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Bakersfield News Observer

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Happy Thanksgiving! FROM THE OBSERVER

Volume 53, Number 13 | Observer Group Newspapers of Southern California | Wednesday, November 25, 2026

Thousands Gather in Bakersfield to Say Goodbye to Dolores Huerta



Dolores Huerta speaks during a public event, continuing her decades-long advocacy for farmworkers, civil rights and social justice. The legendary labor leader was remembered by thousands during a Nov. 20 memorial service in Bakersfield. (Courtesy photo)

By Cecil Egbele
Contributing Writer | California Local News Fellow

Interfaith service at Dignity Health Arena blends prayer, music, and family stories.

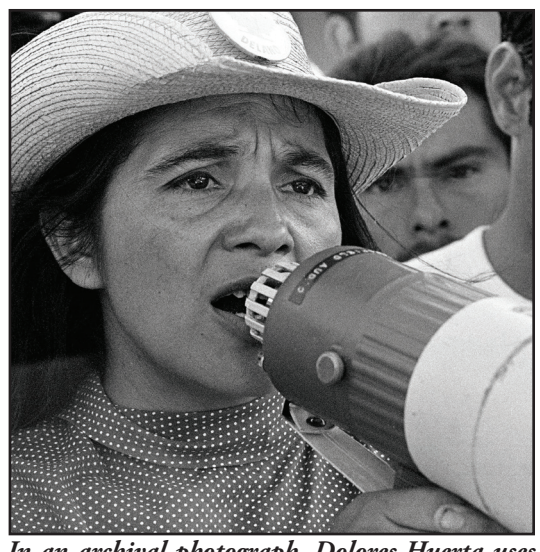
Thousands gathered at Bakersfield's Dignity Health Arena on Nov. 20 for an interfaith service in memory of Dolores Huerta, a giant of the farmworker labor movement.

With Huerta's wooden casket set before the stage, numerous faith leaders, family members, and elected officials - including incoming California Gov. Xavier Becerra and former President Bill Clinton - extolled the virtues of a powerhouse woman whose rallying cry "¡Sí, se puede!" - "Yes we can" - resonates with generations of social justice activists.

"Dolores didn't just chant 'People Power,'" Pastor Traco Matthews said. "She personified those words."

Many faiths, one farewell

Huerta died on Oct. 28 at her Bakersfield home at the age of 96. The cause was cancer.



In an archival photograph, Dolores Huerta uses a megaphone to address a crowd during her years of grassroots organizing. Her tireless fight for farmworkers' rights and equality helped shape generations of activists and inspired her famous rallying cry, "¡Sí, se puede!" (Courtesy photo)

Her memorial service included prayers and blessings from representatives of Christian, Sikh, Jewish, Muslim and Hindu traditions, alongside Indigenous spiritual leaders. Though their prayers and practices differed, their messages converged around a shared belief in human dignity, compassion and service to others.

Indigenous leader Leonard Manuel Jr. offered

Continued on page A2

Nelson Esparza's BOE Win Makes Him the 16th Member of the Black Caucus

By Edward Henderson
California Black Media

Fresno City Councilmember and longtime educator Nelson Esparza defeated Republican state Sen. Shannon Grove (R-Bakersfield) for California State Board of Equalization District 1, giving Democrats a victory in the Central Valley and adding a new member to the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC).

Esparza received 55.3% of the vote, or 1,495,228 votes, compared with Grove's 44.7%, or 1,208,111 votes, according to the latest reported results. The two finished close in June's primary, when Grove received 34.5% and Esparza received 34%.

Esparza celebrated the win in a Facebook post, thanking supporters and outlining his priorities.

"Thank you to our supporters and everyone who believed in our campaign. We could not have done this without you," he wrote. "I am honored to represent the 1st District on the Board of Equalization. I look forward to serving our communities and fighting for a fairer tax system in Sacramento."

Esparza will be the CLBC's 16th member in the 2027-28 session. The caucus will include 14 Black lawmakers serving in the Legislature, along with Assemblymember Mike Gipson (D-Carson) and Esparza, who both won seats on the Board of Equalization.

Three women elected to the Assembly — Dr. Ayanna Davis, Jackie Elward and Dr. Paula Swift — will also join the caucus.

"Our new members bring experience from city halls, school boards, classrooms, and small businesses. As we look to our next 60 years, their perspectives will strengthen our work on affordability, education, health, and economic opportunity for Black families across California," said Assemblymember Corey A. Jackson (D-Moreno Valley), the caucus' chair-elect.



Educator and Fresno City Councilmember Nelson Esparza has been elected to the California Board of Equalization District 1. Courtesy of Nelson Esparza's Facebook page.

Grove, who has represented Bakersfield in the state Senate since 2018, campaigned on her experience as a business owner and legislator. Her campaign emphasized reducing taxes and regulations and supporting farmers, ranchers and small businesses.

Born to a Mexican American mother and an African American father, and raised in Madera by his teenage mother, Esparza has said his upbringing shaped his understanding of the economic challenges facing working families. Spanish was his first language, and he was the oldest of five children.

His path into public service began in education. He was elected to the Fresno County Board of Education in 2016 and to the Fresno City Council in 2018. He is completing his second council term while continuing to teach economics at Fresno City College.

Esparza earned a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of California, Riverside, and a Master of Public Policy from the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. On the City Council, he chairs the Finance and Audit Committee, the EIFD Public Financing Authority and the School Liaison Subcommittee.

His work has included efforts to raise city revenue for infrastructure, expand affordable housing, improve public safety and support more equitable investment in Fresno neighborhoods.

In an October interview with KVPR, a local news station covering Fresno County, he said he entered the BOE race because he believed he could "make a financial difference for inland communities" and help vulnerable communities. He also said the board's role is to administer and execute existing tax laws, rather than create new taxes.

In his candidate statement to the California Secretary of State, Esparza said he would work to ensure corporations and wealthy individuals pay their fair share while opposing new taxes on working- and middle-class families. He also pledged to improve transparency, close tax loopholes and crack down on tax evasion.

Esparza will represent District 1, the largest of the board's four geographic districts. It covers 34 counties, stretching from California's northern border through the Central Valley and into San Bernardino County.

The board's responsibilities were sharply reduced in 2017. It now oversees property tax assessment practices among California's 58 county assessors, assesses certain utility and railroad properties, and hears some property assessment appeals. Property taxes help fund public schools, libraries, emergency services and other local programs.

Esparza is scheduled to take office Jan. 4, 2027, for a four-year term.

Waters Remembers Huerta As a 'Gentle Lady' Who Built Bridges With the Black Community.

By Cecil Egbele
Contributing Writer | California Local News Fellow

Maxine Waters said nothing was going to keep her from Dolores Huerta's celebration of life.

"No matter what it took, if I had to walk to Bakersfield, I was going to get here," the Democratic Congresswoman told the Bakersfield News Observer during an interfaith memorial service for Huerta Nov. 20 at Dignity Health Arena.

Waters said that when she served in the California State Assembly, Huerta "used to walk the halls" lobbying for farmworkers, many of whom were sleeping on the ground without decent housing.

"She was there working for legislation to change the way the state of California dealt with farmworkers," Waters said.

Waters, 88, called Huerta "a woman of impeccable integrity, who really loves people," and someone who spent her life trying to create a better life for everybody.



A deep tie to Black leaders

While Huerta is best known for her fight for farmworkers and the Latino community, Waters said her relationship with the Black community was "very deep."

Waters referred to photos shown during the celebration of Huerta with the late U.S. Rep. John Lewis and other national leaders. She said Huerta worked closely with former President Barack Obama, had many Black friends and was a sought-after endorser.

"I used to go to her every election and say, 'Oh, I need you,'" Waters said of Huerta. "She said, 'You don't have to ask me. Just put my name on whatever you're doing.'"

For Waters, that history of trust and friendship is an important example of the possibilities of interracial solidarity. She said Black and Latino communities are working more closely now than ever in opposition to targeted raids by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents.

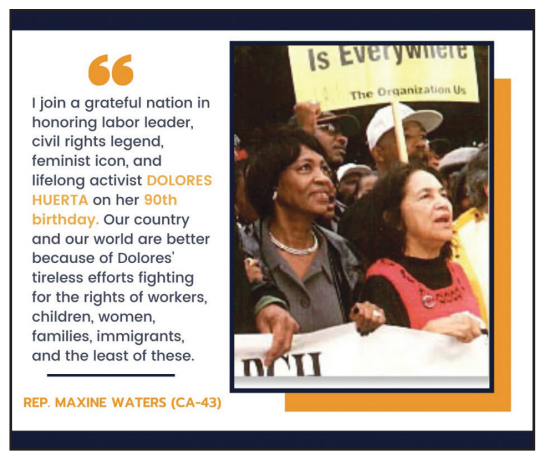
"ICE is not only directed at Latinos. It's directed at other citizens. Black, white, everybody's in danger," Waters said, adding that the two communities now have "a growing and strong relationship."

'Oh, Dolores, sit down'

Waters recalled Huerta joining her at an event at Southwest College for a program serving formerly incarcerated people who were working to change their lives. Huerta stayed on her feet for hours supporting the program.

"I kept thinking, 'Oh, Dolores, sit down,'" Waters said. "It made me understand, you know, despite our ages, she was very strong."

Waters said today's leaders could learn from how Huerta organized. She knocked on doors and



trained young people to create change.

"Politicians don't get out in the community enough," Waters said. "It's not going to happen on the internet. It's going to happen when you knock on that door and someone sees you."

What people may not know of Huerta, Waters said, is that the tough organizer was also gentle.

"I've never heard her raise her voice. I've never heard her curse anybody out," Waters said. She described Huerta holding people by the hand and letting young people know she saw them.

"I think we could get more young people involved if they really believe we see them," she said.

Asked to describe Huerta's work in one word, Waters chose:

"Powerful."

FCC Gives Prisons Green Light To Jam Cellphone Signals

The FCC unanimously approved a rule allowing state prisons to jam contraband cellphone signals, citing concerns that incarcerated people use the devices to coordinate criminal activity and violence.

Ever since the images of Sean "Diddy" Combs using a cellphone in prison were released, there has been an updated effort to try and prevent incarcerated people from using cellphones.

On Thursday, the Federal Communications Commission acted to allow state prisons to begin jamming cellphone signals smuggled in to those incarcerated as the federal government works to prevent prisoners' access to phones, which authorities claim are the biggest security threat inside facilities.

NBC News notes that the vote was unanimous among the commissioners.

For years, state prison officials have pushed for permission to jam cellphone signals, arguing that the contraband devices are used to run drug operations, organize riots and order violence against correctional officers.

The new rule doesn't require prisons to install jamming technology, but facilities that choose to use it must conduct multiple tests to ensure cellphone service outside prison walls isn't disrupted.

And getting those phones inside isn't exactly difficult. According to NBC News, contraband devices have been smuggled in hollowed-out footballs, carried by corrupt employees and even delivered by drones flying over prison fences.

FCC Chairman Brendan Carr said the technology would give law enforcement another tool to combat a growing security problem. He noted that approximately 25,000 contraband cellphones are confiscated annually in state and local prisons.

Carr also pointed to the 2010 attempted murder of South Carolina corrections officer Robert Johnson, who was nearly killed in an attack at his home that authorities said was orchestrated by someone using a smuggled cellphone.

Johnson has undergone nearly three dozen surgeries and says he remains in constant pain. He has repeatedly advocated for cellphone jamming technology, describing the devices as "weapons of mass destruction" because of the violence they can facilitate.

"No one should have to go through what I went through," Johnson said Wednesday. "But I also believe that the Lord chose my wife and I to go through this because someone had to carry the banner, and he chose us to do it."

And while Diddy may not be responsible for every contraband cellphone floating around America's prison system, his very public prison cellphone controversy certainly isn't helping the' efforts for others to keep their phones.

14 Men Arrested for Committing a Series of High-Stakes Train Heists

Grand Theft Auto VI came out this week, but apparently a group of people in California felt like bringing Red Dead Redemption 2 to life. California prosecutors allege that a group of 14 men robbed several freight trains over the course of two years, stealing millions in products.

The New York Times reports that a group calling themselves Los Trenes, which is Spanish for "The Trains," carried out several meticulously planned heists of freight trains in Southern California. The group stole an estimated $22 million worth of Nike, Hoka, and Crocs shoes, as well as electronics and power tools.

Jim McDonnell, chief of the Los Angeles Police Department, said at a news conference on Thursday that the indictment "marks the largest property crime bust in L.A.P.D. and railroad history."

"This is much more than a modern-day train robbery," he said. "It was a highly coordinated operation that disrupted our nation's supply chain."

While this seemed like a fairly precise operation given the scale and frequency of the robberies, they made the fatal mistake that seems to plague the current generation of criminals: filming themselves committing the crime and posting it to social media.

"I encourage criminals to film themselves while committing crimes," Bill Essayli, the first assistant U.S. attorney in Los Angeles, said at the news conference. "It makes our jobs a lot easier."

Essayli posted a video on social media showing who is alleged to be the ringleader of the group sawing into a container on a moving train and stealing the goods.



The group, calling themselves "Los Trenes," meticulously planned these heists but made the fatal mistake of filming themselves while committing the crime. Source: US Attorney Bill Essayli / X Video/Screenshot

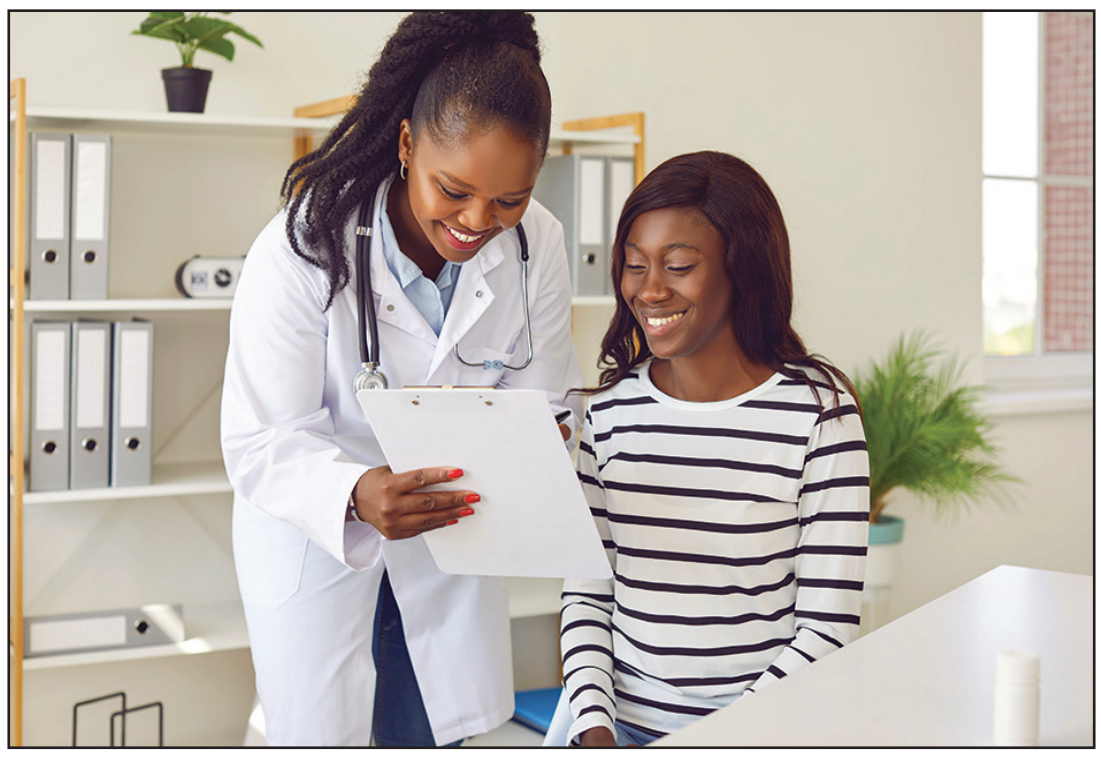
World & Nation

These Governors-Elect Campaigned on Expanding Medicaid. It Won't Be Easy.

By Sam Whitehead

Early in her election-night victory speech, Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms, Georgia's next governor, alluded to one of her main campaign promises: granting more low-income adults access to government health insurance."This win is for the caregiver who can't afford healthcare and needs Georgia to finally expand Medicaid," she told a crowd of cheering supporters.The national Democratic landslide that will give the party control of Congress will also sweep Bottoms and other Democratic gubernatorial candidates into office in a handful of states that have for years resisted fully expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act.Like Bottoms, governors-elect Cindy Holscher in Kansas, Gina Hinojosa in Texas, and David Crowley in Wisconsin campaigned on finally broadening access to the joint federal-state insurance program for those with low incomes or disabilities. More than a million people collectively in Georgia, Kansas, Texas, and Wisconsin could be covered by full Medicaid expansion, according to 2024 data from KFF, a health information nonprofit that includes KFF Health News.But expanding their Medicaid programs is no small task.These Democrats would have to surmount political and legislative hurdles at a time when the realities of Medicaid expansion have changed. Last year's GOP budget law eliminated a financial bonus for states to expand, imposed a work mandate, and implemented funding restrictions that are tougher on full expansion states."It's so messy," said Caylee Noggle, a former Georgia Medicaid director who is now president of the Georgia Hospital Association. "We're in this real moment where there are benefits and trade-offs to traditional expansion."Federal Changes

The Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, required states to expand Medicaid to millions more low-income adults. But a 2012 Supreme Court decision made that choice optional. Forty states plus Washington, D.C., have expanded Medicaid, most recently North Carolina in 2023. Ten states, including Georgia and Wisconsin, have declined to fully expand eligibility for the program. But those two states have offered coverage to some who would be covered under full expansion.The calculus for expanding changed last year. Along with eliminating the expansion bonus, President Donald Trump's signature One Big Beautiful Bill Act imposed restrictions on how much federal money states can draw down to help prop up doctors and hospitals that treat large numbers of Medicaid patients. And the limits are lower for expansion states than non-expansion states.Those funding restrictions will likely be a focal point for lawmakers in Wisconsin. Fully expanding Medicaid could threaten hundreds of millions of federal dollars flowing into the state, according to estimates from the Wisconsin Hospital Association.Bobby



A doctor reviews paperwork with a patient. Governors-elect in Georgia, Kansas, Texas and Wisconsin campaigned on expanding Medicaid, which could extend coverage to more than a million low-income adults. (Stock photo: Adobe Stock)

Peterson, a Madison-based attorney who helps clients navigate benefit programs, said any plan to cover more people with full Medicaid expansion in Wisconsin would likely hit headwinds, even with Democrats controlling the governor's office and both branches of the state legislature starting in January."These are going to be hard conversations," he said.Crowley, the state's incoming Democratic governor, embraced full Medicaid expansion early in his campaign. Later, he called for opening the state's partial Medicaid expansion to anyone who wants to buy a plan. Since his win, he's moved further away from full expansion.The Crowley campaign did not answer specific questions from KFF Health News about which policy he would pursue, and spokesperson Jonathan Fera said the governor-elect would share more about his agenda after his inauguration.When states expand eligibility, they get a larger federal funding match per enrollee in the expansion pool than for other people in their Medicaid programs. And having fewer uninsured patients can reduce the financial strain on hospitals and other players in the health system, which can win support for expansion from the hospital industry and rural politicians worried about facility closures in their communities.Still, states must find the money to pay their share for this bigger group of enrollees while wrestling with the new funding restrictions."It's a lot of complicated math," said Lawson Mansell, senior health policy analyst at the Niskanen Center, a think tank focused on free-market policies.Expansion also comes with new rules from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act requiring enrollees to prove they're working or completing at least 80 hours of other qualifying activities a month. Democrats would need to grapple with the politics of rolling out rules pushed by Republicans — and the potential of their congressional counterparts to change course again.The political landscape in Washington, D.C., has shifted with the blue wave entering Congress. Democrats have already pledged to roll back the Medicaid cuts in the GOP budget law but haven't said how. And it's unclear whether Trump would be on board."When states operate in an environment where they're uncertain about federal policy, that makes it harder for states to legislate," said Brian Blase, president of the right-leaning Paragon Health Institute. States would also need to figure out how to enact those work requirements if they hold. In Georgia, administrative hurdles for similar work rules made it difficult for people to enroll in the state's limited expansion program, which is set to expire at the end of the year. And many states that have already expanded Medicaid are struggling to implement the rules.On Nov. 13, the White House allowed states to delay the new work rules, originally set to take effect Jan. 1, by six months after pushback."Even if a state adopts the expansion, unfortunately, this could result in people still remaining uninsured just because of all these changes that essentially add more red tape," said Edwin Park, a research professor at Georgetown University's Center for Children and Families.Political Realities and Uncertainties

Enrollment in the Obamacare marketplaces has ballooned in several non-expansion states, including Texas, where more than 4 million people picked plans for 2026, according to KFF. Opponents of full Medicaid expansion have long warned against adding more people to Medicaid, a government program, rather than keeping them on private Affordable Care Act plans.Former Democratic U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke said he believes Medicaid expansion will be a priority for Hinojosa given her past work in the state legislature and her campaign messaging."The stories of people she met across the state struggling without healthcare really made an impact on her," he said. "It's clear that this is a priority for her."But while Texas Democrats won the governor's office and a majority in the state House, Republicans will still hold a majority in the state Senate.John Henderson, president and CEO of the Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals, said he's skeptical that Republican legislators will reverse their long-standing opposition to expanding Medicaid."It's been several sessions since there was even a real attempt at a conversation around Medicaid expansion," Henderson said. "There was an appetite in the House, but never enthusiasm in the Senate."Full Medicaid expansion has also eluded lawmakers in Kansas, where Holscher won a close race for governor. She will replace Gov. Laura Kelly, a Democrat whose efforts to expand Medicaid were stymied.In this month's elections, Kansas Republicans maintained control of the state Senate and House, but Democrats broke the GOP supermajority in the latter body.The Holscher campaign did not respond to questions from KFF Health News about her plans to get Medicaid expansion through two GOP-controlled legislative bodies.But the additional seats Democrats won give them more leverage to get conversations about expansion moving again, said April Holman, executive director of the nonprofit Alliance for a Healthy Kansas."I've been working on this long enough to have seen a number of different Houses of Representatives in Kansas," she said. "This is the most encouraging group coming in — in a very long time."KFF Health News senior correspondent Renuka Rayasam contributed to this report.

Evitarus Director of Research Shakari Byerly, Other Pollsters, Report Generational Shift in 2026 Election

By Antonio Ray Harvey
California Black Media

Dr. Shakari Byerly, managing partner of Evitarus, said a generational shift helped shape voter behavior in the Nov. 3 general election.

At Capitol Weekly's Nov. 5 election postmortem in Sacramento, Byerly and other pollsters discussed the election's Democratic gains, changing voter demographics and the role of polling. Byerly said younger voters were making their concerns known at the ballot box.



Dr. Shakari Byerly, Director of Research, Evitarus

"What we saw nationally, as well as here in California in candidate races, is a generation shift," Byerly said at the event, held at the UC Student and Policy Center. "So, looking at what we saw in Texas, particularly with the governor-elect, Gina Hinojosa, there's a real generational change there. What we are seeing in the Los Angeles (mayoral race), there's a generational change there."

Hinojosa, a Democrat, won the Texas governor's race. In California, the Los Angeles mayoral contest also drew attention from the pollsters.

Founded in 2008, Evitarus is a Los Angeles-based public opinion research firm that conducts surveys, focus groups and interviews. The company describes itself as California's only Black- and Latina-led full-service public opinion research firm.

More than 20 speakers took part in six panels at the Capitol Weekly event, covering topics including the Democratic "blue wave," fuel costs, President Donald Trump's approval ratings and Proposition 50, which redrew California's congressional districts.

The luncheon keynote, "The Polls," featured Byerly, Mark Baldassare of the Public Policy Institute of California, Mark DiCamillo of the Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies and Paul Mitchell of Political Data Inc. Ashley Zavala of KCRA 3 moderated.

Panelists also discussed pre-election polling on Propositions 40, 41 and 42, measures involving state tax policy. Proposition 40 proposed a one-time wealth tax; Propositions 41 and 42 included provisions that could block conflicting measures if they received more votes.

Byerly said voters across California raised concerns about housing, health care, food costs and immigration enforcement. She said Evitarus spoke with voters statewide in five languages and across different ethnic, cultural, gender and age groups.

"What we hear was that accountability was really important," she said.

The panelists discussed the accuracy of election polling, the spread of fake polls and prediction markets, changes in survey methods and shifting voter demographics. Byerly cautioned that polls are snapshots of voter sentiment, not guarantees of election outcomes.

"Polls are not a crystal ball," she said.

California's election results were still unofficial as the post-election canvass continued.

County election officials have up to 30 days after Election Day to complete their tallying, auditing and certification work. The Secretary of State is scheduled to certify statewide results Dec. 11.

A Nov. 17 analysis by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) put turnout at 50.1% of eligible voters and said the 2026 midterm was on track to be among the state's strongest in 50 years.

Separately, the California Voter Foundation estimated that about 99% of ballots had been counted by that date.

Baldassare agreed that younger voters were responding to economic pressures and looking for change.

"Younger voters in California and nationwide have real challenges to just keep up," he said. "It's very different than it was 30 years ago when you could make it on your own."

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

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Bakersfield News Observer
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Thousands Gather in Bakersfield to Say Goodbye to Dolores Huerta

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prayers and chants for Huerta's soul. He recognized her contributions to farmworkers, unions and children, describing her wisdom as something that would continue to pass from one generation to another.

Chanting with his granddaughter, Manuel Jr. said, "Songs are medicine, songs are prayer."

Pastor Matthews, who offered a prayer in the Christian tradition, drew from Proverbs 31:8: "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. Ensure justice for those who are being crushed."

He related the passage to Huerta's lifelong advocacy for people whose voices were often overlooked.

Rabbi Susan Goldberg of the Nefesh community in Los Angeles explained the Jewish phrase, "May her memory be for a blessing."

"We intentionally make her memory be for a blessing when we think, 'What would Dolores do?', and do it in those situations again and again," Goldberg said.

Aziza Hasan, executive director of NewGround, an interfaith organization in Los Angeles, read from the Quran and prayed that those gathered remember "that justice is never won by a solitary soul, but built collectively by those who uplift one another."

Sudarshan Kapoor, professor emeritus at Fresno State, recalled Huerta's visits to the university's peace garden.

He led the crowd in one of Huerta's famous chants: "Who have has the power? We have the power."

'Our mother's first committee'

Huerta's children shared memories of the woman beyond the microphone.

Lori Huerta de Leon, her eldest, thanked the leaders who made it possible for Huerta to lie in honor at the state Capitol in Sacramento on Monday. She described her mother as a skilled organizer, savvy political strategist, motivating speaker and lover of jazz.

"Charlie Parker was her favorite," she said.

Other family members recalled their days as children passing out union leaflets in the grape fields of Coachella, the family's New Mexico roots stretching back 14 generations, and negotiations in which Huerta chose only to interpret so that the farm workers would learn how to speak up for themselves.

One family member remembered praying with Huerta in her final days; after the prayers, Huerta asked them to pray for everyone else who is hurting.

Other family members recalled the children passing out union leaflets in the grape fields of Coachella, the family's New Mexico roots stretching back 14 generations, and negotiations in which Huerta chose only to interpret so farmworkers could speak for themselves. One remembered praying with Huerta in her final days, when she asked that they also pray for everyone else who was hurting.

Her daughter, Camila Chavez, executive director of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, recognized that the family's deepest mourning might begin after the crowds had gone and public attention faded.

"People may expect us to fill her shoes, but she's going to be buried with her shoes," she said. "It's going to take all of us here and there that are viewing us to fill those shoes."

Camila Chavez said the responsibility of carrying forward her mother's work belonged not just to the family but to everyone committed to human rights, dignity, justice and peace.

'May we continue the work'

Family and friends led a litany for causes close to Huerta's heart, including farmworkers, immigrants, women and girls, LGBTQ+ people, voting rights, children in war zones and the Earth. After each petition, the arena answered: "May we continue the work."

The Rev. Jaquie Fernandez followed with a litany of gratitude and a set of commitments, saying, "The true measure of power is not whom it can control, but whom it can uplift."

In the final farewell, three Catholic clergy members blessed and sprinkled holy water over Huerta's casket in a funeral rite recalling her baptism and Christian faith.

"God of compassion and love, you knew her before the world knew her. Receive her into everlasting peace," prayed Fr. Miguel Bustos.

Celebration of life

During the celebration of life ceremony, later in the day, more tributes and musical performances filled the air for four hours.

Xavier Becerra, a former California attorney general who will assume office in January as the state's first Latino governor, credited Huerta with helping make his rise to public service possible.

"I know why I'm here. I know how I got here," he said. "Dolores demanded it."

Attorney General Rob Bonta, joined by his mother, Cynthia Bonta, said his family lived in a trailer at La Paz, the United Farm Workers headquarters, where his parents organized alongside Huerta.

"I learned that people power is the most potent power that there is," he said.

Former president Bill Clinton, who sent in a video tribute, said: "Huerta gave everything because she knew that the people she was fighting for couldn't afford for her to give up, so she never did."

Randy Villegas, the representative-elect of California's 22nd Congressional District, said earning Huerta's endorsement "meant more than any endorsement I will ever receive from any organization or party."

He urged those gathered to honor Huerta by continuing to organize and fight for justice as he rallied the crowd with the chant of the day, "¡Sí, se puede!"

Entertainment

King Charles and Idris Elba Team Up for Netflix Documentary



King Charles meets with actor Idris Elba during a visit to Nelson's Dockyard in Antigua, Nov. 2, 2026.

By Jennifer Hassan
USA TODAY

King Charles III and Idris Elba are joining forces for a new documentary.

The duo will feature in Netflix's "The Trust," a documentary exploring the impact of The King's Trust, a charity founded by the monarch in 1976 to help young people build brighter futures.

The trust, which is marking its 50th anniversary, has supported 1.5 million people including Elba, who received a grant from the charity when he was 16. Being given $1,900 from the trust allowed Elba to join the prestigious National Youth Music Theatre, which kickstarted his acting career.

"There is a world where my life would play out in an entirely different way from this," the "Luther" star says in a trailer for the documentary, released on Monday Nov. 23; the documentary airs on Netflix, Dec. 26. "Can't exactly remember how it all came together, but I do know this guy, the king, helped shape it," he says

"There is something magical that happens when you add a touch of focus and possibility to people's lives," Elba continues as he praises the trust. The king used pay from his Navy severance to fund the initiative when Britain faced mass unemployment fifty years ago.

Last year, the king awarded Elba a knighthood for services to young people. The London-born actor was honored as Dr. Idrissa Akuna Elba on Dec. 29 for his work against youth violence, specifically knife crimes, in Britain.

The alum of the King's Trust, now 54, has been involved in the charity's work to support young people, calling on the British government to take a firmer stance when it comes to reducing knife crimes.

In the trailer, the king says that when he launched the trust as the "prince's trust" decades before he became monarch, he hoped the initiative would be "an investment in people's lives," adding that witnessing the charity's impact is "wonderful."

The trailer ends with the king telling Elba, "I'm very proud of you, you know that." The London-born actor replies, "Thank you."

The king and Elba were spotted together earlier this month amid the monarch's nine-day tour of the Caribbean. The pair's surprise run-in came as Charles visited Nelson's Dockyard in Antigua ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting while the actor was attending an event at the site.

The pair were seen sharing a joke and shaking hands.

From Tamela Mann to Patti LaBelle, Here Are 10 Celebrity Recipes to Whip Up This Thanksgiving

From traditional holiday sides to creative dishes, these 10 celebrity recipes bring a little star power to the Thanksgiving table.



By Kay Wicker

"I start baking my pies, and I have to bake enough because my family [will] start cutting into them and eating beforehand," she told Woman's World in an interview earlier this month.

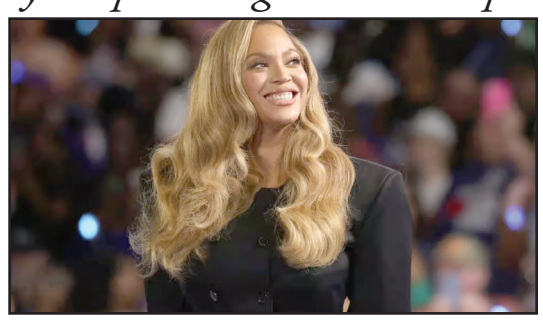
The 60-year-old Grammy-winning gospel singer and actress opened up ahead of the holiday about her Thanksgiving plans this year, which just may include expecting as many as 60 guests.

"It's usually a lot of us, and then somebody always brings somebody. I don't ever want anybody to feel like they're left out," she explained.

The Tyler Perry's "Madea" franchise star, alongside her husband David Mann, prepares a massive feast complete with all of the famous holiday staples like cornbread dressing, candied yams, collard greens, and mac and cheese, and more.

It's the kind of Thanksgiving spread many of us grew up looking forward to or dreaming of but now even at most of our big ages the thought of actually hosting one ourselves can be downright intimidating. Have no fear, though. Amid growing discourse about the decline in family gatherings and frustration with younger generations for not picking up the baton and quite literally losing recipes in the process, Mann is doing her part to keep that kitchen wisdom going through her cooking series, "Mama Mann's Kitchen."

In the series on her and her husband's YouTube channel, she shows viewers how to prepare the dishes that have graced our tables for generations and is helping a new crop of home cooks work their way toward becoming the aunties, uncles, and grandparents who once made it all look so easy. And thankfully, she's hardly the only celebrity who has been willing to share a recipe or two. Whether you're hoping to finally master a dish so the elders can get their well-earned rest, looking to put a new spin on an old staple, or simply searching for something delicious to bring to the table this Thanksgiving, we've rounded up 10 celebrity recipes worth trying.



Beyoncé's Guacamole

When Beyoncé headlined the Super Bowl Halftime show in 2013, she brought the house down, and she gifted the world the recipe for her favorite Super Bowl party staple: guacamole. Looking for a dip to serve with your appetizers or during any Thanksgiving weekend football games? Well, get in formation!



Snoop Dogg & E 40's Honey Walnut Shrimp

In 2023, Snoop Dogg and E 40 met minds on the cookbook "Goon with the Spoon," jam-packed with inventive recipes, including their hit air-fryer honey-walnut shrimp. In under 15 minutes, you can add a little more swag to that shrimp cocktail and leave them wanting more!



Tabitha Brown's Vegan Thanksgiving Plate

As veganism continues to rise among Black people, more and more of us are welcoming the plant-based hive around the table. However, tailoring a dish or two for the less meat-inclined doesn't have to mean forgoing any of the soulful flavor; just ask vegan food guru Tabitha Brown and her delicious, decadent Thanksgiving plate that includes her viral vegan potato salad, yams, greens, and, of course, her slow-cooked jackfruit in Turkey's stead.



John Legend's Mac & Cheese

Being tasked with making the mac & cheese, one of the most in-demand and hotly contested sides, is a lot of responsibility. Thankfully, the one and only John Legend has a recipe for a mac & cheese casserole that will more than live up to the pressure.



2 Chainz's Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Mashed potatoes, a given on any Thanksgiving spread, are an easy, low-hassle crowd-pleaser, but if you're looking for a way to liven them up, turn to none other than the luxury connoisseur himself, 2 Chainz, and his recipe for garlic mashed potatoes from his cookbook "Meal Time."



Tia Mowry's Collard Greens

Let's face it, Thanksgiving really is all about the sides. Right behind mac & cheese, mashed potatoes, and sweet potatoes is, of course, collard greens. If you like yours with a little kick to 'em, may we recommend Tia Mowry's recipe? It calls for a zesty combination of spices, including cayenne.



Kelis' Ginger Cornbread

Kelis, who made the move to get a culinary degree from Le Cordon Bleu in 2008, has a variety of recipes and cooking tutorials worth checking out, but one we think deserves to resurface, especially on Thanksgiving, is her ginger cornbread. The easy-to-make dish combines ginger with the sweet taste of corn for a surprisingly tasty original flavor.



Big Boi's Banana Cream Pudding

Many of our favorite celebrity recipes have been passed down to them, making them that much more special. In 2020, Big Boi shared his mother's banana cream pudding recipe as part of a campaign with Meals on Wheels Atlanta, which could make for the perfect excuse to bust the classic holiday dessert out this year.

Pattie LaBelle's Sweet Potato Pie

Sweet Potato pie is that rich, decadent dessert many of us look forward to each year. So it's little wonder why, when Patti LaBelle, whose iconic Grammy-winning musical talent is only rivaled by her cooking prowess, released frozen versions of her hit sweet potato pie recipe, they sold out instantly. Spring for the boxed stuff or roll up your sleeve, turn to her recipe, and finally whip up some of Pattie's famous pies.



Chef Marcus Samuelsson's Moroccan Spiced Turkey

Year after year, we gather to eat the big bird, the supposed star of the meal—turkey—even though year after year we also all complain about how bland it can be, how it's usually served one of two ways: deep-fried or roasted. It's predictable. This year, the turkey doesn't have to be the most predictable part of the meal when there are recipes like Chef Marcus Samuelsson's Moroccan Spiced Turkey, which really livens things up with a splash of citrus, chutney, and more.

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Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

Angela Marie Sanchez v. Jason Sanchez, Docket No. 2026-CV-85084, Rutherford County, Tennessee Circuit Court, ORDER OF PUBLICATION
Pursuant to T.C.A. 21-2-204, appearing from the allegations of the Complaint for Divorce in this cause, being duly sworn from affidavit, that Jason Sanchez, the Defendant, cannot be served with the ordinary process of law for the reason that after diligent inquiry the whereabouts of the defendant cannot be ascertained. It is therefore Ordered, that said Defendant enter an appearance 30 days after the last publication and file an Answer to the Complaint for Divorce, or judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint for Divorce. A copy of this Order is to be published for four consecutive weeks in the Bakersfield News Observer. Rutherford County Tennessee Circuit Court Clerk, 116 W. Lytle Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37130.
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

STATEMENT OF DAMAGES (Personal Injury or Wrongful Death)
CASE NUMBER: BCV-21-102361
Court Name: Superior Court of California, County of Kern, Bakersfield Metropolitan Justice
Court Address: 1215 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93301
To: Yong Kyun Won
Plaintiff: Abel Ramirez Cervantes
Seeks damages in the above-entitled action, as follows:
1. General Damages:
a. Pain, suffering, and inconvenience: $450,000.00;
b. Emotional distress: $40,000.00
2. Special Damages:
a. Medical expenses (to date): $157,181.17;
b. Future medical expenses (present value): $175,000.00;
c. Loss of earnings (to date): $15,000.00
SIGNED: Michael H. Moghtader, Esq
Date: August 17, 2026
Attorney for Plaintiff:
Michael H. Moghtader, Esq. (SBN 206421)
MHM LAW GROUP, APLC
16530 Ventura Blvd., Suite 606
Encino, CA 9143
Tel. (818) 996-9600
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

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SIGNED: Michael H. Moghtader, Esq
Date: August 17, 2026
Attorney for Plaintiff:
Michael H. Moghtader, Esq. (SBN 206421)
MHM LAW GROUP, APLC
16530 Ventura Blvd., Suite 606
Encino, CA 9143
Tel. (818) 996-9600
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6417
FILE NO: 2026-B6418
Doing business as:
LAV//PINNACLE / PINNACLE ENGINEERING at 12418 ROSEDALE HWY., SUITE B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
LAV CONSULTING & ENGINEERING, INC. at 12418 ROSEDALE HWY., SUITE B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **Christopher S. Quintana, President**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 11/17/2014
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/23/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: J PADILLA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/23/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6434
Doing business as:
F2S PARTENERS LLC at 529 KNOTTS STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 5106 EL PALACIO DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
F2S PARTNERS LLC at 529 KNOTTS STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Amber Falcon, Member**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 10/20/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/23/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H MENDOZA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/23/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6329
Doing business as:
HOMERUN MOBILE DETAIL at 14020 CHRISTELLA CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
Mailing address: 14020 CHRISTELLA CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
MATTHEW THOMAS CAMPBELL at 14020 CHRISTELLA CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **MATTHEW THOMAS CAMPBELL**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/20/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H MENDOZA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/20/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6454
FILE NO: 2026-B6455
Doing business as:
GOODBYETICKET.COM / GOODBYETICKET.COM 1 HOUR COURSE at 9800 GRIZZLY ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
Mailing address: PO BOX 20423, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93390
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
GOODBYETICKET.COM LLC at 9800 GRIZZLY ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **RANDY ONEAL, MEMBER**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 01/01/2025
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/26/2026
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).
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This statement expires on: 10/26/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5919
Doing business as:
DRIVEN HIGHER at 15202 SAGE VINEYARD CT., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: PO BOX 9530 HAGMAN RD., STE B363, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
JENNIFER LOUISE BAIRD at PO BOX 9530 HAGMAN RD., STE B363, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
SHANNON MARIE GARCIA-BROWN at PO BOX 9530 HAGMAN RD., STE B363, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
The business is conducted by: General Partnership
SIGNED: **Jennifer Baird**
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: 09/28/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M Sales,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/26/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5792
Doing business as:
MON CHERI BOUTIQUE at 1505 19TH STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
DROITURE VENTURES INC at 13110 SOLARIO LN, BAKERSFIELD CA 93306
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **MERCEDES AYALA, Secretary**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/24/2022
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/22/26
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).
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This statement expires on: 09/22/31
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6450
Doing business as:
LOTTIE GROVE at 15706 LAKE ARROWHEAD AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 15706 LAKE ARROWHEAD AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
CYNTHIA KAY BURT at 15706 LAKE ARROWHEAD AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **CYNTHIA KAY BURT**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 12/01/2025
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/26/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: Aimee X Espinoza,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
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This statement expires on: 10/26/2031
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6537
Doing business as:
FAST FINISH WWWBESTPRICECOURSECOM at 4560 CALIFORNIA AVE, STE 300, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
Mailing address: 6305 KELVIN GROVE, BAKERSIFELD, CA 93312
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
JACOB BRANDON MILLER at 6305 KELVIN GROVE, BAKERSIFELD, CA 93312
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **JACOB BRANDON MILLER**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/29/2026
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).
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This statement expires on: 10/29/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6539
Doing business as:
LOWEST PRICE WWWSAVETIMECOURSECOM at 4560 CALIFORNIA AVE, STE 300, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
Mailing address: 6305 KELVIN GROVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
JACOB BRANDON MILLER at 6305 KELVIN GROVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **JACOB BRANDON MILLER**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/29/2026
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).
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This statement expires on: 10/29/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6458
Doing business as:
RAINBOWZ CREATIONZ at 2625 CLEMSON CT., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 2625 CLEMSON CT., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
DANIELA WALKOVER at 2625 CLEMSON CT., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
HEATHER G. WALKOVER at 2625 CLEMSON CT., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
The business is conducted by: Married Couple
SIGNED: **Daniela Walkover**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 09/11/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/26/2026
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).
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This statement expires on: 10/26/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6478
Doing business as:
MARI'S CREATIVE CO. at 3601 EL HOGAR COURT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 3601 EL HOGAR COURT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
MARISOL ROMO at 3601 EL HOGAR COURT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **MARISOL ROMO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/27/2026
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).
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This statement expires on: 10/28/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6501
FILE NO: 2026-B6502
Doing business as:
KING HERNANDEZ HANDYMAN / PIMENTEL MOBILE CARWASH at 316 BALBOA DR, DELANO, CA 93215
Mailing address: 316 BALBOA DR, DELANO, CA 93215
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
MIGUEL ALEJANDRO PIMENTEL HERNANDEZ at 316 BALBOA DR, DELANO, CA 93215
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **MIGUEL ALEJANDRO PIMENTEL HERNANDEZ**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/28/2026
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).
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This statement expires on: 10/28/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6493
Doing business as:
SUMMIT SUPPORT SERVICES at 122 S GREEN STREET #18, TEHACHAPI, CA 93561, KERN
Mailing address: 122 S GREEN STREET #18, TEHACHAPI, CA 93561
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
SUMMIT SUPPORT SERVICES INCORPORATED at 15715 SAINT CLEMENT WAY, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **Tamerla Prince, CEO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/28/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/28/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6503
Doing business as:
GWEN-TV at 135 OLIVE ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
Mailing address: P.O. BOX 71355, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93387
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
GRANDMA WHOOPLE EDUCATION NETWORK INC at 135 OLIVE ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **Ali Morris, Secretary**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 07/13/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/28/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/28/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6232
Doing business as:
ROCK SOLID ROLLER WHEELS at 1006 BROAD STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
Mailing address: 1006 BROAD STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
ROCK SOLID ROLLER WHEELS, LLC at 1006 BROAD STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Tavien Mabry, Manager**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/14/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/14/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5762
Doing business as:
THE CEO SALON AND MORE at 1110 CALLOWAY DR #100, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
Mailing address: 1110 CALLOWAY DR #100, BAKERSFIELD, CA
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
CARLA ELAINE DAVIDSON OWENS at 1110 CALLOWAY DR #100, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **CARLA ELAINE DAVIDSON OWENS**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 03/31/2008
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: Nov 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6237
Doing business as:
INDIGO GARDEN & CO. at 1927 20TH STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 3501 MALL VIEW ROAD 115-303, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
POPPY AND FIG HARVEST COMPANY LLC at 1927 20TH ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Christina Galvan, Manager**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/14/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/14/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF OFELIA SALAS
CASE NUMBER: 26PRJ01267
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of OFELIA SALAS.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Enedin Hernandez, Sr. in the Superior Court of California, County of Kern.
2100 College Ave.,
Bakersfield, CA 93305
Juvenile Justice Center
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Enedin Hernandez, Sr. 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: December 4, 2026
Time: 8:30AM
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.
Attorney for Petitioner:
Gerald H. Oldfield, Esq.
McAtee & Oldfield Law Offices
1810 Westwind Drive,
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Telephone: (661) 324-6010
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 11, 18, 25, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6370
FILE NO: 2026-B6371
FILE NO: 2026-B6372
Doing business as:
GECKOLOCO / GECKOLOCO GAMES / GECKOLOCO STUDIOS at 10605 HARPENDEN AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311, KERN
Mailing address: 10605 HARPENDEN AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
HECTOR MANUEL GUTIERREZ RANGEL at 10605 HARPENDEN AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **HECTOR MANUEL GUTIERREZ RANGEL**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/14/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/14/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6399
Doing business as:
ROSETOWN FAMILY DENTISTRY at 1229 7-TH ST, WASCO, CA 93280, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 505 WEST COLUMBUS ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
SAGARIAN, A PROFESSIONAL DENTAL CORPORATION at 505 WEST COLUMBUS ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **Mike Sagarian, President**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 10/01/1997
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/22/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: J PADILLA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/22/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 11, 18, 25, Dec 2, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6070
Doing business as:
King Energy at APN#261-241-03/ Patterson Road & 190th Street East, Rosamond, CA 93560, Kern County
Mailing address: 16588 Endeavor Place, Chino, CA 91708
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
Ho Chien Electronic Group Inc. at 16588 Endeavor Place, Chino, CA 91708
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **Parker Lin, President**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 01/01/1995
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/05/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: J. Padilla,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/05/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 11, 18, 25, Dec 2, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6587
Doing business as:
V'S CREATIVE TOUCH at 5700 SAMUELSON ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
Mailing address: 5700 SAMUELSON ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
VERONICA CAZARES at 5700 SAMUELSON ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **VERONICA CAZARES**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 10/01/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 11/04/2026
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

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

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: 11/04/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 11, 18, 25, Dec 2, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6268
Doing business as:
JUAREZ CONSTRUCTION CO. at 4108 INDIE CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 4108 INDIE CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
FRANK JUAREZ JR at 4108 INDIE CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **FRANK JUAREZ JR**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 11/15/1988
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/15/2026
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: 10/15/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 11, 18, 25, Dec 2, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6656
Doing business as:
ONE MORE COOKIE at 7513 LIME GROVE DR., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 7513 LIME GROVE DR., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
SEENA ANASTASIA SORIANO at 7513 LIME GROVE DR., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **SEENA ANASTASIA SORIANO**
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: 11/06/2026
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: 11/06/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 11, 18, 25, Dec 2, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5901
Doing business as:
BARBERS LOUNGE at 810 10TH AVE, DELANO, CA 93215
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
ARMANDO CENDEJAS at 1121 WEAVER AVE, DELANO, CA 93215
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **ARMANDO CENDEJAS**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 11/01/2016
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/28/2026
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: 09/28/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 11, 18, 25, Dec 2, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2026-B5544
Business Name you wish to abandon:
Blue Clouds Market at 1002 Wible Road Suite M, Bakersfield, CA 93304
Mailing Address: 1002 Wible Road Suite M, Bakersfield, CA 93304
County: Kern
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name:
Corner Market Holdings LLC at 1002 Wible Road Suite M, Bakersfield, CA 93304
Business was conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Ilias Touma**, Member
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: 10/30/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
J Padilla
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: Nov 11, 18, 25, Dec 2, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF ABANDONED PERSONAL PROPERTY
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, the landlord of the premises located at 561 North American Street Unit F, Shafter, CA 93263, will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, the following abandoned personal property left behind by the former tenant:
- Machinery
- Chemicals
- Cars
- Furniture
- Forklift
- Large stainless steel vats
- Various boxes of items

Location of Sale:
Gould Auction & Appraisal Co.
6200 Price Way, Bakersfield, CA 93308
Date and Time of Sale:
Saturday December 12, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.
Landlord/Authorized Agent:
JAAMS LLC
c/o LeBeau Thelen, LLP
(661) 325-8962

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 18, 25, 2026

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 26CUB00625
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
DANTE D NAPLES, And DOES 1 through 5, Inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): LVNV FUNDING LLC
N O T I C E !
You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.
Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.
Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.
The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF KERN
METROPOLITAN DIVISION - UNLIMITED CIVIL CASE
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):
LAURA M. D'ANNA, ESQ., SBN 266113; NELSON VENTURA, ESQ., SBN 362555
PATENAUDE & FELIX, A.P.C.
6800 Owensmouth Avenue, Suite 290,
Canoga Park, CA 91303-4216
Tel. 866-784-8084
DATE (Fecha): 02/20/2026
Tara Leal
By Alexandra Valles, Deputy
(Adjunto)
(SEAL)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served.

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 18, 25, Dec 2, 9, 2026

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 26CUB00297
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
Amrik Trans Inc.; Varinder Singh; and DOES 1 to 60, inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): Christopher Miller, Arlone Jones, and Malcolm Goldston
N O T I C E !
You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.
Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.
Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.
The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Superior Court of the State of California, County of Kern
Metropolitan Division Justice Building
1215 Truxtun Ave,
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):
Sara Ghafari, Esq.
Law Offices of Sara Ghafari
6001 Bristol Parkway, Second Floor,
Culver City, CA 90230
Tel. (818) 222-1923
DATE (Fecha): 01/29/2026
Tara Leal, Clerk
By Javen Silva, Deputy
(Adjunto)
(SEAL)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served.

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 18, 25, Dec 2, 9, 2026

COMPLAINT—Personal Injury, Property Damage, Wrongful Death
Plaintiff: Christopher Miller, Arlone Jones, and Malcolm Goldston
Defendant: Amrik Trans Inc.; Varinder Singh
DOES 1 TO 60, inclusive
Case Number: 26CUB00297
1. Plaintiff (name or names): Christopher Miller, Arlone Jones, and Malcolm Goldston alleges causes of action against **defendant** (name or names): Amrik Trans Inc.; Varinder Singh; and DOES 1 to 60, inclusive
2. This pleading, including attachments and exhibits, consists of the following number of pages: 5
3. Each plaintiff named above is a competent adult
5. Each defendant named above is a natural person
a. **except** defendant (name): Amrik Trans Inc.
(2) a corporation
b. **except** defendant (name): DOES 1 to 10
(2) a corporation
c. **except** defendant (name): DOES 11 to 20
(1) a business organization, form unknown
d. **except** defendant (name): DOES 21 to 30
(3) an unincorporated entity (describe):
6. The true names of defendants sued as Does are unknown to plaintiff.
a. Doe defendants (specify Doe numbers): DOES 1 to 60 were the agents or employees of other named defendants and acted within the scope of that agency or employment.
b. Doe defendants (specify Doe numbers): DOES 1 to 60 are persons whose capacities are unknown to plaintiff.
8. This court is the proper court because
c. injury to person or damage to personal property occurred in its jurisdictional area.
10. The following causes of action are attached and the statements above apply to each (each complaint must have one or more causes of action attached):
a. Motor Vehicle
b. General Negligence
11. Plaintiff has suffered
a. wage loss
c. hospital and medical expenses
d. general damage
f. loss of earning capacity
13. The relief sought in this complaint is within the jurisdiction of this court.
14. Plaintiff prays for judgment for costs of suit; for such relief as is fair, just, and equitable; and for
a. (1) compensatory damages
The amount of damages is (in cases for personal injury or wrongful death, you must check (1)):
(1) according to proof
Date: 01/28/2026
Sara Ghafari, Esq.

_____
Sara Ghafari
(SIGNATURE OF PLAINTIFF OR ATTORNEY)

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 18, 25, Dec 2, 9, 2026

STATEMENT OF DAMAGES (Personal Injury or Wrongful Death)
CASE NUMBER: 26CUB00297
Court Name: Superior Court of California, County of Kern, Metropolitan Division Justice Building
Court Address: 1215 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93301
To: Varinder Singh
Plaintiff: Malcolm Goldston
Seeks damages in the above-entitled action, as follows:
1. General Damages:
a. Pain, suffering, and inconvenience: $1,000,000.00;
b. Emotional distress: $500,000.00;
e. Other: Interest as permitted by law.: Undetermined
2. Special Damages:
a. Medical expenses (to date): $42,618.32;
b. Future medical expenses (present value): Undetermined;
c. Loss of earnings (to date): Undetermined;
d. Loss of future earning capacity (present value): Undetermined
SIGNED: Sara Ghafari, Esq.
Date: November 11, 2026
Attorney for Plaintiff:
Sara Ghafari, Esq. (SBN: 114204) / Ali Fesharaki, Esq. (SBN: 316559)
Law Offices of Sara Ghafari
6001 Bristol Parkway, Second Floor, Culver City CA 90230
Tel. (818) 222-1923

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 18, 25, Dec 2, 9, 2026

STATEMENT OF DAMAGES (Personal Injury or Wrongful Death)
CASE NUMBER: 26CUB00297
Court Name: Superior Court of California, County of Kern, Metropolitan Division Justice Building
Court Address: 1215 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93301
To: Varinder Singh
Plaintiff: Christopher Miller
Seeks damages in the above-entitled action, as follows:
1. General Damages:
a. Pain, suffering, and inconvenience: $1,000,000.00;
b. Emotional distress: $500,000.00;
e. Other: Interest as permitted by law.: Undetermined
2. Special Damages:
a. Medical expenses (to date): $8,025.00;
b. Future medical expenses (present value): Undetermined;
c. Loss of earnings (to date): Undetermined;
d. Loss of future earning capacity (present value): Undetermined
SIGNED: Sara Ghafari, Esq.
Date: November 11, 2026
Attorney for Plaintiff:
Sara Ghafari, Esq. (SBN: 114204) / Ali Fesharaki, Esq. (SBN: 316559)
Law Offices of Sara Ghafari
6001 Bristol Parkway, Second Floor, Culver City CA 90230
Tel. (818) 222-1923

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 18, 25, Dec 2, 9, 2026

STATEMENT OF DAMAGES (Personal Injury or Wrongful Death)
Case Number: BCV-25-101311
Superior Court of California, County of KERN
Court Address: 1215 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301 Metro Justice Building
PLAINTIFF: Mercury Insurance Company, a corporation
DEFENDANT: Abraham Flores, an individual
To: Abraham Flores, an individual
Plaintiff: Mercury Insurance Company, a corporation seeks damages in the above-entitled action, as follows:
2. Special Damages
AMOUNT
Property damage $18,342.84
Other: Uninsured Motorist Bodily Injuries
Date: 3/24/2025
S/ TODD F. HAINES, ESQ.,
Attorney for Plaintiff
Attorney or Party without Attorney: TODD F. HAINES, ESQ. SBN: 144429 Law Offices of Todd F. Haines 30495 Canwood Street, Ste. 100 Agoura Hills, CA 91301
Telephone No: 818-597-2240
Fax number: 818-597-2120
email: Xavier@haineslawoffice.com
Attorney for: Mercury Insurance Company, a corporation
11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9/26
CNS-4095065# BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 18, 25, Dec 2, 9, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6588
Doing business as:
SPIRITUALREFLECTION.ORG at 900 4TH ST. APT 118, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
Mailing address: 900 4TH ST. APT 118, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
KEITH BROWN at 900 4TH ST. APT 118, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **KEITH BROWN**
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: 11/04/2026
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: 11/04/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 18, 25, Dec 2, 9, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6635
Doing business as:
ESCUELA TECNICA AUTOMOTRIZ EN SEMINARIOS at 3600 CHESTER AVE SUITE B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301, KERN
Mailing address: 3600 CHESTER AVE SUITE B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
MARIA R CRUZ at 3600 CHESTER AVE SUITE B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **MARIA R CRUZ**
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: 11/10/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D. Hinojosa,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 11/10/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 18, 25, Dec 2, 9, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6695
Doing business as:
JJ'S PRODUCE at 5706 SAMUELSON ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 5706 SAMUELSON ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
J JESUS OROZCO GUTIERREZ at 5706 SAMUELSON ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **J JESUS OROZCO GUTIERREZ**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 10/01/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 11/10/2026
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: 11/10/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 18, 25, Dec 2, 9, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6708
Doing business as:
BELLA BRIGHT TEETH WHITENING at 131 CHESTER AVE STE B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
Mailing address: 7812 WILLIS AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
MARIA ISABEL AVALOS at 7812 WILLIS AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **MARIA ISABEL AVALOS**
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: 11/10/2026
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: 11/10/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 18, 25, Dec 2, 9, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6739
Doing business as:
GARCHA BROS at 9510 ORCHAD GRASS CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 9510 ORCHAD GRASS CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
KULVIR SINGH GARCHA at 9510 ORCHAD GRASS CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **KULVIR SINGH GARCHA**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 05/17/2010
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 11/12/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M CEJA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 11/12/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 18, 25, Dec 2, 9, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6144
Doing business as:
FTS - FIELD TECHNICIAN SERVICES at 4309 MONITOR ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 4309 MONITOR ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
SANDRA LETICIA VILLAGRANA at 4309 MONITOR ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **SANDRA LETICIA VILLAGRANA**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/08/2026
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: 10/08/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 18, 25, Dec 2, 9, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6770
Doing business as:
YEPEZ CONTRACTING at 2109 1ST ST, WASCO, CA 93280, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 2109 1ST ST, WASCO, CA 93280
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
JOSE A TLAPALAMATL YEPEZ at 2109 1ST ST, WASCO, CA 93280
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **JOSE A TLAPALAMATL YEPEZ**
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: 11/13/2026
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: 11/13/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 25, Dec 2, 9, 16, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6686
Doing business as:
Blue Clouds Market at 1002 Wible Road Suite M, Bakersfield, CA 93304, Kern County
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
Corner Market Holdings LLC at 1002 Wible Road Suite M, Bakersfield, CA 93304
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Ilias Touma, Owner/ Officer/CEO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 07/23/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 11/09/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M. Cegal Marke,
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: 11/13/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 25, Dec 2, 9, 16, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6801
Doing business as:
SOLUTION IN MOTION at 3737 EUCALYPTUS DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306, KERN
Mailing address: 3737 EUCALYPTUS DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
HUGO ALFONSO CHAVEZ DIAS at 3737 EUCALYPTUS DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **HUGO ALFONSO CHAVEZ DIAS**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 10/05/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 11/16/2026
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: 11/16/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 25, Dec 2, 9, 16, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6803
FILE NO: 2026-B6804
FILE NO: 2026-B6805
Doing business as:
MAE FAMILY HEALTHCARE / MAE FAMILY HEALTH / MAE FAMILY CARE at 229 TRUXTUN AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301, KERN
Mailing address: 229 TRUXTUN AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
MAE SUMMER HEALTHCARE INC at 1401 21ST STREET SUITE R, SACRAMENTO, CA 93301
State of incorp. or org.: CA
SIGNED: **RUFINA ONUMAJURU, CEO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 11/17/2026
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: 11/17/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 25, Dec 2, 9, 16, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6792
Doing business as:
GUDINO PROPERTY SOLUTIONS at 6209 AJOONI CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
Mailing address: 715 BERNARD STREET APT D, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
CHRISTOPHER GUDINO at 715 BERNARD STREET APT D, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **CHRISTOPHER GUDINO**
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: 11/16/2026
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: 11/16/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 25, Dec 2, 9, 16, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6717
Doing business as:
PERFUMANIA at 2701 MING AVE, SPC 196, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304, KERN
Mailing address: 2650 SW 145TH AVE, MIRAMAR, FL 33027
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
PERF OPCO,LLC at 2650 SW 145TH AVE, MIRAMAR, FL 33027
State of incorp. or org.: DE
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

SIGNED: **Robert Cooper, CFO**
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: 11/10/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M. Ceja,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 11/10/2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 25, Dec 2, 9, 16, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6817
Doing business as:
A & S TRUCK LINES at 11907 BELLINGER ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 11907 BELLINGER ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
SARABJIT SINGH BAL at 11907 BELLINGER ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **SARABJIT SINGH BAL**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 02/13/2018
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 11/17/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H MENDOZA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself

PUBLIC NOTICE

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: 11/17/2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 25, Dec 2, 9, 16, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6850
Doing business as:
RUIZ CONSTRUCTION at 2000 TORREY DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312, KERN COUNTY
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
EDINSON RUIZ at 2000 TORREY DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **EDINSON RUIZ**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 05/28/2003
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 11/19/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 11/19/2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 25, Dec 2, 9, 16, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

FILE NO: 2026-B6446
Doing business as:
THRIVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & WELLNESS at 1701 WESTWIND DR #202, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 1701 WESTWIND DR #202, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
GONZALES & YBARRA FAMILY THERAPY CORP at 1701 WESTWIND DR #202, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **Gisela Gonzales, CEO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/26/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H MENDOZA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/26/2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 25, Dec 2, 9, 16, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6445
Doing business as:
THE INNER BLOOM at 2524 3RD ST., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 2524 3RD ST., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
JULIANNE YBARRA LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER CORP at 2524 3RD ST., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **Julianne Ybarra, CEO**
The registrant commenced to

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transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 10/26/2026
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).
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This statement expires on: 10/26/2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 25, Dec 2, 9, 16, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6851
Doing business as:
SONI AIR at 2000 TORREY DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
Mailing address: 2000 TORREY DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
EDINSON RUIZ at 2000 TORREY DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **EDINSON RUIZ**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 06/29/2022
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 11/19/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA,
Deputy
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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).
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This statement expires on: 11/19/2031

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PUB: Nov 25, Dec 2, 9, 16, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6874
Doing business as:
661 CARPET CLEANING at 204 WOODBOURNE DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
Mailing address: 204 WOODBOURNE DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
JOSE REYNALDO LOVO ALFARO at 204 WOODBOURNE DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **JOSE REYNALDO LOVO ALFARO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 11/20/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 11/20/2026
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).
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This statement expires on: 11/20/2031

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6755
Doing business as:
TACOS EL CHAPULIN at 1153 BORDELAIS ST., DELANO, CA 93215, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 1153 BORDELAIS ST., DELANO, CA 93215
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
NALLELI SARAI MEDINA JIMENEZ at 1153 BORDELAIS ST., DELANO, CA 93215
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **NALLELI SARAI MEDINA JIMENEZ**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 09/19/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 11/13/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M CEJA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 11/13/2031

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PUB: Nov 25, Dec 2, 9, 16, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B6880
Doing business as:
ROSIE POP EVENTS at 601 MYRTLE ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 601 MYRTLE ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
ERIC DANIEL RECIO at 601 MYRTLE ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **ERIC DANIEL RECIO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under

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the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 11/01/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 11/20/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H MENDOZA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 11/20/2031

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PUB: Nov 25, Dec 2, 9, 16, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2026-B2456
Business Name you wish to abandon:
MAE FAMILY CARE at 229 TRUXTUN AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
County: KERN
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name:
MAE SUMMER HEALTHCARE INC at 1401 21ST STREET SUITE R, SACRAMENTO, CA 95811
Business was conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **RUFINA ONUMAJURU, CEO**
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: 11/17/2026
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: Nov 25, Dec 2, 9, 16, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

PUBLIC NOTICE

NAME
FILE NO: 2026-B2455
Business Name you wish to abandon:
MAE FAMILY HEALTH at 229 TRUXTUN AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
County: KERN
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name:
MAE SUMMER HEALTHCARE INC at 1401 21ST STREET SUITE R, SACRAMENTO, CA 95811
Business was conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **RUFINA ONUMAJURU, CEO**
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: 11/17/2026
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: Nov 25, Dec 2, 9, 16, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2026-B2454
Business Name you wish to abandon:
MAE FAMILY HEALTHCARE at 229 TRUXTUN AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
County: KERN
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name:
MAE SUMMER HEALTHCARE INC at 1401 21ST STREET SUITE R, SACRAMENTO, CA 95811
Business was conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **RUFINA ONUMAJURU, CEO**
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: 11/17/2026
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

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Features



Working Families Party state director Jorge Contreras (right) poses with the group's national director Maurice Mitchell (left). Photo courtesy of Working Families Party.



Group photo taken at the Working Families Party 2026 held convention in Los Angeles in July. Photo courtesy of Working Families Party.

Working Families Party Builds Power as California Turns Even Bluer

By McKenzie Jackson
California Black Media

Wayne Jones, 38, of Hollywood, has voted Democratic since he was a teenager in metro Atlanta. But in this month's election, amid instability in the entertainment industry where he works for Paramount Pictures, Jones cast his vote further left.

He voted for Nithya Raman, the progressive City Council member who defeated incumbent Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass.

Jones said Republicans "don't offer anything" beyond division and tax breaks for large corporations. But he also believes traditional Democrats have not addressed the concerns of their base.

"Raman is just as flawed as any other who takes that office, but Karen Bass had missteps that were costly," he said. "The Democrats have been resting on their careers for way too long. When people wanted action, they didn't meet the moment and shrugged saying they had no real power."

Jones' choice reflects a broader shift in California politics, where progressive candidates and the California Working Families Party (WFP) made gains in the Nov. 3 election.

At UC Law San Francisco last January, more than 2,000 people registered for a congressional forum hosted by the California WFP and allied groups. Organizers opened overflow space for the crowd, which came to hear candidates running to succeed former U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA-11), who had announced she would not seek reelection. A nearby bar hosting a watch party also filled up, and the party's Discord server crashed as viewers logged on.

WFP State Director Jorge Contreras said the party saw similar interest at 400 events in 77 cities this year. He described a hunger to organize, particularly outside the Bay Area and Los Angeles, including in the Inland Empire and Central Valley.

"I'm telling you," said Contreras. "Traveling the state, especially in places outside the Bay Area and L.A., you could just tell there was a hunger. People wanted to organize and fight back and find a political home," he said.

With results still awaiting certification, Contreras estimated that about 240 WFP-endorsed candidates would win local, state and congressional races.

Among the Black candidates the party endorsed were Joanna Paun, who won a seat on the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors; Jackie Elward, who won California's 12th Assembly District, covering parts of Marin and Sonoma counties; and Stevevonna Evans, who won the Adelanto mayoral race.

In an Instagram post, Evans invited voters to watch her be sworn in Dec. 9 at Adelanto City Hall.

"The election may be over, but the WORK is just beginning! PEOPLE OVER POLITICS. THE TIME IS NOW!" she wrote.

Contreras credited Black organizations and community leaders with helping build the California WFP, saying they wanted an alternative to a Democratic Party they viewed as too aligned with corporate interests.

The party's major victories included former California WFP State Director Jane Kim's win over state Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) in the insurance commissioner's race. Longtime WFP leader Randy Villegas defeated Republican incumbent David Valadao in California's 22nd Congressional District.

The WFP says it supports 12 California mayors and has at least one affiliated elected official in 72 cities statewide. Contreras called the results historic, saying the party had challenged Democrats directly and won.

Founded in 1998, the national Working Families Party recruits and trains candidates who run primarily in Democratic primaries. It has more than 600,000 members and is active in 18 states. The Working Families National Committee is led by Executive Committee co-chairs Andrea Serrano and Jacob Feinspan.

Many WFP-backed candidates are Democrats and can receive endorsements from both parties. The WFP urges its candidates to reject corporate money and rely on community organizing, canvassing and volunteers.

Notable national WFP-backed victories included Michigan Sen.-elect Abdul El-Sayed. The party also endorsed Zohran Mamdani in his 2025 New York City mayoral campaign.

A coalition of community organizations, labor groups and others established the California WFP in 2020. The party represents more than 30 grassroots organizations and labor unions, with nearly 100,000 members statewide.

Contreras, a former Democratic operative who left the party in 2016, said the WFP needed to distinguish itself from Democrats. He said it aimed to move beyond the 2017 "resist" movement and become "the party of working people."

The party's "Working Families Party Guarantee," which promotes living wages, union jobs, quality health care, immigrant protections and affordable housing, also resonated with voters, Contreras said. He pointed to door knocking, phone banking and conversations among neighbors as key parts of the campaigns.

WFP candidates also faced well-funded Democratic opponents, Contreras said. In Santa Ana, WFP leader and City Councilmember Jessie Lopez defeated fellow councilmember David Penaloza for the Assembly District 68 seat, despite millions of dollars in corporate spending supporting Penaloza. The contest was among the state's most expensive legislative races.

"I am deeply grateful to our coalition partners, our hardworking families, and every voter, volunteer, and supporter who made this historic victory possible," Lopez said. "This victory is a powerful reminder that our democracy belongs to Californians, not the corporations and wealthy special interests that too often wield outsized influence over our politics."

Ramon G. Griffin: A Morehouse Man on a Mission

By Sam Plo Kwia Collins Jr.
Black Press USA Wire

Shortly after becoming 2027 D.C. Teacher of the Year, Ramon G. Griffin appeared on WHUR 96.3 FM, where his story reached thousands of listeners, including a mother who he said later wrote him a two-page letter in request of guidance for her teenage son.

"I look forward to reaching out to her and assisting her in that process and that goal," said Griffin, an African-American history instructor at Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter School in Southeast. "The meaning of this Teacher of the Year award is that I am able to have a voice and representation on a larger scale so that others can be inspired and so that I can help individuals. It's my objective to work more closely with young teachers to aid them in their skill set, to make sure our children are being educated properly and effectively."

On Oct. 26, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser — flanked by D.C. State Superintendent Dr. Antoinette Mitchell, Ward 8 D.C. State Board of Education Representative Dr. LaJoy Johnson Law, and others — announced Griffin as 2027 D.C. Teacher of the Year during what several students, faculty and staff at Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS thought was an assembly organized in celebration of the school's 100% college acceptance rate since its inception.

"In my spirit, I can honestly say I knew I won," Griffin told The Informer. "When she switched it up and said 'I'm here for a teacher,' the first thing that came to mind was that this may be it. Then she stated a quote from a documentary that was done on me last year, and she stated where I originate from, and I said I'm about to be awarded D.C. Teacher of the Year. That's when it set in."

Griffin, a self-described griot, has 13 years of teaching under his belt, seven of which have been at Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS. That's where he currently serves as an instructor of AP African-American Studies and African American History through Film and Music. Both courses, he told The Informer, allow him to engage students in storytelling.

Ebbon Allen, founder of "Morehouse Day," says Ramon G. Griffin helped him organize an event that will take place on Jan. 15, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 98th birthday. (Robert R. Roberts/The Washington Informer)Within a couple of months, Griffin's endeavor to shape the minds of youth continues when Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS hosts yet another "Morehouse Day." This event, held at several District schools, connects male students with members of the Morehouse Alumni Association Washington, DC Chapter, many of whom graduated from District public and public charter schools before pursuing higher education.

"We have Morehouse men who come in: those who are elders to me, those who were there during my tenure and those who are younger," said Griffin, a member of Morehouse's Class of 1998 and key influence in at least three Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS alumni's matriculation to the HBCU. "What it shows is that we as Black men are not what they portray in the news. We're not about bringing each other down. We're about standing out, building, and making sure that our race is looked upon proudly, not for others, but for self and for the next generation."

An Inside Look: 'Morehouse Day' at Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS

The upcoming "Morehouse Day" at Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS is scheduled to take place on Jan. 15, which would've been the 98th birthday of Morehouse alumnus the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This intergenerational gathering also happens around the same time that Howard University men's basketball team plays its home game against Morehouse College.

For Morehouse alumnus and "Morehouse Day" brainchild Ebbon Allen, it was a perfect storm that only Griffin could help make happen.

"Before we even knew that Ramon was going to be awarded and honored, we've been on 'Morehouse Day' as teammates for the last two years," Allen told The Informer. "We definitely had a meeting within the last two or three months to designate 'Morehouse Day' for MLK's birthday weekend. Ramon just shows the epitome of a Morehouse man: well-versed, well-traveled, and definitely educated."

Speaking more about his fellow Morehouse alumnus, Allen said that Griffin has long put in the work to boost college enrollment among young Black men.

"He's had a lot of young men going to attend Morehouse College," Allen told The Informer. "We're still trying to work on a pipeline to send more young men from Thurgood Marshall Academy down to Atlanta."

Since the inception of "Morehouse Day" in 2021, Allen and other members of the Morehouse Alumni Association Washington, DC Chapter have spoken to more than 2,000 young men attending: Calvin Coolidge High School; Dunbar High School; Eastern Senior High School; Friendship Technology Preparatory High School; H.D. Woodson High School; Kelly Miller Middle School; and Ron Brown College Preparatory High School.

The upcoming "Morehouse Day" at Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS will be the second seminar of its kind on school grounds. Allen said that students will delve into violence prevention, entrepreneurship, college and career readiness, and the scholarship application process. His goal, he said, centers on providing them space to imagine how to achieve their dreams.

"We wanted young Black men to understand that they can learn about self-advocacy and learn the value of being a Black male in today's society," Allen told The Informer. "There's going to be a new [mayoral] administration so our young men need to get well-versed and become well-educated about their rights and the opportunities to create a space of learning about strong advocacy."

Allen, who followed in his three uncles' footsteps to attend Morehouse College, credited the HBCU with exposing him to the different caliber of Black men. He told The Informer that, like him and other Morehouse men, Griffin has embedded in him a passion for working hard and laying a foundation for those coming after him.

"Ramon Griffin sets the bar for other Black male educators about how much of an impact and difference they can make," Allen told The Informer. "By coming to Thurgood Marshall Academy in Southeast Washington, D.C., he'll make more young Black men…find out what it takes to get back in a positive light. You don't always have to be an entertainer. You don't always have to be in athletics, but you can take an education pathway and still be awarded for your service, commitment and dedication."



Ramon G. Griffin, an African-American history teacher at Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter School, accepts the 2027 D.C. Teacher of the Year award on Oct. 26 with D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser, Ward 8 D.C. State Board of Education Representative Dr. LaJoy Johnson Law and D.C. State Superintendent Dr. Antoinette Mitchell. Ramon G. Griffin, an African-American history teacher at Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter School, accepts the 2027 D.C. Teacher of the Year award on Oct. 26 with D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser, Ward 8 D.C. State Board of Education Representative Dr. LaJoy Johnson Law and D.C. State Superintendent Dr. Antoinette Mitchell. (Ja'mon Jackson/The Washington Informer)

Out of the Mouths of Babes

C'khai Morgan, a senior at Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS, said he counts Morehouse College among his top choices for business management and human resource management, thanks to Griffin.

"He literally embodies the meaning of a Morehouse Man," C'khai told The Informer. "You go in any classroom he ever had, you're going to see something Morehouse. You catch him on a good day, he's probably wearing a Morehouse sweater."

C'khai, who also applied to Fayetteville State University, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, and Temple University in Philadelphia, was a student in Griffin's AP African-American Studies course last school year. On his way to scoring a 4 on the Advanced Placement exam and clinching college credits, he participated in Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS' "My Brother's Keeper" program, where he got to learn more about the man he now regards as an uncle.

"I started seeing a different side of Mr. Griffin that I never heard of," C'khai said. "He always wants the best for somebody, but other students who lack maturity or just lack the understanding of his purpose would be like 'Mr. Griffin be trying hard. He be pressed to get somebody in trouble.' It reminded me that you can't let somebody else's opinions refer to someone as such."

Students who take Griffin's African-American History through Film and Music course take a trip through the Jim Crow, the Great Migration, and Harlem Renaissance, among other time periods, to understand how the blues genre originated from Africa, came into form during enslavement, and traveled with African Americans who moved into northern U.S. cities.

Although Griffin has a curriculum, he often deviates from it, as Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS student Kailani Marshall noted, by recounting his family history. She told The Informer about learning African-American history through stories of Griffin's grandmother who migrated from Mississippi to Detroit, where he was born and raised.

"He makes sure that students actually retain the information and it's entertaining as well," said Kailani, a senior who hopes to study sociology either at Georgetown University, Howard University, Spelman College, or Temple University. "I can't say that about a lot of classes. The way he teaches really allows students to understand topics fully."

Reporter Sam Plo Kwia Collins Jr. interviews 2027 D.C. Teacher of the Year Ramon G. Griffin and his students C'khai Morgan and Kailani Marshall. (Courtesy of Gigi Aklilu/Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter School)

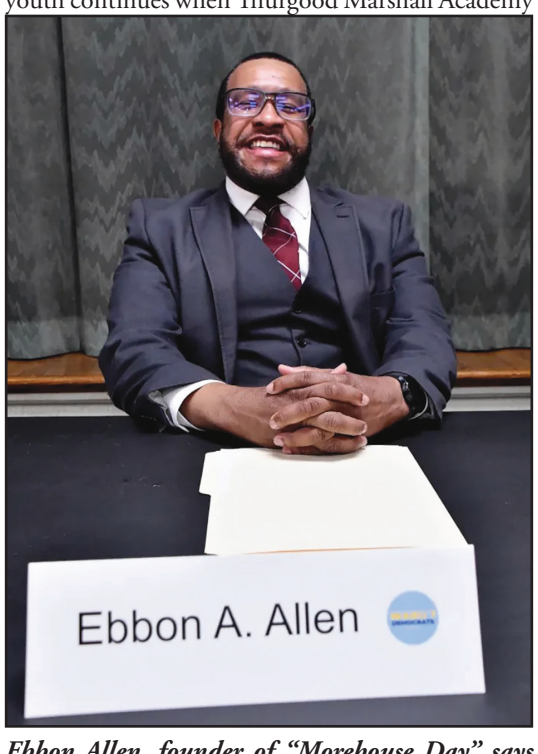
During her junior year, Kailani took Griffin's AP African-American Studies and African-American History through Film and Music courses. She, too, scored a 4 on her AP exam, due to what she called Griffin's demand for excellence.

"You can't be mediocre. It's not an option," Kailani said about Griffin. "He's passionate about instilling confidence and success into students. You can't say that about a lot of teachers. He really is one of the few teachers who actually care for their students and care for their future."

During Griffin's first year of teaching AP African-American Studies at Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS, 87.5% of his students passed the AP exam. This feat follows other achievements at Dunbar High School, where he directed climate and culture, and at Kingman Academy Public Charter School, where he served as a founding member.

Even with Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS' 100% college acceptance rate, Griffin acknowledged that it takes great effort to earn a bachelor's degree. That's what he said he emphasizes to his students as he shares his coming-of-age story and integrates writing and math enrichment into his assignments.

"You don't want to be a 20-year-old counting on your fingers. You don't want to be a 20-year-old starting a sentence and ending it at the end of the page with one period," Griffin said. "You just have to put in the work, and I give them examples of times during my high school years and during my college years. Whatever you want in life, you can have. You definitely will accomplish it, but you have to have a plan. It's not going to be given to you."



Ebbon Allen, founder of "Morehouse Day" says that Ramon G. Griffin helped him organize an event that will take place on Jan. 15, which would have been the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 98th birthday. (Robert R. Roberts/The Washington Informer)



Reporter Sam Plo Kwia Collins Jr. interviews 2027 D.C. Teacher of the Year Ramon G. Griffin and his students C'khai Morgan and Kailani Marshall. (Courtesy of Gigi Aklilu/Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter School)

Features

Election 2026 - What the Voters Said, and What They Didn't

By Craig J. DeLuz
Special to California Black Media Partners

Note: This is a rebuttal to David B. DeLuz's "The Great Cleansing Election of 2026."

My brother David calls the Nov. 3 election "The Great Cleansing Election of 2026."

I'll grant him the scoreboard. Democrats flipped seven Republican-held Senate seats and more than 40 GOP-held House seats, reaching into Kansas, Iowa, Ohio, Texas and South Carolina. When red states send that message, the party in power had better listen.

But "cleansing" is not a description. It is a verdict dressed up as one, and measured against history, it does not hold.

In 1994, Bill Clinton's Democrats lost 54 House seats. In 2010, Barack Obama's Democrats lost 63, plus about 700 state legislative seats and 20 chambers. In 2018, Trump's Republicans lost 40. This year's net House loss of around 40 matches 2018, and Democrats' five governorships and up to 12 legislative chambers fall short of 2010. Nobody called 2010 a cleansing, and Obama was reelected two years later. What David calls a reckoning; history calls a pendulum.

That matters. A party that believes the country has been purged of an error governs as if its majority were permanent, and it is usually corrected within two years.

Voters judged results, not intentions. Gas prices rose, much of it tied to the conflict with Iran. Republicans held power, so Republicans owned the consequences. That is accountability, and conservatives should not complain about it.

But David says voters rejected "a government that seemed more devoted to one man's political interests than to the people it was elected to serve." That is a sentiment, not a finding. Voters answered a question about grocery bills and gas tanks. They did not vote for higher taxes, more energy regulation, or making it harder to build housing or start a business. Point to the ballot where that question appeared.

David's own evidence makes my case. He notes that Republican vote share fell 14 points in majority-Latino counties after Latino voters moved toward Trump in 2024. But voters who swing 14 points one way in two years can swing 14 points back. That is not a cleansing. It is a persuadable electorate shopping for results.

He concedes this was "no Democratic Socialists of America sweep" and that voters "did not endorse every Democratic proposal." Exactly. The country fired the managers and kept the business plan under review. And if Republican maps could not withstand the national mood, as David argues, Democratic assumptions will not either.

Now, the hard part belongs to Democrats. Energy prices do not fall because a different party holds the gavel. David urges a focus on affordability and health care. Worthy goals, but goals are not policies, and every policy has a price, paid through taxes, borrowing or inflation, by the same families who just asked for relief. The question is not whether the winners mean well. It is who bears the cost when results fall short of the rhetoric.

Immigration, which David never mentions, shows how this works. Voters asked Republicans to secure the border, and crossings fell. But enforcement moved into neighborhoods, in part because sanctuary jurisdictions refused to hand over people already sitting in county jails, and 59 percent of voters told NBC's exit poll they disapproved of ICE. Success removed a reason to vote Republican; its methods supplied a reason to vote against them. How a policy is carried out is part of the policy. Voters did not vote to reopen the border, and if the new majority uses the purse to hobble enforcement, that choice will be theirs to own.

To Republicans: do not blame the voters or the candidates. Lower costs and show it in results families can see.

To Democrats: David is right that a repudiation is not a mandate. I would put it more bluntly. A protest vote is a loan, not a gift.

David says this election's meaning depends on Democrats "understanding the assignment." We agree on that. We differ on what the assignment is. This was not a cleansing. It was a grade, and Republicans earned it. The next test starts now, and voters will judge the new majority the same way: not by what it intended, but by what it delivered.



Craig DeLuz

More Sleep and Lower Blood Pressure -- An Overlooked Connection

By Joe W. Bowers Jr.
California Black Media

Lack of sleep can contribute to high blood pressure, yet sleep often receives less attention than medication, diet and exercise in discussions about heart health. During sleep, blood pressure normally declines, reducing the demands placed on the heart and blood vessels. When sleep is insufficient or frequently interrupted, blood pressure can remain higher for longer periods.



Joe W. Bowers

For Black Americans, the connection deserves particular attention. Nearly 58% of Black adults have high blood pressure, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A National Center for Health Statistics report found that 40.2% of Black adults experienced short sleep, compared with 28.9% of White adults.

The figures do not prove that inadequate sleep explains why Black adults have higher rates of hypertension. They do show why sleep belongs in the discussion about Black cardiovascular health.

That connection became personal for me during a routine visit to my cardiologist. My blood pressure was 143/90. I was already taking blood pressure medication, but I had not been monitoring my pressure at home. I had no warning that the reading had changed.

High blood pressure often produces no noticeable symptoms, even while increasing the risk of heart disease and stroke.

The absence of symptoms became even clearer to me at a local festival where free blood pressure screenings were offered. I spoke with a woman whose systolic pressure — the top number — was 198. She said she felt fine.

A systolic reading above 180 is considered severe hypertension and requires prompt medical attention, even without symptoms. Her reading reinforced what I had learned from my own experience: Feeling fine does not mean that blood pressure is normal.

After my cardiology appointment, I began looking at possible reasons for my elevated reading. I considered what I ate, how much I exercised and whether I was taking my medication as prescribed. Then I thought about my sleep.

I was sleeping four to five hours a night. I was not deliberately choosing to sleep less. I would become busy in the evening, move from one activity to another and go to bed later than I intended. Over time, that pattern became routine.

After researching the relationship between sleep and high blood pressure, I began going to bed earlier. I increased my sleep to seven or eight hours a night and continued monitoring my pressure. My medication remained the same.

Within weeks, my blood pressure readings moved into the normal range. One recent reading was 114/68.

I know that one change in my routine does not prove cause and effect. I had no home readings from before the cardiologist visit, so I do not know when my pressure started rising. Blood pressure also changes with stress, activity, time of day and how it is measured.

Still, my medication remained the same while I slept longer and my blood pressure readings improved.

Research has linked inadequate sleep to hypertension.

"When a person doesn't sleep enough or doesn't get quality sleep, it can increase their risk of hypertension," Dr. Chandra Jackson, a senior investigator at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, said in an interview published by the institute.

The American Heart Association added sleep to its Life's Essential 8 measures of cardiovascular health in 2022. The association recommends seven to nine hours of sleep a night for most adults, which is the amount I now get.

Getting more sleep is also not simply a matter of personal discipline. Work schedules, multiple jobs, caregiving responsibilities, neighborhood noise, housing conditions and concerns about safety can make regular sleep difficult.

Dr. Girardin Jean-Louis, director of the Center on Translational Sleep and Circadian Sciences at the University of Miami, has studied racial disparities in sleep.

"Black and Latino people in the U.S. sleep around 30 to 60 minutes less per night than White people," Jean-Louis said in an article published by the university.

Racism and discrimination also contribute to stress that can interfere with sleep.

"Things like racism and discrimination, these affect our sleep," Dr. Dayna Johnson, a sleep epidemiologist at Emory University, said in an interview with North Carolina Public Radio.

Sleep quality matters, too. A person can spend seven or eight hours in bed and still not get restorative sleep. Sleep apnea causes breathing to stop and restart during the night and increases the risk of high blood pressure, heart attack and stroke. Warning signs include loud snoring, gasping during sleep, morning headaches and excessive daytime sleepiness. The condition is more common among Black adults than White adults.

The lesson from my experience is not that sleeping longer cured my high blood pressure. Sleeping longer does not replace medication, medical care or regular monitoring. I told my cardiologist about the change in my sleep schedule, and his concern remained whether my readings were under control.

What changed was my understanding of sleep as part of protecting my heart. I had treated sleep as the time left after I finished everything else. Going to bed earlier was a change I could make, and monitoring my pressure allowed me to see what was happening.

For me, inadequate sleep was a risk factor I had overlooked. Getting enough sleep is now part of how I manage my heart health. I did not know it mattered. Now I do.

If Food Is Medicine, Teach Doctors How to Prescribe It

By Dr. Bret Scher
BlackPressUSA

The Department of Health and Human Services recently announced an initiative to improve nutrition education across every stage of physician education and training. As part of the effort, dozens of medical schools have pledged to include 40 hours of nutrition training -- or a competency-based equivalent -- in their graduation requirements.

Those pledges target a longstanding gap. Medical schools currently devote less than 1% of lecture hours to nutrition, and until recently, roughly three-quarters of schools didn't require a dedicated nutrition course.

As a cardiologist, I welcome this initiative.

But adding hours alone won't be enough. More nutrition education won't meaningfully improve our nation's chronic disease crisis unless medical schools also rethink what they teach. For decades, medical and dietetic societies -- even the government -- have promoted similar dietary guidance, yet metabolic disease continues to rise.

Rather than repeat the same nutrition mantra, schools should focus on two priorities: teaching physicians how to evaluate nutrition evidence and translate it into individualized patient care.

Since diet is first-line therapy for many of the most common chronic diseases afflicting Americans, physicians should be as comfortable evaluating nutrition evidence as they are interpreting the science behind the medications they prescribe. That starts with understanding how nutrition research differs from many other areas of medicine.

A conventional drug trial can often isolate a single intervention and compare it with a placebo under tightly controlled conditions. Nutrition rarely fits that model.



Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA.

Nutrition science therefore relies on observational studies, controlled feeding trials, mechanistic research, and clinical interventions.

Medical schools must teach future physicians how to weigh these different forms of evidence and understand what each study design can -- and cannot -- tell them.

Evaluating the evidence is only half the job -- physicians also need to know how to apply it to the patient in front of them.

For decades, major medical groups have recommended a one-size-fits-all approach to healthy eating: reduce saturated fat, increase whole grains, eat less, and move more. But that conventional advice has failed to stem the rise of metabolic disease.

Today, approximately 90% of Americans show at least one sign of suboptimal metabolic health, while obesity and type 2 diabetes have steadily increased. It's increasingly clear that a dietary strategy that works for a metabolically healthy patient may not be the best starting point for someone whose body is struggling to regulate glucose and insulin.

Future physicians need a toolkit that recognizes a range of evidence-based dietary approaches. For instance, research routinely shows that low-carbohydrate and ketogenic diets can improve glycemic control, weight, and other metabolic markers for many patients. Mediterranean-style or plant-based dietary patterns that emphasize whole, nutrient-dense foods can also offer benefits.

Medical schools must therefore teach future physicians how to match the right strategy to the right patient.

With this initiative, HHS has created an opportunity to rethink nutrition education for the next generation of physicians. Now it's up to policymakers and accrediting bodies to ensure that the new requirements define competencies, not merely hours.

Get that right, and those 40 hours can produce better doctors -- and healthier Americans.

America's Healthcare System Isn't Sustainable. What Would a Better Alternative Look Like?

By Marc Boutin
BlackPressUSA

Virtually no one in America is satisfied with the healthcare status quo. Not doctors. Not hospital executives.

Not drug or insurance company leaders. And most certainly not patients.

This nearly universal anger is setting the stage for seismic reforms. Policymakers in both parties are planning ambitious healthcare overhauls.

Rather than waiting for Washington to impose changes from the top down, it'd be far better for patients, providers, insurers, employers, drug companies, and pharmacy benefit managers to work together now -- to reimagine, and ultimately redesign, the system with a shared vision.

America boasts the most talented doctors and best hospitals in the world. Our researchers develop the lion's share of new medicines. And far more of those treatments are available here than in other peer nations, at least in theory.

Yet despite all these advantages, our current healthcare system fails to deliver the outcomes that matter most to families -- because it was simply never designed to do so. We often cannot agree on what healthcare should ultimately accomplish, which outcomes matter most, or what tradeoffs we are willing to tolerate.

In the absence of this shared understanding, companies default to prioritizing their own short-term finances

-- even if that's not in the long-term interests of patients, families, or society.

For instance, consider the dilemma facing health insurers. Americans frequently bounce from insurer to insurer as they change jobs, move states, retire and enroll in Medicare, or simply select new plans that better fit their needs.

So even when an expensive treatment would clearly improve a patient's health and prevent future complications, the insurer or employer that shoulders the upfront cost likely will not reap the eventual savings.

Consider the dilemma posed by gene therapies, which target the underlying genetic malfunctions and mutations that cause certain diseases.

In many cases, a one-time dose of these therapies can completely cure a patient's disease for life -- and prevent millions of dollars in spending on hospitalizations and other care down the road.



Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA.

Multiple gene therapies are cost-effective, even with price tags exceeding $1 million.

In all likelihood, insurers that cover these therapies will see only a fraction of the return before patients switch plans. They therefore have a strong incentive to limit access, even when everyone agrees these treatments offer good value over a lifetime.

This behavior makes perfect sense from the perspective of an individual insurer or employer. But it makes no sense for society as a whole.

We need a genuinely market-based system in which providers, drug companies, and insurers can transparently compete for customers on both price and quality.

And that competition cannot happen unless we first adopt new valuation metrics to better understand the full costs and benefits of different treatments and care models -- and then redesign payment and insurance rules so that organizations are rewarded, rather than penalized, for investing in patients' long-term health.

The question is whether stakeholders can set aside their differences, agree on a shared definition of success, and implement reforms that improve patients' long-term physical, mental, and financial health.

If they cannot, Washington will eventually impose changes from above.

Marc Boutin, J.D., a three-time cancer survivor and caregiver, is president and CEO of IVI and previously served as CEO of the National Health Council, where he led policy initiatives that helped shape national health care reform. This column originally appeared at DCJournal.com

Political

Political Playback:

California Capitol News You Might Have Missed



California State Capitol in Sacramento. CBM file photo.

By Bo Tefu
California Black Media

Three California Democrats Elected to U.S. House Leadership

Three California Democrats will hold leadership posts as House Democrats prepare to take the majority in the 120th Congress. Reps. Pete Aguilar (D-CA-33), Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D-CA-37) and Ted Lieu (D-CA-36) were elected to roles in the caucus.

Speaker-designate Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY-08) will lead the team, with Rep. Katherine Clark (D-MA-05) as majority leader and Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO-02) as assistant speaker. Rep. Lauren



Left to right: Reps. Pete Aguilar (D-CA-33), Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D-CA-37) and Ted Lieu (D-CA-36) were elected to roles in the caucus.



U.S. Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.), House Democratic Leader, represents New York's 8th Congressional District. (Official Congressional Photo)

Underwood (D-IL-14) will serve as caucus vice chair, and Rep. Morgan McGarvey (D-KY-03) as caucus leadership representative.

Aguilar, who represents parts of the Inland Empire, will serve as House majority whip. He said Democrats, with at least 260 members, plan to focus on lowering costs, protecting health care and rooting out corruption.

"As Whip, I will listen to and advocate for each of our Members and always work to find consensus to ensure our caucus delivers on the issues that matter most to the American people," Aguilar said.

Kamlager-Dove, whose 37th District covers parts of Los Angeles County, will co-chair the Democratic Policy and Communications Committee, which helps shape the party's policy and messaging. She will share the post with Reps. Sarah McBride of Delaware and Maxwell Frost of Florida. Rep. Debbie Dingell of Michigan will chair the committee.

Lieu, whose 36th District includes coastal and western Los Angeles County communities, was elected Democratic Caucus chair. He will be the first Asian American to hold the post.

Lieu said the new leadership reflects the caucus's diversity and historic representation across several groups.

"With this election, our Caucus has made history. We will have the largest Women's Caucus, the largest Black Caucus, the largest Hispanic Caucus, the largest Asian Pacific American Caucus, the largest Equality Caucus, and one of the largest Veterans Caucuses in history."

Legislative Leaders Pledge to Build State Cash Reserves as LAO Warns of $35B Deficits

California's legislative leaders pledged to strengthen the state's reserves after the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) warned that a stock market downturn could drive annual budget deficits above $30 billion.

"We will continue to strengthen our reserves and protect health care, food aid, emergency response, and our schools," Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas (D-Hollister) said.

Senate President pro Tem Monique Limón (D-Santa Barbara) said Senate Democrats would protect taxpayers by "building reserves, paying down debts" and exploring ways to offset federal cuts.

The LAO projects a $2 billion deficit for the 2027-28 budget year under its main forecast. But if the stock market peaks at the end of 2026 and falls sharply through 2027, annual deficits could reach about $35 billion.

On Nov. 18, Legislative Analyst Gabriel Petek said California's reliance on stock market-driven tax revenue has increased its exposure to market swings. Income taxes account for about 70% of general fund revenue, with a disproportionate share paid by high-income taxpayers.

Since late 2022, the Nasdaq 100 has risen about 150%, while the S&P 500 has more than doubled, according to Petek's presentation. He said several indicators suggest the market has entered "classical speculative bubble territory," including record household stock holdings relative to disposable income and high levels of margin debt, or money borrowed to buy stocks.

Asked whether the indicators suggest a downturn may be approaching, Petek said, "We do think all of these kinds of indicators are pointing us in the direction that we could be getting close."

He cautioned that the timing of a decline is impossible to predict.

In the LAO's crash scenario, revenues would fall more than $130 billion below the main forecast over the projection period, while reserves would cover only a fraction of the shortfalls. Petek stressed that the office is not predicting a crash in its main forecast. Instead, it has built heightened market risk into its projections as a form of insurance.

"The state budget is overextended at this point," Petek said, pointing to California's continued reliance on temporary fixes despite strong revenue growth. The state has accumulated nearly $30 billion in budgetary debt.

"We really encourage the Legislature to plan a budget for the upcoming year that is centered on relatively cautious revenue estimates," he said.

The LAO also cited recent Medi-Cal changes and Proposition 2, which strengthens the state's reserves and provides for additional debt payments, as steps toward improving California's fiscal position.



Photos courtesy of Gov. Gavin Newsom's Facebook page.

Governor-Elect Becerra Meets With California's Most Diverse Slate of Constitutional Officers in State History

Gov.-elect Xavier Becerra met with California's statewide constitutional officers and officers-elect on Nov. 17 to discuss shared priorities and ways their offices can work together ahead of his administration.

The state is poised to have its most diverse slate of constitutional officers in state history. For the first time, all eight statewide offices will be held by people other than White men.

Attending the meeting were Lt. Gov. and Treasurer-elect Eleni Kounalakis, Attorney General Rob Bonta, Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Controller Malia Cohen, Insurance Commissioner-elect Jane Kim and Superintendent of Public Instruction-elect Richard Barrera. Bonta and Weber participated virtually.

Current Treasurer Fiona Ma, who is lieutenant governor-elect, was unable to attend.

According to Becerra's transition team, the officials discussed lowering the cost of housing, stabilizing homeowners' insurance and reducing utility bills. Other topics included holding artificial intelligence companies accountable, strengthening election security, investing in schools and protecting Californians from threats ranging from El Niño to actions by the federal administration.

Speaking to reporters, Becerra said the meeting focused on addressing the rising cost of living and ensuring state leaders work together to deliver results.

"Californians watch the cost of living climb every time they pay the rent or open a bill," said Becerra. "Our job is to make sure they can see and feel the work we're doing to bring these costs down, and that work starts with everyone at this table pulling in the same direction."

Kounalakis said she looked forward to working with Becerra on managing state borrowing and investing in priorities that matter to California families.

Bonta said the incoming administration would have opportunities to work together on affordability, public safety and defending California's people, values and resources. Weber described the meeting as an opportunity to establish ongoing communication and information-sharing among the state's constitutional offices.

Cohen said she welcomed Becerra's commitment to working with the officers, emphasizing the importance of government oversight and accountability. Kim highlighted the need for a more affordable and stable insurance system.

Barrera said affordability also affects schools, pointing to the cost of housing for teachers, access to child care and early learning, college affordability and student homelessness and food insecurity.

Becerra's transition team said the officials agreed to continue working together on the priorities discussed at the meeting as the incoming administration prepares to take office.

Washington, D.C.: Gov. Newsom Meets With Speaker-Designate Jeffries; Addresses Crisis Facing Men and Boys

Gov. Gavin Newsom met with U.S. House Speaker-Designate Hakeem Jeffries in Washington, D.C., to discuss federal priorities, including wildfire recovery funding for Los Angeles, while also addressing the challenges facing boys and men at a national summit.

Newsom met with Jeffries on Nov. 17 as part of his efforts to secure $12.98 billion in federal disaster recovery assistance for communities affected by the January 2025 Los Angeles wildfires. The governor is urging Congress to approve the funding before lawmakers adjourn in December.

Speaking to the Washington Examiner, Newsom expressed confidence that Jeffries would win the Democratic caucus vote to become the next House speaker.

"I don't think he needs any of our help," said Newsom. "I think he's uniquely positioned."

Newsom praised Jeffries for supporting Proposition 50, California's redistricting measure, and campaigning in the state during the 2026 election cycle. He credited the congressman with helping Democrats gain five House seats in California.

"He enjoyed a pretty significant night, including being instrumental in creating the conditions that led to Proposition 50 and picking up those additional five seats," said Newsom. "So. there's a lot of respect and support for him."

Separately, Newsom spoke at the inaugural summit of the American Institute for Boys and Men, joining its founder, Richard V. Reeves, for a fireside chat about the challenges facing boys and men and California's efforts to address them.

"Too many boys are falling behind in school. Too many men are disconnected from work, from friendships, from people they can turn to. Too many are losing their lives," said Newsom. "This is a crisis of isolation and opportunity, but its effects are not isolated — everyone feels it."

The governor also said, "It is up to us to make sure these young men are seen, supported, and connected before a crisis becomes a tragedy."

Newsom highlighted California's initiatives to expand mentorship, employment and mental health support. The state's Men's Service Challenge has engaged more than 11,000 men as coaches, tutors, mentors and community leaders, exceeding its initial goal of 10,000.

The administration also reported that young men's use of Soluna, a free online behavioral health resource, increased 91% since September 2025. Fathers' engagement with BrightLife Kids rose 62%, and the state's school-linked behavioral health program has reached more than 77,000 students.

After Feds Block Billions in California Medicaid Cash, Calif. Sens. Padilla and Schiff Launch Inquiry

U.S. Sens. Alex Padilla and Adam Schiff, both D-Calif., along with four other Senate Democrats, are demanding answers from the Trump administration about billions of dollars in federal Medicaid funding withheld from California and other Democratic-led states. They also accuse federal health officials of weakening programs designed to prevent fraud.

The senators sent a letter to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Administrator Mehmet Oz seeking records about the agency's enforcement actions, staffing, and use of Medicaid fraud-prevention funds.

CMS has imposed more than $3.4 billion in federal payment deferrals tied to California's In-Home Supportive Services and personal care programs. The senators said the agency has not provided specific evidence of wrongdoing to justify the deferrals. They also raised concerns about federal funding withheld from Minnesota and the decertification of Medicaid Fraud Control Units in Hawaii and New York.

"The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is running the most aggressive public enforcement campaign against state Medicaid programs in the agency's history, while accelerating the systematic dismantling of the federal infrastructure Congress funded to prevent Medicaid fraud in the first place," the senators stated.

The letter accuses CMS of weakening the Medicaid Integrity Program, which Congress established to help detect and prevent fraud and abuse. The senators said the agency eliminated dedicated fraud research functions, reduced in-person training for state investigators and replaced comprehensive on-site reviews with remote assessments.

They also questioned whether CMS is complying with a federal requirement to maintain at least 100 employees dedicated to Medicaid program integrity. The senators said publicly reported information indicates staffing has fallen below that threshold.

The inquiry cites a reported mathematical error in CMS's investigation of New York Medicaid, where a figure used to calculate annual beneficiaries was allegedly off by a factor of 10. It also points to Minnesota's lawsuit challenging the attempted withholding of $243 million in Medicaid payments.

The senators are seeking information about CMS's Medicaid Fraud War Room, including its funding and evidence supporting publicly announced fraud figures.

They also want details about artificial intelligence pilots intended to identify suspicious Medicaid billing before payments are made, including the data sources and funding behind the projects.

The letter requests 10 categories of records, including staffing and budget reports, contracts, state payment deferrals and documentation supporting the agency's fraud claims. The senators gave CMS until Nov. 27 to respond and requested a staff-level briefing within two weeks.

"Program integrity in a program of that scale demands sustained investment, deep expertise, and genuine partnership with states," the senators stated.

Moving forward, CMS's response could determine whether the senators' concerns lead to further congressional action. According to Padilla's office, the requested records are intended to clarify how federal Medicaid funds are being spent and what evidence supports the administration's actions against California and other states.



From left to right: State Controller Malia Cohen; Lt. Gov. and Treasurer-elect Eleni Kounalakis; Gov.-Elect Xavier Becerra; Insurance Commissioner-elect Jane Kim; and Superintendent of Public Instruction-elect Richard Barrera.

Local



Traco Matthews (left) joins civil rights and labor leader Dolores Huerta (center) and Bakersfield Vice Mayor Manpreet Kaur for a photo in Bakersfield. (Photo courtesy of Traco Matthews)

'She Was Always the First To a Fight'

Traco Matthews remembers the Dolores Huerta many did not know.

By Cecil Egbele
Contributing Writer | California Local News Fellow

The California Racial Equity Commission chair recalls his friendship with the civil rights icon, her solidarity with Bakersfield's Black community, and the lessons she leaves behind.

To many Americans, Dolores Huerta was the fearless labor organizer who helped lead the farmworker movement and spent decades challenging institutions and demanding equal rights.

To Traco Matthews, she was also a friend who loved music, enjoyed dancing, had a wicked sense of humor, and never hesitated to pull people out of their comfort zones.

Matthews, chair of the California Racial Equity Commission and chief health equity officer at Kern Health Systems, met Huerta about over a decade ago. Their friendship deepened after the murder of George Floyd in 2020, when Matthews and other local Black leaders organized efforts to bring attention to racial justice and policing in Bakersfield.

He remembers Huerta not simply as a prominent Latino labor leader, but as someone who always showed up for the struggles of other communities, including Black residents.

As Huerta's memorial ceremonies bring people together to celebrate her life and legacy, Matthews spoke with The Bakersfield News Observer about their friendship, her connection with the Black community, and the woman behind the public image.

Egbele: Beyond her reputation as a civil rights icon, who was Dolores Huerta to you?

Matthews: She was a friend. I was blessed to connect with her probably 10 to 12 years ago, and we really became close after George Floyd. Part of that was her commitment to making sure Black lives were valued and protected at the same level as everyone else's.

I got to know her children; some of them attended my church for my installation as a pastor, and we stayed close. She was special to me.

Egbele: What is one memory that captures the person you knew?

Matthews: At her 95th birthday party, just over a year ago, she asked me to sing. Her youngest daughter, Camila, said, "We've heard you sing."

They wanted me to sing Sam Cooke's "A Change Is Gonna Come." I was terrified. I'm a decent singer, but my wife is the singer, not me. But Dolores was always drawing me out of my comfort zone. And for her birthday, there was no way I could say no.

Another memory was watching her dance. She loved music and would go to concerts with her family. At one event, music started playing and here was this woman, probably in her mid-80s, out on the dance floor, getting everybody else to join her.

Then she called me out. I don't dance. I grew up not dancing. But she said, essentially, if I'm dancing, you're dancing.

I got on the floor, and at some point we danced together. I remember thinking, this is the wildest thing; I am literally dancing with our generation's MLK.

Egbele: People often associate Huerta's activism with farmworkers. What did you witness of her relationship with Bakersfield's Black community?

Matthews: Our friendship really deepened after George Floyd.

I was one of the local Black leaders working with others to organize an event where we could bring our voices to law enforcement and say we needed changes locally. I remember arriving at St. Peter's Restoration Church around 4:30 p.m. for a meeting ahead of an event scheduled for 6. There was a little lady already sitting in the front row. It was Dolores. She was already there, ready to participate. She was always the first to a fight. She had the moral clarity and courage to say, "I know what's right, and I'm going to lead by being the first to be there."

After that, whenever we had community meetings or gatherings with elected officials, she was there. She wanted her voice heard as an advocate for the Black community, just like she was for others.

Egbele: Did you see her advocacy up close?

Matthews: Yes. I remember a 2022 effort around redrawing Bakersfield's city council ward boundaries because the existing maps were not equitable and did not align with the Voting Rights Act. I attended a City Council meeting, and Dolores was there, sitting in the front row. When people were invited to speak, she was among the first.

She spoke about maps her organization had developed that aligned with the Voting Rights Act. Soft-spoken, she told the council, in effect, "You can vote for these illegal maps, but we'll sue you and we'll win." The council voted unanimously for the legal maps her organization developed.

When Congress was considering H.R. 1, which cut Medicaid, Camila called me and said: "Mom and I are going to Congressman David Valadao's office. She's going to try to get arrested. Mom's already been arrested seven times. She wants number eight." She was almost 95.

That was Dolores. Every issue related to civil rights, inclusion, and people's rights seemed to matter to her.

Egbele: What do you think enabled her to connect so naturally with the Black community and other groups?

Matthews: I think it went beyond personal relationships. She marched with people like Martin Luther King Jr. and John Lewis when opportunities presented themselves. She knew leaders in the civil rights, women's rights, and LGBTQ+ movements. She loved the people she advocated alongside.

At the 2022 California Economic Summit, she did something I'll never forget. She told a room full of people from different backgrounds and political persuasions that all of us came from Africa, so we're all cousins. Then she asked everyone to stand, hold hands, look at the person next to them, and say, "Hi, cousin."

And everybody did it. That's Dolores. She could bring people together in a way that was both funny and profound.

Egbele: What should today's community leaders learn from her?

Matthews: Two things. First, the value she saw in every human being, and she was going to fight for those rights for every single human she saw, having the sacred value of being made in the image of God.

Second, she was always about policy. She'd say, I don't care what you tell me; I want to see what you put in policy. You can't stop fighting until it's on paper, until change is written down and established. And even then, you have to hold people accountable because there are laws on paper that we are still not living.

For young people, I would refer to her signature statement, "Sí, se puede," meaning "Yes, we can." She faced enormous battles, but she believed the power of the people was much greater than the money and resources lined up against them. Her message was that no matter how difficult the battle, we can win; we will find a way, and we will keep fighting until we do.

Egbele: If she could speak to Bakersfield's Black community today, what do you think she would say?



Traco Matthews and Dolores Huerta. (Photo courtesy of Traco Matthews)

Matthews: I think she would borrow the words of the Black national anthem: "Let us march on till victory is won."

She would speak about resilience, about the determination required to win battles that sometimes seem impossible. She never gave up. She traveled and advocated until she couldn't travel anymore. Her daughter told me she was going to die with her boots on. She literally traveled until she couldn't anymore.

Egbele: What is something about Huerta that people may not fully appreciate?

Matthews: How funny she was. She was hilarious. People knew her as this iconic civil rights leader who spoke truth to power, but she also loved the arts, music, and dancing. She could stand for hours, shaking hands and connecting with people.

She was not a politician, but she was the best politician in the room. She had such a deep appreciation for humanity and for what we could become as a people.

I was honored to know her and even more deeply honored to call her a friend. I love that lady.

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2027 DRUM MAJOR & FOOT SOLDIERS AWARDEES
Sheriff Donnie Youngblood — *MLK Drum Major Award (Honoring 50 Years of Service)*
Herbert Nealy Jr. & Dr. Bradford Anderson — *MLK Ralph Abernathy Award*
Holly Mitchell & Rochelle Reader — *Coretta Scott King MLK Drum Major Award*
Ralph Bailey — *MLK Drum Major Award (30 Years in Radio Broadcasting)*
EJ Callahan — *MLK Drum Major Award (Outstanding Commitment to Students)*
The Honorable Judge Keenan Perkins — *MLK Drum Major Award*
Jaubrae Dixon — *MLK Foot Soldiers Award*
Josephine Garcia — *For Her Many Years of Service to the Community*
TICKETS $50 individual · $400 table of 8
SPONSORSHIPS Platinum $1,000 · Gold $750 · Bronze $500 · Silver $250 — all include a table & ad
Checks payable to SCLC of Kern County, Inc. · 805 El Toro Dr., Bakersfield, CA 93304
Tickets & Sponsorships: (661) 472-5197 · (661) 472-5006
Martinlkbreakfast@gmail.com