

BUSINESS

What's new: B-BOP resource center for women of color debuts this week

The center is open extended hours and has a daycare to help women attending programs aimed at improving business skills.



The Black and Brown Opportunities for Profit (B-BOP) Center opens at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 15 in San Bernardino. (Courtesy of Time for Change Foundation)

By **SAMANTHA GOWEN** | sgowen@scng.com | Orange County Register

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[A resource center for women of color opens this week in San Bernardino](#), offering a host of programs for residents looking to start or enhance their small businesses.

The [Black and Brown Opportunities for Profit \(B-BOP\) Center](#) opens at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 15 at 599 N. Arrowhead Ave.

The center was built by Time for Change Foundation, a nonprofit created by Kim Carter aimed at bringing the innovative ideas of Silicon Valley to the Inland Empire.

B-BOP will provide opportunities and resources for women of color with the goal of changing the trajectory of their lives.

Services at the center include:

- Extended business hours (16 hours daily) to accommodate those who have a 9-5 job
- A childcare center to help mothers while they use the center
- A cafeteria for those who have limited access to food
- 14 offices and shared workspaces where women can network and share ideas
- Pitching practice and investor events to help with professional skills and provide access to funds to get small businesses off the ground

The 10,000-square-foot center also will offer the BBOP Build Program, a six-month training course that will provide strategies and knowledge on how to grow a business and advance a product or service.

Carter, aka “Auntie Kim,” launched the foundation to help previously incarcerated homeless women, like herself, with resources to get their lives on a positive track. Her efforts would soon grow, creating housing opportunities for women of color and their children. The foundation services include three emergency shelters, 13 permanent supportive housing units and an affordable housing project called Phoenix Square.



The IRS is warning tax filers to avoid scams proliferating on social media sites that show people how to falsify income information on their W-2 statements. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik, File)

Tax filers, beware, credit scams could cost you \$5,000

The Internal Revenue Service is warning tax filers to watch out for certain scams that prey on people seeking tax credits.

The agency is highlighting schemes, most often used on social media sites such as TikTok, that show people how to falsify income information on their W-2 statements.

In what's being called a “W-2 scheme,” scammers suggest people make up large income and withholding figures and their employer. Filers are told to file the bogus tax return electronically “in hopes of getting a substantial refund – sometimes as much as five figures,” the IRS said.

“We are seeing signs this scam is increasing, and we worry that innocent taxpayers could be at risk of being tempted into falling into a trap that puts them at risk of financial and criminal penalties,” said Acting IRS Commissioner Doug O'Donnell.

He went on to say that “there is no secret way to get free money or a big refund.”

There are two variations on the same scheme, both of which involved misusing the W-2 wage information form in order to land a larger refund.

One uses Form 7202 aimed at self-employed individuals to claim a tax credit based on income earned as an employee and not as a self-employed individual. These credits, the IRS warns, were only available in 2020 and 2021 during the pandemic.

Another scam involves tax filers making up fictional workers employed in their household and using Schedule H to claim a refund based on false sick and family wages they never paid.

To anyone who flirts with filing false information, the IRS reminds them that those who are caught can face fines up to \$5,000.

Should you fall for one of these TikTok scams, the agency says tax filers can amend their tax return or consult with a tax pro.



Newport Beach-based Alere Property Group bought this 17.42 acres of industrial land in Fontana for \$39 million. (Courtesy of NAI Capital Commercial)

Newport Beach firm buys Fontana land for \$39 million

Alere Property Group in Newport Beach bought 17.42 acres of industrial land in Fontana for \$39 million, according to NAI Capital Commercial.

The property at 13592 Slover Ave. is entitled for two, Class A warehouse-distribution buildings spanning a combined 350,000 square feet.

Alere plans to build out the complex in 2024, and then offer the buildings for lease, according to NAI reps.

"Demand for quality industrial distribution facilities and industrial land remains strong, which in turn has sustained values for both Class-A bulk distribution facilities and land," said Richard Lee at NAI. "Rental rates, sales prices and land values continue to be solid."

Alere specializes in developing, buying and managing industrial properties in the Western U.S.



The annual Stater Bros. Charities Jack H. Brown Heroes Challenge raised \$1 million for nonprofits on Sunday at the Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa in Indian Wells. (Courtesy of Stater Bros. Markets)

Stater Bros. challenge raises \$1 million for nonprofits

The 16th annual Stater Bros. Charities Jack H. Brown Heroes Challenge raised a record \$1 million for nonprofits on Sunday at the Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa in Indian Wells.

Stater Bros. Charities awarded a total of \$310,000 to local nonprofits including the Congressional Medal of Honor Society (\$50,000), Michelle's Place Cancer Resource Center (\$50,000), Children's Fund (\$50,000), FIND Food Bank (\$50,000), Shoes That Fit (\$50,000), C4 Foundation (\$50,000) and Hunter Lopez Memorial Foundation (\$10,000).

The fundraiser is named after Stater Bros.'s late executive chairman, Jack H. Brown.


The business briefs are compiled and edited by Business Editor Samantha Gowen. Submit items to sgowen@scng.com. High-resolution images also can be submitted. Allow at least one week for publication. Items are edited for length and clarity.

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Samantha Gowen | Business Editor

Samantha Gowen is the business editor for the Southern California News Group. Gowen joined The Orange County Register in October 2000, arriving from South Florida just days before the presidential election imploded. (Remember hanging chads?) She held a variety of roles -- copy editor, pets editor, trending and car culture reporter and page designer -- before joining the Business team as deputy editor in 2014. Her team specializes in real estate, the economy, and jobs coverage.

sgowen@scng.com

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