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Advocates Rally at State Capitol to Demand More Funding for DV Survivors & Heat Protections for Incarcerated People

By Antonio Ray Harvey
California Black Media

In July 2024, Adrienne Boulware, a 47-year-old mother and grandmother, died from complications related to extreme heat exhaustion while incarcerated at the Central California Women's Facility (CCWF) in Chowchilla, according to her family.

Assemblymember Mike Gipson (D-Carson) hopes his legislation, Assembly Bill (AB) 2499 — also known as the "Adrienne Act" — will help prevent tragedies like Boulware's death in California prisons.

"It is no secret that our state prisons have aging infrastructures that have inadequate ventilation systems," Gipson said. "It should come as no shock that indoor temperatures in these facilities exceed 90 degrees, which means it gets really hot."

On May 4, Gipson spoke at the Survivors Speak California Rally at the State Capitol to advocate for AB 2499, which focuses on heat and health protections in state prisons. The three-day event was organized by Californians for Safety and Justice, a project of the Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice network.

The bill passed the Assembly Public Safety Committee on April 22 with a unanimous 7-0 vote. It was referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 6 and placed in the Suspense File while lawmakers assess the overall fiscal impact of the legislation.

Boulware's family attended the rally in support of the measure, which would require the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to establish a pilot program addressing

extreme heat by July 1, 2027, in at least three prisons located in different climate zones.

Boulware's daughter, Michela Nelson, said her mother frequently complained about heatwaves during the summer months in prison. CDCR stated that Boulware's death — she was also known as "Twin" — appeared to be related to pre-existing medical conditions rather than extreme heat.

"My mother was not just a mother of four and grandmother of 12. She was a mother to many inside and outside of the prison," said Nelson, the eldest of Boulware's children. "My mother didn't die because she was sentenced to death. She died because she was left in conditions no human being should ever endure."

AB 2499 would formally create the Climate Justice in Prisons Emergency Response Act. The legislation would require CDCR to develop a long-term plan for installing heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems and shade structures in existing facilities.

In a letter to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, Gipson wrote that the state has a "responsibility to ensure that every individual in its care is housed in safe and humane conditions" as climate impacts "intensify, dangerously high temperatures and poor air quality in prison facilities."

Gipson also noted that state workers and lawmakers are not expected to work under unsafe conditions.

"These buildings that house state workers have ventilation and have air conditioning," Gipson said at the rally. "Incarcerated individuals should have the same air conditioning, the same ventilation, (and) the same rights as state employees."

The Survivors Speak California Rally coincided with other advocacy events at the Capitol supporting survivors of violent crime.

On May 5, Jazz LedBetter and other advocates rallied nearby to urge lawmakers to include \$100 million in the state budget for domestic violence and sexual assault services.

Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo (D-Chatsworth) and Sen. Susan Rubio (D-Baldwin Park) served as keynote speakers. Both lawmakers have publicly shared their own experiences as survivors of assault.

LedBetter, a survivor of human trafficking, is also an author, activist, and artist who uses her experiences to advocate for human trafficking prevention. She shares her story of survival, addiction, and recovery in her self-published book, "Harlot Heart: Tributes To Triumph."

"Before I say anything, I want everyone here to take a moment and think about someone finally reaching out for help, and there's no one here to answer," LedBetter said during her presentation on the east lawn of the Capitol before a coalition of service providers, lawmakers, and advocates.

Advocates said the funding is needed to



Jazz LedBetter, a survivor of sex trafficking, urged California lawmakers on May 5, 2026, to increase funding for services supporting domestic violence and sexual assault survivors. Advocates say the funding is needed to help close a gap created by a significant decline in federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding. CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey.

help close a gap caused by a sharp decline in federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding. Organizations across the state that provide emergency shelter, counseling, and support services for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse are seeking additional funding to avoid service cuts.

LedBetter said that without adequate funding for shelters and support programs, many victims are forced to remain in dangerous situations. Survivors need trauma-informed care to recover and rebuild their lives.

"I am here because I am proof. Proof of what happens when someone gets support. Don't let this funding (shortfall) be the reason someone doesn't make it out," LedBetter said. "Because the difference between survival and unfortunately common sad stories, is whether or not someone is there (to help) when it matters the most."



Xavier Dillard

Black Streamer Breaks Guinness World Record, Completes 12,412 Pull-Ups in 24 Hours

HARRISONBURG, VA — Xavier Dillard, a 22-year-old black streamer from Virginia, set a new Guinness World Record by completing 12,412 pull-ups in 24 hours. He outperformed the previous mark during a nonstop livestreamed endurance challenge that drew wide nationwide attention.

Dillard, who goes by TaterMaster online, began the attempt at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 2. He wrapped it up 24 hours later at a CrossFit gym in Harrisonburg, Virginia, while streaming the entire effort on YouTube as witnesses and local media monitored the challenge in real time.

As the hours dragged on, the physical strain became severe. Dillard later described moments where exhaustion took over, but stopping was not an option. "I thought I was dying, but for some reason I said I wanted this record so bad, I just had to keep going," he said, according to HypeFresh.

The challenge traced back to a personal rivalry years earlier. Dillard recalled competing with a friend in a basement gym where pull-ups became the one movement he could not win. While he outperformed his friend in other exercises, pull-ups became a lasting frustration that stuck with him.

That competition pushed him into serious, structured training. He gradually increased his workload, starting with smaller sets like 12 reps and building over time. His training later included high-volume sessions with hundreds of pull-ups completed in timed intervals after regular workouts, eventually reaching around 2,400 reps in peak training days.

Before his fitness breakthrough, Dillard described himself as far from a natural athlete. In high school cross-country, he often finished among the slowest runners. He said progress came through repetition, discipline, and consistent effort rather than natural talent.

The attempt gained momentum online as it unfolded. Local news stations covered the event on-site, showing Dillard maintaining strict form and steady rhythm on the bar. Clips spread quickly on X, including posts from @KollegeKidd, turning the endurance test into a viral fitness moment.

By the end of the livestream, Dillard pushed past the 12,400 mark and secured the new Guinness World Record. The final count settled at 12,412 pull-ups, setting a new benchmark for 24-hour endurance challenges and placing his name among global record holders.



Crime Survivors Speak at the California State Capitol was a multi-day advocacy event held May 4-6 that called for increased support, services, and funding for crime victims. Organized by Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice (CSSJ), the gathering brought together more than 200 survivors and family members to advocate for legislative reforms. CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey.

More and More, Black Californians Are Worried About Rising Costs of Housing, Energy, Food and Gas

By Antonio Ray Harvey
California Black Media

Housing, energy, food and gas are four essential household expenses, and their rising costs are forcing residents—especially lower-income households—to make difficult trade-offs, Assemblymember Rhodesia Ransom (D-Stockton) said at a conference on affordability last week in Sacramento.

Ransom, a member of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC), noted a shift in consumer behavior, stating, "Before people used to choose between things that they wanted and things that they needed."

"Now, what we're hearing from constituents is they are prioritizing their needs differently," she said. "Because of the affordability crisis, it's no longer about choosing between other needs. Our constituents are now saying 'what needs to be prioritized?' Gas and food are at the top of the list."

Ransom made the comments about affordability at Capitol Weekly's informational conference titled "Affordability: The Cost of Living in California," which was held on April 30 at the University of California's Student and Policy Center.

Co-hosted with the University of California Student and Policy Center, the political conversations focused on identifying policy solutions to the state's extremely high prices for energy, food, and essentials.

The keynote speakers at the conference were former Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez, president of the California Federation of Labor Unions, and Mike Madrid, a political strategist, author, and senior fellow at UC Irvine.

Conversations about affordability are taking on greater urgency as the election season kicks in, speakers said.

According to an April 2024 report by the Greenlining Institute, low-income Black Californians are struggling with affordability due to a combination of historical systemic barriers and modern economic pressures. The Greenlining Institute is a California-based policy, research, and advocacy nonprofit founded in 1993 to fight systemic racism and economic injustice.

Black households in California experience the highest levels of rent burden; approximately 65% of Black renters, according to the Greenlining report. Historical "redlining" and ongoing discrimination have restricted homeownership. Black families also

pay 43% more for energy than White households, partly because they are more likely to live in older, less energy-efficient rentals.

In addition, roughly 1 in 3 Black adults (36.5%) reported household food insecurity in late 2025, more than double the rate for White adults. This is often exacerbated by "food deserts" in predominantly Black neighborhoods.

In March, Assembly Minority Leader Heath Flora (R-Ripon) expressed concerns about affordability in California, describing it as a crisis where families are being "pushed to the edge."

Flora criticized the state government for delaying action while living expenses continue to rise. He noted that affordability issues vary by region, but particularly cited gas prices as a major expense draining family budgets in his district.

"Californians should not have to choose between putting food on the table or filling up their car," Flora stated. "We need to cut costs now. Not tomorrow, not next week, not next month. Now."

Cuts to the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) funding are being driven by the Trump Administration's One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1), which is reducing federal spending by approximately \$187 billion through 2034.

Those reductions are putting more pressure on the state to help, Ransom said.

"At the end of the day, we're trying to figure out where we can backfill, and that means we have to make changes to our budget," Ransom said at the conference. "Just like families are choosing what they have to prioritize, as a state, we're asking agencies to figure out what we need to prioritize."

According to the AAA Gas Prices website, as of May 8, California's gasoline prices averaged over \$6 per gallon in some areas, with various locations experiencing spikes of \$7 to \$8 per gallon. In California, fuel prices are driven by refinery maintenance and market volatility, while high food prices are linked to rising transportation costs, experts say.

Last month, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced that the state was stepping in to offer Californians some relief with their energy bills via the California Climate Credit program, which offered over \$1.4 billion in residential credits distributed in April — \$894 million for electricity and \$520 million for natural gas.

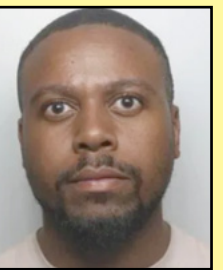


The credits are not taxpayer money, but rather a rebate from the state's Cap-and-Invest program, which requires large emitters to pay for their greenhouse gas emissions. The program is managed by the California Air Resources Board.

"Thanks to the Legislature's partnership, the Golden State is delivering on its promise to put money back in Californians' pockets, and we're making it work smarter and harder for households across the state," Newsom stated.

Man Gets 3 Years in Prison for Secretly Filming Women Using Hidden Cameras

NORTHHAMPTON, ENGLAND — Jean-Pierre Francis, a 33-year-old black man from Northampton, England, has been sentenced for secretly recording multiple women using hidden cameras placed in homes and workplaces over several years. He disguised the devices in everyday objects and recorded victims without consent.



Jean-Pierre Francis

According to Local 12 News, police launched an investigation in May 2024 after a woman discovered a hidden camera inside her bedroom. Officers collected evidence and linked the device to Francis through forensic analysis and digital tracing.

A deeper search of his equipment uncovered a large number of recordings. Investigators found hundreds of images and videos taken between 2015 and 2025. The cameras had been concealed inside common items such as pens, USB flash drives, electrical outlets, and a soap or shower gel bottle.

Authorities confirmed that six women were targeted. The victims were aged between 20 and 60. All were recorded in private spaces where they expected full privacy and security.

Francis was charged with six counts of voyeurism. He pleaded guilty on March 13. On April 17, the court sentenced him to three years and six months in prison.

The court also ordered all devices used in the offenses to be destroyed. Francis received a 10-year sexual harm prevention order and was placed on the sex offenders' register for life.

Investigators said the case required a detailed review of multiple devices over a decade. They added that the evidence showed a long-running pattern of secret surveillance carried out in private settings.

World & Nation



Tom Steyer (back left, in dark suit), the billionaire climate activist running for California governor, pauses for photos with members of the California Nurses Association, a progressive union that endorsed him in part due to his strong support of single-payer healthcare. (Christine Mai-Duc/KFF Health News)



The campaign bus for billionaire activist Tom Steyer, who has made single-payer healthcare a central pillar of his run for governor, in downtown Oakland, California. In 2020, Steyer ran for president opposing single-payer healthcare. (Christine Mai-Duc/KFF Health News)

In California Governor Race, Single-Payer Is a Litmus Test. There's Still No Way To Pay for It.

By Christine Mai-Duc

When Gavin Newsom ran for California governor in 2018, his support for a state-run single-payer healthcare system was considered a risky move and earned him fewer labor endorsements.

Today, leading Democrats in the wide-open race to succeed Newsom have embraced single-payer as a political necessity, an answer to voters fed up with rising premiums and other spiraling healthcare costs.

But with no clear front-runner, they are sparring among themselves in debates and political ads over who is most committed to a government-run model. No candidate has outlined how California would fund comprehensive health coverage for its 40 million residents, leaving voters unable to discern which candidate has a concrete plan for the nation's most populous state.

Healthcare and political experts said the concept of single-payer has shifted from progressive pipe dream a decade ago to today's mainstream talking points in a state where Democrats outnumber Republicans nearly 2 to 1. Democrats have pledged the model as the best way to lower costs in an attempt to woo voters worried about affordability as ballots arrive for the June 2 primary. The top two Republicans, meanwhile, have dismissed government-run healthcare as a "disaster" and "socialism."

"In many ways, single-payer healthcare has become a progressive litmus test," said Larry Levitt, a former White House policy adviser and a healthcare expert at KFF, a health information nonprofit that

includes KFF Health News.

Few voters fully understand the term single-payer, let alone expect the next governor to achieve it, Levitt said. Rather, he added, the term has become more of a signal to voters about a candidate's approach to healthcare reform.

Xavier Becerra, the former U.S. Health and Human Services secretary, who for decades backed single-payer healthcare in Congress, has come under criticism from opponents for a nuanced but clear shift away from single-payer. It came after Becerra secured an endorsement from the California Medical Association, a powerful group representing doctors and a longtime opponent of single-payer healthcare bills in California.

At a May 5 debate put on by CNN, Becerra declared his support for "Medicare for All," a proposal for a federally run system that's been stalled for years, but he declined to say whether he'd pursue a California-led effort. He said his immediate focus would be on mitigating the drastic federal cuts expected to hit low-income and disabled enrollees in Medi-Cal, the state's Medicaid program, which covers more than a third of residents.

Becerra is counting on voters not to distinguish between the often-confused terms single-payer, Medicare for All, and universal coverage, noting during the debate that "Californians don't care what you call it, so long as they have affordable healthcare."

"A lot of people aren't clear what single-payer is, and they need a metaphor to understand it," said Celinda Lake, a Democratic strategist and one of the lead pollsters for former President Joe Biden's 2020 campaign.

Billionaire activist Tom Steyer, who's touted his self-funding as a signal he can't be bought, has emerged as the race's most vocal advocate of single-payer after opposing it during a short-lived 2020

presidential bid.

As governor, Steyer has said, he would pass legislation backed by the California Nurses Association that has failed to come to fruition under Newsom's tenure. Pressed on how he would cover the estimated \$731.4 billion cost, Steyer told KFF Health News that "God is going to be in the details."

At a forum last year, former U.S. Rep. Katie Porter said she didn't believe achieving such a system was realistic in the near term, but the Orange County Democrat later told party delegates that she would "deliver single-payer." Former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan, Democrats who are trailing their competitors in the polls, don't support single-payer. The top two vote-getters — regardless of party — advance to the November general election.

Some of the most seasoned politicians have failed to deliver single-payer. Newsom, who campaigned on the promise of being a "healthcare governor," dialed back his ambitions upon taking office, choosing instead to pursue "universal access" to health coverage under a series of Medi-Cal expansions and efforts to contain healthcare spending.

To enact single-payer, California would need permission from the federal government to redirect billions of dollars from Medicaid, Medicare, and other funding that currently flows to the system — approval not likely to come from the Trump administration.

More than half of adults nationally say healthcare costs will have a major impact on whom they vote for in November, according to an April KFF poll.

Danielle Cedejas, a Los Angeles-based Democratic consultant who works with state

legislative candidates, said single-payer healthcare increasingly appears on candidate questionnaires from small-business advocates as well as hyperlocal Democratic clubs, in state legislative races and national union endorsements.

What most California voters want to hear, Cedejas said, is how candidates plan to give them more immediate relief from higher premiums, expensive drug costs, and long waits to access care.

The high price tag doesn't faze Jennifer Easton, a 63-year-old Democrat from Oakland, who said other countries with similar models have proved they can lower costs. She said she supports a single-payer health system because it's clear to her that Americans have reached the limits of working within the existing system. But she isn't expecting any of the current candidates to succeed in implementing one, and she hasn't decided whom to support.

"No one can in four years," she said. Seeing a candidate enthusiastically support the concept gives her a good idea of their philosophy. "It is, if we're lucky, a 20-year, 25-year plan."

Rob Stutzman, a Republican political consultant who advised former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, said while Americans may be supportive of single-payer in polls, focus groups suggest that approval drops quickly when voters realize it could mean losing their current doctor or insurance plan.

At the CNN debate, Steve Hilton, the Republican candidate President Donald Trump has endorsed, said Californians would end up with subpar patient care and "taxes sky high to pay for it," like in his native United Kingdom.

Instead, Hilton suggested the state stop providing "free healthcare for illegal immigrants who shouldn't even be in the country in the first place."

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Why Post-Launch Monitoring is Critical for Long-Term Medical Device Success

By Cristal Dyer

Post-launch monitoring enables medical device manufacturers to detect safety issues, track real-world performance, and maintain regulatory compliance after a product reaches the market. Pre-market trials are limited in size and scope and cannot fully account for the diversity of patients and clinical conditions encountered in everyday practice.

Continuous surveillance provides the data needed to respond quickly when problems arise and sustain device effectiveness long term.

According to the FDA, its Medical Device Reporting system logs over two million adverse event reports each year, a volume that reflects how much about a device's real-world behavior remains unknown at launch. Those reports represent real patients and real clinicians encountering issues that no trial protocol could fully anticipate. A device that performs flawlessly under controlled study conditions can behave very differently across varied populations, clinical settings, and years of continuous use. For manufacturers, building strong post-launch surveillance means staying ahead of those variables and having the evidence to act when it matters most. Why Can't Pre-Market Testing Predict Real-World Performance?

Pre-market trials are basically a starting point for understanding how a device behaves. They rely on a fairly small, carefully selected group of patients in controlled conditions, and that means there are real limits to what they can tell you about device effectiveness across diverse populations. Clinical practice is naturally more unpredictable, with patients of varying ages, health histories, and medical complexity. Trials simply cannot replicate that variety. Several real-world factors can actually affect how a device performs after launch: Patients with multiple co-existing conditions that weren't represented in trials

Clinicians with varying levels of training and familiarity with the device

Differences in clinical environments, equipment, and standard procedures

Long-term wear and tear that short-duration studies can't capture

Post-launch analysis is what gives manufacturers a clear picture of how a device performs once it's in the field. Real-world data can surface trends, like a higher-than-expected failure rate, for instance, or a usability problem that only appears in specific patient groups, and catching those trends early really does make a difference. Protecting Patients and Staying Compliant

Regulatory bodies like the U.S. Food and Drug Administration expect manufacturers to keep monitoring their devices after market entry. Medical device monitoring is typically a formal



requirement in most major markets, and the data collected feeds directly into safety decisions and risk management updates. Consistent monitoring gives manufacturers the data they need to act on performance issues before they escalate. Monitoring Strategies That Support Compliance There are several tools manufacturers typically use to stay on top of post-market performance, and each one captures a different type of data. Each approach generates specific findings that help manufacturers spot and respond to emerging issues. Some common monitoring strategies include: Complaint management systems that log issues reported by clinicians and patients

Post-market clinical follow-up studies that track outcomes in real-world patient populations

Device registries that collect long-term performance data across large groups of users

Vigilance reporting systems that flag adverse events to regulators in near real-time

When manufacturers identify a problem, they can use that monitoring data to trigger corrective action: a design change, a manufacturing update, or revised instructions for use. Acting quickly on that data is what keeps devices safe and keeps manufacturers in line with their regulatory obligations. What Does Post-Launch Monitoring Mean for Your Bottom Line?

Manufacturers that invest in strong post-market surveillance tend to see returns that go well beyond regulatory compliance. Long-term medical success depends on a device continuing to perform reliably in practice, and that only happens when manufacturers actively track performance data and act on it. Frankly, the commercial case for monitoring is just as strong as the safety case. Reputation and Product Longevity A device that consistently delivers safe, effective results builds trust with clinicians and the health systems that use it. That trust translates into continued adoption, stronger referrals, and a longer commercial lifespan. Post-market performance data can actually support the marketing of next-generation medical

devices, since real-world evidence is a powerful tool in any commercial strategy. AI-enabled devices really deserve special attention here. These devices learn from data, so their performance can shift as patient populations and clinical environments change over time. Monitoring inputs and outputs on an ongoing basis is the only way to catch that kind of drift before it affects patient outcomes. Frequently Asked Questions

How Long Should Post-Launch Monitoring Continue After a Device Reaches Market?

Post-launch monitoring typically continues throughout the device's commercial life. Regulatory frameworks in most markets require ongoing surveillance for as long as the device remains available to patients, and some obligations can continue even after a product is withdrawn from sale. Who Is Responsible for Post-Market Surveillance? The manufacturer typically carries the primary responsibility for setting up and running post-market surveillance. Regulators set the requirements and review submitted data, so in practice, it is a shared system with the manufacturer handling day-to-day operations. How Does Post-Launch Monitoring Differ Between the FDA and EU Medical Device Regulation Frameworks? The EU Medical Device Regulation framework, introduced in 2021, places significantly stricter demands on manufacturers than earlier EU rules, including more frequent reporting and written surveillance plans. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approach is similarly comprehensive, yet uses different reporting timelines and documentation requirements. Manufacturers operating in both markets need to manage these separately. Can Post-Launch Data Be Used to Support a New Indication or Labeling Update?

Yes, real-world evidence gathered through post-market surveillance can actually support regulatory submissions for expanded indications or updated labeling. Manufacturers often use this data to strengthen their clinical evidence base over time, and regulators in many markets actively encourage this kind of evidence generation. The Foundation of Long-Term Device Success Post-launch monitoring is a strategic function that shapes device safety, performance, and regulatory standing long after market entry. Real-world data surfaces what pre-market testing cannot catch, and manufacturers who invest in robust surveillance are better equipped to act on emerging issues, extend product longevity, and earn trust with clinicians and patients.

From complaint systems to post-market clinical follow-up studies, the right monitoring infrastructure defines a device's lifespan. Visit our website to explore practical guidance and build a monitoring strategy that delivers long-term medical device success.

Entertainment



“There’s Nothing Worse” -Kevin Hart on the Reason Why He Stopped Hanging Out With Shaquille O’Neal and Joel Embiid

Kevin Hart has built a reputation for being fearless around NBA stars — constantly joking, teasing, and inserting himself into their world. But the same energy has often made him an easy target for some of the league’s biggest personalities, especially seven-foot centers like Shaquille O’Neal and Joel Embiid.

At just 5’4”, Hart is already at a massive disadvantage, and when you combine that with his habit of provoking reactions through humor, it creates a perfect setup for playful payback. Unfortunately, that is something Hart doesn’t like, especially when O’Neal and Embiid intentionally embarrass him in public.

Hart found himself being troubled by O’Neal and Embiid during his appearance on “The Big Podcast,”

Kevin admitted that things have reached a point where he has started avoiding hanging out with Shaquille and Joel, as these former MVPs would casually pick him up in public settings, regardless of whether the comedian’s own kids were around.

Moreover, Hart emphasized that when the 2023 MVP joined in with the same antic, he didn’t take long to realize that what usually starts as harmless banter can quickly turn into moments where he’s the punchline in a physical manner.

“He does it all the time. Now he stopped because he’s older, so his back can’t handle it. His back is the same, but he would pick me up. He does it, and Joel Embiid does it too, so I stopped talking to Joel in public, too. It’s not even that they picked me up,” Hart recalled. “There’s nothing worse than somebody picking you up, but you can’t do s—t

about it. Even when I’m like, ‘Yo man, chill. No, don’t do s—t.’ He tries to just let it happen. Shaq used to pick me up and be like, ‘Ah, what’s up? Then he’d put me down.’”

Shaq holds no remorse over embarrassing Kevin.

Still, there’s no bad blood here. O’Neal made it clear that their decades-long friendship has been built on mutual respect and embracing each other’s entertainment value. Thus, they understand how to play off each other’s personalities to create memorable, humorous moments for fans everywhere.

“A lot of people don’t know we’ve been friends a long time, but Kevin tried to fight me one time,” Shaq said. “He tried to fistfight me because he called me one time and said, ‘Hey, I need you to do

this skit for me.’ I said, ‘What’s the skit?’ He said, ‘Everybody laughs at you being a cop. I need you to pull me over.’”

Safe to say that this dynamic is the real key here. Both Hart and O’Neal are natural entertainers, and whenever they cross paths, something funny is almost guaranteed to happen. But even within that, Kevin has drawn the line — being picked up like a kid in public is one joke he’d rather end.

In the end, this is a classic case of chemistry between two larger-than-life personalities — with a very literal size mismatch that keeps tipping the joke in one direction.

This story was originally published by Basketball Network on May 11, 2026, where it first appeared in the Off The Court section. Add Basketball Network as a Preferred Source by clicking here.

Dave Chappelle & Michelle Obama Joke That White People Are ‘Not Good’ At Being President On Her Podcast



Michelle Obama is back with another podcast episode that’s turning some heads and causing a buzz, especially due to what her guest, Dave Chappelle, had to say.

The famous comedian was recently interviewed on the former first lady’s podcast, In My Opinion, where they talked about a variety of subjects, including President Donald Trump’s current administration. At one point, as he told a story about his daughter, Dave made a controversial joke about how white people don’t make “good” presidents, a bit that ended up garnering some mixed reactions online. Read more about the situation and viral moment below.

Dave Chappelle Jokes About White People Not Being ‘Good’ Presidents On Michelle Obama’s Podcast

Though Barack and Michelle Obama are both well known for a lot of things and many impressive accomplishments, since they departed the White House in 2017, Michelle’s podcast has to be one of the biggest things she’s done.

Earlier this week, on her podcast, In My Opinion, which she hosts with her brother, Craig Robinson, she sat down with Dave Chappelle, the famous and controversial comedian. The two talked about a variety of subjects, yet focused for a long time on the state of the media, community, shifts in his career, and more. However, things really seemed to heat up when he began talking about President Trump and everything going on with his eventful second term.

At one point, he started talking about how he’s trying to help his 16-year-old daughter, who was born under the Obama administration, deal with all the “appalling” headlines of today’s political climate, noting he feels it “doesn’t seem like it’s ever going to end.”

“My daughter is 16, so Donald Trump is, like, the first white president she’s ever seen,” he said, to which Michelle responded while grinning, “I know, right?”

“And my baby’s like, ‘Oh no — they’re not good at it, Daddy,’” he continued while laughing with the host.

Dave Calls The Current Political Climate ‘Insufferable’

Though the best-selling author didn’t chime in too much while her podcast guest made the insinuating comment about white presidents, mostly laughing at the humor in his words, she did allow him to lean in and vent about his feelings towards what’s going on in American politics right now.

At one point, the 52-year-old performer mentioned how much community helps him get through it all, giving listeners advice on how to deal with the stress as well.

“My community coming together and in tough times - our family, we have had tremendous losses recently, people in our family passed away, and the community picked us up,” he said. “That made me hopeful. The little things mean so much more now.”

Comedian Sinbad Returns to Stand-Up Stage After 2020 Stroke

PASEADENA, CA — Comedian Sinbad returns to the stand-up stage more than five years after a 2020 stroke affected his mobility, announcing new shows in Pasadena. He shares recovery updates and plans to perform alongside his daughter Paige, who opens the set.

Sinbad posted a video on Instagram on April 29 addressing questions about his return to comedy. He said he still cannot walk following the stroke, but plans to perform at the Comedy Ice House in Pasadena on May 10th.

According to People, he described the shows as his way of stepping back into stand-up after years away from the stage. He also said he is looking forward to reconnecting with audiences in person.

“It’s just the beginning of me coming back,” he said.

Sinbad added that he has new material ready and joked about his return, saying he plans to “be talking more trash than I ever talked” once he is back on stage.

He also confirmed that his daughter Paige will open for him during the Pasadena shows. He said it marks the first time they will perform together as comedians. Paige shared that many comedy clubs are not ADA accessible, which has made it difficult for Sinbad to attend her performances.

Alongside his return to stand-up, Sinbad has also resumed acting work. He appeared in Tyler Perry’s film Straw, starring opposite Taraji P. Henson,

marking another step back into entertainment after his health setback.

Sinbad suffered a stroke in October 2020 after a blood clot traveled from his heart to his brain, according to his family. They later shared updates expressing gratitude for public support and credited prayers and encouragement during his recovery.

In 2024, he made his first public appearance since the stroke through a Zoom reunion with the A Different World cast during a tour stop at historically Black colleges and universities in Atlanta. That appearance marked his gradual return to public life before stepping back onto the comedy stage in 2026.



Comedian Sinbad

Legal Notices

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ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER 26CUB01285
 Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN
 1215 Truxtun Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93301
 PETITION OF: **KAREN RENEE DAVIS**
 FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
 Petitioner: **KAREN RENEE DAVIS**
 Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
 Present name **KAREN RENEE DAVIS**
 Proposed name **KAREN RENEE SHAH**
 THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
 Date: June 9, 2026
 Time: 8:30 a.m.
 Dept: L
 The address of the court is: same as noted above
 A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
 Date: April 8, 2026
 Gina M. Cervantes, Judicial Officer
 Vanessa Guerra, Deputy Clerk
 Petitioner: **KAREN RENEE DAVIS**
 P.O. Box 41011, Bakersfield, CA 93384
 Telephone: (661) 302-1858
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Apr 22, 29, May 6, 13, 2026

in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
 Date: April 14, 2026
 Gina M. Cervantes, Judicial Officer
 Vanessa Guerra, Deputy Clerk
BRIAR R. KEELER, ESQ.
LEBEAU THELEN LLP
 9801 Camino Media, Suite 103, Bakersfield, CA 93311
 Telephone: (661) 325-8962
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Apr 22, 29, May 6, 13, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B2301
 Doing business as:
J BARAJAS TRUCKING at 252 MARY KAY LN, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
 Mailing Address: same County: KERN
 Full name of registrant(s): **JORGE ALVARO BARAJAS RODRIGUEZ** at 252 MARY KAY LN, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
 The business is conducted by: an Individual
 SIGNED: **JORGE ALVARO BARAJAS RODRIGUEZ**
 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: April 13, 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 April 13, 2031

AMBER CREEK RD, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
 Mailing Address: same County: KERN
 Full name of registrant(s): **MYLIA TERESE BENFORD** at 8015 AMBER CREEK RD, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
 The business is conducted by: an Individual
 SIGNED: **MYLIA TERESE BENFORD**
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 06/01/2021
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of KERN County on: April 7, 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 April 7, 2031

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 April 2, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Apr 22, 29, May 6, 13, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B1983
 Doing business as:
DENNY'S #5144 at 2627 BUCK OWENS BLVD, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
 Mailing Address: same County: KERN
 Full name of registrant(s): **OHANA BUCK OWENS INC** at 2627 BUCK OWENS BLVD, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
 State of incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: a Corporation
 SIGNED: **Tanya Tabrizzadeh, President**
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 04/02/2026
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of KERN County on: April 2, 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 April 2, 2031

7, 2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Apr 22, 29, May 6, 13, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B2363
 Doing business as:
GARCIA BROTHERS TRUCKING at 5009 CALLADO LANE UNIT A, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
 Mailing Address: PO BOX 40762, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93384
 County: KERN
 Full name of registrant(s): **YANETH E HERNANDEZ VELASQUEZ** at PO BOX 40762, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93384
 The business is conducted by: an Individual
 SIGNED: **YANETH E HERNANDEZ VELASQUEZ**
 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: April 15, 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 April 15, 2031

93312
 The business is conducted by: Corporation
 SIGNED: **NICOLE MARIE GOMEZ, CEO/President**
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of KERN County on: April 17, 2026
 AIMEE X. ESPINOZA County Clerk
 By: M CEJA, Deputy
 This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. This statement expires on April 17, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Apr 22, 29, May 6, 13, 2026

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 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: Roger N. Lampkin, SB #113786
 1234 L St., Bakersfield, CA 93301
 Telephone: (661) 633-1234
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Apr 29, May 6, 13, 2026

Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN
 1215 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301
 Civil - Metropolitan Division Justice Building
 PETITION OF: **CANDICE BARRY**
 FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
 Petitioner: **CANDICE BARRY**
 Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
 Present name **OLIVIA MARIE JEFFERS**
 Proposed name **OLIVIA MARIE TRIPLETT**
 THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
 Date: June 22, 2026
 Time: 8:30 a.m.
 Dept: L
 The address of the court is: same as noted above
 A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
Non petitioning parent to be served as required by CCP 1277
 Date: April 23, 2026
 Gina M. Cervantes, Judicial Officer
 Vanessa Guerra, Deputy Clerk
 Petitioner: **CANDICE BARRY**
 3535 Stone Rd., SPC #118 Bakersfield, CA 93309
 Telephone: (661) 472-3665
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Apr 29, May 6, 13, 20, 2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER 26CUB01196
 Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN
 1215 Truxtun Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93301
 PETITION OF: **ANDRES CARRILLO HERNANDEZ**
 FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
 Petitioner: **ANDRES CARRILLO HERNANDEZ**
 Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
 Present name **ANDRES CARRILLO HERNANDEZ**
 Proposed name **ANDRES MONDRAGON**
 THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
 Date: June 8, 2026
 Time: 8:30 a.m.
 Dept: L
 The address of the court is: same as noted above
 A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
 Date: April 3, 2026
 Gina M. Cervantes, Judicial Officer
 Vanessa Guerra, Deputy Clerk
 Petitioner: **ANDRES CARRILLO HERNANDEZ**
 920 Chico St, Bakersfield, CA 93305
 Telephone: (661) 546-3206
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Apr 22, 29, May 6, 13, 2026

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Apr 22, 29, May 6, 13, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B2302
 Doing business as:
TACOS EL GUERITO PALMA at 8415 BUENAVISTA BLV SP 45, LAMONT, CA 93241
 Mailing Address: 9011 CAMINO LA JOLLA APT C, LAMONT, CA 93241
 County: KERN
 Full name of registrant(s): **CARMEN BELEN GARCIA** at 9011 CAMINO LA JOLLA APT C, LAMONT, CA 93241
 The business is conducted by: an Individual
 SIGNED: **CARMEN BELEN GARCIA**
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of KERN County on: April 13, 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 April 13, 2031

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B2388
 Doing business as:
LB CONSULTING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES at 1304 EAGLE CREEK STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
 Mailing Address: same County: KERN
 Full name of registrant(s): **BETSAIRA DEL S LOPEZ LOPEZ** at 1304 EAGLE CREEK STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
 The business is conducted by: an Individual
 SIGNED: **BETSAIRA DEL S LOPEZ LOPEZ**
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of KERN County on: April 16, 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 April 16, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Apr 22, 29, May 6, 13, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B1984
 Doing business as:
DENNY'S #5145 at 2309 PANAMA LANE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
 Mailing Address: same County: KERN
 Full name of registrant(s): **OHANA PANAMA LANE INC** at 2309 PANAMA LANE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
 State of incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: a Corporation
 SIGNED: **Tanya Tabrizzadeh, President**
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 04/02/2026
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of KERN County on: April 2, 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 April 2, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Apr 22, 29, May 6, 13, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B1476 2026-B1477
 Doing business as:
ADELINA CONSTRUCTION / ADELINA HOMES at 1914 ALTA VISTA DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
 Mailing Address: same County: KERN
 Full name of registrant(s): **ADELINA INTERIORS INC** at 1914 ALTA VISTA DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
 State of incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: a Corporation
 SIGNED: **George Rodriguez, CFO**
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 02/10/2023
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of KERN County on: March 11, 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 March 11, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Apr 22, 29, May 6, 13, 2026

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF CLAY URIAH MCLEAN
CASE NUMBER: 26PRJ00465
 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of **CLAY URIAH MCLEAN**
 A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by **SEAN MCLEAN** and **JENNIFER MCLEAN** in the Superior Court of California, County of KERN 2100 College Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93305
 Probate - Juvenile Justice THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that **SEAN MCLEAN** and **JENNIFER MCLEAN** 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: June 4, 2026
Time: 8:30 a.m. 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

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER 26CUL00017
 Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN
 12022 Main St, Lamont, CA 93241
 PETITION OF: **DENISE MACHUCA MIRANDA**
 FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
 Petitioner: **DENISE MACHUCA MIRANDA**
 Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
 Present name **MILANI DHALIVAL MIRANDA**
 Proposed name **MILANI MIRANDA**
 THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
 Date: June 22, 2026
 Time: 8:30 a.m.
 Dept: B
 The address of the court is: same as noted above
 A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
 Date: April 17, 2026
 C. Espinosa, Judge of the Superior Court
 Jennifer Pinales, Deputy Clerk
 Petitioner: **DENISE MACHUCA MIRANDA**
 230 B St., Arvin, CA 93203
 Telephone: (661) 846-0092
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Apr 29, May 6, 13, 20, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B2359
 Doing business as:
AMARA INDIAN CUISINE & BAR at 3300 BUENA VISTA RD STE D4, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
 Mailing Address: 4601 CHALET ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): **SSMG3300 INC** at 4601 CHALET ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
 State of incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: a Corporation
 SIGNED: **SUKHMAN GREWAL, President**
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: April 15, 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 April 15, 2031

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER 26CUB01352
 Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN
 1215 Truxtun Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93301
 PETITION OF: **ANTHONY DEE ALLEN**
 FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
 Petitioner: **ANTHONY DEE ALLEN**
 Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
 Present name **ANTHONY DEE ALLEN**
 Proposed name **DEE ANTHONY ALLEN**
 THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
 Date: June 15, 2026
 Time: 8:30 a.m.
 Dept: L
 The address of the court is: same as noted above
 A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
 Date: April 3, 2026
 Gina M. Cervantes, Judicial Officer
 Vanessa Guerra, Deputy Clerk
 Petitioner: **ANDRES CARRILLO HERNANDEZ**
 920 Chico St, Bakersfield, CA 93305
 Telephone: (661) 546-3206
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Apr 22, 29, May 6, 13, 2026

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Apr 22, 29, May 6, 13, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B2316
 Doing business as:
THE SKELETON KREW MIXOLOGIST EXPERTS at 524 SEQUOIA DR APT A, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
 Mailing Address: same County: KERN
 Full name of registrant(s): **JOSEPH J CORCHADO** at 524 SEQUOIA DR APT A, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
 SIGNED: **JOSEPH J CORCHADO**
 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: April 14, 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 April 14, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Apr 22, 29, May 6, 13, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B1981
 Doing business as:
DENNY'S #5142 at 2851 WHITE LANE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
 Mailing Address: same County: KERN
 Full name of registrant(s): **OHANA WHITE LANE INC** at 2851 WHITE LANE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
 State of incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: a Corporation
 SIGNED: **Tanya Tabrizzadeh, President**
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 04/02/2026
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of KERN County on: April 2, 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 April 2, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Apr 22, 29, May 6, 13, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B2128
 Doing business as:
AIHTNYC-CODE LLC at 2213 SOSA DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
 Mailing Address: same County: KERN
 Full name of registrant(s): **AIHTNYC-CODE LLC** at 2213 SOSA DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
 State of incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company
 SIGNED: **Joseph Baninge-Daanaah, CEO**
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 02/05/2024
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of KERN County on: April 7, 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 April 7, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Apr 22, 29, May 6, 13, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B2030
 Doing business as:
NITA'S CREATIVE SPACE at 3117 HARROGATE LN, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
 Mailing Address: 3117 HARROGATE LN, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
 County: KERN
 Full name of registrant(s): **JUANITA MARIA LLAMAS** at 3117 HARROGATE LN, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
 The business is conducted by: an Individual
 SIGNED: **JUANITA MARIA LLAMAS**
 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: April 3, 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 April 3, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Apr 22, 29, May 6, 13, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B2435
 Doing business as:
PROVIDENCE PEAK PROPERTIES at 9530 HAGEMAN RD STE. B123, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
 Mailing Address: 9530 HAGEMAN RD STE. B123, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
 County: KERN
 Full name of registrant(s): **PROVIDENCE PEAK PROPERTIES CORP** at 9530 HAGEMAN RD STE. B123, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER 26CUB00982
 Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN
 1215 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301
 Civil - Metropolitan Division Justice Building
 PETITION OF: **CANDICE BARRY**
 FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
 Petitioner: **CANDICE BARRY**
 Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
 Present name **OLIVIA MARIE JEFFERS**
 Proposed name **OLIVIA MARIE TRIPLETT**
 THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
 Date: June 22, 2026
 Time: 8:30 a.m.
 Dept: L
 The address of the court is: same as noted above
 A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
Non petitioning parent to be served as required by CCP 1277
 Date: April 23, 2026
 Gina M. Cervantes, Judicial Officer
 Vanessa Guerra, Deputy Clerk
 Petitioner: **CANDICE BARRY**
 3535 Stone Rd., SPC #118 Bakersfield, CA 93309
 Telephone: (661) 472-3665
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Apr 29, May 6, 13, 20, 2026

BAKERSFIELD NEWS

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Mailing address of business:
P.O. Box 1559, Bakersfield, CA
93302-1559
Registrant(s) who wish to
abandon the business name:
CLINICA SIERRA VISTA at 1430
Truxtun Avenue Suite 400,
Bakersfield, CA 93301-5220
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.)
Business was conducted by: a
Corporation
SIGNED: **OLGA MEAVE, M.D., Chief
Executive Officer**
This statement of abandonment
filed on: May 7, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M CEDENO,
Deputy

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3,
2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

FILE NO: 2024-B6639
Business Name you wish to
abandon: Baker Street Village
Community Health Center
Street address of business:
1015 Baker Street #4,
Bakersfield, CA 93302
County: Kern
Mailing address of business:
P.O. Box 1559, Bakersfield, CA
93302
Registrant(s) who wish to
abandon the business name:
CLINICA SIERRA VISTA at 1430
Truxtun Ave Suite 400,
Bakersfield, CA 93301
I declare that all information

abandon the business name:
CLINICA SIERRA VISTA at 1430
Truxtun Ave Suite 400,
Bakersfield, CA 93301
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.)
Business was conducted by: a
Corporation
SIGNED: **OLGA MEAVE, M.D., Chief
Executive Officer**
This statement of abandonment
filed on: May 7, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M CEDENO,
Deputy

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3,
2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

FILE NO: 2024-B2525
Business Name you wish to
abandon: Administration WIC
Street address of business:
2519 S. H Street, Bakersfield,
CA 93304
County: Kern
Mailing address of business:
P.O. Box 1559, Bakersfield, CA
93302
Registrant(s) who wish to
abandon the business name:
CLINICA SIERRA VISTA at 1430
Truxtun Ave Suite 400,
Bakersfield, CA 93301
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.)
Business was conducted by: a
Corporation
SIGNED: **OLGA MEAVE, M.D., Chief
Executive Officer**
This statement of abandonment
filed on: May 7, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M CEDENO,
Deputy

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3,
2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

FILE NO: 2023-B4601
Business Name you wish to
abandon: Greenfield
Community Health Center
Street address of business:
9001 S H St, Bakersfield, CA
93307
County: Kern
Mailing address of business:
PO BOX 1559, Bakersfield, CA
93302-1559
Registrant(s) who wish to
abandon the business name:
CLINICA SIERRA VISTA at
1430 Truxtun Ave Ste 400,
Bakersfield, CA 93301
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.)
Business was conducted by: a
Corporation
SIGNED: **OLGA MEAVE, M.D., Chief**

false is guilty of a crime.)
Business was conducted by: a
Corporation
SIGNED: **OLGA MEAVE, M.D., Chief
Executive Officer**
This statement of abandonment
filed on: May 7, 2023
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M CEDENO,
Deputy

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3,
2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

FILE NO: 2024-B5640
Business Name you wish to
abandon: Clinica Sierra Vista
Cal City AFS
Street address of business:
8100 California City Blvd,
California City, CA 93505
County: Kern
Mailing address of business:
1430 Truxtun Ave Suite 400,
Bakersfield, CA 93302
Registrant(s) who wish to
abandon the business name:
CLINICA SIERRA VISTA at 1430
Truxtun Ave Suite 400,
Bakersfield, CA 93301
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.)
Business was conducted by: a
Corporation
SIGNED: **OLGA MEAVE, M.D., Chief**

Executive Officer
This statement of abandonment
filed on: May 7, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M CEDENO,
Deputy

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3,
2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

FILE NO: 2025-B2445
Business Name you wish to
abandon: Kern River
Community Health Center
Street address of business:
67 Evans Road, Wofford
Heights, CA 93285
County: Kern
Mailing address of business:
PO BOX 1559, Bakersfield, CA
93302
Registrant(s) who wish to
abandon the business name:
CLINICA SIERRA VISTA at
1430 Truxtun Ave Ste 400,
Bakersfield, CA 93302
I declare that all information
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Business was conducted by: a
Corporation
SIGNED: **OLGA MEAVE, M.D., Chief
Executive Officer**
This statement of abandonment
filed on: May 7, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
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Deputy

County Clerk
By: M CEDENO,
Deputy

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3,
2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

FILE NO: 2024-B2530
Business Name you wish to
abandon: Sagebrush WIC
Street address of business:
1111 Columbus St. Room 100,
Bakersfield, CA 93307
County: Kern
Mailing address of business:
PO BOX 1559, Bakersfield, CA
93302-1559
Registrant(s) who wish to
abandon the business name:
CLINICA SIERRA VISTA at 1430
Truxtun Ave Suite 400,
Bakersfield, CA 93301
I declare that all information
in this Statement is true and
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declares as true information,
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false is guilty of a crime.)
Business was conducted by: a
Corporation
SIGNED: **OLGA MEAVE, M.D., Chief
Executive Officer**
This statement of abandonment
filed on: May 7, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M CEDENO,
Deputy

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**

PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3,
2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

FILE NO: 2024-B2043
Business Name you wish to
abandon: South Central
Bakersfield Behavioral Health
Street address of business:
3105 Wilson Rd, Bakersfield, CA
93304
County: Kern
Mailing address of business:
PO BOX 1559, Bakersfield, CA
93302
Registrant(s) who wish to
abandon the business name:
CLINICA SIERRA VISTA at 1430
Truxtun Ave Suite 400,
Bakersfield, CA 93301
I declare that all information
in this Statement is true and
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false is guilty of a crime.)
Business was conducted by: a
Corporation
SIGNED: **OLGA MEAVE, M.D., Chief
Executive Officer**
This statement of abandonment
filed on: May 7, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M CEDENO,
Deputy

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
PUB: May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3,
2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

FILE NO: 2024-B0003
Business Name you wish to
abandon: East Bakersfield
Pharmacy
Street address of business:
815 Dr Martin Luther King Jr
Blvd #110, Bakersfield, CA
93307
County: Kern
Mailing address of business:
P.O. Box 1559, Bakersfield, CA
93302
Registrant(s) who wish to
abandon the business name:
CLINICA SIERRA VISTA at 1430
Bakersfield, CA 93301
I declare that all information
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Business was conducted by: a
Corporation
SIGNED: **OLGA MEAVE, M.D., Chief
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This statement of abandonment
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AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
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Deputy

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
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Features

Bathe Like Rihanna: Discover the Benefits of Walk-In Bathtub Installation

By Billie Pollisotto

Walk-in bathtub installation makes bathing safer, easier, and far more comfortable without sacrificing a polished, high-end feel. It removes the need to step over a tall tub wall, adds built-in support, and turns a routine task into a more relaxing, low-stress experience. For homeowners planning or upgrading for comfort, it is a practical change that delivers immediate impact.

Self-care has evolved into a full lifestyle, shaped by brands like Fenty Beauty and Rihanna's influence, where comfort and confidence go hand in hand. That same thinking is now showing up in how people design their homes, especially in bathrooms.

Walk-in bathtubs are part of that, blending accessibility with a spa-like atmosphere, and replacing awkward, cautious movement with a smooth, confident routine that feels considered from start to finish.

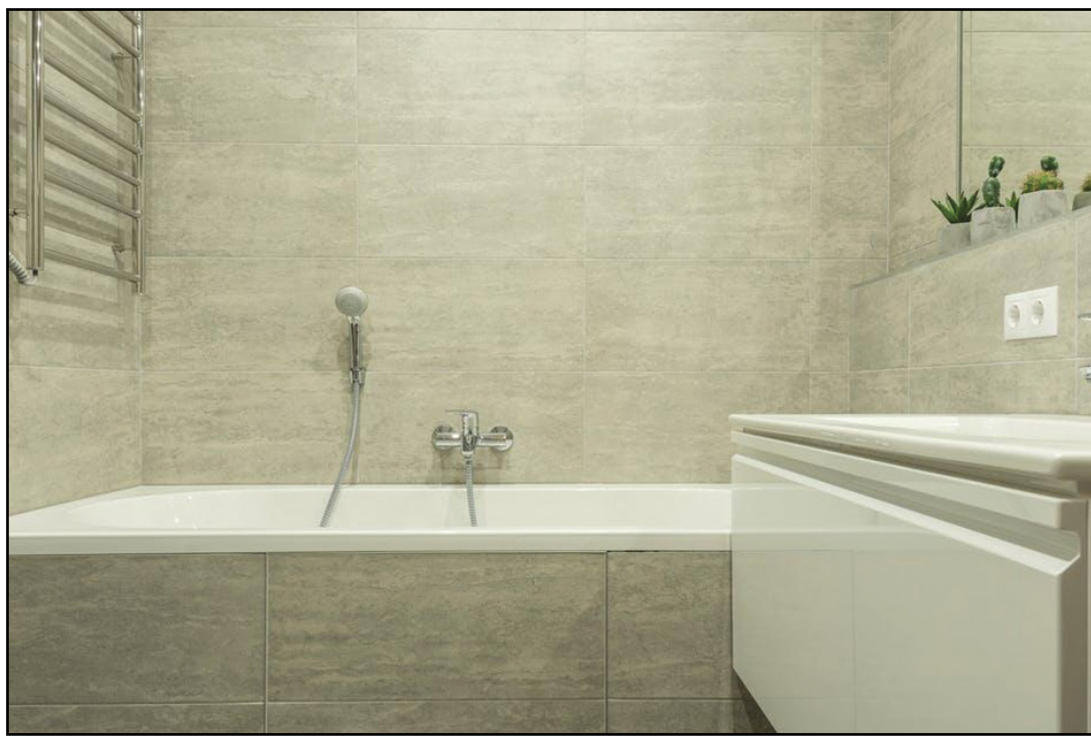
What Makes Walk-In Tubs Different From Standard Bathtubs? Walk-in bathtub installation changes the way a bath feels from the moment you turn the water on. Instead of a low, reclined soak, these tubs are designed for an upright, more controlled experience that keeps everything within easy reach.

A sealed door, a built-in seat, and a deeper basin create a contained space that feels more intentional than a standard tub. Water levels tend to be higher, which gives that full-body soak without needing to stretch out or reposition constantly. The overall vibe leans closer to a personal retreat than a quick rinse. Features like temperature controls, jets, and fast-drain systems bring in that polished, at-home luxury energy. Bathroom Safety Benefits: Can Walk-In Bathtubs Help With Aging In Place? Accessible bathroom solutions can support aging in place by making the bathroom easier to use over time. It focuses on one of the most frequently used spaces in the home and helps reduce the need for future renovations. Planning ahead allows homeowners to stay in familiar surroundings longer. Instead of reacting to sudden changes, this type of upgrade creates a more stable and predictable daily routine. Senior-friendly bathroom design also supports long-term comfort without disrupting the overall look and feel of the home. A well-designed walk-in tub blends into the space while quietly improving how the bathroom functions day to day. What

Features Should Homeowners Look For? The right features during walk-in bathtub installation come down to how the tub feels in real use, not just what looks good on paper. A well-designed model should feel intuitive from the first use, with controls and components placed where they make sense without forcing adjustments. Start with the basics that shape the overall experience. A properly sealed door, a comfortable seat height, and flooring that adds grip all influence how the tub performs day after day. Small details like how quickly the tub fills or how smoothly it drains can also change the rhythm of the routine in noticeable ways. From there, added features can shift the atmosphere. Some homeowners prefer a simple setup that focuses on ease. Others look for options like heated surfaces or jet systems that turn the space into something more restorative. When Is The Right Time To Consider Installation? The right time for walk-in bathtub installation is usually when you are already thinking about improving your bathroom, not when you are forced to. Making the decision early gives you more control over the design, timing, and overall experience instead of rushing into a quick fix. A bathroom renovation is one of the most natural moments to consider a walk-in tub. Since work is already happening, it is easier to incorporate a new tub without adding extra disruption or cost later on. It also makes sense when your home starts to feel like a long-term space rather than a temporary stop. Small upgrades that improve daily routines begin to matter more, especially in rooms you use every single day. Some people choose to install one after dealing with repeated inconvenience in the bathroom. When a routine starts to feel less smooth or takes more effort than it used to, that is often a sign the space is ready for a change. Thinking ahead keeps the process calm and intentional. Instead of reacting to a problem, you are shaping a space that continues to work for you over time. Frequently Asked Questions What Is the Average Cost of a Walk-In Bathtub Installation?

The cost of walk-in bathtub installation depends on several moving parts, including: The type of tub

- The condition of your existing plumbing
- The layout of your bathroom
- Any added comfort features
- Some projects stay straightforward, while others require adjustments that increase the overall



Shutterstock / NNPA.

scope. Installation tends to be more affordable when the new tub fits into the current space without major changes. Costs can rise when updates are needed behind the walls or when homeowners choose models with added functionality that require more setup. Do Walk-in Bathtubs Increase Home Value? Walk-in bathtubs can increase home value, but the impact depends on the buyer and the market. They tend to appeal most to: Older adults Multi-generational households Anyone thinking about long-term accessibility In many cases, the real value comes from usability rather than price. A walk-in tub can make a home feel more practical and future-ready, which can appeal to the right buyer. Homes that still include a standard tub or shower alongside it usually maintain broader appeal. Do Walk-in Bathtubs Require Plumbing Upgrades? Walk-in bathtubs

do not always require plumbing upgrades, but it depends on your existing setup. Many installations can connect to current plumbing with minor adjustments, especially if the new tub replaces a standard one in the same location. Upgrades may be needed if your home has older pipes, limited water pressure, or a smaller water heater that cannot handle the tub's capacity. The best bathroom remodeling services can assess your system and recommend any changes to ensure the tub fills and drains efficiently. Invest in a Walk-in Bathtub Installation Today

Walk-in bathtub installation can be a great option for many people. Consider your options, and figure out what's right for your needs.

Are you searching for more ways to transform your home? Explore some of our other useful articles.

Retirement Income Planning Mistakes That Leave Seniors Scrambling in Their Golden Years

By Amy Kang

As you enjoy your youth, you should think about retirement income planning. Many retirees face financial suffering because of some planning errors they made in their younger years, such as not considering longevity, ignoring inflation, or claiming Social Security too early. If you aren't too careful, these mistakes can make it hard for you to enjoy your senior years.

Pew Research Center reports that four in ten Americans (40%) aren't confident they'll have enough income to last throughout their retirement years. These fears are common, especially if you don't prioritize senior financial planning early enough. Some common missteps, like skipping contributions, can shrink your nest egg faster as you're older. If you start to plan now, you can avoid desperate struggles in your golden years. What Are the 3 Rs of Retirement? As you think about your retirement years, you should be proactive about retirement income planning. One way you can do that is through the 3 Rs of retirement. Resilience: Helps you adjust your spending habits based on market changes.

Resourcefulness: Shows up when you adopt retirement budget tips and learn how to enjoy life at low costs.

Renaissance: Reflects when you're always willing to find different ways to make money, even as you age.

During your golden years, you should regularly nurture your own resiliency, resourcefulness, and renaissance spirit. It'll help you make the most out of your life. What Are the Retirement Income Planning Mistakes Seniors Make? Retirement income planning is complex. If you make one wrong move, you'll lose a lot of money. Here are some retirement income planning mistakes that can take you many steps backward. Starting Retirement Planning Too Late When you're young, time is your best friend. You should take advantage of compound interest while you're young. However, most people put off saving until they reach their 40s or 50s. If you delay making contributions, it becomes hard to catch up. Starting to let means you can make modest contributions. You'll have to increase your savings rate to meet your retirement lifestyle expectations. Underestimating Medical and Long-Term Care Expenses As per NCOA reports, nearly all seniors (93%) have at least one chronic condition. This statistic shows that a lot of your income may be spent on healthcare when you retire. The expenses you incur are a lot, even if you have Medicare coverage. Unfortunately, most people don't save up for long-term care. Ignoring

Inflation's Impact on Savings A lot of people ignore inflation, yet it will take a huge share of your retirement savings. For example, if inflation is 6% annually, things that cost \$100 today will cost approximately \$179 in ten years. If you don't plan for this situation, your money may not stretch as far into your senior years. Failing to Diversify Investments

Putting all your retirement income in one basket is risky. This strategy can make you lose a lot of money if your investment performs poorly. As part of your retirement income strategies, you should diversify your portfolio. Claiming Social Security Benefits Too Early If you start claiming your Social Security too early, say at 62, you can significantly decrease your lifetime income. This decision can permanently reduce your monthly payments for the rest of your life. Neglecting Tax Implications Tax implications matter. You should know that different accounts have special tax rules. If you fail to consider the tax rules, you'll lose a lot of money in penalties. How Can Seniors Maximize Retirement Income? Once you're aware of the mistakes, the focus goes on how to do things right. So, how can seniors maximize retirement income? Here are retirement savings tips you can implement: Adjust Your Spending and Budget

One of the first steps to increase your retirement income is how you spend your money. Having a budget will give you clarity and control. Here are some retirement budget tips: Focus your spending on necessities like healthcare

- Make room for rising costs in your budget
- Use digital budgeting tools for efficiency
- Control lifestyle creep in retirement

A proactive approach to managing your income helps preserve your retirement savings for a long time. You won't have to worry about going broke. Consider Maximizing Social Security and Making Cost-of-Living Adjustments Social Security is your cornerstone during retirement. Luckily, the government adjusts these benefits each year to keep up with inflation through Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs). Aside from this, you should delay collecting Social Security benefits. Each year you delay up to age 70, your benefits can grow at about 8%. Frequently Asked Questions What Is the 30-30-30-10 Rule for Retirement?

The rule suggests that you should put 30% of your income into living expenses. Next, place the other 30% to your investments and another 30% to retirement savings. You'll later remain with 10% for unforeseen financial issues that can come up. If you follow this rule, you can easily create disciplined savings habits. With more savings in

your account, you get to boost your retirement security. How Can I Diversify My Investments? Don't just have one investment; you can diversify into different money-making portfolios. Here's how you can diversify: Get into real estate

- Try dividend-paying stocks
- Explore alternative assets, such as precious metals like gold
- Opt for investments like Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS)

Make sure you partner with a trusted financial advisor. They will guide you appropriately, ensuring your investments align with your income goals and risk tolerance. How Can Seniors Be Protected from Financial Scams? As a retiree, make sure you consult an advisor before making any investment or paying a lot of money for an item. Scammers often prey on your desire to save money and your naivety in navigating the financial world. Don't

make investment decisions alone. Additionally, always have a bit of skepticism when it comes to the investments you're told to consider. Do your research first, before you make a choice. Elevate Your Retirement Income Planning Tactics


Retirement income planning will tell you whether you'll have a comfortable or stressful life as you age. If you want comfort, it's important to avoid starting late, using Social Security benefits early, and only using one investment channel. With the help of financial experts, build comprehensive retirement income strategies.

Subscribe to our newsletter to learn more investment tips.

This article was prepared by an independent contributor and helps us continue to deliver quality news and information.




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Features

Q&A With Steven Bradford:

Why He Wants Your Vote for California Insurance Commissioner

By Edward Henderson
California Black Media

As California confronts rising insurance costs, market instability, and growing concerns about access and equity, the race for the state's top insurance regulator is drawing increased attention.

Among the candidates is Steven Bradford, a veteran public servant with more than two decades of experience in government, including eight years in the State Senate and five years in the State Assembly.

Known for his work on issues ranging from energy and public safety to economic development, Bradford has also engaged with insurance policy during his time in the Legislature as a member of the Senate Insurance Committee.

Now, as the June primary approaches, he is making his case to voters for why his background and perspective best position him for the role of California's next insurance commissioner.

California Black Media (CBM) spoke with Bradford about his campaign experiences, key issues he plans to solve if elected, and his vision for the insurance commissioner role.

For readers who may not be familiar, what does the Insurance Commissioner do, and how would you use that role to address issues impacting communities in California?

The Insurance Commissioner is both a regulator and an administrator. The office oversees the entire insurance market—approving companies to operate, licensing agents and brokers, and reviewing rate increases or decreases.

It also has enforcement power to hold companies accountable—whether that's denying claims unfairly or failing to serve communities appropriately.

This role is about oversight and action. The commissioner should be a watchdog, not a bystander, especially in a state like California, which has the third-largest insurance market in the world.

Last year, you shifted your campaign from running for lieutenant governor to the race for insurance commissioner. What spurred that decision and what do you hope to achieve in that role?

Insurance impacts every part of people's lives. You can't buy a home without it—that contributes to the housing crisis. You can't legally drive without it—that affects people's ability to work. And businesses can't operate without it.

For years, insurance has disproportionately impacted low-income communities and people of color. While everyone is feeling the strain now, those communities have long been hit hardest. That's why it's critical that insurance is not just available, but affordable.

What sets you apart from the other candidates in this race?

My record: 26 years of public service. I've shown up, stood up, and spoke up for Californians.

I'm also not using this position as a steppingstone. For decades, people have treated this office as a launchpad for higher office. I'm not doing



Hon. Steve Bradford candidate for California Insurance Commissioner

that. This is about doing the work and delivering results. What's needed right now is someone focused on administration and accountability—not political ambition.

A recent Supreme Court decision impacting the Voting Rights Act has raised concerns about representation, especially from minority communities. What message do you have for voters in California regarding the importance of their vote?

It's alarming. If people think this doesn't affect them, they're mistaken. There's a real effort to roll back decades of progress and silence voters.

Your vote is your most powerful tool, and we

have to use it—every election, not just when it feels urgent. This moment is as critical as the 1960s. We fought hard for the right to vote, and now we're seeing efforts to take it away.

What are you hearing from voters as you campaign across the state?

Affordability and transparency. People are struggling with rising costs, and many don't fully understand what their insurance policies cover.

We saw that clearly in places like Altadena and the Palisades—people had insurance but were underinsured. They didn't realize their

coverage wouldn't meet the cost to rebuild. That's unacceptable.

We need more transparency and a more modern Department of Insurance. Right now, it takes over 300 days to approve rate changes in California—far too long. That delay pushes more people onto the FAIR Plan, which is inadequate.

We also have to acknowledge the inequities in the system. The FAIR Plan has roots in discrimination, and today we still see disparities based on ZIP code and income. We need a more competitive and equitable market where consumers actually have choices.

Breaking the Mental Health Stigma of "What Happens in this house Stays in this House"

By Ms. Wanda

Radio Host, Full Circle KDEE-FM

There are lots of reasons why people don't seek assistance when it comes to mental health, especially in our community and it's time we break those barriers. For far too long, we have had this saying in our community of "What happens in this house stays in this house" and that causes stigma and shame for us not to be able to talk about our mental health needs.

I spoke with Dr. Monica Soni, Covered California Chief Medical Officer, about behavioral health as an integral part of wellness and mental, physical, and spiritual healing being key pillars for a holistic approach to healthcare. In honor of Mental Health Awareness Month, I am sharing parts of our conversation, hoping to make a difference in at least one person's life.

Dr. Soni, mental health, suicide prevention and substance use disorders are some of the key issues affecting Blacks and African Americans. How can we overcome the stigma surrounding behavioral health?

Behavioral health includes mental health and substance use disorders, and it shapes how we think, feel, cope, and connect with one another. Reducing stigma starts with open, respectful conversations, even when those conversations are difficult. It also means acknowledging that discrimination and lack of access to housing, employment, and education can affect mental health and well-being. Overcoming stigma requires us to listen without judgment, lead with compassion, and create communities where seeking help is seen as a sign of strength. And it means breaking the belief that we must keep everything inside "our house" instead of talking openly and supporting one another in getting the care we need.

Initiating a conversation is key, but it is also important that we take care of ourselves to feel strong enough to notice and deal with changes in behavior from those around us. How do you think we can become better prepared to have a conversation about mental health?

Maintaining a healthy relationship with those we love and care for is a daily effort. We must be aware that mental health can affect people at different stages in life, from children to adolescents, young adults, and the elderly. Living in a world where social isolation is a real risk, we can each play a role in helping others feel seen, supported, and connected. We must pay attention to behavioral changes, including mood swings and lack of engagement in social activities.

Acknowledging with empathy and compassion that what you are hearing is serious and important signals that you are truly listening. It is important to note that when we see changes, we must check in and not be fearful to have serious conversations. Part of caring for people and being prepared is also knowing about the mental health supports that



exist in California, including the 988 Lifeline which can be texted or called 24/7, 365 days a week.

Why are coverage and access to resources and services important when we are dealing with trauma, stress and so many other things in our lives?

Everyone deserves access to the wellness and support they need. Taking a preventive approach, rather than waiting until needs become more serious, can help people get care earlier and improve overall health and well-being. Healthcare providers, community-based organizations, and suicide support and prevention hotlines are just a few examples of available resources.

Behavioral health screening is covered by Covered California health plans as a preventive benefit. Strong mental health supports better physical health, and when mental health needs go unaddressed, physical health outcomes can worsen.

As someone dedicated to providing information and empowering our communities, I truly believe that eliminating stigmas surrounding mental health is a conversation worth having. Talking with Dr. Soni reinforces my belief that the overall wellness of our communities should be based on a holistic approach focused on the mind, the body and the soul.

Ms. Wanda is a Sacramento-based radio personality and host of "Ms. Wanda's Full Circle Radio" on 97.5 KDEE FM, focusing on empowerment, spiritual, physical and emotional health. Her show frequently covers topics such as womanhood, local community stories, and features guests aimed at community uplift.

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Political Playback:

California Capitol News You Might Have Missed

By Bo Tefu, Antonio Harvey and Edward Henderson
California Black Media

Asm. Jackson Bill Requiring Anti-Hate Speech Training for Calif. Public Officials Sent to "Suspense File"

After a hearing on May 6, the Assembly Appropriations Committee ordered Assembly Bill (AB) 1578 to the Suspense File, delaying action on legislation that would require California public officials to complete anti-hate speech training.

The bill, authored by Assemblymember Corey Jackson (D-Moreno Valley), would add one hour of anti-hate speech instruction to the sexual harassment prevention training already required for state and local officials. The proposal applies to legislators, constitutional officers, city council members, county supervisors and school board trustees statewide and would take effect in 2028 if approved.

"It's time for us to continue to work on and finally go on the offense when it comes to hate racism and xenophobia to make sure that all people are able to live in the state of California with the dignity and honor that they deserve," said Jackson, who also chairs the Assembly Select Committee on Racism, Hate and Xenophobia.

On April 16, the Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization voted 16-5 to advance the measure to Appropriations. Jackson has said the bill is part of a broader legislative package informed by findings from the Commission on the State of Hate and aimed at addressing hate in public spaces, workplaces and institutions.

In the California Legislature, a bill is placed on the "Suspense File" when it has a significant fiscal impact on the state budget — generally costing the state \$150,000 or more from the General Fund or \$50,000 or more from a special fund. Bills sent to suspense are held by the Assembly or Senate Appropriations Committee and reviewed later in a single batch hearing, where lawmakers decide which measures move forward, are amended, or quietly die without a vote.

Jackson said the training would focus on the real-world consequences of inflammatory rhetoric.

Supporters, including the Alameda County Office of Education, say the training would help elected officials better understand how language can perpetuate bias.

"In the current political climate, where discourse can often become polarized and inflammatory, it is more important than ever for elected officials to receive specialized anti-hate speech training," wrote Lucy Carter, director of policy and governance for the Alameda County Office of Education, in a letter supporting the bill.

Opponents, including the California Family Council, argue the term "hate speech" is too subjective and could suppress political disagreement.

The Ladies of Delta Sigma Theta Hold Day of Advocacy at the Capitol in Sacramento

On May 4, members of the Farwest Region of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., convened at the California State Capitol for the organization's 23rd annual Delta Days in Sacramento.

The two-day advocacy event brings together chapters from across California to engage directly in the legislative process, connect with lawmakers, and advocate for policies impacting Black communities.

Members of the sorority were honored on the Senate floor by Sen. Laura Richardson (D-San Pedro), who is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta.

Richardson welcomed the Farwest Region during the presentation of a Senate resolution recognizing outgoing Regional Director Kimberly Usher for her leadership and service.

"In addition to the Far West Region, we are led by a fearless leader, regional director Kimberly Usher. She has now served her full term of what's allowed," Richardson said. "We are going to be having our regional conference, but we wanted to give it to her here, officially recognizing her service."

The resolution was co-authored by Richardson and fellow members of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) and Delta Sigma Theta, Sen. Akielah Weber Pierson (D-San Diego) and Assemblymember Rhodesia Ransom (D-Stockton).

Usher has served in the leadership role since 2022.

A member of the "Divine Nine," Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., was founded on Jan. 13, 1913, at Howard University in Washington, D.C. The organization was established by 22 women who sought to shift the group's focus from social activities to public service, academic excellence, and social activism.

"We are founded on sisterhood that is deeply rooted in scholarship, service, and social action," said Weber Pierson, a member of the Gamma Alpha



chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

"Today, we continue a legacy of empowering communities and upholding the high cultural, intellectual, and moral standards established by our founders over a century ago," she added.

California Black Health Network Is Hosting Virtual Conference on Black Mental Health Crisis

As rates of stress, suicide, and cognitive decline rise within Black communities, the California Black Health Network (CBHN) is convening experts and community leaders for a statewide virtual conference aimed at confronting what organizers describe as a growing public health crisis.

The Behavioral and Mental Health Conference, scheduled for May 13 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., will focus on the intersection of mental health, chronic stress, and brain health in Black communities.

CBHN Executive Director Rhonda Smith said the conference was driven by alarming data and firsthand accounts from healthcare practitioners across the state.

"We've seen an increase in suicide rates among Black teens, particularly Black boys," Smith said, pointing to research showing a sharp rise over recent years. "COVID only exacerbated that isolation and stress."

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, suicide rates among Black youth have risen significantly over the past decade, while data from the University of California, Los Angeles California Health Interview Survey shows that nearly 1 in 5 Black Californians have seriously considered suicide.

The conference will also address disparities in brain health. Black Americans are nearly twice as likely to be diagnosed with Alzheimer's or dementia compared to White Americans, a trend experts link to chronic stress and systemic inequities.

Smith said the selection of topics to be covered during the event was shaped directly by CBHN's statewide network of nearly 1,000 health professionals, particularly its mental and behavioral health peer group.

"They are the eyes and ears on the ground," she said. "They helped identify what's happening in our communities and what we need to address right now."

The virtual format is designed to increase accessibility while connecting attendees with culturally competent experts who understand the lived experiences of Black communities.

Sessions will also examine policy impacts, including how federal legislation like H.R. 1 could affect access to care and the future diversity of the healthcare workforce.

Held during Mental Health Awareness Month, the conference aims to provide practical tools, community-driven solutions, and a space for open dialogue.

"This is about raising awareness, but also about action," Smith said. "We want people to leave with strategies for healing, resilience, and long-term change."

Registration for the May 13 conference is still

open.

California Launches Free Diaper Program for Newborns Statewide

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced Friday that California will launch a first-in-the-nation program providing free diapers to families with newborns, part of a broader effort to lower costs for parents and improve infant health outcomes.

The initiative, called Golden State Start, will provide 400 free diapers to every newborn delivered at participating California hospitals beginning this summer. The state is partnering with Baby2Baby, a California-based nonprofit that distributes essential items to children in need nationwide.

State officials said hospitals participating in the program will give families the diapers when they are discharged after birth, helping parents leave with an immediate supply of newborn essentials.

"Every baby born in California deserves a healthy start in life," Newsom said in a statement. He said the program is part of California's broader affordability efforts, which also include free school meals, universal preschool for four-year-olds and expanded after-school programs.

The announcement comes ahead of Mother's Day and is tied to the administration's broader CalRx initiative, which aims to reduce costs for essential products and medications. State officials said California is also exploring ways to lower diaper prices by challenging high costs from major brands.

The first year of the program will prioritize hospitals serving large numbers of Medi-Cal patients, with plans to expand to additional hospitals and birthing centers over time. Officials said the effort is intended to reduce financial pressure on low-income families and improve infant and maternal health by ensuring parents have access to clean diapers.

"California families deserve to feel supported during one of life's more exciting, yet vulnerable transitions," First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom said in a statement. She said the program would allow parents to focus on caring for their newborns instead of worrying about basic supplies.

According to Baby2Baby, one in two families in the United States struggles to afford diapers. The organization has distributed more than half a billion items to children over the past 15 years through partnerships with shelters, hospitals, foster care programs and schools.

State officials said Baby2Baby will oversee diaper purchasing, warehousing and distribution through its existing hospital and community partnerships across California.

Rep. Kamlager-Dove Introduces Bill to Protect Women in Custody After Reports Detailing Miscarriages and Neglect

Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D-CA-37) on May 7, reintroduced updated legislation aimed at strengthening protections and healthcare standards for pregnant and postpartum women held in federal custody, including in immigration detention facilities.

The Pregnant Women in Custody Act would expand safeguards beyond the federal prison system to include women detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Office of Refugee Resettlement. The proposal follows reports of pregnant women being shackled, denied medical care and suffering miscarriages while in immigration detention.

The legislation builds on a bipartisan version previously passed by the House during the 117th Congress. The updated bill includes new standards for healthcare access, mental health and substance use treatment, high-risk pregnancy care, family unity protections and increased federal oversight.

"Proper pregnancy care is a human right, regardless of your immigration or incarceration status," Kamlager-Dove said in a statement. "It's unacceptable that there are virtually no legal safeguards for pregnant women in federal custody."

The bill would also limit the use of restraints and restrictive housing for pregnant women, improve data collection on maternal health in custody and require additional staff training and enforcement measures.

Supporters of the measure said the legislation

is intended to address long-standing concerns about maternal healthcare and safety in detention settings, particularly for Black women and low-income women who are disproportionately impacted by incarceration and health disparities.

"Pregnant women in custody should never be subjected to dangerous and inhumane treatment that threatens their health, dignity, or the well-being of their babies," said Patrice Willoughby, chief of policy and legislative affairs for the NAACP and a longtime public policy and government affairs strategist, in a statement.

A 2021 report estimated there are about 58,000 admissions of pregnant women into U.S. jails and prisons each year. Kamlager's statement also cited a recent investigation by NBC News and Bloomberg Law that identified allegations of severe mistreatment or medical neglect involving at least 54 pregnant women or families in county jails between 2017 and 2024.

Federal policy under the Department of Homeland Security restricts the detention of pregnant, postpartum and nursing immigrants except in extreme cases. However, the agency reported that ICE deported 363 pregnant, postpartum or nursing women between January 2025 and February 2026, including 16 recorded miscarriages during that period.

The bill is cosponsored by several House Democrats and backed by organizations including the NAACP and the Vera Institute of Justice.

How Is AI Affecting California? The State Wants You to Share Your Story

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced May 7 that California is expanding its Engaged California digital democracy initiative statewide, inviting residents to help shape future state policies on artificial intelligence (AI) and its impact on jobs and the economy.

The program marks the first time the state has opened the platform to all Californians. State officials said the effort is designed to give residents a direct role in discussions about how AI should be regulated and used as the technology rapidly expands across industries.

"We've got to be clear-eyed about this moment: AI is moving fast, bringing enormous opportunity, but also real risks," Newsom said in a statement. "Californians deserve a seat at the table as we shape what's to come."

The initiative will roll out in two phases. Beginning immediately, Californians can sign up online to share how AI is affecting their work and communities and provide ideas for possible government action. Later this summer, a smaller group reflecting the state's workforce demographics will participate in live discussions focused on developing policy recommendations.

State officials said the goal is to identify areas of agreement among Californians and provide policymakers with public feedback as the state develops future AI regulations and workforce strategies.

Engaged California is modeled after digital democracy programs used in Taiwan and is intended to encourage structured public discussion rather than social media-style debate. Officials described the effort as a form of "deliberative democracy" aimed at helping residents engage directly in state decision-making.

"The more Californians are engaged in the democratic process, the better able we'll be to confront the challenges we face together," said Nick Maduros, California Secretary of Government Operations, in a statement.

The statewide launch builds on two earlier pilot programs. One pilot gathered public input following the Los Angeles wildfires to help guide recovery efforts, while another collected ideas from state employees about improving government operations.

California has positioned itself as a national leader in AI policy and development. Since 2023, the Newsom administration has introduced initiatives focused on responsible AI use in government, cybersecurity protections, workforce training and regulations targeting risks such as deepfakes and AI-generated robocalls.

The state has also partnered with companies in Silicon Valley -- including NVIDIA, Google, Adobe, IBM and Microsoft -- to expand AI education and workforce training programs across California schools and universities.



Sen. Laura Richardson (D-San Pedro) presents a Senate resolution to the Delta Theta Sigma Sorority Farwest Region at the State Capitol on May 4. Photo courtesy of the Senate Rules Committee.

Local



Bakersfield College's Renegade Pantry Signpost
Photo Credit: Cecil Egbele



Khalfani Mackey, President of Bakersfield College Student Government Association, Expresses Concern About the Potential Food Shortage at the Renegade Food Pantry
Photo Credit: Cecil Egbele

Thousands Will Lose Food Support With Cuts to Cal Food

By Cecil Egbele
Contributing Writer | California Local News Fellow

Every month, about 7,000 students line up at Bakersfield College's Renegade Pantry—some even skipping class to wait for something as basic as a free bag of groceries. The campus pantry, funded in part by California's Cal Food program, stocks fresh produce, perishable goods, proteins, and everyday staples that students can access at no cost using points tied to their student IDs. Some skip class to wait in line. Some leave empty-handed because the line closes before they reach the front.

Now, a proposed cut to the state's Cal Food program could make that already-strained resource nearly disappear.

California lawmakers are weighing a reduction to the Cal Food program from \$80 million to just \$8 million—a 90 percent slash that officials, advocates, and students say would have devastating consequences for communities across the state.

"We can't go from 80 million to 8 million," said Dr. Cesar Jimenez, Vice President of Student Services at Bakersfield College. "Food insecurity is absolutely real. Our students don't have money to be able to purchase food." The college serves more than 40,000 students, including veterans, parents, and working students.

The Cal Food program allows food banks to purchase California-grown produce and goods at significantly reduced costs. At Bakersfield College, a partnership with Community Action Partnership of Kern through the program brings fresh groceries and perishable goods to between 7,000 and 10,000 students every month at the Renegade Pantry.

Kelly Lowery, program administrator at the Kern County food bank, said last year, the statewide Cal Food program totaled \$110 million. Kern County's share came to roughly \$1.4 million. Under the proposed cuts, he said that figure could drop to approximately \$240,000.

"A lot of the shelves in this pantry are going to be almost empty," Lowery said. "And the things that will be on the shelves will be very volatile—you can't rely from month to month on what's going to be there. It'll just be dependent on what gets donated from grocery stores."

The food bank currently serves around 50,000 families every month across Kern County, supplying school pantries, church pantries, and nonprofits throughout the region. Lowery said no sites will close—guided by a Haitian proverb the organization has adopted as its culture: "If there's food for one, there's food for two." But he noted that in practice,

that would mean less food per family, less reliability, and less stability.

Jared Call, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy for the California Association of Food Banks, is concerned that the cuts are happening at the worst possible moment. He said California food banks are already serving roughly 6 million people per month—up from 4.5 million at the height of the pandemic. Incoming federal cuts to the SNAP and Cal Fresh programs could strip as many as 750,000 Californians of food assistance, driving even greater demand to local pantries.

"It's unacceptable that in the richest state in the country—and the state that produces most of the food for the country—so many people are going hungry," Call said.

For students, the stakes are more than just logistics. Research from the UCLA Center for Health and Public Service and the national Real College Survey found that more than 70 percent of California college students are food insecure and links hunger directly to lower GPAs and higher dropout rates.

Khalfani Mackey, president of Bakersfield


College's Student Government Association, experienced those lines firsthand. He recalled the pantry closing even as he waited in line for his turn. He said many students would choose food over education.

"I was willing to stand in the line and not go to class that day," Mackey said. "By the time I got to the door, they were closed because the line was so long."


His message to legislators is direct: "Be human. If you value students' trajectory, don't cut it short by something as simple as food."



Inside Bakersfield College's Renegade Pantry with Beneficiaries inside
Photo Credit: Cecil Egbele



BLACK FUNERAL TRADITIONS & THE CHURCH




Hi Everyone!

Sankofa 82 and I have traveled the United States and discovered that there is such a rich cultural heritage of Black churches and Black owned funeral homes. Because enslaved people were not allowed to gather in groups, it was equally as difficult to hold a church service as it was to host a funeral. But yet Black people found a way to worship together as well as bury their loved ones.

BURIAL SOCIETIES

In the north, Blacks who were not slaves formed "burial societies" through their churches. Burial societies were organizations where you paid into a policy weekly, in hopes that by the time of your death your funeral expenses would be fully paid. This helped to give rise to the funeral home business. Black funeral parlors were some of the first businesses to be set up by Black American entrepreneurs.

BLUESTONE CHURCH



One of the first churches was the African Baptist or "Bluestone" Church. This church was founded on the William Byrd plantation near the Bluestone River in Virginia. This was the first organized Black church in Virginia. Africans adapted to christianity easily because it preached many of the same beliefs that they followed in Africa. The christian belief about "life after death" was also appealing because it offered the promise that they would someday unite with their ancestors again.

ONE MINUTE MADNESS

In one minute, unscramble the words. The first letter of the word is in bold.

ru**B**ali ties**S**coei _____

stno**e**Bleu urh**C**hc _____

ii**C**vl tgh**i**Rs _____


wis**e**L ral**F**uen **H**emo _____

can**A**rif ist**B**tpa _____

ARTHUR "A.G." GASTON FUNERAL HOME

Gaston established a funeral home chain with 13 branches, an Insurance company, a Savings and Loans Company, a Business College, and Gaston Motel. Gaston, as well as other Funeral Directors, were community leaders. When Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. came to Birmingham it was Gaston that put up the \$5,000 for King to help bail him out of jail. Although King was bailed out, it was not before he finished writing his famous "Letter From A Birmingham Jail." Many funeral directors used their hearse and limousines to chauffeur King and his entourage around the city. They also used their funeral homes to lodge Civil Rights leaders. Funeral homes throughout the south were safe havens for Civil Rights leaders and workers.

HOWARD K. HILL FUNERAL SERVICES



Howard K. Hill Funeral Services has been serving the Connecticut area communities for many years. They operate under a unique service called Aria Urban Prosperity Fund, funded by their own operation and community support. This community development fund provides financial education in the community in an effort to change the mindset from poverty to prosperity. Just as older established funeral homes of the past, Hill also believes in being a strong community leader that is involved with civil rights activity.

TELL THE TRUTH

Print the letter T on the line if the statement is True or F if the statement is False.

___ Arthur "A.G." Gaston's was only used for funeral services.

___ Some Funeral Directors are community leaders.

___ The Alexander Funeral Home was not involved with Civil Rights.

___ Many Funeral Directors aided the Civil Rights movement.

___ Gaston was a multimillionaire with several businesses.

___ The Aria Urban Prosperity Fund is run by Howard Hill Funeral

FIND THE ANSWER

Answer the question by putting the correct letter on the line provided.

A John Marrant, 1755-1791
B Aspire to inspire before we expire
C worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, mission
D A "repass"(repass)
E Black and sometimes white
F It is considered a sign of respect
G First African Baptist Church of Savannah, GA., 1777
H Supported meetings, rallies, marches, people

What color is typically worn to a funeral? ___

Why do people wear black to a funeral? ___

What is the post- funeral meal often called? ___


What is a possible quote said at a funeral? ___

What role did the civil rights movement play in the Black church? ___

Who was the first Black pastor? ___

What is the name of the first Black church? ___

What are the five purposes of the church? ___




R. S. LEWIS FUNERAL HOME

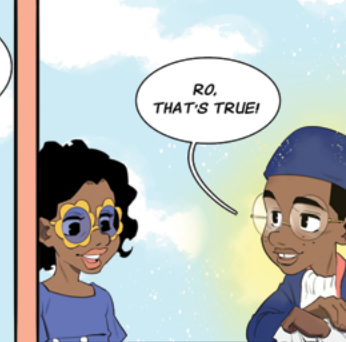
This Memphis, Tenn. funeral home has been around more than 100 years. The business was started by Robert Lewis Sr. in the 1900s. He also built Memphis' first large Black baseball park and helped many Black players who came during segregation. Also it was his funeral home that had the honor of handling Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 's remains.



KEMET. LIFE IS SHORT! I WANT TO SPEND IT WITH PEOPLE WHO TRULY LOVE ME!



...THEY SAY IF SOMEONE TRULY LOVES YOU THEY LIGHT UP WHEN YOU'RE AROUND THEM.



RO. THAT'S TRUE!

ANSWER KEY

TELL THE TRUTH
F, T, F, T, T, T

ONE MINUTE MADNESS!
Burial Societies
Bluestone Church
Civil Rights
Lewis Funeral Home
African Baptist

FIND THE ANSWER
E, F, D, B, H, A, G, C

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Local



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He understands the urgency of addressing the cost of living, elevating community voices, and protecting California's future.

Dr. LaShae Sharp-Collins
California State Assembly, District 79

Californians need a real progressive leader like Tom Steyer—someone who is not beholden to corporations and will always put the needs of our people first.

Tina McKinnor
California State Assembly, District 61



Tom Steyer understands that real leadership is about expanding opportunity and delivering for communities that have too often been left behind.

Dr. Corey Jackson
California State Assembly, District 60

Tom Steyer...has the courage to stand shoulder to shoulder with working families to hold economic royalists accountable.

Lola Smallwood-Cuevas
California State Senate, District 28



We need California to not only stand up to Trump, but deliver for everyday Californians, make life more affordable, and build a state where everyone can succeed. Tom has proven he is the leader for this challenge.

Mia Bonta
California State Assembly, District 18

California is in a crisis, and Tom is the type of leader who is going to stand up to the utility monopolies, fight for working people, push back against the federal government and believes that everyone should pay their fair share.

Isaac Bryan
California State Assembly, District 55

