

## Smaller crop estimate brightens outlook for Kern's almond growers

**BY JAMIE COE**  
*Staff Writer*

The farm official size estimate of California almonds for this year — that'll end up 11 percent smaller than last year's — came as good news Friday for those in business with the crop. The size estimate is based on

380 orchards around the state, many less-called-eligible measurement farms by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service, which is at 7.6 billion pounds, or 7 percent lower than May's "only second" estimate released by the same agency.

The smaller crop partly results from a spring frost that damaged orchards in the northern portion of the state, combined with repairs from the drought. A more modest crop, seen as a positive outcome this year because of a high-quality over-harvesting from last season

has translated to lower prices being paid to growers of Kern's flat-leafed growing agricultural orchards. Growers also have likely to raise the buyers' contribution base to help getting almonds to overseas buyers who haven't fully

arrived. A smaller crop may mean less product to move through export ports, possibly at higher prices as well based on the more limited supply.

The objective report indicates the average size will be 12.

Photo: **ALMONDS** | A3

## Midwest Invitational Black Rodeo returns



Attendees take a few photos as the Midwest Invitational Black Rodeo gets underway Friday at the Kern County Fairgrounds. See more photos at [Bakersfield.com](http://Bakersfield.com).

### RECORDED MESSAGE

The Midwest Invitational Black Rodeo made its third appearance in Bakersfield on Friday at Kern County Fairgrounds.

The 3-year-old organization welcomed attendees to the grounds for the first step in the event, which is also being held in a separate area of the fairgrounds, according to Cheryl Carter, one of the event organizers.

The crowd enjoyed events that included one traditionally associated with the rodeo, such as bull riding and western barrel racing, as well as many other exciting and active events celebrating. The line-ups come from across the Black rodeo, the Midwest Invitational Rodeo, Come out, and include some performers who try to recreate the look of a steer back and change post.

Local kids from Kern County will also compete in various events, the first event of the evening.

The rodeo, which also includes a youth division, is open to all ages, and will have the same prize for winners, supplied by Harley Motor or New State Bank.



Cal's senior Landon Durrey takes his horse out for a warmup Friday before his rodeo event at the fairgrounds.

### PARK 20th APARTMENTS

## Man injured in explosion retains lawyer, recounts ordeal

### BY JAMIE COE

A man, who said he did not know his life would change so quickly, while he was sitting on the floor at the Park 20th Apartments in central Bakersfield last month.

On a June 10 explosion at a neighborhood apartment unit claimed the 38-year-old into the building and then pulled him against a wall, he said. Once he fell to the floor, Williams said, he knew the apartment wasn't safe anymore.

Williams' family history, Friday during a news conference at the Kern County Jail, he said, accompanied by attorney Cheryl Carter. Williams, who suffered a broken leg and deep lacerations, said he didn't know his representative, though Carter said a lawsuit has not been filed.

Williams said his client's construction career could be over as a result of his injuries. The explosion caused by a gas leak, which also resulted in an injury to the fire, though Williams' injury might not be as serious as a permanent condition, he said.

Photo: **COLESON** | A3

### SHINZO ABE

Japan's former prime minister assassinated during speech

**NATION & WORLD | B1**

### ABORTION

Impassioned Biden signs order, urges Americans to vote

**NATION & WORLD | B1**

### ALL-AREA

See which players topped the field in high school softball

**SPORTS | C3**

## Enjoying milder weather? Yeah ... don't get used to it

After brief respite, temperatures expected to climb, forecasters warn

### BY STEVE WINTER

*Staff Writer*

The beginning of July was something like a full moon of the weather, the region valley temperatures moderated and a few spring rains were seen.

The third and fourth days of the month topped out at 87 degrees, according to the National Weather Service — about 10 degrees below normal — and high temps during the following three days rose as needed.

Not long for those of you who live in the central highland and lowland valleys, especially here in the HCB.

It's not over, while it's not over, the coming weekend will mean into the high 90s, and high temperatures will be in the 100s, but not enough

to beget the overcast when you find out the system which is now set.

"It's going to be a normal July," Don Durr, a meteorologist at the weather service, said Monday.

And the weekend should remain in the normal range with highs around 97 and 98.

That, on Monday, are upper-high 90s.

"It's not a big deal, it's not a big deal," Durr said. "It's not a big deal, it's not a big deal."

And the weekend should remain in the normal range with highs around 97 and 98.

That, on Monday, are upper-high 90s.



Children are splashed by an outpouring of water at the spray park at Deke Park on Friday afternoon.

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### OUTSIDE TODAY

YOUR LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST

96 69  
 HIGH LOW  
 80 60

### INSIDE YOUR CALIFORNIAN

Africa/Europe	C4, C2	Obituary	A4
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LOCAL



Williams, who suffered a broken leg at the explosion, stands in a clinic.

**EXPLOSION**

Continued from PAGE 1

"I was there on-site," Williams said. "It was around 12:30 p.m. when I received the call around 10:30 a.m. and was called to the site." They did not have any information from the investigation into the explosion before a decision to make it a local one. Williams said the Department Deputy Chief Kevin Aiken told Police the investigation is ongoing, and that they are working with housing agencies to place people in homes. "Investigation could be over in about two weeks, he added.

Firefighters said previously the initial information indicated a gas leak could be the culprit. "The theories are being updated as social media rumors about an exploding drug lab being the cause of the gasping fire in the case of the 20th, from a story apartment building. The location, which was visited by Cox, Grant Newman in 2019, serves low-



Chris Hagen, associate attorney for Chain Cohn Clark, left, and his client Zachary Williams take questions Friday during a news conference in the firm's downtown offices. Hagen is representing Williams after he was injured during a June 30 explosion at Park 20th Apartments in central Silverdale.

income rentals and attracts many tenants.

Kate Aiken, a spokeswoman with the fire-based district, explained Friday that the inquiry is not responsible for the explosion and mentioned the company's production manager. "He took it through an investigation from a customer-owned asset," according to an email from Aiken. "PCBE is responsible for maintaining the system that delivers natural gas, up to and including the gas meter." Aiken wrote "Our

management is currently investigating the cause of the gas leak." The company finished its investigation last week, she added. Hagen said he asked the owners of the building to complete an investigation. He also called upon the building owners to allow experts with Chain Cohn Clark to conduct their own investigation. Stephen Jelle, president and partner of the Lead Agency of the County of Both, which oversees the Park 20th Apartments,

wrote in an email Williams was not a resident of the complex, but was the gas meter's owner. He added that no one was required to leave the building last week, but those people were able to leave to their homes. He also wrote that the investigation units will be made by occupancy next week, and no work will allow work.

"The remaining power units require maintenance, which is expected to take several months," Jelle added. Four occupants of these units have been advised to leave and are being housed by the housing authority with the remaining residents as well as a local motel. Police said the Housing Authority will cover all relocation costs. Williams said that he filed for bankruptcy because he lost the ground and related under a contract. "I am just trying to breathe," he said Friday. "My friend can be reached at 862-855-7417."



Healthy young almonds develop in an orchard just outside of Arvin in May.

**ALMONDS**

Continued from PAGE 1

percent lower than last year, at \$4.82 per bushel, said the Association's report. "The price is down from 1 percent higher than the 2021 average of 5.47 grams." In a news release Friday, President and CEO Rick Wray of the Almond Board of California, a non-profit growers' organization, said the price is down because of "a number of factors," including a "drought in California," "a decline in demand from the U.S. and around the world," and "a decline in demand for almonds in other markets."

They can affect the way that producing almonds and their other crops," he continued. "Although there was no drop from last year, the demand for the almonds is down from last year's global demand and there is a steady supply of high quality California almonds." The subject for future reports will be the impact of the drought and how it will affect the price. More

than one organization produced this year's crop and it was more than \$20 billion, which is a record for the industry. Almonds have been an important crop for many independent growers since growers have always been engaged in fighting or challenging a fight in a public place.

The Almond Board of California, a public safety organization, said that the price is down because of a number of factors, including a drought in California, a decline in demand from the U.S. and around the world, and a decline in demand for almonds in other markets.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

**Two charged with civil rights violations during BLM protests in 2020 take plea deal**

The two men are charged with violating a criminal civil rights during a 2020 Black Lives Matter protest, said a plea deal Friday.

Senior Manning, 35, of Silverdale, was sentenced to three years and 10 months in prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm. The plea deal was made a federal judge's decision after he was found guilty of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Manning was charged with violating a criminal civil rights during a 2020 Black Lives Matter protest, said a plea deal Friday.

**Report: Officials in Riverside County failed shackled, abused Turpin children**

The report says that the children were shackled and abused while in the custody of Riverside County, and that the officials failed to provide them with adequate medical care and food. The report also says that the children were not given any information about their rights or the charges against them.

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**Man charged with killing a woman**

A man was charged with killing a woman in a shooting on Friday. The man was charged with first-degree murder and carrying a concealed weapon.

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Marketplace advertisement for a local business. It includes the text 'Marketplace', 'Local Business', and 'Marketplace'. There is also a small image of a person's face in the bottom right corner.