Black Americans Have Doubts About the U.S. Food System – Page A2

'Soul Train Awards' are Back BET Ceremony Returns to Celebrate R&B and Soul Legacy – Page A3

Bakersfield News Observer

Serving Kern County for Over 51 Years

51 Years Anniversary

Take One!

Volume 53, Number 2 | Observer Group Newspapers of Southern California | Wednesday, September 9, 2026

"This is Not a Job. This is Life"

One Grandmother's Fight Against Caregiver Burnout

By Cecil Egbele
Contributing Writer | California Local News Fellow

Angela Hagler's Shafter townhome, about 13 miles outside Bakersfield, includes basic household furnishings, other than a bench in the living room the 57-year-old uses to lift her 16-year-old granddaughter into a bathtub specially outfitted for amputees.

On this day, Hagler sat on a brown sofa in a loose T-shirt, printed pajama pants, and house shoes. She had not left the townhome that day. Sarabi Vaughn, Hagler's granddaughter, sat across the dimly lit room.

Hagler and Vaughn said that on Aug. 13, 2024, Vaughn, who was then 14, was standing in a yard on Wilson Road, Bakersfield, when she was struck by a vehicle. They declined to comment further because an associated lawsuit is ongoing.

In the aftermath of the crash, Vaughn's leg was amputated. Hagler– who was already struggling to keep her job at Amazon after a workplace injury left her employment status uncertain– now spends more than 12 hours a day tending to the teen's physical and emotional needs, with little time or energy left for her own.

Hagler insists she's "fine," even as she describes isolation, financial hardship and anxiety — all symptoms consistent with caregiver burnout. She recognizes the toll caregiving is taking on her. But recognizing she needs help and asking for it are two different things.

"I know depression when I see depression," Hagler said. "I make it happen, you know? I'm alright."

According to the 2025 Caregiving in the U.S. report, there are 63 million family caregivers in the nation, many of whom are caring for a loved one at the expense of their own mental health. Experts say the people providing care are often the least likely to seek it for themselves because their attention is constantly directed toward someone else.

"I used to go visit Bakersfield two or three times a week, but I don't do that now. I stay home with her," Hagler said of her granddaughter. "I feel depressed because my way of living has changed, I see that I'm staying more inside. Caregivers don't have breaks."

The caregiver report, released by AARP and the National Alliance for Caregiving, found widespread emotional, financial, and health strain among the nation's family caregivers. Two-thirds of caregivers report moderate to high emotional stress, and one in four report feeling socially isolated.

Bakersfield resident Ucedrah Osby, who has known Hagler for 20 years, recalled the transformation her best friend has undergone in the wake of assuming her full-time caregiving role. "Angela used to be very bubbly, very social. Happy about life. Her skin used to be glowing," Osby said. "She would take pride in, you know, dressing up, her hair, her eyelashes; she would even get her nails done.

"She was the life of the party. Always willing to share wisdom with young people and with the parents. Always being helpful. And now those things are a thing of the past," Osby added.

Theodore Richard, a clinical social worker who has not consulted with Hagler, said caregivers may resist help because they are experiencing burnout or because they believe no one else can provide care the way they can.

"A lot of times they don't feel like they need help because they're almost in 'survival mode," Richard said.

He said caregivers might shy away from pursuing outside support because of cultural, personal, or other reasons.

He said caregivers may have the attitude of, "we're just going to deal with this in-house."

In California, more than 7 million adults serve as family caregivers. These caregivers are not simply helping an elderly parent get to a doctor's appointment. Many are helping loved ones bathe, dress, eat, move around the house, and manage medications.

After Hagler's daughter, Mayisha Dale, died in 2021, Hagler became Vaughn's unofficial guardian. Hagler took responsibility for getting Vaughn through the emotional aftermath of losing a parent. Then came the 2024 car crash.

Hagler schedules Vaughn's medical and physical therapy appointments and attends every appointment across Los Angeles, Bakersfield, and Madera.

She also navigates the bureaucracy of scheduling special medical transport that can accommodate a wheelchair or walker, which requires 48 hours to a week of advance notice. Hagler is also in charge of taking Vaughn to pick up her weekly schoolwork at Shafter High School and ensuring Vaughn completes her assignments on time.

Hagler prepares their meals, helps Vaughn get in and out of the shower, and enforces the teen's daily routine of using her prosthetic leg so she can regain her mobility.

And then there's the ongoing emotional support of helping a teenager through the isolation and pain of losing a leg and her life as she knew it.

Hagler supports the teen through bouts of self-pity and depression. She encourages her to go out and socialize with friends — something the teen did recently after more than two years largely trapped indoors. After the crash, Vaughn was hospitalized for months, undergoing multiple surgeries. Doctors tried to save her left leg, but ultimately she underwent an above-the-knee amputation.

Angela and Sarabhi share a quick embrace in their shared home in Shafter. Sarabi is working on growing more comfortable with her prosthetic leg. (Photo: Cecil Egbele)

Hagler said hospital staff became concerned about Vaughn's depression and possible suicidal thoughts.

Now Hagler said she recognizes when Vaughn is depressed and works to pull her out of it. Hagler's own dark moods are harder to address.

"I know that I'm going through depression right now," Hagler said. "Now I'm just looking at four walls. I have no energy to do anything. I get up but go nowhere."

When asked how she takes care of herself, Hagler replied, "I literally don't."

The AARP caregiving report said nearly one in five family caregivers report being in fair or poor

Continued on Page A2

Bill Repealing 'Racist' CalWORKs 'Man - in - the - House' Rule Clears Legislature

By Antonio Ray Harvey
California Black Media

A California rule requiring an unrelated adult man living with a family receiving welfare benefits to contribute financially to the household could be repealed if Gov. Gavin Newsom signs Senate Bill (SB) 1030 into law.

Authored by Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Los Angeles), SB 1030 would eliminate the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) "Unrelated Adult Male," or UAM, rule. Smallwood-Cuevas called the policy "outdated and actively harmful," saying it relies on mid-20th-century gender stereotypes and subjects families to intrusive surveillance.

The Assembly approved the bill 77-0 on Aug. 19, followed by a 40-0 Senate concurrence vote five days later. Newsom has until Sept. 30 to sign or veto the measure.

"This is a law that helped divide our families. This is a rule that separated us from our mothers, fathers, and restricted men's access to their families mainly because of the discriminatory practices of public housing systems back in the 1960s and 1970s," said Smallwood-Cuevas, a member of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC).

Under Section 11351.5 of the California Welfare and Institutions Code, an unrelated adult man living with a family applying for or receiving CalWORKs must make a financial contribution based on his income and expenses. He and the mother must disclose their household expense-sharing arrangement under penalty of perjury. Benefits may be discontinued if either person knowingly refuses to cooperate.

SB 1030 would repeal those requirements beginning July 1, 2027, or later if the state's welfare computer system is not ready to implement the change.

Smallwood-Cuevas, a veteran journalist who has written about families relying on public assistance, said the law should be modernized as low-income households confront rising housing and food costs and broader economic uncertainty.

"We wanted to take that law off the books that limited men from being in the home with their families. We recognize Donald Trump is in the White House, and he will use all of the racist tools of the past to discriminate and surveil," Smallwood-Cuevas told California Black Media (CBM).

Smallwood-Cuevas also told the Assembly Human Services Committee that SB 1030 was a priority of the California Legislative Women's Caucus.

"Historically, the man in the house rule was disproportionately applied to Black women, women of color, reflecting a broader racialized system of surveillance and negative stereotypes and narratives. We know that was embedded in some of our early welfare policies," Smallwood-Cuevas said.

"California must act to modernize this provision. Our families are already carrying the weight of rising rent, grocery costs, economic uncertainty, and the last thing California should do is make it harder for mothers to put food on the table and a roof over their families' heads," she added.

"Man-in-the-house" policies emerged from state welfare programs during the early and mid-20th century. They were later applied under Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), a federal assistance program established by the Social Security Act of 1935.

California State Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Los Angeles) authored Senate Bill 1030, legislation designed to repeal California's outdated "Man in the House" rule affecting CalWORKs eligibility. The bill passed the California Legislature and was sent to Gov. Gavin Newsom for consideration. (CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey)

For decades, some state welfare agencies denied assistance to low-income families if an able-bodied man lived in or regularly visited the home, treating him as a substitute father regardless of whether he was legally or financially responsible for the children.

The U.S. Supreme Court addressed the practice in King v. Smith (1968). Alabama terminated AFDC benefits for a mother and her four children because a man who was not the children's father visited her on weekends. In 1968, the court unanimously ruled that Alabama could not treat him as a parent because he had no legal duty to support the children.

California later enacted Section 11351.5, replacing the outright denial of benefits with a cost-sharing requirement for unrelated adult men living in CalWORKs households.

Smallwood-Cuevas compared the rule's effect on Black families to the welfare policies depicted in the 1974 film "Claudine", starring Diahann Carroll and James Earl Jones.

"Remember the film Claudine that was about the way Black families, male and female relationships that could not be cultivated because of this law," Smallwood-Cuevas said. "We understand in this environment with unemployment rates, shutting down of industries that employ, particularly men in our communities, that sometimes men can't contribute financially, but that doesn't mean they don't contribute to our families. These laws shouldn't divide and separate our families, and this is what this rule has done for so many years."

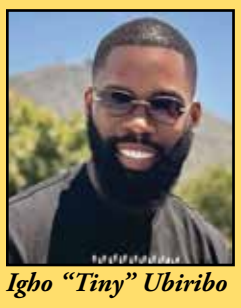
Rebecca Gonzales, senior policy advocate at the Western Center on Law and Poverty, told the Assembly Human Services Committee that such policies were used "to police the households of particularly Black women."

The Western Center is co-sponsored SB 1030 as part of the Reimagine CalWORKs Coalition, which advocates for making the program more supportive of families and less punitive.

"The man of the house law is an outdated, misogynistic policy that incorporates racist and sexist assumptions about people who receive CalWORKs," Gonzales said. "This provision, which is not required by federal law, presumed cohabiting men were substitute parents, regardless of financial contribution, and this was deemed unconstitutional in King v. Smith and further restricted by Lewis v. Martin (1970)."

"It also stemmed from outdated social mores, which disapproved of a couple who cohabitated without being married," Gonzales added. "We believe it is extremely important that California repeals outdated, unneeded laws that are based on racist and sexist presumptions of human behavior."

Young Black Influencer Dies After Male Organ Enlargement Procedure Gone Wrong



Igho "Tiny" Ubiribo

LOS ANGELES, CA — Igho "Tiny" Ubiribo, a British-Nigerian influencer, has sadly passed away after a penis enlargement procedure in Thailand led to a fatal pulmonary embolism, according to a U.K. coroner. The 43-year-old businessman underwent the cosmetic treatment while on a luxury trip with his wife, Danielle Simba Allen, in March. Doctors later found that material from the procedure had reached his lungs, causing a blockage that proved fatal.

According to TMZ, 40 milliliters of hyaluronic acid and lidocaine were injected into Ubiribo's penis at an unnamed Thai clinic. He was staying with his wife at a Marriott hotel in Bangkok when he underwent the procedure. Afterward, the couple went for a massage, but he soon began experiencing chest pain and passed out twice.

An ambulance took him to Sukhumvit Hospital, where he initially remained conscious enough to answer questions. Allen told doctors about the injections, giving them important information about the cosmetic procedure he had received. However, his condition quickly worsened. He lost consciousness before doctors could carry out a recommended CT scan.

Medical staff determined that he had suffered a pulmonary embolism, which occurs when a blood vessel in the lungs becomes blocked. He was moved to intensive care as doctors worked to save him. Medics performed CPR for more than 100 minutes, but they could not revive him. He died in the early hours of March 6.

A postmortem examination in the U.K. later found cellular material in his lungs that matched the hyaluronic acid used in the penile filler procedure. Coroner Jean Harkin concluded that the cosmetic treatment caused the pulmonary embolism that led to his death. The case has also highlighted the serious risks linked to injectable penis fillers. Hyaluronic acid treatments can cost as much as $9,000 and generally last between six and nine months, while British urology experts have warned that complications can be severe.

Before his death, Ubiribo had built a large following on Instagram, with about 185,000 followers, and was known for documenting a lavish lifestyle. He owned a home in Los Angeles' Crenshaw neighborhood valued at about $1.1 million and a London apartment worth around $600,000. He and Allen, a fashion designer and socialite, married in Zimbabwe in 2022 in a ceremony reportedly costing $473,000. After his death, he was buried in London in a gold coffin reportedly worth more than $745,000. Nigerian music star Davido and Celebrity Barman Cubana Chief Priest were among those who attended the funeral.

Black Man Gets 22 Years in Prison for Self Defense Shooting During Armed Home Invasion

Dovico Raynard Miles

GAINESVILLE, FL — Dovico Raynard Miles, a Black man from Gainesville, Florida, who fought back during a violent 2022 home invasion, was sentenced to more than 22 years in federal prison after the case shifted to drug and weapons charges.

Miles, 47, was at home with his niece, D'Halani Armstrong, when the break-in happened on July 19, 2022. Court records say two men forced their way inside, searching for drugs, money, and jewelry. A struggle broke out, and Miles managed to wrestle a gun away from one of the intruders as shots were fired from both sides.

Amid the gunfire, Armstrong was fatally shot. Both intruders, Jason Ward and Alderious White, also suffered gunshot wounds. Investigators later confirmed that the firearm Miles used during the exchange belonged to one of the men who broke into the home.

Authorities said that after the shooting, Miles hid drugs and firearms in the backyard. According to a federal release, officers later recovered about 1,000 grams of cocaine, more than 70 grams of cocaine base, over 1,400 grams of methamphetamine, marijuana, several firearms, and $10,000 in cash.

Miles was already on federal supervised release tied to a 2008 drug conviction. Prosecutors charged him with new drug and weapons offenses, along with violating the terms of his release. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 20 years for the new charges, plus an additional two and a half years for the violation.

Local charges involving firearm possession and evidence tampering were later dropped. However, a separate Department of Justice case moved forward and resulted in the final sentence. Gainesville Police Chief Nelson Moya said authorities maintain "zero tolerance for violent crime" and remain focused on removing guns and drugs from the community.

The others involved in the home invasion have also been sentenced. Ward received 30 years in prison in October 2023. White was sentenced to 50 years in October 2025. Patrick Owen Watson, identified as the organizer, received a life sentence in December 2025. Tiara Luckie, who served as the getaway driver, pleaded no contest and was sentenced to 15 years of probation.

World & Nation

A Second Apology: Native Bill Heads to Newsom's Desk

By Antonio Ray Harvey
California Black Media

Authored by Assemblymember James C. Ramos (D-Highland), Assembly Bill (AB) 2115 officially passed the California Legislature on Aug. 26 and has advanced to Gov. Gavin Newsom's desk.

Formally known as the "Rowena Mae Ramos Act," in honor of Ramos's mother, the bill states that California recognizes and accepts legal and moral responsibility for harms and atrocities committed against Native Americans by past public officials since 1850.

Ramos, the first Native American to serve in the California Legislature, said he named the bill to honor his mother, a tribal elder who dedicated herself to teaching Native American history and culture.

AB 2115 cleared its final legislative hurdle with a unanimous 79-0 Assembly vote after passing the Senate 40-0 earlier in the month.

"This history of violence against California's first people created deep and lasting trauma that continues to this day and affects Native American communities across our state," said Ramos.

"Although the governor issued an apology on behalf of the state in 2019, this body, this institution, which enacted laws that facilitated the removal and destruction of Native communities, has never issued its own apology for its direct role in these injustices," Ramos added.

The measure requires a plaque memorializing the Legislature's apology to be placed publicly and conspicuously inside the State Capitol Building.

If Newsom approves the bill, a final copy of the apology will bear the Great Seal of the State, be signed by top state officials and the Governor, and reside permanently in the State Archives, Ramos told California Black Media (CBM).

"While we cannot undo the wrongs of the past, the state has a responsibility to confront it with honesty and pave the way for the true account of history to be told," Ramos said.

Ramos pointed to California's first governor, Peter Hardeman Burnett, who publicly called for a "war of extermination" against Native Americans.

"In 1851, California's first governor, Peter Burnett, addressed the Legislature where he openly declared a war against California's first people," said Ramos, a member of the Serrano/Cahuilla tribe and the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation. "That war was paid for using taxpayers' dollars to eliminate the Native American people of this land."

AB 2115 aims to promote healing between tribal communities and state government by acknowledging historical atrocities, including violence, forced displacement, land theft and family separation approved or ignored by past state leaders.

Although AB 2115 focuses specifically on California Native Americans, the measure mirrors the concept and placement of the slavery-apology plaque established under the 2024 reparations-related AB 3089, authored by former Assemblymember Reggie Jones-Sawyer (D-South Los Angeles).

Passed as part of California's 2024 reparations package, AB 3089 formally apologized to Black Californians for the state's role in perpetuating chattel slavery and systemic discrimination. Although California entered the Union as a "free state" in 1850, the state enforced fugitive slave laws and allowed enslaved people to be held within its borders.

Like AB 2115, AB 3089 required a commemorative plaque memorializing the apology to be publicly displayed in the State Capitol. Newsom signed that bill into law on Sept. 26, 2024.

On June 23, Kenneth Kahn, tribal leader of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, testified before the Senate Committee on Governmental Organization in support of AB 2115.

Kahn said laws California enacted and enforced against tribal communities "were not abstract or distant." Those policies stripped Native people of "basic civil protections" and made the survival of many tribes "extraordinarily difficult," he said.

"These harms were the direct result of state-sanctioned policies adopted and maintained during California's early history," Kahn said. "In 2019, Gov. Newsom took an important step by issuing an apology on behalf of the executive branch and establishing the Truth and Healing Council. But as AB 2115 correctly recognizes, the violence and discrimination inflicted upon Native communities were not confined to executive action alone."

CLBC member Sen. Laura Richardson (D-Inglewood) also expressed support for a formal apology and emphasized the importance of permanently displaying it.

"I just want to say that I think the permanency (of the plaque) is so important that (Indigenous) people will continue to be remembered and recognized and do better," Richardson said during the Senate committee hearing.

Ramos said educating lawmakers about California's history was a significant part of getting the legislation passed.

"It's very special. One of the main processes of getting this passed was educating the Legislature that these things actually did happen," Ramos said.

Assemblymember James C. Ramos (D-Highland) introduced Assembly Bill 2115, which would formally apologize for California's role in promoting, permitting and enforcing policies of violence against California Native Americans. Named in honor of Ramos' late mother, Rowena Mae Ramos, the legislation is known as the Rowena Mae Ramos Act. (CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey)

For Ramos, the legislation is also deeply personal.

"My mom grew up at a time when racism wasn't hidden. She went through a lot," he said. "I thought that it was only fitting to honor her with this bill, a formal apology on behalf of the state of California, that would now carry her name."

Black Americans Have Doubts About the U.S. Food System

By Jennifer Porter Gore
Black Press USA Wire

Black Americans are intensely aware of the connection between food and health but face economic and structural barriers that limit what they can actually put on the table, according to a new report from Word In Black's Insights & Research Division.

The report, At The Table: Food & Health In Our Community, published September 3, finds that Black Americans have major concerns about the nation's food safety and their ability to access healthy food choices at prices they can afford.

Among the starkest findings: Six in 10 don't trust that the food they buy in grocery stores is safe, and rising grocery prices are pushing families toward cheaper, less nutritious options.

"What we found is a community that knows exactly what it needs to eat well and simply cannot get there on the current terms," said Christa Mahlobo, Ph.D., Insights & Research Director for Word In Black. Mahlobo is a research scientist who works independently from the newsroom.

When it comes to healthier eating, "The barrier isn't awareness," Mahlobo says. "It's price, proximity, and a food system that too often asks Black families to choose between what they can afford and what will keep them healthy."

Price, food safety concerns

The report draws findings from a survey of 1,249 Black Americans conducted between April 22 and June 8, 2026. Respondents were readers of Word In Black and 10 partner publishers, legendary Black news outlets operating nationwide. Roughly one-third of the respondents have postgraduate

or professional degrees, and the largest group had annual incomes of $100,000 or more.

Respondents also want to see improvements in the nation's food quality and availability, as well as better access to nutrition education. Roughly 3 out of 4 respondents said prices for healthy foods such as fresh fruits and vegetables need to be lowered. Forty-two percent of respondents want more grocery stores in their neighborhoods, while 38% want more nutrition education.

The barrier isn't awareness. It's price, proximity, and a food system that too often asks Black families to choose between what they can afford and what will keep them healthy.

–Dr. Christa Mahlobo, Insights & Research Director, Word In Black

More than 60% of respondents reported concerns about the nation's food safety, reflecting a broader erosion of confidence in the American food system. In July, a Quinnipiac University poll of likely voters found 55% of respondents have little or no confidence in the government's oversight of food safety. A KFF survey found that less than half of voters approve of the Trump administration's handling of food policy.

This comes as news headlines have been filled with weekly reports of food recalls due to salmonella, E. coli, and the continued cyclospora outbreak that has killed two people and sickened more than 11, 000.

KEY FINDINGS

Health vs. affordability

While many respondents did not report being food insecure, the survey found that rising grocery prices are forcing difficult trade-offs.

Respondents described "trading down" — swapping higher-priced foods or brands for cheaper alternatives, such as buying store brands or swapping chicken for steak. They also look for manager's specials, use coupons, and use mobile apps for additional savings. Some also rely on local food pantries.

Although the most recent government figures estimate that it's possible to meet federal fruit and vegetable recommendations for roughly $2.50–$3.00 per day, that report—using data from 2022—seems out of step with current conditions.

A noticeable segment of WIB survey respondents reported that they've begun buying fewer fresh fruits, vegetables, or meat, and are bypassing organic foods. They're also more willing to accept lower-quality food, or skip healthier options altogether.

One respondent described her mindset while grocery shopping: "Put it back or find a cheaper unhealthy version."

The report warns this practice could signal a widening gap in Black Americans' access to healthy food, which appears to be affecting the larger population.

A Pew Research Center survey conducted last year found that 90% of U.S. adults said healthy food has gotten more expensive in recent years. Seventy-seven percent of lower-income adults report it's now harder to eat healthier, while at the same time, 46% of lower-income adults said it's "a lot" harder to eat healthy, versus 15% of upper-income adults saying the same.

Price also shapes where people shop.

Two in five respondents said reasonably priced food is the most important factor in choosing a grocery store — ahead of taste, convenience, and healthfulness. This differs from national survey findings, where taste has been the leading driver of food and beverage purchases since 2006.

The Word In Black survey found it's common for respondents to eat out, especially among younger adults.

More than one in three respondents reported dining out—including fast food, takeout, or restaurants—three or more times per week. But this finding skewed younger, with 41 % of respondents aged 18 to 34 saying they were more likely to eat at a restaurant three or more times per week than respondents aged 55 and older.

Food is life— and culture

The survey found Black Americans remain strongly tied to their food heritage.

Roughly 32% said their knowledge of food came from how they were raised and what their family cooked at home, while 29% said their current food knowledge was shaped by their own research and expanding their food horizons as adults.

When asked whether they still want to eat the way they were taught, roughly 47% said they try to balance traditional foods with healthier choices. But a quarter of respondents said they still eat mostly the same foods they grew up with, and about 12% have moved away from their traditional diet for health reasons.

Meanwhile, 46% of survey respondents strongly agreed that food in the U.S. contributes to diet–related diseases such as type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease.

Many say their diet is in a good place

When grading the healthfulness of their own diets, a little more than half of respondents gave themselves a B. That's around the same percentage as the 51% of respondents in a broader survey who gave themselves the same grade. Nine in 10 agreed that what they eat affects their mental and emotional well-being.

Self-reporting diet grades also tracked closely with respondents' impressions of their overall health. Among respondents who gave their diet an A, more than 85% rated their general health as excellent or very good, compared with 48% who gave their diet a B, 10% a C, and 5% a D.

Low awareness of the "MAHA" program

While the Trump administration's Make America Healthy Again program is reportedly having some success among Republican voters, it is not so successful among WIB survey respondents. Nearly half of them either heard very little about the official government-approved food and nutrition guidelines, had heard of the guidelines but were unaware that Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. had them updated in 2025, or had never heard of them at all.

But survey respondents are having conversations with healthcare providers: 73% said a doctor, nutritionist, or other caregiver had spoken with them regularly or occasionally about their diet or eating habits.

What people say would help

Asked what would help them eat healthier, respondents pointed to structural changes.

Seventy-three percent want lower prices for fresh fruits, vegetables, and whole foods, while 42% want more grocery stores or fresh food markets in their neighborhoods. But 38% also want more public education about food and nutrition—an appetite for knowledge the report calls an important entry point for public health interventions.

The report concludes by calling on policymakers, community health organizations, and food retailers to expand access to healthy foods through subsidies, invest in culturally relevant nutrition programs, and partner with trusted community leaders to deliver health education where Black Americans already live, work, worship, and gather.

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

"This is Not a Job. This is Life"

One Grandmother's Fight Against Caregiver Burnout

Continued from page A1

health, and nearly one in four say caregiving makes it difficult to care for their own health.

Hagler and Vaughn acknowledged the stress can lead to them arguing and retreating to their respective bedrooms to process and calm down. While Hagler watches Chinese TV dramas, Vaughn enjoys TV soaps and series until the air clears. That is how they cope.

Vaughn said she understands the plight of her grandmother.

"My grandma is taking care of me by herself," she said. "And now I'm hurt, and she's hurt."

Hagler said caring for family is much different than the paid care work she has done previously.

Hagler used to work as a caregiver, taking care of a range of people from those with ADHD to the severely disabled.

"If I was taking care of somebody else, I could go take care of them and go home," she said.

"This is not a job. This is life," she added.

When Trust, Survival and Support Collide

Hagler, who is unable to work because of her caregiving responsibilities and work injury, has the option of seeking out assistance from programs through In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) that pay family caregivers.

But she has so far declined to pursue that help.

"A lot of people were doing scams," she said. "I don't know who to talk to about that, because I don't trust a lot of people."

Hagler underwent shoulder surgery after she was injured on her Amazon job. Later, she developed numbness in her hand. Doctors have also been treating problems with her neck.

Hagler said she has been told she may be permanently disabled and will need to begin the process of applying for Social Security disability benefits.

The IHSS, a decades-old, state-administered program, could provide benefits.. Her granddaughter had been assigned an IHSS-authorized in-home care worker for about 16 hours a month. But this caregiver has been on maternity leave for about 10 months now, and Hagler has not applied for a replacement.

Hagler could be compensated for the care she is providing seven days a week — currently without pay — if her granddaughter is eligible and the county assessment authorizes those services.

"They have to be Medi-Cal," said Jeremy Oliver, the director of Kern County Aging and Adult Services. "Our in-home support service program is Medi-Cal based, which offers actual caregiver support assuming that they meet the criteria."

Oliver said the agency also offers family caregiver support through California Area Agency on Aging. The Waiver Personal Care Services (WPCS), a state program that provides additional personal-care services, is another possibility. It is available to people enrolled in the Home and Community-Based Alternatives Waiver who are also receiving IHSS and whose doctors determine that the additional services are necessary for them to remain safely at home.

A family member can potentially become a WPCS provider after completing the IHSS provider-enrollment process.

Getting help in the short-term is one thing. Hagler wonders about the longer-term future for her and her granddaughter.

The IHSS program partners with support groups like the Valley Caregiver Resource Center to help people like Hagler feel a sense of community with others who understand the toll of being a caregiver.

But she rejected the idea.

"I don't think I need it," she said. Her granddaughter disagreed.

"You are not okay," she told her grandmother. "You've lost a job. You have your own health issues."

Hagler said the kind of assistance she needs is different.

"The help I need is if somebody could pay my rent. Somebody could pay my PG&E. Somebody could buy me some groceries," she said. "That's the kind of help that I would need."

She also questioned what a mental-health professional could do for her beyond telling her to slow down or prescribing medication.

Richard, the clinical worker, said if Hagler had the financial means to pay her bills, that would remove one source of stress.

"If she had the means to take care of it, that would be one less thing that she would have to worry about."

He added that therapy itself does not fix any problems outright.

"It's not about the therapist telling them what to do, but helping them come into a conclusion of what works best for them and how they can address it," he said.

Oliver said caregivers like Hagler can call his office to discuss their circumstances and be connected with appropriate resources.

"We just need to know a little bit more about what the circumstances are, what she's struggling with, and try to link her to the right source," Oliver said.

For Hagler, the question now is whether she will pursue some of the help she didn't know was available and whether accepting it could give her something she has struggled to find since becoming her granddaughter's caregiver: relief.

She said she is willing to look into the assistance, not because she wants to step away from caring for her granddaughter, but because she wants to be able to keep doing it.

"Regardless of how I got to take care of her, what situation comes, as long as you leave her here, I'm going to take care of her," she said.

Sarabi and her grandmother Angela strike a pose, finding some levity in what can be long days inside the house together.

Entertainment

'Soul Train Awards' Are Back

BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA - NOVEMBER 19: Janelle Monáe (C), winner of the Spirit of Soul Award, with Folayan Kunerede and Bobbi Lanea of Flyana Boss, attend Soul Train Awards 2023 on November 19, 2023 in Beverly Hills, California. (Photo by Leon Bennett/Getty Images for BET)

BET Ceremony Returns to Celebrate R&B and Soul Legacy

The Soul Train Awards are coming back to BET and premiering on CBS this November, after the ceremony was taken off the air for three years.

After three years off the air, the "Soul Train Awards" are back.

The BET award show, which celebrates the the biggest stars in R&B and soul music, will return to its home network and make its first broadcast on CBS this November, with BET stating in a press release that the upcoming show will feature "honorees who defined the sound with the artists carrying it forward, celebrating a legacy that has influenced American music since 'Soul Train' first went on the air in 1971."

Paramount Skydance's channels VH1, MTV2, Logo, and BET Her will also run the program. Instead of airing live, the ceremony will be pre-recorded in Chicago, the city where the original "Soul Train" television series, hosted by the late Don Cornelius, began in 1971. Cornelius first created the music-and-dance show for the local indie station WCIU, which later became a nationally syndicated broadcast.

BET president Louis Carr said in a statement, "As a Chicago native, I'm proud to bring the 'Soul Train Awards' back to the city where it all originated. Coming off a landmark year for BET, this return reaffirms what we do best: bringing our community together around the culture, and connecting the artists who built this sound to the ones carrying it forward."

The last "Soul Train Awards" were hosted by Keke Palmer in 2023. Two years later, in 2025, BET announced that both the "Soul Train Awards" and the "Hip Hop Awards" were suspended. As of now, the network has not announced plans to bring back the latter award show.

Per Variety, Connie Orlando, exec VP of specials, music programming and music strategy at BET said the awards will be "reimagined" with a "bold new format."

"The 'Soul Train Awards' has always been the home for R&B and soul," she said. "It's about honoring the artists who shaped the genre while reinventing the night for where the music is headed."

The upcoming Soul Train Awards will air BET and CBS on November 27 at 8 p.m.The awards will come back with the help of Spotify as the broadcast's exclusive music streaming sponsor and Toyota as a key sponsor.

Malcolm-Jamal Warner's Mom Details Millions Set Aside Amid Widow's Estate Fight

Late "Cosby Show" star Malcolm-Jamal Warner's mother is pushing back against his widow's multimillion-dollar estate claims, telling the court that her son made substantial separate provisions for his wife and daughter before his death — and that she tried to resolve the dispute privately.

In new court documents obtained by TMZ, Pamela Warner disputes Tenisha Warner's claims that Malcolm failed to fulfill financial obligations contained in the couple's 2022 premarital agreement. Pamela is asking the court to approve a separate settlement involving Malcolm's daughter, MacKenzie, and dismiss Tenisha's Georgia lawsuit.

Pamela Warner Details Where the Millions Went

Pamela says she proposed taking a one-time payment from Malcolm's trust while allowing MacKenzie to receive the overwhelming majority of what remained.

Her filing also points to other assets outside that arrangement: a $2 million life insurance policy benefiting MacKenzie, a separate Georgia trust Malcolm used to purchase a home for his wife and daughter, and a retirement plan worth approximately $2.4 million that Pamela says was left to Tenisha.

The distinction matters. Those figures do not establish that Tenisha personally rejected a $4 million cash settlement; Pamela's filing describes different assets with different beneficiaries.

Pamela Warner says her late son separately provided millions for his wife and daughter as she seeks dismissal of Tenisha Warner's $1.2 million lawsuit.

Pamela alleges Tenisha declined her efforts to settle privately and proceeded with litigation. She subsequently reached an agreement directly with MacKenzie's court-appointed representatives.

Tenisha Says the Prenup Left Unpaid Promises

Tenisha's case centers on a different question: whether financial commitments Malcolm allegedly made to her under their premarital agreement remained unpaid when he died.

As EURweb previously reported, Tenisha sued Pamela, who serves as successor trustee of the Warner Family Trust, seeking at least $1,276,042.

Her complaint alleges Malcolm agreed to maintain a $1 million life insurance policy naming her as sole beneficiary, make annual $16,000 payments, fund a Roth IRA and pay her $5,000 monthly for working as his chief of staff and assistant.

Tenisha contends those obligations were not fulfilled and seeks to recover the alleged debt from the family trust.

The two women have also offered competing accounts of attempts to settle the matter privately, making clear that their disagreement extends beyond simply calculating the estate's value.

EURweb reported in August that Pamela reached a tentative settlement with her granddaughter's representatives that would give MacKenzie the majority remainder of Malcolm's trust and estate. The agreement remains subject to court approval.

At the time, Pamela denied claims that she wanted to prevent MacKenzie from receiving financial support and maintained that Malcolm provided separately for his wife and daughter.

Tenisha was not involved in negotiating that agreement.

An Old Estate Plan Complicates the Fight

The conflict is further complicated by the age of Malcolm's estate plan. TMZ previously reported that his trust was created in 1996, long before MacKenzie's 2017 birth and his 2022 marriage to Tenisha.

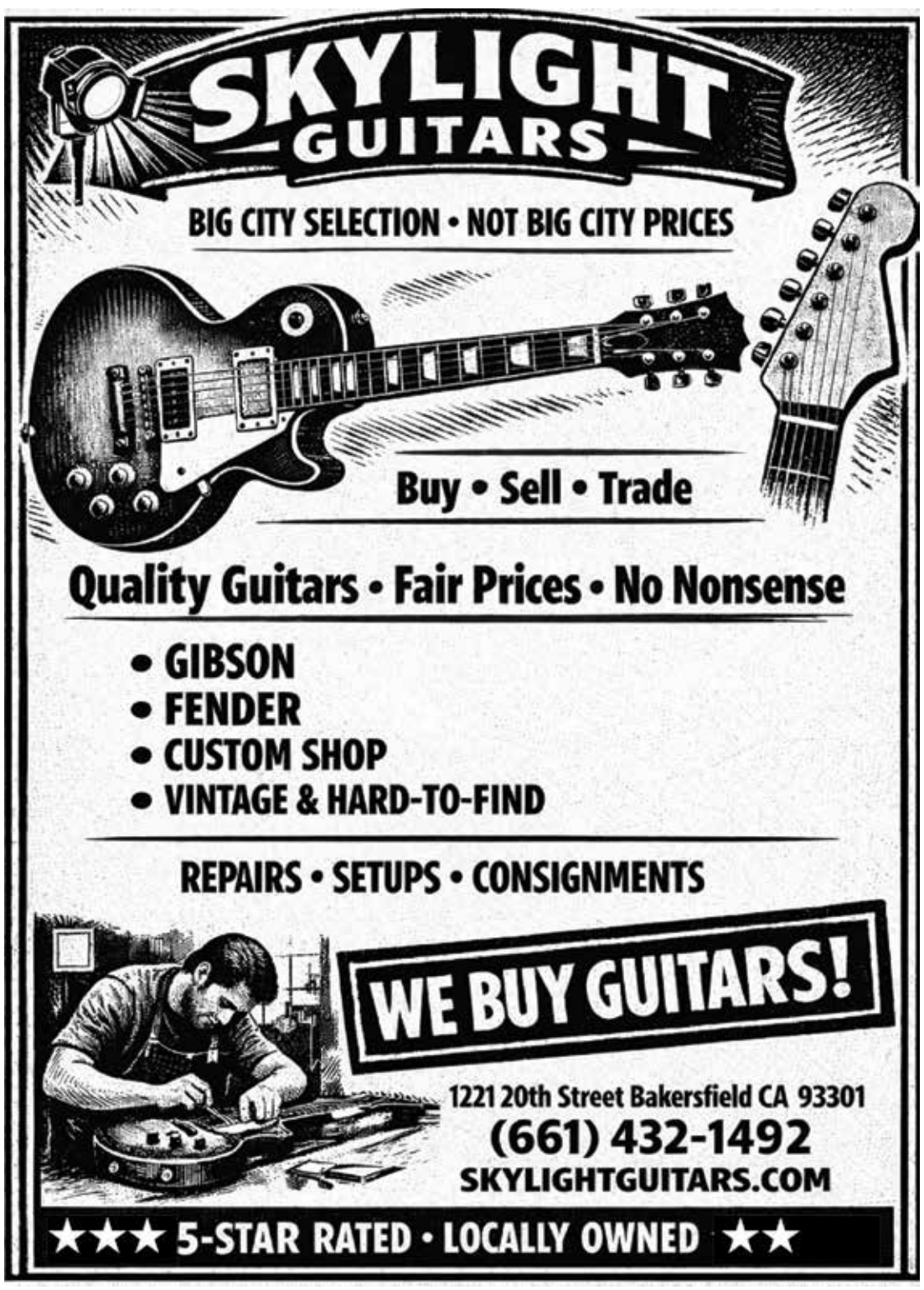
Pamela's position is that Malcolm intended her to receive part of his estate because of their close relationship and her years working as his manager. Tenisha's lawsuit, meanwhile, argues that separate contractual promises Malcolm later made to her remained enforceable.

Malcolm died at 54 after drowning while vacationing in Costa Rica in July 2025.

Now, more than a year after his death, the central dispute isn't simply who receives the biggest share. The courts are being asked to sort out how Malcolm's decades-old trust, later marriage, premarital agreement and provisions for his daughter fit together — while his mother and widow remain sharply divided over what he intended.

Malcolm Jamal Warner and his mother, Pamela Warner – via screenshot

Tenisha Warner – screenshot via 'CBS Mornings'



Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): BCV-25-101694
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
Valeria Lozano, an individual; and Does 1 through 10
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): Interinsurance Exchange of the Automobile Club, an insurance exchange
N O T I C E !
You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.
NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.
Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.
Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales.
AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.
The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Superior Court of California, County of Kern
1215 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield,
California 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):
TODD F. HAINES, ESQ
Law Offices of Todd F. Haines
30495 Canwood Street, Ste 100,
Agoura Hills, CA 91301
420-3132
818-597-2240
DATE (Fecha): 5/9/2025
TARA LEAL, Clerk (Secretario), by
ALEXANDRA VALLES, Deputy (Adjunto)
(SEAL)
8/19, 8/26, 9/2, 9/9/26
CNS-4067482#
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Aug 19, 26, Sep 2, 9, 2026

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 26CUB00501
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
Jaime Alcide Ventura-Fuentes; and Does 1 to 60, inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): Fareedah Salahud-din
NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.
Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.
Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales.
AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.
The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Superior Court of California, County of Kern, Metropolitan Division
1215 Truxtun Ave,
Bakersfield, CA 93301
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Sara Ghafari, Esq.,
Law Offices of Sara Ghafari, 6001 Bristol Parkway, Second Floor, Culver City, CA 90230;
Tel. (818) 222-1923
DATE (Fecha): February 10, 2026
Tara Leal,
Clerk (Secretario)
By Javen Silva, Deputy
(Adjunto)
(SEAL)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served.

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Aug 19, 26, Sep 2, 9, 2026

STATEMENT OF DAMAGES
(Personal Injury or Wrongful Death)
CASE NUMBER:
26CUB00501
To: **JAIME ALCIDE VENTURA-FUENTES**
Plaintiff: **FAREEDAH SALAHUD-DIN**
Seeks damages in the above-entitled action, as follows:
1. General Damages:
a. Pain, suffering, and inconvenience $100,000.00
b. Emotional distress $25,000.00
2. Special Damages:
a. Medical expenses (to date) $8,281.35
b. Future medical expenses (present value) Undetermined
c. Loss of earnings (to date) Undetermined
d. Loss of future earning capacity (present value) Undetermined
SIGNED: Sara Ghafari, Esq., Attorney for Plaintiff
Date: August 13, 2026
Attorney for Plaintiff:
Sara Ghafari, Esq. (SBN: 114204) / Ali Fesharaki, Esq. (SBN: 316559)
Law Offices of Sara Ghafari, 6001 Bristol Parkway, Second Floor, Culver City, CA 90230;
Tel. (818) 222-1923

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Aug 19, 26, Sep 2, 9, 2026

COMPLAINT — PERSONAL INJURY / MOTOR VEHICLE / GENERAL NEGLIGENCE
CASE NO.: 26CUB00501
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF KERN,
Metropolitan Division
1215 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Jurisdiction: ACTION IS AN UNLIMITED CIVIL CASE (Exceeds $35,000)
PLAINTIFF: Fareedah Salahud-din alleges causes of action against **defendant** *(name or names)*:
Jaime Alcide Ventura-Fuentes; and DOES 1 to 60, inclusive
Each defendant named above is a natural person **except** defendant/s:
DOES 1 to 10: a business organization, form unknown.
DOES 11-20: a corporation
DOES 21-30: an unincorporated entity
DOES 31-40: other
The true names of defendants sued as Does are unknown to plaintiff.
a. Doe defendants 1 to 60 were the agents or employees of other named defendants and acted within the scope of that agency or employment.
b. Doe defendants 1 to 60 are persons whose capacities are unknown to plaintiff.
8. This court is the proper court because:
c. injury to person or damage to personal property occurred in its jurisdictional area.
10. The following causes of action are attached and the statements above apply to each (each complaint must have one or more causes of action attached):
a. Motor Vehicle
b. General Negligence
11. Plaintiff has suffered:
a. wage loss.
c. hospital and medical expenses.
d. general damage.
f. loss of earning capacity.
13. The relief sought in this complaint is within the jurisdiction of this court.
14. **Plaintiff prays** for judgment for costs of suit; for such relief as is fair, just, and equitable; and for
a. (1) compensatory damages.
b. (1) according to proof.
15. The paragraphs of this complaint alleged on information and belief are as follows (specify paragraph numbers):
MV-1, MV-2, GN-1
Date: 02/10/2026
SIGNED: Sara Ghafari, Esq., Attorney for Plaintiff
Attorney for Plaintiff:
Sara Ghafari, Esq. (SBN: 114204) / Ali Fesharaki, Esq. (SBN: 316559)
Law Offices of Sara Ghafari, 6001 Bristol Parkway, Second Floor, Culver City, CA 90230;
Tel. (818) 222-1923

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Aug 19, 26, Sep 2, 9, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4828
Doing business as:
GAMCON at 7809 OLCOTT AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
Mailing Address: 7809 OLCOTT AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
MARILYN MARIE FOWLER at 7809 OLCOTT AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **MARILYN MARIE FOWLER**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 12/29/1979
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: August 6, 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: August 6, 2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Aug 19, 26, Sep 2, 9, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4847
Doing business as:
MATTS WINDOW CLEANING at 250 S HEATH RD APT 2137, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
Mailing Address: 250 S HEATH RD APT 2137, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
MATTHEW BRIAN FISH at 250 S HEATH RD APT 2137, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **MATTHEW BRIAN FISH**
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: August 6, 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: August 3, 2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Aug 19, 26, Sep 2, 9, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4914
Doing business as:
BLESSEDBAKESBYPAIGE at 4311 ALMOND GROVE LN, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
Mailing Address: 4311 ALMOND GROVE LN, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
PAIGE ASHELY CORDERO at 4311 ALMOND GROVE LN, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **PAIGE ASHELY CORDERO**
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: August 11, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: August 11, 2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Aug 19, 26, Sep 2, 9, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4937
Doing business as:
DISHLY at 5000 SHOREBIRD DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
Mailing Address: 5000 SHOREBIRD DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
DISHLY, INC. at 5000 SHOREBIRD DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: a Corporation
SIGNED: **Steven Marden Barreto**, CEO
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/10/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: August 12, 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: August 12, 2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Aug 19, 26, Sep 2, 9, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4941
Doing business as:
Belle Terrace Behavioral Health Services at 1600 E. Belle Terrace, Bakersfield, CA 93307-3871
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: a Corporation
SIGNED: **Olga Meave, MD**, Chief Executive Officer
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: August 12, 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: August 12, 2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Aug 19, 26, Sep 2, 9, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4940
Doing business as:
ESENEL PHOTOS at 2005 1ST ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
Mailing Address: 2005 1ST ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
SAMANTHA NICHOLE GARCIA-STUBBS at 2005 1ST ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **SAMANTHA NICHOLE GARCIA-STUBBS**
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: August 12, 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: August 12, 2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Aug 19, 26, Sep 2, 9, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4952
FILE NO: 2026-B4953
Doing business as:
Maximum Score Builders / Maximum Score Builder at 4646 Wilson Road Suite 101, Bakersfield, CA 93309
Mailing Address: 3112 Willow Basin Lane, Bakersfield, CA 93313
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
Maximum Productions, LLC at 3112 Willow Basin Ln, Bakersfield, CA 93313
State of incorp. or org.: CALIFORNIA
The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Isaac Palacios**, 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: August 12, 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: August 12, 2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Aug 19, 26, Sep 2, 9, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4347
Doing business as:
MAXIMUM MORTGAGE SERVICES BY LUZ T. ORTEGA at 10817 VILLA HERMOSA DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
Mailing Address: 10817 VILLA HERMOSA DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
LUZ T ORTEGA at 10817 VILLA HERMOSA DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **LUZ T ORTEGA**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 07/13/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: July 15, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: July 15, 2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Aug 19, 26, Sep 2, 9, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4873
2026-B4874
Doing business as:
RISE ABOVE SOFTWARE / FESTIVAL SURVIVAL STORE at 7612 Hidden Bridge Dr., Bakersfield, CA 93313-4385
Mailing Address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
BELOW INDUSTRIES LLC at 7612 Hidden Bridge Dr., Bakersfield, CA 93313-4385
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **BRIAN A. LOWRY,** Sole 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: August 7, 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: August 7, 2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Aug 19, 26, Sep 2, 9, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5000
Doing business as:
VRS at 2725 TANGERINE ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
Mailing Address: SAME
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
JUAN PABLO LOPEZ LOPEZ at 2725 TANGERINE ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **JUAN PABLO LOPEZ LOPEZ**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: August 14, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: S CEJA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: August 14, 2031

BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Aug 19, 26, Sep 2, 9, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2023-B6637
Business Name you wish to abandon:
GAMCON at 7809 OLCOTT AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
Mailing Address: 7809 OLCOTT AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
County: Kern
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name:
MARILYN MARIE FOWLER at 7809 OLCOTT AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
GREGORY JAMES FOWLER at 7809 OLCOTT AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
The business is conducted by: Married Couple
SIGNED: **MARILYN MARIE FOWLER**, PARTNER
The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: October 11, 2023
Original File No: 2023-B6637
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: August 6, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: 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: Aug 19, 26, Sep 2, 9, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2024-B6975
Business Name you wish to abandon:
SMOKE N GO at 215 ROBERTS LANE SUITE A, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
Mailing Address: 215 ROBERTS LANE SUITE A, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
County: Kern
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name:
TRIO GUYS LLC at 215 ROBERTS LANE STE A, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **IBRAHEEM NAGI**, MANAGING MEMBER
The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: November 20, 2024
Original File No: 2024-B6975
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: August 4, 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: Aug 19, 26, Sep 2, 9, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2026-B4336
Business Name you wish to abandon:
Belle Terrace Behavioral Health Services at 1600 E. Belle Terrace Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93307-3871
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
The business is conducted by: a Corporation
SIGNED: **Olga Meave, MD**, Chief Executive Officer
The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: July 15, 2026
Original File No: 2026-B4336
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: August 12, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: 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: Aug 19, 26, Sep 2, 9, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2025-B5807
Business Name you wish to abandon:
JON SANTOYO at 2107 Brite Street, Bakersfield, CA 93304
Mailing Address: same
County: Kern
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name:
JOSE JUAN SANTOYO at 2107 Brite Street, Bakersfield, CA 93304
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **JOSE JUAN SANTOYO**, Owner
The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: October 9, 2025
Original File No: 2025-B5807
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: July 28, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: 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: Aug 19, 26, Sep 2, 9, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2026-B2844
Business Name you wish to abandon:
HONG YUN MASSAGE at 1800 Oak Street Ste B, Bakersfield, CA 93301
Mailing Address: same
County: Kern
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name:
LIJUAN GONG at 1800 Oak Street Ste B, Bakersfield, CA 93301
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **LIJUAN GONG**, Owner
The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: May 4, 2026
Original File No: 2026-B2844
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: August 13, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M VACA RAMOS,
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: Aug 19, 26, Sep 2, 9, 2026

ORDER ON REQUEST TO RESCHEDULE HEARING
CASE NUMBER: BFL-20-002219
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF KERN
1215 Truxtun Ave
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Metropolitan Division Justice Building
PETITIONER/PLAINTIFF:
Enrique Jeronimo Gomez
RESPONDENT/DEFENDANT:
Francisca Lopez Mendez
The hearing is currently scheduled for (date): **09/30/2026**
Name of party who filed the Request for Order, order to show cause, or other moving paper is (specify): **Enrique Jeronimo Gomez, Petitioner**
Name of party asking to reschedule the hearing is (specify): **Enrique Jeronimo Gomez, Petitioner**

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
IN ORDER TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER THE COUNTY OF KERN CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER) FOR FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2025-26

On **September 29, 2026**, the County of Kern Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing to give the residents of the County and Co-operative Cities of California City, Ridgecrest, Shafter, and Tehachapi, the opportunity to comment on the County Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). The report identifies progress on projects, programs and related accomplishments made from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, in carrying out three federal programs: the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnerships (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG). The hearing will be held on:

Date: **Tuesday, September 29, 2026**
Time: **2:00 p.m., or soon thereafter**
Location: **Board of Supervisors Chamber - First Floor**
County of Kern Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, California

Subsequent to the hearing, the Board of Supervisors will be asked to approve the CAPER and the Planning and Natural Resources Department (PLNR) Community Development Division will subsequently submit the CAPER to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). All written and oral comments received by the end of the public hearing shall be submitted to HUD as part of the final CAPER document.

Prior to the public hearing, the draft CAPER will be available for public review, with a public comment period of at least 15 days beginning on Friday, September 11, 2026, and ending on Monday, September 28, 2026.

Copies of the draft CAPER will be available for review at the following locations: Planning and Natural Resources Department (see address below); the Cooperative Agreement City Halls located in California City, Ridgecrest, Shafter, and Tehachapi; the Beale Memorial Library (701 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield) and all County library branches. Additionally, the FY 2025-26 draft CAPER may be reviewed on or after September 11, 2026 at the County's Community Development website: https://kernplanning.com/community-development-2-2/ or Community Development - Kern County Planning & Natural Resources Dept. (kernplanning.com). Prior to the public hearing set for September 29, 2026, comments and/or questions concerning the CAPER and/or the County's performance during the FY 2025-26 program year may be directed to:

Planning and Natural Resources Department – Community Development Division
2700 "M" Street, Suite 250, Bakersfield, California 93301 at (661) 862-5050 or
James Golden, Supervising Planner at (661) 862-5130 or by email at goldenj@kerncounty.com, or Dennis McNamara, Division Chief at (661) 862-8624 or by email at McNamaraD@kerncounty.com
TTY Relay 1 (800) 735-2929 for persons with hearing impairment

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

(Government Code Section 54953.2)
The Board of Supervisors Chamber is accessible to persons with disabilities. Disabled individuals who need special assistance to attend or participate in a meeting of the Board of Supervisors may request assistance at the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Fifth Floor, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, California or by calling (661) 868-3585. Every effort will be made to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities by making meeting material available in alternative formats. Requests for assistance should be made five (5) working days in advance of a meeting whenever possible.

Published Bakersfield News Observer September 9, 2026

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

The request **does not include** temporary emergency (ex parte) orders previously issued.
Order granting request to reschedule hearing and notice of new hearing
a. The court hearing is rescheduled to the date, time, and location shown below:
New Hearing Date: **09/30/2026**
Time: **8:30 A.M.**
Dept.: **DIVISION "B"**
Address of court: Same as noted above
Reason for rescheduling
a. The hearing needs to be rescheduled because:
(1) the papers were not served before the current hearing date. The court in its discretion finds good cause and reschedules the hearing.
Dated: August 19, 2026
By: Areli Paz Ramirez
Deputy Clerk
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Aug 26, Sep 2, 9, 16, 2026

REQUEST FOR ORDER
Court Divide Omitted/Undisclosed Asset-Pension Plan In Judgement Dated 10/20/21 Under FC §2556 And Request to Publish & Joinder
CASE NUMBER: BFL-20-002219
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF KERN
1215 Truxtun Ave
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Metropolitan Division Justice Building
PETITIONER: Enrique Jeronimo Gomez
RESPONDENT: Francisca Lopez Mendez
NOTICE OF HEARING
TO (name): Francisca Lopez Mendez
Respondent
A COURT HEARING WILL BE HELD AS FOLLOWS:
a. Date: 9/30/2026
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Dept.: Division B
b. Address of court: same as noted above
WARNING to the person served with the Request for Order: The court may make the requested orders without you if you do not file a Responsive Declaration to Request for Order (form FL-320), serve a copy on the other parties at least nine court days before the hearing (unless the court has ordered a shorter period of time), and appear at the hearing. (See form FL-320-INFO for more information.)
Dated: August 5, 2026
By: Areli Paz Ramirez,
Deputy Clerk
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Aug 26, Sep 2, 9, 16, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4875
Doing business as:
PUCKERED LIPS LEMONADE at 117 BRIGHTON WAY, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308, KERN COUNTY
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
PUCKERED LIPS LEMONADE LLC at 117 BRIGHTON WAY, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **YOONNE MELE, Managing Member**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: n/a
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/07/2026
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: 08/07/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Aug 26, Sep 2, 9, 16, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5043
Doing business as:
PANGEA HOPE COUNSELING at 513 MONTCLAIR ST., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
Mailing address: 1120 OAK STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
PANGEA HOPE PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELOR CORPORATION at 513 MONTCLAIR ST., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **Anasa Storay-Demby, 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: 08/17/2026
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: 08/17/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Aug 26, Sep 2, 9, 16, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4621
2026-B4622
Doing business as:
BEHAVIOR EDUCATION ANALYSIS & RESEARCH / BEAR at 4900 CALIFORNIA AVE., 210-B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
Mailing address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
BEHAVIOR EDUCATION ANALYSIS & RESEARCH LLC at 4900 CALIFORNIA AVE., 210-B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **MATTHEW T. DOLAN, CEO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 05/27/2020
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 07/28/2026
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: 08/17/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Aug 26, Sep 2, 9, 16, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4416
Doing business as:
BLACK MOON THERAPY & WELLNESS at 5001 E. COMMERCENTER DR. STE 285, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: P.O. BOX 9445, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93389
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
BARBY NATALY RODRIGUEZ at P.O. BOX 9445, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93389
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **BARBY NATALY RODRIGUEZ**
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: 07/20/2026
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: 07/20/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Aug 26, Sep 2, 9, 16, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5085
Doing business as:
COFFEE SHIELL at 4105 IRONROCK AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
Mailing address: 4105 IRONROCK AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
ASTRID SILVIA NIETO at 4105 IRONROCK AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **ASTRID SILVIA NIETO**
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: 08/18/2026
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: 08/18/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Aug 26, Sep 2, 9, 16, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5037
Doing business as:
BCA SOLUTIONS at 9530 HAGEMAN RD #B362, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312, KERN COUNTY
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
BCA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LLC at 9530 HAGEMAN RD #B362, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **ALEJANDRO BARRIOS, Manager**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 07/10/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/14/2026
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: 08/14/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Aug 26, Sep 2, 9, 16, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4441
Doing business as:
SWEETSURRENDERS222 at 4416 HAHN AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
Mailing address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
JANET PEREZ RODRIGUEZ at 4416 HAHN AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **JANET PEREZ RODRIGUEZ**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 07/01/2021
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 07/21/2026
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: 07/21/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Aug 26, Sep 2, 9, 16, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4947
FILE NO: 2026-B4948
FILE NO: 2026-B4949
Doing business as:
DREAMWEAVER SCENTS / DREAMWEAVER / DWS at 2809 DALEA ST., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
FRANCES ELIZABETH BRANCH at 2809 DALEA ST., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
JUSTIN ALLEN BRANCH at 2809 DALEA ST., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
The business is conducted by: Married Couple
SIGNED: **FRANCES ELIZABETH BRANCH / JUSTIN ALLEN BRANCH**
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: 08/12/2026
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: 08/12/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Aug 26, Sep 2, 9, 16, 2026

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF ALMA B. ROMUALDO
CASE NUMBER: 26PRJ00951
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: ALMA B. ROMUALDO
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by STAFFANIE R. QUINO
in the Superior Court of California, County of Kern
2100 College Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93305
Probate - Juvenile Justice
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that STAFFANIE R. QUINO be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows:
Date: October 29, 2026
Time: 8:30 A.M. Dept: J1
Room:
Address of court: same as noted above
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner:
Lance E. Armo, Esq.
The Law Office of Lance E. Armo
550 W. Alluvial, Suite 110
Fresno, California 93711
Telephone: (559) 324-6527
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 2, 9, 16, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF HAL RAY BARNES
CASE NUMBER: 26PRJ00971
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: HAL RAY BARNES
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by ANDRES GERARDO
in the Superior Court of California, County of Kern
2100 College Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93305
Juvenile Justice Center
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that ANDRES GERARDO be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows:
Date: November 5, 2026
Time: 8:30 A.M. Dept: J1
Room:
Address of court: same as noted above
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner:
Brandon B. Holladay, Esq., SBN 217788
The Law Offices of Young & Nichols
1901 Truxtun Avenue,
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Telephone: (661) 861-7911
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 2, 9, 16, 2026

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 California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales.
AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.
The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Superior Court, 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 Javen Silva, Deputy
(Adjunto)
(SEAL)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served.
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER 26CUB03001
Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN
1215 Truxtun Avenue,
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Civil - Metropolitan Division Justice Building
PETITION OF: **JANIA FAITH GOLDMAN**
FOR CHANGE OF NAME
TO ALL INTERESTED 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
State of incorp. or org.: CA
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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

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: 08/25/2026
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-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):
MAVROS INC at 4815 WHITE LANE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **HRISTOS MAVROKEFALOS, 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: 08/25/2031
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-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-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-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 personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows:
Date: 10/09/2026
Time: 8:30 AM
Dept.: J-1
Address of court: same as noted above
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Petitioner:
Evangelea Nikki Stamoulis-DiCicco,
10481 N. Doheny Drive,
Fresno, CA 93730
Telephone: (559) 289-4354
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 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):
DANIELLA HIDALGO at 622 ARVIN STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **DANIELLA 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 9, 16, 23, 30, 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-B5322
Doing business as:
BLESSED HANDS CO at 501 PACHECO RD APT 4, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 501 PACHECO RD, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
MICHELLE FRANCES THOMAS at 501 PACHECO RD APT 4, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **MICHELLE FRANCES THOMAS**
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: 08/28/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 08/28/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5366
FILE NO: 2026-B5367
Doing business as:
VALLEY FIRST TAX AND INSURANCE / VALLEY FIRST TAX AND INSURANCE SERVICES at 10305 RIATA LANE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
Mailing address: 10305 RIATA LANE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
CHRISTINA ARLENE GRAVES at 10305 RIATA LANE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **CHRISTINA ARLENE GRAVES**
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: 08/31/2026
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: 08/31/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5363
Doing business as:
LUMEND at 9812 BATTERSEA PARK DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312, KERN COUNTY
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
ANTONIO A LUCIO at 9812 BATTERSEA PARK DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **ANTONIO A LUCIO**
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: 08/31/2026
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: 08/31/2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5374
Doing business as:
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:
EAGLE 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
Mailing address: 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 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 YOGURT 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-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 93215
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

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

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 MANAGMENT 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: 08/19/2026
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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice: This is to notify the following persons that his/her personal household and/or miscellaneous goods will be sold at public auction or private sale. Stor It Self Storage 4840 Allen Rd Bakersfield, CA 93314. The sale will take place online at www.storagetreasures.com; the bidding will end on September 23rd, 2026, at 6:00pm.
W15 Jennifer R. Milstred; D05 Melanie Gray; G04 Ronald Castro; H15 KC Bolton Potter; M29 KC Bolton Potter

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice: This is to notify the following persons that his/her personal household and/or miscellaneous goods will be sold at public auction or private sale. Stor It Self Storage 4200 Patton Way Bakersfield, CA 93308. The sale will take place online at www.storagetreasures.com; the bidding will end September 23, 2026 at 6:00 pm.
A009 Winter Odyssey Everett-Jensen; B003 Jason Boller; H051 Mariah Polina; H055 Elizabeth Bryant; I027 Adrienne Wiggins

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 2026

Observer
follow us for the latest updates!
@bakersfieldnewsobserver
@lanewsobserver
@ognscinc
@ognscinc
observer news group of southern california inc.
ognsc.com

Features

Young Black Men Suffering in Silence a Curse That Can Be Broken

By Dominic Boston
Source: Black Press USA Wire

As a young Black man, I find this topic personal. When people discuss mental health, they usually don't picture someone who looks like me. Instead, Black men are often seen as strong, tough, or able to handle anything life throws at us.

Growing up, I was taught exactly that.

My elders always told me to be strong. If I got hurt, I was told to get back up. If I was upset, I was told not to cry. Showing emotion wasn't encouraged. It was seen as a weakness.

Looking back now, I realize I wasn't just being taught how to be a man. I was being conditioned to hide my emotions. I was taught to believe that strength meant staying silent, no matter how much pain I was carrying.

I know my family wasn't trying to hurt me. They wanted me to survive in a world that has never been easy for Black men. They wanted me to be prepared for life's challenges.

When people discuss mental health, they usually don't picture someone who looks like me. Instead, Black men are often seen as strong, tough, or able to handle anything life throws at us.

Growing up, I was taught exactly that.

My elders always told me to be strong. If I got hurt, I was told to get back up. If I was upset, I was told not to cry. Showing emotion wasn't encouraged. It was seen as a weakness.

Looking back now, I realize I wasn't just being taught how to be a man. I was being conditioned to hide my emotions. I was taught to believe that strength meant staying silent, no matter how much pain I was carrying.

I know my family wasn't trying to hurt me. They wanted me to survive in a world that has never been easy for Black men. They wanted me to be prepared for life's challenges.

But somewhere along the way, being strong became confused with pretending everything was okay.

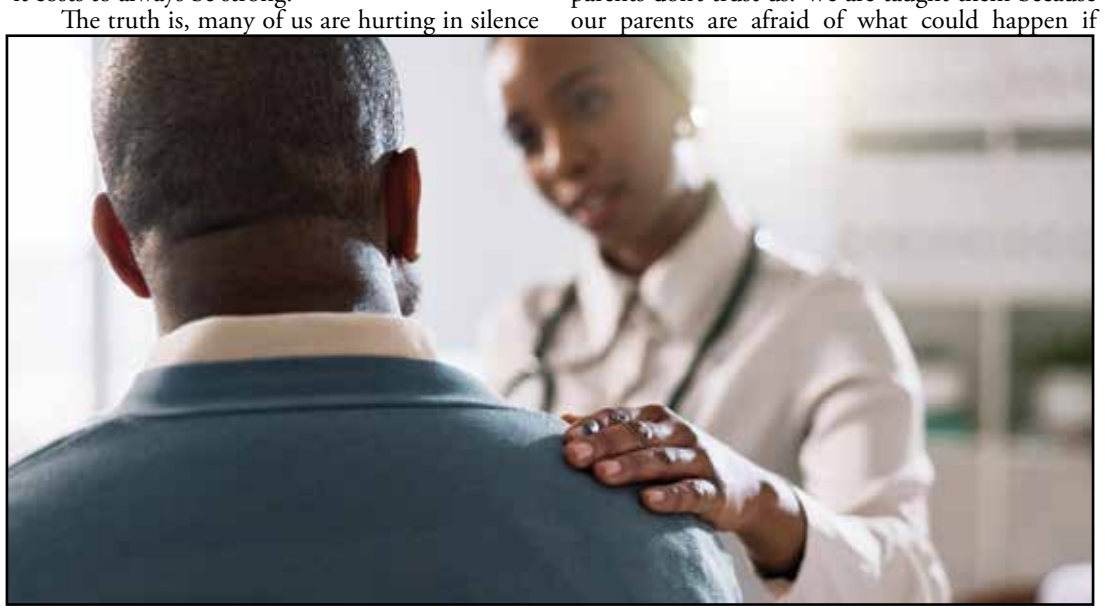
Instead of talking about our feelings, we learned how to bury them. Instead of asking for help, we learned how to deal with everything on our own.

The problem is that emotions don't disappear just because you ignore them. They stay with you, and eventually, they find another way to come out.

I believe that is the reality for many young Black men today.

We're expected to carry the weight of our families, our communities, our schools, our work, and our lives without ever breaking down. People admire our strength, but they rarely ask how much it costs to always be strong.

The truth is, many of us are hurting in silence because we've spent our entire lives believing that is what real men are supposed to do.



For many Black boys, those lessons start early.

Some grow up in neighborhoods where hearing gunshots or seeing police lights is normal. Others lose friends or family members before they are even old enough to understand why. Some are raised in communities where violence, poverty, and limited opportunities are part of everyday life.

When you're constantly worried about making it home safely or helping your family make ends meet, you don't always have time to process your emotions.

You focus on surviving.

Then there is the way society sees us.

Before some people even hear us speak, they have already made assumptions. Many Black men know what it feels like to be watched while shopping, stereotyped because of the clothes they wear, or judged simply because they are Black.

On top of that, many of us grow up having conversations with our parents about how to act if we are ever stopped by the police.

We aren't taught those lessons because our parents don't trust us. We are taught them because our parents are afraid of what could happen if someone else doesn't see our humanity.

Living with that kind of pressure affects your mental health, whether people realize it or not.

Constantly feeling like you have to prove you are not a threat is exhausting. Always feeling like you have to be perfect just to be treated fairly takes a toll.

Those experiences create anxiety, fear, and stress that many young Black men carry every single day, even if they never talk about it.

I also think these experiences help explain why some young Black men feel disconnected from politics and voting.

If you have spent your whole life watching your community struggle no matter who is in office, it is easy to believe that your vote won't change anything.

You see schools that need more resources, neighborhoods that deserve more investment, and communities asking for change year after year. After a while, some people stop believing anyone is listening.

But I also believe that is exactly why voting matters.

The people we elect make decisions about education, mental health funding, affordable housing, community programs, healthcare, and criminal justice. Those decisions directly affect neighborhoods like mine and families like mine.

If we want things to change, we can't sit back and expect someone else to make those choices for us.

Our voices matter, and our votes do too.

One of the biggest changes that needs to happen is the way we talk about mental health.

We have to stop teaching young Black boys that crying makes them weak. We have to stop acting like asking for help is something to be embarrassed about.

Real strength isn't pretending you're okay when you're not.

Real strength is being honest enough to say you're struggling and courageous enough to ask for help.

As I continue to grow into the man I want to become, I'm learning that strength and vulnerability can coexist.

I can be determined, hardworking and resilient while still being honest about my emotions. I don't have to carry everything by myself, and neither does the next generation of young Black men.

It's time we change the conversation.

Instead of only telling young Black boys to be strong, we should also tell them it's okay to cry.

It's okay to talk.

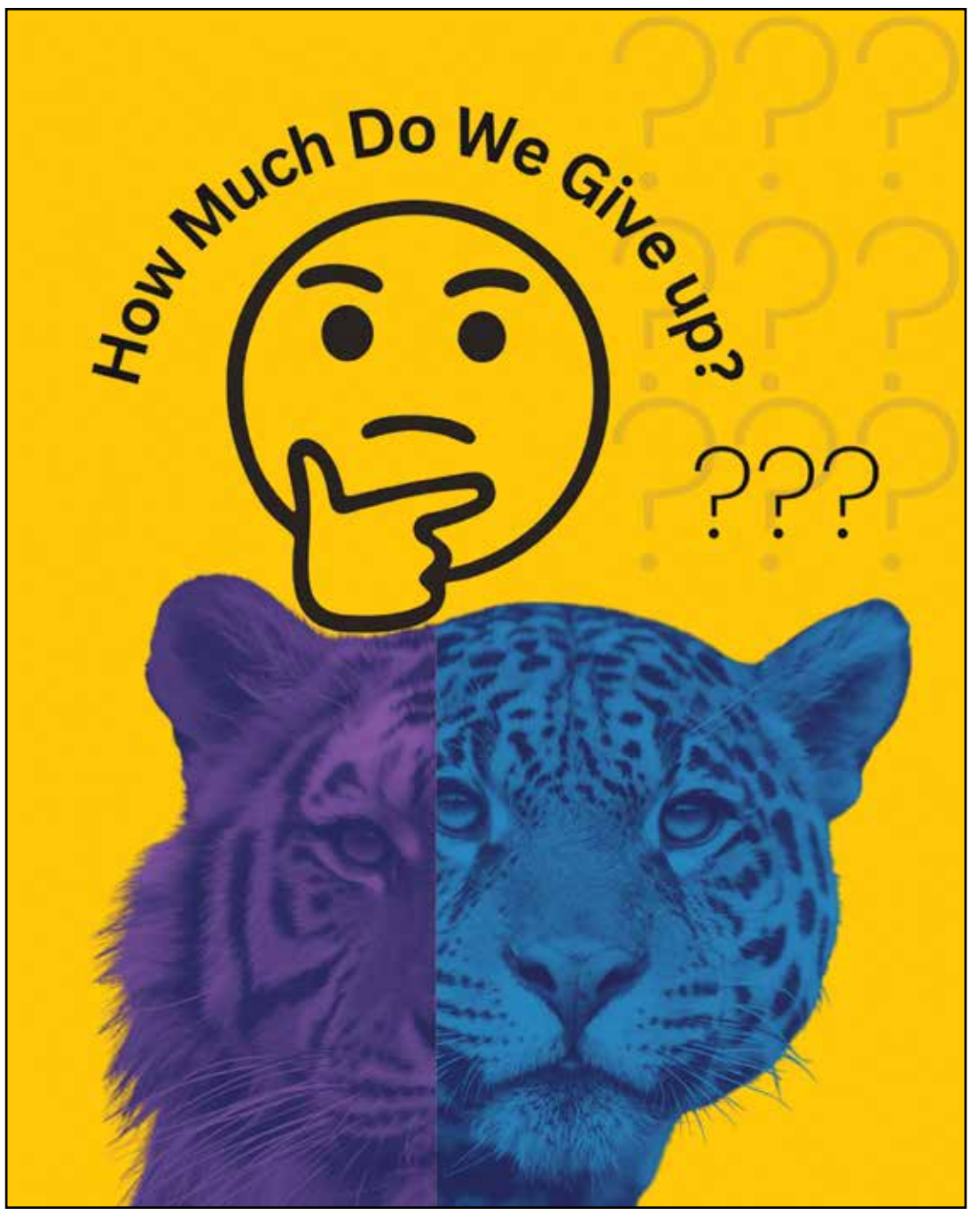
It's okay to heal.

Because when we create a generation of men who feel safe expressing themselves, we aren't making them weaker. We are giving them a better chance to live healthier, happier lives.

And that is the kind of strength our communities have needed all along.

Based on reporting by Jacksonville Free Press.

How Much of Our Community Are We Expected to Give Up



By Shyanne Burris, Staff Writer
Black Press USA Wire

So right now, I have to ask: are we really supposed to take none of this at face value?

First there was Unity Field. Now the African American Cultural Center is embroiled in yet another controversy, this one surrounding the latest changes to the facility that have left many Black students questioning the future of a space intended to celebrate and give them a sense of community. And no, before any of you rush to type up an excuse or a thought piece, there is not a single Black student who genuinely believes that none of this has anything to do with race.

That usually comes up first when we begin talking about the changing landscape around us.

Digest ArtThis is about security. This is about space. This is about logistics. This is about policy. This is apparently about everything in the world that isn't tied to the very special nature of a space that directly affects Black students as their own special thing.

Convenient. This isn't about an intentional effort by LSU to deliberately make our lives uncomfortable. However, this has reached the point where it's difficult to simply dismiss what has happened with LSU after the Unity Field situation and call it "just a coincidence."

Unity Field was a space of gathering. The African American Cultural Center is where African American history, culture, and community are concretely manifested on this campus, and you can't replace either by suggesting that there are other places that students can occupy space. Yes, technically.

But that misses the heart of the whole issue entirely.

You can provide a Black student with another room. But that room is not necessarily the same because it holds a different kind of significance. You can issue a formally written and correctly worded announcement, but that's of no great comfort. And that "professional" explanation behind any decision, however valid it may be, can still provide Black students with an opportunity to see the bigger picture.

From the perspective of Black students, I see all of this because I know that culturally significant spaces can be changed very quickly from being celebrated and special to being seen as simply an optional component of campus life.

LSU can talk about being an inclusive institution. LSU can talk about diversity. LSU can showcase African American history with Black History Month.

But if the actual spaces where that community thrives continue to shrink and grow more inaccessible each day, well what in the world is being celebrated? We need to stop allowing anyone to expect that Black students will keep quiet in acceptance and give thanks for our allowance to still exist on the outskirts of campus. That's not inclusion.

That's accommodation.

That's about accommodation not about inclusion. Unity Field. That was the first step. Next comes the African American Cultural Center.

LSU should probably stop telling students to give their process a chance and instead give them a reason to give the current direction a chance.

Because sooner or later, none of this can be attributed to chance.

Because when the spaces keep disappearing, eventually, we have to stop asking what's next—and start asking who's next.

Based on reporting by Southern University - SouthernDIGEST.

The Business of Educating Black Parents, Teachers and Kids

By Sylvester Brown, Jr.
The St. Louis American Black Press USA Wire

Bolanle Ambonisye knew she had stumbled onto something when parents began using her name to get their children to behave.

"Lil' Johnny was acting up last night. I told him I'm going to tell Mama Bolanle and he straightened right up," she recalled parents telling her when she was a teacher at the Frederick Douglass Institute.

Ambonisye didn't take it as a compliment.

"It's backward," she said. "I'm supposed to tell that child if you don't straighten up, I'm going to tell your mom or your dad."

The experience helped shape an idea Ambonisye would eventually turn into U&I-RISE, an education business offering parenting programs, books and training for schools and educators, with a particular focus on Black families.

Nearly three decades after she began developing her approach, Ambonisye has taken the business from parent workshops to public school contracts and educator training. Now she's working to expand its reach online.

Ambonisye didn't come to her theories by chance.

After traveling extensively with her military mom, Ambonisye, then Kelly Andrea Moore, left Germany with her mother and settled in St. Louis in 1979. She was in eighth grade with ambitions of becoming a teacher.

That dream was dashed at Clinton Elementary, now closed, and Roosevelt High School, where she said disrespectful and unruly classmates led her to believe she'd "wind up behind bars" if she taught in city public schools as an adult.

After a stint at Florissant Valley Community College, Ambonisye became pregnant with her first child, Folami, and vowed her child would never attend a public school.

She was later introduced to the Frederick Douglass Institute, a tuition-based independent school centered on African-centered education.

"I got immersed in 'Black stuff,'" she said with a laugh.

Ambonisye enrolled Folami there while taking an evening course for parents on African-centered education. She said the school's founders were so impressed with her homeschooled daughter that they asked Ambonisye to bring what she had done with Folami into the classroom.

She became a full-time teacher certified through the Council of Independent Black Institutions.

As the years passed, experiences like the "Mama Bolanle" comments led her to conclude that "as parents, we had given away our power."

"We were undermining our power without even realizing it," she said.

Ambonisye came to believe parents needed to "teach their children to obey them," helping children develop the self-discipline needed to pay attention, cooperate, and do well in school.

"At home it's called 'obedience,' everywhere else it's called 'following instructions.'"

In 2007, she turned those ideas into her first educational program and parenting guide, "Tapping Our Parental Power (TOPP) In A Nutshell." Rather than focusing primarily on children's misbehavior, TOPP asks parents to examine their own actions.

In a testimonial posted on U&I-RISE's website, Brandi J., the mother of a teenage son, said TOPP taught her "patience" and how to deal with her son's emotions while learning to "get myself together first."

"I am and will be a better parent," she said.

In 2011, Ambonisye founded U&I-RISE with the admittedly ambitious purpose of helping solve "Black community and family problems."

Public schools became customers. She marketed parent-engagement workshops first in the Ferguson-Florissant School District and later in St. Louis Public Schools.

Securing contracts was one thing. Getting parents to participate was another.

Ambonisye said many Black parents reacted to a stigma associated with seeking parenting education. Looking for solutions, she took a job

as a family support specialist at Bertha Knox Gilkey Pamoja Preparatory Academy, an African-centered SLPS school.

With the superintendent's approval, the school required parents to participate in her orientation workshop before their children could enroll. Some responded begrudgingly, she said, but attendance improved. The requirement remains in place today.

Over the years, U&I-RISE expanded into school-home engagement and educator training.

One program is FLARES, a classroom management system that Ambonisye developed with Rashida Chatman, an SLPS curriculum specialist. Chatman said it was designed to help educators create "cohesive, manageable and safe classroom spaces for students who look like us."

DeAndria Wallace, assistant principal at Pamoja, praised Ambonisye and FLARES.

"She is very organized and in tune with the needs of the community," Wallace said. "Her program is easy to follow and implement, and it gets results when done with fidelity."

The marketplace has changed considerably since Ambonisye started. Parents can now find parenting courses, videos, social media groups, and other resources online, including programs specifically for Black families.

That leaves Ambonisye working to carve out an online niche for U&I-RISE's African-centered, Black parent-focused material. She continues using feedback from parent groups and workshop participants to hone and promote her courses, books and workshops.

The delivery methods may have changed, but the mission she set for U&I-RISE remains the same: helping solve "Black community and family problems."

Based on

Political

Political Playback:

California Capitol News You Might Have Missed

By Bo Tefu
California Black Media

Blacks and Latinos Clash Over LA's Barrio Run; Mayor Karen Bass Calls for Dialogue Across Racial, Neighborhood Lines

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass urged Black and Latino Angelenos to resolve their differences constructively after a dispute over a Latino-led running event planned for Leimert Park escalated into racial hostility online.

"Los Angeles is strongest when we listen to one another, treat every community with respect and work through our differences constructively," Bass said in a statement she shared on Facebook.

Barrio Athletics, a grassroots fitness organization founded by South Central Los Angeles native Henry Gallardo, planned a 5K for Sept. 6. Participants were initially scheduled to meet in Leimert Park before running along Crenshaw Boulevard. In a promotional video,an organizer said the group would "take over the streets of Leimert Park."

The language drew objections from Black residents and community leaders, who said organizers had not adequately consulted local stakeholders. They were also concerned that the gathering, which included plans for a DJ and vendors, would disrupt the Leimert Park Sunday Marketplace and other scheduled activities.

Leimert Park is widely regarded as the cultural heart of Black Los Angeles. Its weekly marketplace, food vendors and drum circle have long provided an economic and cultural gathering place for Black residents. That history, compounded with lingering concerns about gentrification and the city's declining Black population, intensified sensitivity to the event's promotion.

"This is a historic Black district which we fought for and built up, its arts district, its cultural hub," KBLA radio host Dominique DiPrima told a local L.A. news station.

"You're saying that you're going to "take over" is sort of like the last stand for Black LA is problematic."

In another widely circulated video, a woman warned organizers, "We don't want you to come into Africa Town," adding that they would be "met with resistance from the Black community." A separate Black social media user suggested, "We should call ICE," drawing condemnation amid federal immigration enforcement concerns affecting Latino communities.

Barrio Athletics said it did not condone "racism, violence or hate." Black and Latino community organizers later joined the group for what local L.A. radio station KJLH described as a "tough but necessary conversation."

KJLH posted a video of the discussion.

Following "careful conversation with community leaders," Barrio Athletics relocated the run to Elysian Park "to respect Leimert Park and the surrounding community."

Bass denied claims that she had ordered the move, saying she had not known about the dispute before its resolution.

"Bringing people across racial, cultural and neighborhood lines together has been the foundation of my life's work," Bass said, "and it continues to guide how I lead this city today."

"Ready to See These Bills Become Law": Sen. Weber's Package of 15 Bills Advance to Gov. Newsom's Desk

The California Legislature has sent Gov. Gavin Newsom a package of 15 bills authored by state Sen. Akilah Weber Pierson, D-San Diego. The measures address health care, education, patient safety and consumer protections.

More specifically, they include legislation focused on early math intervention, health care costs, artificial intelligence, nutrition information and physician accountability. The measures now await Newsom's signature.

"This package represents the kind of change I came to Sacramento to fight for, change that improves people's lives in real and tangible ways," said Weber Pierson. "I'm proud of the work we've done, and I'm ready to see these bills become law."

Among the measures is SB 1067, which would require annual math assessments for students in kindergarten through second grade to identify learning difficulties early and provide evidence-based interventions. The bill passed both chambers unanimously.

SB 869 would require chain restaurants with at least 20 locations to display a clear warning next to beverages with high levels of added sugar, including on drive-through menus. SB 977 would require those restaurants to offer at least one children's meal that meets expert nutrition standards if they already offer a kids' menu.

The package also includes SB 503, which would require developers and deployers of clinical decision-support systems to identify and mitigate risks of biased impacts in health care artificial intelligence tools and monitor the systems after deployment.

Other measures would strengthen protections for patients and consumers. SB 849 would restrict physicians from seeking reinstatement of a surrendered medical license in certain sexual misconduct cases involving patients. SB 950 would seek to ensure timely access to FDA-approved treatments for Californians with early-stage Alzheimer's disease.

The remaining bills address Medi-Cal behavioral health treatment, CPR and automated external defibrillator education, the consideration of increased building heights under state environmental law, health insurance rate transparency, medical claims, biosimilar drugs and other state policies.

Report: Community Level Policy Is Impacting Homelessness and Drug Abuse in California

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.

California's Legal Cannabis Market Hits $8 Billion as State Touts Progress on Fighting Drugs, Crime

California's legal cannabis market has generated nearly $8.4 billion in tax revenue since 2018 as the state ramps up enforcement against illegal drugs and touts declines in crime, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced on Sept. 2.

The cannabis revenue includes nearly $4.5 billion in excise taxes and nearly $3.4 billion in sales taxes. In the second quarter of 2026 alone, cannabis retailers remitted $261.7 million in cannabis excise and sales tax revenue.

The state uses cannabis revenue to support programs including childcare and early childhood development, youth substance abuse prevention, medical research and environmental recovery.

"We are building a legal cannabis market that generates billions for Californians, and going after the illicit operators who undermine it," said Newsom. "That's public safety: protect consumers, support the businesses playing by the rules, and put the revenue to work in our communities."

California is also targeting illegal intoxicating products outside the regulated cannabis market. State officials have removed more than 15,000 illegal hemp, kratom and 7-hydroxymitragynine, or 7-OH, products from store shelves.

The enforcement effort resulted in the removal of 7,403 illegal hemp products and 7,888 kratom and 7-OH products. Officials reported compliance rates above 97% among Alcoholic Beverage Control licensees inspected for both categories.

The state has warned that kratom and 7-OH products have been linked to addiction, overdose and other serious health risks.

California is also using its law enforcement resources to target violent crime, drug trafficking and other criminal activity. Since 2023, CHP Crime Suppression Teams have made 15,197 arrests, recovered 7,042 stolen vehicles and seized 656 illicit firearms.

Since the teams expanded to six regions statewide in August 2025, they have also confiscated nearly 1.7 million grams of illegal drugs, including about 108 kilograms of fentanyl.

"Over the past few years, our Crime Suppression Teams have demonstrated the value of proactive, intelligence-driven enforcement," CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee said.

The Newsom administration says the efforts are part of a broader public safety strategy that combines regulation, enforcement, prevention and partnerships with local agencies.

California has also reported declines in major crime categories since 2024, including an 18.6% drop in homicides and a 25.8% decline in motor vehicle theft.

California officials say the combination of a regulated cannabis market, targeted enforcement and state-local law enforcement partnerships is helping protect consumers, disrupt illicit drug activity and improve public safety across the state.

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

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 account for much of the remainder.

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.

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 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.

Giving Our Black Children the Healthiest Start We Can

By Monica Soni, MD
Covered California Chief Medical Officer

The summer before I started medical school, I learned something surprising about my own health history. As part of the enrollment process, I had to provide immunization records and blood tests showing immunity. That's when I discovered I did not have all my childhood vaccinations. I had always assumed I was fully vaccinated, and weeks before beginning my medical training, I was catching up on vaccines I thought I had received years earlier.

Looking back, I wonder what influenced my mother when she was making those decisions. What concerns went unanswered? As both a physician and a parent now, I understand that families need clear information, trusted guidance, and the opportunity to ask questions before making important health decisions for their children.

Between school supplies, afterschool schedules, and everything else that comes with a new school year, I encourage families to check your child's immunization record, schedule a well-child visit if needed, and ask questions.

Which vaccines does my child need? What are the side effects? What happens if we wait? How do you know they are safe?

As a physician, I welcome that conversation because listening is part of good health care. Trust cannot be assumed. It must be built through relationships, respect, and access to clear information.

With changing federal vaccine guidance, it is understandable that parents have questions. I want California families to know that California's school and child-care vaccine requirements have not changed. Vaccines remain an important part of keeping our children healthy.

Here are common vaccines recommended for school-aged children and their protection:

DTaP: Protects children against three serious diseases: diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (also known as whooping cough). Immunity against these diseases decreases over time, so a booster shot is recommended every 10 years.

MMR: Protects against measles, mumps, and rubella, which can all cause serious illness. This vaccine can keep your child from missing out on school or childcare, and you from missing work to care for a sick child.

Monica Soni, MD Covered California Chief Medical Officer

Polio: Polio causes a serious disease which may lead to muscle pain, weakness, or paralysis, including impacting the muscles that help us breathe. Children should get four doses of the vaccine for full protection.

Varicella: Protects against the virus that leads to chickenpox. Two doses of the vaccine are typically effective at preventing chickenpox.

Meningococcal: Protects against bacterial infections caused by Neisseria meningitidis, including meningitis. The CDC recommends meningococcal vaccination for all preteens and teens, as well as other children and adults at increased risk.

Hepatitis B: Protects against Hepatitis B, a contagious liver disease that may lead to serious complications such as cirrhosis or liver cancer. Studies show that Hepatitis immunity lasts for at least 30 years among healthy people who started vaccination at less than 6 months of age.

HPV: Prevents 90 percent of cancers caused by human papillomavirus in both boys and girls, recommended by pediatricians for children starting at age 9.

All routine childhood vaccines continue to be available at no cost to families, whether they have insurance or not, through programs such as Vaccines for Children. Families can also find vaccine locations and access their child's digital vaccine record through My Turn.

Staying up to date on vaccines helps children stay healthy and protects their classmates, teachers, and others in our communities who may be more vulnerable to serious illness.

My family and Black families across California make preventive health care decisions for our children every day. Nothing matters more to me than seeing my children and every child grow, learn, and become healthy adults with every opportunity ahead of them.

Dr. Monica Soni, MD, is the Chief Medical Officer for Covered California, where she leads efforts in health equity, quality transformation, and clinical innovation. As a board-certified internal medicine physician and health care leader with over a decade of experience, Dr. Soni is committed to improving affordability, access, and health outcomes for all Californians.

On Your November Ballot: Prop 45 Would Speed Up Environmental and Public Project Reviews

By Austin Gage
California Black Media

In November, California voters will decide on Proposition (Prop) 45, also known as the "Building an Affordable California Act" or the Expedited Environmental Review Process for Certain Projects Initiative.

If approved, the initiative would change the environmental review process established under the California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA. Enacted in 1970, CEQA requires state and local agencies to identify and disclose the potential environmental effects of projects they propose to carry out, fund or approve. Agencies must also consider feasible alternatives and measures to avoid or reduce significant environmental harm. The law generally applies to projects that require discretionary government approval and could cause a direct or indirect physical change to the environment.

Under CEQA, a lead agency is the "public agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project." A responsible agency is a "public agency which proposes to carry out or approve a project, for which a lead agency is preparing or has prepared an EIR [environmental impact report] or negative declaration."

The Committee to Build an Affordable California is leading the Yes on Proposition 45campaign. Supporters include Assemblymember Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland); the Agricultural Council of California; American Clean Power California; the California Building Industry Association; the California Chamber of Commerce; the California Council for Affordable Housing; the Housing Action Coalition; and Reform California.

"Californians have too long paid the price for bureaucratic red tape and delays, and they're ready for solutions. Voters are eager to modernize the project approval process so we can build what we need, bring costs down, and make California more affordable. We can protect the environment and good-paying jobs while delivering the essential projects California urgently needs," said Jennifer Barrera, president and CEO of the California Chamber of Commerce.

Supporters argue that accelerating the review process would reduce costs and help address the state's housing shortage. They contend that each year of delay forces Californians to wait longer and pay more for essential projects. Backers say the initiative would lower housing and infrastructure costs by expediting environmental reviews while preserving existing environmental and community protections.

"Prop 45 modernizes California's project approval process by establishing clear, enforceable timelines and creating a faster, more predictable process for resolving legal challenges," said Jenna Abbott, executive director of the California Council for Affordable Housing.

"Prop 45 won't solve every challenge contributing to California's housing crisis, but it addresses one of the biggest: a broken project approval process that drives up costs, delays essential projects and leaves Californians paying the price," Abbott added.

People Over Polluters is leading the No on Proposition 45 campaign. Other opponents include the California Democratic Party, the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, the California Public Interest Research Group, Clean Water Action, Clean and Healthy California, the National Parks Conservation Association and Sierra Club California.

Opponents argue that the measure would sacrifice environmental protections and public oversight in the interest of speed. They contend that Proposition 45 could make it easier for polluting or environmentally harmful projects to adversely affect communities. They also emphasize the importance of maintaining existing review and public comment periods, as well as the public's ability to challenge project approvals in court.

"We know that what they are really trying to do is eliminate a lot of the environmental safeguards that have existed for a long time. People have to read long technical documents to get a better understanding of whether a project is right or wrong for their community. It takes time for us to do discovery and have conversations with neighbors. Our input needs to be valued," Miguel Miguel, director of Sierra Club California, said.

Opponents have specifically raised concerns about potential exposure to air pollution, water pollution and toxic chemicals.

Prop 45 would calculate permitting and environmental review deadlines in business

(Shutterstock)

days rather than calendar days. To accelerate the process, lead agencies would be required to issue permit decisions when environmental reviews are completed instead of afterward. If an agency missed a deadline, the applicant could grant additional time or request a final agency hearing.

The measure would also allow applicants to challenge adverse agency decisions in court and require those cases to be resolved within 270 days.

For qualifying projects, it would limit public comment periods to 45 days and allow applicants to propose a single alternative for consideration in an environmental impact report.

Prop 45 would also establish new tribal consultation requirements. Qualifying projects would first be screened to identify potentially affected federally recognized tribes, followed by formal consultation when required. Any measures approved to protect tribal cultural resources would be legally enforceable, and project approval would depend on the lead agency completing the consultation process in good faith.

According to the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), eligible applicants could choose between the proposition's new procedures and the existing review process. The measure would tighten deadlines for environmental reviews, permits and court challenges while changing what courts may consider in related lawsuits.

A "yes" vote supports creating new review and court-challenge procedures for certain public and private projects, including tighter environmental review deadlines and limits on the scope of judicial review.

A "no" vote supports retaining the existing project-review and court-challenge procedures.