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Clinica Sierra Vista A Safety Net for the Uninsured

By Cecil Egbele

On a chilly February morning in East Bakersfield, a handful of patients waited at Clinica Sierra Vista for routine checkups or to find out whether they still qualify for Medi-Cal. Some were seated, a few were women with children, others were farmworkers who spoke little or no English.

Maria, an undocumented immigrant from Mexico, had previously received Medi-Cal. The middle-aged woman came to Clinica Sierra Vista to find out whether she still qualified for renewal in the state-federal health insurance program. At the front desk, receptionist Cindy Panduro helped her fill out an intake form with questions about income and family size—but not citizenship status. With the forms in hand, Maria moved to the next stage of verification and enrollment.

For many families, immigrant and citizen alike, access to healthcare is shaped not just by income or employment, but by fear: fear of being cycled through appointments without being attended to, fear of paperwork, fear that seeking care could carry consequences beyond the clinic walls.

These fears are what the Health Insurance Assistance Program (HIAP) at Clinica Sierra Vista confronts daily and aims to solve. Given that Medi-Cal is currently facing major cuts and undocumented adults in California are now locked out of enrollment — consequences range from untreated illness to financial ruin.

A Door Closes
California's budget freeze on new Medi-Cal enrollment for undocumented adults marks a sharp policy reversal in a state that once pledged universal eligibility. Statewide, roughly 1.7 million undocumented immigrants are enrolled in full-scope Medi-Cal, according to the California Legislative Analyst's Office, but a February 2026 report from the UC Berkeley Labor Center projects combined state and federal cuts will leave 29,000 fewer Kern County residents covered by 2028, part of the 2.98 million losing coverage statewide. And anyone newly enrolled after January 1, 2026? The door is closed, and they cannot get back in. Last year, more than 33,500 residents turned to Clinica Sierra Vista's Health Insurance Assistance Program for help securing coverage. For those patients, the clinic's sliding-fee program is often the only option left.

Clinica Sierra Vista is ground zero for Kern County's worsening healthcare access, and a warning of what awaits California's immigrant communities statewide.

A Program Built on Trust
"At Clinica Sierra Vista, we don't want to know your immigration status," said Ana Velasquez, HIAP program manager. Cheerful and in her early sixties, she has been running this program for more than three decades. "The clinics are open for you. Whether you're here legally or not, whether you're a citizen or not."

Health insurance paperwork, Velasquez added, can easily intimidate those unfamiliar with the system — especially those navigating it in a second language. "A lot of the people who come to our clinics are farmworkers who don't know how to read. So we do it for them."

Maria, the woman from Mexico, waited in Area F, a shared seating space that also serves WIC patients, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. A mural of monkeys climbing tree houses and an elephant on a bicycle stretches across one wall.

After six minutes, Maria was called in by HIAP supervisor Miriam Asayadi. HIAP staff sit with patients to complete Medi-Cal applications, gather income documents and rent receipts, upload materials to Kern County's BenefitsCal system, and track each case until a Notice of Action arrives.

With the new Medi-Cal policy in place, every application carries a higher stake: even an income fluctuation by a few hundred dollars can cost Maria her full coverage with no way to get back in.

When the county requests additional verification, such as immigration documents for those who qualify, families return to Clinica Sierra Vista for help deciphering the bureaucratic language.

"I am happy to come here," Maria said later. "They help me fill out all my forms."



Luisa Varnado stands outside Clinica Sierra Vista in East Bakersfield, where she has been coming for care for nearly a decade. Photo credit: Cecil Egbele

Leaving the clinic, she hoped her coverage would be secured for another year.

The Three-Tier Safety Net
Martha and Octavio, a mixed-status couple, have been receiving that help firsthand from Clinica for 20 years. Martha is a legal resident, while Octavio is an undocumented farmworker.

"I feel safe coming because I don't know how to read in English," Martha said. "Clinica staff helps to process my insurance or any paperwork that I have to do."

HIAP follows a sequential approach to coverage. First, staff try to enroll patients in Medi-Cal, California's Medicaid program, which covers most of Clinica Sierra Vista's patients. If an applicant earns too much for Medi-Cal and has legal status, staff turn to Covered California, the state's insurance marketplace, where subsidies previously helped many Kern County residents dramatically reduce their premiums — in some cases to near zero. With those enhanced subsidies now gone, Covered California projects enrollees in Kern County face average premium increases of 160%.

But when neither program is accessible, or immigration status blocks access to Covered California, what then?

"There are a lot of small businesses that don't provide insurance," Velasquez said. "So we have what we call Clinica Sierra Vista's sliding fee scale program."

In 2025, Velasquez's team helped 33,680 people in Kern County navigate that maze: processing Medi-Cal renewals and new enrollments, signing families up for Covered California plans, completing CalFresh applications, and assisting qualifying patients enroll in their sliding-fee program. Available at community health centers



Ana Velasquez, Clinica Sierra Vista's HIAP program manager stands in her East Bakersfield office. "Healthcare is not immigration enforcement. We make that very clear." Photo credit: Cecil Egbele

across the country, sliding fee scale programs charge patients based on income — sometimes as little as \$20 per visit. It is the safety net beneath the safety net, and for undocumented immigrants now frozen out of Medi-Cal enrollment.

At Clinica Sierra Vista, patients with incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level qualify for one of four discount tiers. Those in the deepest tier, "Category A", pay a flat \$25 copay per doctor visit.

But Clinica's safety net catches more than just the uninsured.



Cindy Panduro, the receptionist at Clinica Sierra Vista's East Bakersfield location, helps out a man at the front desk. Photo credit: Cecil Egbele

Why Patients Stay
Luisa Varnado, 32, a Black U.S. citizen, is not concerned about ICE or being frozen out of Medi-Cal; her story is different. Her journey to Clinica Sierra Vista began after seeing her primary care doctor "on the higher end of town" and getting nowhere.

Then came the diagnoses: two kinds of arthritis — rheumatoid and osteoarthritis — one causing her immune system to attack her joints, and the other slowly grinding away the cartilage cushioning her bones. At her age, this is an uncommon and devastating diagnosis. Luisa has already replaced both knees. Her shoulders and hips may be next.

"The level of care was just not personal," Varnado said of her previous doctor. "It kind of became, 'Just come in so we can bill your insurance.' That's the way I felt." No one investigated what was wrong until she insisted, based on a friend's suggestion, that they test her for rheumatoid arthritis.

At Clinica Sierra Vista, Luisa says it's different. "The care that I receive here is personal, is one on one," she said. "Whenever I book an appointment, I'm always able to see my primary care doctor."

She's been here almost 10 years. "I don't want to go anywhere else."

A Decade of Progress, Then a Freeze
The timing of California's enrollment freeze could not be more jarring.

Those currently enrolled will keep their coverage as they complete their annual renewal — and children under 19 and pregnant people can still newly enroll regardless of immigration status.

But the safety net is already wearing thin. Dental benefits for undocumented adults will end in July 2026, and starting in July 2027, adults ages 19 to 59 — but not seniors 60 and older, who will retain full coverage — will be required to pay a \$30 premium to maintain coverage.

"When people lose dental coverage, they don't stop needing care, they end up in the emergency room with preventable problems, so these so-called savings just kick the costs down the road," said Ronald Coleman-Baeza, Managing Director of Policy at California Pan-Ethnic Health Network.

On a bright summer morning in July 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom traveled to Clinica Sierra Vista's Elm Community Health Center in Fresno. The clinic was bustling with families getting COVID-19 vaccinations. Nurses moved between rooms, providing routine care. Standing before healthcare workers and community members, Newsom signed AB 133 into law, holding up the bill for cameras as he promised that roughly 235,000 undocumented Californians age 50 and older would finally gain full-scope Medi-Cal.

"It's a point of pride, it's a point of principle, and it's what marks our values here in the state of California," Newsom told the crowd. "We believe in living together, and advancing and prospering together across every conceivable difference."

By 2026, that celebration would feel distant. After more than a decade of organizing by the Health for All coalition — a network of more than 150 immigrant-rights groups, health advocates, nurses, doctors, and clinics — the state reached a milestone in January 2024, completing a phased expansion that had extended Medi-Cal to undocumented Californians in waves since 2016, finally covering the last remaining group, adults ages 26 to 49.

"We got California to be one of the first states in

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Martha and Octavio, a mixed-status couple, have been receiving help from Clinica for 20 years. Photo credit: Cecil Egbele

Hillary Clinton Testifies, Says Her Husband Bill Had No Knowledge of Epstein's Crimes

Hillary Clinton told Congress she had no knowledge of Jeffrey Epstein's or Ghislaine Maxwell's criminal activities and denied ever meeting Epstein. She also defended her husband, Bill Clinton, saying he was unaware of Epstein's crimes.



Hillary Clinton addresses the Epstein files.

Hillary gave a six-hour closed-door deposition in Chappaqua, New York, as part of a two-day process that will include Bill Clinton. According to the Associated Press, she answered every question from the Republican-controlled House Oversight Committee, which is investigating Epstein's abuse of underage girls.

"I had no idea about their criminal activities," Hillary said in her opening statement. She confirmed she had seen Epstein only in passing and only knew Maxwell as an acquaintance at events hosted by the Clinton Foundation. Maxwell had also attended the 2010 wedding of their daughter, Chelsea, but Hillary said Maxwell came as a guest of someone else.

The deposition comes after months of pressure from Republicans, led by Rep. James Comer, who threatened criminal contempt if the Clintons did not testify. Hillary also criticized the investigation as one-sided, saying it unfairly targeted her and her husband while ignoring similar questions for Trump and other Republicans.

Republicans are focusing on Bill Clinton, highlighting photos of him with Epstein and other women, though he has not been accused of wrongdoing. Hillary pointed to her work as secretary of state combating sex trafficking as another reason for her testimony and stressed the need to help survivors worldwide.

The deposition faced interruptions, including a rule breach when Rep. Lauren Boebert sent a private photo of Hillary to a conservative influencer. Democrats called for a full public record, pushing for the video and transcript to be released quickly. Lawmakers from both parties continue to pressure for transparency on Epstein's connections to powerful figures.

Hillary emphasized that she and Bill had no involvement in Epstein's crimes and condemned the abuse victims suffered. She also highlighted the need for a fair investigation and accountability across the board, saying the public deserves a clear record of the proceedings.

Black Teen Arrested in Dubai, Facing 20 Years in Prison For Underage Romance

Marcus Fakana, an 18-year-old Black teen from Tottenham, North London, is facing a potential 20-year prison sentence in Dubai after being accused of having a relationship with a 17-year-old girl while on vacation.



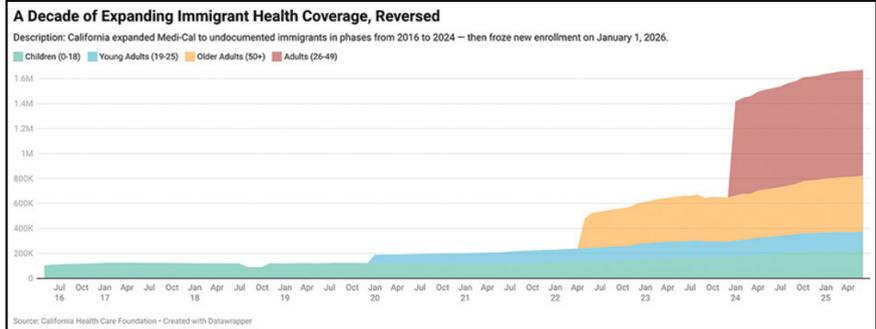
Marcus Fakana

Marcus was arrested in August after the girl's mother reportedly discovered their relationship and alerted authorities. Campaign group Detained in Dubai (DID) has been advocating for Marcus, highlighting his precarious situation in the United Arab Emirates, where the age of consent is 18.

According to My London News, the incident began while Marcus was on vacation with his parents in Dubai. During their stay, he met a fellow Brit at the same hotel, and a holiday romance quickly developed. The girl, also from London, returned to Britain, but Marcus and his family planned to follow shortly after. However, their trip took a shocking turn when police arrived at their hotel room, taking Marcus in for questioning without explanation.

According to DID, Marcus was detained at Al Barsha Police Station for three days without being allowed to contact his parents or make a phone call. He later learned that the girl's mother, unaware of their relationship at the time, had reported him to authorities after finding messages on her daughter's phone. Marcus described his experience as terrifying and explained that his girlfriend had kept their relationship secret due to her strict family.

"I never thought something like this could happen," Marcus said. "We liked each other and had a great time together. My parents knew, but she had to hide it from hers."



The staff of East Bakersfield's Clinica Sierra Vista from left to right: Eloiza Zuniga, Miriam Asayadi, Ana Velasquez, Cindy Panduro. Photo credit: Cecil Egbele

World & Nation

Trump's MAGA Allies are Creating Executive Order Plan to Steal the 2026 Midterms

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

A group of MAGA pro-Trump activists, who say they are working in coordination with the White House, are circulating a 17-page draft executive order that would claim without evidence that China interfered with the 2020 presidential election. Donald Trump lost the 2020 presidential election to President Joe Biden by over 7 million votes. Since Trump lost to Biden in 2020, he has repeatedly claimed that the election was "stolen" without evidence. The report of a group of "Trump allies" preparing an executive order to give Trump power over elections was first reported by The Washington Post.

The lies around the right-wing campaign that pushed falsehoods that the 2020 election was stolen was trafficked through right-wing media,

particularly Fox News. Fox News was then sued for defamation for the claims by Dominion Voting Systems. Fox lost the case and had to settle for the largest defamation amount on record of \$787.5 million in April 2023.

The document that could lead to an executive order proposes using the claim that China interfered with the 2020 elections as grounds to "declare a national emergency." The move would be an unprecedented step that would grant Trump new authority over the voting systems in the U.S.

The story in The Washington Post arrives as Trump increasingly signals that he may take actions that would alter the result of the 2026 midterms. The Republicans are widely expected to lose as their approval ratings plummet as a result of a failing economy under Trump. Over 50 members of Congress have announced they will retire this year

and not return in 2027.

The Trump Department of Justice, which now has a large image of Trump on the side of it, "sued five new states Thursday [Feb. 26, 2026] demanding access to their unredacted voter rolls — escalating a campaign that has been rejected by multiple federal courts and faces resistance from Republican-led states as well," according to Democracy Docket, a group that works to protect voting rights.

Trump claimed back in late 2020, the last year of his first term, that he had the authority to issue an executive order related to mail-in voting for the 2020 elections — which he would then lose. But the Constitution states that control of elections lies with the states. As the GOP works to place hurdles in front of voting, Democrats worked to make voting easier. In March 2021, President

Biden signed an executive order calling on federal agencies to expand voting access as part of the Biden Administration's effort "to promote and defend the right to vote for all Americans who are legally entitled to participate in elections." Trump's focus is clearly on altering the November 2026 midterm elections. Trump's polling numbers and the elections and special elections that have taken place around the U.S. over the last year clearly indicate that Republicans are about to be hit by a blue wave of Democratic victories. Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent investigative journalist and the founder of Black Virginia News. She is a political analyst who appears on #RolandMartinUnfiltered and hosts the show LAUREN LIVE on YouTube @LaurenVictoriaBurke. She can be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at @LVBurke

Advancements in Solar Technology That Are Changing the Way We Power the World

Solar technology has come a long way over the decades and has made energy consumption cleaner across the world. Other solar energy advancements include a higher degree of both efficiency and affordability.

According to Big Think, the sun emits the energy equivalent of a whopping 4 million tons of matter, so it only makes sense to harness this power. The latest solar tech has given us the ability to fine-tune the use of the sun's energy to our advantage.

What's great is that this technology is accessible to big corporations, average households, and everyone in between.

What Are the Latest Breakthroughs in Solar Technology? Perovskite solar cells are one of the most promising solar power innovations that have come about in recent years. Perovskites differ from traditional silicon cells because they're possible to manufacture using lower-cost processes. What's more, you can layer them onto pre-existing panels to create what's called "tandem cells." Tandem tech combines the best of both worlds, including silicon and perovskite layers. Doing this makes it easier than ever to capture more of the solar spectrum. This leads to an increase in efficiency potential across the board. Demonstrations already show the record-breaking efficiency levels that have come about from this technology. It's only a matter of time before commercialization efforts find their way into people's homes and businesses worldwide. Bifacial Panels

Bifacial panels get their name from their ability to create electricity from both sides. They do this by capturing reflected sunlight from other surfaces. Examples include the following:

- Concrete
- Sand
- Snow

What makes them especially attractive as an energy solution is that they yield a greater amount

of power per panel. Their future in both commercial and utility-scale installations isn't far off. Best of all, improved durability and enhanced frame design have also made bifacial modules more practical in different types of climates. Floating Solar Farms This concept may sound like something pulled straight out of a science fiction novel, but the technology is actually within our grasp.

It would involve floating solar arrays installed on reservoirs and industrial bodies of water. Doing this can help reduce land use and other issues while also improving the panels' performance. What's neat is that water is a natural way to cool down the panels as they inevitably heat up. As such, this increases the general efficiency compared to ground-based panel systems. How Efficient Are Modern Solar Panels Compared to Older Models? Efficiency improvements are one of the main reasons why the industry has grown as fast as it has. Older panels, from some 15 to 20 years ago, for instance, work at 15% efficiency at most. Compare that to modern monocrystalline panels, which can reach or even exceed 20% efficiency, especially the higher-quality options. Smarter System Design Aside from the amazing advancement in panel materials, renewable energy solutions are now better than ever because of smart inverters and AI-driven monitoring systems. Aspects like these go a long way toward optimizing the panel's real-time electricity production.

Homeowners can track output with ease by using their mobile apps. Grid operators can more effectively balance distributed systems as well.

Don't forget about digital integration, either. It allows solar arrays to act as part of an intelligent energy ecosystem rather than just separate equipment.

Solar Shingles Vs. Solar Panels

Savvy homeowners often compare solar shingles vs. solar panels before deciding on their systems. Traditional panels go on top of the house's roof and offer both high efficiency backed by a long track record of solid performance. The main difference between them and solar shingles is that the shingles become part of the roof's structure and have a sleeker aesthetic. When making a final choice, you'll want to consider the following: Installation costs

Roof design

Return on investment

Long-term performance expectations

Keep in mind that ongoing solar energy advancements will continue improve on both of these options. It gives homeowners more flexibility than ever before. Frequently Asked Questions How Long Do Solar Panels Last? The exact answer to this question depends on all kinds of factors. The quality of the panels, the climate you live in, and more can affect the expiration date. On the whole, you can expect your solar panels to last for several decades, give or take.

One of the best ways to get the most out of them is by staying on top of maintenance. Just like with any piece of sophisticated tech, solar panels need to be regularly checked, cleaned, and more. Are Solar Panels Worth It in 2026?

Since this technology has only gotten cheaper and more effective, it's never been a better time to make the investment. Plus, some state governments offer incentives that can sweeten the deal further. If you're tired of your energy bill climbing each year, then it's probably time to make the switch and enjoy the solar gift that keeps on giving. Can Solar Panels Still Work on Cloudy Days?

It's a myth that could cause solar panels to stop working. However, it should be noted that the panels work at a lower capacity. In these cases, you can always supplement the energy from solar panels with traditional sources. It's worth emphasizing that the latest solar panel technology is capable of getting more out of diffuse sunlight when direct sunlight is in short supply. You also have the option of battery storage, which can hold on to the power captured earlier, when the sky was clearer. Solar Technology Remains a Top Contender When Considering Energy Solutions It's clear that solar technology has come a long way since it was first introduced, so imagine how much farther it'll advance in the near and distant future. The sooner you invest in this technology, the greater your pay-off will be. As a homeowner, it only makes sense to join the future of clean energy technology and enjoy the sun's amazing power.

You can always stay informed on the latest and greatest news by reading our articles. Be sure to take the time to read our interesting back catalog. Remember to bookmark us so you can visit back with ease and avoid missing out on new scoops.

Civil Rights TV Launches in Selma as the World's First 24/7 Civil Rights Television Network

SELMA, Ala. — Civil Rights TV, the world's first 24-hour television network dedicated exclusively to civil rights history, education, and future equity, has officially launched on the Connect To Your City OTT platform powered by Connect2OTT. The network debuts from Selma, Alabama — one of the most historically significant cities in the American civil rights movement — marking a new chapter in how civil rights stories are preserved, amplified, and carried forward for future generations. Civil Rights TV operates continuously on the Connect To Your City OTT platform powered by Connect2OTT, offering documentaries, news analysis, live discussions, educational programming, global civil rights coverage, and cultural storytelling. The channel functions as both a historical archive and a living platform addressing contemporary civil rights challenges. Civil Rights, Technology, and the AI Era As technology and artificial intelligence increasingly shape access to information, media, and opportunity, Civil Rights TV launches at a moment when access to digital infrastructure itself is emerging as a civil rights issue. Media fragmentation, misinformation, and uneven access to technology continue to reshape public discourse. While on-demand platforms have expanded individual content access, large-scale live broadcasting still faces challenges related to congestion, latency, and energy consumption. Civil Rights TV leverages broadcast-efficient OTT architecture designed to reduce bandwidth usage and energy requirements, enabling continuous global distribution without

placing added strain on network infrastructure. Why Civil Rights TV Matters Now Civil Rights TV is not only a media launch—it is a signal. The network underscores the importance of preserving civil rights history using the most accurate and comprehensive sources available. For generations, the Black press has maintained some of the deepest and most reliable documentation of the civil rights movement, currents events, news and critical Black history, much of which remains underrepresented in modern digital media archives and inaccessible to artificial intelligence (AI) systems. As a result, Civil Rights TV will rely heavily on national Black press for news, historical archives and independent voices. Prominent digital news platforms, podcasts, and broadcasters—will play an instrumental role in shaping continuous coverage, historical interpretation, and public discourse. About Connect2OTT Connect2OTT currently manages more than 250 live 24/7 television and radio channels streaming to audiences in more than 190 countries. Civil Rights TV joins this ecosystem as a flagship channel, designed to foster global conversation while demonstrating how media distribution, energy efficiency, and AI readiness can coexist responsibly.

About Larry Witherspoon Larry Witherspoon is a technology entrepreneur and founder of Phoenix-based Connect2 Technologies, LLC, including Connect2OTT, Connect2AI, and Connect To Your City OTT Platform.

In 2006, Witherspoon launched FaithFone

Wireless, the world's first Christian-owned and operated mobile phone company—years ahead of today's fintech and mobile banking platforms. As a mobile virtual network operator (MVNO), FaithFone introduced mobile banking, digital titling, live television and radio, content downloads, and branded debit- card-based person-to-person payment functionality before mobile commerce was widely understood by major telecom and financial institutions.

That early convergence of mobile, media, and financial technology laid the foundation for Witherspoon's current work across AI, energy efficiency, broadcasting, and infrastructure optimization.

Community Content Submissions Civil Rights TV welcomes article submissions from trusted community voices, journalists, and verified organizations. Content may be submitted through an official upload portal or via email for editorial review.

Submissions approved for broadcast will be scheduled during the network's community programming window from 12:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m., with select pieces considered for prime-time airing based on their significance, accuracy, and value to the broader civil rights dialogue.

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Clinica Sierra Vista

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the country to open its Medicaid program regardless of immigration status," said Carlos Alarcón, a health policy manager at the California Immigrant Policy Center and co-lead of the coalition. Lawmakers celebrated the moment as a national model.

But the ink was barely dry before the reversal began.

Some legislators have argued that the freeze does not technically remove people from Medi-Cal. Advocates say in practice it does. "If someone's income fluctuates, and that's very common, they might not qualify at the start of the year but would later," Alarcón said. "Under the enrollment freeze, they lose the ability to reapply. Functionally, that's a loss of coverage."

"The governor is presenting a false choice," said Ronald Coleman-Baeza, Managing Director of Policy at California Pan-Ethnic Health Network. "The argument is that federal policy forces California's hand. But the state has covered this population before, both before and after federal changes. This is a state decision."

The Race Before the Door Closed At Clinica Sierra Vista, staff saw the freeze coming.

When California announced the enrollment freeze in mid-2025, community health centers faced a dilemma: how to process thousands of renewals before undocumented adults lost eligibility forever.

Velasquez's team had months to prepare. They called patients individually, set up enrollment events at churches and farmworker camps, and urged people to bring county paperwork to the clinic for help with responses.

"We told people: 'You have to complete your renewal,'" Velasquez said. "If you don't, and you don't have immigration status, come January 1, you're out."

For those who managed to renew, even as late

as December 31, the effort meant another year of full Medi-Cal coverage. Those who missed it, or who needed to apply for the first time after January 1, faced a different reality.

"If you don't have immigration status," Velasquez would now tell first-time applicants, "all you're going to get is emergency Medi-Cal."

A Safe Place Amid Fear

Even for those eligible to renew, fear of data-sharing and immigration enforcement continues to keep many from seeking care until their conditions become emergencies.

That fear spiked after federal agencies shared Medi-Cal data with ICE in July 2025, with a federal court only temporarily blocking it in August (a ruling that could still change). For those considering dropping coverage out of fear, canceling now won't erase data already shared.

"People are afraid of going to hospitals because they think their information may be shared, especially if they are undocumented," said Alarcón, of the California Immigrant Policy Center. "That fear delays care, and delayed care leads to worse outcomes."

For Martha and Octavio, the couple who've been coming to Clinica for 20 years, that fear is both daily and immediate.

"We are afraid," Martha said. "I am a resident, but he's not. Even though I can provide my immigration status, I am more afraid for him. But we feel safe at Clinica."

Just recently, Octavio was at work when Martha heard that immigration enforcement was on the road. She called Octavio to warn him. "I'm always afraid," she said. Asked what they would do if Clinica Sierra Vista were not available, they answered in unison: "We would not go to see a doctor."

"Healthcare is not immigration enforcement,"

Velasquez said. "We make that very clear."

Trust Built Over Decades

Velasquez's office in Bakersfield maps the territory she covers. Behind her laptop, sticky notes in every color track urgent reminders, staff counts for Kern and Fresno counties, callback times, and case numbers. A bookshelf to her left holds binders organized by program and county, red for HIAP, blue for enrollments, and white for individual locations like Delano and Fresno. On the bottom shelf, manila envelopes stuffed with applications wait their turn.

Born in Honduras and raised in Los Angeles, Velasquez came to Bakersfield in 1992 and built a migrant health project that took food and health information directly to the farmers tending the fields. It was familiar ground.

When Velasquez joined Clinica Sierra Vista, the organization had already grown well beyond its 1971 beginnings, a single trailer in Lamont serving farmworkers under the name Clinica de Los Campesinos, or "Farmworkers Clinic."

Almost thirty-four thousand patients in Kern County alone depended on that system last year. Now, barely two months into 2026, Velasquez's team is already fielding new applications, tracking renewals, and managing another year's worth of cases.

"I found what I really enjoy," she said of those early summers visiting the fields in Lamont, south of Bakersfield. "Farmworkers hold a special place in my heart."

Maria's renewal notice from the county arrived 10 days later, with an approval that keeps her on Medi-Cal for another year. For the thousands of others still waiting, Clinica's sliding fee may be the last option left.

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Entertainment



'Sinners' Takes Top Prize at the Actor Awards, Setting Up an Oscar Showdown

After a near awards-season sweep by "One Battle After Another," "Sinners" won best ensemble at the Screen Actors Guild's 32nd Actor Awards on Sunday, shaking up the Oscar race and setting up a potential nail-biter finale in two weeks at the Academy Awards.

The guild's awards, formerly known as the SAG Awards, are one of the most closely watched Oscar precursors. Actors make up the largest slice of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and their choices at the Actor Awards often align.

The victory for Ryan Coogler's blues-soaked vampire saga showed that it has a strong chance to win at the Oscars, too, despite an almost unblemished run of awards for Paul Thomas Anderson's "One Battle After Another." It's won at the Golden Globes, the Producers Guild Awards, the BAFTAs and the Directors Guild Awards.

But the win Sunday, in a Netflix-streamed ceremony at the Shine Auditorium in Los Angeles, flipped that awards-season script. Writer-director Ryan Coogler, whose "Black Panther" triumphed at the guild's awards in 2019, became the first filmmaker to steer two ensembles to the guild's top

prize. "From the bottom of our hearts, to the bottom of your hearts, thank you so much for everything," said Delroy Lindo, who spoke on behalf of the film's cast.

Moments earlier, Michael B. Jordan also won best male actor, upsetting the category favorite, Timothée Chalamet, and handing the 39-year-old Jordan the most significant prize of his acclaimed career. Even Jordan looked shocked as the audience rose to its feet and Viola Davis, the award's presenter, celebrated.

"I wasn't expecting this at all," said Jordan, who reflected on starting out as actor before he paused to appreciate the moment. "Yeah, man, this is pretty cool."

As expected, Jessie Buckley won best female actor for her performance in "Hamnet." But the other actor races have been harder to call. On Sunday, Sean Penn (who didn't attend) won best supporting male actor for "One Battle After Another" and Amy Madigan won best supporting female actor for "Weapons."

The 75-year-old Madigan, who had never

before been nominated by the guild, was visibly surprised. Partway through her winding and charming acceptance speech, she looked down at the statuette.

"It's like when you were little and you had the Barbie and then you got Ken and whipped down his drawers and went, 'Hey, that's nothing,'" joked Madigan before apologizing for getting distracted.

A posthumous prize for Catherine O'Hara Catherine O'Hara posthumously won best female actor in a comedy series for her performance as a movie executive in the showbiz satire "The Studio." O'Hara died at the age of 71 on Jan. 30 from a blood clot in the lungs. At the Shine Auditorium in Los Angeles, the crowd stood in a standing ovation for O'Hara after she was announced as the winner.

Seth Rogen, co-creator of "The Studio," accepted the award on her behalf. He recalled a passionate collaborator who would, the night before a scene, invariably send a polite email with suggested rewrites. Rogen said O'Hara "showed that you could be a genius and you could be kind."

"If you have people in your lives who don't know her work," Rogen said, "show them O'Hara dancing to Harry Belafonte in 'Beetlejuice,' show them O'Hara hurting her knee in 'Best in Show' and doing that amazing thing where she hobbles around, and tell the people as they are laughing that that's Catherine O'Hara and we were lucky that we got to live in a world where she so generously shared her talents with us."

A ceremony that skirted politics The ceremony, presented by the actors guild SAG-AFTRA, were hosted by returning emcee Kristen Bell, who kicked off the show on a light, song-and-dance note despite the war in Iran and entertainment industry upheaval. Sean Astin, SAG-AFTRA president, offered a "a prayer for peace" in

his remarks. The Actor Awards were the biggest Hollywood bash since Paramount reached an agreement to acquire Warner Bros. Discovery for \$111 billion. The merger, which awaits regulatory approval, sent shock waves through Hollywood. Netflix chief executive Ted Sarandos, whose company lost out to Paramount competing bid, walked the red carpet in jeans.

The win for "Sinners" insures that Warner Bros. will head into the Academy Awards with the two clear best pictures favorites in it and "One Battle After Another" — an awards-season coup for a studio set to be sold.

Before the ceremony began, the award for best stunt ensemble went to a Paramount release: "Mission: Impossible — The Final Reckoning." Among the TV awards, "The Studio" won for comedy series and "The Pitt" won for drama series. Individual winners included Keri Russell ("The Diplomat"), Rogen ("The Studio"), Michelle Williams ("Dying for Sex"), Owen Cooper ("Adolescence") and Noah Wyle ("The Pitt").

A Harrison Ford tribute Harrison Ford was honored with the SAG-AFTRA Life Achievement Award, a prize presented with warm sarcasm by Woody Harelson. The 83-year-old actor said he was humbled.

"I'm in a room with actors, many of whom are here because they've been nominated to receive a prize for their amazing work, while I'm here to receive a prize for being alive," said Ford, who called it "the half point" of his career.

Ford teared up for much of his speech, reflecting on a career that he noted was "not an overnight success." He called the award "very encouraging."

"I'm indeed a lucky guy," said Ford. "Lucky to have found my people. Lucky to have work that challenges me. Lucky to still be doing it."

R&B Singer K. Michelle & Slutty Vegan Founder Pinky Cole Join "Real Housewives of Atlanta" Season 17



K. Michelle, Pinky Cole

R&B singer K. Michelle and Slutty Vegan owner Pinky Cole are joining the cast of Real Housewives of Atlanta for season 17. Both women bring music, business, and drama to the show, promising an exciting season of clashes and ambition.

K. Michelle is no stranger to reality TV. The singer, known for her sharp comebacks on VH1's Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta, is stepping into the Housewives franchise for the first time. "I just flipped the switch. I don't know nobody else that's doing this," she shared on Instagram.

Pinky Cole, founder of the plant-based restaurant chain Slutty Vegan, is bringing her entrepreneurial flair to Atlanta's reality scene. With multiple locations nationwide, including several around the city, Cole has navigated business

setbacks like buying back her own brand. She wrote on Instagram, "They counted me out...Bravo counted me in."

A sneak peek of season 17 shows both women involved in tense moments with the existing cast, according to 11Alive. K. Michelle is seen being held back during a heated confrontation, while Cole dives into the drama with her trademark boldness. Fans can expect plenty of lively interactions and behind-the-scenes revelations.

Real Housewives of Atlanta season 17 premieres Sunday, April 5, at 8 p.m. ET on Bravo. Viewers can look forward to new personalities, high-stakes drama, and the unique energy K. Michelle and Pinky Cole bring to the show.

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Legal Notices

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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 January 29, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 18, 25, Mar 4, 11, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B0649
 Doing business as:
SHEVA INSURANCE SERVICES at 5209 San Martin Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93307

Mailing Address: same County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s):
SHEVA INSURANCE SERVICES LLC at 5209 San Martin Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93307
 State of Incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
 SIGNED: **DIANA E JIMENEZ, Manager**
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: February 2, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: M VACA RAMOS, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name 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 February 2, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 18, 25, Mar 4, 11, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B0064
 Doing business as:
HOUSE OF NOLI at 719 Winoski Ct, Bakersfield, CA 93314

Mailing Address: 1515 20th St, Bakersfield, CA 93301
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s):
RACHEL CHARLAINE WESTERN at 719 Winoski Ct, Bakersfield, CA 93314
 The business is conducted by: Individual
 SIGNED: **RACHEL CHARLAINE WESTERN**
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: May 20, 2025

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: January 6, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: M CEDENO, Deputy
 This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. This statement expires on January 6, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 18, 25, Mar 4, 11, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B0873
 Doing business as:

SCULPT HOUSE at 1712 19th St, Suite 201, Bakersfield, CA 93301

Mailing Address: 6002 Bluewater Bay Ct, Bakersfield, CA 93312
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s):
KARINA RODRIGUEZ at 6002 Bluewater Bay Ct, Bakersfield, CA 93312

The business is conducted by: Individual
 SIGNED: **KARINA RODRIGUEZ**
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: August 1, 2023

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: February 13, 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 February 13, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 18, 25, Mar 4, 11, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B0705
 Doing business as:

CUTS, COLORS & PERMS FULL BEAUTY SALON at 224 Stine Rd, Bakersfield, CA 93309

Mailing Address: same County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s):
MONICA ZUNIGA at 224 Stine Rd, Bakersfield, CA 93309
 The business is conducted by: Individual
 SIGNED: **MONICA ZUNIGA**
 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: February 4, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: M CEDENO, Deputy

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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 February 4, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 18, 25, Mar 4, 11, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B0882
 Doing business as:

CARE COMPASSIONATE COLLECTIONS LLC at 331 Pacheco Rd Apt 8B, Bakersfield, CA 93307

Mailing Address: same County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s):
CARE COMPASSIONATE COLLECTIONS LLC at 331 Pacheco Rd Apt 8B, Bakersfield, CA 93307
 State of Incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
 SIGNED: **JE'AUNIE JENKINS-CHAMBERS, 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: February 13, 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 February 13, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 18, 25, Mar 4, 11, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B0472
 Doing business as:

NOISANCE ODOR CONTROL / N.O.C. at 6807 Slickrock Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93313-4991

Mailing Address: same County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s):
JAMES VINCENT ROBINSON at 6807 Slickrock Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93313-4991
 The business is conducted by: Individual
 SIGNED: **JAMES VINCENT ROBINSON**
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: October 14, 2025

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: January 26, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: M HERNANDEZ, Deputy
 This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. This statement expires on January 26, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 18, 25, Mar 4, 11, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B0521
 Doing business as:

GOLDEN EMPIRE CONCRETE at 8211 Gosford Road, Bakersfield, CA 93313

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 9129, Fresno, CA 93790
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s):
BUILDERS CONCRETE INC. at P.O. Box 9129, Fresno, CA 93790
 State of Incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: Corporation
 SIGNED: **JAMES LEONG, VP-ADMINISTRATION**
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: January 1, 2001

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: January 27, 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 January 27, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 18, 25, Mar 4, 11, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2026-B0088
 Business Name you wish to abandon: **SHEVA INSURANCE SERVICES**

Street address of business: 1115 Union Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93304
 County: Kern
 Mailing address of business: 5209 San Martin Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93307
 Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name: **DIANA E JIMENEZ** at 5209 San Martin Dr, Bakersfield, CA

PUBLIC NOTICE

93307
 I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Business was conducted by: Individual
 SIGNED: **DIANA E JIMENEZ, Owner**
 This statement of abandonment filed on: February 2, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: M VACA RAMOS
 Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 18, 25, Mar 4, 11, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2025-B6771
 Business Name you wish to abandon: **DIANA'S INSURANCE SOLUTIONS**

Street address of business: 5209 San Martin Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93307
 County: Kern

Mailing address of business: same
 Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name: **DIANA E JIMENEZ** at 5209 San Martin Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93307
FEES WAIVER: If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the clerk for a fee waiver form. The court may order you to pay back all or part of the fees and costs that the court waived for you or the other party.

EXENCION DE CUOTAS: Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario un formulario de exencion de cuotas. La corte puede ordenar que usted pague, ya sea en parte o por completo, las cuotas y costos de la corte previamente exentos a peticion de usted o de la otra parte.
 The name and address of the Court are: (El nombre y direccion de la corte son) **SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF KERN - Metropolitan**
 1215 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301
 The name, address, and telephone number of petitioner's attorney, or the petitioner without an attorney, are (El nombre, direccion y numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante si no tiene abogado, son):
Issa Waldron (In Propria Persona)
 4171 Pinewood Lake Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93309-9317
 Phone: 310-678-0170
 Date (Fecha): April 12, 2023
 Tamarah Harber-Pickens, Clerk
 By: Secretario, por Victoria Benitez, Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 18, 25, Mar 4, 11, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2025-B5874
 Business Name you wish to abandon: **NOISANCE ODOR CONTROL**

Street address of business: 6807 Slickrock Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93313-4991
 County: Kern

Mailing address of business: same
 Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name: **JAMES VINCENT ROBINSON** at 6807 Slickrock Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93313
 I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Business was conducted by: Individual
 SIGNED: **JAMES VINCENT ROBINSON, Owner**
 This statement of abandonment filed on: January 26, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: M HERNANDEZ
 Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2025-B5875
 Business Name you wish to abandon: **N.O.C.**

Street address of business: 6807 Slickrock Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93313-4991
 County: Kern
 Mailing address of business: same
 Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name: **JAMES VINCENT ROBINSON** at 6807 Slickrock Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93313
 I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Business was conducted by: Individual
 SIGNED: **JAMES VINCENT ROBINSON, Owner**
 This statement of abandonment filed on: January 26, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: M HERNANDEZ
 Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 18, 25, Mar 4, 11, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2025-B0521
 Doing business as:

GOLDEN EMPIRE CONCRETE at 8211 Gosford Road, Bakersfield, CA 93313

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 9129, Fresno, CA 93790
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s):
BUILDERS CONCRETE INC. at P.O. Box 9129, Fresno, CA 93790
 State of Incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: Corporation
 SIGNED: **JAMES LEONG, VP-ADMINISTRATION**
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: January 1, 2001

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: January 27, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: M HERNANDEZ
 Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 18, 25, Mar 4, 11, 2026

SUMMONS FAMILY LAW CITACION
DERECHO FAMILIAR
CASE # BFL-23-002191
NOTICE TO RESPONDENT:
KELLY ELIZABETH WALDRON
 You have been sued. Read the information below and on the next page.
 Lo han demandado. Lea la informacion a continuacion y en la pagina siguiente.
PETITIONER'S NAME IS:
ISSA WALDRON
 You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this Summons and Petition are served on you to file a Response (form FL-120) at the court and have a copy served on the petitioner. A letter or phone call will not protect you. If you do not file your Response on time, the court may make orders affecting your marriage or domestic partnership, your property and custody of your children. You may be ordered to pay support and attorney fees and costs.
 For legal advice, contact a lawyer immediately. Get help finding a lawyer at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp), at the California Legal Services website (www.lawhelpca.org), or by contacting your local county bar association.
 Tiene 30 dias de calendario despues de haber recibido la entrega legal de esta Citacion y Peticion para presentar una Respuesta (formulario FL-120) ante la corte y efectuar la entre-ga legal de una copia al demandante. Una carta o llamada telefonica o una audiencia de la corte no basta para protegerlo.
 Si no presenta su Respuesta a tiempo, la corte puede dar ordenes que afecten su matrimonio o pareja de hecho, sus bienes y la custodia de sus hijos. La corte tambien le puede ordenar que pague manutencion, y honorarios y costos legales.
 Para asesoramiento legal,

PUBLIC NOTICE

pongase en contacto de inmediato con un abogado. Puede obtener informacion para encontrar un abogado en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en el sitio web de los Servicios Legales de California (www.lawhelpca.org) o poniendose en contacto con el colegio de abogados de su condado.
NOTICE-RESTRANING ORDERS ARE ON PAGE 2: The restraining orders are effective against both spouses or domestic partners until the petition is dismissed, a judgement is entered, or the court makes further orders. They are enforceable anywhere in California by any law enforcement officer who has received or seen a copy of them.
AVISO-LAS ORDENES DE RESTRICION SE ENCUENTRAN EN LA PAGINA 2: Las ordenes de restriccion estan en vigencia en cuanto a ambos conyuges o miembros de la pareja de hecho hasta que se despida la peticion, se emita un fallo o la corte de otras ordenes. Cualquier agencia del orden publico que haya recibido o visto una copia de estas ordenes puede hacerlas acatar en cualquier lugar de California
FEES WAIVER: If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the clerk for a fee waiver form. The court may order you to pay back all or part of the fees and costs that the court waived for you or the other party.
EXENCION DE CUOTAS: Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario un formulario de exencion de cuotas. La corte puede ordenar que usted pague, ya sea en parte o por completo, las cuotas y costos de la corte previamente exentos a peticion de usted o de la otra parte.
 The name and address of the Court are: (El nombre y direccion de la corte son) **SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF KERN - Metropolitan**
 1215 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301
 The name, address, and telephone number of petitioner's attorney, or the petitioner without an attorney, are (El nombre, direccion y numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante si no tiene abogado, son):
Issa Waldron (In Propria Persona)
 4171 Pinewood Lake Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93309-9317
 Phone: 310-678-0170
 Date (Fecha): April 12, 2023
 Tamarah Harber-Pickens, Clerk
 By: Secretario, por Victoria Benitez, Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 18, 25, Mar 4, 11, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2025-B6771
 Business Name you wish to abandon: **DIANA'S INSURANCE SOLUTIONS**

Street address of business: 5209 San Martin Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93307
 County: Kern

Mailing address of business: same
 Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name: **DIANA E JIMENEZ** at 5209 San Martin Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93307
FEES WAIVER: If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the clerk for a fee waiver form. The court may order you to pay back all or part of the fees and costs that the court waived for you or the other party.

EXENCION DE CUOTAS: Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario un formulario de exencion de cuotas. La corte puede ordenar que usted pague, ya sea en parte o por completo, las cuotas y costos de la corte previamente exentos a peticion de usted o de la otra parte.
 The name and address of the Court are: (El nombre y direccion de la corte son) **SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF KERN - Metropolitan**
 1215 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301
 The name, address, and telephone number of petitioner's attorney, or the petitioner without an attorney, are (El nombre, direccion y numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante si no tiene abogado, son):
Issa Waldron (In Propria Persona)
 4171 Pinewood Lake Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93309-9317
 Phone: 310-678-0170
 Date (Fecha): April 12, 2023
 Tamarah Harber-Pickens, Clerk
 By: Secretario, por Victoria Benitez, Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 18, 25, Mar 4, 11, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2025-B5874
 Business Name you wish to abandon: **NOISANCE ODOR CONTROL**

Street address of business: 6807 Slickrock Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93313-4991
 County: Kern

Mailing address of business: same
 Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name: **JAMES VINCENT ROBINSON** at 6807 Slickrock Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93313
 I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Business was conducted by: Individual
 SIGNED: **JAMES VINCENT ROBINSON, Owner**
 This statement of abandonment filed on: January 26, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: M HERNANDEZ
 Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2025-B0521
 Doing business as:

GOLDEN EMPIRE CONCRETE at 8211 Gosford Road, Bakersfield, CA 93313

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 9129, Fresno, CA 93790
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s):
BUILDERS CONCRETE INC. at P.O. Box 9129, Fresno, CA 93790
 State of Incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: Corporation
 SIGNED: **JAMES LEONG, VP-ADMINISTRATION**
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: January 1, 2001

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: January 27, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: M HERNANDEZ
 Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 18, 25, Mar 4, 11, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2025-B0521
 Doing business as:

GOLDEN EMPIRE CONCRETE at 8211 Gosford Road, Bakersfield, CA 93313

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 9129, Fresno, CA 93790
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s):
BUILDERS CONCRETE INC. at P.O. Box 9129, Fresno, CA 93790
 State of Incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: Corporation
 SIGNED: **JAMES LEONG, VP-ADMINISTRATION**
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: January 1, 2001

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: January 27, 2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: M HERNANDEZ
 Deputy

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 18, 25, Mar 4, 11, 2026

SUMMONS FAMILY LAW CITACION
DERECHO FAMILIAR
CASE # BFL-23-002191
NOTICE TO RESPONDENT:
KELLY ELIZABETH WALDRON
 You have been sued. Read the information below and on the next page.
 Lo han demandado. Lea la informacion a continuacion y en la pagina siguiente.
PETITIONER'S NAME IS:
ISSA WALDRON
 You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this Summons and Petition are served on you to file a Response (form FL-120) at the court and have a copy served on the petitioner. A letter or phone call will not protect you. If you do not file your Response on time, the court may make orders affecting your marriage or domestic partnership, your property and custody of your children. You may be ordered to pay support and attorney fees and costs.
 For legal advice, contact a lawyer immediately. Get help finding a lawyer at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp), at the California Legal Services website (www.lawhelpca.org), or by contacting your local county bar association.
 Tiene 30 dias de calendario despues de haber recibido la entrega legal de esta Citacion y Peticion para presentar una Respuesta (formulario FL-120) ante la corte y efectuar la entre-ga legal de una copia al demandante. Una carta o llamada telefonica o una audiencia de la corte no basta para protegerlo.
 Si no presenta su Respuesta a tiempo, la corte puede dar ordenes que afecten su matrimonio o pareja de hecho, sus bienes y la custodia de sus hijos. La corte tambien le puede ordenar que pague manutencion, y honorarios y costos legales.
 Para asesoramiento legal,

PUBLIC NOTICE

PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION (DIVORCE) OF MARRIAGE
CASE # BFL-23-002191
PETITIONER: ISSA WALDRON
RESPONDENT: KELLY ELIZABETH WALDRON
 Superior Court of California, County of KERN
 1215 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301
 Metropolitan
1. LEGAL RELATIONSHIP
 a. We are married.
2. RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS
 a. Petitioner has been a resident of this state for at least six months and of this county for at least three months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition. (For a divorce, unless you are in the legal relationship described in 1b., at least one of you must comply with this requirement.)
3. STATISTICAL FACTS
 a. (1) Date of marriage (specify): April 17 2009
 (2) Date of separation (specify): September 15 2018
 (3) Time from date of marriage to date of separation (specify): 9 Years 5 Months
4. MINOR CHILDREN
 a. There are no minor children.
Petitioner requests that the court make the following orders:
5. LEGAL GROUNDS (Family Code sections 2200-2210, 2310-2312)
 a. Divorce of the marriage or domestic partnership based on irreconcilable differences.
6. SPOUSAL OR DOMESTIC PARTNER SUPPORT
 c. Reserve for future determination the issue of support payable to (X) Petitioner (X) Respondent
9. SEPARATE PROPERTY
 a. There are no such assets or debts that I know of to be confirmed by the court.
10. COMMUNITY AND QUASI-COMMUNITY PROPERTY
 a. There are no such assets or debts that I know of to be divided by the court.
12. I HAVE READ THE RESTRANING ORDERS ON THE BACK OF THE SUMMONS, AND I UNDERSTAND THAT THEY APPLY TO ME WHEN THIS PETITION IS FILED.
 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.
 Dated: 01 / 27 / 2023
 Signed: **ISSA WALDRON FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Read Legal Steps for a Divorce or Legal Separ

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

a. There are no such assets or debts that I know of to be confirmed by the court.
 b. I confirm as separate property the assets and debts in Property Declaration (form FL-160). Attachment 9b.
 The following list:
 Item Confirm to

10. COMMUNITY AND QUASI-COMMUNITY PROPERTY
 a. There are no such assets or debts that I know of to be divided by the court.
 b. Determine rights to community and quasi-community assets and debts. All such assets and debts are listed In Property Declaration (form FL-160). In Attachment 10b.
 as follows (specify):

11. OTHER REQUESTS
 a. Attorney's fees and costs payable by Petitioner Respondent
 b. Respondent's former name be restored to (specify):
 c. Other (specify):

Continued on Attachment 11c.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: Signature of Respondent: Signature of Attorney for Respondent:

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Read Legal Steps for a Divorce or Legal Separation (form FL-107-INFO) and visit "Families Change" at www.familieschange.ca.gov

an online guide for parents and children going through divorce or separation.
NOTICE: You may redact (black out) social security numbers from any written material filed with the court in this case other than a form used to collect child, spousal or partner support.

NOTICE—CANCELLATION OF RIGHTS: Dissolution or legal separation may automatically cancel the rights of a domestic partner or spouse under the other domestic partner's or spouse's will, trust, retirement plan, power of attorney, pay-on-death bank account, survivorship rights to any property owned in joint tenancy, and any other similar thing. It does not automatically cancel the right of a domestic partner or spouse as beneficiary of the other partner's or spouse's life insurance policy. You should review these matters, as well as any credit cards, other credit accounts, insurance policies, retirement plans, and credit reports, to de-

PUBLIC NOTICE

termine whether they should be changed or whether you should take any other actions. Some changes may require the agreement of your partner or spouse or a court order.
The original response must be filed in the court with proof of service of a copy on Petitioner.

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, 2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER
26CUB00403

Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN
 1215 Truxtun Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93301
 Civil - Metropolitan Division Justice Building
 PETITION OF: ANGEL LYRASSA HERNANDEZ
 FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
 Petitioner: ANGEL LYRASSA HERNANDEZ

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

Present name: ANGEL LYRASSA HERNANDEZ
Proposed name: ANGEL LYRASSA GUTIERREZ

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: April 15, 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: February 6, 2026
Gina M. Cervantes, Judicial Officer
Vanessa Guerra, Deputy Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE

Petitioner:
 Angel Lyrrassa Hernandez
 2424 Eric Way Apt A,
 Bakersfield, CA 93306
 Telephone: (661) 314-1491
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B0878
 Doing business as:
 CHAVEZ BIRRIERIA

1704 Maurice Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93304
 Mailing Address: same
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): KINGDOM OVER COMMERCE LLC at 1704 Maurice Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93304
 State of incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
 SIGNED: JOSHUA CHAVEZ, 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: February 13, 2026
 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 February 13, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B0888
 Doing business as:

ANKM CONSTRUCTION at 11606 Harrington St, Bakersfield, CA 93311
 Mailing Address: 11401 Crabbett Park Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93311
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): TGRAPE LLC at 11606 Harrington St, Bakersfield, CA 93311
 State of incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
 SIGNED: ANESH MOHAN, CEO
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: August

PUBLIC NOTICE

2, 2019
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: February 13, 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 February 13, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B0853
 Doing business as:

AA1CSER191 at 250 Fairfax Rd SPC 135, Bakersfield, CA 93307
 Mailing Address: same
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): CASEY REYES at 250 Fairfax Rd SPC 135, Bakersfield, CA 93307
 The business is conducted by: Individual
 SIGNED: CASEY REYES
 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: February 12, 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 February 12, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B0824
 Doing business as:
 CHEVRON FOOD MART at 1999 Taft Hwy, Bakersfield, CA 93313
 Mailing Address: 2832 E Vermont Ave, Fresno, CA 93270
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): BASS FOHK LLC at 2832 E Vermont Ave, Fresno, CA 93270
 State of incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
 SIGNED: PARWINDERPAL SINGH PARMAR, Partner

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: February 11, 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 February 11, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B0911
 Doing business as:

FIESTA PRODUCE at 217 Mt Vernon Ave Ste 21, Bakersfield, CA 93307
 Mailing Address: same
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): AKRAM MUTAHER AHMED at 217 Mt Vernon Ave Ste 21, Bakersfield, CA 93307
 The business is conducted by: Individual
 SIGNED: AKRAM MUTAHER AHMED
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: May 18, 2021
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: February 17, 2026
 AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: M CEJA, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. This statement expires on February 17, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B0923
 Doing business as:

Q FURNITURE at 4708 Planz Rd, Bakersfield, CA 93309
 Mailing Address: same
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): MSK RENTALS LLC at 4708 Planz Rd, Bakersfield, CA 93309
 State of incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
 SIGNED: MAHMOUD S. KHAWALDEH, Manager
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: June 6, 2024
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: February 17, 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 February 17, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B0870
 Doing business as:

THE FULTZ COLLABORATIVE at 11201 Vista Fuego Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93311
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 22156, Bakersfield, CA 93390
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): THE FULTZ COLLABORATIVE LLC at 11201 Vista Fuego Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93311
 State of incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
 SIGNED: ANNIE ELLIS, CEO
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: January 22, 2026
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: February 12, 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 February 12, 2031

PUBLIC NOTICE

This statement expires on February 12, 2031
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B0955
 Doing business as:

JAYBLENDZ at 9219 Broadway Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93311
 Mailing Address: same
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): JAYDEN AVERY ANAYA at 9219 Broadway Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93311
 The business is conducted by: Individual
 SIGNED: JAYDEN AVERY ANAYA
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: January 20, 2026
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: February 18, 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 February 18, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B0956
 Doing business as:

TORO'S SOLAR PANEL, CLEANING at 4108 Pinewood Lake Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93309
 Mailing Address: same
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): ADRIAN ALEJANDRO AGUILAR FLORES at 4108 Pinewood Lake Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93309
 The business is conducted by: Individual
 SIGNED: ADRIAN ALEJANDRO AGUILAR FLORES
 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: February 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 February 18, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B0614
 Doing business as:

HIS BARBERSHOP at 3735 Columbus St, Bakersfield, CA 93306
 Mailing Address: same
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): JOSE ROSARIO BELTRAN JR at 3735 Columbus St., Bakersfield, CA 93306
 The business is conducted by: Individual
 SIGNED: JOSE ROSARIO BELTRAN JR
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: February 4, 2026
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: February 2, 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 February 2, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B0441
 Doing business as:

HOLLOWAY TRANSPORT, LLC at 5060 California Ave Ste 710, Bakersfield, CA 93309
 Mailing Address: same
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): HOLLOWAY TRANSPORT, LLC at 5060 California Ave Ste 710, Bakersfield, CA 93309
 State of incorp. or org.: WY
 The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
 SIGNED: JOSHUA OCHS, CFO
 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: January 23, 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 February 23, 2031

PUBLIC NOTICE

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 January 23, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B0964
 Doing business as:

CONSTRUCTION FRAMING at 921 Vine Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93307
 Mailing Address: same
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): JOSE FELIX GAMEZ AQUINO at 921 Vine Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93307
 The business is conducted by: Individual
 SIGNED: JOSE FELIX GAMEZ AQUINO
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: September 22, 2025
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: February 19, 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 February 19, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B0876
 Doing business as:

SORCI WORKS at 6204 Cliffwood Way, Bakersfield, CA 93306
 Mailing Address: same
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): BRETT AUGUSTINE SORCI at 6204 Cliffwood Way, Bakersfield, CA 93306
 The business is conducted by: Individual
 SIGNED: BRETT AUGUSTINE SORCI
 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: February 13, 2026
 AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
 County Clerk
 By: S CEJA, Deputy

This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. This statement expires on February 13, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B0982
 Doing business as:

DIGHOME at 7913 Dunsmere Ave, Lamont, CA 93241
 Mailing Address: same
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): ROSALIO PAZ SALAZAR at 7913 Dunsmere Ave, Lamont, CA 93241
 The business is conducted by: Individual
 SIGNED: ROSALIO PAZ SALAZAR
 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: February 19, 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 February 19, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B0995
 Doing business as:

OVERS THE RAINBOW BRIDGE 4 HUMANITY at 3609 Grissom St., Bakersfield, CA 93309
 Mailing Address: same
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): OVERS THE RAINBOW BRIDGE 4 HUMANITY INC. at 3609 Grissom St., Bakersfield, CA 93309
 State of incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: Corporation
 SIGNED: JASON C. OVERS, CEO
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: February 4, 2026
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: February 20, 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 February 20, 2031

PUBLIC NOTICE

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 February 20, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B0281
 Doing business as:

WEST COAST LEGACY SALES LLC at 706 Sioux Creek Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93312
 Mailing Address: same
 County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): WEST COAST LEGACY SALES LLC at 706 Sioux Creek Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93312
 State of incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
 SIGNED: TAMER BROWN, Member
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: January 1, 2026
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: January 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 January 15, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, 2026

LIEN SALE

2024 HONDA CIVIC FOR SALE ON 3/17/2026
 VIN: 2HGFE2Z6RH8510119
 Lien Sale will take place at 10:00 AM at DK AUTO REPAIR & BODY WORK
 400 EAST 18TH ST
 BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
 (661)662-7666
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Mar 4, 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.storage-treasures.com; the bidding will end March 18th, 2026 at 6:00 pm.
 D051 Jose Rodriguez Carbajal; 1052 Curtis Willie
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER (E)
PUB: Mar 4, 2026

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF MARY RUTH MUNOZ</

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. **Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.** **YOU MAY EXAMINE** the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner: BRANDON B. HOLLADAY, ESQ. BR
THE LAW OFFICES OF YOUNG & NICHOLS
 1901 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301
 Telephone: (661) 861-7911
NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Mar 4, 11, 18, 2026

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): The Dunning Law Firm APC James MacLeod (249145) Christina C. MacLeod (283945) 9619 Chesapeake Dr., Suite 210, San Diego, CA 92123 California DFPI Debt Collector License #10059-99 Tel. (858) 974-7600 DATE (Fecha): June 18, 2025 Tara Leal, Clerk (Secretario) By Kayla Trujillo, Deputy (Adjunto) (SEAL)

NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served.
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Mar 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

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.

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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): The Dunning Law Firm APC James MacLeod (249145) Christina C. MacLeod (283945) 9619 Chesapeake Dr., Suite 210, San Diego, CA 92123 California DFPI Debt Collector License #10059-99 Tel. (858) 974-7600 DATE (Fecha): June 18, 2025 Tara Leal, Clerk (Secretario) By Kayla Trujillo, Deputy (Adjunto) (SEAL)

NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served.
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Mar 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

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 February 17, 2031.
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Mar 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B1060
 Doing business as:
ALLYDY TRANSPORT LLC at 4018 Wilson Rd, Bakersfield, CA 93309
 Mailing Address: same County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s): **ALLYDY TRANSPORT LLC** at 4018 Wilson Rd, Bakersfield, CA 93309
 State of Incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
 SIGNED: **NORMAN E. SUT BARREDA, Manager**
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: February 23, 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 February 23, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Mar 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B0915
 Doing business as:
MADDYS SOURDOUGH at 6606 Wind Wolfs Ln, Bakersfield, CA 93313
 Mailing Address: same County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s):
MADELINE PEARL CASTLEBERRY at 6606 Wind Wolfs Ln, Bakersfield, CA 93313
 The business is conducted by: Individual
 SIGNED: **MADELINE PEARL CASTLEBERRY**
 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: February 17, 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 February 23, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Mar 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B0827
2026-B0828
 Doing business as:
SNIDERS SOUTHWEST CYCLERY / SNIDERS SOUTHWEST at 2700 Union Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93305
 Mailing Address: same County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s):
SNIDER'S, INC. at 2700 Union Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93305
 State of Incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: Corporation
 SIGNED: **OLIVIA SNIDER, Chief Financial Officer**
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: September 1, 1976
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Mar 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

on: February 11, 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 February 11, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Mar 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B0981
 Doing business as:
BUEN SERVICIO at 5208 Sweetzer Lake St, Bakersfield, CA 93314
 Mailing Address: same County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s):
ENEDINA SOLANO at 5208 Sweetzer Lake St, Bakersfield, CA 93314
 The business is conducted by: Individual
 SIGNED: **ENEDINA SOLANO, Owner**
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: July 1, 2025
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: February 19, 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 February 19, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Mar 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B1117
 Doing business as:
L & I ASSOCIATES at 2008 Talisman Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93304
 Mailing Address: same County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s):
YOLANDA AMARO at 2008

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Mar 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B1094
 Doing business as:
MONSTAH KUKIS at 3730 Begonia Ct, Bakersfield, CA 93313
 Mailing Address: same County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s):
VALENTINO TAUAESE at 3730 Begonia Ct, Bakersfield, CA 93313
 The business is conducted by: Individual
 SIGNED: **VALENTINO TAUAESE**
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: February 8, 2026
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: February 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 February 25, 2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Mar 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

Talisman Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93304
 The business is conducted by: Individual
 SIGNED: **YOLANDA AMARO**
 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: February 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 February 25, 2031

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MONSTAH KUKIS at 3730 Begonia Ct, Bakersfield, CA 93313
 Mailing Address: same County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s):
VALENTINO TAUAESE at 3730 Begonia Ct, Bakersfield, CA 93313
 The business is conducted by: Individual
 SIGNED: **VALENTINO TAUAESE**
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: February 8, 2026
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: February 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 February 25, 2031

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B1117
 Doing business as:
L & I ASSOCIATES at 2008 Talisman Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93304
 Mailing Address: same County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s):
YOLANDA AMARO at 2008

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FILE NO: 2026-B1094
 Doing business as:
MONSTAH KUKIS at 3730 Begonia Ct, Bakersfield, CA 93313
 Mailing Address: same County: Kern
 Full name of registrant(s):
VALENTINO TAUAESE at 3730 Begonia Ct, Bakersfield, CA 93313
 The business is conducted by: Individual
 SIGNED: **VALENTINO TAUAESE**
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: February 8, 2026
 This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: February 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 February 25, 2031

Features

Sacramento Conference Tackles California's Stubborn Housing Crisis



Asm. Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland), right, delivered the keynote address at Capitol Weekly's "A Conference on Housing" on Feb. 24 in Sacramento. Wicks emphasized the importance of building housing for low- and middle-income residents and advancing equity in housing solutions. At left is Rich Ehisen, editor-in-chief of Capitol Weekly, a nonpartisan publication focused on California politics. CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey.



"A Conference on Housing," hosted by Capitol Weekly and the University of California Student and Policy Center, was held Feb. 24, 2026, in Sacramento and featured in-depth discussions on California housing policy. CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey.

By Antonio Ray Harvey
California Black Media
 Assemblymember Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland), the keynote speaker at "A Conference on Housing" in Sacramento on Feb. 24, says solving California's housing crisis at all levels -- and providing affordable, environmentally responsible homes for low-income families and communities of color -- can go hand in hand.
 Wicks, widely recognized as a leading legislative champion for housing production and affordability, delivered her remarks at the one-day event organized by Capitol Weekly and the University of California Student and Policy Center.
 "I think we can do so in a way that still respects our environmental values," Wicks said in her keynote remarks.
 The conference explored solutions focused on increasing supply, improving financing, and addressing labor shortages to make housing more affordable and accessible. It included policy experts, industry representatives, academic researchers, and state lawmakers with deep knowledge of California's housing crisis.
 The event comes amid ongoing legislative efforts to tackle California's housing shortage, which disproportionately impacts low-income Asian, Black, and Latino households.
 Wicks told California Black Media (CBM)

that there is "not a single bullet to solve the housing crisis," but the solutions require building for all income levels, including affordable housing for low-income residents and middle-income, market-rate housing for professionals.
 "I think we fundamentally need 2.5 million homes," Wicks told CBM. "We need low-income subsidized, we need the missing middle, the market rate, we need multi-family, single-family, and workforce housing. We need the all-above strategy. We need to be creative around that approach."
 Last year, Wicks introduced Assembly Bill (AB) 1021 to accelerate the construction of affordable housing for educators and school employees on land owned by local educational agencies (LEAs).
 Co-authored with Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance), the bill streamlines development, provides property tax exemptions, and eases California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements to tackle recruitment challenges. The bill was signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom on Oct. 10, 2025.
 "You look at Oakland. There are so few Black teachers serving a diverse student body, in part because of the housing crisis. We can't keep teachers because of the housing crisis," Wicks said. "I think it's an all-above strategy that we really need to embrace."
 According to an October 2024 report by

the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), approximately 35% to 37% of Black households in California own their homes -- a rate significantly lower than the state's overall homeownership rate of around 55% to 56%.
 This rate has shown little growth over the past decade, placing it among the lowest for Black homeownership in the U.S. The California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA) reported that for the entire 2010s, the state's Black homeownership rate was lower than it was in the 1960s, "when it was completely legal to discriminate against Black homebuyers," the report stated.
 Black Californians frequently rent rather than own, with a homeownership rate of about 41% compared to 68% for White residents. This gap reflects the lasting impact of systemic racism, including historical redlining and lower generational wealth.
 Assemblymember Tina McKinnor (D-Inglewood) is an outspoken proponent of increasing housing supply and improving homeownership rates for Black Californians through several legislative initiatives she has introduced.
 McKinnor, a member of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC), noted that California has some of the most expensive rental costs in the nation. Citing real estate brokerage Redfin, she reported that in April 2025, median

rents were \$3,417 in San Francisco; \$3,285 in Los Angeles; \$3,116 in San Diego; and \$3,011 in San Jose.
 "We can solve California's housing crisis through partnerships between government, developers, and nonprofit and faith-based organizations," McKinnor stated.
 "By harnessing the innovative will of Californians, necessary public and private investments, and a legislature and governor truly committed to solving the housing crisis, I am confident that we can help all Californians find a safe and affordable place to call home," she added.
 At the conference, Wicks said she is awaiting results for the Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2026 (AB 736), a proposed \$10 billion bond measure designed to fund the construction and preservation of affordable housing.
 AB 736, authored by Wicks, requires approval by California voters on the June 2026 ballot. The legislation aims to fund affordable housing to address the state's severe shortage.
 "I'm done with bill-signing ceremonies," Wicks said at the conference. "I want ribbon cuttings, because ribbon cuttings mean we're actually moving people into homes. I'm done with all the performative bulls*."*

Features

Meta Deleted Me. I Still Don't Know Why. And neither will you.

A verified journalist was banned, reported to federal authorities, and given no recourse. A glitch in the system may be the point.

By Morris W. O'Kelly (Mo'Kelly)

I have long had a hate/hate relationship with social media. It is the place where people mainly try to impress people they don't know with knowledge they don't have, to fake lifestyles they don't live. And that's assuming we disregard the anonymous trolls, foreign bots, and random, garden-variety bad actors permeating the landscape.

Nonetheless, as a person who works in news media, social media is a necessary evil. It is necessary to promote oneself and one's work and to develop an overall footprint. In my business, it is a necessary and accepted form of currency. More generally, one's social media presence is used equally for job selection and job exclusion. I had already left Twitter/X due to it devolving into a racist hellhole, guided by "Apartheid Clyde" himself, Elon Musk. You know, the guy is more reminiscent of a poorly conceived Bond villain, with ethnostate sugar plums dancing in his head.

But I digress...

For me, Facebook, Instagram, and its companion Threads (Meta) were more than enough to satisfy my social media needs. I get it. I'm old. I'm not cool. Most importantly, I'm good with it. But what little social media I used was essential to my profession, which, as a political and cultural commentator, included discussion of any and all topics, from Donald Trump to Jeffrey Epstein to Palestine to even Diddy.

In fact, my blue check-marked profiles came from years of credibility construction, not from paying a monthly vanity subscription. This is very important. I'll come back to it later.

But just like that (snap), most of it disappeared. Recently, my IG (Instagram) and Threads accounts were disabled and deleted due to a supposed post where I violated the terms of service regarding the depiction of children.

Say what?! Children?!

According to Meta, my account was found to have either:

- Showed a child's genitals
- Showed sexual activity involving children
- Sexualized children

From Meta: "No one can see or find your account, and you can't use it. All your information will be permanently deleted. You cannot request another review of this decision."

No inclusion or mention of the supposed offending post was made. No recourse, review, or redress. All gone. But wait, it gets worse.

Meta also informed me that "We're required by law to report suspected cases of child sexual exploitation to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)."

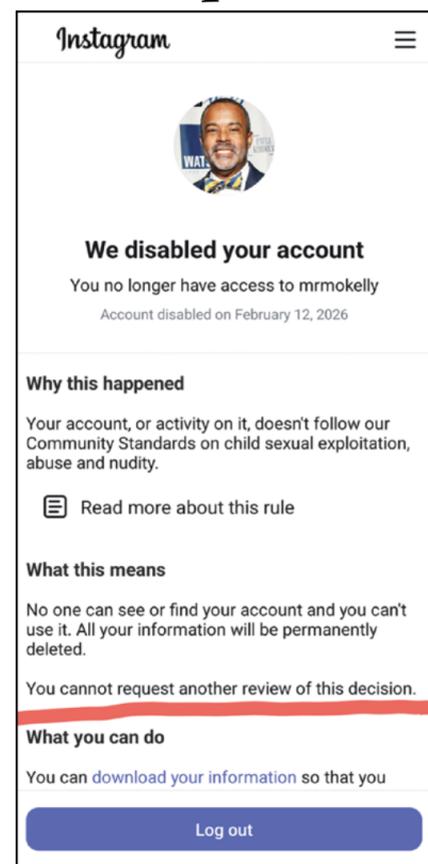
Was it a discussion of Jeffrey Epstein or some other news-related figure misinterpreted by AI?

I can't tell you—and Meta won't either—because I "cannot request another review of this decision," nor am I aware of the specifics of the supposedly violating post. If your social media experience is anything like mine, I'm called every racial slur imaginable with both regularity and impunity. Oddly enough, these trolls are almost never reprimanded or disabled. I've never been suspended for any online behavior on any platform at any time. That's relevant too.

Was my account hacked by a nefarious actor who posted some offensive and obscene material? I can't rule it in or out, as I don't have access to my account to perform a forensic analysis of any logins from suspicious devices or the like. That, and I "cannot request another review of this decision." Years of posts, pictures, commentaries, and discussions across TWO platforms, gone. And I can't even verify whether the supposed violation occurred on Instagram or Threads. But back to being a "verified, blue checkmark" user... Originally, before people had the option to simply buy a subscription and, with it, a blue checkmark, one had to be a person of some notoriety or credibility within a specific field of expertise. You had to earn it in some way. In addition, you were required to submit your actual driver's license or state ID as another layer of verification. Meaning, the repercussions of Meta being "required by law to report suspected cases of child sexual exploitation to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)" could have legal and professional repercussions—the full

extent of which neither of us can predict.

In addition, since I work with children in various capacities outside of work, I'm required to be live-scanned. Live Scan technology uses digital fingerprinting to instantly transmit biometric data to state (DOJ) and federal (FBI) databases. Its primary uses include rapid criminal background checks for employment (childcare, healthcare, and law enforcement), professional licensing, volunteer screenings, and firearm permits. We're talking about the same DOJ run by Pam Bondi and the FBI by Kash Patel. The consequences can be substantial and unlimited. I can rule nothing in and can rule nothing out. What I can say for certain is that NEVER has anything even remotely near the sexualization of children or associated imagery graced ANYTHING I do. Not privately. Not publicly. I have served on a federal grand jury for four months, and that service included child pornography cases, inclusive of the underlying photographic evidence. It was horrible. I have worked as an advocate for women pre- and post-Me Too movement. My life's work is both public and inarguable. There is no pornography on my phone to "accidentally" upload. There is no hidden double life. There is no behavior to apologize for or explain. The problem with that is I can neither prove it nor even plead my case. Again, I "cannot request another review of this decision," nor will I be informed of what might happen next in the form of a knock on a door from a federal agent or a federal file created (or added to) with my name on it. Today, it is me. Tomorrow, it may be you. There is a larger discussion to be had here. Against the backdrop of the politicization of mainstream and legacy media, it is reasonable to wonder whether this isn't both intentional and coordinated. We remember the blocking of Harris's presidential endorsements, such as with the Los Angeles Times and The Washington Post. I can't rule out the possibility that this is part of a larger attempt to suppress voices critical of this presidential administration. I can't rule it out and neither can you. Given the ongoing threats and outright censorship of late night broadcasts in both Jimmy Kimmel and Stephen Colbert, I can't rule out whether I was targeted, and neither can you. Given the recent FCC "investigation" of the Bad Bunny Super Bowl halftime show, which was controversial ONLY to the MAGA faithful and racists afraid of 12 minutes of Spanish from an American citizen, one could reasonably question whether these are all dots just waiting to be connected. I can't rule it in, and none of us can rule it out. That is saying nothing of the confirmed presidential "enemies list" and the tactics employed by ICE to monitor, target and intimidate protesters and legal observers. That is saying nothing of the firing of 300 Washington Post journalists and staff, simultaneous to its owner Jeff Bezos pouring 75 million dollars into support and promotion of "Melania" propaganda, which is presently cosplaying as a legitimate documentary, in theaters right now. Just this week, commuted Trump insider Roger Stone interviewed the owner of the aforementioned Los Angeles Times and avowed Trump supporter, Patrick Soon Shiong. And that's saying nothing of the ongoing efforts to delegitimize CBS News, a Paramount subsidiary firmly intertwined with the Trump administration. My account didn't disappear in a vacuum. If we check the leaderboard: The top print media, broadcast media, and social media are ALL owned by Trump acolytes, actively engaged in exerting public



pressure by way of their companies to suppress dissent and force compliance from its employees and users. Whether I am a consequence of bad luck and unforgiving terms of service... or part of a larger effort to squelch opposing voices, who is to say? I can't definitively say, and neither can you. Whereas I'm generally not a conspiracy theorist, I can't just ignore publicly available and relevant evidence either. This presidential administration may only be temporary in the grand scheme of things, but the internet is still forever, whether we like it or not. At this time, I'm not sure what my future social media involvement may be. If I hated social media before, I absolutely hate it even more now. I still have a Facebook (Meta) presence, but I have no desire to start over and rebuild elsewhere, with the same threat and consequences still looming. At the minimum, there is the opportunity to use this moment as a warning to highlight how dangerous a time it is in which we live and how that danger extends to all of us. Even you. Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of BlackPressUSA.com or the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

Morris W. O'Kelly (Mo'Kelly) is a political and cultural commentator across various media. Good luck trying to find him on social media.

We disabled your account

you no longer have access to mrmokelly

All your information will be permanently deleted

you cannot request another review of this decision



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One Hundred Years of Black Workers Telling the Truth

By Fred Redmond
Secretary Treasurer AFL-CIO

In 1917, A. Philip Randolph and Chandler Owen launched The Messenger, a pro-labor, anti-war magazine that connected racism to exploitation and demanded justice for Black workers. Two years later, the federal government responded with tactics of targeted censorship—surveillance, harassment and threats of prosecution—and branded a small Black labor magazine "the most dangerous" publication in the country simply for encouraging Black workers to organize. More than a century later, two highly respected Black journalists—Don Lemon and Georgia Fort—are handcuffed and indicted for filming a protest inside a church. The tools have changed, but the oppressive government playbook has not. That continuity matters as we mark 100 years since the launch of Negro History Week, founded in February 1926 by Carter G. Woodson. Negro History Week rejected the lie that Black people had no history worth teaching and no role worth remembering. It challenged an education system that erased Black achievement and a public narrative that treated Black people as a problem, not a people. What later became Black History Month grew from that project of memory and resistance. From its earliest days, Black history celebrations were about more than remembrance. They also were acts of resistance, challenging the ongoing use of law, fear and surveillance to silence Black workers and suppress the truth about power in this country. That pairing matters: The birth of Negro History Week alongside the rise of an apparatus built to monitor and suppress Black labor dissent. The same government that denied Black people their history also treated them as a threat when they spoke collectively as workers. When Black workers asserted their right to organize and be heard, they faced not just employer retaliation, but state repression. Randolph went on to organize the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first major Black-led union, and was under constant federal surveillance. As Black workers organized in factories, on farms and in service jobs across the country, local police and FBI "Red Squads" and federal counterintelligence programs infiltrated meetings, built massive files, and worked to neutralize leaders who linked racial justice to workplace democracy. That history provides a framework for understanding what happened in Minnesota this January, when Black journalists Don Lemon and Georgia Fort were arrested after covering a protest inside a church opposing U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity in the area. The message was unmistakable: documenting dissent can itself be treated as a crime. At the same time, major media outlets are shrinking their newsrooms and walking away from race coverage. The Washington Post recently laid off some 300 journalists, including race and ethnicity reporters. In late 2025, NBC News shuttered entire teams dedicated to covering Black, Latino and Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander stories. In Pittsburgh,

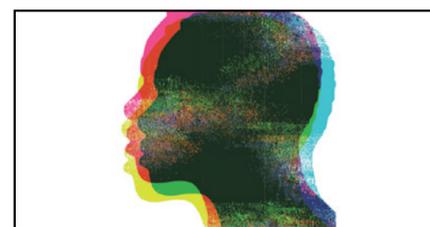


Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA.

the 240-year-old Post-Gazette is being shut down by its owners, who responded to a court order requiring them to honor The NewsGuild-CWA (TNG-CWA) journalists' contract after years of striking. When powerful newsrooms dismantle the very beats created after 2020 to cover racism and inequality, they send a different version of the same message: some truths about power are no longer welcome. The National Writers Union said the arrests "set a disastrous precedent for press freedom in the United States," and the National Association of Black Journalists called on the government to "halt all retaliatory posture toward journalists." SAG-AFTRA has condemned the arrests of Fort and Lemon, a member, and unions like TNG-CWA are warning that union-busting, mass layoffs, and criminal charges against journalists are part of the same effort to make it dangerous for workers to tell the truth.

This Black History Month, the labor movement must be clear: the right to organize and the right to dissent stand or fall together. There is no freedom of association if workers cannot gather, speak and be heard. When Black journalists are criminalized for documenting protest, the real target is the possibility of multiracial worker power. If true worker power and economic dignity are to have a future, it will be because the labor movement continues to refuse that silence. The AFL-CIO recognizes that the same tactics used to quash Black voices are used to suppress all our voices—on shop floors, in independent media, in the streets, on picket lines and in places of worship. We stand with our union brothers, sisters and siblings in insisting that the First Amendment is a right and a core worker protection, not a luxury. A century ago, Woodson insisted that Black people had a history worth telling and Randolph told Black workers they deserved more than exploitation. The government tried to silence them. This Black History Month, the question remains the same: Will Black truth tellers be honored or handcuffed? The labor movement's answer must be clear. We stand with Black workers and Black journalists in their right to dissent, to document, and to demand a better future. Fred Redmond, the highest-ranking African American labor official in history, is the secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO, the nation's largest labor federation, representing 64 unions and nearly 15 million workers.

Features

Political Playback:

California Capitol News You Might Have Missed



By Bo Tefu
California Black Media

Gov. Newsom Calls Pres. Trump's Attack on Iran "Reckless"

Gov. Gavin Newsom criticized President Donald Trump over the recent U.S. military strikes on Iran, calling the action "reckless" and warning it puts American lives at unnecessary risk.

In a social media post on Feb. 28, Newsom said while he agrees that Iran should not possess nuclear weapons, he argued that the president's decision to launch major combat operations was unjustified and dangerous.

"The corrupt and repressive Iranian regime must never have nuclear weapons. The leadership of Iran must go," Newsom wrote. "But that does not justify the president of the United States engaging in an illegal, dangerous war that will risk the lives of our American service members and our friends without justification to the American people."

Newsom's comments came as the U.S. and Israel carried out coordinated strikes across Iran early Feb. 28, actions that have triggered Iranian missile retaliation and raised fears of a broader Middle East conflict. The moves also drew strong international responses, with global leaders calling for de-escalation and a return to diplomatic channels.

At a public event in San Francisco later that day, Newsom reiterated his critique, describing the administration's approach as a distraction from domestic political challenges.

"It stems from weakness masquerading as strength," he said, accusing Trump of manufacturing a crisis rather than presenting a clear strategy to the American people," he said.

Newsom also emphasized the need for transparency and constitutional oversight, arguing that Congress -- not just the White House -- should be involved in decisions of war and peace. His remarks reflect mounting criticism from Democratic lawmakers and activists who say the strikes lack legal justification and could endanger U.S. troops without a clear exit plan.

In Los Angeles' Westwood neighborhood -- nicknamed "Tehrangeles" and home to the largest concentration of people of Iranian descent outside of Iran -- as well as in smaller Iranian American enclaves across the state, some residents took to the streets to celebrate. Reports described people honking car horns, waving Iranian flags and rejoicing after President Trump confirmed the death of Iran's supreme leader.

DOJ Joins Lawsuit Claiming LAUSD Program Discriminates Against White Students

The U.S. Justice Department has joined a federal lawsuit alleging that a long-running Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) program unlawfully discriminates against White students by using race-based classifications to allocate school funding and admissions preferences.

In a motion filed Feb. 25, the U.S. Department of Justice said LAUSD's Predominantly Hispanic, Black, Asian, and Other program, known as PHBAO, violates federal civil rights law by treating students differently based on the racial makeup of their schools. The case is pending in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

The lawsuit was brought by the 1776 Project Foundation, a Montana-based conservative group, and challenges a desegregation policy that traces back to a 1981 court order. While the original order aimed to address segregation, plaintiffs argue LAUSD has transformed it into a permanent system of racial preferences.

"Treating Americans equally is not a suggestion, it is a core constitutional guarantee that educational institutions must follow," Attorney General Pamela Bondi said in a statement. "This Department of Justice will never stop fighting to make that guarantee a reality, including for public-school

students in Los Angeles."

According to court filings, LAUSD labels schools in neighborhoods with less than 30% White residents as PHBAO and provides them additional benefits. The Justice Department said those schools receive extra funding to reduce student-teacher ratios by 5.5 students, increase parent-teacher conferences, and grant students preferences when transferring to magnet schools comparable to those given for overcrowded campuses.

Assistant Attorney General Harmeet K. Dhillon said the policy improperly categorizes students by race.

"Los Angeles County students should never be classified or treated differently because of their race," said Dhillon. "Racial discrimination is unlawful and un-American, and this Civil Rights Division will fight to ensure that every LAUSD student is treated equally under the law."

Fewer than 100 schools in the district lack the PHBAO designation, according to the lawsuit, which alleges that students at those schools, including White and Middle Eastern students, are denied equal access to resources.

First Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California Bill Essayli said the policy has exceeded its original purpose.

"Now in its sixth decade, LAUSD's desegregation program has outlived its usefulness to the point of being unconstitutional," said Essayli.

An LAUSD spokesperson said the district could not comment on the lawsuit because it involves pending litigation but reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring all students have meaningful access to educational opportunities.

Significant Drop: New Report Shows Major Decreases in California Crime Rates

California's violent and property crime rates declined sharply in 2024, marking the first statewide decrease in violent crime since the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new report from the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC).

The report found that California's overall violent crime rate fell 5.3% in 2024, dropping from 508 crimes per 100,000 residents in 2023 to 481. Despite the improvement, violent crime remains 9.8% higher than in 2019, reflecting a sustained increase that followed the pandemic.

Several major violent crime categories saw notable declines. Homicides decreased by 13.5% in 2024, while reported rapes fell 1.2%. Robberies dropped 7.5%, and aggravated assaults declined 4.8%. Even with the year-over-year reduction, aggravated assaults remain 22% above pre-pandemic levels, highlighting uneven recovery across crime types.

The report notes that California's violent crime trends follow long-term historical patterns. After peaking in the early 1990s, violent crime fell steadily for two decades, reaching a 50-year low in 2014. Rates then began rising again in the late 2010s before surging during the pandemic years.

Property crime also declined significantly in 2024. The statewide property crime rate fell 9.9% to 2,084 incidents per 100,000 residents, the lowest level recorded since 1985. Larceny thefts and burglaries dropped 7.1% and 11.8%, respectively, and both are now well below their 2019 levels.

Auto theft declined 16.7% in 2024 but remains 19.3% higher than before the pandemic. Shoplifting continued to rise, increasing 14.2% last year and standing 48% above its 2019 rate. Theft of car accessories, including catalytic converters, fell 27%, marking the second consecutive decline since 2020.

Crime trends varied widely by region. The lowest violent crime rates were reported along California's southern coast and border counties, while the San Joaquin Valley recorded the highest violent crime rate. Property crime was lowest in the Sierra region and highest in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Most of California's 58 counties saw declines in both violent and property crime in 2024, including the majority of the state's largest counties, signaling broad but uneven improvements in public safety statewide.

On Your 2026 Ballot: Measure Would Allow Cities and Counties to Create Local Election Financing Systems That Prioritize Small Donors

A new ballot measure set to appear on the November 2026 ballot for California voters would allow cities, counties, districts, and the state to establish public campaign financing systems designed to amplify small-dollar donors and limit the influence of wealthy special interests.

The California Clean Money Action Fund, California Common Cause, and the League of Women Voters of California launched the campaign and will serve as chairs of the new ballot measure committee, Californians for Fair Elections.

If approved, the California Fair Elections Act would repeal the statewide ban on public financing and give local communities the option to implement systems that strengthen accountability, enforce spending limits, and protect taxpayer funds. Participation would remain voluntary, and programs would include strict criteria for candidates to qualify for public funding. Public funds could not be used for legal defense fees or fines.

Supporters argue the reform is needed because California campaigns are dominated by big money. Since 2020, more than \$1 billion has been spent on state-level campaigns, and polling shows 81% of California voters believe large donors exert too much influence over elected officials. Five charter cities, including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, and Long Beach, already run public financing programs that give everyday candidates a chance to compete. The measure would expand those opportunities statewide.

"The California Fair Elections Act is about restoring trust, strengthening accountability, and making sure everyday Californians have a real say in who represents them," said Trent Lange, California Clean Money Action Fund's executive director.

Common Cause California Executive Director Darius Kemp added, "This measure opens the door for teachers, nurses, small business owners, and community leaders to run competitive campaigns and win."

Legislative supporters highlighted the potential for broader representation.

"The California Fair Elections Act puts power back in the hands of the people," said Sen. Tom Umberg (D-Santa Ana), author of SB 42, which placed the measure on the ballot.

Assemblymember Alex Lee (D-San Jose) said, "Public financing is the reform we need to bring power back to the people, and level the playing field for grassroots candidates."

The measure is backed by a coalition of state, local, and national organizations, including the ACLU, AFSCME, Asian Law Caucus, California Environmental Voters, California Nurses Association, California Labor Federation, and others.

Gov. Newsom Sets Historic Goal to Secure 9 Million Acre-Feet of Water by 2040

For the first time in state history, California has a statewide water supply target: 9 million acre-feet by 2040.

On Feb. 26, Gov. Gavin Newsom formally launched the California Water Plan 2028, calling it the most ambitious water planning effort in state history and a critical response to climate change-driven droughts and floods.

"California is committed to protecting the water that families, farmers, and communities depend on for generations to come," Newsom said in a statement. "The 2028 Water Plan is a commitment to every Californian that we will capture, store, and conserve the water our state -- the 4th largest economy in the world -- needs to thrive, no matter what climate change throws at us."

The plan begins implementation of Senate

Bill 72, authored by State Sen. Anna Caballero (D-Merced), which mandates modernization of the state's water blueprint through improved data collection and measurable supply targets.

"For the first time, we are setting a clear statewide target of 9 million acre-feet of additional water supply and establishing measurable benchmarks that hold us accountable," Caballero said. "California must plan with discipline and act with urgency to secure a reliable water future for every part of our state."

The 9 million acre-foot target -- roughly equal to two Shasta Reservoirs or enough water for 18 million homes -- reflects what the state could lose as shrinking snowpack and intensifying drought strain supplies.

"California's hydrology is changing," said Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth. "Extreme wet swings to intensely dry within the same season. The work of crafting the next California Water Plan will help us plan smarter to deal with the way climate change is testing our water systems."

The Department of Water Resources will convene a diverse advisory committee in April, including urban and agricultural water suppliers, tribal representatives, labor, environmental justice advocates and business leaders. The California Water Commission will serve in a formal advisory role.

"We applaud the launch of the California Water Plan 2028 and the collaborative framework envisioned under SB 72," said Commission Chair Fern Steiner, pledging support for "sustainable water solutions for all Californians."

State officials say the plan will focus on improved data, localized supply targets and practical adaptation strategies -- with progress tracked publicly through a new project website.

"Fake Outrage": Gov. Newsom Pushes Back on Racist Allegations

California Gov. Gavin Newsom is pushing back against accusations of racism after conservatives criticized comments he made about his academic struggles during a public appearance in Atlanta tied to his new book.

The backlash followed a conversation on Feb. 22, between Newsom and Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens, where the governor spoke candidly about scoring a 960 on the SAT and continuing to struggle reading prepared speeches.

"I'm not trying to impress you, I'm just trying to impress upon you I'm like you, I'm not better than you," said Newsom. "You've never seen me read a speech because I cannot read a speech. Maybe this is the wrong business to be in."

Conservative commentators and Republican officials quickly circulated the clip, claiming that the governor's remarks were racially offensive because Newsom was speaking to a Black elected official. Fox News host Sean Hannity shared the video and claimed Newsom "thinks a 960 SAT makes him 'like Black Americans.'"

Newsom fired back, accusing critics of hypocrisy and selective outrage. "You didn't give a s*** about the President of the United States of America posting an ape video of President Obama or calling African nations s***holes," Newsom said. "But you're going to call me racist for talking about my lifelong struggle with dyslexia? Spare me your fake f***ing outrage, Sean."

Newsom was referencing a Truth Social post shared by former President Donald Trump depicting former President Barack Obama and former first lady Michelle Obama as apes. The post was later deleted after bipartisan backlash.

Republican Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina criticized Newsom, saying he suffers from the "bigotry of low expectations" and admonished the governor for "using your mediocre academics as a way to patronize communities."

Dickens rejected that interpretation, writing online, "That wasn't an attack on anyone. It was a moment of vulnerability about his own journey." He added, "We don't need anyone to tell us when to be offended."

Newsom's office called the criticism "fake MAGA-manufactured outrage," noting the governor has discussed his dyslexia and SAT scores publicly for years as he begins a national book tour that is fueling speculation about a possible 2028 presidential run.

Local

'Living Your Black Excellence' Umoja Community Marks 8th Annual Black History Month at Bakersfield College

By Cecil Egbele
Contributing Writer
California Local News Fellow

The rhythm of West African drums echoed through Bakersfield College's Renegade Event Center as students, faculty, and community members gathered for the eighth annual Black History Month celebration hosted by Umoja Community.

This year's theme, Living Your Black Excellence, set the tone for an afternoon of reflection, cultural pride, and personal testimony. Through a dynamic panel discussion, ancestral rituals, a lesson on mentorship, and electrifying performances, the program challenged attendees to see excellence not as a destination but as a daily commitment.

A Decision to Walk in Excellence

The panel discussion was the emotional and intellectual heart of the afternoon. Panelists shared personal journeys of overcoming barriers and emphasized community uplift.

Artisa Mae Moten, a licensed marriage and family therapist and founder of A Waking Consulting Group, told students that excellence begins with belief.

"Everything about you is excellent. Point blank. Period," she said. "It's not about finding your excellence. It's already in you."

Moten, who grew up in the foster care system and aged out without a permanent placement, credited mentors with changing the trajectory of her life. She recalled an eighth-grade teacher who stayed after school to help her improve her reading level — a small but transformative act of



Children From The Audience Attempting To Play African Drums Photo credit: Cecil Egbele

investment. She survived homelessness as a single mother and a profound mental health crisis before her breakthrough. "Excellence under pressure is not excellence," she told the room. "You have to re-imagine yourself. You have to realign yourself. But one of the things you cannot do is give up."

Akadius Ashby, an educator and doctoral student at Pepperdine University, shared his unconventional journey from aspiring Division I athlete to, soon, the first doctor in his family. He faced academic dismissal and displacement by Hurricane Katrina before working as a firefighter while paying his own tuition to graduate. He challenged students to do the work of self-discovery.

"In order to find your Black excellence, you first got to find yourself," he said. "You can plan and prep all you want. But sometimes it's not in the cards. That doesn't mean we give up. We pick ourselves back up and get back on that path."

Honoring Dr. Joseph L. White

A standout segment of the program was a presentation honoring the legacy of Dr. Joseph L. White, widely known as the "Godfather of Black Psychology." White built a psychology rooted in the lived experience of Black people, challenging a

field that had long used White male developmental norms as a universal standard.

His legacy was illustrated through the metaphor of an open door. Through an interactive demonstration, volunteers physically opened doors for others to walk through, representing how White mentored future college presidents and leaders - including his daughter Laurie White, who became the first director of the Cross-Cultural Center at UC Irvine, and others who went on to lead institutions, including Cal State Bakersfield.

"If somebody opens the door for you," said Dr. Paula Parks, Umoja Community ASTEP Coordinator, who led the presentation, "you say thank you by doing your best."

The exercise underscored a core principle: excellence is communal. It expands when individuals use their success to open pathways for others.

Rituals of Remembrance

The program also honored African ancestors and other beloved departed through a libation ritual led by Dr. Parks. Figures such as Zora Neale Hurston, Ida B. Wells, Carter G. Woodson - the father of Black History Month - and Maya Angelou were praised and invoked by name. Personal family

members were honored as well. "They say you don't truly die until people stop saying your name," Parks said, inviting the audience to call out the names of their own beloved departed. The ritual was conducted as a call and response, with the audience answering "Amen" - after each name.

Rhythm, Balance and Joy

A roll of African drums announced the arrival of Burkina Faso-born master drummer Dramane Kone and his ensemble. Kone, who has been playing music since age 3 and brings more than four decades of craft to the stage, invited the audience to clap and sway, turning the performance into a communal celebration. "African dance has a rich culture," he said. "It makes people happy. It is healing. It pulls people in."

The cultural showcase continued with a lively juggling performance by America's Got Talent star Helen "The Foot Juggler" and NBA halftime show act and bounce juggler Tersit Dersu. Their precision and artistry drew gasps and applause and served as a tangible demonstration of excellence in motion.

Helen, who performs wearing braids and beads, said the choice is deliberate. "I'm not only bringing you the talent," she said. "I'm bringing the hair they told me wasn't good enough."

As the eighth annual celebration concluded, Dr. Parks offered a final reminder to carry beyond the auditorium: Black History Month may be in February, but Black excellence is every day.



Burkina Faso Drummer Dramane Kone And Performing Crew Photo credit: Cecil Egbele



Helen 'The Foot Juggler' Hula Hooping, Carpets Twirling and Table Juggling Photo credit: Cecil Egbele



Dr. Parks with Burkina Faso Drummer, Dramane Kone and Performing Crew Photo credit: Cecil Egbele

WORLD BOOK DAY ACTIVITY SHEET

Hi Everyone! Every year, the first Thursday in March is World Book Day! The theme for this year is 'Go All In', which means jumping into reading with your whole heart and imagination! It's about exploring new books, stories, and discovering new worlds. When you go all in for reading, your imagination travels to faraway places, meets amazing characters, learns new things, and grows your mind every day. So grab a book, open it up, and GO ALL IN!

LEARNING TO LOVE READING
A child develops a genuine love for reading by:
• Being read to regularly
• Having access to books at home
• Allowing children to choose what they want to read
• Having trusted adults and peers sharing and recommending books
• The reading experience being enjoyable (not used as punishment)
• Having a designated time to read

POP-UP FACTS
The average American reads approximately 5 books a year.
The average millionaire reads about 52 books a year.
Highly successful people read about 50 books a year.

KEMET: THE TIME TRAVELER
By Joe Young
A Collection of Kemet Inaugural Comic Books & Comic Strips

Kemet, The Time Traveler, takes kids on journeys through time that he uses to help inspire them to learn from the accomplishments of Black trailblazers they meet along the way. Also included are funny and thought provoking comic strips of Kemet interacting with his friends.

THE WEAVERBIRDS: FINDING HIS WAY HOME
By Robenia McKinley
The Weaverbirds is an imaginative, whimsical and adventurous fantasy of love, loss, toxic relationships and natural disasters. The animated adventure journeys to the home of our protagonist, Tahir, a south african weaverbird who loses his home wrecked home, but yet learns to triumph over tragedy as he navigates his way through challenges along his path.

DO YOU KNOW THEM?
By Shana Keller
Do You Know Them? is a story that takes place at the end of the American Civil War. With the selling of family members throughout the south, this is a moving story of how newly freed slaves search for their long-lost loved ones.

TELL THE TRUTH!
Print the letter T on the line if the statement is True or F if the Statement is False.
The Theme for 2026 World Book Day is 'Go All In.'
Millionaires read about 50 books a year.
The first Friday in the month of March is World Book Day.
10 minutes reading to a child makes a difference in their academic success.

ONE MINUTE MADNESS!
In one minute or less, unscramble all the words connected to World Book Day.
The first letter of the word is in bold.
ifTs urdTahya ni crMah
rWid kbBo aDy
diseqRr hCooei
oG IAI ni
adrieRr uhedcSe

THE OLD TRUCK
By Jarrett Pumphrey
The Old Truck, published in 2020, is a picture book by an award winning author-illustrator. After many years of service, the old beat-up rusted truck is restored to new life by an imaginative and creative young lady.

MATCH GAME!
Write the name of the author next to the book each one wrote.
Robenia McKinley Joe Young Jarrett Pumphrey Shana Keller
Do You Know Them?
The Old Truck
The Weaverbirds
Kemet: The Time Traveler

READY, SET, READ!!!
The average American reads five books a year. What's your five? Write the names of the books you will read this year. Book number 1 should be for the month of March (World Book Day).

KEMET World Book Day 2024
MASTER CARTOONIST WALTER CARR CREATED THIS ICONIC CARTOON IN 1992. IT'S STILL TIMELY TODAY!
WRITE A 100 PAGE ESSAY (TYPED) ON WHAT THIS CARTOON MEANS TO YOU. ONCE I GET IT, I WILL SEND YOU ONE OF MY COMIC STRIPS 'FREE OF CHARGE!'
SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO ME AT: KEMET COMICS, P.O. BOX 777, HARTFORD, CT 06142-777
*INCLUDE YOUR FULL NAME AND ADDRESS. YOUR SUBMISSION MUST BE POSTMARKED BY 5/5/26.