

The Bakersfield Californian

Part of the Bakersfield.com Network

OVERCAST 55° LOW 75° HIGH 67° CURRENT

Sponsored by: Three-Way Automotive

SEARCH

web search powered by YAHOO!

Get the replica e-Edition



NEWS HOME LOCAL OBITS SPORTS A&E LIFESTYLE **OPINION** PHOTOS BUSINESS GUIDE BUY & SELL HOMES JOBS DRIVE

Our View | Letters to the Editor | Community Voices | National Voices | Submit a Letter | Bakersfield Talks

Visit us online! bwellmagazine.com

HOT TOPICS

HOME > OPINION > HOT TOPICS

NEXT STORY: MICHAEL GERSON: C. Everett Koop, the nation's doctor

Recommend
 Tweet 5
 Submit
 +1 0
 My Yahoo
 Print

Tuesday, Mar 05 2013 11:00 PM

HOWARD HARRIS: Food Bank helping to the tune of 6 million pounds annually

As a 10-year volunteer at the Community Action Partnership of Kern Food Bank, I have witnessed tremendous growth in the organization's ability to serve the people of Bakersfield and Kern County.

The Community Action Partnership Food Bank was established in 1982 to acquire food and other resources to help alleviate hunger, provide food and meet the nutritional needs of economically disadvantaged Kern residents. Under the direction of Ian Anderson and his staff, the Food Bank has instituted a program geared to expand the capability of the Food Bank to continue to better serve these communities.

RELATED PHOTOS

The Food Bank reaches many people with a distribution line that feeds anywhere from 200 to 500 households daily. This does not include the network of upward of 65 pantry sites with an associated 36 community sites that receive and distribute food from the Food Bank. Because of the downturn in the economy that started around 2007, the need for the Food Bank's services substantially increased, by 2008, to a requirement for the distribution of more than 3.6 million pounds of food per year. In 2009, that number rose to 4.4 million pounds. Currently, annual distribution is well over 6 million pounds. Including return visits, the number of

Bakersfield.com DAILY DEAL!

B-FIT BOOTCAMP

6 Week B-Fit Bootcamp program for only \$65
Value % Off You Save
\$150 56% \$85

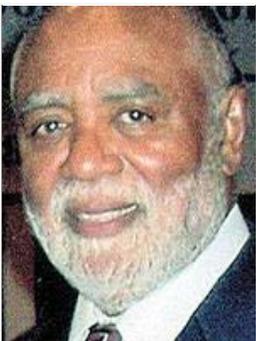
0 Bought [Buy Now!](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What is your favorite Christmas-time treat?

- Fudge
- Divinity
- Candy Canes



Howard Harris

households served yearly is well over 33,000 or approximately 463,328 individuals.

According to the 2010 California Food Policy Advocates Report, 40.5 percent of the Kern population is "food insecure." That ranks Kern 53rd out of California's 58 counties. According to that same 2010 report, 40,000 individuals in Kern have Type 2 diabetes, 57 percent of the population is obese and 11.2 percent of the children are overweight for their age group.

The Food Bank fights these problems by providing a nutritionally balanced diet, including healthy fruits and vegetables provided by local farmers and the U.S. Agriculture Department.

In 2011, of the 463,328 individuals served by the Food Bank, 56 percent were female; 44 percent were male; 26 percent were adults; 10 percent were seniors; and 64 percent were youth. The majority were either Hispanic (55 percent) or Caucasian (22 percent). Other ethnicities were African-American (19 percent); and Asian-American (2 percent).

The Food Bank relies on, but is not limited to funding from the Emergency Food Assistance Program, California Community Service Development, United Way of Kern, USDA and California Franchise Tax Board. Donations also come from Vons, WinCo, Target, Wal-Mart, the U.S. postal workers annual food drive, Kern County Fair food drive, KGET-TV 17 food drive, GET food drive and others. In addition, assistance is received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (more popularly known as President Obama's stimulus package) and from other organizations and individuals.

Visit the virtual donation site at www.capk.org. All donations of any size are welcome and needed. There's more room for your donations, too, now that the Food Bank has expanded freezer space -- enough to hold 150 pallets of product.

The support of our generous contributors and the good people of Bakersfield and Kern County is very much appreciated.

Howard Harris of Bakersfield is a retired sales executive.

NEXT STORY: MICHAEL GERSON: C. Everett Koop, the nation's doctor

- Recommend
- Tweet 5
- Submit
- +1 0
- My Yahoo
- Print

ADVERTISEMENT

CRAVING COUPONS? MEATLESS MONDAY RECIPES? LOOKING FOR A LAUGH AT THINGS KIDS SAY?

Bakersfield MOM.com

SAVE BIG
\$4.00 OFF
any purchase of \$20.00
or more in our Produce Department

- Sugar Cookies
- See's Candy
- Toffee
- Hershey Kisses

MOST COMMENTED **MOST POPULAR**

from the last 7 days



Visiting couple alleges police brutality, police say it's case of resisting arrest (27)

A couple traveling through Bakersfield claim they were the victims of police brutality and a video that captures part of the incident is gaining attention online.



Bullet train draws a bull's eye on downtown Bakersfield (9)

California High Speed Rail officials have released a preliminary track alignment through Bakersfield that would steer clear of several notable local sites but would require the bulldozing of others.

LOIS HENRY: A ranking needs a look, as does an odd comment (7)

Couple things to share around the water cooler today -- health rankings and my response to being called a "libtard." New national county-by-county health rankings came out last month and guess what?



RIC LLEWELLYN: Let's be honest about cost of shiny blue recycling bins (5)

A couple of weeks ago as I was returning home from work, I rolled onto the block and noticed a shiny new blue trash can sitting in the driveway. "We don't do curbside

recycling," I thought.

Have something to share? Comment on this story

No Comments

Showing 0 comments

Sort by Oldest first [Subscribe by email](#) [Subscribe by RSS](#)

Real-time updating is **enabled**.

Read Us Anywhere!

The Bakersfield Californian and Network of sites and products are available on multiple platforms and devices. Find your preferred device to find out what's available to view.



DESKTOP AND LAPTOP COMPUTERS

- e-Edition
- BakersfieldCalifornian.com
- e-Books (no video, some photos)



IPAD

- e-Edition (via app)
- BakersfieldCalifornian.com
- Enhanced e-Books (includes video and photo galleries)
- e-Books (no video, some photos)



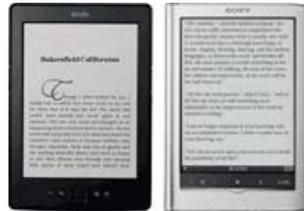
OTHER TABLETS

- e-Edition
- BakersfieldCalifornian.com
- e-Books (no video, some photos)



SMARTPHONES

- e-Edition
- BakersfieldCalifornian.com
- e-Books (no video, some photos)

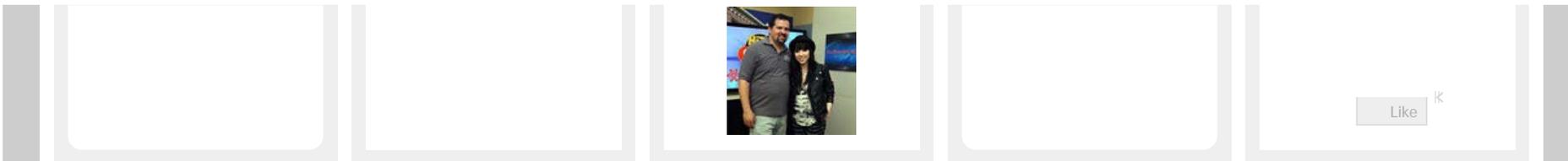


E-READERS

- e-Books (no video, some photos)
- Breaking News Feed (Kindle)
- Local News Feed (Kindle)

BAKERSFIELD NETWORK SITES

 <p>'First Look': See 'Superimpose' at The Foundry</p> <p>'First Look': First News for April 4</p> <p>Barbee, Ron</p> <p>Bigby, Thelma "Chora"</p> <p>Crosby, Bettie L.</p>	 <p>Reloading Equipment for sale \$20 and below, call 661-587-6224</p> <p>CLARK 4,000# Cap. 130" Mast, Gas, Auto, PS. Good runner! \$2,400. Trade-Ins...</p> <p>2000 Eagle Picher TM50 Piggy Back Forklift , All wheel Drive, Diesel, 5000...</p> <p>Bomag 2007, BW124-PDH 48" Vibratory Pad foot compactor, 881 hrs, 9.5x24 ti...</p>	 	 <p>Another national study trashes Bakersfield</p> <p>'The Night Buck Owens Almost Got Me Killed'</p> <p>Fresno magazine sends love letter to Bakersfield</p> <p>Mojave 'boneyard' hosts YouTube hit</p> <p>McCarthy says 'House of Cards' is intriguing but not realistic</p>	 <p>The Bakersfield Californian</p> <p>Like 6.9k</p> <p>Bakotopia</p> <p>Like 3k</p> <p>DAILY DEAL!</p> <p>Bakersfield Daily Deal</p> <p>Like 1.3k</p>
--	---	---	--	---



Customer Service | Ask TBC

Name:

Email:

Category:
Print Subscription

Comment:

SUBMIT

Bakersfield.com Network Site Map

News

- Breaking News
- Local News
- Ask TBC
- Obituaries
- Sports
- Business
- Health
- A&E
- Lifestyle
- Staff Blogs
- Politics
- Opinion
- Columnists
- Weather
- Special Sections
- Video
- First Look

Community

- Kern Events
- Bakersfield Pictures
- Worship Guide
- Bakersfield Life
- Bakersfield Voice
- Tehachapi News
- Bakersfield Wellness
- Bakosphere
- Kern Business
- Journal
- Californian Radio

Business Guide

- Find Businesses
- List Your Business
- All Categories
- New Reviews

Classifieds

- Jobs
- Homes
- Drive
- Rentals
- Stuff
- Place An Ad
- Job Videos

Mobile

- 661411.com
- SMS Alerts
- Android App
- Blackberry App
- iPhone App

Advertise With Us

- Media Kit
- Rate Cards
- Contact Advertising

Follow

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Mobile
- RSS

Other Resources

- Contact Us
- Social Media
- Read Us Anywhere

Subscriber Services

- Phone: (661) 392-5777
- Toll Free: 1-800-953-5353
- Email: circulation@bakersfield.com
- Office Hours:
- Mon-Fri 5:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Sat 5:30 to 10:30 a.m.
- Sun 5:30 a.m. to Noon
- Holidays 5:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Subscription Options

- e-Edition
- Print & e-Edition
- Digital
- More Info