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## Learning to Advocate for Yourself and Others When Dealing With Healthcare Professionals

by Breanna Reeves & Aryana Noroozi



**3 KEEPING IT REAL**  
A Call to Repair

**4 IN THE NEWS**  
Black Girl Magic: Two  
High School Girls on  
the Verge of Proving  
2000-year-old Math  
Formula

**5 IN THE NEWS**  
Black Female  
Entrepreneur Chef  
Brandi T. Biggles  
Blends Prayer, Whole  
Food Consumption &  
Creativity

**7 IN THE NEWS**  
New Law Will Hold  
Big Oil Companies  
Accountable for Price  
Gauging in California



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The IE Voice/Black Voice News invites you to raise your voice on subjects of interest. We would like to publish your ideas, insights and/or opinions on topics you feel are important.

We encourage you to submit your commentaries for potential publication to [myopinion@theievoice.com](mailto:myopinion@theievoice.com).

We respectfully request your submission be no more than 500 words. Any photo(s) included to accompany your writing should be at least 300 DPI.

**WE WANT TO  
HEAR FROM  
YOU!!!!**





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## A Call to Repair



Economists associated with California's Reparations Task Force have weighed in on the dilemma regarding the type of compensation as well how to determine eligibility for the descendants. They are looking at what is being described as "harms," across five broad areas. They include such seminal actions as the taking of property, the devaluation of Black-owned businesses, housing discrimination and homelessness, mass incarceration and over-policing, and health. Philanthropist and a founder of First AME Church in Los Angeles, Biddy Mason (pictured) was among a number of enslaved people in San Bernardino. After taking her owners to court, a California court granted her and her daughters freedom in 1856. Source: Chris Allen, VOICE

**W**hile the quest for reparations at the federal level lies dominant with little hope for serious consideration in the near future, California is moving forward with the undaunted hope of becoming the first state in the nation to potentially make reparations to the descendants of chattel slaves a reality.

If you have not done so yet, you can review the California Task Force on Reparations' interim report here. The Task Force was established with the signing of AB 3121 by Governor Newsom in September 2020.

Often, when I think of reparations, I am reminded of a statement by the celebrated neuroscientist and bestselling author, Abhijit Naskar, who declared, "Reparations can make up for stolen wages, but not stolen dignity and stolen lives." I would add to that, nor stolen wealth.

The etymology of the word reparations tells us it derives from the Latin verb reparāre, meaning "to repair."

While the California Task Force appears to have made the case for reparations what remains equally as challenging is how to do the repair work. In other words, how does the Task Force quantify the amount and type of compensation as well as determining eligibility for the descendants of those who built the wealth of this nation.

Economists associated with the Task Force have weighed in on the dilemma and are looking at what is being described as "harms," across five broad areas. They include such seminal actions as the taking of property, the devaluation of Black-owned businesses, housing discrimination and homelessness, mass incarceration and over-policing, and health.

In whatever way these considerations are ultimately decided it will be no more, and I'm certain, far less than can ever compensate for the free labor, the massive loss of human life, the brutal and savage

*continued on page 14*



## Black Girl Magic: Two High School Girls on the Verge of Proving 2,000-year-old Math Formula



For 2,000 years, mathematicians have been trying to prove the Pythagorean theorem without using the equation itself. Two Black girls, high school seniors from New Orleans may have just found the solution. Source: vctm.org

### VOICE Staff

Two Black high school seniors from New Orleans have taken the academic and math world by storm by showing a new way to look at one of math's most hallowed formulas, the 2000-year old Pythagorean theorem.

Calcea Johnson and Ne'kiya Jackson, two seniors from St Mary's Academy in New Orleans, caused a stir at a recent math conference when they showed how they used trigonometry to

prove the theory.

The Pythagorean theorem states that the sum of squares on a right triangle's two shorter sides equal the square of its third and longest side. The formula is well known as  $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ . For 2,000 years, mathematicians have been trying to prove the theorem without using the equation itself.

The formula is used to calculate many things, and is especially used in architecture, navigation, aviation, building construction and



Ne'Kiya Jackson and Calcea Johnson just gave a presentation to the American Mathematical Society's Annual Southeastern Conference. (Source: WWLTV.com)

“

*There's nothing like it, being able to prove something that people don't think that young people can do... I saw a bunch of people writing down stuff and pulling up things on their computers. And they really connected with this.*

- Calcea Johnson

”

computer science.

Johnson and Jackson, the only high school students to present at the conference – American Mathematical Society Southeastern Regional Conference in Atlanta – said they used the Law of Shines to prove the theorem. This law finds angles of a general triangle.

The American Mathematical Society encouraged them to submit their findings to a peer-reviewed journal so it can be determined whether their finding is a correct contribution to the math field.

“There's nothing like it, being able to prove

*continued on page 19*

**Aryana Noroozi | Staff**

**K**nown to her community as Chef Brandi, Brandi T. Biggles is the founder and owner of Chits and Biggles, a mobile and global food, lifestyle and hospitality brand. As a self-starter, Biggles is no stranger to weathering the storms of entrepreneurship and constant risk-reward fluctuations of pursuing her creative passion.

The Southern California native found herself drawn to the kitchen at a young age. Later in adolescence, she discovered that recipes were a means for her to connect with and preserve her family history in a way similar to maintaining photographs and oral stories.

From purchasing her first car as a teenager from earnings selling baked goods, to opening her first storefront bakery, to working as the director of a food program in transitional housing while houseless herself, to helping launch So Cal's first traveling Black farmers market, Biggles' story is one of perseverance paired with prayer and conscious consumption of whole foods.

For Women's History month, Black Voice News spent time with Biggles to gain insight into her experiences as a chef and Black business woman spanning the past two decades and what she hopes to accomplish next.

This interview has been edited and condensed for clarity.

**BVN:** Cooking connected you to your family and their traditions in a way similar to sharing stories and photographs. Can you speak to how you began cooking at a young age and how it connected you to your family's history, including your mother who passed away when you were a child?

**Biggles:** When I was about six I would cut up vegetables, potatoes specifically, with my mother in the kitchen. I'm always surprised by the fact that I could actually cut the potatoes alone, that they trusted me to do that. About the same time, I would cook breakfast in the mornings at my grandparents house. My grandmother, God rest her soul, she would burn our food because she'd be talking on the phone.

When my mother passed, I was looking through my grandmother's recipe box and I came across the lemon jello cake recipe, which is my mother's favorite. I'd never made that cake and didn't even know that was my mom's favorite until then. I had learned to bake and now I could actually make her favorite cakes. She'd never tasted me making it, but it was hers and it was super special.

**BVN:** In high school you bought your first car with the earnings you made from selling baked goods. That was the beginning of your come up, gaining traction for your cooking within your community. What did those early years look like?

**Biggles:** The years between high school, college, marriage, children and fashion design, they were all kind of intermingled together in a decade. I started catering events and, mind you, working full time. I had a family and was in design school. I was doing graduation parties, champagne parties and school events and luncheons. After the events, I was getting phone calls, like, "Oh, your food is amazing and those cupcakes, what kind of cupcakes were those?" So, that's kind of where it took off.

**BVN:** After putting in hard work for that decade, you were able to open your first storefront in Inglewood — a bakery called Jo Jo's Dozen — named after your late mother. Can you speak to this rewarding experience?

**Biggles:** I was going through a separation, we [my ex-husband and I] didn't know at the time, but we were divorcing. The bakery became my outlet, really my world. I was building it because I wanted my sons to see me keep going. I saw it

*continued on page 8*

**Black Female Entrepreneur Chef  
Brandi T. Biggles Blends Prayer,  
Whole Food Consumption & Creativity**



Brandi T. Biggles, known within the Southern California culinary community as Chef Brandi, holds a sign for her culinary business on February 28, 2023. Biggles uses the sign at her tent at Prosperity Market, a traveling farmers market that features Black farmers, vendors and chefs, where she makes her signature fire-grilled vegan artisan pizza. (Aryana Noroozi for Black Voice News / CatchLight Local).



# classifieds & public notices

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE INVITING BIDS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that sealed bids will be received in the Nutrition Services Department of the San Bernardino City Unified School District, 1257 Northpark Boulevard, San Bernardino, California, 92407, on or before 11:00 a.m., on Thursday, April 20, 2023, for BREAD/TORTILLA PRODUCTS, under Bid No. NSB 2023/24-1.

Bid documents required for bidding may be secured at the above department or online at <https://sbcsdnutritionsservices.org/?page=BidsandProposals>. Please call 909-881-8000 for more information.

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to waive any irregularities or informalities in any bid or in the bidding, and to accept or reject any items thereon.

Publications of this Notice are March 30, and April 6, 2023.  
SAN BERNARDINO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
By: Joanna Nord, Admin. Analyst, Nutrition Services Department  
3/30, 4/6/23  
CNS-3682269#  
P. 3/30, 4/6/2023

## NAME CHANGE


### ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER CVSW2301467

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: REANNA MARIE ZENNEL SAINT filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: WALTER BROWN to. WALTER ALEX KENNETH RENARD SAINT. 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 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 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: 04/13/2023 Time: 8:00AM Dept: S101. The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, SOUTHWEST JUSTICE CENTER 30755-D AULD ROAD, SUITE 1226, MURRIETA, CA 92563 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: BLACK VOICE NEWS 1201 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE 210, RIVERSIDE, CA. 92507 Date: 02/24/2023 James F. Hodgkins, Judge of the Superior Court

p. 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6/2023

### ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER CVSW2301476

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: VIVIAN CARMEN ALANIZ filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: JULIET BRIANNA HERNANDEZ - ROSALES to. JULIET BRIANNA HERNANDEZ. The Court Orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes 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 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: 04/13/2023

 6 VOICE | APRIL 6, 2023 | [theivoice.com](http://theivoice.com)

Time: 8:00AM Dept: S101. The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, SOUTHWEST JUSTICE CENTER 30755-D AULD ROAD, SUITE 1226, MURRIETA, CA 92563 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: BLACK VOICE NEWS 1201 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE 210, RIVERSIDE, CA. 92507 Date: 02/24/2023 James F. Hodgkins, Judge of the Superior Court

p. 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6/2023

### ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER CVMV2300292

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: ROBERT FIGUEROA, MONIQUE FIGUEROA filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: RAMON JOSEPH BARRAJAS to. ROBERTO LUIS FIGUEROA. 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 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 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: 05/26/2023 Time: 8:00AM Dept: MV2. The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, 13800 HEACOCK STREET, SUITE D201, MORENO VALLEY, CA 92553 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: BLACK VOICE NEWS 1201 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE 210, RIVERSIDE, CA. 92507 Date: MARCH 17, 2023 BELINDA A. HANDY, Judge of the Superior Court

p. 3/30, 4/6, 4/13, 4/20/2023

### ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER CVCO2301176

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: NORMA A. GARCIA filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: ANTHONY DUNKHASE GARCIA to. AMIRA DUNKHASE GARCIA The Court Orders to. 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 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 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: 05/03/2023 Time: 8:00AM Dept: C2. The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, 505 S. BUENA VISTA, ROOM 201, CORONA, CA 92882 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: BLACK VOICE NEWS 1201 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE 210, RIVERSIDE, CA. 92507 Date: MARCH 24, 2023 TAMARA L. WAGNER, Judge of the Superior Court

p. 4/6, 4/13, 4/20, 4/27/2023

### ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER CVCO2300498

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: RUBEN ARTURO JAQUEZ filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: RUBEN ARTURO JAQUEZ to. RUBEN ARTURO BALDERAS The Court Orders to. 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 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 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: 05/10/2023 Time: 8:00AM Dept: C2. The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, 505 S. BUENA VISTA, ROOM 201, CORONA, CA 92882 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: BLACK VOICE NEWS 1201 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE 210, RIVERSIDE, CA. 92507 Date: MARCH 22, 2023 TAMARA L.WAGNER, Judge of the Superior Court

p. 4/6, 4/13, 4/20, 4/27/2023

### ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER CVCO2300498

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: MARISA MARLENE HERNANDEZ filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: MARISA MARLENE HERNANDEZ to. MARISA MARLENE CASTRO The Court Orders to. 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 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 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: 05/10/2023 Time: 8:00AM Dept: C2. The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, 505 S. BUENA VISTA, ROOM 201, CORONA, CA 92882 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: BLACK VOICE NEWS 1201 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE 210, RIVERSIDE, CA. 92507 Date: 02/16/23 TAMARA L.WAGNER, Judge of the Superior Court

p. 4/6, 4/13, 4/20, 4/27/2023

## PROBATE

### NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: AUGUST JOHN MALIZIA aka AUGUST J. MALIZIA Case Number PRR12300362

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: AUGUST JOHN MALIZIA aka AUGUST J. MALIZIA. A Petition for Probate has been filed by MARIE ANN WALKER in the Superior Court of California, County of: RIVERSIDE. The Petition for Probate requests that MARIE ANN WALKER be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate

of the decedent. The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicil's are available for examination in the file kept by the court. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: 4/19/2023 Time: 8:30 am Dept: 8 The Courts address is the SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, 4050 MAIN ST, RIVERSIDE, CA 92501. RIVERSIDE HISTORIC COURTHOUSE

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. 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: Marie Ann Walker 20843 Waalew RD. Apple Valley, CA 92370

p. 3/23, 3/30, 4/6/2023

### NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: NEREIDA ALMA NEYRA Case Number PRR12201041

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: NEREIDA ALMA NEYRA. A Petition for Probate has been filed by MARISSA ANA SOLIS in the Superior Court of California, County of: RIVERSIDE. The Petition for Probate requests that MARISSA ANA SOLIS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicil's are available for examination in the file kept by the court. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: 4/24/2023 Time: 8:30 am Dept: 8 The Courts address is the SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, 4050 MAIN ST, RIVERSIDE, CA 92501. RIVERSIDE HISTORIC COURTHOUSE

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your

appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. 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: Marissa Ana Solis 4244 Hidatsa St, Riverside, CA 92509

p. 3/23, 3/30, 4/6/2023

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES

The following persons) is (are) doing business as:

**LA ROSA BAKERY #3  
24467 Sunnymead Blvd  
Moreno Valley, CA 92553  
RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
Carlos Manuel Perez  
12248 Margols Ave  
Moreno Valley, CA 92557**

This business is conducted by: Married Couple

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 5/17/2011

I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code, that the registrant knows to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000)

s. Carlos Manuel Perez  
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 under federal, state, or common law (sec. 1440 et. seq. b & p code) Statement was filed with the County of Riverside on 03/07/2023  
I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

NOTICE- In accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920, a fictitious business name statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except, as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. 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 under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., business and professions code). I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Peter Aldana, County Clerk,  
FILE NO. R-202303385  
p. 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6/2023

The following persons) is (are) doing business as:  
**SOS ELECTRICAL SUPPLY  
7496 Hastings Lane  
Riverside, CA 92506  
RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
Melissa Louise Thompson  
7496 Hastings Lane  
Riverside, CA 92506**

This business is conducted by: Individual  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant

who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code, that the registrant knows to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000)

s. Melissa Louise Thompson  
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 under federal, state, or common law (sec. 1440 et. seq. b & p code) Statement was filed with the County of Riverside on 03/02/2023

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

NOTICE- In accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920, a fictitious business name statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except, as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. 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 under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., business and professions code). I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Peter Aldana, County Clerk,  
FILE NO. R-202303116  
p. 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6/2023

The following persons) is (are) doing business as:

**AMAZING GETAWAY  
27186 Newport Road, Ste #2  
Menifee, CA 92584  
RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
Local Advanced Analysis Inc  
27186 Newport Road, Ste #2  
Menifee, CA 92584  
CA**

This business is conducted by: Corporation  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/03/2023  
I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code, that the registrant knows to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000)

s. Hortensia Osborne, CEO  
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 under federal, state, or common law (sec. 1440 et. seq. b & p code) Statement was filed with the County of Riverside on 03/03/2023

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

NOTICE- In accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920, a fictitious business name statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except, as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. 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 under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., business and professions code). I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Peter Aldana, County Clerk,  
FILE NO. R-202303220  
p. 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6/2023

The following persons) is (are) doing



Prince James Story | Staff

Pay by the rules or pay the price. That message was delivered on Tuesday when Gov. Gavin Newsom signed SBX 1-2.

Many Californians suffered economically during and after the pandemic paying their rent, buying groceries, and even purchasing gas. Yet, while California suffered from high gas prices, oil companies turned a huge profit.

In 2021, oil companies made a \$55.7 billion profit. Chevron alone, made \$36.5 billion, which doubled their 2021 profits; Marathon brought



*Oil and gas companies view Californians as nothing more than profit. Developing an independent watchdog committee will help keep the oil industry in check.*

*- Cesar Aguirre  
Kern County Oil & Gas Director*



in \$14.5 billion with 4th quarter profits of \$3.32 billion, a 331% surge from the previous year, and Valero made \$11.6 billion, which was 866% higher than the previous year, according to a press release from the state.

**Protections from profits on the backs of consumers**

Californians paid \$2.61 more per gallon than anywhere else. At the same time, working-class Californians spent as much as 13% of their annual pre-tax income on gas.

“This proposal will make it much harder for the state’s big oil refiners to rip off hardworking California families and rake in record profits on the backs of consumers by installing much-needed transparency in the state’s opaque retail

**New Law Will Hold Big Oil Companies Accountable for Price Gauging in California**



*In the rotunda of the California State Capitol, Governor Newsom signs legislation holding Big Oil accountable. (Source: www.gov.ca)*

fuel market. By requiring these companies to disclose key information about supply chain costs, it will be a lot harder for them to do this again,” Bill Allayaud, California Director of Government Affairs for the Environmental Working Group, stated.

SBX1-2 will establish a price-gouging penalty on oil companies’ excess profits to deter excessive price increases and keep money in Californians’ pockets.

**Establishing oversight**

The bill will also create a new division, the Division of Petroleum Market Oversight, inside the California Energy Commission (CEC). It is staffed with economists, fuel market experts, and legal investigators.

This division will provide oversight and analysis of the transportation fuels market and



*Surrounded by State officials, Gov. Gavin Newsom addresses the public after signing SBX 1-2. (Source: www.gov.ca)*

provide guidance and recommendations to the CEC.

Senator Nancy Skinner, the author of SBX 1-2, said, “This is the strongest, most effective transparency and oversight measure in the

*continued on page 19*





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## IN THE NEWS

*Chef Brandi Biggles, continued from page 5*



*Brandi T. Biggles, known within the Southern California culinary community as Chef Brandi, shops for produce at Lazy Acres market in Hermosa Beach on February 28, 2023. Each month, she creates her signature fire-grilled vegan artisan pizzas at the Prosperity Market, a traveling farmers market featuring Black farmers, vendors and chefs. Biggles helped the founders develop the market as she shared a similar vision of a mobile market and recalled having the idea drafted on her vision board which she displays on her bedroom wall. Today, she calls it her results board because she wants the results to come to fruition and not remain a vision. Biggles hopes to soon purchase a vehicle to house a mobile kitchen and travel the country, serving food in cities across the U.S. (Aryana Nordozi for Black Voice News / CatchLight Local).*

being a franchise, it would be the first flagship and then I'd be able to leave several other locations for my sons and staff. I was building this store out to be a very community-driven, family-oriented place.

I set foot in this particular location because it was the city I was born in, Inglewood. The street that my mother would go to for her OB-GYN, where she would get all her care for me, was at the corner. It was home.

The bakery was open for three years. When I started, it was empty. It looked like an old fish market. Then, with my vision and the skill and vision of a contractor friend, we were able to literally build out the bakery.

**BVN:** You faced heartbreak with this bakery. What was that experience like?

**Biggles:** In the last six months of my bakery, the rent started to go up. I put all the money that I'd been gifted, loaned and had earned into making the space look like it did, and trying my best to pay off the bills and utilities for the location as well as my own home. Financially, it wouldn't have been feasible unless

something shifted.

So, I closed [the bakery] and then I was like, 'I don't want to cook anymore,' because I was heartbroken for three years. From the cooking aspect, I wasn't really sure how I wanted to approach it or if I wanted to be in business again because it just hurt too much. But so much wisdom came out of it. I used to think, 'Man, the bakery, I lost it.' I shifted that mindset, because it was such a success.

**BVN:** Besides occasional catering events, you halted your business for years. Can you talk about how a friendship changed that and got you back in the kitchen?

**Biggles:** I was on a Black Business tour and one of the stops was a booming brunch spot restaurant on Hollywood Boulevard. There were a lot of R&B brunches there. We met the owner, Chef Yealang. It kind of felt like an altar call like, 'Oh, boy, like they are talking to me.' Her story is fascinating and eerily similar to mine. I introduced myself and she asked, 'What do you do?' and then from there, she grabbed

*continued on page 13*



# Learning to Advocate for Yourself and Others When Dealing With Healthcare Professionals

by Breanna Reeves & Aryana Noroozi

**W**hile a large percent of Black people in California are insured and have a regular provider, many avoid care because they fear being treated poorly by a healthcare provider due to their race or ethnicity.

A state-wide research study conducted by EVITARUS, a Black-owned public opinion research firm in Los Angeles, and funded by the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF) surveyed 3,325 Black Californians to learn more about their experiences in the healthcare system.

According to the study, “Listening to Black Californians,” Black people across the state reported changing their behaviors and asking less questions in order to avoid being perceived as difficult. The report noted, “More than one in four Black Californians (26%) avoids care due to concerns they will not be treated fairly or with respect. More than one in three Medicaid enrollees (35%) and 3 in 10 uninsured respondents (31%) report avoiding care due to concerns about being treated fairly.”

When Michelle Burroughs, director of Community Engagement & Outreach for the Center for Healthy Communities (CHC) at the University of Riverside, California (UCR), heard about the survey, she said she was very inspired that someone took time out to listen to Black Californians. Burroughs knew this information needed to be shared widely in the community, not just in a report online.

“In our spaces in California, let’s start helping our Black community members really apply the information that you learned from this study and make it actionable, so they can change their health narrative,” Burroughs explained in a previous interview. “It’s just going to take



*Dr. Glenda Newell-Harris, regional medical director of YesCare and co-author of Focus on Your Best Health, shares a slide about effective communication with your doctor and maximizing limited time in order to best have your needs met during a visit. Her discussion, which focused on advocacy in the healthcare system, was hosted by Community Engagement & Outreach for the Center for Healthy Communities at the University of Riverside, California (UCR) on March 30, 2023. (Aryana Noroozi for Black Voice News / CatchLight Local)*

us one at a time, to be able to slowly learn the language, to feel comfortable about standing up for ourselves and in some senses, it’s going to take us demanding that.”

## Becoming an advocate

With this in mind, Burroughs and her team at the CHC hosted their first community event of the year, sponsored by CHCF called “How Do I...Advocate for Myself and Others?” Held at the Barbara Center for the Arts in Riverside, the workshop welcomed Dr. Glenda Newell-Harris, regional medical director of YesCare and co-author of Focus on Your Best Health, who led a discussion focused on advocacy in the healthcare system.

Dr. Newell Harris’s presentation emphasized three key points: effective communication, savvy navigation and appropriate advocacy. She explained that these three tools are essential for understanding how to advocate for oneself and

a loved one.

Part of advocating for yourself is knowledge. Knowledge of what patients have access to (patient navigators), knowledge of patient’s rights, and knowledge of one’s own medical history are crucial to understanding how to navigate the healthcare system. Dr. Newell-Harris highlighted the importance of knowing their medications, family history of illness or chronic diseases, one’s numbers such as blood sugars or blood pressure — all of which will contribute to a patient’s ability to be a champion of their own health.

According to the survey on Black Californians, “The majority of those who were treated poorly because of race or ethnicity prepare for health care visits with prior research (82%), signal to providers that they are educated (64%), and tailor their speech or adopt other behaviors

*continued on next page*



# FEATURE STORY



Audience members listen to Dr. Newell-Harris as she discusses advocating for yourself and loved ones in the healthcare system on March 30, 2023. The event was hosted by Community Engagement & Outreach for the Center for Healthy Communities at UCR in response to a survey conducted by California Health Care Foundation (CHCF), "Listening to Black Californians." The survey indicated that Black people across the state reported changing their behaviors and asking less questions in order to avoid being perceived as difficult. The report noted, "More than one in four Black Californians (26%) avoids care due to concerns they will not be treated fairly or with respect. More than one in three Medi-Cal enrollees (35%) and 3 in 10 uninsured respondents (31%) report avoiding care due to concerns about being treated fairly." (Aryana Noroozi for Black Voice News / CatchLight Local)

to make the provider feel more at ease (63%). Half of Black Californians (50%) who have been treated poorly minimize questions and concerns to avoid being perceived as 'difficult.'

## Make your 15 minutes count

Dr. Newell-Harris addressed the shortcomings of the medical system such as the failure of doctors to treat patients equally and the unspoken rule that doctors have a limit of spending 15 minutes with each patient. She encouraged participants in the crowd to be mindful of that by choosing three key questions to ask the doctor in order to make the best use of time. Dr. Newell-Harris also encouraged participants to be assertive.

"Be assertive, but respectful. It's kind of like when you go to a restaurant. You don't want to make the person mad who's serving your food. You don't know what they're gonna do with it

when they get in the back. But it's important for you to be assertive," Dr. Newell-Harris shared.

Throughout her presentation, Dr. Newell-Harris addressed both patients and providers in the room. She reminded current and future providers that they will grow throughout the course of their careers. She shared advice on what it's really like working with patients and the difference between reality and what they will learn in medical school.

"[In school] they said, 'If you just listen, the patient will tell you everything you need to know.' But we don't listen because we got 15 minutes. We try to get [patients] in and out and we want the questions answered that we want," Dr. Newell-Harris explained. "

But honestly, if you stop long enough and let the patient talk, they're telling you what's really happening to them. So, we need to listen. We need to engage with eye contact as we're

listening. Limit your jargon."

## UCR 1st year medical (PRIME) students join the conversation

Several first-year medical students joined the community workshop and role played scenarios between doctors and patients. The scenario-based activity generated anonymous responses from the crowd about what they observe about the interactions between doctors and patients. The medical students belong to a new program at the UCR School of Medicine called the Program in Medical Education (PRIME) which is designed to "produce physicians who are specifically trained to address the healthcare needs of the African, Black and Caribbean (ABC) communities of Inland Southern California."

Folu Oyefeso, Destiny Prudhomme, Arturo Chavez, Brooke Malone and Marvellous Osunde were five of the six PRIME students in attendance. As they train to become providers, the program will integrate working with ABC communities in different ways such as developing "community circles" where community members will have the opportunity to learn more ways to advocate for themselves using "standardized doctors" — doctors in training who will participate in doctor-patient scenarios.

Lisa Diggs, a 58-year old educator, joined the community workshop and shared her own experience dealing with gallbladder pain during a visit to the doctor's office. Diggs participated in the Listening to Black Californians survey and she shared some of her observations of the healthcare system.

"I felt like I was kind of on top of it myself. I felt pain and I asked to go to the gastroenterologist, and I didn't go. Then later on, I was having back pain and different things. So, I felt like I was being ignored a whole bunch of times," Diggs explained. Like other Black Californians, Diggs said she keeps all her medical paperwork in order and prepares questions before visiting her doctor. Diggs said that she has always been an advocate for herself and also accompanies family members who need support.

As a mother, wife and daughter, Dr. Newell-Harris detailed her own personal encounters with the healthcare system throughout her presentation. She recalled having to chase after a doctor who refused to perform surgery on her son who had experienced severe stomach pain. She insisted that the abdominal pain was the cause of an enlarged appendix and begged



“

*Be assertive, but respectful. It's kind of like when you go to a restaurant. You don't want to make the person mad who's serving your food.*

- Dr. Newell-Harris

”

the doctor to investigate further, despite the doctor not taking her seriously.

The doctor finally relented. Dr. Newell-Harris said they removed her son's appendix in the end and explained that it was the largest appendix the doctor had ever seen in his professional career.

“My son lived. He was hospitalized for three days and he credits me as saving his life. But you have to advocate. You got to be there,” Dr. Newell-Harris stated.

### Seeking solutions

In addition to capturing the experiences of Black Californians in the healthcare system, the survey also asked respondents what solutions they believe could help improve the system for them. Eighty-four percent of participants said it would be important to expand community-based education on how to navigate the healthcare system and advocate for quality care. Seventy-seven percent said it is important to increase the number of Black community health care advocates.

“My fear was, because [the study] was something that was so amazing — I did not want it to die on a website. We wanted to make this actionable. We wanted to take this from the website and be actionable about it,” Burroughs said during the workshop.

“That's what we're doing tonight and that's what we're going to continue to do. We're going to have community-based opportunities like this, where we can educate one another and talk to each other; share



Dr. Newell-Harris asks for a raise of hands to identify medical students within the audience on March 30, 2023. There were several first-year medical students from UCR's new program, Program in Medical Education (PRIME), which is designed to “produce physicians who are specifically trained to address the healthcare needs of the African, Black and Caribbean (ABC) communities of Inland Southern California.” (Aryana Noroozi for Black Voice News / CatchLight Local)



Dr. Adwoa Osei, Director of the PRIME Program takes a photo of Arturo Chavez and Destiny Prudhomme, first-year medical students in the PRIME program, as they role play scenarios between doctors and patients on March 30, 2023. Michelle Burroughs, Director of UCR's Community Engagement & Outreach for the Center for Healthy Communities (left) facilitated the role play and prompted audience members to use a QR code to anonymously send their observations and thoughts on the doctor patient scenario. Aryana Noroozi for Black Voice News / CatchLight Local

our lived experiences. Then, also learn tools on how we can navigate and advocate for ourselves and our loved ones.”

The CHC will host another community workshop on how to navigate the healthcare system featuring licensed clinical social worker



Dr. Newell-Harris shares her own experience of doctors being unresponsive and failing to hear her needs on March 30, 2023. In one particular instance, she repeatedly asked a doctor to take out her son's appendix as he was hospitalized for extreme stomach pain. The doctor finally agreed and said that the appendix ended up being the largest he'd ever removed. Dr. Newell-Harris said her son credits her for saving his life. She encouraged the audience members to do their own research and be politely assertive, not only in situations of this severity but also in routine appointments and care. Credit: Aryana Noroozi for Black Voice News / CatchLight Local

Leticia Vaca Williams. The event will take place on April 25 from 5pm to 6pm. Additional information can be found here.

This article is published as part of the Commonwealth Health Equity Reporting Fellowship.



## Judge's Decision Would Make Some No-Cost Cancer Screenings a Thing of the Past



*A federal court ruling could open the door for insurers or employers to reinstate copayments for some of those preventive services, although many may be reluctant or unable to do so, at least immediately. Credit: ucsdguardian.org*

**Julie Appleby & Michelle Andrews**  
**Kaiser Health News**

**A** federal judge on Thursday overturned a portion of the Affordable Care Act that makes preventive services, such as some cancer screenings, free to enrollees, a decision that could affect health insurance policyholders nationwide.

The decision from the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas could open the door for insurers or employers to reinstate copayments for some of those preventive services, although many may be reluctant or unable to do so, at least immediately.

The ruling by U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor builds on a September judgment in which he also said the ACA requirement that employers cover preexposure prophylaxis

treatment to prevent HIV violates the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

His ruling is the latest shot in the legal battle over the ACA. "Previous cases threatened the very existence of the law and fundamental protections. This decision does not do that," said Larry Levitt, KFF executive vice president for health policy. But "it strikes down a portion of the law, albeit a very popular one, that is used by a lot of people."

It is almost certain to be appealed, possibly by both sides: the conservative groups that brought the case and had hoped the decision would be broader, and the Biden administration, which supports the ACA.

"The stakes are really high," because the ultimate decision could affect millions of Americans, said Andrew Twinamatsiko,

associate director of the health policy and the law initiative at the O'Neill Institute at Georgetown University.

"Americans should have peace of mind there will be no immediate disruption in care coverage," said Matt Eyles, president and CEO of AHIP, the health insurance industry's leading lobbying group.

Now, the Department of Justice must decide whether to seek an emergency order putting the ruling on hold during the appeal process.

The decision could affect the no-copay screenings and similar preventive services that most insured Americans have as part of their health plans. But consumers may see little impact initially.

"The word prevention appears a couple hundred times in the ACA," said Timothy Jost, law professor emeritus at Washington and Lee University School of Law, who closely follows the ACA. "Part of the idea of the ACA was we thought to try to prevent disease or at least identify it earlier when it's more curable."

Making such care free to enrollees was a way to encourage screening for disease.

But O'Connor's ruling said one of the ways those no-cost services are selected — by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, a nongovernmental advisory group — is unconstitutional. In his September opinion, O'Connor wrote that members of the task force, which is convened by a federal health agency, are actually "officers of the United States" and should therefore be appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate.

The judge said his decision specifically does not apply to no-copay contraceptives or vaccines, which are selected by other agencies, although the conservative groups that brought the case had sought their inclusion as well.

Mammograms are among those preventive services that may be in a special category because they, too, are recommended by one of those other agencies, so experts at KFF say they will probably continue to be covered without patient cost sharing, even with this ruling.

O'Connor issued a summary judgment in

*continued on page 14*



**Chef Brandi Biggles**, *continued from page 8*

me and said, 'I need you to call me. I'm so serious.'

We had a very long marathon conversation on our own. We swapped stories and heartbeats. She was talking to me about the opportunity to work with some other chefs and bring my expertise into what they do as a part of the team. It worked out.

We were building something bigger, so I shifted into [thinking], 'Well, maybe my thing is just now going to be putting my heart into somebody else's thing. And I can kind of hide.'

**BVN:** Your bakery closing wasn't the only adversity you faced as a chef and entrepreneur. Soul Hollywood ended up closing and you lost not only your community there, but eventually also your home and became unhoused for a period of time. How did you overcome this?

**Biggles:** After the restaurant abruptly closed, it was really heartbreaking. The great part is I made tons of friends, core people I still communicate with. But it was pivotal, because after that, for me, things drastically shifted. Once the restaurant closed, that source of income closed and by the end of the year my home wasn't my home anymore.

I didn't have a place to live, so I was surviving. Now it was time for me to make sure that I was okay — emotionally, spiritually, find myself housing, of course make sure that my children are housed and safe, like let's just get some stuff together. It was really disappointing, but that was how I came out of that.

A couple of months later, I got a phone call from my friend who said, 'We've got these transitional homes that need a food program.' I developed a food program for them. I was working as the executive chef for the food program while I was unhoused. So, I was working feeding the unhoused and I was unhoused too. It wasn't the whimsical brunches and the cupcakes. It was none of that; it was using the food that we got.

**BVN:** Once again, unintentionally, you landed in the kitchen, delivering a unique experience. How did you find yourself at Prosperity Market, a Black traveling farmers market?

**Biggles:** The talks about having a market and what Prosperity would look like came when I'd been there almost a year, [working] at the transitional home. I had a farmer's market on wheels on my vision board.

Prosperity said, 'We have a farmer's market on wheels idea that we think you could help us talk through the food side of it.' I was working at the transitional home during the day, and then at night, we would figure out what our calls would be [for

Prosperity Market]. I was not signing on as a vendor, I was just advising. Then, the conversation happened towards the launch of the market of, 'If you ever want to be a vendor...' and that was always how we ended the calls. I was like, 'I don't know about that.' [Eventually] I said, 'You know what, since I'm doing a cooking show already and we need content, I'll pop up. I'll be a vendor at the first market.'

The farmers market lit me up. I just love working with them. I love being out with the vibe of the people. It's something that I don't want to trade.

**BVN:** Just as the market launched, you experienced a major setback in your health. But in the hospital and during your months of recovery, you knew you wanted to be back at the market and cooking, which was a much different sentiment from your previous time away. Can you describe what shifted for you during this period of time and what fueled your inspiration?

**Biggles:** In September 2021 everything was interrupted with me being hospitalized. I was in the hospital for five days. Of course, you don't get a warning when it's an emergency. I'm literally laying there thinking, the market is Saturday, like I'm thinking that I got to get home. But prayer works because I'm a praying woman. So, I prayed and that's why I'm sitting here today.

[I thought I'd be] well enough to make the next market in October. I didn't. My body had to heal internally in ways that I didn't realize at the time. I saw myself go through all of those really interesting and hard changes physically, emotionally. The October market was the last one of that year, so I was like, 'I'm probably gonna be ready by January or February.' But I was only able to go to the market as a visitor and just see the other vendors. It was becoming very clear, I was going to spend this next — what ended up being a year — in recovery.

Every market I could show up to, which was nearly every one of them, I became more like a mascot, a supporter, really figuring out what my return would and could look like.

**BVN:** What have you learned from taking time away from your craft?

**Biggles:** I came back renewed for one, with a renewed sense of myself, with a refined outlook on where I want things to go. And also an appreciation of the time that I had where I was away from it. I can look back at the time I spent not cooking or not operating a business, and [realize] going into it might have been devastating or unplanned, but I convince myself that it's good and then I start thinking about what I would do differently if I were to get back into it.

Even though those seasons have been like soul searching, the takeaways are that you just come back better, stronger and even more experienced. At this point, I got two decades plus of experience — more than 25 years of experience. It takes a lot of courage to do that, to keep doing this, so I know that I'm courageous. I don't even know what's on the other side of my bravery. I don't know, I don't have all of those answers. But if I'm in it, I just go with it, [I know] it'll have a good outcome.

**BVN:** You've built a family, run multiple businesses, worked across multiple industries and establishments. Many people desire to start their hustle and dive into their passions. Can you describe what this looks like in actuality for you? How do you avoid burnout?

**Biggles:** This is my planner and this is my journal. These components are part of how I'm able to stay organized, stay balanced, stay thriving. I've gotten a nickname among friends, among my entrepreneurial friends, my family: she 'just keep on going.' I just think it speaks to something that's in me, because I do want to stop — probably once a week. It's reassessing and I think that for me, it's healthy because ultimately, I don't necessarily stop, but I may shift and go, 'Okay, what about this doesn't work because it's not like it's going to be easy.' Some of the stuff I do is simple and some of it is intricate. And some of it requires focus, detail and experience, [in addition to] keeping myself well-nourished and hydrated enough to execute that and lead a team of people that are doing the same.

I have a son who's a sketch artist, as well as a cadet moving on in the next phases of the Air Force. I have another son who is a high performer in high school. He makes films and creates music. Both of my sons are scholars and artists.

**BVN:** What's next?

**Biggles:** My front-facing goal is to scale this operation, to have my products (seasonings, cookies, pancake mix) in foodservice operations and have them in people's pantries, too. Getting these products out responsibly, either co-packed by [someone else], if I trust somebody to do it or packed by my own crew and get it distributed regionally, nationally, to airports, to stadiums. Ultimately I'd love to eventually have something in SoFi (stadium). It would be full circle for me. I mean, that's my hometown.

A food trailer is a passion. Specifically an Airstream, totally converted into a food space. It's silver and you hitch it to things, people have them in their yards. [With the trailer], I'm able to open up the space to teach people about whole foods, what I

*continued on page 14*



# IN THE NEWS

*Judge's Decision, continued from page 12*

the case in September. At the time, the decision applied only to the employers that brought the case.

Thursday's ruling expands that to all employers and insurers nationwide.

For now, consumers, especially those who buy their own coverage through the ACA marketplace, are likely to continue to get no-cost preventive care in many plans, experts said. That's because most such plans run on the calendar year and enrollees have essentially signed contracts "which will cover those services through the end of the year," said Jost.

Still, depending on the outcome of the appeals, over time each insurer will likely weigh the pros and cons of reinstating such patient cost sharing.

They will start to make "business decisions to either continue to cover without cost or to impose cost sharing," said Twinamatsiko at Georgetown.

In job-based plans, through which most insured Americans get their coverage, initial impact may also be muted.

Eighty percent of human resources directors said they would not restore cost sharing for preventive care, according to a recent nonscientific survey of 25 human resources directors at companies with a collective total of about 600,000 workers.

Doing so could upset employees, noted Paul Fronstin, director of health benefits research at the Employee Benefit Research Institute, which ran the survey. And fully covering enrollees' preventive care, without requiring copayments, is relatively inexpensive. In a separate study, he found that even one of the more costly preventive care treatments — the nearly \$14,000-a-year PrEP, to prevent HIV — adds only 0.4 percent to annual employer spending on health care. Even if an employer were to add a 20% copayment for the worker, it would reduce overall spending by less than one-tenth of 1%, according to the study.

Outside of a few employers that might want to restrict no-cost coverage on religious grounds

*continued on page 19*

*Chef Brandi Biggles, continued from page 13*

was doing to heal myself [and] how I weathered these storms.

I want to do that and not have it be a have to. I don't want a silver trailer because I have to have these events and make money. I want that to be the thing that I get to do.

I'm looking for and believing in sustainability. I want to be away from the business enough to recharge and create the financial space and the mental space to really be in and live. And when I am giving myself over to these great opportunities and speaking, like my book is coming out in a few months, I want to get the chance to actually enjoy those things and not have to hitch my trailer up every night because I gotta make the rent. I've been through those seasons and I don't have a desire to do that.

*Learn more about Prosperity Market, Southern California's first traveling Black farmers market that features Black farmers and vendors at [Prosperitymarketla.com](http://Prosperitymarketla.com). Check out Chef Brandi's products and services at [Brandiislife.com](http://Brandiislife.com).*

## KEEPING IT REAL

*A Call to Repair, continued from page 3*

treatment of men, women, children and the elderly, the separation of families, and the theft of property that has continued unabated.

Not even the reluctant emancipation of our ancestors could end the maltreatment of the freed slaves and their descendents as evidenced by the reality that chattel slavery quickly morphed into an even more sinister form of degradation and dispossession that has remains embedded in this nation's institutions nearly 160 hence.

History tells us the earliest calls for reparations were not only advocated for by slaves and free Blacks, but also by a man named George Fox, founder of the Quaker faith. He called for freeing slaves after a term of service and, as early as 1672, argued that they should be compensated for their labor and not sent off "empty handed."

Well, its been 350 years since Fox made his call and still many in the nation believe it is neither warranted or necessary, while others consider the idea of compensation impractical, and still others believe they are not responsible for the "sins of their fathers".

The spirits of our ancestors call upon America to "repair" the damage done and create a path to the future that is fair and just for their progeny.

However, not unexpectedly, this process of

securing reparations is a "heavy lift".

If you believe in the righteousness of the reparations movement—whether or not you are a descent of chattel slaves—it is important that we each do our part to assist with the "lifting" whether its educating ourselves and others about the work of California's Reparations Task Force, following media reports on discussions happening around the state, pressing our elected representatives to speak up and support the effort, and/or participating in local conversations about the issue.

There is a great opportunity to learn more about the status of work for reparations in California this month by joining the Reparations Town Hall and

“

***For Americans, the hardest part of paying reparations would not be the outlay of money. It would be acknowledging that their most cherished myth was not real.***

***- Ta-Nehisi Coates***

”

Listening Session coming to Riverside on April 21 and 22. Hosted by the Riverside Black Chamber of Commerce and the CA Black Lineage Society, the event will be held at the Civil Rights Institute of Inland Southern California, 3933 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside beginning at 6 p.m..

To learn more about the event contact the Riverside County Black Chamber of Commerce at (951) 823-0175, email [info@RiversideCountyBCC.org](mailto:info@RiversideCountyBCC.org) or visit the website here.

Our ancestors are owed a stake in the wealth they created and would have bequeathed to their descendents. Their descendents are entitled to that stolen inheritance in whatever form it ultimately takes. Now, it's up to us to ensure America pays its debt.

Of course, this is just my opinion. I'm keeping it real.

S.E. Williams  
Executive Editor











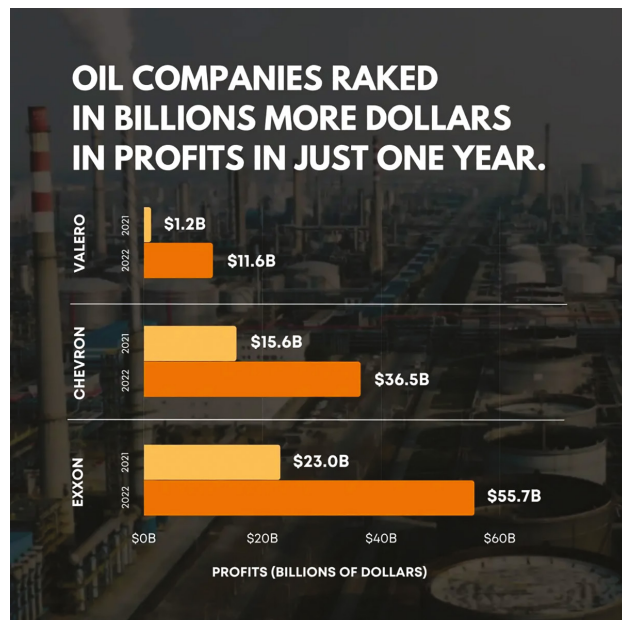








*New Law, continued from page 7*



Gas prices reached a high of \$6.42 per gallon last fall, a record \$2.61 more per gallon than the national average. Last fall's spike occurred while crude oil prices dropped, state taxes and fees remained unchanged and gas prices did not increase outside the western U.S., so the high prices went straight to the industry's bottom line. Credit: gov.ca.gov

nation. And this landmark law will allow us to hold oil companies accountable if they pad their profits at the expense of hard-working families.”

This bill has the support of multiple environmental justice leaders throughout California.

“Oil and gas companies view Californians as nothing more than profit. Developing an independent watchdog committee will help keep the oil industry in check. Leaving this industry unchecked has led to an exploitation of California families and workers,” said Cesar Aguirre, Kern County Oil and Gas Director, Central California Environmental Justice Network.

**Newsom assures future transparency**

Gov. Newsom delivered a powerful speech assuring Californians that, moving forward, they will have more insight into transparency with the gas price in this state.

He also made it a point to reiterate California's goals for renewable energy and Zero-Emission Vehicles and the promise that as the oil wells are cautiously phased out, there will be jobs in this field.

Newsom said they must be diligent and responsible for creating jobs in communities like Kern county, which will be disproportionately affected by this new legislation.

Newsom said 22.7% of cars sold in the fourth quarter in California last year were electric vehicles.

“We want to dominate the future. [We have] six times more clean energy jobs in this state and fossil fuel jobs. We want to dominate the future, and we want to do it justly. We want to make sure that transition leaves no one behind,” Newsom proclaimed.

*Black Girl Magic, continued from page 4*

something that people don't think that young people can do,” Johnson said. “I saw a bunch of people writing down stuff and pulling up things on their computers. And they really connected with this.” Johnson said.

“We got a lot of congratulations,” Jackson said. “Some people apparently started recording.”

*Judge's Decision, continued from page 14*

for treatments like PrEP, James Gelfand said he doubted many companies would reinstitute copayments. Gelfand is president of the ERISA Industry Committee, which represents large, self-insured employers.

Services endorsed by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force were selected because they work and “can prevent more acute conditions later,” which are far more costly, said Gelfand.

While most of the task force's recommendations are noncontroversial, a few have elicited an outcry from some employers, including the parties to the lawsuit, who argue they should not be forced to pay for services or treatments they disagree with, such as HIV-prevention drugs.

O'Connor's ruling upheld the contention by plaintiff Braidwood Management, a Christian for-profit corporation owned by Steven Hotze, which objects to providing free PrEP to its 70 employees, saying it runs afoul of its religious beliefs to do so.

The judge agreed, saying that forcing Braidwood to provide such free care in its self-

insured plan violates the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

The ruling eliminating preventive coverage without cost sharing for PrEP on religious grounds shows “clear bias,” said Carl Schmid, executive director of the HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute.

Some states have passed laws that will continue to require coverage of ACA-mandated preventive services even if the federal protections are eliminated.

At least 15 states have laws requiring insurers that sell individual plans to cover the preventive services that the ACA requires, according to an analysis by researchers at Georgetown's Center on Health Insurance Reforms.

Like the ACA, those state laws mandate the coverage at no cost to consumers.

In some of the states, workers in group insurance plans regulated by the state — called “fully insured” plans — also receive those protections, the analysis found.

Those state laws do not apply to the 65% of covered workers nationwide whose employers pay their health care claims directly rather than buy insurance for that purpose.

Overall, preventive services can lead to better outcomes, said Lisa Lacasse, president of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.

Millions of people get screened for breast, colorectal, lung, or cervical cancer each year, she said, adding there is evidence showing any kind of copayment or deductible deters people from getting such testing.

Lacasse said she hopes insurers will continue not to charge copays because such a sharp change midyear would be disruptive, and that enrollees should keep going in for preventive care.

“If you have a screening, you should move forward with that,” she said.

*KHN (Kaiser Health News) is a national newsroom that produces in-depth journalism about health issues. Together with Policy Analysis and Polling, KHN is one of the three major operating programs at KFF (Kaiser Family Foundation). KFF is an endowed nonprofit organization providing information on health issues to the nation.*

# Everyday dedication meets everyday appreciation

We celebrate the commitment of our employees with initiatives like Sharing Success, which awarded 96% of colleagues additional compensation this year, nearly all in stock. This is the sixth time teammates received this award, totaling more than \$4 billion.



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*Bansree*

Bansree Parikh  
President, Bank of America Inland Empire

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