



Can 'A Different World' Sequel Change Lives Like the Original Series?

- Page A3



Doulas Are Helping Black California Moms Navigate Pregnancy

- Page A10

Bakersfield News Observer

Volume 53, Number 4

Observer Group Newspapers of Southern California

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Pension Bill Rallies First Responders, Raises Cost Concerns

By Antonio Ray Harvey
California Black Media

About 500 California public safety workers gathered at the State Capitol on Sept. 14 to urge Gov. Gavin Newsom to sign legislation that would allow enhanced retirement benefits for certain first responders.

Authored by Assemblymember Tina McKinnor (D-Inglewood), Assembly Bill (AB) 1383 would modify public employee retirement benefits by changing several cost-containment provisions established under the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act, or PEPRA, which took effect in 2013. Newsom has until Sept. 30 to sign or veto the bill.

Anthony Gamble, a Sacramento Police Department public information officer and media lead, said at the rally that he supports AB 1383 because it would expand retirement benefits. The measure would lower from 57 to 55 the age at which qualifying public safety employees could receive the maximum benefit under certain pension formulas.

"For those of us who do the work, AB 1383 is much more than just retirement. It's about a future of public safety in California," said Gamble, a director of the Sacramento Police Officers Association. "It creates a more sustainable career path for public safety professionals while giving local governments and labor organizations the ability to negotiate retirement benefits that make sense for the individual communities."

First responders and labor organizations, including California Professional Firefighters and the Peace Officers Research Association of California, argue that the bill is an essential investment in the state's public safety workforce.

AB 1383 would establish new pension formulas for public safety employees first hired on or after Jan. 1, 2027. It would also allow unions and government employers to negotiate prospective pension increases of up to 3% of an employee's final compensation for each year of service at age 55. The current maximum formula under PEPRA is 2.7% at age 57.

Labor groups say the changes would help address recruitment and retention challenges as interest in first responder careers has declined.

At a June 24 hearing of the Senate Labor,



Anthony Gamble waited to speak at the event, where he urged Gov. Gavin Newsom to sign Assembly Bill 1383, legislation that would lower the retirement age for certain public safety employees and make other changes to pension benefits. Gamble, a Sacramento police officer and director of the Sacramento Police Officers Association (SPOA), emphasized the high-stress and dangerous nature of public safety careers and said retirement benefits are important for recruiting and retaining police officers and firefighters who may spend 25 to 30 years on the job. CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey

Public Employment and Retirement Committee, McKinnor argued that stronger retirement benefits are necessary to help public agencies remain competitive and attract new talent. The bill would also allow employers and unions to negotiate pension formulas and cost-sharing arrangements.

"AB 1383 does not grant retroactive retirement benefit increases or pension holidays, and it does

not change other necessary and appropriate PEPRA guardrails," McKinnor said. "AB 1383 only applies prospectively, recognizing the ongoing challenges and dedication of our firefighters, police, and the unique challenges and risk associated with a career as a first responder."

Continued on page A2

Election Watch 2026: 85% of Eligible Voters in California Are Registered

By Bo Tefu
California Black Media | Oakland Post

California enters the 2026 election cycle with a large pool of registered voters, as 85% of eligible adults were registered to vote as of May, according to a new report from the Public Policy Institute of California.

The report found that 23.2 million of California's 27.3 million eligible adults were registered. Voter registration, political engagement and past voting habits will help shape turnout in the June statewide primary and November general election.

"Likely voters are registered voters who cast ballots regularly and are politically engaged," researchers Mark Baldassare, Dean Bonner, Lauren Mora, and Deja Thomas stated in the report.

California's likely voters generally lean Democratic. Democrats make up 46% of likely voters, while Republicans and independents make up the rest.

Independent voters could be an important group to watch during the 2026 election cycle. Independent likely voters are more likely to lean Democratic, although many do not favor either major party or remain unsure.



iStock.

The report found that likely voters do not fully reflect California's broader adult population. They tend to be older, more educated and more affluent.

Older Californians make up a larger share of likely voters, while younger adults are less likely to participate regularly in elections. Likely voters are also more likely to own their homes and have higher household incomes.

The racial makeup of the likely electorate differs from the state's overall adult population as well. White Californians are overrepresented among likely voters, while Latino residents make up a smaller share of likely voters than they do of the state's adult population. Black Californians make up 6% of likely voters, slightly less than their share of the state's total population.

The researchers said voter enthusiasm and past voting habits have played an important role in determining who participates in California elections.

At CBC Week, California Leaders Center Economic Power and Investment in Black Institutions

By Regina Wilson
California Black Media

"We have to lean into talking about money and economics, economic development."

U.S. Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D-CA-37) delivered that message as California leaders gathered in Washington, D.C., during Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Week for a conversation about economic power, strengthening Black institutions and investing in the people and organizations that serve Black communities.

"We cannot be ashamed," Kamlager-Dove said. "We've been ashamed to want to talk about money. We have been ashamed to not want to say it



California State Controller Malia Cohen sits with attendees during a discussion held during Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference week. Photo by Regina Wilson/California Black Media.

is important."

For families trying to pay for childcare, care for aging relatives, send children to college, cover rent or build savings, she said economic stability cannot be separated from conversations about Black progress.

The Sept. 17 gathering, "Rooted and Ready: Building the Coalition to Protect Black Futures," was presented by the Aya Education Coalition and Sierra Health Foundation during CBC week.

Sierra Health Foundation President and CEO Chet P. Hewitt said strengthening Black communities requires investing in institutions that

preserve Black history, culture and independent voices, including Black-owned media, bookstores and museums.

"The pathway to prosperity for Black people is not a service. It's an opportunity," Hewitt said.

He pointed to efforts supporting more than 100 Black bookstores as spaces for Black intellectuals, artists and creators, along with investments in Black newspapers and smaller Black museums that serve as repositories of history. His message was that Black communities need institutions with the resources to survive, grow and continue telling their own stories.

U.S. Rep. Lateefah Simon (D-CA-12) brought another perspective, drawing on her experience in philanthropy and organizing before entering Congress. Simon represents the East Bay district previously represented by Barbara Lee, who is now Mayor of Oakland.

Simon spoke about her experience serving in the CBC, acknowledging that its members do not always agree on policy while emphasizing the importance of Black leaders working collectively around shared concerns affecting Black communities.

She pointed to the California Black Freedom Fund as an example of building an institution intended to endure. Simon recalled working with Hewitt and other California philanthropic leaders in 2020, following the murder of George Floyd, when corporations and foundations announced major racial equity commitments.

Simon said they understood that the surge of attention and funding might not last. That concern helped drive the creation of the California Black Freedom Fund, which was designed to provide sustained resources to Black-led and Black-serving organizations beyond the immediate moment. Simon was among the fund's initial founders.

The conversation about strengthening Black institutions extended to California's Black educator pipeline.

According to materials distributed by the Aya Education Coalition, approximately 10,400 Black teachers worked in California public schools during the 2024-25 school year, representing 3.5% of the state's teacher population.

Dr. Shawn Ginwright said the challenge is not simply recruiting Black educators.

"We're not recruiting enough. We're not keeping enough either," he said.

Speakers discussed the roles Black educators often play as mentors and trusted adults, as well as

burnout and mental health challenges that can push educators out of the profession.

Dr. Colette Harris-Mathews, an Area 5 trustee for the Los Rios Community College District who attended the gathering, said the connection between economics, education and mental health stood out to her.

"People are traumatized by what they've experienced in education, what they've experienced post-COVID, what they're experiencing in terms of



U.S. Rep. Lateefah Simon joins Chet P. Hewitt, president and CEO of Sierra Health Foundation, and co-moderator Jalisa Evans of the AYA Education Coalition for a discussion during Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference week. Photo by Regina Wilson/CBM

racism and simply being under attack in terms of finances, too," Harris-Mathews said.

The panel brought together Kamlager-Dove; Simon; Hewitt; Ginwright of the Harvard Graduate School of Education; Randy Seriguchi Jr. of Akoben Organizing; and Jalisa Evans of the Aya Education Coalition.

The Aya Education Coalition is organizing around a 2030 goal to strengthen California's Black teacher pipeline and advance policies addressing recruitment, preparation, retention and support.

For the California leaders gathered in Washington, the message extended beyond education and basic economics. Speakers urged attendees to identify Black institutions at risk of disappearing and consider how their resources, relationships and economic power could help sustain them.

Detroit Family Says Wrong Woman Was Prepared For Mother's Funeral After Suspected Cremation Error

DETROIT — A Detroit family preparing to say goodbye to their mother was confronted with a devastating discovery when the body presented for her viewing was not hers.

The family of Kimberley Kaye Moore says they went to Hutchison Funeral Home ahead of her scheduled Sept. 18 viewing and found another woman dressed and prepared for the service. The discovery has raised the possibility that Moore's remains were mistakenly cremated before her family had the opportunity to see her.

Moore's children identified the apparent mix-up while preparing their mother for the viewing. Her daughter, Bianca Robinson, said she noticed a physical feature on the woman's foot that did not match her mother.

Robinson said that funeral home staff then suggested Moore may have been cremated after arriving at the facility alongside another woman. According to the family's account, staff attributed the confusion to an identification tag that may have become wet and fallen off.

That explanation has not been established as the definitive cause of the mix-up. Hutchison Funeral Home is investigating, and local reporting has confirmed that the facility has launched an internal review.

Joseph Hutchison Jr., the funeral home's vice president of operations, confirmed that the matter was under investigation. In a statement the funeral home said it was "heartbroken and deeply sorry" for what Moore's family had experienced and pledged to communicate with them during the review.

The situation became more tense as relatives gathered outside the funeral home. Detroit police were called to the location after the family protested.

The family had planned to hold Moore's viewing and funeral before cremating her remains afterward. Instead, they say they were left without the farewell they had arranged and without confirmation of where her remains were.

Moore's obituary lists her as Kimberley Kaye Moore, born Nov. 18, 1964, and died Sept. 3, 2026.

The family is now waiting for answers about how the apparent identification error occurred and what happened to Moore's remains. Until the funeral home completes its review, key questions remain unresolved, including whether Moore was mistakenly cremated and how another woman came to be prepared for her scheduled viewing.



Raz B attends the Los Angeles Premiere Of HBO's Documentary Film "United Skates", February 06, 2019 in Los Angeles, California. (Photo by Rodin Eckenroth/Getty Images)

Raz-B's Infant Son Showed No Signs of Trauma or Foul Play, Police Report Says

ATLANTA, GA — Police investigating the death of Raz-B and Mona Li's 3-month-old son found no obvious signs of trauma or foul play when officers responded to the family's Atlanta home, according to a newly released incident report.

Atlanta police responded to a "person down" call shortly after 8 a.m. on Sept. 8. Officers were directed to Astro Monte Thornton, who was unresponsive.

Emergency medical personnel arrived and pronounced the infant dead at the scene. The Atlanta Police Department's Homicide Unit and Crime Scene Unit were notified and responded to the home, according to the report.

Police obtained a search warrant and collected items investigators believed could have evidentiary value. Detectives noted, however, that there were no obvious signs of trauma or foul play.

Astro's body was transferred to the Fulton County Medical Examiner's Office. The office later confirmed that an autopsy had been completed, but his official cause and manner of death remain pending.

A spokesperson for Raz-B, whose legal name is De'Mario Thornton, and Mona Li announced Astro's death last week, describing his passing as unexpected.

The couple also share an older son, Versai Carter. Raz-B had posted family moments with Astro in the months after his birth, including a Father's Day photo with his children. In the statement announcing Astro's death, the family asked for privacy during this difficult time.

The newly released police report provides more details about the response at the family's home but does not establish what caused Astro's death. The medical examiner has not released a final determination, and investigators have not announced any evidence of criminal conduct.

World & Nation

Newsom Orders Oversight of AI Companies; Sen. Weber Pierson's AI Health Care Bias Bill Awaits His Action

By Antonio Ray Harvey
California Black Media

As artificial intelligence rapidly expands into health care and other high-stakes fields, Gov. Gavin Newsom issued an executive order Sept. 18 accelerating California's efforts to independently oversee AI companies and strengthen safety guardrails.

The order advances the development of an emergency shutdown mechanism, or "kill switch," for advanced frontier AI models and expedites independent safety audits. It also directs a newly formed group of global AI safety experts to submit a formal legal and technical roadmap by Nov. 16.

Newsom said the order was prompted by the federal government's resistance to regulating the industry and efforts to prevent states from enforcing their own AI regulations.

"We're not waiting to act. We're going to speed up our work on substantial and responsible AI oversight before it's too late," Newsom stated. "We're going to do this thoughtfully but with urgent velocity; the stakes are too high to wait or delay action."

The executive order is part of a broader effort by California State Government to keep regulations in step with the accelerating development and use of AI. Those efforts include legislation addressing independent audits, transparency and the potential for algorithms to perpetuate discrimination.

Among the measures awaiting Newsom's decision is Senate Bill 503, authored by Sen. Akilah Weber Pierson (D-San Diego). The bill would require AI developers and deployers to make reasonable efforts to identify, monitor and guard against unfair bias or prejudice in medical algorithms that affect patient care.

SB 503 passed the Assembly on Aug. 24 by a 70-1 vote. The Senate concurred in Assembly amendments the following day by a 39-0 vote. The measure, a priority of the California Legislative Black Caucus, was introduced during the first year of the 2025-2026 legislative session.

"This bill will ensure that AI tools are safe, fair and equitable," Weber Pierson said. "Especially in high-stakes health care settings, by specifically requiring AI technology used in healthcare facilities be identified if it supports clinical decision-making or healthcare resource allocation, ensuring such tools are mitigated for bias and requiring ongoing monitoring of those tools."

Weber Pierson, a physician, has emphasized that AI tools used in health care and medicine are not inherently neutral. She told the Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee in July that algorithms trained on historically biased medical data could reproduce or worsen the same disparities.

Because commercial health care algorithms frequently rely on existing data, Weber Pierson said,



AI systems could inherit unscientific and systemic assumptions, including the false premise that Black people naturally have lower lung capacity.

"In the analysis of this bill, there were multiple examples that pointed out how AI bias has impacted patient care directly or indirectly," she said. "Health care is an area where we should be striving to ensure that everyone is getting the best care and becoming the healthiest Californian that they can be, regardless of their race, gender, socioeconomic status."

Weber Pierson added, "Unfortunately, what we have seen in the past is that those biases have come into play. What you see with AI is that it is only as good as what kind of information has been placed

into the system initially. And, so, if biases have been placed in the system initially, then the outcomes will be biased."

Newsom has already signed other measures intended to strengthen California's AI oversight framework. Senate Bill 813, authored by Sen. Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton), establishes a network of trusted AI evaluators to help ensure advanced technologies are developed and deployed safely.

On Sept. 9, Newsom also signed Assembly Bill 1405, authored by Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda). The law establishes third-party auditing requirements and transparency standards intended to prevent conflicts of interest involving auditors and the technology companies they review.

Bauer-Kahan, an attorney and chair of the Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee, has focused much of her legislative work on algorithmic discrimination and ethical AI. Her committee vetted SB 503.

"I think the bill is really important. I mean, it covers all protected classes. So, it covers me as a woman who seeks health care as well," Bauer-Kahan said. "I know it's Black Caucus's priority (bill) because it's critically important to the Black community, but it's important to all protected classes."

Port of Oakland, Army Corps Sign Historic Harbor Design Agreement

By Carla Thomas
Oakland Post

A \$642 million project designed to accommodate larger cargo ships and strengthen the Port of Oakland's position as a major Pacific trade gateway moved a significant step closer to construction on Aug. 27.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) San Francisco District and the Port of Oakland commemorated the signing of the inaugural Design Agreement for the Oakland Harbor Turning Basins Widening Project during a ceremony aboard the USS Potomac, the presidential yacht once used by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The project will widen the Port's Inner and Outer Harbor turning basins, allowing today's increasingly larger and longer vessels more space to safely maneuver and turn around. The current basins are narrow, creating delays and operational inefficiencies.

Oakland Port Commission President Stephanie Dominguez Walton called the agreement a historic milestone that will support thousands of jobs.

"Today marks a historic occasion for the Port as we sign the inaugural Design Agreement for the Turning Basin Widening Project, which will keep Oakland competitive," said Walton.

The agreement advances the project into its preconstruction engineering and design phase following years of planning and collaboration.

Lt. Col. Virginia Brickner, commander of the USACE San Francisco District, said the signing represented tangible progress toward construction.

"We are moving forward. We are showing progress," Brickner said.

Major General Jason Kelly, USACE Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations, said dredging is critical for maritime dominance, supply chains, and economic

competitiveness.

"Dredging sustains our national economic infrastructure," he said. "The future demands more, the taxpayer deserves more, and together we're going to deliver."

For U.S. Representative Congresswoman Lateefah Simon (D-CA-12), the Port project will support jobs beyond its completion. "This will impact workers and businesses, and every shipping container represents multiple jobs."

Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee described Oakland as a gateway to international markets and spoke on earlier efforts to deepen Oakland's shipping channel to 50 feet. While serving in the California Legislature, Lee helped bring together labor, business, environmental advocates and Port officials to resolve disputes surrounding dredging and environmental protections.

"We want the Port to remain competitive economically," Lee said, excited about both protecting the environment and generating sustainable jobs in the region. "We want to make sure that we create good-paying union jobs, and that the Port continues to not just survive, but thrive."

Port of Oakland Executive Director Kristi McKenney said economic growth is dependent on investments in the Oakland Harbor's infrastructure.

"This investment and staying competitive will fuel our economy for years to come," said McKenney.



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) San Francisco District and the Port of Oakland commemorated the signing of the inaugural Design Agreement for the Oakland Harbor Turning Basins Widening Project during a ceremony aboard the USS Potomac at Jack London Square. (L-R) Major General Jason Kelly, USACE Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations, Oakland City Councilmember Carroll Fife D-3, Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee, Oakland Port Commission President Stephanie Dominguez Walton, Alameda Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, Port of Oakland Executive Director Kristi McKenney, U.S. Representative Congresswoman Lateefah Simon D-12, Lt. Col. Virginia Brickner, and commander of the USACE San Francisco District. Photo by Carla Thomas.

Bakersfield News Observer

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

Bulk Mailing Permit 724 Bakersfield, CA 93385

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Community Level Policy Is Impacting Homelessness and Drug Abuse in California

By Bo Tefu
California Black Media | Oakland Post

Local housing capacity, behavioral health services and criminal justice policies are playing a role in California's homelessness and drug crises, according to a new report examining how policy decisions have affected outcomes across the state.

The report compiled by the Public Policy Institute of California found that counties that added more permanent housing beds per capita saw larger decreases in homelessness, while areas with larger declines in incarceration following Proposition 47 saw greater increases in homelessness.

"Places that saw larger increases in permanent housing beds per capita saw larger decreases in the homelessness rate," researchers Magnus Lofstrom, Shannon McConville, and Sean Cremin stated in the report.

California's homelessness rate has increased more than 60% since 2014, with unsheltered homelessness driving most of the growth. The state had the sixth-highest overall homelessness rate and the second-highest unsheltered homelessness rate among states in 2025.

Researchers found that counties with higher rents tended to have higher homelessness rates. But they did not find a statistically significant relationship between changes in homelessness and changes in local housing markets, poverty or unemployment.

The report also examined Proposition 47, the 2014 ballot measure that reclassified some drug and property offenses from felonies to misdemeanors. Researchers estimate that the law contributed to a roughly 10% increase in California's unsheltered homelessness rate, equivalent to about 7,000 additional people experiencing unsheltered



homelessness between 2015 and 2019.

The researchers also estimated that Prop. 47 was associated with a 7% to 8% increase in serious drug use, measured through overdose deaths, hospitalizations and emergency department visits. Drug treatment admissions fell by roughly 20%, largely because of fewer referrals from courts and criminal justice agencies.

"Our findings suggest that Prop 47 likely did contribute to rising rates of homelessness and drug overdoses, as well as declines in drug treatment," the researchers stated.

The report cautions that the relationship between homelessness, drug use and criminal justice policy is complex. Researchers found no consistent evidence that California's 2011 public safety realignment or pandemic-era reductions in

incarceration affected homelessness or drug use.

They also emphasized the role of the criminal justice system in connecting vulnerable people with services.

"Jails and prisons serve as sources of shelter for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness," the researchers stated in the report. They added that courts and criminal justice agencies can help connect people with the drug treatment they need.

California has made major investments in housing and behavioral health services in recent years. The researchers said state and local agencies should continue evaluating whether those investments are reaching people most at risk and whether newer policies, including Proposition 36, are effectively connecting people with treatment.

Pension Bill Rallies First Responders, Raises Cost Concerns

Continued from page A1

According to the Public Policy Institute of California, California law enforcement agencies employed more than 119,400 full-time workers in 2024, including approximately 77,200 sworn officers with full arrest powers and 42,200 civilian employees.

California cities spent more than \$16.4 billion on policing in the 2023-24 fiscal year, while counties spent \$8.4 billion. The state spent an additional \$3 billion on the California Highway Patrol.

Although law enforcement hiring has increased modestly in recent years, statewide sworn law enforcement officers remained about 3% below its 2019 level, according to PPIC.

"AB 1383 represents our need to recruit and retain the next generation of first responders needed to protect the lives and property of residents across California," McKinnor said.

PPIC data show that Black officers accounted for about 5% of California's approximately 77,200 sworn officers in 2024, or an estimated 3,860 officers.

The California Department of Forestry and

Fire Protection, known as CAL FIRE, is among the state agencies employing public safety personnel who could be affected by the legislation.

"This bill is about giving local agencies another tool to compete for talented employees, retain experienced public safety professionals, and build a workforce necessary to protect their communities," Gamble said.

The bill is opposed by local government coalitions, the California Department of Finance and taxpayer advocacy groups. Opponents argue that it would significantly increase costs by creating billions of dollars in long-term pension liabilities for state and local governments.

The California State Association of Counties, which represents county governments statewide, is urging Newsom to veto the bill. The organization says AB 1383 would increase required contributions from government employers and some workers covered by PEPRA.

According to estimates cited by CSAC from the Department of Finance and the California Public Employees' Retirement System, the bill

could cost participating cities and counties between \$4 billion and \$7.4 billion over several decades, placing additional pressure on state, school and local government retirement plans.

"This bill is just too expensive. It could lead to cuts to public services — including, ironically, public safety," said Ben Adler, CSAC's director of public affairs. "That's why the governor's own Department of Finance opposes this bill, and it's why we're asking him to veto it."

As the debate over AB 1383 continues, McKinnor and supporters say the measure reflects a broader effort to stabilize California's public safety workforce and ensure communities have the trained, experienced first responders they rely on. While cost concerns remain central to the opposition, McKinnor argues that the long-term strength of the state's emergency and law enforcement agencies depends on competitive benefits that can attract and retain the next generation of public safety professionals.



This image released by Netflix shows Debbie Allen in a scene from “A Different World.” (Netflix via AP)

Can ‘A Different World’ Sequel Change Lives Like the Original Series?

Hillman is back in session

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr., Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Netflix’s new “A Different World” arrives with a burden few television comedies have to carry: The original entertained millions while helping some viewers decide where they went to college, what careers to pursue and even how they saw themselves.

Kadeem Hardison still hears about that impact nearly four decades later.

“I’m learning that every day still,” said Hardison, who played the mathematically gifted, flip-shade-wearing Dwayne Wayne. He said people would approach him, saying they went to college because of the show, became engineers because of him or even gained the confidence to pursue relationships after watching Dwayne and Whitley Gilbert’s famously winding romance.

Now a new generation is discovering Hillman College, including some of the original actors bringing it back to life. The 10-episode sequel series premieres Sept. 24 on Netflix.

Cornell Young IV, one of six young stars leading the series, played college football in Missouri and said his own college decision was largely driven by which schools recruited him. But after filming the series at historically Black colleges and universities — Clark Atlanta, Spelman College and Morehouse — in Atlanta, Young found himself reconsidering the path he took.

“I wish I would have been more like, ‘Yo, here go my tape. Like, I’m trying to come here,’” said Young, who plays Shaquille Johnson, the son of original character Ron Johnson.

The sequel follows Deborah Wayne (Maleah Joi Moon), the youngest daughter of Dwayne

and Whitley, as she begins her freshman year at Hillman. The new class also includes Rashida Duvall (Alijah Kai), Amir Rodale (Jordan Aaron Hall), Hazel Henry (Kennedi Reece) and Kojo Achebe (Chibuikem Uche).

Young said being immersed in an HBCU environment offered something he hadn’t fully understood before: a place where students could feel “protected,” “covered” and “seen” while figuring out who they wanted to become.

The Hillman effect

The original “A Different World,” a spinoff of “The Cosby Show,” premiered in 1987 and ran for six seasons. Set at the fictional Hillman College, the series introduced many viewers to HBCU life while tackling subjects ranging from apartheid and HIV/AIDS to racism and sexual assault.

The sequel’s creator and showrunner, Felicia Pride, grew up among the viewers the original series reached. She remembers watching it with her family on Thursday nights and becoming captivated by a step-show episode. As a young dancer who had never seen stepping, she recorded it on a VCR and repeatedly played it back until she learned the routine.

“That changed something in me, being able to see myself on screen,” Pride said.

Nearly 40 years later, she wants to create the possibility of that kind of recognition for someone else. She wants the new Hillman to speak just as directly to the generation entering college now.

The sequel takes on social media and the pressures of living digitally, along with isolation, immigration, campus safety, sexual orientation and sexual health. Pride said conversations with young people repeatedly revealed how technology can

leave them feeling connected and disconnected at the same time.

Some of Hillman’s concerns remain unchanged. The series also explores grief, heartbreak, friendship and the uncertainty of figuring out who you are away from home.

“The timing was so perfect now for the show to come back to be a connecting force for us,” Pride said.

Creating their own ‘Different World’

The new cast is less interested in recreating the old Hillman than making this one recognizable to their generation.

For Moon, that starts with Deborah. She studied what she called the “beautiful flaws” of Dwayne and Whitley but resisted simply blending their personalities together.

“These are big shoes to fill,” Moon said.

She wanted Deborah to stand on her own — an original character whose flaws, impulses and experiences reflect what it means to be a young Black woman coming of age now.

For Reece, that includes the constant comparison fostered by social media. She said young women are growing up with greater pressure around appearance because images of other people, and opportunities to measure themselves against them, are always within reach.

Kai sees another side of this generation’s experience: more freedom for Black women to define how they present themselves. She said there is greater room to experiment with hair, fashion, color and texture rather than conform to ideas of what others consider palatable.

She brought some of that sensibility to Rashida herself, contributing ideas for the character’s nails and changing hairstyles.

Together, their characters are not intended to offer a single definition of young Black womanhood.

The experience is “both universal, but not a monolith,” Moon said.

Can the new Hillman create its own legacy?

Hardison knows the new cast will be measured against the one that came before. He thinks that misses the point.

“Let the kids cook,” he said.

Hardison stressed that the new “A Different World” is a sequel, not a reboot. He likened comparing the two casts to comparing Michael Jordan and LeBron James — different generations playing under different circumstances.

For all the reverence surrounding the original today, Hardison remembers that it took time to become the show people now celebrate. The series underwent a major creative shift after its first season, when Debbie Allen became executive producer.

“Our first season was trash, yo,” Hardison said with a laugh. “Let the kids have some time and give them some grace.”

That may be harder to come by in today’s television business.

The original had more than 20 episodes in most seasons and years to develop its characters. The new series has 10 episodes to establish itself in an entertainment landscape where streaming services, social media, YouTube and other platforms are constantly competing for attention.

“We have to do well out the gate,” Pride said.

“The times that we’re in are much more unforgiving.”

For Pride, that leaves little room for a slow start.

“We don’t have the benefit of, you know, growing with the show and the show figuring itself out,” she said. “So I hope people show up. I hope they watch it together.”



SKYLIGHT GUITARS

BIG CITY SELECTION • NOT BIG CITY PRICES



Buy • Sell • Trade

Quality Guitars • Fair Prices • No Nonsense

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

REPAIRS • SETUPS • CONSIGNMENTS



WE BUY GUITARS!

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

★★★ 5-STAR RATED • LOCALLY OWNED ★★

Gladys Knight Today: What The ‘Empress of Soul’ Is Doing At 82

At 82, legendary songstress Gladys Knight continues to captivate audiences with her timeless soul music and vibrant spirit.



At 82, Gladys Knight is still riding the “Midnight Train,” traveling the world and performing for generations of devoted fans. But on Sept. 17, the legendary singer announced that she plans to slow down her touring schedule, completing a handful of remaining performances before stepping away from the road to spend more time with her family.

“After heartfelt discussions with my team, I recognize that no matter how much I love lifting spirits in song, it’s time for the midnight train to make just a few more stops. I’m finishing the year strong with my remaining performances,” the seven-time Grammy Award winner said in her Instagram post in September. “Looking forward to

new ventures next year. Again, I am so very grateful for all the love and support over the years. God bless all of you.”

This came several weeks after the singer shared an Aug. 28 statement announcing that she would be taking time to step away from the spotlight to spend time with her family and children.

“After much soul searching I’ve decided that I will be easing into fewer performances while focusing on transitioning into the next stage of my career and life moving forward,” the statement read in part. “I’ll be spending more time on projects with my husband and visiting with my grandbabies and am looking forward to this new era.”

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 26CUB01503
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): RUBEN EXPRESS INC., A CORPORATION; BINDER SINGH, AN INDIVIDUAL, AKA BINDER KAUR SINGH, AKA BINDER T SINGH, AKA SINGH BINDER, AKA BIMDER SINGH, AKA BENDER SINGH, AKA SINDER SINGH, AKA VINDER SINGH; and DOES 1-20,
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO) EL DEMANDANTE: Wells Fargo Bank, National Association
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 la 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 desahar el caso.
The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Superior Court, County of Kern
Metro Division
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): Yvonne Ramirez-Browning, 164353
Browning Law Group, APC
18881 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 370,
Irvine, CA 92612
Tel. (949) 234-6266
DATE (Fecha): April 22, 2026
Tara Leal,
Clerk (Secretario)
By Javien Silva, Deputy (Adjunto) (SEAL)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served.
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

PERSONS:
Petitioner: **JANIA FAITH GOLDMAN**
Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name **JANIA FAITH GOLDMAN**
Proposed name **MIA ESTELLE GARZA**
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: **October 27, 2026**
Time: **8:30 a.m.**
Dept: **L**
Room:
The address of the court is: same as noted above
A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
Date: **August 27, 2026**
Gina M. Cervantes, Judicial Officer
By: **Monique Silva, Deputy Clerk**
Petitioner: **Jania Faith Goldman**
3613 Grissom St, Bakersfield, CA 93309 (661) 662-9148
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5206
Doing business as:
AYD TRAILERS at 7641 CARROT PLACE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307, KERN
Mailing address: 25856 TENNYSON LANE, STEVENSO RANCH, CA 91381
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **AYD TRAILERS INC.** at 7641 CARROT PLACE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
County: Kern
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **NIGAR SULTANA, President**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/04/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/24/2026
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: 08/24/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5123
Doing business as:
Central Valley Medical Group at 1925 17th Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301
Mailing address: 1925 17th Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **Ronnie Claiborne, M.D., A Professional Corporation** at 1925 17th Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **Ronnie Claiborne, Medical Director/Owner - CEO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/19/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/20/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: J PADILLA, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. This statement expires on: 08/20/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5128
Doing business as:
ROBERT R. DINWIDDIE CSI & ASSOCIATES at 1209 BLUSTONE RIVER WAY, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
Mailing address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **JACKIE DEE DINWIDDIE** at 1209

BLUSTONE RIVER WAY, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **JACKIE DEE DINWIDDIE**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 07/01/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/20/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. This statement expires on: 08/20/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5233
Doing business as:
MARRIGOLD COLLECTION INC at 3827 MING AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
Mailing address: 9109 KELLYANN ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **MARRIGOLD COLLECTION INC** at 9109 KELLYANN ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **SADANAND SINGH, President**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/25/2031
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. This statement expires on: 08/25/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5236
Doing business as:
LA SINALOENSE NEVERIA at 2653 WEEDPATCH HWY, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 8112 PRATA AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **JUAN G FIGUEROA GARCIA** at 8112 PRATA AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **JUAN G FIGUEROA GARCIA**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 07/30/2020
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/25/2026
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: 08/25/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5229
Doing business as:
VALADEZ TRUCK SCHOOL at 32149 CECIL AVE, DELANO, CA 93215, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 234 CALLE PINUELAS, DELANO, CA 93215
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **ISMAEL VALADEZ** at 234 CALLE PINUELAS, DELANO, CA 93215
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **ISMAEL 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: 08/25/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. This statement expires on: 08/25/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5241
Doing business as:
VALVOLINE EXPRESS CARE at 438 CECIL AVE, DELANO, CA 93215, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 5750 KIBLURN HIGH RD, PALMDALE, CA 93562
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **MR & MRS SPARKS, INC** at 5750 KIBLURN HIGH RD, PALMDALE, CA 93552
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **MAYFRE L GARCIA, 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: 08/25/2026
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: 08/25/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5233
Doing business as:
MARRIGOLD COLLECTION INC at 3827 MING AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
Mailing address: 9109 KELLYANN ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **MARRIGOLD COLLECTION INC** at 9109 KELLYANN ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **SADANAND SINGH, President**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/25/2031
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. This statement expires on: 08/25/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5250
Doing business as:
SIP N TWIST at 3527 PINE MEADOW DR APT A, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
Mailing address: 3527 PINE MEADOW DR APT A, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **SIP AND TWIST LLC** at 3527 PINE MEADOW DR APT A, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **LAPORSHA GAGE, Member**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 07/15/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/26/2026
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: 08/26/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5228
Doing business as:
GOLDEN OX WHITE LANE at 4815 WHITE LANE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **MAYROS INC** at 4815 WHITE LANE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **HRISTOS MAYROKEFALOS, CEO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/24/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/25/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. This statement expires on: 08/28/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5315
Doing business as:
ANKM CONSTRUCTION at 11401 CRABBET PARK DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
Mailing address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **TGRAPE LLC** at 11401 CRABBET PARK DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **ANISH MOHAN, CEO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 02/18/2019
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/28/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. This statement expires on: 08/28/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5342
Doing business as:
THE WATER COMPANY at 6021 CURTIS PLACE, CALIFORNIA CITY, CA 93505
Mailing address: 6021 CURTIS PLACE, CALIFORNIA CITY, CA 93505
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **DANIEL PATRICK CROWLEY** at 6021 CURTIS PLACE, CALIFORNIA CITY, CA 93505
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **DANIEL PATRICK CROWLEY**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 05/08/2001
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/31/2026
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: 08/31/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5374
Doing business as:

under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. This statement expires on: 08/25/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5286
FILE NO: 2026-B5287
Doing business as:
SARSARABU COLLECTIBLES / SARSARABU at 12400 HERITAGE DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311-9926
Mailing address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **SARI DANIEL ABU-HAMAD** at 12400 HERITAGE DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311-9926
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **SARI DANIEL ABU-HAMAD**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 07/01/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/27/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. This statement expires on: 08/27/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5205
Doing business as:
THE LILY POP CO. at 9430 GLENWOOD SPRINGS LN, SHAFTER, CA 93263-9490
Mailing address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **SENAIT MAHARI RADKE** at 9430 GLENWOOD SPRINGS LN, SHAFTER, CA 93263-9490
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **SENAIT MAHARI RADKE**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/24/2026
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: 08/27/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4972
Doing business as:
AMERICAN EAGLE OUTFITTERS # 2368 at 5701 Outlets at Tejon Pkwy Spc 805, Arvin, CA 93203
Mailing address: 77 Hot Metal Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **AE RETAIL WEST, LLC** at 77 Hot Metal Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203
State of incorp. or org.: DE
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **JAMES KEEFER, President**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/07/2014
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/13/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M HERNANDEZ, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. This statement expires on: 08/13/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5189
Doing business as:
THE PRETTIEST SET at 622 ARVIN STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308, KERN
Mailing address: 622 ARVIN STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **DANIELA HIDALGO** at 622 ARVIN STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **DANIELA HIDALGO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 05/13/2023
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/24/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: J PADILLA, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. This statement expires on: 08/24/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2026-B0888
Business Name you wish to abandon:
ANKM CONSTRUCTION at 11606 HARRINGTON ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
Mailing Address: 11401 CRABBET PARK DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
County: Kern
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name: **TGRAPE LLC** at 11606 HARRINGTON ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **ANISH MOHAN, CEO**
The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: February 13, 2026
Original File No: 2026-B0888
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: August 28, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.)
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5315
Doing business as:
ANKM CONSTRUCTION at 11401 CRABBET PARK DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
Mailing address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **TGRAPE LLC** at 11401 CRABBET PARK DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **ANISH MOHAN, CEO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 02/18/2019
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/28/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. This statement expires on: 08/28/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF DANA FRANZELLE BRANHAM KIERSTEAD
CASE NUMBER: 26PRJ00950
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of DANA FRANZELLE BRANHAM KIERSTEAD.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Evangelea Nikki Stamoulis-DiCicco in the Superior Court of California, County of Kern. 2100 College Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93305 Metropolis Division - Probate
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Evangelea Nikki Stamoulis-DiCicco be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
The PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent

FILE NO: 2026-B5297
Doing business as:
SNOWIE at 9705 MESA OAK DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
Mailing address: 10701 PALM AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **SNOWIE BLUES SHAVE ICE LLC** at 9705 MESA OAK DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **ANNETTE HULSEY, CEO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 04/01/2024
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/27/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. This statement expires on: 08/27/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5205
Doing business as:
THE LILY POP CO. at 9430 GLENWOOD SPRINGS LN, SHAFTER, CA 93263-9490
Mailing address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **SENAIT MAHARI RADKE** at 9430 GLENWOOD SPRINGS LN, SHAFTER, CA 93263-9490
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **SENAIT MAHARI RADKE**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/24/2026
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: 08/24/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2026-B0888
Business Name you wish to abandon:
ANKM CONSTRUCTION at 11606 HARRINGTON ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
Mailing Address: 11401 CRABBET PARK DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
County: Kern
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name: **TGRAPE LLC** at 11606 HARRINGTON ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **ANISH MOHAN, CEO**
The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: February 13, 2026
Original File No: 2026-B0888
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: August 28, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.)
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF DANA FRANZELLE BRANHAM KIERSTEAD
CASE NUMBER: 26PRJ00950
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of DANA FRANZELLE BRANHAM KIERSTEAD.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Evangelea Nikki Stamoulis-DiCicco in the Superior Court of California, County of Kern. 2100 College Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93305 Metropolis Division - Probate
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Evangelea Nikki Stamoulis-DiCicco be appointed as

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

MARISCOS LOS MOCHIS RESTAURANT at 2121 E CALIFORNIA AVE # B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307, KERN COUNTY
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **MAZEN KTECH KTECH** at 2121 E CALIFORNIA AVE # B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
ISRAEL MEDINA PEREZ at 2121 E CALIFORNIA AVE # B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
The business is conducted by: General Partnership
SIGNED: **Mazen Ktech**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 09/01/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/01/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M CEJA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/01/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5340
Doing business as:
EBAGLE CELLULAR PHONE REPAIR at 3945 HUGHES LANE SUITE C, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 3945 HUGHES LANE SUITE C, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **REMIGIO GARAY** at 3945 HUGHES LANE SUITE C, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **Remigio Garay**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 07/01/2011
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/31/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: J PADILLA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 08/31/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5226
Doing business as:
JUNK JOURNEY, INC. at 2400 WINGATE COURT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **JUNK JOURNEY, INC.** at 2400 WINGATE COURT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **Cristobal Torres, 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: 08/25/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 08/25/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5227
Doing business as:
TORRES PLASTERING & PAINT, INC. at 2400 WINGATE COURT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
Mailing address: 2400 WINGATE COURT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **TORRES PLASTERING & PAINT, INC.** at 2400 WINGATE COURT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **Cristobal Torres, 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

PUBLIC NOTICE

on: 08/25/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 08/25/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5393
Doing business as:
JB RENTAL SERVICES LLC at 13127 ROBERTSON ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313, KERN
Mailing address: 13127 ROBERTSON ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **JB RENTAL SERVICES LLC** at 13127 ROBERTSON ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Herberto Aguayo, Member**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/26/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/02/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/02/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4637
Doing business as:
KITFOX CREATIVE at 9815 RIATA LANE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: PO BOX 80801, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93380
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **KITFOX CREATIVE LLC** at 9815 RIATA LANE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Chris Cervantes, Member**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 06/12/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 07/29/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). 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: 07/29/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5431
Doing business as:
MMM YOIGURT 2 at 206 W KERN AVE, MCFARLAND, CA 93250-1361
Mailing address: 206 W KERN AVE, MCFARLAND, CA 93250-1361
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **MARIA DEL ROSARIO VARGAS RENTERIA** at 206 W KERN AVE, MCFARLAND, CA 93250-1361
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **MARIA DEL ROSARIO VARGAS RENTERIA**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/03/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/03/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5431
Doing business as:
DIAMOND DUST CLEANING SERVICES at 14343 ROWLAND AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 14343 ROWLAND AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **SHAYNA LYNN MCDANELL** at 14343 ROWLAND AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
The business is conducted by: Individual

PUBLIC NOTICE

I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/03/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5430
Doing business as:
LATE NIGHT CREATIONS LLC at 2404 MONTEREY ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **LATE NIGHT CREATIONS LLC** at 2404 MONTEREY ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Yolanda Fausto, 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: 09/03/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/03/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5416
Doing business as:
DIVINE LYFE at 13801 TABLE ROCK AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **RICHARD ROCCO SHEARS** at 13801 TABLE ROCK AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **RICHARD ROCCO SHEARS**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 04/15/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/02/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M VACA RAMOS,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/02/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5420
Doing business as:
GA LOGISTICS at 2528 SILLANO DR, DELANO, CA 93315
Mailing address: PO BOX 234, DELANO, CA 93216
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **ALICIA AVALOS DE GUTIERREZ** at PO BOX 234, DELANO, CA 93216
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **ALICIA AVALOS DE GUTIERREZ**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 05/15/2025
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/02/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H MENDOZA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/02/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5328
Doing business as:
DIAMOND DUST CLEANING SERVICES at 14343 ROWLAND AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 14343 ROWLAND AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **SHAYNA LYNN MCDANELL** at 14343 ROWLAND AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
The business is conducted by: Individual

SIGNED: **SHAYNA LYNN MCDANELL**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 07/09/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/28/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: J PADILLA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 08/28/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5459
Doing business as:
KIM'S COOKIES at 15150 FIR CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314, KERN
Mailing address: 15150 FIR CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **KIMBERLY RENEE AGUIRRE** at 15150 FIR CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **KIMBERLY RENEE AGUIRRE**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/04/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H MENDOZA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/04/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5101
Doing business as:
LG PROPERTY MANAGEMENT at 2808 F ST SUITE D, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 2808 F ST SUITE D, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **LISBETH MARESA PERELLO OCHOA** at 2808 F ST SUITE D, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **LISBETH MARESA PERELLO OCHOA**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 10/01/2025
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/19/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: J PADILLA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 08/19/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5467
Doing business as:
ALEXARI LOCKSMITH at 909 GUADALUPE AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
Mailing address: 909 GUADALUPE AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **DAVID ALEXANDER CRUZ UMANZOR** at 909 GUADALUPE AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **DAVID ALEXANDER CRUZ UMANZOR**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/04/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another

to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/04/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2026-B3382
Business Name you wish to abandon:
GOLDEN OX WHITE LANE at 4815 WHITE LANE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
Mailing address: same
County: KERN
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name: **GERASIMOS MAVROKEFALOS** at 4815 WHITE LANE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
SIGNED: **GERASIMOS MAVROKEFALOS, CEO**
The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: 05/28/2026
Original File No: 2026-B3382
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: 08/31/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
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: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2026-B4179
Business Name you wish to abandon:
DIAMOND DUST CLEANING SERVICES at 14343 ROWLAND AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
Mailing address: same
County: KERN
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name: **SHAYNA LYNN MCDANELL** at 14343 ROWLAND AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
SIGNED: **SHAYNA LYNN MCDANELL, Owner**
The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: 07/08/2026
Original File No: 2026-B4179
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: 08/28/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
J PADILLA,
Deputy
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): BCL25019718
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): **BRIAN POOLE**, an individual; and DOES 1 to 5, inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO): EL DEMANDANTE): LENDMARK FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC, a limited liability company
N O T I C E !
You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede

pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desear el caso.
The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF KERN
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): James MacLeod (249145); Christina C. MacLeod (283945) THE DUNNING LAW FIRM APC — California DFPI Debt Collector License # 10059-99 9619 Chesapeake Dr., Suite 210, San Diego, CA 92123 Tel. (858) 974-7600 DATE (Fecha): 04/01/2026 Tara Leal, Clerk (Secretario) By Sadie Cazares, Deputy (Adjunto) (SEAL)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served.
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 2026

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 26CLB03028
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): **CHYNA HALLIYAH WILLIAMS**, an individual; **ELAINE MARIA VASQUEZ**, an individual; and DOES 1 to 5, inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO): EL DEMANDANTE): LENDMARK FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC, a limited liability company
N O T I C E !
You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que 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

legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desear el caso.
The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF KERN
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): James MacLeod (249145); Christina C. MacLeod (283945) THE DUNNING LAW FIRM APC — California DFPI Debt Collector License # 10059-99 9619 Chesapeake Dr., Suite 210, San Diego, CA 92123 Tel. (858) 974-7600 DATE (Fecha): 04/01/2026 Tara Leal, Clerk (Secretario) By Sadie Cazares, Deputy (Adjunto) (SEAL)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served.
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER 26CUB03091
Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
C I V I L - M E T R O P O L I T A N DIVISION JUSTICE BUILDING
PETITION OF: **ADELITA LERMA** FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: **ADELITA LERMA** Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name **ADELITA LERMA**
Proposed name **ADELITA MARINA LERMA**
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: October 27, 2026
Time: 8:30 AM
Dept: L
Room:
The address of the court is: same as noted above
A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
Date: August 28, 2026
Gina M. Cervantes, Judicial Officer
By: Monique Silva, Deputy Clerk
Petitioner: ADELITA LERMA 6004 PHYLLIS ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313 (661) 805-7069

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5190
Doing business as:
SACRED HEART HOME CARE at 704 HEWLETT STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 704 HEWLETT STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **JOHN KEVIN RADOVAN CLEMENO** at 704 HEWLETT STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
The business is conducted by: Married Couple
SIGNED: **JOHN KEVIN CLEMENO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/24/2026
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: 08/24/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5452
Doing business as:
TORO MOCHO BOTANAS EL TENEDERO at 6509 SKY VIEW DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
Mailing address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **CRISTINA PADILLA MEZA** at 6509 SKY VIEW DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **CRISTINA PADILLA MEZA**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 05/14/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/09/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA

Doing business as:
DON LEO DIGITAL GALLERY at 11006 HARTLAND STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312, KERN
Mailing address: 11006 HARTLAND STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **BRIGITTE STRIZAK** at 11006 HARTLAND STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **BRIGITTE STRIZAK**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 05/01/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/04/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/04/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5451
Doing business as:
VOSS ENTERT

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

County Clerk
By: M. SALES,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/09/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 2026

**FICTITIUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT**
FILE NO: 2026-B5485
Doing business as:

LIQUIDLODEXCHANGE at 4324 MC CRAY ST APT B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
Mailing address: same
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
MICHAEL JULIAN WORKMAN at 4324 MC CRAY ST APT B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **MICHAEL JULIAN WORKMAN**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 09/08/2026

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/08/2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M. VACA RAMOS, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/08/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 2026

**FICTITIUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT**
FILE NO: 2026-B5476
Doing business as:

Baker Street Village Community Health Center at 1015 Baker Street, Ste 4, Bakersfield, CA 93305-4341

Mailing address: PO BOX 21810, Bakersfield, CA 93390-1810
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
Clinica Sierra Vista at 9525 Camino Media, Bakersfield, CA 93311-1314
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **Olga Meave, M.D., Chief Executive Officer**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 05/17/2015

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/08/2026

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

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/08/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 2026

**FICTITIUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT**
FILE NO: 2026-B5531
Doing business as:

ALTAGRACIA HOMES at 3501 MALL VIEW RD SUITE 115-360, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306

County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
AT ROCHA LLC at 3501 MALL VIEW RD SUITE 115-360, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306

State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **JESSICA ROCHA, 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: 09/09/2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: K. MENDOZA, Deputy

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

This statement expires on: 09/09/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 2026

**FICTITIUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT**
FILE NO: 2026-B5533
Doing business as:

CARRILLO & SONS TRANSPORTATION at 1832 INYO ST, DELANO, CA 93215

County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
MICHAEL CRUZ CARRILLO at 1832 INYO ST, DELANO, CA 93215
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **MICHAEL CRUZ CARRILLO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/28/2026

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/10/2026

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

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/10/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 2026

**FICTITIUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT**
FILE NO: 2026-B5542
Doing business as:

SCULPTLE ACADEMY at 1514 18TH ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
Mailing address: 5601 COFFEE RD APT 121, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308

County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
MARIA L CAMACHO at 5601 COFFEE RD APT 121, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **MARIA L CAMACHO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 09/09/2026

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/10/2026

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

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/10/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 2026

**FICTITIUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT**
FILE NO: 2026-B5517
Doing business as:

AW CYTOHISTOLOGY LABORATORY at 1700 C STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301

Mailing address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
AGNES YU-YUAN WU at 1700 C STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301

The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **AGNES YU-YUAN WU**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 07/01/2004

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/09/2026

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

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/09/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 2026

**FICTITIUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT**
FILE NO: 2026-B5013
Doing business as:

AWAKEN THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE at 1400 EASTON DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309

Mailing address: 2120 POTOMAC AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
CLARISSA MARIE VELEZ at 2120 POTOMAC AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307

The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **CLARISSA MARIE VELEZ**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name

or names listed above on: 02/20/2025

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/14/2026

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: 08/14/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 2026

**FICTITIUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT**
FILE NO: 2026-B5201
Doing business as:

PRIME EXCHANGE at 706 SIOUX CREEK DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312

Mailing address: 706 SIOUX CREEK DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
WEST COAST LEGACY SALES LLC at 706 SIOUX CREEK DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Tanner Brown, Member**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 01/01/2026

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/24/2026

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: 08/24/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 2026

**FICTITIUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT**
FILE NO: 2026-B5090
Doing business as:

ONE23 BRAIDS AND BEAUTY BAR at 310 F ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304

Mailing address: same
County: Kern

Full name of registrant(s):
TEMIA COQUISE WILLIAMS at 310 F ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **TEMIA COQUISE WILLIAMS**

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/12/2021

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/18/2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: J. PADILLA, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 08/18/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 2026

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT
OF USE OF FICTITIUS BUSINESS
NAME**
FILE NO: 2026-B5127
Business Name you wish to abandon:

SACRED HEART HOME CARE at 704 HEVLETT STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309

County: KERN
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name:
JOHN KEVIN RADOVAN CLEMENO at 704 HEVLETT STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
SIGNED: **JOHN KEVIN RADOVAN CLEMENO**

The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: 08/20/2026

Original File No: 2026-B5127
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: 08/24/2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
D HINOJOSA, Deputy

I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 2026

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT
OF USE OF FICTITIUS BUSINESS
NAME**

FILE NO: 2026-B0920
Business Name you wish to abandon:

TORO MOCHO BOTANAS EL TENEDERO at 6509 SKY VIEW DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307

County: KERN
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name:

EFREN FLORES OBESO at 6509 SKY VIEW DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307

SIGNED: **EFREN FLORES OBESO, Owner**

The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: 02/17/2026

Original File No: 2026-B0920
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: 09/09/2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
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: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 2026

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT
OF USE OF FICTITIUS BUSINESS
NAME**
FILE NO: 2026-B2942
Business Name you wish to abandon:

Baker Street Village Community Health Center at 1015 Baker Street, Ste 4, Bakersfield, CA 93305-4341

Mailing address: PO Box 21810, Bakersfield, CA 93390-1810
County: Kern

Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name:

Clinica Sierra Vista at 9525 Camino Media, Bakersfield, CA 93311-1314

SIGNED: **Olga Meave, M.D., Chief Executive Officer**

The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: 05/07/2026

Original File No: 2026-B2942
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: 09/08/2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
D HINOJOSA, Deputy

I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 2026

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT
OF USE OF FICTITIUS BUSINESS
NAME**
FILE NO: 2025-B1023
Business Name you wish to abandon:

AWAKEN THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE at 2120 POTOMAC AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307

County: KERN
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name:

CLARISSA MARIE VELEZ at 2120 POTOMAC AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307

SIGNED: **CLARISSA MARIE VELEZ, Owner**

The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: 02/20/2025

Original File No: 2025-B1023
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: 08/14/2026

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
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: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 2026

LIEN SALE

2014 CIMC REEFER FOR SALE ON 10/02/26
VIN: 5Z7SR5326EM003776

Lien Sale will take place at 10:00 AM at 234 MT VERNON AVENUE, CA 93307

THE TRAILER COMPANY INC
234 MT VERNON AVENUE, CA 93307

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
PUB: Sep 23, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO
ADMINISTER ESTATE OF
MARIA ELENA RIOS**
**CASE NUMBER:
26PRJ00314**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **María Elena Rios**
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by **Rosalinda Martinez**

in the Superior Court of California, County of Kern 2100 College Ave Bakersfield, CA 93305

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that **Bassam Alazzam** 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 Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain

very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

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

Date: December 3, 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.

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

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

SUMMONS

(CITACION JUDICIAL)

CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 26CLM003050

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
TERESA WILLIFORD, an individual; and **DOES 1 to 10**, inclusive

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): **DEERE & COMPANY**, a corporation

N O T I C E !
You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

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

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO
ADMINISTER ESTATE OF
IZZIDDEN ALAZZAM**
**CASE NUMBER:
26PRJ01062**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **Izziddin Alazzam**
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by **Bassam Alazzam**

in the Superior Court of California, County of Kern 2100 College Avenue Bakersfield, CA 9



By Bo Tefu
California Black Media



Pastor Leon “Sonny” Clark longtime pastor of New Baptist Church in Santa Ana.

Rev. Leon “Sonny” Clark, Longtime Orange County Pastor and Community Leader, Dies at 72

Rev. Leon William “Sonny” Clark, longtime pastor of New Spirit Baptist Church in Santa Ana and a respected faith and community leader in Orange County, died Sept. 9. He was 72.

Born Oct. 2, 1953, in Bennettsville, South Carolina, Clark was a U.S. Navy veteran who later built a life of service centered on family, faith, ministry and community.

Clark began his formal ministry at Metropolitan Baptist Church in Altadena in 1978. After acknowledging his call to ministry in 1980, he preached his first sermon and went on to serve churches throughout Southern California, including Second Baptist Church in Riverside, Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Rubidoux, Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Pomona and Friendship Baptist Church in Yorba Linda.

In November 2003, Clark was called to lead New Spirit Baptist Church in Santa Ana, where he served as pastor for more than 22 years. His work extended beyond the pulpit through counseling, mentoring, civic engagement and efforts to strengthen Orange County’s African American community.

Clark was involved with the Orange County Heritage Council and supported efforts to preserve and celebrate African American history and culture. He assisted with the Orange County Black History Parade and Unity Festival, served on the Interfaith Committee and Orange County Transit Authority, and was president of the Orange County Ministers Conference.

In 2024, the City of Santa Ana recognized Clark for his contributions to the community. He also received the Orange County Southern Baptist Association Hall of Faith Award and was previously honored as Pastor of the Year by the Orange County Heritage Council.

Clark is survived by his wife, Andrea Joyles Clark; six children, Shawn Williams, Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Kyla Coward, Joshua Clark, Marissa Clark and Ashley Clark; grandchildren and great-grandchildren; siblings; extended family; and the New Spirit Baptist Church congregation.

A wake will be held Thursday, Oct. 1, from 4 to 8 p.m. at New Spirit Baptist Church, 701 S. Sullivan St. in Santa Ana, with a remembrance service from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

A Celebration of Life will be held Friday, Oct. 2, at Friendship Baptist Church, 17145 Bastanchury Road in Yorba Linda. Viewing begins at noon, followed by the service at 1 p.m.

Burial will take place Monday, Oct. 5, at 10:15 a.m. at Riverside National Cemetery.

Clark often shared a guiding principle that shaped his ministry: “Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.”



Shutterstock Fremont, CA, USA - June 19,2022: Exterior view of Tesla factory.

Tesla Race Discrimination Trial This Week Set to Begin in Oakland

Tesla is scheduled to go on trial Sept. 21 in Oakland over California’s allegations of systemic racial harassment, discrimination and retaliation against Black employees.

Opening statements are set to begin Sept. 21 at 9 a.m. in Alameda County Superior Court. The trial had previously been scheduled to begin July 20.

The case, filed by the California Civil Rights

Department (CRD) in 2022, will be decided by a judge rather than a jury. The court estimates the bench trial will continue through Oct. 30, with each side receiving about 45 hours to present its case.

CRD sued Tesla following a roughly three-year investigation into conditions at the company’s California facilities. The department alleges Black employees were routinely subjected to racial slurs, including the N-word, sometimes in the presence of — or by — supervisors and managers.

According to the lawsuit, workers at Tesla’s Fremont factory referred to the facility as the “plantation” and called Black employees “slaves.” The state also alleges that Black workers were segregated, assigned more labor-intensive jobs and paid less than non-Black employees.

An analysis cited by CRD found that Black employees’ monthly compensation was \$1,533 lower than that of white workers from June 2018 through June 2024. Black employees who complained allegedly faced harsher performance reviews, reprimands and termination.

Tesla has denied wrongdoing in racial discrimination cases and has maintained that it does not tolerate workplace harassment.

In May, the Alameda County Superior Court rejected Tesla’s attempt to have the state’s case dismissed, ruling that CRD had presented evidence raising factual questions about the company’s potential liability.

“Tesla claims to be built on the promise of creating a more sustainable future,” said CRD Director Kevin Kish. “But its employment practices remain rooted in some of the ugliest relics of the past. Black workers are paid less for their work. They are subjected to racist slurs. They face threats of being fired for speaking out. In California, we will not and cannot allow these alleged practices to continue. We look forward to having our day in court to hold Tesla accountable and to protect the rights of workers in our state.”

The trial is expected to examine whether Tesla knew about the alleged conduct and failed to prevent or correct it.

Representative Kamlager-Dove to Run for Co-Chair of the House Democratic Communications Team

U.S. Representative Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D-CA-37) is running to become co-chair of the House Democratic Policy and Communications Committee, putting digital media, new platforms, and Los Angeles’ creative industry at the center of her campaign for a leadership role within the Democratic Caucus.

The California Democrat said her decision to seek the position was shaped by the 2024 presidential election and what she described as a major lesson from the party’s defeat: Democrats needed to do more to reach voters through social media, creators, independent journalists, podcasts, and other emerging platforms.

Kamlager-Dove said she responded by immersing herself in the changing media landscape and experimenting with new ways to communicate with voters. After President Donald Trump took office, she launched “Is This Sh*t Legal?” to explain the legal issues surrounding actions by the administration, why they mattered, and how Democrats were responding.

“I’ve also prioritized building lasting relationships with creators, podcasters, and independent journalists, so we’re consistently reaching their audiences and making sure our message is part of the conversation year-round,” Kamlager-Dove wrote in a letter seeking support from House Democrats.

She said she has formed content with more than a quarter of the caucus during the current term, with some members joining her multiple times

Kamlager-Dove said one of her biggest goals would be connecting Los Angeles’ creative talent with the Democratic Caucus. She specifically pointed to writers, producers, storytellers, and digital creators as potential partners in helping Democrats explain their agenda and connect with voters.

“Hollywood understands how to tell complicated stories in compelling, accessible ways that meet people where they are,” she wrote.

Her bid comes as Democrats continue to grapple with a media environment in which voters increasingly encounter political information through social platforms, podcasts, creators, and independent digital outlets.

Kamlager-Dove also emphasized the importance of unity within the caucus, arguing that Democrats need to work collectively rather than as individual lawmakers.

She said she wants to serve as a bridge between Democratic leadership and members of the caucus while ensuring lawmakers and their districts have a

voice in the party’s messaging.

“Above all, I’m committed to being a trusted voice for every member of this caucus and to ensuring that you and your districts are represented when decisions are made, and messaging is shaped,” Kamlager-Dove wrote.

Kamlager-Dove is seeking the support of House Democrats as she makes her case for the DPCC co-chair position, drawing on her experience in digital communications and Los Angeles’ entertainment and creative industries.

Poll: Becerra Widens His Lead Over Hilton; Californians Split on Wealth Tax

Democrat Xavier Becerra holds a 22-point lead over Republican Steve Hilton in California’s governor’s race, while voters remain closely divided over a proposed one-time tax on billionaires, according to a new Public Policy Institute of California poll.

The September PPIC survey found that 60% of likely voters support Becerra, compared with 38% for Hilton. His lead is actually narrower than it was in July, when he led Hilton 61% to 36%.

Becerra leads among independent voters, with 57% supporting him compared with 38% for Hilton. Party loyalty remains strong, with 93% of Democratic likely voters backing Becerra and 92% of Republicans supporting Hilton.

Hilton leads in the Central Valley, where 52% of likely voters support him compared with 46% for Becerra.

Affordability remains a major factor: 65% of likely voters say candidates’ plans to address cost-of-living issues are “very important” to their vote.

“Affordability continues to be top of mind for Californians when considering their choice for governor,” said Mark Baldassare, PPIC Statewide Survey director and Miller Chair in Public Policy.

The poll also found a narrow split over Proposition 40, a proposed one-time tax of up to 5% on taxpayers with assets exceeding \$1 billion. Fifty-two percent of likely voters said they would vote yes, while 46% said they would vote no.

Support for the wealth tax varies sharply by party. Seventy-two percent of Democrats favor Proposition 40, compared with 46% of independents and 21% of Republicans.

Two competing measures also drew majority support. Fifty-one percent back Proposition 41, while 54% support Proposition 42, both of which could affect the wealth-tax proposal.

The findings come as Californians express broader frustration with the state’s political direction. Seventy-one percent of likely voters expect bad economic times in California over the next year.

“Californians are clearly grumpy and aren’t enamored with any particular political party or movement,” Baldassare said.

The survey interviewed 1,745 California adults, including 1,103 likely voters, from Sept. 4-10. The margin of error for likely voters is plus or minus 3.8 percentage points.

Asm. Corey Jackson Announces Launch of 24-Hour Childcare in His District

Assemblymember Corey Jackson (D-Moreno Valley) has secured \$2 million in state funding to launch a proposed childcare special district serving families in Moreno Valley and Perris, paving the way for a system designed to provide childcare 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Moreno Valley-Perris Childcare Special District would be the first special district in California focused specifically on childcare, according to Jackson’s office. The state funding will cover startup, planning, and formation costs and help the district meet requirements set by the Riverside Local Agency Formation Commission, or LAFCO.

The proposed district would coordinate a mixed-delivery childcare system that could include home-based and center-based care. The goal is to provide universal childcare for families who work overnight, early morning, or other nontraditional shifts.

Jackson’s office says Moreno Valley is a certified “childcare desert,” with licensed childcare spaces available for only 15% of children with working parents. Infant care in Moreno Valley averages \$2,776 a month, or about 35.7% of median household income. In Perris, licensed infant care can cost more than 60% of an individual worker’s gross median earnings, according to the assemblymember’s office.

“Securing this \$2 million in startup funding is a monumental victory for the working-class families of Moreno Valley and Perris who have been trapped in a childcare desert for far too long,” Jackson said.

The proposal follows Jackson’s unsuccessful

effort to establish the district through Assembly Bill 2083. The legislation would have created the district as a dependent special district covering Moreno Valley, Perris and their spheres of influence, with Riverside LAFCO responsible for reviewing its formation and boundaries.

The new funding allows the district’s formation to move forward without requiring mandatory contributions from local school districts and other stakeholders, according to Jackson’s office. His spokesperson, Daniel Peeden, said Jackson hopes the district can be operating by 2028.

The proposal has faced questions from some local officials. Moreno Valley City Councilmember Ed Delgado, who is running against Jackson for the 60th Assembly District seat, said he supports affordable childcare but questioned how the proposed district would operate and how much it would ultimately cost.

“Basically, he didn’t have a plan. We didn’t see a plan,” Delgado said, adding that officials had questions about operating costs, insurance and eligibility.

“It’s going to take a lot more than \$2 million to create a special district to provide affordable childcare,” Delgado said.

Delgado has suggested working with existing childcare centers to subsidize costs for local families rather than creating a new agency.

Jackson’s office says the program will lower barriers to “workforce participation” and reduce “affordability anxiety” for young families. This landmark District is poised to trigger a virtuous cycle of economic upward mobility and long-term regional prosperity in the 60th Assembly District, his office added.

Padilla Presses FBI Director on Election Interference, Citing Riverside Sheriff Ballot Case

U.S. Senator Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) pressed FBI Director Kash Patel on the bureau’s role in the upcoming midterm elections on Sept.15, citing the seizure of more than 650,000 ballots by Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco as he sought assurances that federal agents would not take similar action.

During a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing, Padilla asked Patel whether the FBI would commit to not seizing ballots, voting machines, or other election materials before the 2026 election is completed, results are certified, and any recounts or election contests are resolved.

Padilla referenced the FBI’s seizure of ballots in Fulton County, Georgia, earlier this year and what he called a “copycat move” in California, where Bianco’s department seized ballots from the November 2025 Proposition 50 election as part of an investigation into alleged discrepancies in the vote count.

“My question to you is, can you make the same commitment?” Padilla asked.

“Yes,” Patel responded.

The Riverside case has become a flashpoint in California’s debate over election administration. Bianco, a Republican candidate for governor at the time of the seizure, said his investigation was intended to determine whether ballots had been improperly counted. State and local election officials disputed the allegations, while California Attorney General Rob Bonta challenged the sheriff’s actions in court. The California Supreme Court later ordered the investigation paused while the legal dispute continues.

Padilla also pressed Patel about the FBI’s handling of congressional oversight requests, saying senators had waited nearly a year for answers to questions submitted after a previous hearing.

“It has been almost a year, and we still have not gotten responses, no answers to our questions for the record submitted last year,” Padilla said.

Patel said those questions had been answered, but still needed to be delivered through the Justice Department. He agreed that the end of October was a reasonable deadline for responses to questions submitted after Tuesday’s hearing

The California senator also questioned Patel about the FBI’s investigation of shootings involving Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection personnel. Padilla asked whether FBI leadership had instructed field offices to stop investigating excessive use of force by immigration enforcement officers.

“No,” Patel said.

Patel said the FBI’s role varies from case to case and that the bureau does not have a blanket rule requiring it to lead every investigation. When Padilla asked about the status of investigations into shootings involving ICE personnel, Patel said he would need to consult with the Department of Homeland Security before providing details.

Padilla’s questioning came as federal and state officials prepare for the November midterm elections amid heightened concerns about federal involvement in election administration. His office said Patel’s commitment was meant to ensure that the FBI would not seize election materials before the election process is complete.

Don't Let scammers Crash Your School Year

By JPMorganChase
Oakland Post

Today's students and young adults are true digital natives, having grown up online, learning to navigate digital spaces as a normal part of daily life. As they transition to college, they turn to digital platforms and social media for everything from apartment hunting and job searches to shopping, banking and talking with friends.

That familiarity, however, can create a false sense of security, making younger adults just as much of a target for fraud and scams as older individuals. According to the FBI's Internet Crime Report, Americans ages 20–29 reported more than \$500 million to internet-crime losses in 2025.

As scammers become more sophisticated, including using AI, students need to be more vigilant than ever about fraud and scams. Understanding the most common ones can help you avoid becoming a victim.

Common Scams Targeting Students
Online shopping and marketplace scams

Whether you're furnishing a dorm, moving into an apartment or buying textbooks, online deals and secondhand marketplaces can help you save money while also creating more opportunities for scammers.

Buy from official and trusted retailers whenever possible, double check website URLs for misspellings or other red flags, and make sure the site uses https://. Be wary of deals that seem too good to be true as well. Avoid clicking links in unsolicited emails or text messages, including fake "missed delivery" notifications that often lead to fraudulent websites or malware.

Before making a purchase, read seller reviews and ratings. If you're buying locally, meet in a safe public place and inspect the item before paying.

Job scams

As students return to school this fall, some may be looking for part-time jobs or internships. Scammers target students with fake jobs offering high salaries, flexible schedules or jobs you can do from your residence hall, apartment or home.

If you receive a job offer by text, email, or direct message – be cautious, especially if you never applied to work at that company. Always use well-known job boards and then apply directly through the company's official website.

Also, if an employer asks you to pay upfront

for training, equipment, background checks or application fees, it may be a sign of a scam. Legitimate companies will never charge you to get a job. They also won't send you money and then ask you to return a portion of it.

Rental and housing scams

Scammers know student housing is in high demand. They'll often post fake apartment listings or copy legitimate ones to trick potential renters into sending money for a deposit.

Rental prices that seem unusually low should raise a red flag. Use a reverse image search to see if photos of the property appear on a different website or in a different location. Research unfamiliar property managers or housing websites before sending money, and avoid paying deposits through wire transfers, gift cards or peer-to-peer payment apps.

Double check the address, read online reviews of the property management company and schedule a tour of the house or apartment before signing a lease or sending a deposit. That way, you'll know the listing and location is real.

The influence of AI

Thanks to artificial intelligence, scammers can now create cloned voices and deepfake videos, along with fraudulent emails, text messages and even websites and apps that look real. These AI tools let scammers impersonate family members, employers, banks, law enforcement, delivery companies and trusted brands to get you to send money or share personal information.

How to protect yourself

No matter what type of scam you encounter, a few simple habits can go a long way toward reducing your risk:

Limit the personal information you share online and make social media profiles private whenever possible. This can help reduce the information scammers can use to target you, guess your security questions or attempt to access your financial accounts.

When you're making a payment, use more protected methods, such as credit and debit cards, which generally offer stronger consumer protections than wire transfers, gift cards or peer-to-peer payment apps. Treat peer-to-peer payments, such as Zelle, like cash — once the money is sent, it's often difficult to recover.

Scammers can spoof phone numbers to make



Photo courtesy of JPMorganChase

calls look like they're coming from your bank, law enforcement or another trusted organization. Don't automatically trust your caller ID – if you get a call demanding immediate action or claiming there's a problem with your account, hang up and call back directly using a verified phone number. Banks will never call and ask you for account information, tell you to transfer money to 'protect' it or pressure you to act immediately.

Don't click links or download attachments from unexpected emails or text messages and avoid accessing your financial accounts or making online purchases on public Wi-Fi, where savvy cybercriminals can gain access to your login credentials.

Perhaps most importantly, slow down. Back-to-school season brings a flurry of financial decisions

and scammers know students are looking for deals. They often create a false sense of urgency to try to pressure people into making quick decisions. Taking a few extra minutes to verify information can make the difference.

The bottom line

Whether you're shopping for school supplies, searching for a job or signing your first lease if you're entering college, your status as a student can make you a prime target for scammers.

Stay skeptical of unsolicited offers, verify before you pay or share personal information, and slow down when something feels rushed. Those simple habits can help protect your money, your identity and your peace of mind throughout the school year from scams and fraud.

Doulas Are Helping Black California Moms Navigate Pregnancy

Even as High Mortality Rates Persist

By McKenzie Jackson
California Black Media

After losing twins, Long Beach resident Cassandra Carter approached the birth of her daughter, Nyomi, last November with anxiety. She wanted support for herself and her husband, Adewole, that extended beyond routine medical care.

"Getting pregnant as a Black woman, I wanted a team around me that made me feel safe," she said. "I know all about the mishaps that Black women experience."

Carter, a therapist and self-described hippie,

suite. "Whatever I needed for my comfort, she was there," Carter said of Perry. "She was there as an advocate and voice. I had a really serene birthing experience because I had someone extra who wasn't tied to me as my family."

Perry, a doula for nearly six years, said preexisting conditions, poor communication and dismissive hospital care heighten health risks for Black mothers.

"Sometimes, Black mommies are not being heard. They don't know they have rights. They don't know they can say, 'no,'" Perry explained. "Doulas

four times greater than other women, according to statistics. From 2021 to 2023, the leading causes of pregnancy-related deaths included cardiovascular disease, COVID-19, hemorrhage, sepsis, amniotic fluid embolism, and pulmonary embolism.

The Centering Black Mothers in California report found that structural racism — including barriers to high-quality health care, and chronic stress—disproportionately harms Black women.

In a statement to California Black Media (CBM), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) said maternal mortality disparities stem from multiple factors. The department said addressing structural racism, listening to Black women's experiences and reducing provider bias are key to closing the gap.

California began covering doula care as a Medi-Cal benefit in 2023, providing eligible patients with support during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period, according to CDPH.

Whitney Dotson of Inglewood wanted an expert on pregnancy, labor, and delivery to guide her and her husband, Anthony, through the birth of their son, Anthony III. So, she hired Perry for doula support.

"It's always more comfortable when you can have a second opinion," she said. "Knowing she was better versed in what the options were, made me more comfortable."

Dotson, 39, had a healthy pregnancy but faced recommendations common for expectant mothers over 35. Her doctor advised inducing labor at 39 weeks, but she hoped to carry to full term.

"I wasn't comfortable with that," she admitted. Perry provided Dotson with information about induction guidelines and alternatives, helping her understand her options and communicate her preferences.

Then, Dotson returned to her doctor. "I said, 'I don't want to — and this is why,'" she recalled. "He agreed and pushed the induction date back a week."

Perry also advised Anthony on how he could support his wife during and after the pregnancy and during Anthony III's birth. She also reminded Dotson to change birthing positions — from her back to her hands and knees.

Before Saveneh Martinez became a doula with Fierce Advocates in Contra Costa County, she was a new mom, uneducated on aspects of birth, which led to her first child, Colton, being placed in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

"I didn't know my choices," she said. Martinez called it "lifesaving" for expecting moms to have a doula.

"It should be a medical right," she said. California Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative

(CPQCC) Senior Associate Medical Director Kimberly D. Gregory said research suggests that doulas decrease the pre-term birth rate and the likelihood of a C-section.

"Having a doula is a proactive thing to do," she said.

Efforts are being made across the state to reduce maternal deaths.

CDPH's Title V Action Plan aims to reduce pregnancy-related deaths among Black birthing mothers from 49.7 to 42.3 per 100,000 live births by 2030 through improvements in patient-centered care, expanding community-based perinatal teams, and addressing the social factors that contribute to poor maternal health outcomes.

CDPH's Black Infant Health (BIH) Program and Perinatal Equity Initiative (PEI) have already begun to make headway.

"BIH's prenatal group model improves key intermediate outcomes for participants, including increased social support and empowerment, better stress management, reduced depressive symptoms and gains in health knowledge and behaviors such as safe sleep practices and reduced smoking," the CDPH told CBM.

"PEI's early implementation results show progress across several participant-reported areas, such as improved birth experiences, breastfeeding initiation, and coparenting skills among fathers and partners," the CDPH statement continued.

Gregory said the California Pregnancy Associated Review Committee examines maternal deaths and develops guidelines to help hospitals improve care. One of its main recommendations focuses on how hospitals respond to hemorrhaging, a leading cause of pregnancy-related deaths.

Gregory said CMQCC also created standard clinic care practices for cardiovascular disease and sepsis, two more drivers of maternal mortality, but widespread implementation across the state is pending.

She noted that although there are 800 maternal deaths a year in the U.S., there are also 3.6 million births.

"Most people will do well," she said. "But you should know about complications like preterm birth. You should know about complications like diabetes, preeclampsia and postpartum depression."

Martinez said doulas help to make birthing the transformative experience that it is, instead of a routine clinical transaction.

"Being able to feel heard, seen, safe, respected, and just being able to create spaces for them to be held as well," she said.



Long Beach resident Cassandra Carter approached the birth of her daughter, Nyomi (pictured), last November with anxiety after losing twins. She is pictured here with her husband.

hired Yvette Perry, a doula and co-founder of Divine Birthing Services LLC in Lancaster. Perry helped Cassandra craft a detailed birth plan.

"I was worried about postpartum depression. Mrs. Yvette knows a lot about how postpartum affects men as well," Carter explained.

Perry was present the day Nyomi was born. She held the baby when Carter or her husband needed a moment and even set up candles in the birthing

empower them. We are there to educate them Perry's concerns reflect a broader public health crisis. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2024 maternal mortality report, non-Hispanic Black women in the U.S. died from pregnancy-related causes at a rate of 44.8 deaths per 100,000 live births.

In California, Black women experience the highest pregnancy-related mortality rate — about

Keeping Children Safe One Ride at a Time



Child Passenger Safety Week image

By Helen Arbogast, DrPH, MPH

Every parent, grandparent, and caregiver wants the same thing: for the children they love to be safe.

This Child Passenger Safety Week (September 20 to 26), I am proud to partner with the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) and Caltrans to encourage families to take simple steps to protect children on every trip. Keeping children safe in a vehicle starts before the engine is turned on. It begins with making sure a child is riding in the right car seat and that the seat is being used correctly.

The good news is that one simple action can make a big difference. Using the right car seat for a child's age and size can help reduce the risk of serious injury. As someone who has dedicated my career to injury prevention and child safety, I have seen how small choices can save lives. I have also seen how easy it is for busy families with the best of intentions to make an honest mistake when using a car seat.

Many people are surprised to learn that car seat misuse is common. A harness may be too loose. A seat may not be installed tightly enough.

A child may transition from a rear-facing seat to a forward-facing seat, or from a harness seat to a booster, before they are ready. More than half of car seat installations are incorrect.

Parents and caregivers should know that help is available. Sometimes a small adjustment can make a meaningful difference. To find a certified child passenger safety technician in your area visit Safe Kids Find a Tech. To learn more about selecting and using the right car seat, visit the California Department of Public Health website. It is also important not to rush through the different stages of child restraints. Moving to the next stage too early can reduce protection during a crash and result in devastating injuries. Based on child passenger safety recommendations from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), OTS and Caltrans encourage families to:

Keep children in rear-facing car seats until they are 2 years old.

Use a forward-facing car seat with a harness until a child reaches the seat's height or weight limit.

Transition to a booster seat only when a child

is ready. Starting January 1, 2027, children ages 8 to 16 years old must pass all steps of the 5-Step test before they can safely use a seat belt without a booster seat.

Have children aged 13 and younger ride in the back seat whenever possible.

Child passenger safety is not just a parent's responsibility. It is a community responsibility.

Grandparents taking children to school, aunts and uncles helping with pickups, relatives driving to family gatherings, trusted friends, childcare providers, and church members all play a role in keeping children safe. Anyone who transports children should take a moment to make sure children are properly restrained.

During Child Passenger Safety Week, I encourage California families to take a few minutes to check their child's car seat to confirm it fits the age and size of the child. Every child deserves the opportunity to arrive safely, every time they travel. By making child passenger safety a priority, we can help prevent injuries, save lives, and protect our children.