite 201, West Des Moines, IA 50266 State of incorp. or org.: DE The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company SIGNED: Mark A. Smith, Secretary The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/18/2026 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/24/2026 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: 09/21/2031 **BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER** **PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-B5395

Doing business as: M AND M SERVICES at 723 BUTTE ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305, KERN COUNTY Mailing address: 515 TEAKWOOD DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): MICHAEL GARCIA at 723 BUTTE ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305 The business is conducted by: Individual SIGNED: MICHAEL 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: 09/02/2026 AIMEE X. ESPINOZA

PUBLIC NOTICE

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: 09/02/2031 **BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER** **PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-B5631

Doing business as: BAKERSFIELD BEAUTY CO. at 1915 F ST., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301, KERN COUNTY Mailing address: 1915 F ST., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): MARY EVANGELINE SWANLUND at 1915 F ST., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301 BREAANNA ASHLEY REIMER at 1915 F ST., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301 The business is conducted by: General Partnership SIGNED: Mary Swanlund 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: 09/15/2026 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: 09/15/2031 **BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER** **PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-B5756

Doing business as: SPROUTS AND BASILS PHO RESTAURANT at 428 HIGH ST SUITE H, DELANO, CA 93215, KERN COUNTY Mailing address: 327 BALBOA DR, DELANO, CA 93215 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): ROXANNE PATTON CLAVERIA at 327 BALBOA DR, DELANO, CA 93215 The business is conducted by: Individual SIGNED: ROXANNE PATTON CLAVERIA 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: 09/21/2026 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: 09/21/2031 **BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER** **PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-B5209

FILE NO: 2026-B5210

FILE NO: 2026-B5211

FILE NO: 2026-B5212

FILE NO: 2026-B5213

FILE NO: 2026-B5214

Doing business as: Hronis Ranch / Sierra Vista / Grapeco / Hronis Vineyards / Hronis Farms / Hronis at 10443 Hronis Rd., Delano, CA 93215, Kern County Mailing address: 10443 Hronis Rd., Delano, CA 93215 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): Ag Funding SC III LLC at 5465 Mills Civic Parkway, Suite 201, West Des Moines, IA 50266 State of incorp. or org.: DE The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company SIGNED: Mark A. Smith, Secretary The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/18/2026 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/24/2026 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: 09/21/2031 **BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER** **PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-B5209

FILE NO: 2026-B5210

FILE NO: 2026-B5211

FILE NO: 2026-B5212

FILE NO: 2026-B5213

FILE NO: 2026-B5214

Doing business as: Hronis Ranch / Sierra Vista / Grapeco / Hronis Vineyards / Hronis Farms / Hronis at 10443 Hronis Rd., Delano, CA 93215, Kern County Mailing address: 10443 Hronis Rd., Delano, CA 93215 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): Ag Funding SC III LLC at 5465 Mills Civic Parkway, Suite 201, West Des Moines, IA 50266 State of incorp. or org.: DE The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company SIGNED: Mark A. Smith, Secretary The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/18/2026 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/24/2026 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: 09/21/2031 **BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER** **PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-B5209

FILE NO: 2026-B5210

FILE NO: 2026-B5211

FILE NO: 2026-B5212

FILE NO: 2026-B5213

FILE NO: 2026-B5214

Doing business as: Hronis Ranch / Sierra Vista / Grapeco / Hronis Vineyards / Hronis Farms / Hronis at 10443 Hronis Rd., Delano, CA 93215, Kern County Mailing address: 10443 Hronis Rd., Delano, CA 93215 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): Ag Funding SC III LLC at 5465 Mills Civic Parkway, Suite 201, West Des Moines, IA 50266 State of incorp. or org.: DE The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company SIGNED: Mark A. Smith, Secretary The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/18/2026 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/24/2026 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: 09/21/2031 **BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER** **PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-B5209

FILE NO: 2026-B5210

FILE NO: 2026-B5211

FILE NO: 2026-B5212

FILE NO: 2026-B5213

FILE NO: 2026-B5214

Doing business as: Hronis Ranch / Sierra Vista / Grapeco / Hronis Vineyards / Hronis Farms / Hronis at 10443 Hronis Rd., Delano, CA 93215, Kern County Mailing address: 10443 Hronis Rd., Delano, CA 93215 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): Ag Funding SC III LLC at 5465 Mills Civic Parkway, Suite 201, West Des Moines, IA 50266 State of incorp. or org.: DE The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company SIGNED: Mark A. Smith, Secretary The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/18/2026 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/24/2026 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: 09/21/2031 **BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER** **PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-B5209

FILE NO: 2026-B5210

FILE NO: 2026-B5211

FILE NO: 2026-B5212

FILE NO: 2026-B5213

FILE NO: 2026-B5214

Doing business as: Hronis Ranch / Sierra Vista / Grapeco / Hronis Vineyards / Hronis Farms / Hronis at 10443 Hronis Rd., Delano, CA 93215, Kern County Mailing address: 10443 Hronis Rd., Delano, CA 93215 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): Ag Funding SC III LLC at 5465 Mills Civic Parkway, Suite 201, West Des Moines, IA 50266 State of incorp. or org.: DE The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company SIGNED: Mark A. Smith, Secretary The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/18/2026 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/24/2026 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: 09/21/2031 **BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER** **PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-B5209

FILE NO: 2026-B5210

FILE NO: 2026-B5211

FILE NO: 2026-B5212

FILE NO: 2026-B5213

FILE NO: 2026-B5214

Doing business as: Hronis Ranch / Sierra Vista / Grapeco / Hronis Vineyards / Hronis Farms / Hronis at 10443 Hronis Rd., Delano, CA 93215, Kern County Mailing address: 10443 Hronis Rd., Delano, CA 93215 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): Ag Funding SC III LLC at 5465 Mills Civic Parkway, Suite 201, West Des Moines, IA 50266 State of incorp. or org.: DE The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company SIGNED: Mark A. Smith, Secretary The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/18/2026 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/24/2026 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: 09/21/2031 **BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER** **PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-B5209

FILE NO: 2026-B5210

FILE NO: 2026-B5211

FILE NO: 2026-B5212

FILE NO: 2026-B5213

FILE NO: 2026-B5214

Doing business as: Hronis Ranch / Sierra Vista / Grapeco / Hronis Vineyards / Hronis Farms / Hronis at 10443 Hronis Rd., Delano, CA 93215, Kern County Mailing address: 10443 Hronis Rd., Delano, CA 93215 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): Ag Funding SC III LLC at 5465 Mills Civic Parkway, Suite 201, West Des Moines, IA 50266 State of incorp. or org.: DE The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company SIGNED: Mark A. Smith, Secretary The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/18/2026 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/24/2026 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: 09/21/2031 **BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER** **PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-B5209

FILE NO: 2026-B5210

FILE NO: 2026-B5211

FILE NO: 2026-B5212

FILE NO: 2026-B5213

FILE NO: 2026-B5214

Doing business as: Hronis Ranch / Sierra Vista / Grapeco / Hronis Vineyards / Hronis Farms / Hronis at 10443 Hronis Rd., Delano, CA 93215, Kern County Mailing address: 10443 Hronis Rd., Delano, CA 93215 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): Ag Funding SC III LLC at 5465 Mills Civic Parkway, Suite 201, West Des Moines, IA 50266 State of incorp. or org.: DE The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company SIGNED: Mark A. Smith, Secretary The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/18/2026 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/24/2026 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: 09/21/2031 **BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER** **PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 2026**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-B5209

FILE NO: 2026-B5210

FILE NO: 2026-B5211

FILE NO: 2026-B5212

FILE NO: 2026-B5213

FILE NO: 2026-B5214

Doing business as: Hronis Ranch / Sierra Vista / Grapeco / Hronis Vineyards / Hronis Farms / Hronis at 10443 Hronis Rd., Delano, CA 93215, Kern County Mailing address: 10443 Hronis Rd., Delano, CA 93215 County: Kern Full name of registrant(s): Ag Funding SC III LLC at 5465 Mills Civic Parkway, Suite 201, West Des Moines, IA 50266 State of incorp. or org.: DE The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company SIGNED: Mark A. Smith, Secretary The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/18/2

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

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)
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): 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): Nwrez 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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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,

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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 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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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-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: 09/29/2031
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**

PUBLIC NOTICE

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: 10/02/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2026-B3028
Business Name you wish to abandon:
LA HACIENDA GRILL, INC. at 9910 ROSEDALE HWY SUITE H, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
Mailing Address: 10907 CILANTRO AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
County: KERN
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name: **LA HACIENDA GRILL, INC.** at 9910 ROSEDALE HWY SUITE H, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
SIGNED: **BRUCE ESCALANTE, PRESIDENT**
The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: 05/12/2026
Original File No: 2026-B3028
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: 09/28/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
D HINOJOSA
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 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
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
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026



Observer
follow us for the latest updates!



@bakersfieldnewsobserver

@lanewsobserver

@ognscinc

@ognscinc

observer news group
of southern california inc.

ognsc.com

Features

From Ma Rainey to AI: New Technology Amplifies an Old Fight over Artist Control

By La Tetra Metts-Owens
Black Press USA Wire
In August Wilson’s “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom,” Ma Rainey fights to control what happens to her music once she enters the recording studio. Today, musicians are confronting a new question: What happens when artificial intelligence can profit from the identity attached to their music?

Round House Theatre’s production of “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom,” which runs through Oct. 18 in Bethesda, Maryland, brings an older struggle over artistic control to the stage. Set during a recording session in 1920s Chicago, Wilson’s play follows Ma and her band as conflicts over art, money and control expose the imbalance between the musicians creating the work and the people conducting the business around it. That same question of who can profit from an artist’s value is now being tested in a very different setting nearly a century later.

The set of Round House Theatre’s production of August Wilson’s “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom” recreates a 1920s Chicago recording studio, where the play’s conflicts over music, money and control unfold. (Photo: La Tetra Metts-Owens/HUNewsService.com)

Musicians Jason Isbell, David Lowery, Guy Forsyth and Eduardo Calle filed a class-action lawsuit on Aug. 31 against AI music company Suno. They allege that the company commercially exploits artists through an AI system capable of generating music imitating artists’ identities and styles without permission. Suno disputes the allegations.

The U.S. Copyright Office has also studied AI-generated digital replicas and recommended federal legislation to address gaps in protections against unauthorized replicas of a person’s voice or appearance. Its broader AI inquiry received more than 10,000 public comments.

For Nicole Michelle Haskins, who portrays Ma Rainey in the Round House production, the struggle over power begins with understanding Ma as more than a demanding recording star.

“She is the only advocate she has,” Haskins said. “The choices presented to her are to surrender or fight. Ma chooses to fight.”

Nicole Michelle Haskins as Ma Rainey confronts Michael Glenn as her manager, Irvin, as Jaylen Henderson as Sylvester looks on. (Photo: Teresa Castracane/Round House Theatre)

Haskins said Ma enters the recording studio knowing the value that she brings, even as the people around her repeatedly challenge her decisions. She exercises her leverage and pushes back when others attempt to dictate how the session will proceed.

The real Gertrude “Ma” Rainey was one of the earliest Black women to record blues commercially. Between 1923 and 1928, she made more than 100 recordings for Paramount Records, according to the Smithsonian.

One surviving agreement shows how at least part of that business worked. A Dec. 12, 1923, royalty agreement for “Walking Blues,” signed by Rainey and composer Lovie Austin, provided them two cents for each printed piano copy sold in the United States and Canada. They were also entitled to one-fourth of the royalties the publisher received



The set of Round House Theatre’s production of August Wilson’s “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom” recreates a 1920s Chicago recording studio, where the play’s conflicts over music, money and control unfold. (Photo: La Tetra Metts-Owens/HUNewsService.com) — La Tetra Metts-Owens/HUNewsService.com

from mechanical reproductions, minus a 10% collection cost.

A 1923 royalty agreement for “Walking Blues” provided Ma Rainey and Lovie Austin two cents for each printed piano copy sold in the United States and Canada, along with a share of mechanical reproduction royalties. (Images: National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution)

For Haskins, portraying a character negotiating those relationships does not feel entirely removed from being an artist today.

“The life that I live as an artist is not that dissimilar from the world that August Wilson has written,” Haskins said.

The technology surrounding artists, however, has changed dramatically.

The scale of AI-generated music has grown quickly. In July, streaming service Deezer said it was receiving about 90,000 fully AI-generated tracks a day, more than half of its daily uploads. Those tracks accounted for less than 3% of all streams.

The lawsuit against Suno is not primarily a traditional copyright case about whether an AI-generated song copied a particular recording. Instead, the musicians rely largely on state right-of-publicity laws, which concern the commercial use of a person’s identity.

According to the complaint, users can enter musicians’ names and use them as a retrieval key for AI-generated music drawing on characteristics

associated with those artists. The plaintiffs argue that an output does not have to copy a specific song or perfectly reproduce an artist’s voice for the artist’s commercial identity to be exploited.

Suno disputes that characterization of its technology. The company has said it does not use artists’ names as training metadata and does not permit users to prompt its system for specific artists. Suno says references to artists are filtered and redirected toward descriptions of musical characteristics. Its own prompting guide, for example, encourages users to describe features such as tempo, vocals and instrumentation, using phrases like “bright pop track,” “110 BPM,” “female vocals” and a “big synth hook.”

The Suno dispute centers on more than ownership of a particular song or recording. It raises the question of whether an artist’s name, likeness and other identifying characteristics can be used commercially to generate new music without permission.

Haskins resists describing that underlying conflict as merely contemporary.

“I don’t think they feel contemporary,” Haskins said of Ma’s concerns. “I think they feel worldly.”

For Haskins, AI is one setting for a larger struggle over who has power over creative work. She said the problem of Black people being separated from control of things they created has existed far longer than the technology now raising those

questions. The Library of Congress notes that early record companies sometimes used white performers to record music associated with Black artists rather than hire the Black performers themselves, while Black musicians remained rare on early commercial recordings.

“It just hasn’t stopped happening,” she said.

That interpretation shapes the way Haskins portrays Ma’s fight for control. She pointed to a brief moment in the second act when Ma’s manager attempts to steer her toward a different song. Ma refuses and proceeds with the recording she intends to make.

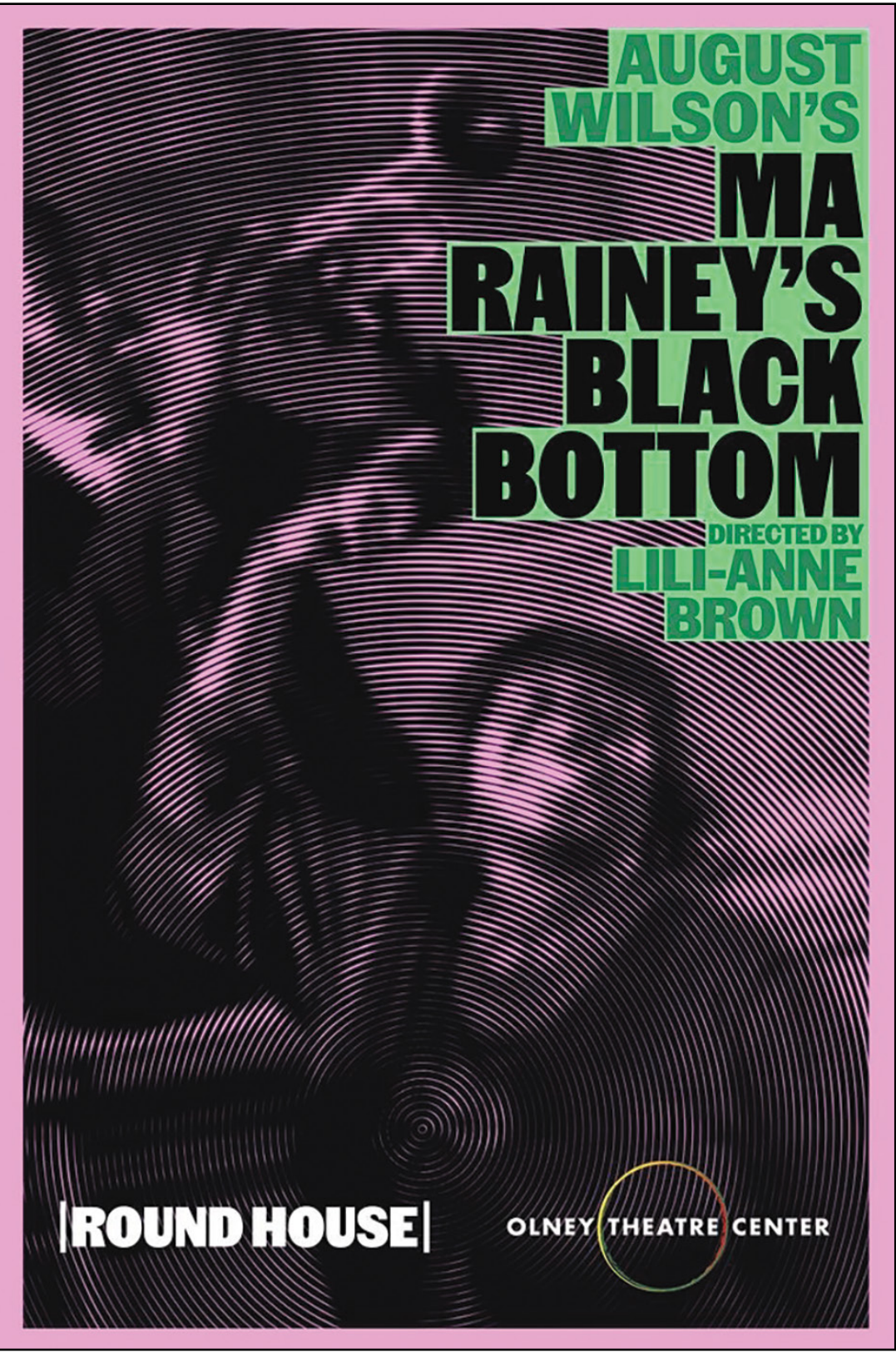
Haskins said the moment stands out precisely because Ma does not need a dramatic confrontation to establish who has the final say.

“She’s not demanding control. She’s not asserting control,” Haskins said. “She is simply positioning herself in correct order.”

La Tetra Metts-Owens is a reporter for HUNewsService.com. She covers Prince George’s County and theater.

Based on reporting by Howard University News Service.

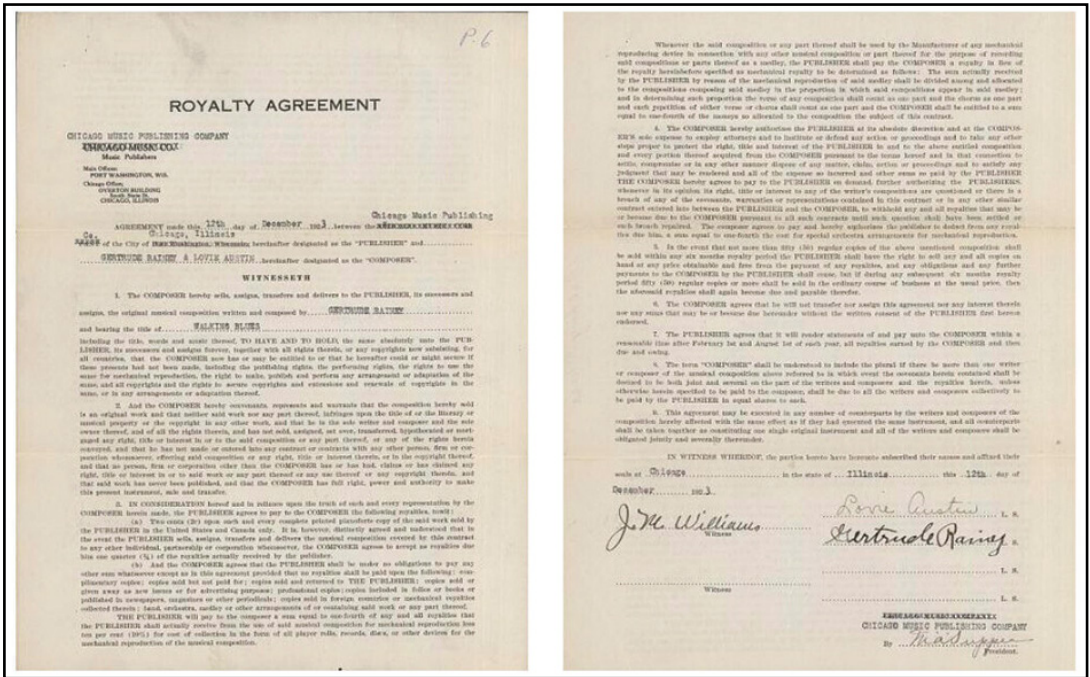
Originally published by Black Press USA Wire — <https://hunewsservice.com/variety/entertainment/from-ma-rainey-to-ai-new-technology-amplifies-an-old-fight-over-artist-control/>



The set of Round House Theatre’s production of August Wilson’s “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom” recreates a 1920s Chicago recording studio, where the play’s conflicts over music, money and control unfold. (Photo: La Tetra Metts-Owens/HUNewsService.com)



Nicole Michelle Haskins as Ma Rainey confronts Michael Glenn as her manager, Irvin, as Jaylen Henderson as Sylvester looks on. (Photo: Teresa Castracane/Round House Theatre)



A 1923 royalty agreement for “Walking Blues” provided Ma Rainey and Lovie Austin two cents for each printed piano copy sold in the United States and Canada, along with a share of mechanical reproduction royalties. (Images: National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution)

Vote No. Prop 38 Is an \$8.4 billion Money Grab

By David Panush
Special to California Black Media Partners

Beware of billionaires who want you to pay for their ego trip. That’s the story behind Proposition (Prop) 38 and why voters should say “no.”

Prop 38 requires the state to borrow \$8.4 billion for immunology research. Medical research is a good thing we all support and benefit from it. But Prop 38 is also a money grab, written by two billionaires who are trying to create their own research institution: The California Institute of Immunology and Immunotherapy (CIII). They also added special criteria in the measure that directs half the money from the bond—\$4.2 billion—to their institute. They figured no one would find out, but we did.

Here are four reasons opponents say Prop 38 should be rejected:

1. The billionaire’s research institute – CIII – doesn’t currently exist. It has no director and no ongoing research projects. We were not even able to identify a current address or phone number. Someday, maybe, but not now. California has several nationally recognized research institutions with addresses, phone numbers, and researchers doing important immunology research. CIII is not one of them. Why should CIII get \$4.2 billion in taxpayer funds, while arbitrary criteria are used to exclude renowned institutions?
2. No transparency and accountability? Proposition 38 exempts CIII from state transparency and ethics laws, including the Public Records Act and open-meeting requirements. It also exempts its decisionmakers from the Political Reform Act. This means they will NOT be required to disclose personal assets and income for the purpose of avoiding conflicts of interest. Why would we give \$4.2 billion to an institute that is excused from standard accountability procedures?
3. Bonds are expensive. Prop 38 would saddle taxpayers with decades of debt – over \$500 million annually for over 20 years. That means there’s less money in the state budget for health, higher education, childcare, and social programs. The Trump Administration has imposed unprecedented



Shutterstock

cuts of federal funds that are straining our safety net to the breaking point. Prop 38 may take away the money California needs to rescue these programs.

4. There’s a better alternative. The California Science and Health Research Bond Act (SB 895) is now awaiting the governor’s signature. If approved, it will be placed on the March 2028 ballot to authorize a \$7.5 billion bond. Unlike Prop 38, it establishes a fair and competitive process to ensure that funds are awarded to the best projects and are the most likely to yield results. It’s better policy.

The two billionaires who spent millions to put Prop 38 on the ballot hoped no one would actually read the fine print of the initiative. But when

they get the facts, it’s clear that Proposition 38 is less about finding cures to disease and more about funding an ego trip with taxpayer dollars. Learn more about Prop 38 and how to join our campaign by visiting our website. Together we can tell the billionaires that California’s initiative process is not for sale.

Washington Has a Chance to Save Veterans’ Lives

By Juliana Mercer
BlackPressUSA

I graduated from Marine Corps boot camp a couple weeks before September 11, 2001. I had no idea how profoundly 9/11 would change the trajectory of my life.

I went on to deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan. Between deployments, I worked at the Wounded Warrior Battalion in San Diego, supporting Marines as they rebuilt their lives. What I did not understand was how deeply I was absorbing their grief and losses.

That became clearer when I later deployed to Afghanistan during one of the deadliest periods of the war for Marines. I purposefully stopped counting the flag-draped coffins as they were loaded onto planes to return home, swallowing my grief so I could return to the mission.

I became paralyzed watching young Marines go outside the base, thinking about their families and whether they would see them again. I began hallucinating that wounded Marines I cared for were walking toward me in the war zone. I now recognize that, alongside my own PTSD, I was carrying secondary PTSD from caring for wounded Marines.

With every loss, I swallowed what I felt just to keep functioning. I kept moving forward, until everything I buried became impossible to ignore.

I did not recognize what was happening until five years after returning home. I sought help. Therapy helped me feel less alone, but my symptoms continued to affect my life and relationships.

My experience is not unique. 870,000 veterans receiving VA health care were diagnosed with PTSD



Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA.

in 2024. Since 9/11, nearly 150,000 veterans have died by suicide. Many continue searching for relief after available treatments have failed.

That is why veterans are cautiously hopeful about psychedelic treatments.

Studies of psilocybin for treatment-resistant

depression show significant reductions in depressive symptoms, with up to one-third of patients achieving remission in some trials. Research involving veterans with PTSD found that 75% were in remission one month after psilocybin treatment.

I followed the research before pursuing psilocybin treatment myself. During that experience, I was finally able to access the grief I spent decades burying. It did not erase what happened or the memories of the Marines I lost. It changed my relationship with those memories. They no longer controlled my life.

I reconnected to the self I had lost and was able to feel joy and love again.

Psychedelic medicines are not a cure-all. But veterans pursuing them are not looking for shortcuts. Many have spent years doing everything the medical system asked while continuing to search for relief.

Our government is beginning to recognize the potential of new approaches.

This year, President Trump signed an executive order to accelerate research and reduce barriers to psychedelic treatments for serious mental illness. VA is conducting clinical trials of MDMA for PTSD and psilocybin for depression. In July, FDA finalized guidance for clinical trials involving psychedelic drugs.

If these treatments receive FDA approval, the healthcare system must be ready to deliver them responsibly -- through DEA action, clear safeguards, and VA facilities prepared to provide care.

Our country asks a great deal of those who serve. If evidence demonstrates that these treatments are safe and effective, veterans should not wait years longer because Washington failed to prepare for success.

Juliana Mercer is a Marine Corps veteran and executive director of Healing Breakthrough. A version of this column was published in Stars and Stripes.

Black Women Are Sounding the Alarm About Voting Rights and America’s Future

By Aallyah Wright
Capital B Atlanta

Is the nation — from institutions to lawmakers — investing in the needs of Black women voters?

A new, nonpartisan poll by The Highland Project and brilliant corners Research and Strategies that surveyed 700 participants found the answer is “overwhelmingly no.”

The report focused on what researchers define as “the fulfillment gap,” whether Black women believe broader systems are delivering on what matters most to them. Black women aren’t confident much progress will be made 10 years from now.

“It’s all pointing to this notion that America

has moved quite far away from the vision that Black women continue to name and build,” said Gabrielle Wyatt, founder of The Highland Project. “They are truly feeling the pressures of changes in policy and government actions.”

This is the sixth annual national poll of Black women conducted by The Highland Project and brilliant corners. Their mission is to more deeply understand voters’ dreams and aspirations around wealth and democracy — and limitations to access.

At least 92% of Black women are dissatisfied with the country’s direction and 51% are pessimistic about its future. Cornell Belcher, founder of brilliant corners, said that pessimism isn’t simply about economic factors. The data

shows it’s more nuanced than that, particularly as it relates to Black women’s concerns around voting rights and inequality.

“If you are simply focused on that part of it, you miss 90% of a broader conversation,” Belcher said, emphasizing concerns extend beyond economics.

Belcher, who previously worked on both of former President Barack Obama’s presidential campaigns, points out that hope and optimism drove voter turnout during those elections. What’s motivating Black women this time is the need to protect and defend their communities. About 95% of respondents say they are concerned about the impact of the U.S. Supreme Court’s rollback of the Voting Rights Act earlier this year.

The Highland Project-brilliant corners poll follows one released this spring that focused on 700 Black women voters in Mississippi and how they defined success, joy, and what it takes to fix broken systems to address their concerns. The new survey mirrors the earlier findings: that mental health, financial security, and family are as important to a joyful life as solving the affordability crisis, Wyatt added.

“Given all of this, [Black women are] showing up at the polls and holding leaders accountable,” she said, noting they are addressing economic deterioration while protecting their communities.

Designing Black Greek and HBCU Gear Is Big Business in Atlanta

By Alyssa Johnson
Capital B Atlanta

ATLANTA — As Black sorority and fraternity members from across the nation prepare for Atlanta University Center festivities this fall, entrepreneur Ashanti Johnson operates embroidery machines in his Inman Park shop, racing to complete homecoming orders.

Johnson owns Da Greek Spot, which sells custom embroidered Divine Nine and HBCU merchandise including hats, shirts, jackets, sweatshirts, and pajamas to customers nationwide.

“Homecoming is a lot of pressure because not only do you have to sell merch ... you have to make it for particular dates,” Johnson explained. “And then next month is probate season [when fraternities and sororities intake new members], and probate season is the best month of the whole year.”

The shop’s machinery produces distinctive items like army fatigue hats with Greek letters and custom patches on letterman jackets. Johnson emphasized his competitive advantage: “A lot of my

stuff is always custom so it makes it where you can’t just go down the street and buy the same thing.”

Johnson began his entrepreneurial journey in the 1990s, selling music, art, and Greek merchandise from his University of West Georgia dorm room. He recognized that Black students at this predominantly white institution lacked local sources for Greek paraphernalia after crossing.

In 2015, Johnson relocated to Atlanta and established a booth in Little Five Points under the name “Da Greek Spot.” Initially, he resold merchandise from licensed manufacturers, but in 2020, he began creating custom designs using embroidery skills inherited from his quilting mother and artist father.

Pricing varies by garment and embroidery complexity. Original designed shirts range from approximately \$50 to \$70, while custom embroidered sweatshirts and jackets cost several hundred dollars.

News **Observed**

BURIED • MISSED • REFUSED • TELL IT ANYWAY • BURIED • MISSED • REFUSED • TELL IT ANYWAY • BURIED • MISSED •

THEY BURIED IT.

WE'LL **RUN** IT.

Something happened on your block and nobody reported it. Send it to us. Free, no account, and anonymous if you want it that way.

TELL US WHAT THEY BURIED

NEWSOBSERVED.COM

OBSERVER GROUP NEWSPAPERS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



Shutterstock
By Bo Tefu
California Black Media
Gov. Newsom Signs Laws Protecting California Workers From AI Abuses

Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed a package of bills establishing new protections for California workers as artificial intelligence and automated surveillance systems become more common in the workplace.

The four measures, signed Sept. 30, limit employers' use of AI in disciplinary decisions, require disclosure when automation contributes to mass layoffs and restrict invasive workplace surveillance.

"AI should expand opportunity — not come at the expense of workers and families," Newsom said in his signing statement. "As this technology reshapes the workplace, California is putting people at the center, ensuring we all have a voice in the decisions shaping their future."

Senate Bill (SB) 947, authored by Sen. Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton), prohibits employers from relying solely on automated decision-making systems to discipline or fire workers. Employers must provide human oversight and independently verify an automated system's findings. Workers must also be notified when such technology contributes to a disciplinary or termination decision.

"No worker should ever be fired or disciplined by a robo boss," McNerney said. "Artificial intelligence systems have the potential to increase productivity, but they've also been prone to errors, bias, and misjudgments."

McNerney added that the new law ensures human oversight and keeps AI "a tool controlled by humans, not the other way around."

SB 951, authored by Sen. Eloise Gómez Reyes (D-Colton), requires employers to disclose when AI or other automated technology causes a mass layoff, relocation or termination. It also directs the state Employment Development Department to collect information about AI's effects on hiring and employment.

Assembly Bill (AB) 1331, authored by Assemblymember Sade Elhawary (D-Los Angeles), prohibits employers from using surveillance technology in workplace bathrooms.

AB 1883, authored by Assemblymember Isaac Bryan (D-Ladera Heights), restricts employers from using AI-powered surveillance systems to interpret workers' emotions or collect neural data.

The package of legislation represents one of the nation's broadest efforts to regulate AI in the workplace. Labor organizations supported the measures, arguing that safeguards are necessary to prevent discriminatory decisions, protect workers' privacy and ensure that humans remain accountable for employment actions.

Becerra vs Hilton: California Gubernatorial Hopefuls Spar in Only Debate

Democrat Xavier Becerra and Republican Steve Hilton clashed over affordability, immigration, artificial intelligence, homelessness, and California's

political direction on Sept. 30, in their only gubernatorial debate before the November election.

The candidates seeking to succeed Gov. Gavin Newsom also traded attacks over their ties to national politics, with Becerra repeatedly linking Hilton to President Donald Trump and Hilton arguing that California needs a break from decades of Democratic leadership.

"All you ever say is Trump, Trump, Trump," Hilton told Becerra during the debate, as he argued that the state's problems were the result of 16 years of Democratic leadership. Hilton said Becerra would represent a continuation of the status quo.

Becerra, meanwhile, criticized the Trump administration's immigration policies and questioned how Hilton would respond to federal immigration enforcement. Hilton said he would follow the law when asked whether he would direct California law enforcement to cooperate with the administration's mass deportation efforts.

The candidates also differed on artificial intelligence. Becerra said he would consider whether proposed data centers would benefit their surrounding communities before determining where they could be built. Hilton said AI companies may require regulation and legislation and called for an immediate pause on AI technology in classrooms.

On homelessness, Becerra defended his record as California attorney general, saying he had demanded accountability. He said he would clear housing encampments while addressing mental health and addiction.

The candidates found common ground in opposing a proposed one-time wealth tax on billionaires, although Becerra said he did not believe the measure was the right approach despite its support from the state Democratic Party. Hilton warned the tax could drive revenue out of California.

The debate ended with both candidates reflecting on California's history and what they believe the state needs from its next governor.

Hilton praised California's "rebel spirit" and its history of building, inventing, and creating, but argued that bureaucracy was holding the state back.

Becerra pointed to California's economic strength and its history of opportunity for immigrants.

"I started by saying that my parents came to California with \$12 in their pocket. They lived the California dream. We need to make sure we don't forget that," Becerra said.

Gov. Newom Signs Legislation Protecting Parents' Rights in Youth Football

Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed legislation giving California parents greater control over the safety equipment their children can use while playing youth tackle football.

Assembly Bill (AB) 708, authored by Assemblymember Avelino Valencia (D-Anaheim) requires youth tackle football leagues to allow players to use additional safety equipment, including soft-shell helmet add-ons, when requested by their parents.

The law addresses concerns about concussions and repeated head impacts in youth football while

ensuring families can choose additional protective equipment for their children.

"One of the things we all are concerned about as parents, particularly when our kids say, 'Dad, Mom, I really want to play tackle football,' is their safety, particularly concussions, head to head, helmet to helmet," Newsom said.

Newsom said soft-shell helmet covers offer an additional safety option but noted that not every community, school district, club or football team in California previously allowed their use.

"Well, that's no longer the case because I just signed a bill requiring that safety feature if requested," Newsom said.

Valencia, a former football player and coach, said he understands the physical demands of the sport and the potential effects of repeated head impacts on young athletes.

"Parents should have the ability to choose this technology for their children, regardless of where they play, especially during these critical years of cognitive development," Valencia said.

AB 708 builds on California's existing youth football safety requirements. In 2019, Newsom signed AB 1, the California Youth Football Act, which established minimum safety standards for youth tackle football leagues.

Newsom also convened a youth football safety summit in 2024 that brought together health care providers, football administrators, parents, youth football organizations, and current and former players to discuss safety and support for young athletes.

Report: California Voters Aged 18 to 24 Are Most Likely to Have Their Ballots Rejected for Being Late

California voters ages 18 to 24 are more likely than older voters to have their mail ballots rejected for arriving late, according to a new report compiled by Public Policy Institute of California.

The report found that 3.1% of ballots mailed by voters ages 18 to 24 were rejected for being late during the 2025 Proposition (Prop) 50 special election. That compared with no more than 0.5% among voters ages 65 and older across the 2022, 2024, and 2025 elections studied.

The gap was also evident in previous elections. Among voters ages 18 to 24, 3.9% of mailed ballots were rejected and marked 'as late' in 2022 and 1.7% in 2024. Researchers found that age was by far the strongest demographic factor associated with late-ballot rejection, even after accounting for other voter characteristics.

The report also found that voters with less recent voting experience were more likely to return their ballots late. In the elections studied, voters who had not participated in the previous general election had late-ballot rejection rates of 2.6%, 1.2%, and 2.6%, compared with 1.1%, 0.3%, and 1.2% among voters who had voted previously.

Overall, late ballots accounted for 0.7% of all mail ballots received by California election officials during the 2025 Prop 50 election, up from 0.6% in 2022 and 0.3% in 2024. The rate rose to 1.1% in the 2026 statewide primary.

Gov. Newsom Approves Tax Credits for Newsrooms
Despite Eligibility, Cost Concerns

By Tanu Henry
California Black Media
Gov. Gavin Newsom signed legislation on Sept. 30, aimed at strengthening California's struggling local news industry, saying journalists are essential to exposing wrongdoing and protecting democracy.

"It's journalists that need to report those stories and local journalists that need to uncover and sort of peel back the facade if democracy is going to survive, let alone thrive," Newsom said before signing Assembly Bill 2222 at his Sacramento office.

By state law, Sept. 30 is the last day the governor can sign or veto bills. Legislation that he does not approve or veto automatically becomes law.

Authored by Assemblymembers Chris Ward (D-San Diego) and Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland), AB 2222 creates refundable tax credits for qualifying local news organizations based on the number of journalists they employ. The measure, formally named the Community Newsroom Employment and Workforce Sustainability Act, is also known as the Community NEWS Act.

Under the law, eligible news organizations can receive a job-retention credit of \$20,000 per journalist for their first five positions and \$15,000 for each additional journalist. Part-time positions qualify for \$7,500 credits.

Publishers can also receive an additional \$15,000 credit for each new journalist hired, an incentive designed to expand newsroom staffing. The credits are "news neutral," meaning eligibility is not based on an outlet's size, editorial viewpoint, platform or organizational structure.

Supporters say the law could provide a lifeline to local news outlets that have struggled with declining advertising revenue, newsroom layoffs and closures. California has lost more than 12,000 local journalists since 2002, according to Rebuild Local News, a nonprofit advocacy organization.

Regina Brown Wilson, executive director of California Black Media, said the governor's action

recognizes journalism's critical public-service role.

"I am extremely grateful that Governor Newsom stood up for a free press at a time when journalism is under attack, including at the federal level," Wilson said. "His signing of AB 2222 sends a powerful message that California understands the essential role of the Fourth Estate in our democracy. Today, California demonstrated that protecting

Turlock, CA - Jan 6, 2025: CA Governor Gavin Newsom speaking at a press conference regarding the California Jobs First project and previewing budget top lines for the upcoming fiscal year. (Shutterstock Sheila Fitzgerald)

journalism is protecting democracy."

Newsom also criticized what he called the "assault on the free press and the First Amendment" coming from Washington and President Donald Trump.

To underscore the value of local reporting, Newsom cited the Los Angeles Times' investigation that exposed municipal corruption in the City of Bell, where local government officials received exorbitant salaries.

"No one would have known had it not been for local journalism," Newsom said. "How many more Bells are out there, not just in this state, but all across the country?"

The measure drew support from more than 180 local, state and national organizations, including press associations, nonprofit and independent publishers, identity-based media groups, labor unions, journalism educators and national industry advocates.

"The News/Media Alliance applauds Governor Newsom for signing AB 2222, the Community NEWS Act, into law," said Danielle Coffey, the alliance's president and CEO. "This law creates a common-sense model to support the sustainability of journalism in California, and its greatest strength is that it is 'news neutral,' covering the full, diverse scope of news media within the state."

Coffey said the coalition supporting the legislation demonstrated a model that other states could follow to sustain local journalism.

Gov. Newsom emphasized that the program benefits all media outlets, including hedge fund-owned media chains and outlets, he said, produce propaganda instead of balanced news stories.

"This bill that I'll sign today will benefit even those propaganda outlets because that's what the 1st Amendment demands. There's no censorship. There's no bias, and I think that's a healthy thing," Newsom said. "So, California will continue to lead in this space. We did so a number of years ago when we established a framework of a public-private partnership where we actually got Google to contribute and match state contributions of \$25 million that I put in the budget this year for our civic media program, which was the first in the nation. We did that to support grants of up to \$250,000 to newsrooms."

The tax credits provided by the new law would be financed by aligning California's tax code with a provision in President Trump's federal tax law that eliminated certain deductions for executive compensation exceeding \$1 million annually.

James Luckey, Publisher of the Observer

The researchers also examined whether changes by the U.S. Postal Service contributed to the increase. They found that late-ballot rejection rates in ZIP codes affected by the USPS Regional Transportation Optimization program increased 0.6 percentage points more than in comparable ZIP codes between 2024 and 2025.

However, the report found that the USPS changes accounted for only about 19% of the overall statewide increase in rejected late ballots because the affected ZIP codes represented about one-quarter of mailed ballots.

The researchers said the remaining increase requires further investigation. They recommended stronger outreach encouraging voters, particularly younger voters and those in affected ZIP codes, to return ballots early or use in-person drop-off options.

The report also urged state officials to continue pressing the USPS for election-period accommodations, including evening pickup in areas affected by the changes.

Gov. Newsom Appoints San Francisco Arts Professor Jacqueline Francis to California African American Museum Board of Directors

Gov. Gavin Newsom has appointed San Francisco arts professor Jacqueline Francis to the California African American Museum Board of Directors, adding an academic and art historian with extensive experience in African American art and visual studies to the museum's leadership.

Francis has served as dean of the Humanities and Sciences Division at the California College of the Arts since 2024. She previously held several positions at the college, including professor, academic engagement coordinator, associate professor, and chair of the Graduate Program in Visual and Critical Studies.

Before joining California College of the Arts, Francis was an assistant professor at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, from 2000 to 2008.

Her academic background includes a Doctor of Education degree in history of art from Emory University, a Master of Arts degree in African American studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Dartmouth College.

Francis is also involved with several organizations focused on art history and visual culture. She is a co-founder of the Association for Critical Race Art History and serves as secretary of the National Committee for the History of Art. She is also an advisory board member of Third Text and Panorama: Journal of the Association of Historians of American Art.

The California African American Museum, located in Los Angeles, focuses on preserving, interpreting, and presenting the history and contemporary experiences of African Americans through art and cultural exhibitions.

Francis' appointment does not require Senate confirmation and carries no compensation. She is a Democrat.

Local

Financial Help May Make Health Coverage More Affordable for Southern California Families in 2027

Covered California has connected nearly 1.8 million people to health insurance this year and actively negotiates with health insurance companies to get the lowest possible prices for consumers. California's rate increase of 9.9% is significantly lower than the preliminary national median rate increase of 14% — and why for most of the past decade, the average cost of a benchmark plan in California has been lower than the national average.

In Southern California, many residents are paying less than the national average for healthcare despite overall rate increases because residents of Los Angeles County have seven health insurance companies to choose from, which leads to increased competition and lower costs.

However, new federal policies and rising costs negatively affected enrollment across the state, with a 7.3% decrease in overall enrollment compared to this time last year. The Black community in Southern California has been among the hardest hit. Enrollment among those who identify as Black or African American decreased by nearly 18% across Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties.

“We know the headlines out there about rising

health insurance costs can be scary, but going without health insurance is a risk that could cost you a lot more later, and coverage options may be more affordable than you think,” said Covered California Executive Director Jessica Altman.

Due to existing federal tax credits and California's enhanced subsidy program, 60% of Covered California enrollees will see no increase in their monthly premium next year, 26% will remain eligible for \$0 premiums without changing plans, and many others may pay less each month.

Across Southern California, about 400,000 current enrollees will be eligible for enhanced state subsidies for 2027, helping to further reduce costs. Depending on their income, new enrollees for 2027 will also qualify for financial help from the state to help pay for their Covered California plan.

Gov. Gavin Newsom and the California Legislature also increased the amount of state funds available to help cover the costs of monthly premiums for hundreds of thousands of Californians, which means individuals with incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level in 2027 (\$31,920 for an individual or \$66,000 for a family of four) will be eligible for expanded financial help from the state.

“We know that access to care is foundational for health and well-being, by helping families get preventive care, manage chronic conditions, and face unexpected needs,” said Covered California Chief Medical Officer Dr. Monica Soni. “Getting a plan through Covered California opens the door to getting the care you need, no matter which plan you choose.”

Every plan offered through Covered California covers 10 essential health benefits like emergency services, hospitalizations, prescription drugs, and pediatric care — including children's dental and vision.

Starting Oct. 1, 2026, those who are already enrolled in a plan through Covered California can renew or change their plan. Open enrollment takes place from Nov. 1, 2026, through Jan. 31, 2027. Residents who experience certain life changes can also apply during Covered California's ongoing special-enrollment period, where the most common changes are losing health insurance, moving to a new area, getting married, or having a baby.

You can learn more about your options by visiting CoveredCA.com or calling Covered California, where you can easily find out if you



qualify for financial help and see the coverage options in your area. Free and confidential assistance is also available over the phone through certified agents, community-based organizations, and certified enrollers throughout the state.

Your Ballot is in The Mail. Here is What Kern County Voters Need to Know

By Cecil Egbele
Contributing Writer | California Local News Fellow

Ballots for the Nov. 3 general election start going out to Kern County voters on Monday, Oct. 5.

Every active registered voter in California gets a ballot in the mail. You do not have to ask for one. You can fill it out at home and send it back, or you can still vote in person.

Here is a simple guide with dates, deadlines, and your choices.

Dates to remember

Date	What happens
Monday, Oct. 5	County elections officials begin mailing ballots on or before this date. Return your ballot as soon as you receive it.
Monday, Oct. 5 - Tuesday, Nov. 3	Vote-by-mail early voting period.
Tuesday, Oct. 6	Last day for secure ballot drop boxes to be open across counties.
Monday, Oct. 19	Last day to register to vote. After this deadline, same-day voter registration will be available at your county elections office or voting locations through Election Day.
Saturday, Oct. 24	First day vote centers open in Voter's Choice Act counties for early in-person voting.
Oct. 20 to Nov. 3	Same-day voter registration is available in person.
Saturday, Oct. 31	In-person early voting locations open throughout California. Find locations and hours at casafvoting.sos.ca.gov
Tuesday, Nov. 3	Election Day. Last day to vote or mail ballots. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Ballots must be mailed by this date.

Here's what Kern County voters need to know. What should I do when my ballot arrives? Review the ballot and follow the instructions included with it. After making your selections, place the ballot in the return envelope. Remember to sign and date the envelope.

Kern County Elections says a vote-by-mail ballot cannot be processed without the required signature. If a voter forgets to sign or the signature cannot be verified, the county will send the voter a statement that can be completed and returned by the specified deadline.

How can I return my ballot?

Voters can return completed ballots by mail, at an official ballot drop box, at a polling place, or at the Kern County Elections Division.

No stamp is needed to mail a vote-by-mail ballot. If returning a ballot by mail, it must be postmarked no later than Nov. 3 and received by the county elections officials within seven days after Election Day. Voters who wish to mail their ballots are advised not to wait until the last minute.

The Secretary of State recommends mailing ballots at least seven days before Election Day.

Official ballot drop boxes will be available in Kern County beginning Oct. 5 and will be accessible 24 hours a day. Ballots returned to a drop box or other in-person location must be delivered by 8 p.m. on Nov. 3.

Find Kern County ballot drop-box locations: Kern County Elections drop-box information.

What if I want to vote in person?

Receiving a vote-by-mail ballot does not prevent a voter from voting in person.

Kern County voters can vote at their assigned polling place on Election Day. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Nov. 3. Voters can also return their completed vote-by-mail ballot at a polling place.

Find your polling place and other personal election information: Kern County My Election Information.

What if I haven't registered to vote?

The deadline to register for online voting is Oct. 19.



Voters who miss that deadline can still use California's same-day voter registration process. Conditional registration is available at a county elections office or voting location after the regular registration deadline through Election Day.

Check your registration or register to vote: California Secretary of State voter registration information.

Can I check whether my ballot was received?

Yes. California provides ballot-status tracking, and Kern County offers a “Where's My Ballot” service through its election website.

Voters can check whether their vote-by-mail

ballot has been received and, where applicable, whether it was counted.

Track your ballot: Kern County ballot tracking and voter information

When is the election?

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026.

For questions, contact Kern County Elections at 661-868-3590 or 1-800-452-VOTE (8683). The Elections Division is at 1115 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield.

More election information: Kern County Elections

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

NO ON 40

PROTECT FUNDING for SCHOOLS, HEALTHCARE & PUBLIC SAFETY

“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

Date	What happens
Monday, Oct. 5	County elections officials begin mailing ballots on or before this date. Return your ballot as soon as you receive it.
Monday, Oct. 5 - Tuesday, Nov. 3	Vote-by-mail early voting period.
Tuesday, Oct. 6	Last day for secure ballot drop boxes to be open across counties.
Monday, Oct. 19	Last day to register to vote. After this deadline, same-day voter registration will be available at your county elections office or voting locations through Election Day.
Saturday, Oct. 24	First day vote centers open in Voter's Choice Act counties for early in-person voting.
Oct. 20 to Nov. 3	Same-day voter registration is available in person.
Saturday, Oct. 31	In-person early voting locations open throughout California. Find locations and hours at casafvoting.sos.ca.gov
Tuesday, Nov. 3	Election Day. Last day to vote or mail ballots. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Ballots must be mailed by this date.

VOTE NO ON PROP 40

Why? Because the Prop 40 wealth tax is a poorly written, flawed measure that doesn't do what it says it will. A Stanford economic analysis showed it will end up costing taxpayers upwards of \$25 billion, which would lead to cuts to our schools, hospitals and clinics, and other important community services.

California can't afford Prop 40.

Scan for more information

VoteNoOn40.org

Ad paid for by No on Prop 40 - Doctors, Teachers, Small Businesses, Working Families and Public Safety Against the Reckless Wealth Tax Experiment. Ad committee's top funders:

Building a Better California

California Primary Care Association Advocates

California Medical Association

Funding details at www.fppc.ca.gov

Paid Political Advertisement

YES ON PROP 3

PROTECT OUR SCHOOLS

3 Reasons to Vote Yes on 3

- 1 Prop 3 prevents billions in cuts to our local schools** and prevents teacher layoffs and even more crowded classrooms.
- 2 Prop 3 is NOT a tax increase.** It keeps the current tax rate on the wealthiest 2%, who have been paying it for 14 years.
- 3 Prop 3 has strict accountability** to ensure every dollar gets to our local schools with audits to prove it.



“Prop 3 protects critical funding for our classrooms and special education and will prevent teacher layoffs and bigger class sizes. Prop 3 also has strict accountability to ensure the money actually gets to our students. Please join California’s teachers and vote Yes on Prop 3.”

Erika Jones
Secretary-Treasurer
California Teachers Association

ENDORSED BY:



Vote Yes on Prop 3

on or before November 3rd

Ad paid for by Yes on Prop 3, sponsored by education and labor organizations.
Ad Committee's Top Funders:
California Teachers Association
National Education Association
California Federation of Teachers
Funding Details at www.fppc.ca.gov.

YesProp3CA.com