



BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

CONSTRUYENDO COMUNIDADES SALUDABLES
SOUTH KERN · SUR DE KERN

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Judge Orders Trump Administration to Continue Receiving DACA Renewal Applications

A federal district judge in San Francisco blocked Trump's decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and ordered the administration to continue receiving DACA renewal applications. The order applies to those with DACA whose permit expired after September 5, those who did not renew by October 5 or those who were ineligible because their status will expire after March 5, 2018. The order does not apply to new applications.



The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is now accepting renewal applications. DACA recipients who are looking to renew can also get a scholarship from MAF to cover the \$495 application fee.

[Click here to visit the Mission Asset Fund.](#)

Open Enrollment Deadline is January 31

Several health care facilities across Kern County are teaming up to hold enrollment events before the deadline on January 31 to help area residents navigate the process.

"We are coming together to provide community residents with an opportunity to find out about their health coverage options and to enroll into a qualified health plan before Open Enrollment ends," Clinica Sierra Vista Chief Operating Officer Bill Phelps said.

Phelps added that interest is up this year compared to last year but does not have official numbers yet.

The community is invited to attend the next enrollment event, which will be held Saturday, January 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Valley Plaza Mall between Macy's and JC Penney.

For more information call Clinica Sierra Vista at (661) 328-4245 or Omni Family Health at (661) 459-1900.

[Click here to download the flyer.](#)

BHC-SK's Comunidades Unidas Team To Receive Award of Merit

We are proud to announce that Building Healthy Communities South Kern's Comunidades Unidas (CU) Action Team was selected to receive the Regional Award of Merit for Community Involvement.

Building Healthy Communities South Kern also received this award two years ago in 2015, marking this win the second time we have received this honor. The award will be presented to the team on Thursday, March 1 by the Kern Council of Governments for CU's commitment and diligent efforts to make our community a better place to live.



BHC-SK partners work hard to authentically develop adult and youth resident voices. Congratulations to all of the partners who have worked tirelessly over the years to empower our community to make health happen for all in Kern County.

Female Leaders Hope to 'Inspire, Empower' Women with March

South Kern Sol, Dean Welliver

Millions of women will band together next week in cities across the nation in a monumental march for female empowerment as they plan to flex their political might in Kern County.

Last year, millions rallied following President Donald Trump's inauguration, with many participants marching in opposition to statements he made that some said degraded women. They marched in major cities, including Cincinnati, New York, Atlanta and Washington, D.C.



Many Kern County women took buses to Los Angeles and participated in that march. Kimberly Kirchmer, a substitute teacher and local community activist, was among them.

She contacted event organizers in L.A. this year to ask about again coordinating buses to and from the valley. They turned her down, and instead challenged her to organize an event of her own.

The Women's March Kern County will gather at Central Park in Downtown Bakersfield at 10 a.m.

[Read more from South Kern Sol here.](#)

Kern High School District to Host Forum on School Discipline and Climate

South Kern Sol, Dean Welliver

The Kern High School District will this month host its second community forum on school climate, a condition of a settlement agreement it entered into after parents, students and advocacy groups alleged it engaged in a years-long pattern of discriminatory discipline practices.

While the district denied any "intentional systemic racist student discipline practices," it came to a

settlement agreement with plaintiffs in July 2017 that included hosting two community forums each school year detailing the district's rates of suspension, expulsion, and involuntary transfers.

It's important for parents to attend the forum so they can learn about how students are being disciplined in KHSD schools, said Catherine Retana, a lawyer with California Rural Legal Assistance, which took part in the suit against KHSD.

The community forums are a step towards more accountability and transparency between the district and families, Retana said.

The Community Forum runs from 6 to 8 p.m. Jan. 30 at the KHSD Board Room, 5801 Sundale Ave. The district will teleconference the forum from Arvin High School, Shafter High School, and Kern Valley High School.

[Read more from South Kern Sol here.](#)

ACLU Report Exposes Excessive Force and Lack of Accountability in Local Law Enforcement Agencies

South Kern Sol, Dean Welliver

Almost two months after the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California slammed Kern County law enforcement in a report alleging widespread civil rights abuses, it's unclear what steps either of the two largest policing agencies have taken to address deficiencies highlighted in the agency's report.

Bakersfield Police Department Sgt. Ryan Kroeker wouldn't tell South Kern Sol whether the department has reviewed the ACLU's 24 page report - which paints a scathing picture of Kern County law agencies run amok - or if it has sparked any internal review processes outside of an ongoing California Department of Justice probe into alleged civil rights violations launched in 2016 by former California Attorney General Kamala Harris.

Instead, Kroeker referred South Kern Sol to a two-month old press release reiterating that BPD Chief Lyle Martin would not address the report, and that the DOJ "has the sole authority to make comments regarding the investigation."

[Read more from South Kern Sol here.](#)

We have the power to build healthy communities for the next generation!



A #HealthyKernCounty benefits us all.

