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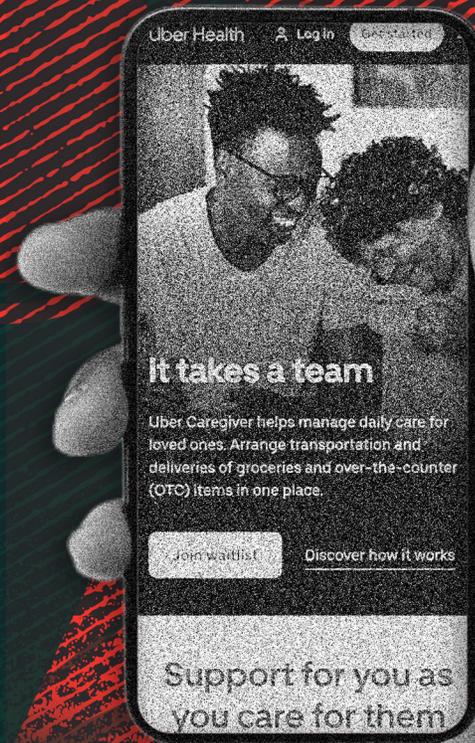
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by Breanna Reeves



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HEAR FROM  
YOU!!!!**



# VOICE

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KEEPING IT REAL

## The Forgotten Origins of Memorial Day in America



A soldier places a flag at a gravestone in Arlington National Cemetery as part of the annual pre-Memorial Day tradition called Flags In. May 26, 2022. (Source: Elizabeth Fraser/Do, cfr.org)

When it comes to history... whether of the world, the nation or the state... we know contributions of Africans and their descendents anywhere in the diaspora, are rarely recorded or recorded with accurate attribution. It's been too easy to write Black people out of history as it relates to any significant contributions, so Whites can remain in a position of primacy, as the first order of humanity.

Therefore, when Professor David Blight lectured at Yale in the late 2000's, about the Civil War and Reconstruction, it was surprising that he took time to talk about the the nation's first Memorial Day.

Blight talked about the first Memorial Day being celebrated by former slaves on May 1, 1865, in Charleston, N.C. Not surprisingly, he led his introduction to this narrative with a rhetorical question about whether any in the

audience had ever heard the story of Blacks and the nation's first Memorial Day celebration.

Of course, no one in attendance ever had, a strong indication of the power of the Lost Cause—a lingering belief by some that the cause of the Confederacy in the Civil War was “just, heroic, and not centered on slavery.” It is also an indication of the stranglehold of white supremacy on American history which includes a reluctance to credit Black Americans with any meaningful societal contributions.

Meanwhile, questions over the first Memorial Day remain a matter of debate with some pointing to President Abraham Lincoln's commemoration of the dead at Gettysburg in 1863, as a possible origin of the holiday, and with several other cities also claiming to be the location of the first Memorial Day celebration.

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## Calif. Senate Passes Landmark Package of Three Reparations Bills



California State Sen. Steven Bradford (D-Inglewood), left, and his Chief of Staff Carolyn McIntyre, right, leave the Senate chambers on May 21 at the State Capitol after three of Bradford's reparations bills passed off the floor, including SB 1403 (California American Freedmen Affairs Agency). CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey

### Bo Tefu and Antonio Ray Harvey California Black Media

Last week, the California State Senate voted to advance three landmark reparations bills authored by Sen. Steven Bradford (D-Inglewood). The bills aim to redress the economic and social injustices stemming from chattel slavery in the American South and more than a century of state-sectioned discriminatory practices that followed the Civil War.

The package of legislation now moves to the State Assembly for consideration.

The historic vote on Senate Bill (SB) 1403, SB 1050, and SB 1331 was held on the Senate floor late in the afternoon on May 21, while supporters representing several reparations advocacy groups observed from the gallery.

"I appreciate my Legislative colleagues who have directly faced this important issue and shown great courage by passing these historic pieces of legislation," said Bradford. "I look forward to working with the members of the Assembly to similarly pass these bills so we can present them to Governor Newsom for his signature."

SB 1403 establishes the framework for the establishment of the California American Freedmen Affairs Agency (CAFAA), a state-level department that would administer all reparations activities. It passed with a 30-7 vote.

SB 1050 would offer compensation to Black Californians who lost homes or had their land taken without fair compensation as a result of the racially motivated misuse of eminent

domain. It passed with a 32-4 vote.

With a vote of 30-7 on the Senate floor, SB 1331 also passed. It proposes the establishment of an account in the state treasury for the purpose of funding reparations policies approved by the Legislature and the Governor.

Darlene Crumedy, a Bay Area resident and



*I appreciate my Legislative colleagues who have directly faced this important issue and shown great courage by passing these historic pieces of legislation... I look forward to working with the members of the Assembly to similarly pass these bills so we can present them to Governor Newsom for his signature.*

- Sen. Steven Bradford  
(D-Inglewood)



member of the Coalition for a Just and Equitable California (CJEC), is one of the reparations supporters who has shown up at every Senate hearing for Bradford's compensation bills.

She called passage of the bills "historic and special."

"Now the work begins in the Assembly, and they are going to pass there, too," Crumedy said expressing optimism about the bills' future.

**Breanna Reeves | Staff**

Students, faculty and community members filled the room in anticipation of Dr. David Acosta's address on diversity and equity challenges in medical education during the inaugural University of California Riverside (UCR) School of Medicine J.W. Vines Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Colloquium on May 22.

Recently renamed in honor of the

“

*There are some unfortunate challenges right now in diversity, equity and inclusion, but we think that it's really important to have these discussions of what the challenges are and what ways we can continue to do the work that we think is part of the mission of our institution.*

- Dr. Denise Martinez

Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion UCR SOM

”

contributions and advocacy of the J.W. Vines Society to UCR's School of Medicine, the colloquium fosters engagement among students, staff and people in the community regarding recent issues impacting health care, medical students and medical institutions.

“There are some unfortunate challenges right now in diversity, equity and inclusion, but we think that it's really important to have these discussions of what the challenges are and what ways we can continue to do the work that we think is part of the mission of our institution,” said Dr. Denise Martinez, associate dean of diversity, equity and inclusion at the UCR SOM.

## UCR School of Medicine Addresses Diversity Challenges in Medical Education



UCR School of Medicine Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Dr. Denise Martinez (left), Dr. Acosta, chief diversity and inclusion officer of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) (center), and UCR School of Medicine Dean Dr. Deborah Deas pose for a picture at the annual UCR SOM J.W. Vines Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Colloquium on May 22, 2024. (Image courtesy of UCR SOM)



Members of the J.W. Vines Medical Society listen and take photos during Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Dr. David Acosta's presentation at the annual UCR SOM J.W. Vines Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Colloquium on May 22, 2024. (Image courtesy of UCR SOM)

Over the last few months, controversies surrounding DEI have increased across the nation, with efforts to eliminate and defund any initiatives that involve diversity, equity and

inclusion. According to The Chronicle of Higher Education's DEI Legislation Tracker, since 2023, 84 bills have been introduced in 28 states and Congress, 12 of which have been signed into law, 13 have final legislative approval, and 38 have been tabled, failed to pass or vetoed.

On March 19, Congressman Greg Murphy, M.D., introduced the Embracing anti-Discrimination, Unbiased Curricula, and Advancing Truth in Education (EDUCATE) Act. The bill would prohibit medical schools from receiving federal funding if they practice policies and requirements related to DEI.

Dr. Acosta, chief diversity and inclusion officer of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) cautioned that although the EDUCATE Act hasn't been passed, there

*continued on page 8*

# classifieds & public notices

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

**ALPHA PRIME SERVICES**

**14346 Settlers Ridge Ct**

**Eastvale, CA 92880**

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

**Harish Sudarshan Sharma**

**14346 Settlers Ridge Ct**

**Eastvale, CA 92880**

**Neha Harish Sharma**

**14346 Settlers Ridge Ct**

**Eastvale, CA 92880**

This business is conducted by: General Partnership

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. Harish Sudarshan Sharma

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Peter Aldana, Riverside County Clerk, FILE NO. R- 202405774  
**p. 5/23/24, 5/30/24, 6/06/24, 6/13/24**

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

**LUV2TRAVELCO**  
**9654 Sunnybrook Drive**  
**Moreno Valley, CA 92557**  
**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**  
**Christopher Daniel Brown**  
**9654 Sunnybrook Drive**  
**Moreno Valley, CA 92557**

This business is conducted by: Individual

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/15/2024

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**LUV2TRAVELCO**

**9654 Sunnybrook Drive**

**Moreno Valley, CA 92557**

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

**Christopher Daniel Brown**

**9654 Sunnybrook Drive**

**Moreno Valley, CA 92557**

This business is conducted by: Individual

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/15/2024

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s. Christopher Daniel Brown

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**PAMPER & PEACE HEAD SPA**

**40516 Murrieta Hot Springs Rd,**

**Building B**

**Murrieta, CA 92563**

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

**Ohana Nguyen**

**2849 W Lynrose Dr**

**Anaheim, CA 92804**

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s. Ohana Nguyen

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Peter Aldana, Riverside County Clerk, FILE NO. R- 202406793

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

**CASA DEL REY**

**46601 Arabia Street**

**Indio, CA 92201**

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

**PO BOX 278**

**Palm Desert, CA 92261**

**Jeck Properties**

**PO BOX 278**

**Palm Desert, CA 92261**

**CA**

This business is conducted by: General Partnership

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 05/01/2024

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

**p. 5/30/24, 6/06/24, 6/13/24, 6/20/24**

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

**SANDOVAL MOBILE REPAIR**

**6720 Karen Lane**

**Jurupa Valley, CA 92509**

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

**Daniel Alejandro Sandoval Falla**

**6720 Karen Lane**

**Jurupa Valley, CA 92509**

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. Daniel A Sandoval Falla, Owner

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Peter Aldana, Riverside County Clerk, FILE NO. R- 202405938  
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The following persons) is (are) doing business as:

**PREMIER PROPERTIES OF THE**

**DESERT**

**78060 Calle Estado #104**

**La Quinta, CA 92253**

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

**Allan Ralph Carroll**

**78060 Calle Estado #104**

**La Quinta, CA 92253**

**Marilu Wessman Carroll**

**78060 Calle Estado #104**

**La Quinta, CA 92253**

This business is conducted by: Married Couple

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s. Allan Ralph Carroll

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Peter Aldana, Riverside County Clerk, FILE NO. R- 202406793

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**46601 Arabia Street**

**Indio, CA 92201**

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

**PO BOX 278**

**Palm Desert, CA 92261**

**Jeck Properties**

**PO BOX 278**

**Palm Desert, CA 92261**

**CA**

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s. William J Hammer, General Partner of Jeck Properties

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Peter Aldana, Riverside County Clerk, FILE NO. R- 202406885  
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**PALM DESERT GRASS**

**6 Lucky G Dr**

**Palm Desert, CA 92260**

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

**Diaz Design Group**

**6 Lucky G Dr**

**Palm Desert, CA 92260**

**CA**

This business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company

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s. Gabriel De Jesus Diaz Rivas, Manager

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Peter Aldana, Riverside County Clerk, FILE NO. R- 202406885  
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The following persons) is (are) doing business as:

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**6 Lucky G Dr**

**Palm Desert, CA 92260**

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

**Diaz Design Group**

**6 Lucky G Dr**

**Palm Desert, CA 92260**

**CA**

This business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company

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## Four Years After Shelter-in-Place, Covid-19 Misinformation Persists

**Kwasi Gyamfi Asiedu**  
**PolitiFact**

From spring break parties to Mardi Gras, many people remember the last major “normal” thing they did before the novel coronavirus pandemic dawned, forcing governments worldwide to issue stay-at-home advisories and shutdowns.

Even before the first case of covid-19 was detected in the U.S., fears and uncertainties helped spur misinformation’s rapid spread. In March 2020, schools closed, employers sent staff to work from home, and grocery stores called for physical distancing to keep people safe. But little halted the flow of misleading claims that sent fact-checkers and public health officials into overdrive. Some people falsely asserted covid’s symptoms were associated with 5G wireless technology. Faux cures and untested treatments populated social media and political discourse. Amid uncertainty about the virus’s origins, some people proclaimed covid didn’t exist at all. PolitiFact named “downplay and denial” about the virus its 2020 “Lie of the Year.”

Four years later, people’s lives are largely free of the extreme public health measures that restricted them early in the pandemic. But covid misinformation persists, although it’s now centered mostly on vaccines and vaccine-related conspiracy theories.

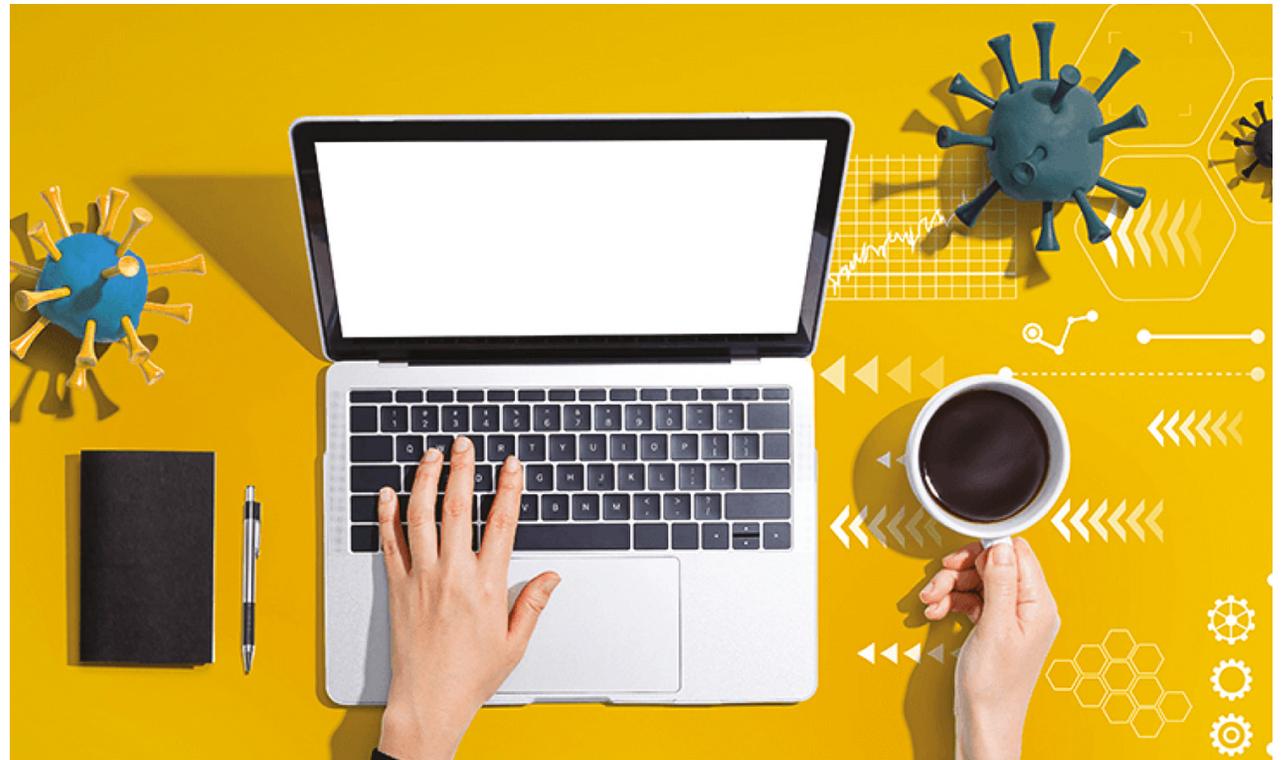
PolitiFact has published more than 2,000 fact checks related to covid vaccines alone.

“From a misinformation researcher perspective, [there has been] shifting levels of trust,” said Tara Kirk Sell, a senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. “Early on in the pandemic, there was a lot of: ‘This isn’t real,’ fake cures, and then later on, we see more vaccine-focused mis- and disinformation and a more partisan type of disinformation and misinformation.”

Here are some of the most persistent covid misinformation narratives we see today:

### A Loss of Trust in the Vaccines

Covid vaccines were quickly developed, with U.S. patients receiving the first shots in December 2020, 11 months after the first



Graphic: Freepik.com

domestic case was detected.

Experts credit the speedy development with helping to save millions of lives and preventing hospitalizations. Researchers at the University of Southern California and Brown University calculated that vaccines saved 2.4 million lives in

covid the week of March 2, down from nearly 26,000 at the pandemic’s height in January 2021, as vaccines were just rolling out.

But on social media and in some public officials’ remarks, misinformation about covid vaccine efficacy and safety is common. U.S. presidential

*From a misinformation researcher perspective, [there has been] shifting levels of trust... Early on in the pandemic, there was a lot of: ‘This isn’t real,’ fake cures, and then later on, we see more vaccine-focused mis- and disinformation and a more partisan type of disinformation and misinformation.*

- Tara Kirk Sell

Senior Scholar, Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security

141 countries starting from the vaccines’ rollout through August 2021 alone. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data shows there were 1,164 U.S. deaths provisionally attributed to

candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has built his 2024 campaign on a movement that seeks

*continued on page 18*

# EDUCATION

*UCR School of Medicine, continued from page 5*

are several potential impacts to admissions, curriculum and students and faculty to consider if this bill is passed.

“The potential impact that it could have is we could see a decrease in a lot of our underrepresented minorities that are applying to medical school, specifically in those states that have anti-DEI laws in place,” Dr. Acosta explained in an interview with Black Voice News.

In regions like the Inland Empire, known to be one of the most medically underserved regions in the nation and with such a robust and diverse population, creating a workforce that can supply culturally competent and appropriate care is an important pillar of UCR’s School of Medicine’s DEI Office.

According to Dr. Martinez, the purpose of her office is to be intentional about maintaining equitable practices and expanding a workforce who will provide care to bridge the gaps in health disparities that impact historically underserved communities.

“Over 70% of the people that are in medical school came from the highest percentile in income and only about 5 to 8% of the students that come from minority backgrounds and different backgrounds, they only make up 5 to 8%,” Dr. Acosta explained. “And that’s devastating when you think about that.”

As California’s population grows and increases, so is the demographic makeup of residents. Recent studies and surveys have reported that patients feel more comfortable, respected and listened to when being treated by a provider from the same or similar cultural and racial/ethnic background.

During the colloquium, Dr. Acosta acknowledged the changing landscape of higher education and medical professions as more restrictive laws and bans are put in place such as the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling that put an end to affirmative action in higher learning and the court’s subsequent ruling to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

With anti-DEI laws being enacted, Dr. Acosta noted that state lawmakers may fail to consider the consequences of these laws further down the



*Dr. Acosta, chief diversity and inclusion officer of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) gives a keynote address during the annual UCR SOM J.W. Vines Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Colloquium on May 22, 2024. (Image courtesy of UCR SOM)*

line.

“The potential impact that it could have is we could see a decrease in a lot of our underrepresented minorities that are applying to medical school, specifically in those states that have anti-DEI laws in place,” Dr. Acosta explained.

As a result, underserved populations in these states will bear the weight of the consequences of anti-DEI laws, in a way these populations are currently facing the consequences of abortion bans. Researchers at the University of Colorado Boulder calculated a 24% increase in maternal deaths in the U.S. if abortion were completely banned, with Black women projected to see a 39% increase.

“Will we no longer be able to have courses that address, specifically, biases in medicine, structural racism in medicine, discrimination in medicine, and health disparities, and health inequities that our communities, especially our marginalized communities, experience?” Dr.

Acosta asked.

But as DEI offices are shuttered and anti-DEI laws are put in place, Dr. Acosta urged the room full of UCR SOM faculty, medical students and doctors to think outside of the box and look for loopholes.

In 1996, California passed Proposition 209, effectively ending the use of affirmative action in public employment, public education and public contracting. However, UC’s across the state developed outreach strategies toward underrepresented candidates and adopted admission practices to review student applications.

Similarly, Dr. Acosta encouraged administrators to “reinvent yourselves” where all sectors within academic affairs share the responsibilities of the diversity, equity and inclusion workload. He encouraged the room to think critically about current legislation and consider what can be learned from other medical

*continued on page 19*

# San Bernardino City Manager Montoya Made His Move Too Soon and Was Fired for It



**Hardy Brown, Sr.**  
**Publisher Emeritus**  
**Contributor**

*Photo by Benoit Maphettes*

In a unanimous vote by San Bernardino Mayor Helen Tran and seven councilmembers on May 22, 2024, the new city manager, Charles Montoya, who had been on the job for seven months, was fired without cause as outlined in his contract approved by the council on October 18, 2023. On October 18, 2023, with a 5-3 vote, Councilmembers Kim Calvin, Ben Reynoso, and Damon Alexander voted against hiring Montoya. Despite objections from a large and diverse cross-section of citizens, the majority of the council went ahead with the hiring.

I remember former City Councilmember Rikke Van Johnson warning the council during that meeting of four red flags in Montoya's past employment history: he was a job hopper, had been fired as a city manager, was involved in lawsuits, and had initiated lawsuits against the cities he managed. Van Johnson reiterated these concerns at the May 22, 2024 meeting, emphasizing the danger signs the council should have considered before hiring Montoya.

During his seven-month tenure, Montoya often seemed like a "shell game artist," constantly keeping the council and the public guessing. He started by changing the times of council meetings, moving them from 7:00 PM to 2:00 PM, then to 4:30 PM, and finally to 5:00 PM, with the intent of reducing public participation. He even stopped city staff from reading comments submitted to the city clerk's office from citizens with speaking disabilities during council meetings.

Montoya also created confusion by having the City Attorney tell the Mayor and Council that San Bernardino's new charter made it a city manager form of government, giving all powers to him. The council was taken aback and did not challenge the attorney at the meeting.



*Charles Montoya, Barbara Whitehorn and Rikke Van Johnson*

Montoya also lied to the council, staff, and public. At one meeting, he told the council he had signed a "Letter of Intent" to renovate the old city hall with a company and that the council should pass a resolution to start the bonding process. When Councilmember Calvin questioned when the council had given him that authority, Montoya doubled down, accusing the council of wasting time and insisting he was hired to get things done in the city.

By the council previously maligning Calvin with a political hit piece back in December 2023, Montoya and the council felt emboldened to be disrespectful and rude to her and the Black community.

As a retired newspaper publisher, I submitted a Public Records Request for that Letter of Intent, which Montoya eventually had to admit he did not have in his possession.

Montoya did other questionable things, but the last straw came when Barbara Whitehorn, the Director of Finance, informed Mayor Tran and four councilmembers (Sanchez, Ibarra, Figueroa, and Shorett) and the public that she had been fired by Montoya for doing her job. Whitehorn told the council that an agenda item Montoya wanted them to approve was incomplete and did not contain her financial forecast, which showed the city could not afford what Montoya was proposing. She said, "Because of my forecast, Montoya fired me." She added that she loved the city because she lived there, whereas Montoya lived in Riverside.

The late B.B. King had a popular song that said, "Never make your move too soon." Montoya made his move too soon, and now he is gone.

FEATURE STORY

# Uber Health Introduces Uber Caregiver to Support Caregivers and Loved Ones

by Breanna Reeves



**W**ith an estimated 53 million caregivers working in the U.S., Uber Health is supporting caregivers by reducing their load with Uber Caregiver.

Launching this summer, Uber Caregiver will allow care receivers to add a designated caregiver to their Uber account thus allowing the caregiver to request and monitor rides and deliveries. Uber Caregiver is also working to partner with health plans that will allow care receivers to use the app as part of their benefits.

“Our new solution helps lighten the load. Caregivers will no longer be solely responsible for grocery shopping for loved ones, bringing mom to the doctor, or decoding grandpa’s benefits to see if they’ll cover a bottle of aspirin,” said Global Head of Uber Health Caitlin Donovan in a press release. “We know it takes a team, and we’re proud to play an important role in keeping people healthy.”

Currently, Uber Health is available across the U.S., allowing “care coordinators” to arrange rides and the delivery of groceries, prescription medications and over-the-counter items through a web-based dashboard.

As Uber Caregiver adds more health plans, caregivers will be able to learn more about the care receivers’ benefits eligibility, such as how many rides will be covered or how much of their monthly grocery benefits are left, both in the Uber and Uber Eats apps.

A company spokesperson recommended care receivers add their health benefits card to their Uber wallet to see if their plan is eligible for use on Uber or Uber Eats. Additionally, care receivers can also visit [uberhealth.com/caregiver](https://uberhealth.com/caregiver), fill out an interest form and a representative from the company will be in touch to see if their benefits become available for Uber Caregiver.

With Uber Caregiver, caregivers can request a ride for both local and long-distance trips. Care receivers can designate a caregiver in the app by going to Wallet and tapping “Add a caregiver” under the newly added health benefits card. From there, they can add the caregiver from their contact list or enter their information. The caregiver will receive an invite in the Uber app and by email.

As Uber Caregiver launches this summer, care receivers can continue to check their benefits at the start of each calendar year as health plans change. Uber offers rides with wheel-chair assisted vehicles, so caregivers can choose the best ride



Uber Caregiver will be available this summer, allowing care recipients to add a designated caregiver to their Uber account and allow their caregiver to request and monitor rides and deliveries. (Image via Pexels)

“ ”

*Our new solution helps lighten the load. Caregivers will no longer be solely responsible for grocery shopping for loved ones, bringing mom to the doctor, or decoding grandpa’s benefits to see if they’ll cover a bottle of aspirin... We know it takes a team, and we’re proud to play an important role in keeping people healthy.*

*- Caitlin Donovan  
Global Head of Uber Health*

type available for their loved ones’ needs, which could include Uber Assist.

While some care receivers may be under the care of several family members or alternating caregivers, during the initial phases, Uber Caregiver will be limited to one caregiver at a time, according to a company representative. As the app grows, Uber Caregiver will expand and add additional features to further support caregivers and care receivers such as the ability to split payment between benefits and other personal payment. Caregivers will also be able to order groceries with Uber Eats at the end of 2024.

As more adults continue to age across the nation, the need for more caregivers and support services will increase, especially in California, which has one of the fastest growing populations. In just six years, 10.8 million Californians will be over the age of 60.

*This article is part of the 2024 Black Voice News reporting series on Caregiving in the IE supported in part by the United Domestic Workers of America representing home care and family child care providers across the state of California.*

## Fired! Montoya is Out

City of San Bernardino Exercises Severance Provision in City Manager Contract



*“By unanimous vote of the [San Bernardino] city council, the City has terminated Charles Montoya’s employment contract pursuant to Section 11.7 which defines termination without cause. (File photo)*

### Ellen Perrault | Staff

The decision was made during a special closed session meeting held on Wednesday, May 22nd, where the San Bernardino Mayor and City Council voted to exercise the severance provision in City Manager Charles Montoya’s employment agreement.

The City Attorney gave the closed session report at the end of the meeting saying, “By unanimous vote of the city council, the city has terminated Charles Montoya’s employment contract pursuant to Section 11.7 which defines termination without cause. Clayton will serve as temporary, acting city manager until the council takes further action. This action was taken by a 5-3 vote with Council Member Sanchez, Ibarra, and Alexander voting no.”

Montoya served the city for seven months.

With less than a year on the job Montoya will walk away with a lucrative goodbye incentive of \$325,000—the equivalent of 12 months’ base salary as severance.

Although it took the city of San Bernardino about nine months to hire Montoya last October, it took only a week for him to be unceremoniously dismissed after he fired the city’s former director of finance and management, Barbara Whitehorn. Whitehorn claims she was fired after she allegedly raised concerns about a plan to renovate city hall.

Whitehorn, spoke publicly about her termination during the public comments period at the council meeting on Wednesday, May 15.

Whitehorn claimed she was fired after raising concerns about costs related to the planned renovation of the facility. According

to Whitehorn renovations of the city hall building for earthquake safety will cost closer to \$120 million versus the \$80 initially projected.

Clayton’s qualifications to serve as temporary replacement

Rochelle Clayton was hired in April, 2024 as deputy city manager, overseeing the Public Works; Community Development and Housing; and the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Departments.

Clayton is very familiar with San Bernardino as she grew up and raised her family in the city. She also spent seventeen years with the



*After serving the city of San Bernardino for only seven months, City Manager Charles Montoya will walk away with a lucrative goodbye incentive of \$325,000. (File photo)*

County of San Bernardino in various finance administration roles, including as deputy chief.

For the past five years, Clayton served as assistant city manager of Menifee, overseeing the Police, Fire, Community Services, Information Technology, Finance, Human Resources, and City Clerk departments.

In other past roles, she served as Deputy City Manager and Administrative Services Director for the City of Banning, the Chief Financial Officer for the West Valley Water District in Rialto, and the Finance Director for the City of La Habra Heights.



Join the conversation  
[Facebook.com/theievoice](https://www.facebook.com/theievoice)

# Why Do We Need To Keep Defending Proposition 47 When It Isn't The Real Problem?

Welcome to Solutions Saturday, a dedicated platform where leaders of community-based organizations across our region present their solutions to the issues we face together.

From addressing systemic inequalities and economic disparities to tackling environmental concerns and health crises, these voices are here not just to highlight problems but to propose actionable, concrete solutions that can move our community forward.

At Black Voice News, we believe in the power of ideas, especially those that can be implemented to create real change. By providing a platform for leaders to share their vision, we hope to spark not just conversation but action.

To aid in this work, we are offering quarterly opinion writing workshops to assist any organizational leader or communications staffer. Please contact our team if you are interested in our next session to be held virtually this summer or if you would like to be a Solutions Saturday contributor.

Together, let's inspire change and make a lasting impact.

Paulette Brown-Hinds, Publisher

## By Decarcerate Inland Region Coalition

Proposition 47, also known as the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act, passed in 2014 with close to 60% of voting Californians in favor of it. The proposition reclassified simple possession and low-level theft crimes (below \$950) from felony to misdemeanor status, resentenced people who were currently serving felony sentences for those offenses and reallocated the savings to fund mental health and substance use treatment, school programs, and victim services.

Unfortunately, those same entities who have a vested interest in continuing the cycle of incarceration are the same who make the claim that Prop 47 contributed to increases in crime. However, the data shows that crime stems from a more complex interplay of influences unrelated to Proposition 47 such as housing and inflation. Addressing these myths is crucial for a balanced understanding of the actual impact of this reform.



Members of the Decarcerate Inland Region Coalition host a press conference on May 23, 2024 outside Riverside County District Attorney Mike Hestrin's office to denounce efforts to roll back criminal justice reforms that they say are successfully increasing safety by slashing recidivism rates, increasing services for crime victims, and reducing unemployment and homelessness.

**Myth 1:** Proposition 47 has led to a significant increase in crime. Evidence indicates that Prop 47 did not cause a rise in violent crime. While there was an increase in property crimes, particularly larceny thefts, these trends are complex and influenced by various factors beyond Prop 47 because these were in alignment with national trends. Overall, California's crime rates remain relatively low compared to historical levels (Spectrum News) (Public Policy Institute of California).

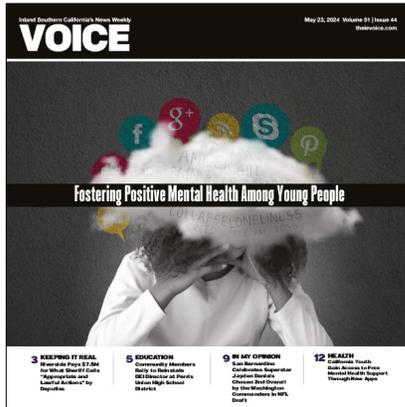
**Myth 2:** Prop 47 has made theft under \$950 effectively legal. Prop 47 reclassified certain non-violent property and drug crimes from felonies to misdemeanors, but it did not legalize theft under \$950. Theft of any amount remains a crime, and offenders can still face significant penalties (Spectrum News).

**Myth 3:** Prop 47 has not benefited public safety. By reducing the penalties for low-level offenses, Prop 47 has decreased incarceration rates and redirected resources toward mental health and substance abuse treatment. This shift aims to address underlying issues that contribute to criminal behavior, potentially improving long-term public safety (Georgetown Law) (Public Policy Institute of California).

**Myth 4:** Prop 47 has led to a breakdown in law enforcement effectiveness. The reduction in jail populations has allowed counties more flexibility in managing their criminal justice systems, prioritizing space for more serious offenders. This change aims to enhance public safety by focusing on higher-risk individuals (Georgetown Law).

*continued on page 19*

# VOICE



## EDUCATE ENGAGE INFORM

Scan the QR Code to read  
last week's issue online.



## KEEPING IT REAL

*The Forgotten Origins, continued from page 3*

However, President Lyndon B. Johnson attempted to finally settle the debate in 1966, when he officially recognized a ceremony in Waterloo, New York held May 5, 1866, as the “birthplace” of Memorial Day.

There is also something to be said about the custom of decorating graves with flowers on certain days in spring that may tie back to the ancient roots of the holiday. But most agree, the unmitigated loss and trauma of the Civil War played a key role.

In my opinion, Johnson’s declaration of the official birthplace of Memorial Day, like the whitewashing of other historical events involving contributions of Blacks, does not make it true.

As noted by Blight, “African-Americans invented Memorial Day in Charleston, South Carolina.”

Blight stressed that although there are three or four cities in the United States that claim to be the site of the first Memorial Day (like Waterloo, New York), “[T]hey all claim 1866. They were too late.”

Professor Blight shared in his research he had, “the great, blind, good fortune to discover this story [of the first Memorial Day celebration] in a messy, totally disorganized collection of veterans’ papers at the Houghton Library at Harvard.”

Unlike Veterans’ Day in November that celebrates all people who have served in the military, Memorial Day commemorates those who have lost their lives serving their country.

What is the story behind Charleston’s first Memorial Day celebration? Blight closed his lecture at Yale with a description of the first Memorial Day, celebrated by Blacks in Charleston, SC 1865.

According to Blight, Charleston was almost completely in ruins in the early days of 1865. “All the white people evacuated and abandoned the city, and the only people left principally were slaves, freedmen, thousands of them, and they, in effect, took over the city,” he proclaimed in his lecture.

The first Union regiment to march up the main street in the city at the end of the Civil War was the 21st USCT, a Black regiment, who

accepted the city’s surrender from the major. Afterwards, ceremonies were held by the Black people of Charleston that included a parade with two floats. “On one float,” as described by Blight, “they had a little slave auction occurring, a mock slave auction with a woman with her baby being sold away, and on the next float they had a coffin labeled ‘Slavery,’ and it read, Fort Sumter Dug its Grave, April 12th, 1861.”

They also held one more extraordinary ceremony at Fort Sumter with about 3000 people in attendance including dignitaries. The ceremony was a burial ceremony. During the last months of the war the Confederate Army turned a planter’s horse track, called the Washington Racecourse, into an open air prison where about 260 Union soldiers died of disease and exposure. They were buried in a mass unmarked gravesite there.

The Black people of Charleston knew about the mass grave, organized, went to the site and re-interred all those buried there. They couldn’t mark the graves with names because they did not have them, but they built a fence around the cemetery and whitewashed it.

This was followed on May 1st 1865 with a parade of 10,000 people. It was led by 3000 Black children carrying roses and singing John Brown’s Body. The children were followed first, by Black women, then by Black men, and finally by groups of Union infantry members. Everybody marched all the way around the racetrack to the gravesite.

Unlike believers in the Lost Cause, Blight stressed in his lecture how, “Black Americans, recently freed from slavery, announcing to the world, with their flowers and their feet and their songs, what the war had been about.”

Knowing Black history is empowering for Black people and all people. Of course, this is just my opinion. I’m keeping it real.

S.E. Williams  
Executive Editor



Join us on Instagram @ Instagram.  
com/theblackvoiceneeds





# public notices

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 05/02/2024

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, Riverside County Clerk, FILE NO. R- 202405842  
**p. 5/09/24, 5/16/24, 5/23/24, 5/30/24**

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

**CHILL FOO CREAMERY**  
**19390 El Rivino Road**  
**Jurupa Valley, CA 92509**  
**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**  
**Jovanny Isail Aguilera**  
**19390 El Rivino Road**  
**Jurupa Valley, CA 92509**

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. Jovanny Isail Aguilera

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 04/29/2024

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, Riverside County Clerk, FILE NO. R- 202405597  
**p. 5/16/24, 5/23/24, 5/30/24, 6/06/24**

Personallifecoach2 & Ministry (PLC2 Ranch) is a FBN and owned under the names Of Leon and Ebony Glover, Which Provides Equine Therapy for Mental Health and Summer Camps for youth

w w w .  
personallifecoach2equinetherapy.com

**p. 5/30/24, 6/06/24, 6/13/24, 6/20/24**

## ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

### CASE NUMBER CVCO202402759

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: SANDRA BRITO filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: SANDRA BRITO to . SANDRA CASTILLO. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court 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: 06/26/2024 Time: 8:00AM Dept: C2. The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, 505 S. BUENA VISTA AVENUE, RM 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: APRIL 30, 2024  
Tamara L. Wagner, Judge of the Superior Court

**p. 5/09/24, 5/16/24, 5/23/24, 5/30/24**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On March 14, 2008, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) executed a ten-year Moving to Work (MTW) Agreement with the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino (HACSB) and in April 2016 that agreement was extended through 2028. In March 2024, the agreement received a second extension through 2038. As an MTW agency, HACSB is provided with more flexibility and authorization to develop policies and programs that are outside the limitations of certain HUD regulations. This allows HACSB to more successfully achieve its mission, program goals, and to enhance its ability to serve the needs of low-

income families in San Bernardino County. In continuing to develop its MTW program and address community and customer needs, HACSB has prepared its Fiscal Year 2024-25 Annual MTW Plan (Plan). The Plan will be made available to the public for review for 30 days starting Wednesday, May 29, 2024, at the following location:

Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino  
Administrative Office  
715 E Brier Dr.  
San Bernardino, CA 92408

The Plan is available on HACSB's website at <https://hacsb.com> click "About HACSB" then from the drop-down menu, "Moving to Work". The Plan is also available at any HACSB satellite office.

Notice is hereby given that HACSB will conduct a public hearing regarding the proposed Plan on the following days:

• Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at 715 E Brier Dr, San Bernardino, CA 92408, and

• Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at 715 E Brier Dr, San Bernardino, CA 92408

During this 30-day period, the public is also invited to review the proposed policy changes to HACSB's Housing Services Administrative Plan and the Admissions & Continued Occupancy Policies. The proposed changes are due to new regulatory requirements under the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act (HOTMA). The proposed policy changes are available on HACSB's website at <https://hacsb.com> click "Info Hub" then from the drop-down menu, "Plans and Policies". The proposed policy changes are also available for review at any HACSB satellite office.

If a citizen wishes to challenge the nature of the above action(s) in court, they may be limited to raising only those issues they or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the HACSB office located at 715 E Brier Dr, San Bernardino, CA 92408 prior to the close of the public comment period on June 28, 2024.

In accordance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, HACSB will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. Please call (909) 890-0644 at least three days in advance if you require special accommodations.

HACSB offers language assistance free of charge. For assistance with this document, please contact our office at (909) 890-0644. HACSB ofrece asistencia idiomática gratis. Para ayuda con este documento, por favor llámenos al (909) 890-0644. Equal Housing Opportunity. 5/30/24  
CNS-381404  
**p. 05/30/2024**

## CLASSIFIEDS

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Tiene un vehiculo no deseado? Donelo a Patriotic Hearts! Recogida rápida y gratuita en los 50 estados. Patriotic Hearts ofrece programas para ayudar a los veteranos a encontrar trabajo o iniciar su propio negocio. Llama ahora: 1-855-408-7368 (24/7)

Switch and save up to \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. For more information, call 1-844-908-0605

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-424-7581

Get your deduction ahead of the year-end! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous year-end tax credit. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-844-491-2884 today!

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, we're waiving ALL installation costs. (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 6/30/24 Call 1-833-985-4766

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*Four Years After*, continued from page 7

to legitimize conspiracy theories about the vaccines. PolitiFact made that its 2023 “Lie of the Year.”

PolitiFact has seen claims that spike proteins from vaccines are replacing sperm in vaccinated males. (That’s false.) We’ve researched the assertion that vaccines can change your DNA. (That’s misleading and ignores evidence). Social media posts poked fun at Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce for encouraging people to get vaccinated, asserting that the vaccine actually shuts off recipients’ hearts. (No, it doesn’t.) And some people pointed to an American Red Cross blood donation questionnaire as evidence that shots are unsafe. (PolitiFact rated that False.)

Experts say this misinformation has real-world effects.

A September 2023 survey by KFF found that 57% of Americans “say they are very or somewhat confident” in covid vaccines. And those who distrust them are more likely to identify as politically conservative: Thirty-six percent of Republicans compared with 84% of Democrats say they are very or somewhat confident in the vaccine.

Immunization rates for routine vaccines for other conditions have also taken a hit. Measles had been eradicated for more than 20 years in the U.S. but there have been recent outbreaks in states including Florida, Maryland, and Ohio. Florida’s surgeon general has expressed skepticism about vaccines and rejected guidance from the CDC about how to contain potentially deadly disease spread.

The vaccination rate among kindergartners has declined from 95% in the 2019-20 school year to 93% in 2022-23, according to the CDC. Public health officials have set a 95% vaccination rate target to prevent and reduce the risk of disease outbreaks. The CDC also found exemptions had risen to 3%, the highest rate ever recorded in the U.S.

## **Unsubstantiated Claims That Vaccines Cause Deaths or Other Illness**

PolitiFact has seen repeated and unsubstantiated claims that covid vaccines have caused mass numbers of deaths.

A recent widely shared post claimed 17 million people had died because of the vaccine, despite contrary evidence from multiple studies and institutions such as the World Health Organization and CDC that the vaccines are safe and help to prevent severe illness and death.

Another online post claimed the booster vaccine had eight strains of HIV and would kill 23% of the population. Vaccine manufacturers publish the ingredient lists; they do not include HIV. People living with HIV were among the people given priority access during early vaccine rollout to protect them from severe illness.

Covid vaccines also have been blamed for causing Alzheimer’s and cancer. Experts have found no evidence the vaccines cause either conditions.

“You had this remarkable scientific or medical accomplishment contrasted with this remarkable rejection of that technology by a significant portion of the American public,” said Paul Offit, director of the Vaccine Education Center at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

More than three years after vaccines became available, about 70% of Americans have completed a primary series of covid vaccination, according to CDC figures. About 17% have gotten the most recent bivalent booster.

False claims often pull from and misuse data from the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System. The database, run by the CDC and the FDA, allows anybody to report reactions after any vaccine. The reports themselves are unverified, but the database is designed to help researchers find patterns for further investigation.

An October 2023 survey published in November by the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania found 63% of Americans think “it is safer to get the covid-19 vaccine than the covid-19 disease” — that was down from 75% in April 2021.

## **Celebrity Deaths Falsely Attributed to Vaccines**

Betty White, Bob Saget, Matthew Perry, and DMX are just a few of the many celebrities whose deaths were falsely linked to the vaccine. The anti-vaccine film “Died Suddenly” tried to give credence to false claims that the vaccine

causes people to die shortly after receiving it.

Céline Gounder, editor-at-large for public health at KFF Health News and an infectious disease specialist, said these claims proliferate because of two things: cognitive bias and more insidious motivated reasoning.

“It’s like saying ‘I had an ice cream cone and then I died the next day; the ice cream must have killed me,’” she said. And those with preexisting beliefs about the vaccine seek to attach sudden deaths to the vaccine.

Gounder experienced this personally when her husband, the celebrated sports journalist Grant Wahl, died while covering the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. Wahl died of a ruptured aortic aneurysm but anti-vaccine accounts falsely linked his death to a covid vaccine, forcing Gounder to publicly set the record straight.

“It is very clear that this is about harming other people,” said Gounder, who was a guest at United Facts of America in 2023. “And in this case, trying to harm me and my family at a point where we were grieving my husband’s loss. What was important in that moment was to really stand up for my husband, his legacy, and to do what I know he would have wanted me to do, which is to speak the truth and to do so very publicly.”

## **Out-of-Control Claims About Government Control**

False claims that the pandemic was planned by government leaders and those in power abound.

At any given moment, Microsoft Corp. co-founder and philanthropist Bill Gates, World Economic Forum head Klaus Schwab, or Anthony Fauci, former director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, are blamed for orchestrating pandemic-related threats. In November, Rep. Matt Rosendale (R-Mont.) falsely claimed Fauci “brought” the virus to his state a year before the pandemic. There is no evidence of that. Gates, according to the narratives, is using dangerous vaccines to push a depopulation agenda. That’s false. And Schwab has not said he has an “agenda” to establish a totalitarian global regime using

*continued on page 19*

## CONTINUATION PAGE

*UCR School of Medicine, continued from page 8*

schools and residency programs in states that have anti-affirmative actions in place.

To counter the EDUCATE Act, Rep. Joyce Beatty (D-Ohio), co-chair of the Congressional Black Caucus' DEI Task Force, and Rep. Kathy Castor (D-Fla.), co-chair of the Congressional Academic Medicine Caucus, introduced a resolution that would affirm congressional support for DEI programs and "academic freedom at medical education institutions." Introduced on April 30, the resolution has been endorsed by 21 medical organizations, including the AAMC.

*Four Years After, continued from page 18*

the coronavirus to depopulate the Earth and reorganize society. That's part of a conspiracy theory that's come to be called "The Great Reset" that has been debunked many times.

The United Nations' World Health Organization is frequently painted as a global force for evil, too, with detractors saying it is using vaccination to control or harm people. But the WHO has not declared that a new pandemic is happening, as some have claimed. Its current pandemic preparedness treaty is in no way positioned to remove human rights protections or restrict freedoms, as one post said. And the organization has not announced plans to deploy troops to corral people and forcibly vaccinate them. The WHO is, however, working on a new treaty to help countries improve coordination in response to future pandemics.

*KFF Health News is a national newsroom that produces in-depth journalism about health issues and is one of the core operating programs at KFF—an independent source of health policy research, polling, and journalism.*



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*Solutions Saturday, continued from page 13*

**Myth 5:** Prop 47 has had no positive effects on recidivism. Studies have shown a decrease in recidivism rates among individuals convicted of offenses affected by Prop 47. This is partly due to the increased availability of treatment and rehabilitation programs funded by the savings from reduced incarceration (Public Policy Institute of California).

Instead of entertaining these myths, we should be asking why far less than 8% of crimes are solved in our region – a rate far below the state and federal averages. Yet law enforcement and public safety budgets continue to increase, even amidst a period of state and local deficits.

Reforms like Prop 47 are an investment in our values and priorities. Education, health, housing, and safety net investments will result in stronger and healthier communities. Warehousing people and using incarceration to solve societal problems doesn't improve public safety, it just continues to kick an empty can down the road. Prop 47 remains a giant step in the right direction. We see and live with the improvements that have come about because of it, but it cannot be the only step, or the last step.

*The Decarcerate Inland Region is a cross-collaborative coalition of member organizations and individuals from the Inland Region who are concerned with over-incarceration and overspending on incarceration. The coalition believes strong communities are built by planning for and investing in what we want to see more of. Decarcerate Inland Region pushes for a more holistic and equitable approach to community, community needs, and community safety and challenges others to do the same.*

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