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Bakersfield News Observer Takes Center Stage at Beale Library Juneteenth Event

By Cecil Egbele
Contributing Writer | California Local News Fellow

In honor of Juneteenth, Beale Library hosted a celebration of Black newspaper history in Bakersfield on the first Saturday in June. Held in the library's Local History section, the event titled Telling Our Stories: The Legacy of Black Newspapers in Bakersfield featured two keynote speakers - Katherine Jordan Morris, a historical researcher, who spoke on the history of older Black-owned newspapers in Bakersfield, and James Luckey Jr., who discussed the 50-year legacy of the Bakersfield News Observer. The event was organized by Lynne Kemmer, the Local History Librarian at Beale.

Early Black Press
Morris took the audience on a journey through the early Black press in Bakersfield, highlighting their lasting impact on the community. "These newspapers provided a voice and a platform for the Black community that was not available in mainstream media at the time," Morris explained. "They covered the stories, issues, and accomplishments that mattered to African Americans in Bakersfield."

She spoke of the Negro History Bulletin, founded in 1937 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson—widely known as the "Father of Black History." Though not printed locally, she said it kept Bakersfield residents up-to-date on national issues.

Her main presentation focused on The Colored Citizen, a Black-owned newspaper launched in Bakersfield in 1914 by Rev. Dr. J. Gordon McPherson. The paper, she explained, offered a rare glimpse into the social, political, and economic life of African Americans in the city during the early 20th century.

"The Colored Citizen newspaper of Bakersfield was a startup newspaper published here in Bakersfield in 1914, providing a rare glimpse into the early 20th-century African American community," Morris said.

She described the paper as a valuable historical record that chronicled church life, civic activities, social events, advertisement styles, and community news. She called it "the roots of Black churches and community histories in Bakersfield."

Drawing laughter from the audience, Morris

shared examples of what she called the newspaper's "gossip" columns—brief reports about visitors, illnesses, church meetings, and social gatherings. While lighthearted, she said those stories reveal how Black residents built community and maintained connections in an era when their lives were often overlooked by mainstream publications.

From Print to Digital: Bakersfield News Observer's 50-Year Journey

Building on that foundation, Luckey took the stage to discuss the Bakersfield News Observer, a pillar of the Black community for the past five decades. Part of the Observer Group Newspapers of Southern California, the weekly publication has never missed an issue in its 50 years.

"The Observer has been there consistently, week after week, telling our stories," Luckey said with pride. "Out of the 49 years where our weekly press newspaper comes out, we haven't missed a single week."

Luckey also discussed the newspaper's evolution from typewriters and film photography to digital publishing, social media, and newsletters, while emphasizing that its mission remains unchanged: serving the community and preserving its history.

"When you look through the archives, it's like flipping through the family photo album of Black Bakersfield," he said. "By digitizing our Black issues, we're ensuring that our children and grandchildren will always have access to their history, to their roots in this community," he explained.

Attendees, many of whom have deep ties to Bakersfield, expressed appreciation for the event. "I've lived here for decades and there was still so much I didn't know about the history of the Black press," shared Regina Clayton, a Black Bakersfield native. "It's amazing to learn about the Observer's consistency and impact over the years."

Cynthia Nichols, another Black and long-time resident, agreed. "The Observer has always been there, covering our family and church events. Seeing our community reflected in its pages means so much."

For some, the event sparked a newfound interest in engaging with the paper, both in print and online. "I pick up the Observer from time



Katherine Jordan Morris speaks during Telling Our Stories: The Legacy of Black Newspapers in Bakersfield, a Juneteenth event held in the Local History section of Beale Library. (Photo by Cecil Egbele)



James Luckey Jr. discusses how stories are chosen and developed for publication during Telling Our Stories: The Legacy of Black Newspapers in Bakersfield at Beale Library. (Photo by Cecil Egbele)

to time, but after today, I want to read it more regularly," said Carol Allen, an attendee who has been in Bakersfield for 10 years. "There's clearly a lot to gain from engaging with our local Black press."

Eighty-year-old Richard Guzman, a Vietnam-era veteran born in Bakersfield, said he is happy to learn about parts of Bakersfield's history that were unfamiliar to him. "I'm familiar with the Observer newspaper, but I didn't know any of the history like he explained," he said, referring to James Luckey Jr.

As the event concluded, many left with a deeper understanding of the vital role Black newspapers have played, and continue to play, in knitting together Bakersfield's African American community. With the Bakersfield News Observer still going strong after 50 years, that legacy appears poised to continue for generations to come.

Woman Convicted for Throwing Dynamite at Her Boyfriend and Blowing Off His Hand

Keyonna Waddell, a 35-year-old woman from Suffolk County, New York, has been convicted after throwing a stick of dynamite into her sleeping boyfriend's bedroom following an argument. The blast caused him to lose his hand, and she now faces up to 25 years in prison.



Keyonna Waddell

A Suffolk County jury found Waddell guilty of first-degree assault and criminal possession of a weapon. District Attorney Raymond A. Tierney confirmed the verdict and described the case as a serious act of domestic violence involving explosives.

According to KGNS, prosecutors said the incident happened on March 22, 2024, after a dispute between the couple. Waddell allegedly entered her boyfriend's bedroom while he slept and threw a stick of dynamite inside before leaving.

The victim woke up to a hissing sound and noticed a flame on the floor of his room. He tried to put out the fire but could not stop the device from burning.

He then picked up the dynamite and attempted to throw it outside. It detonated in his hand, causing catastrophic injuries that led to the loss of his hand. Doctors later amputated part of his arm due to the damage.

After the explosion, the victim saw Waddell running out of the apartment. Police arrested her the following day. Investigators also said she had previously threatened him with dynamite during earlier arguments.

Waddell is scheduled to be sentenced on May 27. She faces a maximum sentence of 25 years in prison.

Black Man from Texas Gets 45 Years in Prison For Stealing LEGO Toys

Winston Love, a 28-year-old black man from Tarrant County, Texas, received a 45-year prison sentence after a jury convicted him of organized retail theft. Prosecutors say he stole hundreds of LEGO sets and other items from Target stores across North Texas during a 50-day crime spree.

A Tarrant County jury found Love guilty of organized retail theft with a deadly weapon. Prosecutors said he targeted multiple Target locations and stole more than 200 LEGO sets, along with coffee makers, vacuum cleaners, and PlayStation controllers.

According to Chron, authorities said the thefts took place over a 50-day period in 2025. During that time, Love repeatedly struck stores across North Texas, carrying out fast and coordinated thefts.

The case escalated on Oct. 27, 2025, when Love fled a Target in Mansfield after a loss-prevention officer identified him. He sped away in a vehicle, drove on the wrong side of the road, and endangered other motorists, including school buses.

In early November, police arrested Love after a report of stolen LEGO products worth more than \$1,200 at a Target in Watauga. Officers later took him into custody following a brief standoff at his home.

Investigators said Love operated across at least 14 cities in North Texas. He also had eight outstanding felony warrants for theft in multiple counties and was linked to a wider theft ring operating between Texas and Oklahoma involving large amounts of LEGO merchandise.

Prosecutors noted that this case was the first jury trial under Texas' updated organized retail theft law, which took effect on Sept. 1, 2025. Authorities credited Target loss prevention staff and police departments in Euless, Grapevine, Mansfield, and Watauga for helping secure the conviction.

Chinese People are Buying a Black Doll Designed to Be Abused, Burned, and Stomped to Help Relieve Stress

A Black doll called "Natasha" has gone viral on Chinese social media as a stress-relief toy. It is designed for users to hit, stretch, and stomp, and the trend has drawn backlash from Black communities online in Hong Kong and abroad.

The doll resembles a small child and is typically produced in dark skin tones with exaggerated facial features. Users have shared videos on platforms like RedNote and Douyin showing people squeezing, boiling, and stomping the toy. It is also sold on e-commerce sites such as Taobao and is commonly made from soft memory foam or thermoplastic rubber, according to Hong Kong Free Press.

Writer Monique Franz, founder of Kinsman Avenue Publishing, said the trend reflects deeper social concerns. She said, "By inviting people to take out their stresses on a Black body, we invite populations to abuse our Black bodies at their whims, robbing us of our actual humanity. While this is a game to others, Black people are experiencing widespread global abuse, which is the result of portrayals of us in such degrading ways."

African-American entrepreneur Jayne Jeje, who is based in Hong Kong, said the viral content shows a persistent pattern in how Black culture is viewed online. She described the videos as "absolutely diabolical" and added, "I'd find them offensive no matter who was being depicted, but this is deeply personal because I am proud of my beautiful dark skin. I refuse to accept the idea that it is something to be squeezed, slapped, mocked, or turned into entertainment for the masses."



A current edition of The Bakersfield News Observer is displayed alongside an archived 1989 issue during Beale Library's Juneteenth program, connecting the newspaper's 50-year legacy to its ongoing role in covering the community. (Photo by Cecil Egbele)



Attendees read copies of The Bakersfield News Observer during a Beale Library program highlighting the history and legacy of Black newspapers in Bakersfield. (Photo by Cecil Egbele)



An attendee reads through an archived newspaper during Beale Library's Juneteenth program on the role of Black newspapers in preserving Bakersfield's community history. (Photo by Cecil Egbele)

World & Nation

Donalds Inching Closer to Becoming First-Ever Black Florida Governor

By David L. Snelling
South Florida Times

MIAMI — In 2018, then-Tallahassee mayor Andrew Gillum upset U.S. Rep. Gwendolyn Graham in Democratic Primary in the Florida gubernatorial race.

Gillum won despite his opponent's massive endorsements, a campaign war chest and support from her father, former longtime U.S. Senator and Florida governor Bob Graham.

Gillum was poised to make history as the first-ever Black governor in Florida's history, but he narrowly lost to Republican Ron DeSantis, who was hand-picked by President Donald Trump during his first term.

As DeSantis is preparing to leave political office this year due to term limits, U.S. Rep. Byron Donalds (R-Fort Myers) is seeking the same history-making distinction as Gillum.

Buoyed by an endorsement from Trump, Donalds, 47, is the front runner for the GOP nomination for the 2026 midterm elections.

If he wins, it will most likely set up a showdown with potential Democratic nominee David Jolly, who's leading in the polls as the party's favorite.

But Trump's declining popularity, the GOP's latest actions including the war with Iran, high gas and food prices and an economic downturn might impact Donalds' chances of making history, according to several political strategists.

In the latest poll, Donalds leads in the GOP Primary by 54 percent, according to Fabrizio, Lee and Associates.

The percentage represents a nine-percentage point lead over Investor James Fishback (nine percent), Florida's Lt. Gov. Jay Collins (7 percent) and former state House Speaker Raul Renners who has just 2 percent, which is less than the survey's 4.78 percent margin.

Donalds' chances of becoming Florida's first-ever Black governor has doubled since 2025.

The congressman has also outraised his opponents, taking in roughly \$81 million as of May 2026.

Donalds is positioned to heavily invest in Florida's expensive television markets and ground operations.

"Undecideds have moved toward Byron Donalds at a greater rate than any other Republican candidate since January," a polling memo reads.



U.S. Congressman Byron Donalds speaking with attendees at the 2025 AmericaFest at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Arizona.

"Despite their constant lies and attacks, Fishback and Collins are not gaining any real traction, and Byron Donalds is clearly the overwhelming favorite to be the GOP nominee in this year's election for governor."

During an interview with Orlando News 6 last week, Donalds said he would, if elected governor, continue to have local law enforcement agents work with ICE agents to continue the crackdown on undocumented immigrants.

Donalds said law enforcement had his full support, and ICE has been operating within the confines of the law, "beyond a shadow of a doubt," despite what critics say.

"We have a decision to make, every Floridian has to make that decision," Donalds said. "Are we gonna abide by the law and be a law and order state, or are we going to choose to not do that? I choose to follow the law, and I choose to make sure that Florida complies with federal immigration law."

We are going to continue that standard that Gov. DeSantis has set.

In previous interviews, Donalds said he had his eyes set on the Governor's mansion when he served in the Florida House of Representatives as a Democrat.

He switched parties in 2010 and became involved in the Tea Party movement.

GOP leaders encouraged him to run for U.S. House of Representatives in 2012, but he finished fifth in a field of six candidates.

He ran again four years later and won. But Donalds prompted backlash from several Black GOP and Democratic leaders for his comments about the Jim Crow era.

During a political outreach event in 2024, Donalds said that during Jim Crow, black families were together, and more black people were not just conservative.

"Black people have always been conservative-minded, but more black people voted conservatively," he said. "And then, HEW, Lyndon Johnson, and then you go down that road, and now we are where we are. What's happened in America the last ten years, and I say it because it's my contemporaries... you're starting to see more 'black people being married in homes raising kids.'"

After Black leaders pushed back on his remarks, Donalds denied "that Black people were doing better under Jim Crow" or that "Jim Crow is great", and also denied having been inaccurate when he said that black marriage rates were relatively high during that era.

During a campaign stop in Tampa this week, Donalds said his bid for governor is gaining momentum and is resonating with Black voters, even as he consolidates support within the GOP.

"We've actually been seeing a lot of love out there. I think there are people who, you know, they're Black, they live in Florida," he said. "They've kind of been watching for a while and now that we're taking this step, they're saying, you know what? Let me pay a little more attention. Let me hear what he has to say."

Donalds said he believes the Black community will get behind his campaign because his political platform addresses the issues that are impacting their lives each day.

"When we campaign, we're talking about insurance. We're talking about health care. We're

talking about education, about these policies that really impact people's lives. And, you know, I think when people are hearing that, especially when Black voters are hearing that, they're saying, 'Okay, you know what? He is talking about things that matter in my life as well, not just political talking points,' he said.

If Donalds wins the GOP nomination, Jolly is the presumptive Democratic nominee after Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings suspended his campaign following his cancer diagnosis.

Jolly previously served as a Republican Congressman representing Pinellas County before he was defeated in 2016 by former Gov. Charlie Crist.

Jolly became an outspoken critic of President Trump and left the GOP in 2018 before registering as a Democrat in 2025 and announcing his intent to run for Governor.

In several polls, Donalds leads Jolly by single digits, but in one poll among young people, Jolly had a four-point lead.

Jolly is seeking to become the first Florida Democratic governor in almost three decades.

He said Florida is moving in the wrong direction under the DeSantis administration.

"The 'Free State of Florida' is becoming one of the most expensive states in the country, and it is a place where you do not have the opportunity to exercise who you love or who you worship. You feel different in this state based on the color of your skin or where you were born, and that's wrong," Jolly said at a town hall meeting sponsored by the Tiger Bay Club in Orlando.

Jolly said Florida needs to create an economy that works for everybody, with a state government that provides services that stimulate the economy and where everyone is welcomed and empowered to participate.

"It doesn't matter 'whether you are from Pennsylvania, Ohio, or Mexico,' Jolly said. "Those are the values that define this candidacy."

DeSantis has yet to endorse any gubernatorial candidate, including Collins.

DeSantis might not support Donalds as his GOP successor given the bitter history after Trump endorsed the congressman over the governor's wife, Casey DeSantis, who was rumored to be running.

Chicago 'Fibroid Slayer' Makes History with Biggest Case of His Career

By Jennifer Porter Gore

Word in Black

It was a case most gynecologists wouldn't touch—literally.

Brianna Johnson of Chicago, who was 17 weeks pregnant, had a fibroid tumor on her uterus that weighed 27 pounds. One gynecologist after another told her the growth had to come out, but the only way of doing that meant removing her uterus and ending her pregnancy.

Unwilling to lose both her child and her fertility, she traveled to Chicago's gritty South Side for one more consultation. It was an appointment with Dr. Pierre Johnson—the self-described Fibroid Slayer. [Doctor and patient had never met.]

A Black OB-GYN and surgeon who practices at Loretto Hospital, a facility that primarily serves low-income patients, Johnson examined the woman's distended abdomen and saw what others

didn't: a way to safely remove the giant fibroid without harming the fetus or removing her uterus.

And it worked: Johnson surgically removed the massive fibroid, and mother and fetus are doing just fine. Then, the doctor did something just as unusual in medicine's buttoned-up culture: he posted about it on Instagram.

"I'm the best at this," he said in the video, acknowledging that even the higher-ups at Loretto had trepidations about his plan. "There were so many people that tried to block the surgery" because it seemed too risky.

"But at the end of the day, there's so much that happens in medicine that people do not understand," he said, suggesting that—because the patient is a Black woman—racial bias likely played a role in other doctors' reluctance to operate.

Then, in an Instagram video, Johnson made it plain.

"I don't want to toot my own horn or get too big about it, but I'm the best at this," he said, breaking into a megawatt smile. "This right here, nobody could have done this. Nobody could have completed this but your boy... I'm just so happy to have helped her."

Though Johnson already has a substantial social media following—the bespectacled surgeon with the touches of gray in his goatee and short dreadlocks has 126,000 followers on Instagram—his triumph over a tumor the size of a small child went viral. That's arguably because Black women face some of the nation's worst reproductive health outcomes: high rates of fibroids, exorbitant maternal mortality rates and medical bias.

Patients failed by the system. With Black doctors making up less than 6 percent of the U.S. physician workforce—and even fewer specializing in obstetrics and gynecology—Johnson's work sits at the intersection of access, trust and advocacy. He has developed a following, using both the operating room and the algorithm to reach patients who say the system has too often failed them.

A Chicago South Side native himself and a graduate of Xavier University, Johnson earned his medical degree from the University of Illinois, where he was the only Black student in his class. He then returned to Chicago and joined the staff at Loretto.

"I'm at Loretto Hospital by design and by choice," Johnson says. The hospital, he says, "understands my vision. They respect what I do."

Word In Black spoke with Dr. Johnson about his origins, his groundbreaking surgical techniques, and what Black women need to know when seeking gynecological care.

The following has been edited for brevity and clarity.

Word In Black: How old were you when you knew you wanted to be a doctor?

Dr. Pierre Johnson: I was about five or six years old. I'm just a very purpose-driven person. When I was a senior in high school, my term paper for my career goal was literally titled "My Life as an OB-GYN."

As a [South Side] kid, I saw just disparities, racism, just poor health care, and experienced it. Through my mother, through my family, and just watched it. As a kid, I knew that one of my goals was to provide care for women all over the world—but starting with Chicago.

Q: How did Brianna Johnson, the patient with the 27-pound fibroid, find you, and how did you

know you could help her?

A: She actually—through marriage—is related to a distant cousin of mine. When my relative reached out to me and told me about it, it just didn't sound right. Women with cases like hers typically have an issue getting pregnant. So, when I heard it, I said, "I don't care how big it is, I can do it." I'd already done 20-pound fibroids preserving the uterus. I've perfected a skill, a technique that no one taught me, that I taught myself.

Q: Can you explain fibroids in simple terms for people who may not be familiar?

A: Look at a uterus as a house. You've got the inside [rooms], the drywall, and the roof. Fibroids could be inside where you are—those are intracavitary or submucosal fibroids, and they're a huge problem. They could be in the drywall, which is the muscle; they can be somewhat of a problem but not a huge one. Or they could be on the roof.

If a tree branch falls off a tree and hits your roof, you probably won't know it happened. For this particular patient, these enormous fibroids were on the roof—connected to the uterus through a big stalk. The baby is inside, unaware of everything on the roof. So, getting the fibroid off of the roof should not impact what's happening on the inside.

Q: What was the largest fibroid you had removed before this patient?

A: Before her, it was 20 pounds. A woman from the East Coast. Think about 20 pounds—that's just walking around with an extra 20-pound weight on your body. It's crazy. But for this patient, 27 pounds with this large mass, think about a carry-on suitcase—a 24-inch carry-on suitcase—and put that in your body.

Q: How did social media change your reach and the complexity of your cases?

A: When I finished residency in 2013 and was in central Illinois for three years, my mindset was: I'm not turning down any case. The hardest cases—I'm taking everything, no matter what it is. I will figure it out.

Then I moved to Chicago, word of mouth started growing the [number of] cases, and I started getting active on social media, just teaching. People in Atlanta, Philadelphia started reaching out—"I'm in Atlanta, I have a problem, I heard about you." Pre-pandemic, 2018, 2019, that's when people really started connecting with me from outside Chicago.

I started teaching people: if you have a problem, adjust your insurance so it can give you the opportunity to move around and choose your care. Don't let your geographical limitations hinder you. Invest in a PPO plan that allows you to move. As I started preaching this on social media, the cases got way more complex. When things opened back up in 2022, 2023—it was like floodgates. It just started to grow.

Q: What questions should women ask a surgeon before trusting them with fibroid care?

A: If you need surgery, the questions you have to ask are: What is your experience with dealing with these types of cases? What is your philosophy about removing all fibroids? From a complication standpoint, what complications have you experienced, and how have you dealt with them?

What is your percentage rate of success converting myomectomies to hysterectomies? Meaning, if the doctor goes into surgery planning to take out fibroids and restore the uterus, how many times has he or she ended up aborting that plan and having to take the whole uterus out? That's an excellent question that people don't ask.

Councilman Johnson calls for Action to Keep Mavericks in Dallas - Garland Journal

By Kamira LaNay, Correspondent

Texas Metro News

As discussions continue surrounding the Dallas Mavericks' plans for a new arena in North Dallas, Dallas City Councilman Maxie Johnson says the conversation is about more than basketball; it's about equity, community investment, and the future of Southern Dallas.

In a recent one-on-one, Johnson expressed concern that the proposed move could worsen longstanding economic and racial divides within the city.

"Moving Dallas north continues the historical racial divide that we have experienced," Johnson said. "For one of my colleagues to say on social media, 'Welcome to Fort North Dallas,' it's a slap in Southern Dallas' face."

The Mavericks recently announced plans to pursue a new arena and entertainment district at the former Valley View Mall site in North Dallas. While city leaders continue discussions about the team's future, Johnson believes Southern Dallas residents should not be overlooked in the process. "It promotes racial divide," Johnson said. "It says to the Mavericks, 'Come on up here. Don't worry about them.' And that's a problem for me. That's a problem for Southern Dallas."

Johnson emphasized the longstanding relationship between Southern Dallas and the Mavericks organization, noting that residents have consistently supported the team over the years.

"When we needed the Mavericks, they were here for us. When the Mavericks needed us, we were here for them," he said. "We helped get that vote across. Southern Dallas always shows up."

As uncertainty remains about the team's future, Johnson said community leaders are continuing to advocate for the Mavericks to remain connected to Dallas. "We're saying, don't abandon us," he said. "We know it's been ugly, but the people who have made it ugly are not Southern Dallas."

Johnson also pointed to support from fellow council members and Southern Dallas leaders who have publicly expressed their desire to keep the Mavericks in the city. "We're saying we want you here," Johnson said.

When asked what concrete steps city leaders are taking to keep the Mavericks in Dallas, Johnson acknowledged that the City Council still needs to make decisions about downtown development and the team's long-term home. "The council has to make a decision," Johnson said. "We have to take care of business. I understand where they're at. They're saying they don't know where they're going to be in downtown."

For now, Johnson said city leaders are continuing conversations with the organization while urging the team to remain committed to Dallas. "Don't leave us," he said. "We love you. We want you here."

As negotiations and planning discussions continue, residents and city leaders alike are

watching closely to see what decisions will be made and what they could mean for the future economic landscape of Dallas. Kamira LaNay is a 2026 Journalism and Communications graduate of Morgan State University. She will spend the next year as a Texas Metro News Fellow.

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A pregnant Brianna Johnson speaks with Dr. Pierre Johnson (off camera) in an interview after having a 27-pound fibroid removed, while preserving the life of her growing baby. (Photos courtesy of Tik Tok/Pierre Johnson, MD, FACOG and Loretto Hospital)

Q: You mention a doctor's philosophy and mindset. How can a patient research that?

A: When people say they do research, what kind of research are you doing? ChatGPT and Google are really not research if you're looking at a provider. This person literally has your life in their hands for as long as you're on that table under anesthesia. The level of trust you have to have in this person is the highest level of trust you will ever have in another human being.

That research starts with their social media platforms. Whatever they're talking about, whatever they're professing they do, should be reflected in their personal life. If they have different types of views than you—views that are evident on their platforms—then maybe what they're telling you might not be exactly what it is. Do research on them as a person, not just as a physician. Don't just look at their Google reviews. Don't just look at a website.

Q: What are the red flags a woman should never overlook when choosing a provider?

A: If a person has ideals and thoughts that aren't in alignment with your cultural beliefs, they may not be the person you think they are. When you're looking at providers—people you're trusting with your life—don't think that because they wear a white coat, they're going to look at you differently than their actual beliefs.

If they think DEI is a problem, why do you think that now, when caring for you, they're going to treat you like they would treat their own mother or sister?

Q: You went viral for saying patients should look beyond gender and race when choosing a surgeon. Can you explain that?

A: As a women's healthcare specialist, I said that when you are choosing a surgeon, it should not matter the gender, the race, the sexual orientation—none of that matters. You have to look into the soul and the ideals of that person. I'm saying cut out race, gender, all of those things from your criteria.

There are Caucasian providers who are in this for the right reasons and will take care of you. Don't exclude someone you need because of a bias. Look at a person and look at what they bring to the table, and who they really are. If we did more of that, we would watch the numbers change.

Q: Any final advice for women navigating fibroid care and gynecological health?

A: Understand you have options. Get a second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth opinion. Somebody is going to talk to you, and you'll feel it—"Ah, this is my person." Don't limit yourself.

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Council Member Maxie Johnson announced he will hold a press conference regarding the Dallas Mavericks recent announcement about choosing the Valley View area for their new arena. Photo: City of Dallas.

Entertainment

Barack and Michelle Obama Attend Portrait Unveiling After UFC Fighter Josh Hokit Calls Her a 'Man'

Barack and Michelle Obama Attend Portrait Unveiling After UFC Fighter Josh Hokit Calls Her a 'Man'

Barack and Michelle Obama unveiled their first commissioned portrait together at Barack's presidential library in Chicago, painted by Njideka Akunyili Crosby.

Barack Obama and Michelle Obama stepped out one day after UFC fighter Josh Hokit called the former first lady a "man" at a White House event.

The couple attended the unveiling of their portrait at Barack's presidential library in Chicago on Monday, June 15. The painting, which was the pair's first commissioned portrait together, was done by Njideka Akunyili Crosby. It features dense layers of embedded images alongside the imagery of Barack, 64, and Michelle, 62, as they sit in an office setting.

"Barack and I were so honored to have @NjidekaAkunyiliCrosby create our portrait for the Obama Presidential Center," Michelle wrote via Instagram on Monday. "Her artistic brilliance shines through — and the way she infused such life and joy into the piece is truly extraordinary. We love it, and we think everyone who visits the Center will too!"

Michelle also included a clip of her and Barack greeting Crosby, 43, and seeing the finished piece of art for the first time.

Dana White Responds to UFC Fighter Josh Hokit Calling Michelle Obama 'A Man' at White House Event

"Before we get any commentary in, we just got to soak it in," Barack said while Michelle pointed

out the art had all their "stories within the stories." Michelle gushed, "You got everything in there!" Barack, for his part, had one minor grievance with the portrait and teased Crosby for making his hair gray.

"My only real question is how come you didn't dye my hair in the photo?" he joked. "Don't they usually touch it up a little bit?"

Both Barack and Michelle applauded Crosby for her hard work on the portrait and were ecstatic with the end result. Barack shared he was going to get a suit made that resembled the one she painted him in. Michelle also gushed about the chance of getting to be involved with Crosby's work.

"You know how long I've been wanting this woman to do something with and for me?" she shared while giving the artist a hug. "We did it!"

Crosby added that it was "an honor" to create the portrait, which is featured in the presidential library.

Barack Obama Calls Wife Michelle 'The Love of My Life' in Adorable Birthday Tribute.

Barack and Michelle's outing comes one day after Hokit, 38, made a controversial remark about the former first lady following his victory at the UFC Freedom 250 event at the White House.

"Michelle Obama is a man," Hokit declared on Sunday, June 14, in a post-fight interview with Joe Rogan after defeating fellow heavyweight Derrick Lewis. "Am I right, America?"

The Obamas have not addressed Hokit's comment. Us Weekly previously reached out to Michelle's representatives for comment but did not hear back.



The White House later responded to Hokit's remark, with spokesman Steven Cheung telling CNN's Jake Tapper on Monday, "He had a great

win last night. He showed toughness and the ability to pressure his opponent both on his feet and on the ground."

Michael Jackson's Son Bigi 'Blanket' Jackson Lists Calabasas Estate With Elevator for Nearly \$4 Million



Michael Jackson's son Bigi "Blanket" Jackson may soon be saying goodbye to Calabasas.

Michael Jackson's son Bigi "Blanket" Jackson is selling his six-bedroom, seven-bathroom home in Calabasas for nearly \$4 million after purchasing it for \$2.6 million in 2019.

In Touch can confirm that the 24-year-old writer and director listed his six-bedroom, seven-bathroom home in California for just under \$4 million after purchasing the property for \$2.6 million in December 2019.

The 6,252-square-foot property is located in

the guard-gated Mountain View Estates community in Calabasas and is "designed for both grand entertaining and comfortable everyday living," according to a listing.

The home features a formal living room with coffered ceilings and a fireplace, a formal dining room with a butler pantry, an expansive family room with a fireplace and full-service bar as well as a custom wood-paneled elevator.

The chef's kitchen includes premium appliances with a large center island, walk-in pantry and spacious breakfast area. All secondary bedrooms feature private en-suite bathrooms, and the grand primary suite includes a fireplace, dual walk-in closets and separate his-and-her bathrooms connected by a walk-through shower and soaking tub.

Additional amenities include a laundry room with sink, a three-car garage, a pool and spa with an automatic pool cover, a covered patio, built-in BBQ center with countertop island and a spacious backyard area.

Earlier this year, Bigi's sister, Paris Jackson, sold her five-bedroom, five-bathroom property just months after she purchased the \$5.25 million home on June 12, 2025.

Paris — who has an estimated net worth of \$150 million, according to Celebrity Net Worth — also owns two other properties in California.

The news of the Jackson siblings comes after the recent release of Michael, the new biographical film featuring Jaafar Jackson as their late father.

The King of Pop died on June 25, 2009, at age 50.

Naomi Osaka Responds to Backlash Over Dinner Event for Other Black Tennis Players

Naomi Osaka defended her decision to host a Black tennis players' dinner ahead of the French Open. She co-hosted the event with Taylor Townsend to highlight inclusion, shared experience, and connection off the court amid online criticism.

Naomi Osaka and Taylor Townsend organized a private dinner in Paris, France, during French Open week. The gathering brought together Black players and tennis figures to highlight community beyond competition.

The dinner, known as "The Black Party," took place at Soho House Paris with support from CCG Social. Guests included Gaël Monfils, Coco Gauff, Christopher Eubanks, and Asia Muhammad.

At the event, Osaka said, "To be a minority in a sport like tennis makes most days feel really isolated, but when I see other players that look

like me, I feel a sense of fellowship that cannot be described."

Townsend also explained the goal behind the dinner, saying, "It's important for us to come together because this sport is naturally very isolating and selfish. I feel like it's important to break that mold, support each other outside of the sport and away from the courts, and build genuine friendships that last beyond the court."

Osaka has consistently spoken about identity and inclusion throughout her career. The Paris dinner continued that focus by highlighting shared experiences among Black athletes on tour.

On May 23, 2026, Osaka shared photos from the event on Instagram and described it as a moment to appreciate Black players in tennis. The post sparked criticism online, with some questioning

why the dinner was limited to certain athletes.

She responded the next day on Threads, writing, "First of all I do love everyone for who they are no matter their race + ethnicity, (I'm literally half Japanese lol). I can only speak from my experiences in my own life though, growing up as a tennis player I didn't see many people that looked like ME and I feel like it's important to celebrate them. I don't know how else to tell you this, I literally seen them all the time and never had an issue with it at all. To the people who ask this question I want to ask you this question too, 'What is it about POC getting together that unsettles you so much?'"

Osaka also said she will not apologize for recognizing the achievements of athletes of color. She said, "This is not about exclusion, this is a celebration about how far we have come."



Naomi Osaka Black-only tennis dinner

Founder Who Sold Over 700,000 Black History Flashcards Says Business May Soon Close

Freddie Taylor, the Founder and CEO of Urban Intellectuals, one of the most recognized independent Black history education companies in the world, says his company is now in danger of closing down. The company has faced mounting financial pressure from rising costs of materials, shipping, advertising, fulfillment, warehousing, logistics, tariffs, and increased competition from scammers and knockoff products that have driven up advertising costs and siphoned revenue away from the company.

In an attempt to save the company, Taylor has launched the Save Urban Intellectuals campaign, an urgent community-powered effort to prevent the company from going under, stabilize operations, and preserve access to independent Black history education for families, children, schools, churches, and communities.

He began his mission in 2016 with a clear purpose: to make Black history easier to learn, teach, share, and celebrate. Over the past 10 years, the company has delivered more than 700,000 Black History Flashcards to customers in all 50 states and 64 countries, while serving more than 250,000 customers around the world.

His company, Urban Intellectuals, is known for making Black history accessible and empowering through its widely recognized Black History Flashcards, Sankofa Club for children, Sankofa Circle for adults, books, live classes, playing cards, cultural resources, and community education programs.

"My company is in danger, and we are telling the truth about it," says Freddie. "This company has served the community for 10 years, but the costs of doing business have risen dramatically. Shipping, materials, ads, fulfillment, tariffs, and bad debt have created a chokehold around our operations. We need the community's help right now so we can stabilize the company, remove the financial weight, and continue doing this much-needed work."

The Save Urban Intellectuals campaign is calling for 1,000 Defenders to contribute \$100 each. In return, Defenders receive 100 days of access to either Sankofa Circle, Urban Intellectuals' adult Black history education membership, or Sankofa Club, its children's Black history education program.



Freddie Taylor

The campaign has already gained meaningful momentum, with 350 Defenders stepping forward to help save the company. Urban Intellectuals first raised its emergency goal of \$30,000, which helped the company address immediate obligations, including warehouse and fulfillment costs, ensuring that shipments could continue going out and customers could receive their Black history products.

Now, Urban Intellectuals is pushing toward the larger goal of 1,000 Defenders. According to Taylor, reaching the \$100,000 goal would allow the company to eliminate significant bad debt, including revenue-based loans that have been draining cash flow and choking profitability.

"The first \$30,000 helped us keep the doors open and make sure shipments continued," Taylor said. "But the larger \$100,000 goal is what truly helps us save the company. It allows us to remove the bad debt that is strangling our cash flow and start working that way back into profitability. Without that debt, Urban Intellectuals is in a much

stronger position to survive, grow, and serve our community."

Urban Intellectuals' current challenge comes at a time when Black history education is facing growing pressure nationally. With debates around curriculum, DEI, book bans, honest history, and the role of race in education, Taylor says independent Black-owned education companies are more necessary than ever.

"This is not just about saving a business," Taylor said. "This is about protecting independent Black history education at a time when our history, our culture, our economics, and our future are under attack. Black history is world history. It is the missing pages of world history. Our people need access to this knowledge in our homes, schools, churches, and communities."

The next phase of Urban Intellectuals' plan is to rebuild around membership, digital education, and recurring community support. The company is placing renewed focus on Sankofa Circle and

Sankofa Club, which Taylor describes as the foundation of Urban Intellectuals' future.

"Physical products like flashcards and books will always be part of what we do," Taylor said. "But the future of Urban Intellectuals must be built around membership, education, community, and recurring support. We need our Defenders to not only help save the company, but to prioritize Black history education in their homes."

The Save Urban Intellectuals campaign is both a fundraiser and a community call to action.

Supporters can become Defenders by contributing \$100, which provides 100 days of access to Black history classes for adults or children. Contributions of any amount are also being accepted, and every supporter will receive an invitation to Urban Intellectuals' private Juneteenth event.

"Urban Intellectuals has touched hundreds of thousands of people around the world," Taylor said. "We have delivered Black history tools to families in all 50 states and 64 countries. We have served more than 250,000 customers. We have helped parents teach their children. We have helped adults learn what school never taught them. Now we need the community to help make sure this work does not disappear."

Freddie Taylor is available for interviews on the state of Black history education, the challenges facing Black-owned education companies, why independent cultural institutions matter, and the Save Urban Intellectuals campaign.

About Urban Intellectuals is a Black-owned education company committed to making Black history easy, accessible, and empowering for families, children, adults, schools, churches, and communities. Founded by Freddie Taylor, Urban Intellectuals began its mission in 2016 and has spent the past 10 years creating educational products, memberships, live classes, books, flashcards, playing cards, cultural resources, and learning experiences designed to write Black people back into the pages of world history and into the minds of the community. Learn more and/or support the campaign at UrbanIntellectuals.com

For press inquiries, contact tameko@urbanintellectuals.com or 718-791-2887

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

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 22, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3335
Doing business as:

GCH LOGISTICS TRANSPORT at 1413 PACIFIC ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
Mailing Address: same County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **GILBERTO CORTES HERRERA** at 1413 PACIFIC ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **GILBERTO CORTES HERRERA**

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: May 26, 2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA County Clerk
By: M SALES, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office.

A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime This statement expires on: May 21, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3364
Doing business as:

ALGO BIEN SUSHI Y MARISCOS at 2115 CALIFORNIA AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
Mailing Address: 2105 EDISON HWY P9, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **SHEYLA J ZAVALA** at 2105 EDISON HWY, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305

The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **SHEYLA J ZAVALA**

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: May 27, 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: May 26, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3131
Doing business as:

REV NU BEAUTY at 2010 17TH ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
Mailing Address: same County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **DIANA ROSE ADLEY** at 2010 17TH ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **DIANA ROSE ADLEY**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 11/22/2023
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: May 15, 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: May 15, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3338
Doing business as:

KMG MOTORSPORTS at 2101 DEERFIELD ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
Mailing Address: same County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **KADE MARION GODBERERE** at 2101 DEERFIELD ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314

The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **KADE MARION GODBERERE**

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: May 26, 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: May 26, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3253
Doing business as:

Sam's Industrial Supply at 3585 BACKUS ROAD, MOJAVE, CA 93501
Mailing Address: same County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **CHIMNEY CHOKERS CHIMNEY SWEEP, INC** at 3585 BACKUS ROAD, MOJAVE, CA 93501
State of Incorp. or org.: CA

The business is conducted by: a Corporation
SIGNED: **SAMUEL L. LANDSGAARD, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the

PUBLIC NOTICE

fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: May 21, 2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office.

A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime This statement expires on: May 21, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3364
Doing business as:

ALGO BIEN SUSHI Y MARISCOS at 2115 CALIFORNIA AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
Mailing Address: 2105 EDISON HWY P9, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **SHEYLA J ZAVALA** at 2105 EDISON HWY, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305

The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **SHEYLA J ZAVALA**

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: May 27, 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: May 27, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3131
Doing business as:

REV NU BEAUTY at 2010 17TH ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
Mailing Address: same County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **DIANA ROSE ADLEY** at 2010 17TH ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **DIANA ROSE ADLEY**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 11/22/2023
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: May 15, 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: May 15, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3434
2026-B3435
2026-B3436
Doing business as:

VITAL HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER / VITALPATH WEIGHT & WELLNESS CLINIC / VITALITY WEIGHT & METABOLIC HEALTH at 229 TRUXTUN AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
Mailing Address: 9222 QAUIL BROOK COURT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **VITAL HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER INCORPORATION** at 229 TRUXTUN AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301

State of Incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **SHEYLA J ZAVALA**

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: May 29, 2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA County Clerk
By: M CEDENO, 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: May 29, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3029
Doing business as:

MISTERIA MUSE at 1412 17TH ST SUITE E, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
Mailing Address: same County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **LEIDY ESCOBAR** at 1412 17TH ST SUITE E, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301

The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **LEIDY ESCOBAR**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: August 1, 2025

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: May 12, 2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office.

A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another

PUBLIC NOTICE

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: May 12, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2025-B6494
Business Name you wish to abandon: **VITAL HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER**

Street address of business: 229 TRUXTUN AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
County: Kern
Mailing address of business: same

Registrant(s) who wish to abandon the business name: **VITAL HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER INCORPORATION** at 229 TRUXTUN AVENUE, 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: Corporation
SIGNED: **VITALIS EGWIM, CEO**

This statement of abandonment filed on: May 29, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA County Clerk
By: M CEDENO, Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3364
Doing business as:

ALGO BIEN SUSHI Y MARISCOS at 2115 CALIFORNIA AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
Mailing Address: 2105 EDISON HWY P9, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **SHEYLA J ZAVALA** at 2105 EDISON HWY, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305

The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **SHEYLA J ZAVALA**

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: May 27, 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: May 27, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF CATHERINE MARY SOBOWLEWSKI
CASE NUMBER: BPB-25-003289

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of **CATHERINE MARY SOBOWLEWSKI** for PROBATE A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by **LAURA MALDONADO** in the Superior Court of California, County of KERN 2100 College Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93305 Juvenile Justice Center. **THE PETITION FOR PROBATE** requests that **LAURA MALDONADO** 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: August 28, 2026 Time: 8:30 a.m. Dept: J1 Room:** Address of court: same as noted above

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. **IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR** or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) **four months** from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) **60 days** from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. **Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as 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: BRANDON B. HOLLADAY, ESQ. BR
The Law Offices of Young & Nichols
1901 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301
Telephone: (861) 861-7911
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 10, 17, 24, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3151
Doing business as:

STOCKDALE PRINTS at 3920 STOCKDALE HWY, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
Mailing Address: 6500 MONITOR ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **ROXANNA R LOPEZ CRUZ** at 3920 STOCKDALE HWY, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309

The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **ROXANNA R LOPEZ CRUZ**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 05/15/2026

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: May 15, 2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office.

A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime This statement expires on: June 3, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 10, 17, 24, Jul 1, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3153
Doing business as:

STOCKDALE PRINTS at 3920 STOCKDALE HWY, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
Mailing Address: 6500 MONITOR ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **ROXANNA R LOPEZ CRUZ** at 3920 STOCKDALE HWY, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309

The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **ROXANNA R LOPEZ CRUZ**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 05/15/2026

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: May 15, 2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office.

A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another

PUBLIC NOTICE

RAMOS AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
State of Incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **CLAUDIA L. SANTOS**, Managing Member
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: May 28, 2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA County Clerk
By: M HERNANDEZ, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office.

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

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 10, 17, 24, Jul 1, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3478
Doing business as:

APEX LANDSCAPING & MAINTENANCE, LLC at 6514 VOYAGEURS DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
Mailing Address: same County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **APEX LANDSCAPING & MAINTENANCE, LLC** at 6514 VOYAGEURS DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
State of Incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **JUAN CAMPOS**, Manager

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: June 1, 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: June 4, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 10, 17, 24, Jul 1, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3217
2026-B3218
2026-B3219
Doing business as:

FRAZIER MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER / FRAZIER SUD / FRAZIER MOUNTAIN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH at 704 LEBEC ROAD, LEBEC, CA 93243-0000
Mailing Address: PO BOX 21810, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93390-1810
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **CLINICA SIERRA VISTA** at 9525 CAMINO MEDIA, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311-1314
State of Incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **OLGA MEAVE, M.D., Chief Executive Officer**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: January 12, 2017

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: May 20, 2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office.

A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime This statement expires on: June 1, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 10, 17, 24, Jul 1, 2026

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

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 20, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 10, 17, 24, Jul 1, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

FILE NO: 2023-86402
 Business Name you wish to abandon: **FRAZIER MOUNTAIN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**
 Street address of business: 704 LEBEC RD SUITE B, LEBEC, CA 93243-0000
 County: Kern
 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
 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: Jun 10, 17, 24, Jul 1, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

FILE NO: 2026-82947
 Business Name you wish to abandon: **KERN RIVER HEALTH CENTER**
 Street address of business: 67 EVANS ROAD, WOFFORD HEIGHTS, CA 93285-9640
 County: Kern
 Mailing address of business: P.O. BOX 21810, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93390-1810
 Registrant(s) who wish to abandon the business name: **CLINICA SIERRA VISTA** at 925 CAMINO MEDIA, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311-1314
 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 20, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 10, 17, 24, Jul 1, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

FILE NO: 2025-84968
 Business Name you wish to abandon: **LEXINGTON COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**
 Street address of business: 325 S. LEXINGTON STREET, DELANO, CA 93215-3693
 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 93301-5220
 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 20, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 10, 17, 24, Jul 1, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

FILE NO: 2024-83226
 Business Name you wish to abandon: **SOUTHWEST WIC**
 Street address of business: 4641 AMERICAN AVE UNIT A & B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
 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 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: Jun 10, 17, 24, Jul 1, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

FILE NO: 2026-82944
 Business Name you wish to abandon: **BENTON PARK WIC**
 Street address of business: 2519 S SOUTH H STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304-5605
 County: Kern
 Mailing address of business: P.O. BOX 21810, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93390-1810
 Registrant(s) who wish to

PUBLIC NOTICE

abandon the business name: **CLINICA SIERRA VISTA** at 925 CAMINO MEDIA, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311-1314
 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 20, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 10, 17, 24, Jul 1, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

FILE NO: 2023-86402
 Business Name you wish to abandon: **FRAZIER MOUNTAIN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**
 Street address of business: 704 LEBEC RD SUITE B, LEBEC, CA 93243-0000
 County: Kern
 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
 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: Jun 10, 17, 24, Jul 1, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

FILE NO: 2026-82947
 Business Name you wish to abandon: **KERN RIVER HEALTH CENTER**
 Street address of business: 67 EVANS ROAD, WOFFORD HEIGHTS, CA 93285-9640
 County: Kern
 Mailing address of business: P.O. BOX 21810, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93390-1810
 Registrant(s) who wish to abandon the business name: **CLINICA SIERRA VISTA** at 925 CAMINO MEDIA, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311-1314
 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 20, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 10, 17, 24, Jul 1, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

FILE NO: 2025-84968
 Business Name you wish to abandon: **LEXINGTON COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**
 Street address of business: 325 S. LEXINGTON STREET, DELANO, CA 93215-3693
 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 93301-5220
 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 20, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 10, 17, 24, Jul 1, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

FILE NO: 2024-83226
 Business Name you wish to abandon: **SOUTHWEST WIC**
 Street address of business: 4641 AMERICAN AVE UNIT A & B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
 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 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: Jun 10, 17, 24, Jul 1, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

FILE NO: 2026-82944
 Business Name you wish to abandon: **BENTON PARK WIC**
 Street address of business: 2519 S SOUTH H STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304-5605
 County: Kern
 Mailing address of business: P.O. BOX 21810, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93390-1810
 Registrant(s) who wish to

PUBLIC NOTICE

2601 Dina Way, Bakersfield, CA 93308
 Telephone: (661) 444-4660
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 17, 24, Jul 1, 8, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-83609
 Doing business as:
AURI ATELIER at 10018 MURFREESBORO DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
 Mailing Address: same
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): **AURI ATELIER** at 10018 MURFREESBORO DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
 State of incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: BRENDA URIBE, Manager
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: June 8, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 17, 24, Jul 1, 8, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-83661
 Doing business as:
LITTLE FIGZ at 8414 AKERO AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
 Mailing Address: same
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): **DESTINY ANN MARIE SANCHEZ** at 8414 AKERO AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
 The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: DESTINY ANN MARIE SANCHEZ
 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: June 10, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 17, 24, Jul 1, 8, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-83494
 Doing business as:
PALETERIA Y NEVERIA LA NUEVA MICHOCANANA at 2836 NILES ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
 Mailing Address: 3401 OMEGA CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): **RAMON ECHEVERRIA** at 3401 OMEGA CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
 The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: RAMON ECHEVERRIA
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 06/03/2026
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: June 3, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: M CEDENO, Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 17, 24, Jul 1, 8, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-83509
 Doing business as:
VALLEY AERIAL AG / VIRELO at 12712 STILLBROOK DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
 Mailing Address: PO BOX 21052, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93390
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): **VIRELO LLC** at PO BOX 21052, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93390
 State of incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: EUGENE C PUNELLI, Manager
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: June 3, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 17, 24, Jul 1, 8, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-83612
 Doing business as:
CALI RAYS SOURDOUGH DELI at 5649 GOSFORD RD. STE. 100, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
 Mailing Address: 7206 LAREDO DR., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): **BRARS WC INC** at 7206 LAREDO DR., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
 State of incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: a Corporation
SIGNED: GURPREET SINGH BRAR, President
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 04/01/2026
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: June 8, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: M SALES, Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 17, 24, Jul 1, 8, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-82991
 Doing business as:
PROPHET TAX SERVICE 626 at 2216 M ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
 Mailing Address: 7123 SIERRA RIM DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): **JEFFERSON ODAIR OVIEDO CHINCHILLA** at 7123 SIERRA RIM DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
 The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: JEFFERSON ODAIR OVIEDO CHINCHILLA
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 05/11/2026
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: May 11, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: M VACA RAMOS, Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 17, 24, Jul 1, 8, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-83641
 Doing business as:
TRANSPARENCY HEATING AND COOLING at 10308 LANESBOROUGH AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
 Mailing Address: same
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): **TRANSPARENCY HOME SERVICES LLC** at 10308 LANESBOROUGH AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
 State of incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: ALEX ZAMBRANO, CEO
 The registrant commenced

PUBLIC NOTICE

to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 06/03/2026
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: June 9, 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: June 9, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 17, 24, Jul 1, 8, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-83661
 Doing business as:
LITTLE FIGZ at 8414 AKERO AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
 Mailing Address: same
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): **DESTINY ANN MARIE SANCHEZ** at 8414 AKERO AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
 The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: DESTINY ANN MARIE SANCHEZ
 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: June 10, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 17, 24, Jul 1, 8, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-83494
 Doing business as:
PALETERIA Y NEVERIA LA NUEVA MICHOCANANA at 2836 NILES ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
 Mailing Address: 3401 OMEGA CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): **RAMON ECHEVERRIA** at 3401 OMEGA CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
 The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: RAMON ECHEVERRIA
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 06/03/2026
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: June 3, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: M CEDENO, Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 17, 24, Jul 1, 8, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-83509
 Doing business as:
VALLEY AERIAL AG / VIRELO at 12712 STILLBROOK DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
 Mailing Address: PO BOX 21052, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93390
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): **VIRELO LLC** at PO BOX 21052, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93390
 State of incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: EUGENE C PUNELLI, Manager
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: June 3, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 17, 24, Jul 1, 8, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-83612
 Doing business as:
CALI RAYS SOURDOUGH DELI at 5649 GOSFORD RD. STE. 100, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
 Mailing Address: 7206 LAREDO DR., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): **BRARS WC INC** at 7206 LAREDO DR., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
 State of incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: a Corporation
SIGNED: GURPREET SINGH BRAR, President
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 04/01/2026
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: June 8, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: M SALES, Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 17, 24, Jul 1, 8, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-82991
 Doing business as:
PROPHET TAX SERVICE 626 at 2216 M ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
 Mailing Address: 7123 SIERRA RIM DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): **JEFFERSON ODAIR OVIEDO CHINCHILLA** at 7123 SIERRA RIM DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
 The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: JEFFERSON ODAIR OVIEDO CHINCHILLA
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 05/11/2026
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: May 11, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: M VACA RAMOS, Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 17, 24, Jul 1, 8, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-83641
 Doing business as:
TRANSPARENCY HEATING AND COOLING at 10308 LANESBOROUGH AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
 Mailing Address: same
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): **TRANSPARENCY HOME SERVICES LLC** at 10308 LANESBOROUGH AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
 State of incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: ALEX ZAMBRANO, CEO
 The registrant commenced

PUBLIC NOTICE

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: May 11, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 17, 24, Jul 1, 8, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-83616
 Doing business as:
SOSTEN THERAPY at 8112 AUTUMN ANGELS PL, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
 Mailing Address: same
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): **SUSANA ROBLES** at 8112 AUTUMN ANGELS PL, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
 The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: SUSANA ROBLES
 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: June 8, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: M HERNANDEZ, Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 17, 24, Jul 1, 8, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-83661
 Doing business as:
LITTLE FIGZ at 8414 AKERO AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
 Mailing Address: same
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): **DESTINY ANN MARIE SANCHEZ** at 8414 AKERO AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
 The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: DESTINY ANN MARIE SANCHEZ
 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: June 10, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 17, 24, Jul 1, 8, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO: 2026-83494
 Doing business as:
PALETERIA Y NEVERIA LA NUEVA MICHOCANANA at 2836 NILES ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
 Mailing Address: 3401 OMEGA CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): **RAMON ECHEVERRIA** at 3401 OMEGA CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
 The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: RAMON ECHEVERRIA
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 06/03/2026
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: June 3, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: M CEDENO, Deputy

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Features

Musk and the \$1 Trillion SpaceX Promise

By Shekari Philemon

RollingOut

Musk, founder of SpaceX and the world's wealthiest individual, made a sweeping prediction over the weekend, suggesting his rocket company could surpass \$1 trillion in annual revenue within the next several years. The forecast arrived just days after SpaceX made its public market debut, an event that valued the company at more than \$2 trillion and instantly ranked it among the six largest American firms by market capitalization.

The timing of the prediction was notable. SpaceX had barely begun trading as a public company before its founder was already projecting a financial future that would place it in territory few companies in history have ever reached.

A gap between ambition and current numbers. The distance between where SpaceX stands today and where Musk envisions it going is considerable. The company generated \$18.67 billion in revenue in 2025, a meaningful increase from the \$14.02 billion it recorded the year before. But that growth came alongside a significant financial setback. After posting a profit of \$791 million in 2024, SpaceX swung to a net loss of \$4.94 billion in 2025, a reversal that raised questions about the cost of its rapid expansion.

For context, the companies that currently trade at valuations comparable to SpaceX generate vastly more revenue. Technology giants with similar market capitalizations generate multiples of what SpaceX currently earns, making the \$1 trillion target a projection that requires an almost unprecedented pace of growth over a compressed timeline.

What Wall Street actually thinks. Professional forecasters on Wall Street are considerably more measured in their expectations. Leading financial institutions that have modeled SpaceX's trajectory project 2030 revenue figures that, while impressive, fall well short of Musk's stated ambition. Estimates from major investment banks place the company's potential 2030 revenue somewhere between \$330 billion and \$470 billion, figures that reflect genuine optimism about the company's prospects without fully embracing the most aggressive scenario.

That gap between founder optimism and analyst caution is not unusual for companies at the frontier of emerging industries. What makes SpaceX's situation distinctive is the scale of the



Elon Musk. Photo: Tesla Owners Club Belgium / Wikimedia Commons.

ambition and the speed at which the company has already reshaped expectations about what a private aerospace firm can become.

The business behind the bold number. SpaceX operates across several distinct and growing business lines. Its Starlink satellite internet service has expanded rapidly and now serves customers across dozens of countries, providing a recurring revenue stream that did not exist at meaningful scale just a few years ago. Its launch business continues to dominate the commercial rocket market, with a cadence and cost structure

that competitors have struggled to match.

The company is also developing next-generation hardware that could open entirely new revenue streams, including ambitious plans for deep-space transportation that extend well beyond anything currently in commercial operation. Whether those projects translate into the kind of revenue Musk is describing by the end of the decade will depend on execution, regulation and market demand that remain difficult to predict with confidence.

A new chapter for the company. SpaceX's entry into the public markets marks

a significant transition for a company that spent years as one of the most closely watched and highly valued private firms in the world. The IPO cemented Musk's status as the first person in history to be considered a trillionaire, a milestone that arrived alongside a company still working through the financial pressures of aggressive investment.

Whether \$1 trillion in revenue by 2030 is a realistic goal or a motivating aspiration, the number reflects the scale at which Musk thinks about SpaceX's role in the global economy.



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Every Vote Counts — Even When the Count Takes Time

By Joe W. Bowers Jr.

California Black Media

The President of the United States appeared on national television and was asked a simple question: What evidence do you have that California's election was rigged?

His answer: "All I have to do is look."

Pressed for something more, he said he listens to people — unnamed, unspecified and unverifiable. Then he called the journalist "crooked" and "stupid" for asking.

That is the entirety of his case.

What makes the response particularly troubling is that Republicans routinely accept the same election procedures in states they control. Utah conducts its elections almost entirely by mail. Florida counts millions of mail ballots. Alaska, Montana, Wyoming and Kansas all allow votes to be counted after Election Day under certain circumstances. When Republicans win those states, there are no accusations of fraud and no demands for federal intervention.

Yet, when California counts legal ballots after Election Day, some critics who accept those rules elsewhere begin questioning them here.

The stakes are not small. A Trump-appointed federal prosecutor in Los Angeles announced election fraud investigations and dispatched a

federal representative to observe ballot counting, despite the absence of publicly identified evidence of wrongdoing.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta responded that no specific allegation of voter fraud had been identified.

What is striking is that even many Republicans are not making Trump's case. Steve Hilton, the Republican gubernatorial candidate endorsed by Trump, acknowledged that his campaign had found no evidence of wrongdoing.

"We've seen nothing," Hilton told reporters. California Secretary of State Shirley Weber offered a different perspective on the criticism surrounding the state's vote count.

"Accuracy comes before speed," Weber said, explaining that California must count millions of ballots while protecting voters' rights and ensuring election integrity. California's election laws are built around a simple idea: maximizing participation while making sure every eligible voter has an opportunity to be heard.

That matters because every audit, recount, court challenge and review conducted over recent election cycles has reached the same conclusion: widespread voter fraud is extraordinarily rare.

For Black Californians, attacks on the legitimacy of lawful ballots strike a familiar chord. Black Americans spent generations fighting poll taxes, literacy tests, intimidation and violence for the right to vote and have those votes counted. When elected officials question legal ballots without

evidence, that history does not feel distant. It feels current.

The irony is that California's election results unfolded exactly as election officials said they would.

Consider what the counting actually produced. In the Los Angeles mayoral race, Councilmember Nithya Raman, who had been polling ahead of Spencer Pratt before Election Day, found herself trailing Pratt — a former reality television personality running his first campaign for public office. On Election Night, Pratt was ahead by more than 40,000 votes. As legally cast mail ballots continued to arrive and be processed, she steadily erased that deficit and secured a place in the November runoff.

That outcome surprised some observers, but it should not have. Election officials process ballots roughly in the order they are received, and election data showed that large numbers of Democratic voters held onto their mail ballots and returned them in the final days before the election. The same pattern helped Karen Bass overcome an Election Night deficit against Rick Caruso in 2022.

The result also carries historic significance. Bass is the first Black woman elected mayor of Los Angeles. Raman now has an opportunity to potentially become the city's first South Asian mayor. Whatever voters decide in November, the primary demonstrated that California's election system worked as designed and produced a result that reflected the choices of the people who voted.

Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA-36) offered perhaps the

simplest explanation. Election Night, he said, is like halftime in a football game. The score at halftime is not always the score at the end of the game. California's election system counts votes until the count is complete, not until a television audience grows impatient.

In the governor's race, Xavier Becerra trailed Steve Hilton on Election Night before moving into first place as additional ballots were counted. Election analysts have a name for this phenomenon: the "red mirage." Early returns create the appearance of a Republican lead, only for later-counted mail ballots to reveal a different outcome.

California has seen the pattern repeatedly. What happened to Hilton in the governor's race is what happened to Pratt in Los Angeles and Caruso in 2022. The red mirage faded as more legally cast ballots were counted.

The question is why some politicians embrace mail voting and extended counting periods when the results favor them, but question those same processes when the outcome changes.

For Black Americans, that debate carries particular weight. Generations fought for the right to cast a ballot and have it counted. The legitimacy of a vote does not change because the counting continues after Election Day or because the final result differs from the early returns.

If there is evidence of wrongdoing, it should be presented. If not, the public should have confidence in a process that counted every legal vote. In California, that is exactly what happened.



By Bo Tefu and Antonio Ray Harvey
California Black Media

Assembly Honors Dr. William "Bill" Burke as Family Returns to Capitol Where His Legacy Began

The first Black woman elected to the California Legislature, Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, her daughters, former Assemblymember Autumn Burke Adams and Christine Burke Adams, and her granddaughter, visited the California State Capitol on June 8 to attend an Assembly floor session honoring the life and legacy of Dr. William "Bill" Burke.

The Assembly adjourned in memory of Dr. Burke, Brathwaite Burke's husband of 54 years and a prominent civic leader who began his public service career at the Capitol. Dr. Burke, founder of the Los Angeles Marathon, died May 29 at the age of 87.

"Thank you to the members of the California State Assembly for adjourning in memory of my dad," Autumn Burke posted on LinkedIn.

"His first job in the Capitol was working for Speaker Jesse Unruh. It was there that he met my mom and began a lifetime of service to the State of California, both in the Capitol and far beyond it."

Members of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) joined fellow lawmakers, including Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin (D-Thousand Oaks), in paying tribute to Dr. Burke. Assemblymembers Mike Gipson (D-Carson), Isaac Bryan (D-Ladera Heights) and Tina McKinnor (D-Inglewood) delivered remarks celebrating his life and contributions.

"Dr. Burke was a giant, not only for his accomplishments, but because of his generosity in sharing his knowledge, wisdom, and encouraging others," McKinnor said, fighting back tears. "I am deeply grateful for learning from him. To Yvonne, Autumn, Christine, Isabella and the entire family, please know that California mourns with you. We pray that God grant you peace, comfort, and strength during these difficult times."

In Los Angeles, Dr. Burke was widely recognized as a pioneering entrepreneur, civic leader and advocate for environmental justice. He is perhaps best known as the founder of the Los Angeles Marathon, which became one of the nation's premier road races and a symbol of the city's resilience and unity.

He was also chair of the South Coast Air Quality Management District Governing Board.

The Capitol holds deep personal and historical significance for the Burke family. Yvonne Brathwaite Burke served as an assemblymember from 1967 to 1973, a member of Congress and Los Angeles County supervisor, while Autumn Burke represented the 62nd Assembly District from 2014 to 2022, continuing the family's tradition of public service.

Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove Introduces Bill to Restore Free Admission to Federal Parks Free on Juneteenth, MLK Day

U.S. Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D-CA-37) introduced legislation June 11 that would restore Juneteenth and Martin Luther King Jr. Day as fee-free admission days at national parks and other federal recreational lands.

Kamlager-Dove's district covers parts of Los Angeles County, including Culver City, Ladera Heights, View Park-Windsor Hills, Leimert Park, Baldwin Hills, Crenshaw and West Adams.

The measure, known as the Encouraging Public Service in Our National Parks and Public Lands Act, comes after the Trump administration removed the two holidays from its list of fee-free days and replaced them with President Donald Trump's birthday and other dates centered on patriotic themes.

The bill would amend federal law to permanently designate Juneteenth and MLK Day as free admission days while preserving other long-standing fee-free dates intended to encourage volunteerism and public service on federal lands. Supporters say the change would prevent future administrations from altering the list without congressional approval and restore the program's original focus on community engagement and stewardship.

"It's ridiculous that Donald Trump thinks that he deserves more recognition than MLK Jr. or the millions of enslaved Black Americans who realized they had independence on Juneteenth," said Kamlager-Dove. "Not only do these fee-free days recognize important days in American history, they are also used to promote public service within our public lands."

Under the legislation, fee-free admission days would include Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the first day of National Park Week, Juneteenth, Great American Outdoors Day, National Public Lands Day and Veterans Day.

Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) introduced companion legislation in the Senate. She said free admission days have helped build partnerships between visitors and park staff while encouraging volunteer projects and conservation efforts across public lands.



Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, the first Black woman elected to the California Legislature, joins members of her family at the California State Capitol during a tribute honoring her late husband, Dr. William "Bill" Burke. The California State Assembly adjourned in his memory to recognize his lifetime of service to the state. Shown from left to right are daughter Christine Burke Adams, Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, daughter and former Assemblymember Autumn Burke, and granddaughter Isabella. CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey.

"Free entry days in our National Parks have promoted cooperation between park rangers and visitors for decades," Cortez Masto said. "We need to make sure that these days continue to reflect our commitment to working together and being good stewards of our public lands through volunteering and service."

The legislation has garnered support from more than a dozen House Democrats and several Senate Democrats.

Democrats Rally Behind Becerra After Primary Victory, Setting Stage for November Showdown With Hilton

Former U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra is entering the general election with a growing wall of support from some of California's most influential Democratic leaders, signaling a rapid consolidation of the party following the June 2 primary.

Becerra, who finished first in the crowded gubernatorial primary field, will face Republican businessman and commentator Steve Hilton in November after vote counting confirmed the two candidates as the top finishers.

In recent days, Democrats from across the party's ideological spectrum have lined up behind Becerra, portraying him as the candidate best positioned to keep California in Democratic hands.

Former Vice President Kamala Harris praised Becerra's record of public service and described him as a leader who understands California's diverse communities, while Gov. Gavin Newsom highlighted Becerra's experience as attorney general, cabinet secretary and longtime public servant, urging Democrats to unite for the November contest.

Newsom, who remained neutral during the primary campaign, endorsed Becerra shortly after the race was called.

"I'm proud to support Xavier as our nominee for Governor and look forward to helping ensure a smooth transition," Newsom said. "He will stand up to Donald Trump, defend our families, and keep California moving forward."

Former Vice President Kamala Harris also threw her support behind Becerra, emphasizing his leadership credentials and his historic candidacy.

"I know as Governor, he will do whatever it takes to stand up to Donald Trump, defend our rights, and protect our communities," Harris said. "I look forward to standing with Xavier as California makes history by electing our first Latino governor in 150 years."

Harris also praised Becerra's "calm, steady brand of leadership," according to her endorsement statement.

One of the most notable endorsements came from former Congresswoman Katie Porter, who competed against Becerra in the primary. Porter said Becerra shares California values and has demonstrated a willingness to stand up to former President Donald Trump and defend the state's interests. Her endorsement was viewed as an important signal of Democratic unity after a contentious primary campaign.

Even billionaire environmental activist and former rival Tom Steyer, who narrowly missed advancing to the general election, urged Democrats to rally behind Becerra. Following his concession, Steyer endorsed Becerra and called on voters to unite to prevent a Republican victory in November.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta, whom Newsom appointed to succeed Becerra as attorney general in 2021, also joined the growing list of supporters, praising Becerra's leadership and experience.

Former State Controller Betty Yee, another former gubernatorial candidate, has also expressed support for Becerra following the primary, adding to the coalition of elected officials and former rivals now backing his campaign.

California State Controller Malia M. Cohen Appoints Council of Economic Advisors

California State Controller Malia M. Cohen announced the formation of a new Council of Economic Advisors that will provide independent economic analysis and policy recommendations to help guide decisions affecting the state's fiscal health and economic future.

The council, chaired by Dr. Jerry Nickelsburg, faculty director emeritus and senior economist at the UCLA Anderson Forecast, brings together six economists and policy experts from across California. Members will advise the controller on global, national, state and local economic trends and their impact on California's finances.

The move comes as the Controller's Office seeks to expand its use of data-driven analysis following the release of California's audited financial statements ahead of key state budget discussions. The advisory panel will assess economic conditions across California's regions and industries and recommend policy solutions related to affordability, tax policy, healthcare, education, workforce development, small business growth and equitable economic development.

"While we continue to reimagine financial transparency in order to give Californians a clearer understanding of the state's financial condition, we need to call upon expert talent that has its fingers on the pulse of what is driving global, national, statewide and regional markets," Cohen said.

According to the Controller's Office, the council will combine economic expertise with real-time fiscal information, including state cash receipts and expenditure data, to help identify challenges and opportunities affecting California's economy. Officials said the group will serve as a resource for developing policies that support long-term fiscal stability and economic opportunity.

Nickelsburg said council members are honored to provide economic insights and recommendations that could have a meaningful impact on California residents and the state's financial resources.

In addition to Nickelsburg, the council includes economists from California State University, Fullerton; the Bay Area Council Economic Institute; Global Economic Advisors; Claremont McKenna College; the Inland Empire Economic Partnership; and the State Controller's Office.

As California's chief fiscal officer, Cohen oversees the state's financial resources, manages state cash flow, issues financial reports and conducts audits of agencies that spend state funds.

Disability Advocates Rally at Capitol to Stop \$367.7 Million "Gutting" of In-Home Health Care Funding

Disability advocates, caregivers, families and state lawmakers gathered at the California State Capitol on Monday to oppose Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposed \$367.7 million reduction to the state's In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program, warning the cuts could jeopardize care for thousands of seniors and people with disabilities.

The rally, led by Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez (R-Indio), focused on provisions included

in the governor's May budget revision that would reduce spending on IHSS, a program that helps eligible Californians remain in their homes and communities rather than move into institutional care settings.

Advocates said the proposed reductions would shift significant costs to counties, eliminate safeguards for some recipients and reduce access to critical services that allow people with disabilities and older adults to live independently. Speakers urged lawmakers to reject the cuts as budget negotiations continue in Sacramento.

"The governor's proposal would shift nearly \$370 million in costs onto counties, creating uncertainty for those who rely on approved care hours," Gonzalez said during the rally. He added that the proposal would also eliminate protections that help recipients maintain services during Medi-Cal transitions, reinstate restrictive asset limits and eliminate the backup provider system used by many families when caregivers are unavailable.

Additional savings are expected to come from ending temporary IHSS coverage for some recipients who lose Medi-Cal eligibility, restoring a \$2,000 Medi-Cal asset limit for individuals and eliminating the IHSS Backup Provider System.

Several speakers argued that the changes would disproportionately affect vulnerable Californians who depend on consistent in-home care. Elizabeth, a disability advocate who addressed the crowd, described herself as "a proud immigrant's daughter and proud to be part of California's diverse disability community."

Gonzalez pledged to continue fighting the proposal and called on state leaders to protect services that support independent living. "I will continue standing with this community and fighting to protect these critical services," he said.

According to the governor's office, proposed reductions are part of broader efforts to address California's budget challenges.

\$3 Million in Refunds: Defrauded Homeowners in Covid Mortgage Scam to Get Payback

More than 1,800 consumers will receive nearly \$3 million in refunds after state and federal regulators secured restitution in a mortgage assistance scam that targeted struggling homeowners during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation (DFPI) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) announced the refunds on June 8, saying the payments stem from a multiyear enforcement action against companies that falsely promised to reduce mortgage payments and prevent foreclosures.

About half of the affected consumers are in California, officials said.

Regulators said the scheme operated under multiple business names, including Golden Home Services and Home Matters USA, and used telemarketing operations to target homeowners facing financial hardship. Victims were told they were participating in legitimate mortgage relief programs, but a federal court later found the operators engaged in deceptive practices and collected millions of dollars without delivering promised relief.

A 2024 court ruling banned the companies and their operators from the telemarketing and debt relief industries and ordered them to pay restitution.

"This case shows what's possible when state and federal partners work together with purpose to crack down on fraud, hold bad actors accountable, and deliver justice for victims," said Gov. Gavin Newsom.

DFPI Commissioner KC Mohseni said the refunds are part of ongoing efforts to protect consumers from financial scams targeting homeowners in distress.

"We are pleased to be able to give refunds to people who have been scammed out of their hard-earned money," said Mohseni. "We will continually pursue all avenues to prevent scammers from preying on and profiting off Californians."

The FTC said refund checks are being mailed to affected consumers. Recipients are advised to cash checks within 90 days, as indicated on each payment.

Officials warned consumers that the FTC will never require payment or personal financial information in order to issue a refund.

Consumers with questions about their payments can contact refund administrator JND Legal Administration at 1-833-674-0067 or visit the FTC's refund information page for assistance.

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Local



Matthew Parham listens to proceedings during a hearing of the California Senate Privacy, Digital Technologies, and Consumer Protection Committee on the AI Copyright Transparency Act. Parham is a Los Angeles-based voice actor and director of operations for the National Association of Voice Actors (NAVA). CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey.



Chudi Iregbulem, founder and CEO of the social app Beatmatch, leaves a hearing of the Senate Privacy, Digital Technologies, and Consumer Protection Committee on AB 412. Iregbulem, an AI developer, opposes the bill, saying it would impose costly and complex compliance requirements that disproportionately burden tech startups and small developers. CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey.

California Senate Votes to Advance AI Copyright Bill Backed by Voice Actors, Other Creators

By Antonio Ray Harvey
California Black Media

Matthew Parham, a professional voice actor, was among dozens of artists and creators from across California who traveled to Sacramento to witness the Senate Privacy, Technology and Consumer Protection Committee vote in favor of legislation that would require developers of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) models to disclose the copyrighted materials used to train their systems.

Authored by Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda), Assembly Bill (AB) 412, the AI Copyright Transparency Act, passed the Senate committee with a 6-2 vote on June 8 at the Capitol Annex Swing Space. The measure now moves to the Senate Judiciary Committee for consideration.

Parham told California Black Media (CBM) that he serves as director of operations for the National Association of Voice Actors (NAVA), a coalition of performers who use their voices to portray characters, provide narration or create sound effects.

"Voice actors are in a unique situation. No one in America owns their right to their voice. You can legally steal someone's voice," Parham told CBM. "This bill is essential. There is no legal protection for your voice right now."

Parham elaborated on the challenges voice actors face in protecting their work.

"For example, I voice video games. I can't copyright it because I'm not the developer, but my

biometric data is contained within that video game," Parham added.

Artists and creators from Los Angeles, San Diego, Oakland, San Francisco, Sacramento and other communities attended the committee hearing.

AB 412 is co-sponsored by the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA), which represents approximately 160,000 media professionals worldwide.

Bauer-Kahan, SAG-AFTRA and the Transparency Coalition argue that the bill does not alter federal copyright law. Instead, AB 412, supporters argue, establishes state-level transparency requirements.

At its core, AB 412 would require GenAI developers to document the copyrighted materials used to train their models, including systems capable of replicating a person's vocal characteristics to generate synthetic speech that sounds like professional voice talent.

"I introduced AB 412 for one simple reason. I believe in copyright law, and I believe in the right of copyright owners to have a right to know whether their materials are used to train GenAI," said Bauer-Kahan, who is an attorney.

According to Parham, AB 412 would allow voice actors and other creators to request comprehensive lists of their registered works used in AI training datasets. The bill would also authorize creators to sue developers who refuse to provide that

information.

"AI scrapes from everyone's face, voice, paintings, photographs, and everyone's music," Parham said. "And now they are trying to sell it back to us without any ownership at all, claiming eminent domain over things they didn't create."

AB 412 was retained as a two-year bill after stalling in the Senate last year. Bauer-Kahan told CBM on June 11 that she accepted committee amendments that narrowed the measure by "removing prescriptive technical language" to make compliance more feasible.

Bauer-Kahan emphasized that the AI Copyright Transparency Act does not interfere with federal copyright law.

"Most copyright laws are in the federal purview. So, whether the rights holder has a right to be protected from models being trained under federal copyright laws is not for us to determine here in California," Bauer-Kahan said. "However, transparency is not in the federal purview. That, we can actually do."

Not everyone supports the measure.

Chudi Iregbulem, a former Amazon engineer and disc jockey, founded Beatmatch, a Los Angeles-based mobile dating and social networking app that connects users through shared musical interests and alerts them to concerts and events in their area.

Iregbulem told the Senate committee he opposes AB 412 because "it imposes costly and complex requirements that could significantly harm

startups" like Beatmatch.

He added that he respects copyright protections and that Beatmatch does not copy songs or use them to generate music for the platform.

"We're a team of three. We have over 10,000 users and startups like mine don't have the funds or the bandwidth to meet compliance requirements," Iregbulem said. "Even the cost of hiring lawyers to simply determine which AI outputs may no longer trigger compliance with the law would be substantial."

Parham said he is deeply committed to protecting and advancing the entertainment industry. During his career, he has performed voice-over work for brands and organizations including Nike, Marvel, ESPN, Amazon and Shakey's Pizza Parlor, helping promote products and services through persuasive communication, tone and pacing.

If AB 412 becomes law, Parham said, voice actors and other creators would finally have a way to determine whether AI companies used their protected performances to train artificial intelligence models.

"I'm essentially a blue-collar worker. I put in my 40 to 50 hours every week to make enough to pay my rent," Parham told CBM. "It's not about being rich and famous. It's about loving the art and having the right to protect that art."

Why Does California Take So Long to Count Votes? Election Officials Say Accuracy Comes First

By Solomon O. Smith
California Black Media

As California continues counting ballots weeks after the primary election, some political leaders are raising questions about election integrity. But election officials say the lengthy process reflects safeguards designed to ensure every eligible vote is counted accurately — not evidence of fraud.

California's vote-counting process has come under renewed scrutiny after some Republican leaders questioned why election results take weeks to finalize. Election officials insist the timeline reflects safeguards meant to protect voters and ensure every eligible ballot is counted.

The criticism intensified following comments from President Donald Trump, who repeated the debunked claim that the 2020 presidential election was stolen and alleged, without evidence, that California was engaging in election fraud.

"They're dropping fast because it's a rigged election," Trump said about California Republican voters. "They're crooked. You're crooked."

Vice President J.D. Vance also raised concerns about the Los Angeles mayoral race, calling it "shady" during an interview with Jesse Watters.

Michael Sanchez, communications director for the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's Office, disputed those claims, saying California's timeline reflects safeguards designed to

ensure accurate and secure elections.

California law allows ballots postmarked by Election Day to be counted if they arrive within the state's designated acceptance period. Election officials say that process, combined with extensive verification requirements, contributes to the time needed to finalize results.

"I would challenge the premise that the count is slow," Sanchez wrote in an email to California Black Media (CBM). "Ballot counting itself is very fast. In fact, Los Angeles County processed and counted more ballots more quickly in this election than in any election."

Sanchez said California's election process includes "multiple layers of oversight, public observation, reconciliation, and auditing."

Counting ballots involves more than feeding them through a machine. Election workers verify signatures, review ballots with voter errors and contact voters whose ballots require correction through a process known as ballot curing.

According to the California Secretary of State's Office, every ballot undergoes signature verification before it is counted. Ballots with signature discrepancies or other issues are flagged for further review by election workers.

Ballot curing allows voters to correct certain mistakes and verify their ballots so that otherwise valid votes are not rejected because of technical errors.

For many Black voters, whose communities have historically fought for equal access to the ballot box, confidence that every vote is counted remains critical. Civil rights advocates have long argued that safeguards such as signature verification and ballot curing help ensure voters are not disenfranchised because of technical mistakes.

According to Ballotpedia, 34 states allow some form of ballot curing, and 24 states permit voters to correct ballot issues after Election Day. While the process reduces the number of rejected ballots, it also extends the time needed to complete the count.

Under California law, election results must be certified within 30 days of Election Day. This year's certification deadline is July 10.

California Secretary of State Shirley Weber has repeatedly defended the state's election procedures against allegations of fraud and delays.

Speaking on DIA Live Studio hosted by Sen. Akilah Weber Pierson (D-San Diego), Weber said repeated allegations of fraud risk undermining public trust in elections.

"We had one congressman say the longer they count the more we lose," said Weber. "That means you were losing anyway because you didn't get enough votes. So, they literally wanted us to stop voting at a certain date even if all those votes hadn't been counted."

Questions about election integrity have continued beyond the vote count itself.

Bill Essayli, First Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California, recently announced an investigation into election fraud, citing concerns about election safeguards.

"We believe that California does not have sufficient safeguards to make sure that only California citizens are voting," said Essayli, referring to allegations that noncitizens are casting ballots.

Essayli has also promoted a civil lawsuit seeking access to voter information that he argues is necessary for election oversight. A federal court blocked the effort, citing voter privacy protections.

Meanwhile, Trump's executive order titled "Ensuring Citizenship Verification And Integrity In Federal Elections" has drawn criticism from voting-rights advocates and election law experts, who argue that some of its provisions could affect access to mail voting and voter-registration information.

The nonpartisan Brennan Center for Justice has warned that the order could have significant consequences if implemented.

"If implemented, the executive order would inject chaos into our elections, block eligible American citizens from voting, undermine voter privacy, and expose election officials and others to criminal prosecution simply for doing their jobs," states a Brennan Center analysis.

As California works toward its July 10 certification deadline, election officials maintain that taking time to verify ballots is not a sign of a broken system but of one designed to balance security with access. The debate, they say, is less about whether votes should be counted quickly and more about ensuring every eligible vote counts.

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