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Bakersfield News Observer

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Asm. Mia Bonta's AB 801 Targets Lending Bias and California's Persistent Racial Homeownership Gap



Assemblymember Mia Bonta (D-Oakland), author of AB 801, the California Fair Lending Examination Act, addresses the California State Assembly. The measure aims to help narrow the racial wealth gap, expand access to affordable housing for lower-income families, and require state-chartered banks, credit unions and independent mortgage companies to undergo fair-lending compliance audits at least once every four years. In a personal moment, Bonta's daughter, Reina Bonta, was visiting the Capitol and sat beside her mother's desk on the Assembly floor, recording her remarks on her cellphone. CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey.

By Antonio Ray Harvey
California Black Media

Communities of color in California continue to face significant obstacles to buying and owning homes, along with gaps in government enforcement of fair-lending laws that limit their ability to build wealth proportionate to their share of the state's population.

That's why Assemblymember Mia Bonta (D-Alameda), Chair of the Assembly Health Committee, said she introduced Assembly Bill (AB) 801 in February 2025 specifically to address those disparities impacting communities of color and low-income neighborhoods. The bill is backed by the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC).

The bill, known as the California Community Reinvestment Act, if passed and enacted, would mandate financial institutions – including state-chartered banks, credit unions, and independent mortgage companies, to actively meet the credit

needs of all communities where they conduct substantial business, prioritizing low- and moderate-income areas.

"The Reinvestment Act creates more transparency around our ability to understand whether or not (financial institutions) in the state are actually providing mortgages in Black and Brown communities to buy houses," Bonta told California Black Media (CBM).

In addition to gaps in oversight, people living in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods in California face severe barriers to acquiring mortgage credit due to a combination of factors, including high property values and rigid underwriting standards.

The bill expands state-level oversight of financial institutions to ensure they actively reinvest in the historically underserved neighborhoods they serve, explicitly addressing the root causes of the racial wealth gap and predatory or discriminatory

lending.

AB 801 also establishes rules that require the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation (DFPI) to examine these lenders for compliance at least once every four years.

"We're in a position right now where we know there's a disproportionate number of Black and Brown people who don't have the ability to get credit from banks to buy their dream home," Bonta said. "This bill will allow us to hold banks accountable to understand the extent to which they are actually providing loans to Black and Brown communities over time."

AB 801 was first introduced to the California Legislature on Feb. 18, 2025. Bonta made it a two-year bill in the Senate to provide additional time to educate lawmakers on the legislation and address pushback from credit union groups. The bill last passed the full Assembly on June 3 with a 45-15 vote.

On June 17, 2026, the bill passed out of the Senate Banking and Financial Institutions Committee with a 5 -2 vote. On June 30, the Senate Judiciary Committee voted to advance AB 801 with an 11-2 vote. Now, the bill awaits its fate in the Senate Appropriations Committee after the legislature returns to the State Capitol on Aug. 3.

Bonta told the Senate Banking and Financial Institutions Committee that it was the California Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans that called on the legislature to take structural action to address the ongoing economic harm caused by housing discrimination.

"This is the part of that response that we can focus on today. Since 2015, the Black and Latino borrowers have received conventional mortgage loan originations at roughly half the rate of White borrowers in California," Bonta said. "The homeownership gap between Black and White Americans today is approximately what it was before the Fair Housing Act passed in 1968."

AB 801 is primarily backed by civil rights groups, consumer protection advocates, and fair housing organizations aiming to prevent lending discrimination in communities of color.

The African-American Credit Union Coalition (AACUC) expressed concern that the bill undermines the unique structure of credit unions. AACUC is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within the credit union movement and closing the racial wealth gap.

California Community Banking Network (CCBN) worked with the California Bankers Association (CBA), the California Credit Union League, Mortgage Bankers Association, and others

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As They Seek Justice in the Death of Nolan Wells, Black Americans Wrestle with the Notion 'the South Is Still the South'

By WI Editorial Staff
Black Press USA Wire

It's been more than a week since the parents of Nolan Xavier Wells, a Black teenager eager to make his mark as a wide receiver on the football team at Southwest Mississippi Community College, received the call that no family ever wants to get.

After leaving home to celebrate the Fourth of July with friends on Horn Island — an uninhabited stretch of wilderness nestled among barrier islands located off the Mississippi coast — the teen's parents became alarmed after their son failed to respond to calls, and his whereabouts were unknown.

Two days later, the foreboding sense of fear that had undoubtedly haunted Wells' parents since his disappearance was confirmed: his body had been found by a U.S. Park Service Ranger, face down in the water just off the island's northwest tip.

The 18-year-old's friends made it safely back to the mainland. He did not.

Now, Wells' parents, Elmore and Christine Wonsley, must wait anxiously, hoping to learn what really happened to their son, and prayerfully find some semblance of peace.

Meanwhile, questions continue to mount. Why didn't the youth return with his friends? Why didn't he have his cellphone with him? Was he involved in an altercation? Did he remain behind to meet with



Mississippi state flag at the Old Courthouse in Vicksburg, Miss. (Kenneth C. Zirkel, CC BY-SA 4.0 via Wikimedia Commons)

a girl or someone else?

Further, why did the Jackson County Sheriff's Office state that no foul play was suspected, even before official autopsy and toxicology reports had been completed?

Mississippi is known for its beauty: magnificent magnolias, lush bayous, cypress swamps, and moss-draped Southern live oak. But the Magnolia State also bears the ignoble distinction of the highest number of lynchings recorded in America, with an

estimated 581 documented victims between the late 19th and mid-20th centuries, according to the Equal Justice Initiative.

As part of the rite of passage for their children as they reach adulthood, Black parents often recount the tragic narrative of 14-year-old Emmett Till, a Black teenager from Chicago, who, after allegedly whistling at a White woman, was abducted, tortured, and killed on Aug. 28, 1955, in the Mississippi Delta while visiting his relatives.

Mississippi is where three civil rights activists, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner, were arrested by local police in Neshoba County on June 21, 1964, and later released into the hands of a Ku Klux Klan mob who severely beat Chaney, a 21-year-old Black man, before shooting and killing him and his two White colleagues.

During a news conference on July 10, the Rev. Al Sharpton said while he was reluctant to rush to judgment or speculate that racism may have led to Wells' death, he admitted, "This does not smell right."

The truth will eventually come to light, but since the days well before the Civil War, Mississippi has been a dangerous and deadly place for African Americans.

It seems the South is still the South.



Mailson Araujo

Fitness Star Suddenly Collapses and Dies at 35 Just Hours After His Last Instagram Post

Mailson Araujo, a professional bodybuilder from Brazil, has sadly passed away at age 35 after collapsing at his home in Alagoinhas. His mother, a nursing technician, attempted to perform CPR on him before firefighters arrived, but all efforts to revive him failed.

Araujo's death on Monday shocked fans and members of the fitness community who followed his bodybuilding journey. Just hours before he collapsed, he shared workout photos on Instagram, where he had gained more than 32,000 followers through his fitness content.

After Araujo collapsed, his mother immediately attempted CPR while waiting for help. Firefighters later arrived and continued life-saving measures, but they could not revive him, according to People.

The Brazilian athlete became a professional bodybuilder in 2023 after winning the Arnold Classic South America title in Sao Paulo. He was also preparing to compete in the Muscletest event in Curitiba, Brazil, which was scheduled for July 17 to July 19.

Araujo had already made a mark in the bodybuilding world before his death. He placed third in the 2023 Muscleman competition and regularly shared training advice, nutrition tips, and updates about his fitness career with his followers.

In addition to bodybuilding, Araujo was a gospel singer and worked as a fitness consultant, helping clients with their health and training goals. His passion for fitness and faith earned him a loyal following online.

Professional bodybuilder Maiki Ono was among those who honored Araujo, writing that he would be "greatly missed." Fans also remembered him for his dedication to fitness and the inspiration he shared online.



Linda Sturdivant

Black Teacher Accused of Assaulting Students Found Not Guilty on All 13 Counts

Linda Sturdivant, a black special education teacher from Henry County, Georgia, was found not guilty of assault charges involving students after a jury cleared her of all allegations. The verdict ended a case that accused her of harming children with special needs at Stockbridge Elementary School.

A Henry County jury found her not guilty on all 13 counts of simple battery after a trial involving accusations that she physically assaulted several special education students. Sturdivant, who previously worked as a social worker before becoming a teacher, denied the allegations.

According to Fox 5 Atlanta, the case began after authorities arrested Sturdivant in December 2024 over claims that she assaulted students in August 2024 while working at the elementary school. Court records alleged that multiple children with special needs were involved.

The allegations drew attention from families and the local community. Portia Blanco, whose nonverbal child was named as one of the alleged victims, previously said school officials and law enforcement did not notify her about the investigation until two months after Sturdivant's arrest.

Following the verdict, Sturdivant said she felt relieved and became emotional in court. "There were some happy, happy tears," she said after the jury cleared her of the charges.

Sturdivant continued to maintain that she did not know what happened and said her classroom faced major staffing and organizational challenges at the time. She also credited her attorneys for pointing out what she described as inconsistencies during the trial.

"I wanted a jury trial because I just believe that to get this case in front of a jury, just regular folks like myself to hear that they would hear the truth," Sturdivant said.

She also defended her actions as a teacher and said she never harmed the children in her care. "Your children were never harmed, never harmed under my supervision," she said.

Although the acquittal clears Sturdivant to pursue future teaching opportunities, she said she will not return to the Henry County School System. She is also considering filing a lawsuit over the personal and financial effects of the case.

"It affected every area of my life. Career-wise. And, I lost my job as a result of that," Sturdivant said, adding that the experience also affected her finances and mental health.

Coalition Featuring Rev. Al Sharpton, Martin Luther King III Announces March on Washington 2026

By David Snelling
Black Press USA Wire

A coalition of national partners, including the National Action Network Founder and President Rev. Al Sharpton and Martin Luther King III, announced "March on Washington 2026: Defend the Vote" on Friday, August 28, 2026.

The event will also commemorate the 63rd anniversary of the historic 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Other March on Washington 2026 partners include the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), the National Urban League (NUL), the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation (NCBCP), the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), UnidosUS, the Working Families Party, Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (FPWA), Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (Lawyer's Committee), and Veterans Equity Project, Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Common Cause, People Power United, United For Democracy, Vote.org, Family Equality, In the Public Square, Bet Mishpachah, Faith in Action Fund, Faith in Action National Network, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC), and the Interfaith Alliance.

U.S. Rep. Yvette Clarke (D- New York), chair

of the Congressional Black Caucus, will be joined by a delegation of members at the march.

Martin Luther King III said 63 years have passed since his father and iconic Civil Rights Leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and declared his dream for America, the fundamental right at the heart of that dream, the right to vote, is once again under "direct assault."

He said the 2026 March on Washington comes at a moment of profound urgency, following the United States Supreme Court's decision to gut Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, a ruling Sharpton has called "a bullet in the heart of the voting rights movement."



Martin Luther King Jr. in Washington DC the 28 August 1963 during the speech "I have a Dream" speech — Wikimedia Commons

World & Nation

From Blueprint to Breakthrough: Tackling Affordable Housing in New York City

By JP Morgan Chase
Black Press USA Wire

Finding an affordable place to live continues to be a challenge for many as widespread housing shortages persist across the U.S. Rising home prices and high interest rates have made homeownership inaccessible for a large portion of the population. Meanwhile, as rental demand increases, the number of renters facing affordability challenges is also growing.

The State of the Nation's Housing 2025 report by Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies reveals that cost burdens for renters reached another record high in 2023. Similarly, the JPMorganChase Institute reports that renter affordability is declining, forcing people to devote more of their take-home pay to housing costs. There is a growing need for affordable housing across the U.S. and that rings true here in New York City.

Renewing a Brooklyn Community at Scale

In Canarsie, Bay View Houses is the kind of place where generations of neighbors have built their lives. JPMorganChase is helping finance the substantial rehabilitation of this 1,608-unit affordable housing development. The goal isn't just to repair buildings; it's to improve everyday living. Planned upgrades include brighter, more welcoming common areas; refreshed lobbies and entryways; enhanced security; free Wi-Fi; ADA improvements; elevator upgrades; and even basic fixes that matter, like repaired sidewalks and fences. Families will also benefit from expanded outdoor and community features, including five playground areas and improved community facility spaces paired with social services for tenants. Part of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)'s PACT Program, the Bay View PACT Partner team includes RDC Development – a joint venture between MDG Design & Construction and Wavecrest Management – and Infinite Horizons.

"The rehabilitation of Bay View Houses is about more than construction; it's about strengthening the local Canarsie community. We're creating safe, modern, and welcoming spaces that will support families for years to come," said Matthew

Rooney, CEO of MDG Design & Construction and Principal at RDC Development. "None of this progress would be possible without the support and partnership of the Tenant Association and every resident at Bay View Houses."

Strengthening the Bronx's Public Housing Stock

Edenwald Houses, in the Baychester neighborhood of the Bronx and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is the largest public housing community in the Bronx and functions like a small town—dozens of buildings, thousands of residents and a daily rhythm that depends on functioning shared infrastructure and services. JPMorganChase provided support to help rehabilitate 2,030-units across 42 buildings, in addition to utility, common area and community facility upgrades. For residents, this kind of work is about more than construction, it's about restoring reliability while respecting this community and history of the development: homes that are safer, better maintained and built to serve families for years to come. The project is part of the NYCHA PACT program, reflecting a sustained effort to keep a major piece of the Bronx's affordable housing supply strong and stable.

"Our firm's deep commitment to building and preserving affordable housing is made even stronger with steadfast partnerships at all levels, including financiers like JPMorganChase," said Rick Gropper, Principal at Camber Property Group. "At Edenwald Houses, we were able to completely rehabilitate and revitalize over 2,000 homes with the support of the great team at JPMorganChase. We are grateful for this partnership, and encourage developers looking for a bank that truly believes in the power of community impact to join us."

Modernizing Homes in the Heart of Harlem

In Central Harlem, the Jackie Robinson Houses are focused on something many New Yorkers want for their neighborhoods: keeping longtime residents in place while bringing homes up to modern standards. JPMorganChase supported the redevelopment of 1,052 units of NYCHA public housing across 10 buildings. The renovations



reach into the parts of a home that shape everyday comfort, including new unit interiors, common-area and accessibility upgrades and energy-efficiency improvements, along with major behind-the-walls work like full plumbing and electrical upgrades. And it's not just a few touchups: the scope includes full kitchen and bathroom renovations, ventilation improvements and heating optimization/electrification—the kinds of improvements that help a building feel healthier and more dependable

for the people who call it home.

"Our partnership with JPMorganChase is making it possible to truly elevate the daily quality of life for residents," said Melissa Bindra, Principal at Vaya Development, a development partner for Jackie Robinson Houses. "Their commitment ensures that these affordable homes will continue to serve Harlem families and seniors at the standards they deserve for generations to come."

"We're proud of the far-reaching impact these projects are having and to work with these developers to uplift our communities and expand the supply of high-quality, affordable homes across New York City," said Sharmi Sobhan, head of J.P. Morgan Community Development Banking's East Region. "Every additional housing unit matters—and increasing the number that are affordable is critical."

A broader commitment to New York City's future

While these projects are foundational, the vibrancy of a community depends on much more. In New York City, the firm provides banking services to nearly 4 million customers and works across sectors to expand economic opportunity. Over the last five years, JPMorganChase has invested more than \$130 million in local nonprofit organizations, supported 480,000 small business clients and delivered financial health education to thousands of residents—broadening access to banking, financial health resources, homeownership and other wealth-building tools.

"As we work with local stakeholders to expand housing options, JPMorganChase's goal is to create inclusive economic opportunity for all," said Robert Rodriguez, Divisional Manager, Business Banking and Chair, New York City Market Leadership Team at JPMorganChase. "When our communities thrive, we all thrive."

Learn more about affordable housing and community development at [jpmorgan.com/commercial-real-estate](https://www.jpmorgan.com/commercial-real-estate).

You can also read more about what's happening in New York City at <https://www.jpmorganchase.com/communities/new-york>.

New Minneapolis Mural Imagines Black and Indigenous Futures Among the Stars

Belonging to the Entire Universe: Leslie Barlow's New Mural Reimagines Community and Cosmos

By Callisto Martinez
Black Press USA Wire

Callisto Martinez reports on visual artist Leslie Barlow's new mural, "Belonging to the Entire Universe," a 66-by-33-foot installation unveiled at the McKnight Foundation's Minneapolis headquarters. Named for a quote from astronaut Mae Jemison, the piece weaves constellations, textiles from Barlow's travels to Tanzania, and native plants into what she calls an "artistic roadmap" for sustained community care, painted in part during the height of Operation Metro Surge.

Growing up, visual artist Leslie Barlow wanted

to be an astronaut. Now, her mural Belonging to the Entire Universe, titled in reference to a quote from astronaut Mae Jemison, the first Black woman to travel into space, brings Barlow's vision of a future universe to downtown Minneapolis.

Unveiled on June 12, the 66-by-33-foot installation faces the U.S. Bank Stadium and is displayed on the Minneapolis headquarters of the McKnight Foundation, a Minnesota-based foundation dedicated to advancing climate solutions, combatting housing instability and confronting other issues impacting Minnesotans.

"What I would love people to take away from it is this reminder of our relationship to the land, to each other, to our ancestors' lineage, and then, of course, as the title says, to the entire universe," said Barlow, a 2025 McKnight Visual Artist Fellow.

Barlow has long admired Jemison, enough to dress up as her for Halloween a few years ago, but the piece was not titled after Jemison until it was already finished. Barlow's initial inspiration for the piece came directly from McKnight's mission to "advance a more just, creative, and abundant future where people and [the] planet thrive."

"With the words 'just,' 'creative,' and 'abundant,' I was thinking of something that showed a large amount of space, something that was really colorful and vibrant, definitely something that had plant life and spoke to the environment and the planet, so that's where the cosmic imagery came in," Barlow said. "I wanted it to feel like it flowed between different images to encompass people and [the] planet."

Barlow's piece began with digital sketches that she presented to a committee of McKnight staff and board members, who gave feedback on the design and unanimously selected her from a pool of applicants.

Barlow began rendering her drafts into a 7-foot-wide and 3.5-foot-tall oil painting in February, when Operation Metro Surge was in full force.

"It was actually very difficult for me to start painting because of the way that we were pulled toward mutual aid and on-the-ground efforts," Barlow said. "It was a very dark time where so many of us were grieving and a lot of people were scared, rightly so, and still are. But at that time, I was also



"Belonging to the Entire Universe" is displayed on the south-facing exterior of the McKnight Foundation headquarters, 921 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis. — McKnight Foundation

wanting to create an image that felt really hopeful and felt like another world was possible."

Barlow describes the painting as an "artistic roadmap" that considers "if these aren't just moments that our communities come together, but we are continually caring for each other and supporting each other, what society could look like."

Constellations, textiles, native plants and the cosmic reconstruction of the Mississippi River function as "visual moments that could allude to multiple narratives, deeper meanings," according to Barlow.

Much of the mural's plant life was photographed outside the McKnight headquarters. The floral details grew out of McKnight's photo library, inspired by the foundation's work with local farmers of color.

Similarly, the textiles embedded within the mural "allude to a quilting of ideas, or histories, or stories" together, Barlow explained. Their designs primarily draw from Barlow's personal collection, which she has grown since she began working with textiles in 2016.

"The textile that's the biggest, which looks almost like DNA, which I really love, is both organic and geometric in shape," Barlow said. "Those pieces, I actually purchased from Tanzania on my very first trip to the African continent. ... That trip was very meaningful for me as a Black person, and so I wanted that one to be central in the space."

While grounded in the local landscape, the symbols also draw from Afrofuturism and Indigenous futurisms. Barlow sees Afrofuturism and Black and Indigenous solidarity as parts of herself that she brought to the piece, given their significance in her work outside visual art. In

2023, she founded ConFluence, a two-day sci-fi convention in Northeast Minneapolis that centers Black people, Indigenous people and people of color.

Though the symbolism is personal for Barlow, she encourages viewers to form their own interpretations and connections to their own lives. The central image of three women from different generations standing together, each wearing a matching turquoise motif in a different way, was also created with this hope in mind.

"I wanted people to be able to see themselves in these people," Barlow explained. "They are painted as individuals, but they are also kind of symbols."

For Tonya Allen, president of the McKnight Foundation, each viewer's personal connection with Belonging to the Entire Universe also encourages connection with others.

"This mural is both a reflection and a call," Allen said. "Rooted in the history, cultures, and landscapes that shape Minnesota, Leslie's work honors what has shaped us while inviting us to imagine what's possible. It reminds us that a more just and hopeful future is something we must create together."

Belonging to the Entire Universe is the inaugural installation in McKnight's public art series, which will feature a different piece every three years. It is displayed at the McKnight Foundation's Minneapolis headquarters, located at 921 Washington Ave. S.

For more information, visit <https://www.mcknight.org/news-ideas/mcknight-unveils-new-public-mural-by-leslie-barlow-launching-rotating-public-art-series/>.



Leslie Barlow in her studio with the painting "Belonging to the Entire Universe," which was scanned and printed on vinyl for the mural. The title is inspired by a quote from Mae Jemison, the first Black woman to travel to space. Credit: McKnight Foundation

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

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Asm. Mia Bonta's AB 801 Targets Lending Bias and California's Persistent Racial Homeownership Gap

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to advocate in opposition to AB 801.

CGBN and CBA wrote in a June 5 letter addressed to the Senate Judiciary Committee, chaired by Sen. Tom Umberg (D-Santa Ana), stating that AB 801 "risks driving up costs for consumers already struggling to afford a home."

"AB 801 would require additional examinations and reporting obligations covering many of the same issues already evaluated through existing supervisory processes.

Although the bill contemplates consideration of examinations performed by other regulators, it does not eliminate the possibility of duplicative reviews, conflicting findings, or repetitive requests for information."

On June 17, Rob Wilson, executive vice president for California's Credit Unions, said AB 801 was "in a better place than it was last year," but "we do still have some concerns with the bill."

Wilson leads the organization's strategic direction, advocacy, and state government affairs,

working directly with lawmakers and credit union leaders.

"AB 801 creates a new regulatory framework that we believe is unnecessary and duplicative of existing oversight," Wilson told the Senate Standing Committee on Banking and Financial Institutions. "We believe it may create some significant legal concerns, compliance, and most notably, cost concerns for California state-chartered credit unions."

In 2024, a minimum annual income of roughly \$221,200 was required to qualify for the statewide median-priced single-family home, costing approximately \$865,000 to \$875,000, according to the California Association of Realtors (CAR).

In 2025, the median income for Black households in California hovered around \$70,220 to \$73,102. Only about 10% of Black households in the state had the minimum qualifying income required to purchase a median-priced home.

Max Vargas, president and CEO of Greenlining Institute, told the Senate Standing Committee on

Judiciary that "Without an examination structure, California's fair lending protections exist on paper, but not in practice," he said.

Founded in 1993, the Greenlining Institute is an Oakland-based policy, research, and leadership organization dedicated to racial and economic justice. Its mission is to fight the legacy of redlining practices while at the same time bringing investments and economic opportunities to marginalized communities of color.

Vargas shared that Greenlining analyzed the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data and discovered that 37 million mortgage applications submitted between 2018 and 2024 revealed that Black borrowers were 78% more likely than White borrowers to be denied at the final underwriting stage.

"Our families in California are already facing rising costs, growing financial instability, and fewer pathways to building wealth," Vargas said. "This is on top of federal deregulatory efforts. If California does not act, these gaps will grow and deepen."

‘Michael’s’ Billion-Dollar Success Meets a Stunning Family Reversal

By Stacy M. Brown
Black Press USA Wire

As the blockbuster “Michael” crossed the \$1 billion mark at the worldwide box office and cemented Michael Jackson’s estate as the steward of the first music biopic ever to reach the milestone, another chapter involving one of the singer’s closest relationships has moved into federal court.

A lawsuit filed by four members of the Cascio family has generated headlines around the world. But court records, public financial filings and interviews with people close to the estate and Jackson family reveal a far more complicated story involving bankruptcy proceedings, tax liens, foreclosure litigation, an alleged unpaid \$600,000 loan from Jackson himself and a family that for decades stood among the superstar’s most vocal defenders.

The federal complaint, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, accuses Jackson of sexually abusing Edward Cascio, Dominic Savini Cascio, Marie-Nicole Porte and Aldo Cascio while they were children. It names the Michael Jackson Company, co-executors John Branca and the late John McClain, MJJ Productions, MJJ Ventures and others as defendants, asserting claims that include sex trafficking of children, negligence, fraud and breach of fiduciary duty.

For those who knew Jackson, however, the lawsuit represents an extraordinary reversal. Jackson first met Dominic Cascio Sr. in 1984 while he was serving as banquet and general manager at New York City’s Helmsley Palace Hotel. The chance meeting developed into one of the closest friendships of Jackson’s adult life.

Over the next quarter-century, Jackson became a frequent guest at the Cascio family’s home in Hawthorne, New Jersey. He celebrated holidays with the family, spent extended periods there away from the pressures of celebrity and developed close relationships with the Cascio children. Just as significant, the family became one of the very few outside Jackson’s immediate relatives whom he trusted around Prince, Paris and Bigi Jackson, the children who today are among the principal beneficiaries of his estate.

That history makes today’s litigation particularly striking.

For years, Frank Cascio emerged as one of Jackson’s strongest public defenders.

In interviews, public appearances and his memoir, Frank Cascio repeatedly rejected allegations that Jackson abused children. He

described Jackson as a loving friend and insisted the entertainer never behaved inappropriately toward him or members of his family. During appearances with Oprah Winfrey and Wendy Williams, he defended Jackson’s character and dismissed earlier accusations against the singer. Years later, members of that same family are now asking a federal jury to hold Jackson’s estate liable for allegations they say occurred decades ago.

People close to the estate and Jackson family say the lawsuit cannot be viewed apart from the family’s financial history.

Public court records reviewed by The Informer show that James Victor Porte, the husband of plaintiff Marie-Nicole Porte, sought Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in South Carolina in November 2025 before the case was converted to Chapter 7. During those proceedings, a bankruptcy judge granted a lender relief from the automatic stay, allowing foreclosure remedies involving real property to proceed.

Public records also show plaintiff Edward J. Cascio previously filed for Chapter 13 bankruptcy protection in New Jersey.

Additional public filings document federal tax liens involving the Portes.

Sources familiar with the estate also pointed to a residence in Spartanburg County, South Carolina, valued at approximately \$1 million, while arguing that Jackson himself had already demonstrated extraordinary financial generosity toward the family years earlier.

According to multiple people familiar with Jackson’s finances, the singer loaned Dominic Cascio Sr. approximately \$600,000. Those sources contend they have never found evidence the money was repaid.

“The apple doesn’t fall far from the tree,” one family associate said. “They are just trying to get money that they don’t deserve.”

The latest lawsuit also follows an earlier dispute first reported exclusively by The Informer.

Last September, The Informer revealed that the estate had accused former Jackson associates of attempting to obtain \$213 million while threatening to publicize allegations they had spent years publicly denying. At the time, Branca described the effort as “a shakedown” and declared, “Enough is enough.”

Branca, who this week celebrated the new film’s milestone with social media postings, has consistently rejected accusations that Jackson abused children, speaking from a position few others occupied.



Michael Jackson — (Constru-centro, CC BY-SA 4.0 via Wikimedia Commons)

His relationship with Jackson stretched over decades. Although the two occasionally disagreed professionally, Jackson repeatedly returned to Branca for advice. Eight days before Jackson died in June 2009, the two reunited at rehearsals for “This Is It” at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

“Trust was never easy for Michael,” Branca told the Black Press in a recent interview. “We had a wonderful relationship in the ‘80s and a little more challenging as time went on because there were so many people in his ear... We parted ways on more than one occasion over the decades, but we always reunited when it counted.”

When Jackson finalized his estate plan, he selected Branca and longtime music executive John

McClain to serve as co-executors, a decision Branca said demonstrated the trust Jackson ultimately placed in them.

“In the end he chose to keep John McClain and me in the will as executors and that said a lot to us,” Branca said.

People familiar with internal estate discussions say Prince Jackson has also made his position clear regarding future settlements involving allegations against his father.

According to multiple sources, Prince has instructed the executors that there should be “no more payouts.”

“We always fought for Michael,” Branca explained.

FIFA World Cup 2026 Halftime Show Featured Diverse Global Music, Dance, and Cultural Performances

FIFA World Cup 2026 halftime show featured diverse global music, dance, and cultural performances.

Performers included Shakira, Burna Boy, Uganda’s Ghetto Kids, and Staten Island’s PS22 Chorus.

IShowSpeed made history as the first content creator to perform at the closing show.

Spain may have captured its first FIFA Men’s World Cup title since 2010, defeating Argentina 1-0 in the final. But it was kids from Uganda and Staten Island, New York, who stole hearts during this historic World Cup run.

FIFA World Cup 2026™ unveiled its first-ever halftime show, a Super Bowl-inspired masterpiece that brought music, dance and global culture to MetLife Stadium. Curated by Chris Martin of Coldplay in partnership with FIFA and Global Citizen, the performances underlined the diversity that has defined this year’s tournament. The lineup reflected the global soundtrack of pop culture, with Afrobeats, Latin pop, K-pop, youth dance culture

and even the Muppets sharing football’s biggest stage.

Madonna opened the 11-minute halftime experience, ending her energetic performance of “Music” flanked by Afro-Brazilian football legends Ronaldinho and Ronaldo. From Speed’s joy to the Ghetto Kids’ unstoppable spirit, these performances turned the World Cup Final into a celebration of talent, community and pure global magic.

From Speed’s joy to the Ghetto Kids’ unstoppable spirit, these performances turned the World Cup Final into a celebration of talent, community and pure global magic.

Nigerian superstar Burna Boy and Shakira performed the tournament’s official anthem, “Dai Dai,” a blend of Afro-fusion, Latin rhythms and pop. They were joined onstage by the Ghetto Kids, a dance troupe from Kampala, Uganda.

Founded in 2007 by Dauda Kavuma, the organization provides young children with opportunities to improve their lives through dance and community. The global internet superstars, who



Shakira, Burna Boy and the Ghetto Kids perform at the FIFA World Cup 2026 | Credit: Lars Baron/Getty

first gained worldwide attention through their viral dance videos, were personally invited by Shakira to perform with her after she saw their choreography for “Dai Dai.”

Keeping it close to home, the PS22 Chorus sang Coldplay’s “We Dance” to close the halftime show, helping to spotlight believeinlove.org, a new initiative launched today to inspire people all over the world to participate in small acts of love to help defeat poverty and defend the planet. The acclaimed elementary school chorus from Staten Island has been performing for more than two decades.

Before kickoff, Jennifer Hudson reminded everyone why she’s an EGOT winner with a powerful rendition of “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

The World Cup’s closing ceremony was

just as electric, with high-spirited performances from Brooklyn United, a music- and arts-based community organization that serves New York City youth; Fogo Azul NYC, a women-led samba reggae drumline marching band based in New York City; and the NYC Bucket Drummers. Swae Lee dueted with Post Malone while IShowSpeed became the first content creator to perform at the World Cup’s closing show with “Champions.”

Bringing together a cultural feast of music, FIFA’s first halftime show proved that when music and sports come together, they can create global harmony. It also signaled that football’s biggest stage is becoming as much a celebration of global culture as it is of the game itself.



World Cup Final Half-Time | Credit: Eugene Gologursky

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Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2022-B5485
Business Name you wish to abandon:
NAYO'S TRUCK PARTS at 618 Wilson Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93305
Mailing Address: same
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name:
Jose Luis Rolando Alfaro Alvarado at 618 Wilson Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93305
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.)
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **Jose Luis Rolando Alfaro Alvarado**, Owner
This statement of abandonment filed on: 06/18/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M Sales
Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jun 24, Jul 1, 8, 15, 2026

LIEN SALE

2012 CHRYSLER 200 FOR SALE
ON 7/28/2026
VIN: 1C3CC8HG5CN327250
Lien Sale will take place at 10:00 AM at **MOUNTAIN TOWING 111 LANDFILL RD LEBEC, CA 93243 (661)248-0504**

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 15, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUMMONS (CTACON JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 28CUB01280
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
RELATED PROPERTIES, INC., a California Corporation; TERRA GROUP INC., a Nevada Corporation; TICOIR TITLE COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA, a California Corporation; R.G. MANAGEMENT, INC.; THE CITY OF BAKERSFIELD, a public entity; THE HEIRS AND DEVICES OF MARVIN E. STEINERT, DECEASED, AND ALL PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, OR UNDER SAID DECEDENT; THE HEIRS AND DEVICES OF ADALA N. STEINERT, DECEASED, AND ALL PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, OR UNDER SAID DECEDENT; ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN AND CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY; and DOES ONE through TWENTY-FIVE, inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, acting by and through the High-Speed Rail Authority
NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.
Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado,

PUBLIC NOTICE

es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales.
AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.
The name and address of the court is: County of Kern Superior Court
Metropolitan Division Justice Building, 1215 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Nicholas R. Dyess (SBN 339828), Matthew P. Lee (SBN 345257) 111 Grand Ave. Ste 11-100, Oakland, CA 94612; Telephone: (510) 433-9100
DATE: 04/07/2026
Tara Leal, Clerk (Secretario)
By Vanesa Mata, Deputy (Adjunto) (SEAL)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER 28CUB02196
Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN
1215 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301
Civil - Metropolitan Division Justice Building
PETITION OF: **LUCIA PAZ RAMIREZ** FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: **LUCIA PAZ RAMIREZ**
Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name **LUCIA PAZ RAMIREZ**
Proposed name **LUCIA RAMIREZ LANDA**
THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: August 17, 2026
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Dept: L
The address of the court is: same as noted above
A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
Date: June 15, 2026
Gina M. Cervantes, Judicial Officer
Vanessa Guerra, Deputy Clerk
Petitioner: **Lucia Paz Ramirez**
1908 Brook St, Bakersfield, CA, 93307
Telephone: (661) 525-0899
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER 28CUB00765
Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN
1215 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301
Civil - Metropolitan Division Justice Building
PETITION OF: **ROBIN PATRICE EISEN** FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: **ROBIN PATRICE EISEN**
Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name **ROBIN PATRICE EISEN**
Proposed name **ROBIN PATRICE BARRON-EISEN**
THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: August 11, 2026
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Dept: L
The address of the court is: same as noted above
A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
Date: June 8, 2026
Gina M. Cervantes, Judicial Officer
Vanessa Guerra, Deputy Clerk
Petitioner: **Robin Patrice Eisen**
7304 Alamosa Ln, Bakersfield, CA, 93309
Telephone: (661) 444-0852

PUBLIC NOTICE

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3865
Doing business as:
SELENE JEWELZ & GEMS at 7213 QUAILWOOD DRIVE APT A, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
Mailing Address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
ERIKA SHANAE VAUGHN at 7213 QUAILWOOD DRIVE APT A, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **ERIKA SHANAE VAUGHN**
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 19, 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: June 19, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3879
Doing business as:
LOGAN MILES CONSTRUCTION at 6615 ROSDALE HWY, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
Mailing Address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
MILES/AHEAD INC. at 6615 ROSDALE HWY, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: a Corporation
SIGNED: **STEPHEN MOVNIER**, CEO
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: June 22, 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 22, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3572
Doing business as:
IHOME FURNITURE at 2829 BRUNDAGE LN, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
Mailing Address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
IHOME FURNITURE LLC at 2829 BRUNDAGE LN, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **ALI ALQUDAH**, 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: June 5, 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: June 5, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3869
Doing business as:
RIFF-RAFF TATTOO AND PIERCING at 1420 17TH PLACE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
Mailing Address: 955 PANORAMA DR., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
TOMAS JAIME at 955 PANORAMA DR., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **TOMAS JAIME**
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 19, 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: June 19, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3897
Doing business as:
EMPOWERED MINDS at 3815 MING AVE #113, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
Mailing Address: 3201 PARK BEND CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
EMPOWERED MINDS PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION at 3815 MING AVE #113, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: a Corporation
SIGNED: **LISA WELCH**, CEO
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 06/11/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: June 22, 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 22, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3765
Doing business as:
BEST PRICE MOTORS at 724 E CALIFORNIA AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
Mailing Address: 6077 COFFEE RD #4 1008, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
BEST PRICE MOTORS, LLC at 6077 COFFEE RD #4 1008, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **SANDRA YESENIA PENA AGUILAR**, Manager
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 06/04/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: June 16, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: June 24, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3857
Doing business as:
DW KUSTOMS RESTORATIONS & CHROME at 13308 SAN SIMEON AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
Mailing Address: 4225 LIGHTNING CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
GILBERT CARMONA at 4225 LIGHTNING CT., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
The business is conducted by: a Married Couple
SIGNED: **GILBERT CARMONA**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 01/01/2021
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: June 19, 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: June 19, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3891
Doing business as:
HUNGRY HOWIE'S PIZZA 0371 at 10530 ROSDALE HWY, SUITE 1, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
Mailing Address: 4717 LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COURT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
N & D INC. at 4717 LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COURT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: a Corporation
SIGNED: **GHASSAN MAYASSI**, CEO
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: April 17, 2017
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: June 22, 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: June 22, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3965
Doing business as:
SERENITY SALON at 1403 ALLEN RD SUITE 400, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
Mailing Address: 12008 BEDFORDSHIRE DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
HAIRPROS SALON, INC. at 1403 ALLEN RD SUITE 400, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: a Corporation
SIGNED: **LINDA RION**, Secretary
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/03/2017
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: June 24, 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 24, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3973
Doing business as:
SAP LEGACY LOGISTICS at 7905 SHETLAND DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
Mailing Address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
SAP LEGACY COMPANY LLC at 7905 SHETLAND DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **JOVETT POWELL**, CEO
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 07/27/2021
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: June 24, 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 24, 2031

PUBLIC NOTICE

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3936
Doing business as:
VERHOEVEN FAMILY SERVICES at 12812 TRAFALGAR SQUARE DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
Mailing Address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
GREG VERHOEVEN at 12812 TRAFALGAR SQUARE DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **GREG VERHOEVEN**
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 23, 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: June 23, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3989
Doing business as:
RYNSE CLEANING at 1700 GREENHAVEN ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
Mailing Address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
LUCIANO FRANCISCO MOLINARI at 1700 GREENHAVEN ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **LUCIANO FRANCISCO MOLINARI**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 06/08/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: June 25, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: June 25, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4010
Doing business as:
TORRES DESIGNS at 12613 LINCOLNSHIRE DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
Mailing Address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
PAUL TORRES LLC at 12613 LINCOLNSHIRE DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **PAUL TORRES**, Member
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 05/03/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: June 26, 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: June 26, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 11/26/2025
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: June 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: June 26, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3449
Doing business as:
DG GUARDS & PATROL at 7517 YUMA WAY, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
Mailing Address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
DG GUARDS & PATROL INC at 7517 YUMA WAY, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: a Corporation
SIGNED: **MARICZA AGUILA**, CFO
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 01/15/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: May 29, 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 26, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3990
Doing business as:
THE ART OF MESSAGE AND MLD THERAPY at 1525 19TH ST., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
Mailing Address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
ARTHUR CHRISTOPHER DELATORRE at 1525 19TH ST., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **ARTHUR CHRISTOPHER DELATORRE**
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 25, 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.)
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3991
Doing business as:
WIN SPECIALTY CARE at 2323 16TH STREET, SUITE 300, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
Mailing Address: PO BOX 20538, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93390
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
SOE WIN M.D., INC. at PO BOX 20538, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93390
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: a Corporation
SIGNED: **SOE WIN**, CEO
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: June 25, 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: June 25, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4004 2026-B4005
Doing business as:
CALIFORNIANS FOR PROPERTY RIGHTS / CFPF at 2119 VERDE STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

May 21, 2025
Original File No: 2025-B2933
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: June 25, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M HERNANDEZ, Deputy
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2025-B2934
Business Name you wish to abandon:
THE BAKING PHYSICIST at 12601 LINCOLNSHIRE DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
Mailing Address: same
County: Kern
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name: **ABBIE VAIL MORGAN** at 12601 LINCOLNSHIRE DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **ABBIE VAIL MORGAN, Owner**

The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: May 21, 2025
Original File No: 2025-B2934
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: June 25, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M HERNANDEZ, Deputy
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2026-B3674
Business Name you wish to abandon:
TORRES DESIGNS at 12613 LINCOLNSHIRE DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
Mailing Address: same
County: Kern
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name: **PAUL TORRES** at 12613 LINCOLNSHIRE DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
MYRA ALANIZ TORRES at 12613 LINCOLNSHIRE DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
The business is conducted by: a Married Couple
SIGNED: **PAUL TORRES, Owner**
The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: June 10, 2026
Original File No: 2026-B3674
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: June 26, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M HERNANDEZ, Deputy

I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2026-B4003
Business Name you wish to abandon:
CALIFORNIANS FOR PROPERTY RIGHTS at 2119 VERDE STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
Mailing Address: PO BOX 2777, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93303
County: Kern
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name: **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ROYALTY OWNERS - CALIFORNIA, INC.** at PO BOX 2777, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93303
The business is conducted by: a Corporation
SIGNED: **EDWARD S. HAZARD, President**
The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: June 25, 2026
Original File No: 2026-B4003
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: June 26, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES, Deputy

I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF STEPHEN MCKNIGHT KENTON
CASE NUMBER: 26PRJ00745

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of STEPHEN MCKNIGHT KENTON:
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by PATRICIA LYNN JONES in the Superior Court of California, County of Kern College Ave. Bakersfield, CA 93305
Juvenile Justice Center
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that PATRICIA LYNN JONES be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be

PUBLIC NOTICE

admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.)
The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows:
Date: August 13, 2026
Time: 8:30 a.m. Dept: J-1 Room:
Address of court: same as noted above
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner: GERALD H. OLDFIELD, ESQ.
McAtee & Oldfield Law Offices
Westwind Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93301
Telephone: (661) 324-6010
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 8, 15, 22, 2026

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 26CUB000850
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): Maricopa Orchards, LLC, a California limited liability company, KEVIN ASSEMI, an individual and ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN, CLAIMING RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN, OR INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT, ADVERSE TO PLAINTIFF'S OWNERSHIP INTEREST OR ANY CLOUD ON PLAINTIFF'S RIGHT THERETO; and DOES 1-20, inclusive, YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO) EL DEMANDANTE: Maricopa 1031, LLC, a California limited liability company
NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot

afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales.

AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 o más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Superior Court of California, Kern County 1215 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93301
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Lori C. Hershorn, (SBN 155977) Hershorn & Henry, LLP, 26475 Rancho Parkway South, Lake Forest, CA 92630
Tel. (949) 859-5600
DATE (Fecha): March 9, 2026
Tara Leal, Clerk (Secretario)
By Gricelda Evans, Deputy (Adjunto) (SEAL)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served.

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER 26CUB00982
Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN
1215 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301
Civil - Metropolitan Division Justice Building
PETITION OF: CANDICE BARRY FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: CANDICE BARRY
Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name: **OLIVIA MARIE JEFFERS**
Proposed name: **OLIVIA MARIE TRIPLETT**
THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: August 4, 2026
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Dept: L
The address of the court is: same as noted above
A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
Date: June 18, 2026
Gina M. Cervantes, Judicial Officer
Vanessa Guerra, Deputy Clerk
Petitioner: Candice Barry
3535 Stine Rd. Spc 118 Bakersfield, CA, 93309
Telephone: (661) 472-3665
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3993
Doing business as: **GATEWAY TO STABILITY** at 1515 20TH STREET SUITE 109, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
Mailing Address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **GATEWAY TO STABILITY LLC** at 1515 20TH STREET SUITE 109, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **JERI HOLMAN**, Manager
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 06/14/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: June 25, 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: June 25, 2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER 26CUB02237
Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN
1215 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301
Civil - Metropolitan Division Justice Building
PETITION OF: **CARLIANNE CRYSTAL HODGES** FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: **CARLIANNE CRYSTAL HODGES**
Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name: **KHADYN JOSIAH REMILLARD**
Proposed name: **KHADYN JOSIAH HODGES**
THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: August 24, 2026
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Dept: L
The address of the court is: same as noted above
A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
Date: June 18, 2026
Gina M. Cervantes, Judicial Officer
Vanessa Guerra, Deputy Clerk
Petitioner: **Candice Barry**
3535 Stine Rd. Spc 118 Bakersfield, CA, 93309
Telephone: (661) 472-3665
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

CASE NUMBER 26CUB02237
Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN
1215 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301
Civil - Metropolitan Division Justice Building
PETITION OF: **CARLIANNE CRYSTAL HODGES** FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: **CARLIANNE CRYSTAL HODGES**
Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name: **KHADYN JOSIAH REMILLARD**
Proposed name: **KHADYN JOSIAH HODGES**
THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: August 24, 2026
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Dept: L
The address of the court is: same as noted above
A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
Non petitioning parent to be served as required by CCP 1277
Date: June 17, 2026
Gina M. Cervantes, Judicial Officer
Vanessa Guerra, Deputy Clerk
Petitioner: **Carlianne Crystal Hodges**
14055 Rosedale Hwy. #33 Bakersfield, CA, 93314
Telephone: (661) 496-8932
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER 26CUB02148
Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN
1215 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301
Civil - Metropolitan Division Justice Building
PETITION OF: **JEZABEL VILLAFANA** FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: **JEZABEL VILLAFANA**
Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name: **JEZABEL VILLAFANA**
Proposed name: **JEZABEL ALVAREZ**
THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: August 11, 2026
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Dept: L
The address of the court is: same as noted above
A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
Date: June 4, 2026
Gina M. Cervantes, Judicial Officer
Vanessa Guerra, Deputy Clerk
Petitioner: **Jezabel Villafana**
707 N. Stine Rd., Bakersfield, CA 93309
Telephone: (661) 497-5341
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3993
Doing business as: **PINKDELICIOUS** at 10218 HABECKER RD APT #A, LAMONT, CA 93241
Mailing Address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **BELEM HERNADEZ ANTONIO** at 10218 HABECKER RD APT #A, LAMONT, CA 93241
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **BELEM HERNADEZ ANTONIO**
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 25, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: June 25, 2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3994
Doing business as: **FARFROMWALLSTREET** at 23480 EL RANCHO DRIVE, BEAR VALLEY SPRINGS, CA 93561
Mailing Address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **Michael J.D. McCall, LLC** at 23480 EL RANCHO DRIVE, BEAR VALLEY SPRINGS, CA 93561
State of incorp. or org.: DE
The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Michael J.D. McCall, 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 24, 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 25, 2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3994
Doing business as: **TRAMITES CALIFORNIA / MATRIMONIOS BAKERSFIELD** at 5913 NILES ST STE 4, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
Mailing Address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **IVAN SALVADOR IBARRA CASTANEDA** at 5913 NILES ST STE 4, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **IVAN SALVADOR IBARRA CASTANEDA**
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 25, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: June 25, 2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4044
Doing business as: **PATO & SON GARDENING SERVICE** at 2607 RIO VISTA DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
Mailing Address: PO BOX 70173, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93387
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **CESAR SERRATO** at PO BOX 70173, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93387
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **CESAR SERRATO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 06/29/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: June 29, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: June 26, 2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4047
Doing business as: **CS GARDENING SERVICES** at 430 PACIFIC ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
Mailing Address: PO. BOX 71597, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93387
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **CARLOS SERRATO RUIZ** at 430 PACIFIC ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **CARLOS SERRATO RUIZ**
The registrant commenced to transact business under

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4047
Doing business as: **CS GARDENING SERVICES** at 430 PACIFIC ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
Mailing Address: PO. BOX 71597, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93387
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **CARLOS SERRATO RUIZ** at 430 PACIFIC ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **CARLOS SERRATO RUIZ**
The registrant commenced to transact business under

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4047
Doing business as: **CS GARDENING SERVICES** at 430 PACIFIC ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
Mailing Address: PO. BOX 71597, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93387
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **CARLOS SERRATO RUIZ** at 430 PACIFIC ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **CARLOS SERRATO RUIZ**
The registrant commenced to transact business under

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4047
Doing business as: **CS GARDENING SERVICES** at 430 PACIFIC ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
Mailing Address: PO. BOX 71597, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93387
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **CARLOS SERRATO RUIZ** at 430 PACIFIC ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **CARLOS SERRATO RUIZ**
The registrant commenced to transact business under

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4047
Doing business as: **CS GARDENING SERVICES** at 430 PACIFIC ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
Mailing Address: PO. BOX 71597, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93387
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **CARLOS SERRATO RUIZ** at 430 PACIFIC ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **CARLOS SERRATO RUIZ**
The registrant commenced to transact business under

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4047
Doing business as: **CS GARDENING SERVICES** at 430 PACIFIC ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
Mailing Address: PO. BOX 71597, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93387
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **CARLOS SERRATO RUIZ** at 430 PACIFIC ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **CARLOS SERRATO RUIZ**
The registrant commenced to transact business under

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4047
Doing business as: **CS GARDENING SERVICES** at 430 PACIFIC ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
Mailing Address: PO. BOX 71597, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93387
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **CARLOS SERRATO RUIZ** at 430 PACIFIC ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **CARLOS SERRATO RUIZ**
The registrant commenced to transact business under

PUBLIC NOTICE

CASE NUMBER 26CUB02237
Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN
1215 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301
Civil - Metropolitan Division Justice Building
PETITION OF: **CARLIANNE CRYSTAL HODGES** FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: **CARLIANNE CRYSTAL HODGES**
Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name: **KHADYN JOSIAH REMILLARD**
Proposed name: **KHADYN JOSIAH HODGES**
THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: August 24, 2026
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Dept: L
The address of the court is: same as noted above
A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
Non petitioning parent to be served as required by CCP 1277
Date: June 17, 2026
Gina M. Cervantes, Judicial Officer
Vanessa Guerra, Deputy Clerk
Petitioner: **Carlianne Crystal Hodges**
14055 Rosedale Hwy. #33 Bakersfield, CA, 93314
Telephone: (661) 496-8932
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER 26CUB02148
Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN
1215 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301
Civil - Metropolitan Division Justice Building
PETITION OF: **JEZABEL VILLAFANA** FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: **JEZABEL VILLAFANA**
Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name: **JEZABEL VILLAFANA**
Proposed name: **JEZABEL ALVAREZ**
THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: August 11, 2026
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Dept: L
The address of the court is: same as noted above
A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
Date: June 4, 2026
Gina M. Cervantes, Judicial Officer
Vanessa Guerra, Deputy Clerk
Petitioner: **Jezabel Villafana**
707 N. Stine Rd., Bakersfield, CA 93309
Telephone: (661) 497-5341
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3994
Doing business as: **FARFROMWALLSTREET** at 23480 EL RANCHO DRIVE, BEAR VALLEY SPRINGS, CA 93561
Mailing Address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **Michael J.D. McCall, LLC** at 23480 EL RANCHO DRIVE, BEAR VALLEY SPRINGS, CA 93561
State of incorp. or org.: DE
The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Michael J.D. McCall, 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 24, 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 25, 2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3994
Doing business as: **TRAMITES CALIFORNIA / MATRIMONIOS BAKERSFIELD** at 5913 NILES ST STE 4, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
Mailing Address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **IVAN SALVADOR IBARRA CASTANEDA** at 5913 NILES ST STE 4, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **IVAN SALVADOR IBARRA CASTANEDA**
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 25, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

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: September 3, 2026
Time: 8:30 a.m. Dept: J1 (1st Floor)

Room:
Address of court: same as noted above

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Petitioner: OPHIR BEN ISRAEL
Cattail Creek Way,
Bakersfield, CA 93311
Tel: (661) 900-5309

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 15, 22, 29, 2026

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF LESLEY RUTH GREER, AKA RUTH LESLEY GREER
CASE NUMBER: 26PRJ000659

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of LESLEY RUTH GREER, AKA RUTH LESLEY GREER

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by GARY MICHAEL GREER in the Superior Court of California, County of Kern 2100 College Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93305 Juvenile Justice Center

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that GARY MICHAEL GREER be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

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

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows:

Date: August 21, 2026
Time: 8:30 a.m. Dept: J-1 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.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner: Andrew Sheffield, Esq.
PO Box 22077
Bakersfield, CA 93390
Tel: (661) 325-8962

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 15, 22, 29, 2026

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) FOR COURT USE ONLY (SOLO PARA USO DE LA CORTE) FILED SUPERIOR COURT OF CA, COUNTY OF KERN NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): Jose Madera Jr, Audianna Christina Garza ; and DOES 1-10, inclusive **YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):** Harley-Davidson Credit Corp., assignee of Eaglemark Savings Bank NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration aware of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. ¡AVISO! Lo han demandado . Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión . Lea la información a continuación . Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante . Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen . Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas . Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia . Hay otros requisitos legales . Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente . Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro . Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales.

AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desearchar el caso . The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): CASE NUMBER (N úmero del Caso): **25CLB00356** SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, KERN COUNTY, KERN COUNTY METROPOLITAN DIVISION JUSTICE BUILDING 1215 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA, 93301 The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Melissa Robbins Coutts, Esq., Natalie Carter, Esq., Donna Bakalor, Esq. McCarthy & Holthus, LLP, 2763 Camino Del Rio S. Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92108, (619) 685-4800 DATE: **Oct 23 2025 Tara Leal** (Fecha) Clerk, by, Deputy (Secretario) (Adjunto) **SUM-100 Page 1 of 1** Form Adopted for Mandatory Use Judicial Council of California SUM-100 [Rev. July 1, 2009] **SUMMONS** Code of Civil Procedure §§ 412.20, 465 www.courts.ca.gov **SUM-100** IDSPub #0315773 7/15/2026 7/22/2026 7/29/2026 8/5/2026

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 15, 22, 29, Aug 5, 2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER 26CUB02443

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

1215 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301
Civil - Metropolitan Division Justice Building
PETITION OF: MIRIAM CALDERON FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: MIRIAM CALDERON
Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present name: **MATTHEW JAMES MARTINEZ**
Proposed name: **MATTHEW JAMES CALDERON**

THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: August 31, 2026
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Dept: L

The address of the court is: same as noted above
A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER

Non petitioning parent to be served as required by CCP 1277

Date: **July 1, 2026**
Gina M. Cervantes, Judicial Officer
Andrea Sanders, Deputy Clerk
Petitioner: Miriam Calderon
11005 Mirage Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93311
Telephone: (661) 858-8627

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 15, 22, 29, Aug 5, 2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER 26CUB02491

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

1215 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301
Metro Justice Building
PETITION OF: **ANGEL LEE HERNANDEZ**

FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: **ANGEL LEE HERNANDEZ**
Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present name: **ANGEL LEE HERNANDEZ**
Proposed name: **SAGE LEE HERNANDEZ**

THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: September 1, 2026
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Dept: L

The address of the court is: same as noted above
A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER

Date: **July 2, 2026**
Gina M. Cervantes, Judicial Officer
Andrea Sanders, Deputy Clerk
Petitioner: Angel Lee Hernandez
3200 Q Street,

Bakersfield, CA 93301
Telephone: (661) 569-4295
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 15, 22, 29, Aug 5, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B3630

Doing business as: **THE FRESH PRESS** at 607 BLUE MOUNTAIN WAY APT B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308

Mailing Address: same
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s): **MYG FOODS LLC** at 607 BLUE MOUNTAIN WAY APT B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308

State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Max Gerber**, Manager

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 06/04/2026

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: June 9, 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 9, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 15, 22, 29, Aug 5, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4143

Doing business as: **J & C TRANSPORT** at 5420 SEASONS DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313

Mailing Address: same
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s): **JOSE ARTURO CALDERON RAMIREZ** at 5420 SEASONS DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313

The business is conducted by: an individual
SIGNED: **JOSE ARTURO CALDERON RAMIREZ**

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: July 6, 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: July 6, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 15, 22, 29, Aug 5, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4175

Doing business as: **GLEN BROWN MIRACLE MINISTRIES** at 26221 OAKFLAT DR., TEHACHAPI, CA 93561

Mailing Address: PO BOX 13006, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93389

County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s): **FREEDOM FAITH INTERNATIONAL, INCORPORATED** at PO BOX 13006, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93389

State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: a Corporation

SIGNED: **Carrie Brown**, Secretary

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 11/06/1980

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: July 8, 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: July 8, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 15, 22, 29, Aug 5, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4174

Doing business as: **CITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH** at 26941 MEDICINE BOW CT, TEHACHAPI, CA 93561

Mailing Address: PO BOX

13006, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93389
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **FREEDOM FAITH INTERNATIONAL, INCORPORATED** at PO BOX 13006, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93389

State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: a Corporation

SIGNED: **Carrie Brown**, Secretary

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 11/06/1980

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: July 8, 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: July 8, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 15, 22, 29, Aug 5, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4185

Doing business as: **CENTRIC HEALTH** at 2901 Sillect Avenue, Suite 100, Bakersfield, CA 93308

Mailing Address: 11612 Bolthouse Drive, Suite 200, Bakersfield, CA 93311

County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s): **Central Cardiology Medical Center** at 2901 Sillect Avenue, Suite 100, Bakersfield, CA 93308

State of incorp. or org.: CA

Jasleen Dugga, M.D.Inc at 3008 Sillect Avenue, Suite 220, Bakersfield, CA 93308

State of incorp. or org.: CA

Parikshat Sharma, Inc at 2403 Windermere, Bakersfield, CA 93311

State of incorp. or org.: CA

Golden Valley Medical Associates, Inc. at 4813 Coffee Road, Bakersfield, CA 93311

State of incorp. or org.: CA

Centric Urgent Care, Inc at 11612 Bolthouse Drive, Suite 200, Bakersfield, CA 93311

State of incorp. or org.: CA

The business is conducted by: a General Partnership

SIGNED: **Brijesh Bhambi, M.D.**, Managing Partner

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 03/16/2016

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: July 9, 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: July 9, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 15, 22, 29, Aug 5, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4099

Doing business as: **SMELL THE FLOURS** at 1016 SILVER OAK DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312

Mailing Address: 1016 SILVER OAK DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312

County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s): **HANNAH ISABELLA MARIE WALL** at 1016 SILVER OAK DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312

DYLAN JACOB WALL at 1016 SILVER OAK DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312

The business is conducted by: Married Couple

SIGNED: **HANNAH WALL**

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: July 1, 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: July 1, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 15, 22, 29, Aug 5, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4261

Doing business as: **VORTER CONTRACT GROUP** at 1212 TELEGRAPH AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305

Mailing Address: 1212 TELEGRAPH AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305

County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s): **STEVEN CORDOVA ARMAS** at 1212 TELEGRAPH AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305

STEVEN CORDOVA ARMAS at 1212 TELEGRAPH AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305

PUBLIC NOTICE

Doing business as: **A.V. CLASSIC RESTORATION** at 3120 JUNIPER RIDGE CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306

Mailing Address: 3120 JUNIPER RIDGE CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306

County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s): **ALFONSO VALADEZ** at 3120 JUNIPER RIDGE CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306

The business is conducted by: Individual

SIGNED: **ALFONSO VALADEZ**

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 18, 2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk

By: M SALES, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. This statement expires on: June 18, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Jul 15, 22, 29, Aug 5, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4039

Doing business as: **GRC MOBILE CAR WASH & DETAILING** at 9 GRIFFITHS STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309

Mailing Address: 9 GRIFFITHS STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309

County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s): **RAFAEL ANTONIO PONCE CARRASCO** at 9 GRIFFITHS STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309

Features

The Power of Pink: Laila Leigh’s Journey to Streamer University

By Marcus Craig
Black Press USA Wire
Laila Leigh’s Streamer University journey started on cardboard in a pink room in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. From a young age, her family has taught her to speak things into existence: grades, internship opportunities and now the chance to build her brand as a social media influencer.

Streamer University, for those unfamiliar, is a week-long intensive bootcamp held on a U.S. college campus hosted by content creator and Twitch superstar Kai Cenat. The bootcamp focuses on helping rising creators elevate their platforms, master the art of streaming, and monetize their content. Leigh is set to join the Class of 2026 for the bootcamp.

“[Laila’s father] believes in speaking things into existence. I believe in writing it down and making it plain. Laila’s been around all these concepts,” said Mai Leigh, Laila’s mother. “She has books about manifestation.”

Laila Leigh, who goes by “LailaSimoneTV” on Twitch, hopes that Streamer University is just one step in a path that leads to a career as an entertainment correspondent. She has memories of watching “Good Morning America” and “106 and Park,” respectively. The show’s hosts, Robin Roberts and Rocsi Diaz, were her role models. Watching them helped Leigh realize she wanted a life in front of the camera.

“Robin Roberts introduced a professional side and being a student of the game and real journalism,” said Leigh, a 2026 Clark Atlanta University (CAU) graduate.

Shifting her goals
Initially, Leigh thought she wanted to be a newscaster, like Roberts. As she got older, she watched YouTubers like Queen Naija and Jordyn Lucas. She also went to events like the Black Sports Business Symposium. She learned how to network, but she also realized that she would rather interview



celebrities instead of learning about male athletes.
“I want to do something more fun...let me see what entertainment is like,” she said.
From that day, she never looked back.
She started interviewing celebrities like Luhh Dyl, India Love and Latto. She also began posting videos of herself talking about celebrities. Her Instagram video covering celebrity couple Megan Thee Stallion and Klay Thompson’s split has more than 170,000 views.
A relationship made through time
Mai Leigh and her daughter have built a special relationship. “One that has roots in respect.”
“My mom is like my best friend,” said Laila Leigh.
“I think I was meant to be her mom. We have a relationship that’s really unique. I respect Laila,” said Mai Leigh.
When the duo traveled to Atlanta to film Laila’s Streamer University application, Mai didn’t know much about streaming. She questioned how people even got picked to attend Streamer University. She watched DDG’s content to learn how he became rich from streaming.
“If kids are retiring their parents through streaming... go for it,” Laila remembers her mother

telling her.
Finding her way
For Leigh, “find a way or make one” is more than a motto. It’s a way of life. At CAU, she founded “Meet a Panther,” a platform designed to highlight students from the school’s community. She also interned with the school’s social media. She was also the Vice President of The Culture Collective. The organization refers to itself as a creative outlet that connects brands and students through culture.
She also interned as a podcast editor at TMZ, participated in the 2025 CNN Academy and worked as a BET Next Gen Ambassador at this year’s BET awards. These programs taught her how to prepare for big moments, how to communicate with others and how to make a way past obstacles.
“As a freshman, it sounded like a struggle... I quickly learned finding your way is super important because it could end up with you landing your opportunity,” said Leigh.
“Everything she’s talked about, she’s gotten done,” said Kaden Lymon, a 2026 CAU graduate who worked with Leigh at The Culture Collective (TCC).

The duo have been friends since 2022, their freshman year of college. Across the last four years, Lymon has seen Leigh’s positive attitude, curiosity and persistence take shape.

“That’s really my dawg,” said Lymon, a smile forming on his face. “It’s really been a joy to watch her grow.”

Her mother, Mai, believes that her daughter can achieve anything she wants because of her curiosity.

“The curiosity that children have, the wonder, it’s beautiful. If you allow them to explore they can become whatever they want,” said Mai Leigh, Laila’s mother.

Professional practice
Lymon, who filmed Leigh’s application to Streamer University, also touts the professionalism that Leigh has shown throughout their time working together. One month before filming the video, Leigh reached out to Lymon for help. She already had a plan, even flying back to Atlanta with her mother from Maryland to make sure her vision came to life.

Lymon and his creative team met with Leigh to work on details. The script was finalized. Choreography and props were discussed. When filming started, though, not everything went to plan.

Instead of giving up, the duo made the necessary adjustments. Just like Lymon, she wanted the video to be perfect. The final sentence of the video, “what we doing, Kai?” took 22 takes to perfect. The video was complete before Kai Cenat announced that Streamer University would be accepting applications.



This type of discipline is not only reserved for her application, which was one out of more than a million. When Laila was in sixth grade, her parents challenged her: stay on her school’s honor roll for the whole school year, and they would reward her with a puppy. Laila took on the challenge. The puppy turned out to be a shih tzu named Cody, who is now 12 years old.

According to Lymon, the two would call weekly and talk about how to make TCC and “Meet a Panther” content better.

“I’m around a lot of people that do big things... It feels good knowing that I was able to help her get to [Streamer University],” said Lymon.

What’s next?
Streamer University is only one part of Laila Leigh’s plan. On her vision board, Leigh lives her dream life. Working at Complex. Interviewing celebrities. Maybe even a life as a TV host like her role model, Rocsi Diaz.

Laila Leigh lays her future in front of her. She prints out her goals, dreams and aspirations, pastes them onto a piece of cardboard and posts the vision board on a pink wall in her family’s house. Then, she turns the vision into a reality.

Aftermarket Auto Parts Breathe New Life into Older Cars

By BlackPress
USA NewsWire
From giving owners the opportunity to solve obsolescence issues related to discontinued parts to providing them with cost-effective repairs, these are some of the primary ways aftermarket auto parts breathe life into older or broken-down vehicles. They also offer upgrades that help boost vehicle reliability, comfort, and performance.

With those benefits, it’s no wonder the aftermarket car parts industry is an economic powerhouse. A report from Mordor Intelligence shows that in the United States alone, the market’s estimated size was \$238.75 billion in 2026, a figure it projects to grow to \$292.27 billion by 2031.

What Are Aftermarket Auto Parts?

Aftermarket automotive parts are accessory or replacement parts made by a third-party company, not the vehicle’s or part’s original equipment manufacturer (OEM). As they’re often widely available and more affordable, many consumers use them as an alternative to dealer-carried OEM parts.

Indeed, automotive aftermarket industry newsletter AftermarketMatters.com reported on the recent survey, “Automotive Aftermarket Pulse 2025,” which found that 57% of consumers now prefer independent aftermarket parts over OEM ones.

Are OEM Parts Still Better Than Aftermarket Auto Parts?

The primary difference between OEM and aftermarket performance parts or replacement components is that the former is the official recommendation of the company that made the vehicle. They’re usually the same parts originally installed in the car when it first rolled off the assembly line.

Still, OEM parts are not always better than high-quality aftermarket automotive products. Some aftermarket parts can have the same quality as high-performance parts manufactured by the OEM.

You can even sometimes find aftermarket parts identical to the OEM ones, with the components coming off the same assembly line. In this case, the supplier sells the OEM part in an aftermarket box for much less than the one labeled “Genuine” OEM.

How Do Aftermarket Auto Parts Breathe New Life Into Older Cars?

Whether you wish to restore a car with parts that have already become obsolete or you just



want to extend the life of your current ride due to budgetary reasons, aftermarket auto parts can help. They can even aid in making cars more reliable, comfortable, and better-performing.

Solving Obsolescence Issues
Automakers usually stop manufacturing parts for discontinued models after several years, depending on warranty obligations and market demand. If you have an old car you want to fix or restore but can’t due to obsolescence concerns, consider looking into aftermarket parts.

Aftermarket part makers often step in to bridge inventory gaps, even for discontinued models.

Providing Cost-Effective Repairs
Regardless of the car repairs you need, you’ll most likely find the aftermarket auto body parts, engine components, or suspension pieces you require. Not only are they more widely available, but they’re also typically cheaper than OEM parts.

As Diesel World Magazine points out, the price of OEM parts can be 50% to 100% higher than aftermarket ones.

With aftermarket parts being your ticket to more cost-effective repairs, you can use them to your advantage and breathe new life into your ride. With high-quality, properly installed aftermarket

components, you can make your vehicle roadworthy again for less than what you’d otherwise pay if you went with all OEM replacement parts.

Offering Valuable Reliability, Comfort, and Performance Upgrades

If your car is a base or lower-level trim, it may have parts made of basic or lower-end materials (e.g., hard plastics or fewer grease fittings in suspension parts). Replacing these with aftermarket parts made of upgraded materials can help slow down wear and tear or fix known defects.

You can, for example, swap out plastic parts with metal components or get suspension parts with more grease fittings.

Many aftermarket part makers also make products designed to meet, even exceed, modern creature comforts and are compatible with older cars. You can fit a vintage car, for instance, with a modern, aftermarket infotainment system and even an upgraded air conditioning and heating unit.

Many aftermarket auto parts also offer performance upgrades, allowing car owners to change the dynamics of their older car completely.

Adding heavy-duty suspensions and upgrading to electronic fuel injection are two examples of popular enhancements. You can also install modern,

energy-efficient LED headlights inside vintage housings.

Frequently Asked Questions
Are There Any Disadvantages to Aftermarket Automotive Parts?

While aftermarket car parts have many notable advantages like cost-effectiveness and wide availability, they’re not perfect and can present several drawbacks. One of these is incorrect fitment.

Since aftermarket parts offer a “universal” fit, they don’t always have the same dimension tolerances as their OEM counterparts. Buying these ill-fitting components can lead to installation headaches or incorrect alignment, both of which can cause issues with handling and tire wear.

Inconsistent quality is another issue car owners should be aware of when buying aftermarket car parts. While many brands make products that exceed original specifications, the cheapest or lowest-budget options may sometimes cut corners.

Such parts can wear and tear much faster and fail early.

How Can You Ensure the Quality of the Aftermarket Car Parts You Buy?

Always do your due diligence when buying aftermarket car parts, which involves careful research of each of your prospective makers/suppliers. Look for third-party quality certifications, such as from the Certified Automotive Parts Association (CAPA).

CAPA is one of the leading certifying organizations within the aftermarket automotive parts industry. It provides testing to verify and ensure aftermarket parts are functionally equivalent to their OEM counterparts.

You should also consider sticking to reputable manufacturers known for their superb engineering. Highly reputable brands usually make hefty investments in their research and development processes, sometimes even manufacturing parts that they supply straight to automakers.

Don’t forget to read verified reviews. They can give you a way to gauge real-world experiences regarding proper fit and part longevity.

Restore Your Car’s Glory With Aftermarket Auto Parts

Properly installed, high-quality aftermarket auto parts can help make your ride roadworthy again by giving you access to more cost-effective replacement parts, even discontinued ones. They can even make your car better by providing reliability, comfort, and performance upgrades.

She Is Me — You Are Your First Love Story

By Sherilyn Smith
Black Press USA Wire
There is something beautiful about women who love deeply.

We are the women who answer late night phone calls, sit in hospital rooms, pray for our friends’ children, celebrate others while quietly carrying our own burdens, and somehow find a way to pour from cups that have been empty for quite some time.

We love hard.



Sometimes too hard.
We become the safe place for everyone else while forgetting that we, too, need somewhere safe to land.

Emotional intelligence teaches us that loving others is a gift, but understanding ourselves is wisdom. It is having the ability to extend both our hearts and our heads to provide care, guidance, support, and compassion while also recognizing when we are neglecting ourselves in the process.

How many times have you encouraged a friend

to rest while running yourself into exhaustion?

How many times have you reminded someone of their worth while questioning your own?

How many times have you shown patience, commitment, grace, and unconditional love to others but withheld those very same things from yourself?

She Is Me because every woman has been there. We have all loved family members who did not fully understand us. We have stood beside friends through storms and remained loyal even when life became difficult. We have loved mates with every fiber of our being, often placing their needs before our own.

But somewhere along the way, many of us learned how to become everything for everybody and very little for ourselves.

The truth is this:
You deserve the same care that you freely give.
You deserve the same concern that you offer others.

You deserve the same commitment that you extend to everyone else.
And most importantly, you deserve your own constant love.

Loving yourself is not selfish. It is necessary. It is setting healthy boundaries without guilt. It is allowing yourself to rest. It is forgiving yourself for mistakes. It is choosing peace over performance. It is looking in the mirror and saying, “I matter too.”

Because if we are honest, some of us have spent years making sure everyone else was okay while silently breaking ourselves apart.

A healthy love for self teaches people how to love us. It reminds us that our value is not based on

what we do for others but simply on who we are.

Before you can fully love your family, your friends, or your mate, you must first know how to love yourself.

Not the polished version.
Not the strong version.
Not the version that always has it together.
But the woman who cries in private, who is still healing, who sometimes gets tired, who needs reassurance, who longs to be chosen, too.

Love her.
Care for her.
Speak kindly to her.
Protect her peace.
Be patient with her growth.
Commit to her healing.
And never abandon her.

Because the relationship you have with yourself sets the tone for every other relationship in your life.
Dear Me, continue being kind. Continue loving deeply. Continue being a safe place for those you hold dear.

But do not forget to become that safe place for yourself.

You cannot continually pour into others while denying yourself water.

She Is Me because she finally understands that loving herself does not take away from the love she gives others.....it multiplies it.

And perhaps one of the greatest acts of emotional intelligence is realizing this simple truth:
Love yourself first.

Then love others from the overflow.
We Will Be Well.

By: Sherilyn Smith
Follow me on Instagram @ShelsMeOrg

Political Playback:

California Capitol News You Might Have Missed

By Bo Tefu
California Black Media



Asm. Lori Wilson (D-Suisun City)

Love From the Legislature: Assemblymember Lori Wilson Turns 50 With Bipartisan Birthday Surprise

On July 17, Assemblymember Lori D. Wilson (D-Suisun City), chair of the Assembly Transportation Committee and a member of the California Legislative Black Caucus, turned 50.

To celebrate the occasion, Assemblymember Anamarie Avila Fariás (D-Martinez) and Stephanie Nguyen (D-Elk Grove) organized a birthday bash for Wilson at the Capitol and arranged a video recording with birthday best wishes from a range of her Legislative colleagues from both sides of the aisle and staffers.

“I hope you’re feeling the love from the legislature, Lori, and I’m so honored to be able to serve with you and have you as my seatmate,” said Ávila Fariás in the video message. “You’re an amazing human being and I feel so privileged to be able to celebrate a huge milestone as you turn 50. Happy birthday.”

Assemblymember Corey Jackson (D-Moreno Valley), a member of the CLBC, said, “Happy Birthday, Lori. Thanks for what you stand for and all the work that you’ve done in the legislature.”

“You are a rock star,” said Assemblymember David J. Tangipa (R-Fresno). Happy, happy, birthday and have a great one.”

“Hugest of happiest birthdays of all time dear Lori. You are such a ray of sunshine in the legislature, you are an adult in the room, you are a badass warrior, and we love you and appreciate you,” said Assemblymember Buffy Hicks (D-Oakland).

“Wishing you a very happy 50th birthday, Lori. You are an amazing woman and there’s so much more to come for you,” said Assemblymember LaShae Sharp-Collins (D-San Diego), a member of the CLBC.

Assemblymember Sade Elhawaray, a member of the CLBC, said,

“Lori, we are so happy that you are the fearless queen that you are. Happy 50th. Enjoy. You deserve it.”

“Happy birthday. I believe you’re an amazing individual an amazing person and I love your housing policies so thank you, and again, happy birthday. Have some fun today,” said Carl DeMaio (R-San Diego).

“There’s a saying that when you become older you become wiser, but I want to say that you’re already there,” said Assemblymember Rhodesia Ransom (D-Stockton).

Starting This Summer, California Car Buyers Can Get an Instant \$3500 Off the Cost of Electric Vehicles

California residents purchasing their first zero-emission vehicle will soon be eligible for an instant rebate of up to \$3,500 under a new state program aimed at making electric vehicles more affordable.

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill (SB) 168 on July 16, creating the MyFirstEV program as part of California’s 2026-27 state budget. The initiative dedicates \$135.5 million in state funding for point-of-sale rebates, which participating automakers will match dollar for dollar. State officials said the combined investment will provide \$270 million in savings for first-time electric vehicle buyers.

Beginning later this summer, eligible Californians can receive a \$3,500 rebate on new zero-emission vehicles with a manufacturer’s suggested retail price of up to \$50,000. Buyers purchasing qualifying used electric vehicles priced at up to \$25,000 can receive a \$1,750 rebate.



Shutterstock

The rebate will be applied directly at participating dealerships, allowing buyers to receive the discount immediately instead of waiting for reimbursement.

“With our new instant rebate program for electric vehicles, we’re making it easier for families to drive clean, breathe clean, and keep more money in their pockets,” Newsom said in a statement.

The MyFirstEV program is part of a broader \$600 million investment in California’s clean transportation economy included in the state budget. The funding package also provides \$150 million for the Community Air Protection Program, \$19.8 million for the Clean Cars 4 All program for lower-income residents, \$35 million for clean off-road equipment through the Air Quality Improvement Program, \$135.5 million for the Clean Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project, and \$130 million for the Carl Moyer Program to replace older heavy-duty engines with cleaner alternatives.

According to the governor’s office, the transportation investments are funded through Cap-and-Invest revenue and smog-abatement fees while maintaining a balanced state budget.

California continues to expand its zero-emission transportation network. The state surpassed 2.5 million cumulative zero-emission vehicle sales earlier this year, exceeding its original goal of 1.5 million sales by 2025. Officials also reported that California has more than 200,000 public and shared electric vehicle charging plugs statewide, in addition to an estimated 800,000 home charging stations.

Gov. Newsom Signs New Affordable Housing Legislation

Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed new legislation aimed at expanding affordable housing, reducing construction costs and speeding up housing development across California as part of the state’s 2026-27 budget.

Assembly Bill (AB) 179, signed July 17, modernizes California’s affordable housing finance system by streamlining project approvals, expanding funding for housing programs and creating new financing tools for homeowners rebuilding after disasters. State officials said the measure is intended to help increase housing production while strengthening efforts to address the state’s housing affordability and homelessness challenges.

The legislation introduces a new “One-Stop-Shop” financing system designed to reduce duplicative reviews and accelerate affordable housing projects. According to the governor’s office, the reforms are expected to lower construction costs by an estimated \$60,000 to \$70,000 per affordable housing unit, allowing existing state investments to finance more homes.

“When I took office in 2019, my goal was clear: to reverse decades of inaction on housing and homelessness and ensure there was enough housing and care for people to leave the streets,” Newsom said in a statement. “I’m grateful for the Legislature’s partnership, as together we add to this proven foundation with new laws that cut red tape, expand financing opportunities, and help communities build housing faster.”

The measure also establishes a \$100 million Disaster Rebuilding Fund to help homeowners repair or reconstruct homes damaged by disasters. In addition, the budget includes \$900 million for another round of Housing, Homelessness Assistance and Prevention grants while adding new

accountability requirements for certain cities and counties receiving state funding.

To support affordable housing development, the budget provides \$500 million in enhanced state low-income housing tax credits and \$200 million for the Multifamily Housing Program to build and preserve affordable rental housing for low-income Californians.

According to the governor’s office, California has made progress in increasing housing production since 2019. Annual residential construction has risen by 59%, from about 70,000 homes in 2018 to approximately 111,000 in 2024. The administration also reported that more than 682,000 homes have been built statewide during that period and that the average time from development application to entitlement has dropped from 160 days to 68 days.

State officials also highlighted recent declines in homelessness, including what they described as the state’s largest reduction in unsheltered homelessness in 16 years.

From 15% to 60% of Drivers: California Expands Digital License Program

California is significantly expanding access to mobile driver’s licenses after Gov. Gavin Newsom signed legislation increasing participation in the state’s digital identification program while modernizing Department of Motor Vehicles operations.

Senate Bill 169 raises the participation cap for California’s Mobile Driver License Pilot Program from 15% to 60% of the state’s licensed drivers, allowing millions more residents to obtain a secure digital driver’s license on their smartphones. The measure, signed as part of the 2026-27 state budget, also streamlines DMV operations by reducing paperwork, updating customer communications and cutting administrative costs.

The expanded mobile driver’s license program is one of several changes included in the legislation. The bill eliminates certain mailed notices, ends the requirement to print physical driver’s handbooks and modernizes how the DMV communicates with customers about license renewals. State officials said the changes are intended to improve efficiency while making DMV services more accessible.

California Transportation Secretary Toks Omishakin said the legislation reflects the state’s continued investment in improving public services.

“California continues to lead the way by making government services more accessible and efficient,” said Omishakin.

The legislation also extends relief for transit operators and includes provisions to help prepare California’s highway system for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

According to the governor’s office, the DMV has expanded digital services since Newsom launched the DMV Reinvention Strike Team in 2019. More than 90% of DMV transactions are now available online, reducing transaction times by two-thirds. State officials estimate the agency’s shift to digital services could eliminate approximately 2.4 million office visits annually.

The mobile driver’s license program launched in August 2023, and more than 3.5 million Californians have already applied for a digital ID. The administration said the program includes privacy and security protections while giving residents a convenient way to carry and present identification.

State officials said the legislation continues California’s effort to modernize government services by expanding secure digital tools and improving access to DMV services statewide.

One Less Spark: California Launches Wildfire Prevention Awareness Campaign

California has launched a statewide public awareness campaign urging residents to take steps to prevent human-caused wildfires as hotter temperatures and drier conditions increase fire danger across the state.

Governor Gavin Newsom announced the 2026 ‘One Less Spark’ campaign July 15, saying the initiative is designed to educate Californians about wildfire prevention through safe vehicle operation, equipment use and outdoor activities. The campaign comes as California enters a period of elevated wildfire risk and builds on the state’s broader wildfire preparedness efforts.

State officials estimate that human activity causes about 95% of wildfires in California. The campaign includes paid advertising on digital platforms, radio stations and billboards in State Responsibility Areas throughout Northern and Southern California. CAL FIRE has also developed a public toolkit with educational materials and social media resources that local governments, fire departments and community organizations can use to promote wildfire prevention.

“One less spark means one less wildfire, and every Californian can play a role in preventing them,” said Newsom. “We’re asking all residents to take prevention steps seriously. Combined with the strongest wildfire readiness and response system in the country, this is how we keep our communities safe.”

CAL FIRE Director and Fire Chief Joe Tyler said reducing the number of human-caused fires requires public awareness and individual responsibility.

“CAL FIRE is committed to helping Californians understand that one less spark means one less wildfire,” said Tyler. “As a state, we must work together to reduce the number of wildfires started each year by changing behaviors, increasing awareness, and taking simple actions that prevent ignitions.”

The campaign encourages residents to mow lawns before 10 a.m., secure trailer chains to prevent sparks, obtain permits before burning debris, avoid parking vehicles on dry grass and use power tools carefully near dry vegetation.

According to the governor’s office, California has accelerated more than 400 wildfire prevention projects covering nearly 100,000 acres following an emergency proclamation on wildfire-prone forests. The state has also made more than \$100 million available this year for wildfire prevention grants, including funding for community-led projects and forest resilience efforts.

State officials said CAL FIRE’s workforce has grown from 5,829 positions in 2019 to more than 11,400 positions. The agency has also expanded its use of technology, including AI-powered wildfire detection systems, drones, satellite monitoring and advanced fire mapping tools to improve emergency response.

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Local



Some of the attendees at the It Hurts to Heal Conference for Men (Photo Credit: Cecil Egbele)



Attendees place their hands over each other's shoulder as they reflect on the lyrics of the song "The Strong Don't Get a Break" by Xania Monet (Photo Credit: Cecil Egbele)

'It Hurts to Heal': Bakersfield Men Gather to Break the Silence Around Masculinity and Mental Health

By Cecil Egbele
Contributing Writer | California Local News Fellow
Nearly two dozen men from diverse backgrounds gathered Friday at Hodel's Country Dining in Bakersfield for the inaugural It Hurts to Heal: The Brotherhood Experience, part of a local effort to encourage men to talk openly about mental health and seek support before reaching a crisis.

The event was organized by InspireMe Counseling & Wellness Center and It Hurts to Heal, LLC, a community organization focused on promoting emotional healing through conferences, workshops, and public conversations in Bakersfield. Research says men are less likely to seek therapy because of cultural expectations around masculinity.

While women make up nearly two-thirds of Medi-Cal mental health service users in Kern Health Systems, men account for just over one-third. At the same time, men in Kern County die by suicide at more than three times the rate of women. These statistics highlight the importance of efforts like the It Hurts to Heal effort to encourage men to seek support.

Over the course of three hours, licensed professionals led attendees through exercises and lectures meant to connect men with resources and support.

The evening opened with an intimate, raw exercise that immediately dismantled pretense.

Attendees were asked to write anonymously on index cards—on one side, how they present themselves to the world, and on the other, the unspoken burdens they carry around. As Dr. Niesha Davis-Massey, a clinical therapist and founder of InspireMe Counseling & Wellness Center, read the responses aloud, the stark contrast between public perception and private pain filled the room.

While men wrote that they present as "calm, happy, confident, and put-together," the flip side revealed a crushing reality: "fear, self-doubt, financial pressure, imposter syndrome, grief, guilt, gambling struggles, and feeling expendable or replaceable."



Dr. Niesha Davis-Massey, convener of the event and founder of InspireMe Counseling & Wellness Center 2 (Photo Credit: Cecil Egbele)

"Do you all hear the commonalities in here?" she asked. "One of the things I noticed for guys is that you feel like you have to do this by yourself, and you feel like you have to carry this alone, because you have to be the man."

That exercise set the tone for the night, but the message really landed during "The Strong Don't Get a Break" by Xania Monet. Men reached over and put a hand on the shoulder of the guy next to them. The song played over the room, creating a vulnerable atmosphere. The lyrics made one thing clear: You don't have to hold everything up by yourself. You're allowed to put it down.

Licensed Clinical Social Worker Theodore Richard addressed the clinical presentation of depression in men, noting how emotional pain frequently masks itself as irritability, chronic physical aches, hyperfixation on work, or substance misuse. He tackled the deep-seated cultural mistrust toward the medical field and the generational myths surrounding therapy, encouraging men to dismantle the expectation of having to "tough it out alone."

Keynote speaker Javon Kemp, a licensed professional clinical counselor, built his talk around a single image: the scar. He used physical injuries to illustrate psychological trauma. Kemp told the room about the television that fell on him as a

toddler, the gravel that tore open his knee at age 10, wounds whose pain faded but the marks remained. Emotional wounds, he said, work much the same way.

"The wounds are not to define us. The wounds are not to hinder us, but they are a part of our story," Kemp shared. "You can't always cover up the wound—you have to let it breathe. If you smother it under a Band-Aid forever, it gets infected. We have to expose it, give it air, and allow it to become a part of our overall story."

He engaged the room to name what they still carry. One man described feeling overlooked and constantly uprooted as a child, never asked what he wanted. Another traced a wound back to his parents' divorce at age five, and his fear of repeating it in his own marriage. A third described his mother's addiction after his parents separated, and the resentment he still wrestles with. A fourth shared the pain of being abandoned by his wife while raising children alone.

Kemp acknowledged their openness and said that healing is a process requiring time, intention, and honesty.

Complementing Richard, therapist Greg Ragle broke down the concept of "healthy masculinity," contrasting emotional suppression with emotional intelligence. "True strength is not the absence of emotion, but the ability to acknowledge emotions, regulate behaviors, and build healthy relationships," Ragle emphasized. He reminded attendees that showing humility, setting boundaries, and engaging in self-care are essential expressions of a mature, grounded man.

Injecting humor into the heavy conversations, comedian DeMar "DJ" Johnson joked about marriage, fatherhood, and the everyday pressures of manhood.

For the men in attendance, the event provided relief in knowing they don't have to be picture-perfect all the time.

Jaubrae Dixon, founder and CEO of



Javon Kemp, the keynote speaker and licensed clinical counselor speaks on "the scar" as a metaphor for psychological healing (Photo Credit: Cecil Egbele)

C.H.A.N.G.E.S., noted how crucial it is for men in Bakersfield to be proactive about their mental health. "We want to feel like we have it all together, but sitting in a space like this allows us to see that we don't, and that it's okay," Dixon reflected. "I'm walking out knowing I don't have to carry the mask anymore."

Similarly, Braden Gordon, a local youth case manager and graduate student in psychology, highlighted the evening's core takeaway: "Our wounds aren't us. They don't define us; they're a part of our story, and it's not the end. We accept them, deal with them, heal them the correct way, and keep moving forward."

As the inaugural brotherhood experience ended, Davis-Massey believed the success of the night isn't measured in crowd size, but in lives changed.

"If one person leaves with a message that provokes them to start their healing journey or change their life, that is success," Davis-Massey said. "You are not a burden. You are not alone. And you matter more than what you give away."

Davis-Massey said she is already planning the third annual It Hurts to Heal conference for women, and hinted that the brotherhood gathering will return.

IN MEMORIAM: D.C. Mourns Vernon Hawkins, Organizer Who Helped Shape Five Decades of Black Civic Life

By Stacy M. Brown
Black Press USA Wire

For more than half a century, Vernon Hawkins helped shape Washington in ways that often escaped public attention but touched nearly every major political, civic and civil rights effort in the nation's capital.

Hawkins, a veteran organizer, public servant and longtime advocate for Black Washington, died July 2 at the age of 87. Friends, elected officials, clergy and community leaders remember him as one of the city's most influential behind-the-scenes strategists, a man whose counsel was sought across generations and whose commitment to improving the lives of Black residents never wavered.

"Vernon was, certainly a brother with max organizing skills," Charles Stephenson, former director of legislative affairs at the U.S. House of Representatives, stated in a social media post. "His fingerprints are on all major events that occurred in D.C. over the last 50 years. He is a respected brother for his dedication to improve the lives of Black people. His legacy will live forever. My sincere condolences to his family and friends. Rest in Power Vernon!"

Hawkins was born June 6, 1939.

While many Washingtonians knew him through Union Temple Baptist Church or his decades of political involvement, his public service stretched back to the height of the civil rights movement.

In 1963, he worked for the National Committee for Children and Youth, where he designed and operated an education and work release program for young people sentenced under the Youth Act of 1962. The initiative helped youthful offenders earn college degrees and secure employment, offering opportunities at a time when rehabilitation

programs were still uncommon.

His civil rights work also extended beyond the District. Working alongside the NAACP, Hawkins established voter registration programs in 12 states, contributing to efforts that expanded Black political participation during one of the nation's most consequential periods of social change.

His commitment to second chances continued throughout his career. Hawkins designed the District of Columbia Department of Corrections' first work release program for misdemeanor offenders before moving to the Department of Rehabilitation Services, where he focused on mental health services and employment training for people with disabilities.

He later directed programs serving homeless families, welfare recipients and youth offenders and eventually led the D.C. Department of Human Services, overseeing five agencies responsible for mental health, rehabilitation, social services and physical health programs.

His work also reached women preparing to return to their communities after incarceration. Hawkins developed a 12-step drug treatment program for women nearing release from the D.C. Department of Corrections.

Through Union Temple Baptist Church, he later designed employment training programs for mothers receiving public assistance and people living with HIV.

Outside government, Hawkins became known as one of Washington's most trusted organizers.

He served as the District coordinator for the Civil Rights March on Washington and developed a reputation as the person political leaders, clergy and activists called when they needed coalitions built, neighborhoods organized or complicated initiatives brought together.

Friends say his influence extended across mayoral administrations, neighborhood organizations, churches, advocacy groups and political campaigns, even if his name rarely appeared in headlines.

"There was no meaningful political work done in Washington, D.C., over the last 50 years without his leadership and input," longtime friends said in remembering Hawkins.

Throughout his lifetime, Hawkins earned numerous honors for public service, including the National Rehabilitation Association's E.B. Whitten Silver Medallion Award, the organization's highest service recognition.

Yet those closest to him say awards never defined his work.

Instead, they point to decades spent mentoring younger leaders, building organizations, opening doors for people who had been overlooked and remaining committed to strengthening Black communities across the District.

Margaret A. Moore, retired visiting associate professor at the University of the District of Columbia, said Hawkins' greatest impact was often measured not by public recognition but by the lives he changed.

"My heart and deepest condolences go out to the family of Vernon," Moore declared. "Though considered an outsider by many in D.C., Vernon embraced me as family, introduced me to Union Temple Baptist Church and the teachings of Rev. Wilson. He stood by me during some of the most challenging times of my professional career. I will forever remember my brother, friend and counselor. Rest in peace Vernon."

All services honoring Hawkins' life will take place at Union Temple Baptist Church, 1225 W Street SE, Washington, D.C., including a visitation

on Wednesday, July 15, from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m.; a viewing Thursday, July 16, at 9:30 a.m., followed by a funeral at 11 a.m.



People across the District are remembering Vernon Hawkins, an organizer, public servant and longtime advocate for Black Washington, who died on July 2. He was 87. (Courtesy photo) — (Courtesy photo)

Surveillance Pricing Fight: State Senate Debates Bill Banning Retailers From Using AI to Set Prices Based on a Buyer's Profile

By Antonio Ray Harvey
California Black Media

Surveillance pricing—the algorithmic practice of using personal data to determine individualized costs for goods and services—is widespread in California, according to Assemblymember Chris Ward (D-San Diego). He warns that this system is actively impacting consumers across the state, and Black Californians could be specifically targeted.

Ward's Assembly Bill (AB) 2564, the Surveillance Pricing Act, aims to prohibit businesses from using this practice.

"Surveillance pricing is a growing phenomenon that a lot of people don't realize is already happening," Ward told California Black Media (CBM) at the State Capitol on June 29. "This has been going on for several years where large corporations are getting your information from cell phones, home computers, and basically, those data points about who you are as an individual."

Ward aims to ban this practice, which is already widely used by large retailers, grocers, and service providers.

On June 22, the bill passed out of the Senate Privacy, Digital Technologies, and Consumer Protection Committee with a 5-2 vote and was re-referred to the Committee on Judiciary for consideration. On May 27, the Assembly voted to advance AB 2564 with a 42-21 vote.

Currently, there is no precise public data quantifying how many Black residents in California are actively affected by surveillance pricing. However,

because the practice leans heavily on ZIP codes and localized demographic tracking, algorithmic pricing models frequently result in higher costs for Black and non-white communities compared to others, according to the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), a leading nonprofit organization defending civil liberties in the digital space.

"I want to make sure everyone is treated equally. Just because you live in a community that may have fewer resources or options to shop doesn't mean that you have to be paying higher prices because you're held captive," Ward said. "They know this about you, and they can hold you captive. That's where we hold corporations accountable."

Justin Brookman, a public-interest lawyer, supports AB 2564. His organization is an official sponsor of the bill. He advocates on behalf of Consumer Reports, where he serves as the director of Technology Policy.

"We found that people shopping for the exact same item at the exact same time, and the exact same store, were getting different prices. In some cases, up to 23% higher," Brookman said. "So, one person looking at a jar of Skippy peanut butter, it was \$2.99. Another person, same exact time, it was \$3.69. Over time, those sorts of variations add up."

AB 2564 is primarily opposed by a coalition of corporations and technology industry associations. They argue that the bill's language is overly broad, outlaws common consumer-friendly discounts, and creates costly litigation risks for small businesses.

Chamber of Progress – a tech industry association that lobbies for public policies that expand digital commerce and technological advances – says that banning data-driven personalization would wipe away targeted digital coupons that families count on to prolong their budgets.

In a March 18 written letter to the Assembly Committee on Privacy and Consumer Protection, Robert Singleton, senior director of Policy and Public Affairs for California and the U.S. West at the Chamber of Progress, urged the body to oppose AB 2564.

"We share the legislature's concern about affordability," Singleton wrote. "The cost of living is the top issue facing American families, and we understand the impulse to ensure consumers are getting a fair deal. But this bill risks backfiring on the families it aims to help."

While proponents argue the bill protects consumers from predatory pricing, Assemblymember Diane Dixon (R-Newport Beach) argues that AB 2564 creates an anti-business environment.

Dixon, who serves on the Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee, contends that the legislation will expose California businesses to a bombardment of costly class-action lawsuits, causing companies to exit the state.

"It's mind-boggling. I mean, this is just giving more attorneys the right to have class-action lawsuits against businesses in California, one after another," Dixon said. "That's what we sit here and look at day after day. And this is why business leaves

California."

Ward said AB 2564 is not a bill that is meant to "engender a whole barrage of lawsuits" that will target potential small businesses.

Assemblymember Lori Wilson (D-Suisun City) supported and voted in favor of the bill in the Assembly on May 27, but she still has questions about a "litigation risk" that could be costly.

"Every business or retailer that is spending their time battling courts are spending resources which drives the cost up for everyone,"

said Wilson, a member of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC).

Other states, including Arizona, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, and Vermont, have considered similar legislation, Ward told CBM.

Ward says he would rather the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) take up the fight, but vows to hold the line because he does not expect it to.

Ward says the Trump Administration has refrained from aggressive federal oversight of artificial intelligence (AI). The agency has also backed away from the previous administration's efforts to regulate or investigate the practice.

"At some point, you have to stand up for the people and say, 'enough is enough,'" he said.