

Friday, November 22, 2013 A Fortunado Publication in conjunction with Countywide News Service 10808 Foothill Blvd. Suite 160-446 Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 (909) 628-8436

Forest Service Conducting Controlled Burns In San Bernardino Mountains

The Forest Service has begun its winter prescribed burn program in the San Bernardino National Forest with the onset of predicted favorable weather conditions, officials said.

According to John Miller, an official spokesman for the U.S. Forest Service, "The San Bernardino National Forest has started



Photo by Michael Yamashita

this season's prescribed burning program. Winter burning projects also

strophic wildfire and improve forest health. The prescribed fire program will continue through the winter months as weather and conditions permit."

Prescribed fires and pile burning are intended to reduce the amount of vegetation, such as needles, small plants, brush, and small trees, which can carry fire from the

forest floor into the tree-tops. Studies have shown that prescribed fires will stimulate the growth of grasses, forbs and shrubs that provide food for deer, mountain quail and other wildlife.

The ignition of all prescribed burns is dependent on the availability of personnel and equipment, appropriate conditions, and **See P 7**

37 Get Elected Office Berths Without Polling A Single Vote



Michael Scarpello

In San Bernardino County, candidates for public office have spent an astounding amount of money to get elected.

In 2006, for example, then-First District Supervisor Bill Postmus spent \$3.2 million in his successful effort to unseat the then-incumbent county assessor, Don Williamson. In the last decade, the cost of campaigning for office has escalated dramatically. In serious contests for county supervisor, even losers have spent as much as a quarter of a million dollars.

Indeed, holding public office in San Bernardino County, as elsewhere, has become highly prized. Candidates, to get elected to a single four-year term, will expend, through their electoral committees, on the order of ten times or more what they can realize in salary for even the highest-paying of the posts up for a vote. And as an examination of the electioneering materials put out by many of those candidates demonstrates, there is no depth an ambitious seeker of office will not go to in maligning his or her opponent, no questionable tactic he or she will not explore, no departure from decorum he or she will not exploit in the effort to convince his or her constituents he or she should **See P 6**

Judge Rejects Pension System's Request To Appeal SB's Bankruptcy Filing

RIVERSIDE—U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Meredith Jury, who is overseeing the city of San Bernardino's Chapter 9 bankruptcy filing, on November 15 rejected a request by the city's largest creditor to challenge the city's bankruptcy eligibility at the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

That creditor, the Cal-

ifornia Public Employees Retirement System, has disputed San Bernardino's contention that it is in dire fiscal straits since shortly after the municipality's filing of its August 2, 2012 bankruptcy petition. San Bernardino, which currently has a \$25 million annual obligation to the retirement system, withheld more than \$14 million in pen-

sion fund payment from July 2012 until July of this year. The city wants to continue to make partial payments until such time as it gets back on its feet financially.

In responses to the city's filings, the retirement system has said that San Bernardino possesses untapped assets that could be liquidated and is simply skipping

out on its financial responsibility. It has said San Bernardino is not eligible for bankruptcy.

Jury has consistently ruled that San Bernardino is as insolvent as it claims. In August, she ruled that the city's bankruptcy should be granted pursuant to a pendency plan by which the city continues to pay its employees and other

expenses critical to its day-to-day operations but services its other debts on the basis of the limited financial means available to it.

In dissenting from Jury's rulings, the California Public Employees Retirement System, known by its acronym CalPERS, has maintained that it **See P 7**

SoCal Edison Removes All Chino Hills Power Towers



towers the utility giant had located along a 3.5 mile span of Chino Hills as part of the so-called Tehachapi Line.

Utilizing two cranes, including one with a lifting capacity of 250 tons, Edison crews cut the tubular poles into sections and then lowered them to the ground. The crews began removing the poles on September 25. The last of the structures yet standing, at the hill near Peyton **See P 2**

Four months after it was ordered by the California Public Utilities Commission to do so, Southern California Edison has completed the dismantling of the 197-foot high transmission

Once A Democratic Stalwart, Baca Is Now Seen As A Pariah Within His Own Party

REDLANDS—For thirteen years, ending a little less than a year ago, Joe Baca was a member of Congress, with stature as one of the senior members of a growing number of Hispanic Democrats in the House of Representatives, exemplifying a key component of the party and its future. This month, in seeming concert, Democratic Party heavyweights, local and national, were endeavor-



Joe Baca

oring to disenfranchise him entirely, and neuter him as any sort of political force.

Baca, who since 1999 had represented California in the Washington

D.C.'s lower house in the heavily Democratic-leaning 42nd and 43rd Congressional districts with solid Democratic support, in 2012 found himself most logically ushered into the newly drawn 31st Congressional District as a result of the reapportionment following the 2010 Census. The 31st was a Democratic-leaning district as well, but the Democratic-registration advantage there **See P 7**

Saenz Shuttters Investigative Unit In First Act As SB City Attorney

Newly installed San Bernardino City Attorney Gary Saenz quickly moved to terminate all nine of his office's investigators as the first significant act of his term in office.

Saenz was elevated to the city attorney's post as a consequence of the successful recall effort against his predecessor, Jim Penman, who had served as elected city



Gary Saenz

attorney for nearly 26 years.

Penman was targeted

for recall in April by San Bernardino Residents For Responsible Government, a group that sought to remove the mayor, all seven city council members and the city attorney in the wake of the city's 2012 bankruptcy filing.

Ultimately, the group failed to qualify recall questions against council members Rikke Van Johnson, Fred Shorett,

Virginia Marquez, Chas Kelley, Robert Jenkins and it dropped the recall attempt against mayor Patrick Morris after Morris opted not to run for reelection in November. But the group did qualify recall votes against Penman, councilwoman Wendy McCammack and councilman John Valdivia. Valdivia survived the vote but McCammack

and Penman did not.

Saenz, who competed as an alternative city attorney candidate against Tim Prince during the November 5 balloting, prevailed in that contest. On November 13, he was sworn into office. The next day, he cashed all nine of the investigators working for him.

Under Penman, who was first elected in 1987, the investiga- **See P 5**

Gibson Center Seeking Gifts For Christmas Breakfast

The Gibson Senior Citizen Center in Upland will hold its annual Holiday Breakfast on December 13 and is seeking donations in the form of new and unopened gifts to provide to the event's attendees. It is anticipated that up to 100 senior citizens will be at the celebration.

Those wishing to contribute can provide gifts of approximately \$10 value, including gift cards, food items, greet-



ing cards, postal stamps, pillows, blankets, sheets, towels, toiletries, or the like, and/or cash.

Staff's goal is to have a sufficient number of wrapped gifts to provide

The San Bernardino County

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Chino Hills Towers Come Down from front page

and Morningfield drives, was removed on November 9.

In 2009, the California Public Utilities Commission, over the city of Chino Hills' protest, granted Southern Cali-

fornia Edison clearance to erect a series of 197-foot high power transmission towers through the heart of 44.7-square mile Chino Hills along a long-existing power corridor easement owned by the utility.

Fearing a host of problems from the imposition of the towers, including

significant negative impacts on property values in the city, the Chino Hills City Council authorized the expenditure of over \$2.3 million to employ attorneys and make other efforts to contest the Public Utility Commission's action, including a suit against Southern California

Edison alleging the company had "overburdened" the power line easements. That legal effort failed when West Valley Superior Court Judge Keith D. Davis ruled the California Public Utilities Commission has exclusive jurisdiction regarding the route used by Edison. Davis's

ruling was upheld when Chino Hills appealed it to the 4th District Court of Appeal.

In 2011, Edison erected 18 of the towers within Chino Hills within a portion of its 150-foot wide right-of-way, which runs for 5.8 miles from Tonner Canyon to the Riverside County line,

before a city appeal to the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and Public Utilities Commission Chairman Michael Peevey in particular succeeded in a temporary halt to the towers' construction being granted in November 2011 while a potential undergrounding alternative was explored.

Ultimately, in July, the California Public Utilities Commission board of directors voted 3-2 to reverse its 2009 decision and directed Southern California Edison to underground the lines, which are intended to link what is planned as the world's largest windfarm consisting of hundreds of electricity-producing windmills in Kern County to the Los Angeles Metropolitan basin.

According to Edison, the dismantling of the towers cost nearly \$4 million. Edison is now taking bids on undergrounding the project through a 3.5 mile portion of the city. The anticipated cost for that is \$224 million to \$300 million. The remaining 1.5 mile stretch of the Tehachapi Line through Chino Hills in the area known as Oak Tree Downs will remain above ground.

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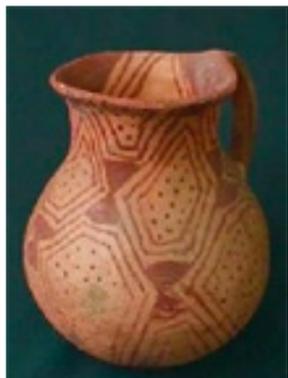
Thanks For Food From Native San Bernardino County

By Ruth Musser-Lopez

Some new world crops, not found anywhere else in the world prior to Columbus' "discovery" of the Americas in 1492 have now become an integral part of various cultural cuisines around the world and particularly on tables in the United States at Thanksgiving. The obvious food item here is turkey, native to America. Though recent published research indicates it probably never graced the table of the Mayflower Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving Day, it remains a native America bird. Also native to the Americas is the potato, sweet potato, corn, many types of beans, squashes, melons, berries, nuts and fruits including avocados and tomatoes and other items such as vanilla, chocolate and tobacco.

San Bernardino County has its own Native American foods. Seed plants were very important food sources prehistorically; collected and/or eaten were the seeds of the pinion pine, wild rice, quail bush, desert saltbush, pigweed,

mustard, sage, chia, sunflower, jojoba, California palm plus many others. Our county's native Americans, the Aha Macav or Mojave, stored seeds in "hapurui," small ollas or jars made of pottery with a neck, sometimes a handle, and ring shaped or annular base made for that particular purpose—the storage of seed; water was stored in round based ollas.



The relaxed, soulful delivery style of red on buff designs including abstract solid filled angles, curved and angled lines and stippled dots, makes Mojave art a favorite among southwestern prehistoric pottery art styles.

Native mule or black-tailed deer and bighorn sheep were hunted. Along the Colorado River, where big game was

less plentiful, important native wild animal foods were fish, followed in order by rabbits, woodrats and ducks--the Mojave fished more than they hunted, according to some researchers (Castetter and Bell, 1951:211). Secondary animals that were eaten included fox, gophers, ground squirrels, badgers, beavers, raccoons, various rats, muskrats, lizards, tortoise, chuckwalla, caterpillars and honey. Ducks and quail eggs were also eaten. It was not the habit of the Aha Macav to eat mountain lions, bears, bobcats, porcupines, skunks or snakes.

Mesquite beans and acorn were staples during prehistoric times but never became popular with Euro-Americans. Nevertheless, these starchy food items were highly desirable prehistorically, and once were traded along with maize, melons and shell beads. A nutritious beverage was made from both honey mesquite and screwbean mesquite by simply steeping the crushed pods in water; often allowed to ferment, a slightly intoxicating beverage was produced (Castetter and Bell, 1951).

So important was the mesquite bean meal to our San Bernardino County Aha Macav that special grinding implements were sculpted out of stone to grind the beans into flour.

The precious mesquite groves growing thick in well-watered river corridors were protected and



Beautifully sculpted porphyry stone mortars and pestles used for grinding mesquite bean pods along the Colorado River.

fought over. Along the San Bernardino County's eastern coast, the lower Colorado River, ownership of individual trees was established by marking them with arrow weed to indicate that its yield was claimed (Kroeber 1925:737). Property rights of the vast grove, flooded when Lake Havasu was raised behind the Parker Dam between 1934 and 1938, was earlier, during the previous 500 years, the cause of contention between the Aha Macav/Mojave in the upper valley to the north (now "Mohave Valley") and another kindred Yuman speaking tribe, the Halchihoma in the valley to the south, in the Parker, Arizona region. The Halchidhoma, agonized by the rift, eventually left or were driven out by the Mojaves and allies to join other relatives on the Gila River.

Meanwhile, the powerful and well-organized Mojave clans, keeping a close eye on their crops in the upper valley (now "Mohave Valley") tolerated the void in the lower valley to be filled by their valuable trading partner, the seasonally migrating Nuwuvi, speakers of the Numic branch of Uto-Aztecas who the Aha Macav jokingly referred to as "fish eaters" or "Chemehuevi." The name stuck and so did the Chemehuevi who soon began growing maize of their own there and continued to bring to the area higher elevation products such as hides, salt, jerky, pinion nuts that the Mojave valued. In historic times, that lower valley, south of the Topock gorge, became known as the Chemehuevi Valley and the Chemehuevi Indian Reservation was established in 1970 with 32,000 acres of trust land and thirty miles of river frontage.

The river bottom north of the gorge was highly guarded territory where Mojave grew maize, melon, squash, pumpkin and bean crops and had a fairly comfort-

able sedentary life style allowing them free time to engage in arts, games, ceremonies and other social activities.

The river tribes consisted of clans with women taking their mothers' clan name. Clan names reflected things of nature including sun, moon and wind, but also plants and animals of their native world like frog, mountain sheep, coyote, owl, caterpillar, tobacco, mescal, ocotillo, corn, and more.

Kinsmen lived in rancherias consisting of three or four homes near suitable farmland. In 1776, Fray Francisco Garces in his journey up the Colorado River estimated the Mojave population in Mohave Valley as three thousand. Prehistorically, before the dams, the river flooded the valley, sometimes changing the configuration of the land or washed away landmarks.

Boundary disputes occasionally broke out and according to Kroeber (1925:744-745) title was resolved by pushing matches or stick fights between claimants while surrounded by friends. The dispossessed loser went elsewhere, but the intent was never to kill one another.

Each rancheria was spaced about a half-mile apart stretching for 30 miles along the Colorado River, north of Fort Mohave south to the Topock Gorge with a large settlement near Needles, California. In 1776, Garces christened the settlement "Santa Isabel," a lovely romantic name that should be revived as it reflects the historic period of Spanish occupation similarly to Santa Barbara, Santa Catalina, San Bernardino, etc.

How we ended up with "Needles" instead of "Santa Isabel" is a result of the railroad naming their water stops alphabetically...Amboy, Bagdad, Cadiz etc. all the way to Needles, which was named after the peaks at the Topock Gorge that could be seen in a distance from the

station. Naturally people would say they were getting off the train at Needles, California. So that name stuck. No pun intended

Garces also noted a "rancheria of about 80 souls" just before descending from the mountains down into the San Bernardino Valley area—his proclaimed "entrada" into that valley after crossing the Mojave Desert from Colorado River. He named this rancheria San Benito. There is some evidence that incipient farming was taking place at some of the springs in the San Bernardino County area including Fort Paiute and Corn Field Spring, so there is a good likelihood of farming at the rancherias noted by Garces. Attempts to find the locations of various precontact, protohistoric and historic period rancherias have been made by revisiting the description of the route shown Garces by Mojave Indians.

For many years people thought that the route must have been down Cajon Canyon and that San Benito must be located somewhere on the Mojave River near Deep Creek. An alternative proposal made by a former student of Dr. Bernice McAllister at Chaffey College and former Bureau of Land Management Mojave Desert Archaeologist, Richard A. Weaver, in 1982 and published in the Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology, is that San Benito is somewhere along a route up the Oro Grande Wash to Sevine Flat passing by Lost Lake and Lytle Creek and descending to the base of the mountain somewhere between Day Canyon and San Sevine Canyon.

Maize cobs or seeds in the remains of a pre-Euro-American contact rancherias can yield information about the age of the site and when farming was likely introduced. It can also

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Judge Denies Motion To Jettison SEC Fraud Case Against Victorville

U.S. District Judge John Kronstadt on November 14 denied defense motions to dismiss the Securities and Exchange Commission's charges that the city of Victorville, its airport authority and assistant city manager Keith Metzler defrauded investors with a 2008 municipal bond offering.

On April 29 the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filed a suit against Victorville, the Southern California Logistics Airport Authority and Metzler, who

in addition to his role as assistant city manager is also the executive director of the airport authority. In its complaint, the SEC alleges those entities made misrepresentations to the purchasers of bonds, the proceeds from which were intended to assist in the development of Southern California Logistics Airport.

The airport authority was formed by the city of Victorville to facilitate the conversion of the former George Air Force Base, which was shuttered by the Depart-

ment of Defense in 1992, into a civilian airport. The Southern California Logistics Airport Authority, which has as its board of directors all five members of the Victorville City Council, issued bonds which were sold to investors to generate revenue to be used in making the base's civilian use conversion.

Fundamental to the SEC complaint is the allegation that the defendants made misrepresentations with regard to the value of four airport hangars that Victorville

referenced in its official statement for an April 2008 bond offering. The value of all four hangars was listed at \$65 million. The county assessor later valued the hangars at \$27.7 million. The SEC alleges that the authority used the inflated estimated values to mislead bond investors.

Two separate responses to the SEC complaint were filed on August 30, one from attorneys with the law firm of Arent Fox, which represents Victorville and the airport authority and an-

other from the law firm of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, representing Metzler. Those responses augmented a joint motion filed by Arent Fox and Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe June 12 to dismiss the claims against their defendants.

Also charged in the SEC's April complaint were Kinsell, Newcomb & DeDios Inc., the underwriter for the bond offerings, that company's owner, Jeffrey Kinsell, and Kinsell, Newcomb and DeDios investment banker Janees Williams.

The SEC complaint consists of nine claims for relief and one prayer for disgorgement. The authority is named in the first two claims for relief. Kinsell, Newcomb and DeDios [KND] is named in the third, fourth and eighth claims for relief. KND and Jeffrey Kinsell are named in the fifth and sixth claims for relief. Victorville, Jeffrey Kinsell, Williams and Metzler are named in the seventh claim for relief. Jeffrey Kinsell

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Glimpse Of Native American Food

from page 3

tell us about prehistoric trade and commerce. Maize is not considered to be native to San Bernardino County. Where the maize seed hybrids originated is the subject of current research. In general, the type of hybrid maize that was grown on the Colorado River in prehistoric times is believed to have disseminated out of Mesoamerica, the area around Teotihuacán or present day Mexico City, coming north via the Sierra Madre Occidental and into the Hohokam territory to the southeast in Arizona at least as early as 200 B. C. or about 2,200 years ago. The Indian corn grown by the Mojave is quite similar to archaeological ears of corn recovered from ancient Hohokam sites.

The presence of Mesoamerican symbolism in rock art such as the "H" or "I" symbol and the Kukulcan or "Snake Foot" imagery found on petroglyph boulders along trails in the Needles area plus the fact that at the time of first Euro-American contact the Mojave were engaging in farming of maize seed hybrids suggests that the lower Colorado River was likely a prehistoric migration, trade and travel corridor out of Mesoamerica for at least a couple of thousand

years.

A prehistoric maize cob was also found in a



Evidence of Mesoamerican influence, the imagery of Kukulcan or "Snake Foot" is here combined on a petroglyph trail boulder along the Colorado River in the Mojave Valley. The rock art represents the typical style of minimalism used in the region during the post archaic and the kinetic stick man anthropomorph is common in the Mojave Valley/Needles area. Copyright photo courtesy of the Archaeological Heritage Association.

Las Vegas Wash archaeological site; the Indian corn was radiocarbon dated and found to be about 2,130 years old. A likely route of maize transport and the diffusion of maize farming technology into the Las Vegas Valley was via the Colorado River corridor.

Though we have good information as to the span of time of maize farming in the region north and south of San Bernardino County, we do not have a good chronology for prehistoric agriculture here in our own county proper.

Back in 1980, local archaeologists thought we would get some hard evidence as to the terminus of the archaic period which is marked by maize farming followed by ceramics and other technological

changes. The important evidence was to be acquired by partially

excavating a small but extremely critical, intact and deep, dry prehistoric deposit here in San Bernardino County in a mountain along the Colorado River. It was believed to have remains stratified in layers to be correlated with associated well-preserved datable organic materials. At great expense, a program for professional research was designed and the National Science Foundation had approved and funded the excavation to be conducted by the University of California's Archaeological Research Unit at Riverside under the direction of Dr. Philip

J. Wilke, in conjunction with botanists, biologists and prehistoric maize experts from the University of Arizona. The hope was to learn more about human activity during the prehistoric periods—what people ate, how they lived, their activities, their tools, their clothes, their habits, etc. and what changes occurred over time, including changes in Indian corn hybrids.

Everything was a go and the excavation was about to begin when it was learned that the Colorado River Indian Tribe (CRIT) including Mojaves in Parker, Arizona, objected to the project on

the grounds that the site was sacred. The Bureau of Land Management, who manages the land upon which the deposit is located, then called a halt to the project and would not permit the excavation to proceed.

Meanwhile, over the next 20 years a nearby similar deposit on the Arizona side was looted along with scores of other prehistoric deposits in the Mojave Desert and Nevada region spanning the area from Death Valley, California to Utah. The information potential of these deposits was destroyed. To this day, we still do not have

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Apple Valley Approves Contractor For Yucca Loma Bridge Project

APPLE VALLEY—The Apple Valley Town Council on November 12 awarded a construction contract on the Yucca Loma Bridge project, providing local residents and those traversing the area with another means of crossing the Mojave River, providing a new route from Apple Valley to Spring Valley Lake and Victorville.

Based upon town staff's recommendation, the council accepted a bid of \$37,265,833.50

from Security Paving Company, Inc.

In April of 2012, the Town of Apple Valley entered into a construction funding

agreement with the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority, by which the authority agreed to be responsible for 45% of the costs for constructing the Yucca Loma Bridge over the Mojave River. The town agreed to be responsible for the remaining 55% of the construction costs.

In May of 2013, the Town of Apple Valley entered into an agreement with the San

Bernardino County Transportation Authority and the county of San Bernardino, by which the authority agreed to be responsible for 82.2% of the Yates Road improvements construction costs and the county agreed to be responsible for the remaining 17.8% of the construction costs. The town agreed to serve as the lead agency

in the construction of the project, in conjunction with the Yucca Loma Bridge construction, and to be responsible for 0% of the construction costs. As lead agency, the town agreed to advertise, award, administer and initially fund the construction activities.

Plans and specifications for the Yucca Loma Bridge over the Mojave River and the Yates Road improvements project were finalized on August 13, 2013.

On August 22, 2013, the town's engineering department issued a notice inviting sealed bids. The town clerk's office received 10 sealed bids in response to the notice. The project's bid opening was held on October 10, 2013, at the town council chambers. Security Paving Company's bid of \$37,265,833.50 was followed by M.C.M. Construction, Inc.'s bid of \$37,777,777. Skanska USA bid \$38,437,405.00. Riverside Construc-

tion Company offered to do the job for \$38,712,915. OHL USA, Inc. bid \$39,141,674, followed by Sundt's bid of \$39,150,219, and then one by Steve P. Rados, Inc. for \$40,323,792.50. Sema Construction bid \$41,197,275.30. C.C.Meyers, Inc. bid \$42,500,000. Golden State Bridge, Inc. was the high bidder at

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Saenz Sacks Investigators from front page

tive arm of his office was expanded dramatically. Penman maintained that a substantial investigative staff had not been his idea but rather one that was suggested by former city manager Fred Wilson as a way of lessening the burden on police department investigators who were being detailed to look into civil issues and thus were diverted from their province of criminal probes. Whether or not the idea originated with Penman, the city attorney took advantage of the opportunity to draw to himself

more power through the acquisition of resources of potential political and authoritative application.

He had recruited investigators almost exclusively from the ranks of retired law enforcement, individuals over the age of 50 who were drawing substantial pensions. To ensure that they did not lose those pensions, they were hired on a part time basis, being paid \$32 per hour and working no more than 960 hours per year.

Some of the investigators' function was legitimate and related to civil issues as well as the city's earnest effort to expand the city's code and civil enforcement processes.

Nevertheless, there were accusations that the detectives were also being marshaled as a political hit squad, moving into provinces well beyond their charter, digging up derogatory information pertaining to Penman's political adversaries and generally abusing their authority. Indisputably, the investigators' first loyalties were to their boss and his agenda, professional, political, personal or otherwise.

In time, Penman would acquire a reputation of acting in manner that went beyond his elected authority of city attorney. Instead of merely acting as an advisor on legal matters, he

became actively involved in influencing policy decisions or seeking to do so. At city council meetings, he routinely went to the public speaker's podium to weigh in on matters before the council.

Occasionally, charges that Penman was misusing the investigative staff as well as seeking to expand the city attorney's authority beyond that conferred upon him by the city charter was made. He was called upon to curtail his office's investigative activities and reduce the size of his detective unit. He defied those requests, expanding the number of positions over the years,

installing retired undersheriff Bob Pepler as the unit supervisor, who until last week oversaw eight investigators. After the economic downturn and dwindling revenues pinched all of the city's departments and it was suggested that his investigative staff should be subject to the same economies as were imposed elsewhere at City Hall, Penman stubbornly refused to downsize his investigative staff, going so far as saying he would simply balance his budget by decreasing the number of outside lawyers he was using to augment his in-house stable of attorneys to keep his investigative reach intact.

Beneath the surface was tension between the city attorney's office and the police chief and the upper echelon of the police department over the impression that Penman was treading on the turf of the department, although no public airing of the dispute was made.

The perception that Penman was utilizing those investigators as a secret police force and political enforcement squad contributed toward the atmosphere that led to the recall effort against him.

In the run up to the recall vote, Saenz questioned the need for the city attorney's office to employ investigators at all. He was sworn in as city attorney on November 13. Less than 24 hours later, he ter-

minated Pepler and his eight underlings. Saenz then issued a statement that he considered the unit duplicative and that it interfered, overlapped and was not coordinated with the function of other city departments. He said the city would reap an immediate \$250,000 to \$300,000 savings as a result of transferring the unit's activities to the police department, city clerk's office and code enforcement division.

Despite Saenz's clear indication during the recall election campaign that he intended to do away with the unit if Penman was recalled and he was selected to succeed him, the investigators talked of being blindsided and caught totally unaware when Saenz acted.

They said that the move was pennywise but pound foolish, given that the code enforcement activity they engaged in and the fine revenue they generated far outran the cost of maintaining the unit.



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Judge Keeps SEC Case Against Vic-torville Going *from page 4*

and Williams are named in the ninth claim for relief.

In the prayer for disgorgement, which is a request for restitution of

ill-gotten profits from security law violators, all the parties are named.

The responses filed August 30 pertain only to the city, the airport authority and Metzler. Lawyers for those defen-dants and the SEC pre-sented verbal arguments to Kronstadt at a hearing

October 28. Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe maintain Metzler should not have been included in the case in that he twice provided correct information to KND prior to the bond sale about the true value of the hangars and that responsibility for any

misrepresentations with regard to the value of the assets securing the bonds fell to the bond underwriters.

Arent Fox maintains that even if the hangar valuations were overstated, they were not materi-al misrepresentations by which the financing of

the bonds in terms of the city's and airport author-ity's ability to continue to make payments to the bondholders was threat-ened. At no time did the actual debt service ratio between the bonds and the assets securing them fall below the SEC's own standard of 1.25, Arent

Fox maintains, exonerat-ing the city and the air-port authority.

Kronstadt on No-vember 14 ruled that the combined defenses' overall rationale for dis-missing the case against the three defendants

Continued on Page 7

37 Appointed To Electoral Offices

from front page

be selected to lead the community.

Paradoxically, how-ever, some elected po-sitions do not attract enough contenders to make a race of it, and by merely filing for the post, an individual can fill it. In other cases, there is no interest in the position at all and no one was on the ballot when those posts came up for a vote.

Because an insuffi-cient number of candi-dates competed for 19 positions up for elec-tion at various districts or governmental enti-ties around the county, San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters Mi-chael Scarpello this week induced the board of supervisors to simply appoint those candidates who ran unopposed. He also convinced the board to appoint 18 others to

board positions on six bodies after no candi-dates sought election to those positions.

In the Baker Com-munity Services Dis-trict where there was an election for three open seats, only three candi-dates entered the race. In the Barstow Heights Community Services District, one individual sought election for three board positions. In the Crestline Village Wa-ter District four sought election to four open positions on the board.

In the Daggett Com-munity Services District three candidates vied for three positions. In the Juniper-Riviera Coun-ty Water District, two board positions were up for election and that race attracted only two candi-dates. Three candidates ran for three positions on the Rim of the World Recreation and Park Dis-trict. In the race for three board positions in the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation, just

three candidates sought election. In those cases, Scarpello called upon the board of supervisors to "appoint candidates, in lieu of election, to fill contest vacancies." His request, he said ap-plied to both the "August 27, 2013 Consolidated Mail Ballot Election and the November 5, 2013 Consolidated Election, whereby these contests are under the jurisdiction of the board of supervi-sors."

Under the election code, Scarpello said, the board of supervisors has the authority and duty to "make appointments to contests under its juris-diction where the num-ber of persons filing a declaration of candidacy for various offices was either equal to or fewer than the number of po-sitions to be filled for those respective offices (unopposed), and where no person filed a decla-ration of candidacy for office. California Elec-tions Code §10515 pro-

vides that the registrar of voters shall request that the supervising author-ity (board of supervisors for these two elections) make these appoint-ments, and do so at a meeting held prior to the Monday before the first Friday in December."

Accordingly, Scarpello called upon the board to appoint Kenneth E. Hall, Jessie Jenkins and Rich Johnson to the Baker Community Ser-vices District for 4 year terms; Robert M. Stapp to the Barstow Heights Community Services District Board of Direc-tors for a 4 year term; Alan E. Clanin, Darel Davis and Steven Farrell to 4-year terms on the Crestline Village Water District Board; Bruce D. Risher to a 4-year term on the Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency Board of Di-rectors; Joseph Morris Jr, and Sally Vintus to 4-year terms and Mark Staggs to a 2-year term

on the Daggett Com-munity Services District Board; Eric L. Koester and Susan J. Mulvaney to 4-year terms on the Juniper-Riviera County Water District Board of Directors;

Richard Lavin, Dave Roughton and Carol Tesley to 4-year terms on the Rim of the World Recreation and Park

District Board; and Melody A. Hen-riques McDonald, John Longville and David E. Raley to 4-year terms on the San Bernardino Val-ley Water Conservation District Board of Direc-tors.

Since Robert Stapp was the only candidate in the Barstow Heights Community Services District Board race and three positions were up for election, Daryl Schendel was appointed to a 4-year term on that body and a 2-year term was conferred upon Jeanette Hayhurst.

In five other board

positions, those for positions with the Apple Valley Foothill County Wa-ter District, the Apple Valley heights Water District, the Running Springs Water District, the Thunderbird County Water District and the Yucca Valley Airport District, no candidates showed an interest in running before the end of the filing period. As such Scarpello asked the board of supervisors to appoint volunteers to those board positions who were recruited by his office or staff mem-bers of the board of su-pervisors in whose dis-tricts those jurisdictions lie.

In this way, Karen Madison, Sam Kell, and James A. Thomp-son, Jr. were appointed to 4-year terms on the Apple Valley Foothill County Water District Board of Directors and Sharon Silva-Houts was appointed to a 2-year term on the Apple Val-ley Foothill County Wa-ter District Board; Larry Hunter, Jacob S. John-son and Patricia Duwel were appointed to 4-year term on the Apple Val-ley Heights Water Dis-trict Board of Directors; Kenneth Ayers, Henry M. Heredia and Pam Bennett were appointed to 4-year terms on the Running Springs Water District Board; Lynn A. Lindberg and Betty L. Kreml were appointed to 4-year term on the Thun-derbird County Water District Board and Vic-toria Stemen was given a 2-year berth on the Thun-derbird County Water District Board; and Rob-ert R. Dunn, Robert A Miehle and Michael C. Huhn were appointed to 4-year terms on the Yuc-ca Valley Airport Dis-trict Board of Directors.

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AV Hires Contractor For Yucca Loma Bridge Contract from page 5

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Each of the opened bids was later reviewed and analyzed by the engineering department for compliance with the requirements outlined in the notice. The engineering department staff concluded that all 10 submitted bids were complete and that Security Paving Company, Inc., is, in fact, the low-

est responsible and responsive bidder.

Work will consist of construction of the new Yucca Loma Bridge over the Mojave River, roadway and drainage improvements on Yucca Loma Road near Kasanka Trail,

grading, approach roadway and roadway widening to the west at Yates Road from the western approach to the Mojave Narrows Regional Park entrance, new sound walls along Yates Road, a new project res-

toration area on the north side of Yates Road, and a new outfall and interim regional drainage facility from Yucca Loma Road at Kasanka

Trail to the Mojave River, as indicated on the plans and specifications in city documents. The project will require minor traffic control for equipment access and construction of the project by the contractor and subcontractors as shown within the contract documents.

Coordination and

compliance is also required by the contractor with the various regulatory agencies including, but not limited to, Army Corps of Engineers, Lahotan

Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and San Bernardino County Flood Control District.

Widening and utility improvements on Yates Road are also included in the project.

Judge Keeps SEC Case Against Victorville Going from page 6

was “unpersuasive,” and that the bulk of the matter should go forward. The judge did, however, make a determination that the SEC has not yet presented any convincing evidence to show the defendants improperly gained from their alleged misconduct, which is the basis of the SEC’s request for disgorgement.

“Given that the SEC has engaged in a three year investigation into this matter, its decision to present no allegations support[ing] of the request for disgorgement is significant and telling,” Kronstadt found in dismissing that portion of the case against Victorville, the authority and Metzler.

Trial on the case will not begin until late 2014 or late winter 2015.



Controlled Burns In Mountain Forests from front page

is done in coordination with the National Weather Service and South Coast Air Quality Management District, Miller said. The consultation with the weather service

and air quality officials before and during prescribed burns is intended to help manage smoke production and minimize impacts as much as possible, Miller said.

Fire managers follow a burn plan that outlines the “prescription” or environmental conditions such as temperature,

wind, fuel moisture, ventilation, and relative humidity that need to be present before the project begins. When the criteria are met, crews implement, monitor, and patrol each burn to ensure it meets the goals and objectives outlined by managers, according to the Fire Service.

At present, firefighters are conducting burnings of slash and debris piles adjacent to Forest Service Fire Stations. Signs will be posted along the roadways to alert passersby to the burning activity. The Forest Service will send out occasional reminders to the public, warning of potential smoke in the air. In addition to the station pile burning, the public may also see smoke from pile burning activities in the following San Bernardino Mountain forest locations over the winter months: a prescribed fire near State Highway 38 as part of the Angelus Oaks Community De-

fense Project; and slash and debris piles burning on Forest Road 1S07 Pisgah Peak Road, Oak Glen near Pisgah Peak; Yucaipa Ridge, north of Oak Glen; Forest Road 2N10, Southside of Big Bear Lake, west of Bear Mountain; Forest Road 2N93, south of Sugarloaf, west of Erwin Lake; Forest Road 2N19, south of Green Valley Lake; SR173 north of Grass Valley Rd in Lake Arrowhead; and SR18 near Heaps Peak Helibase and Arboretum.

“We appreciate the public’s tolerance of some smoke impacts in order to achieve the San Bernardino National

Forest’s fire prevention and resource management goals, and the public can call our local offices to find out where we are burning,” Miller said.

The phone number for the Big Bear Ranger Station & Discovery Center is 909-382-2790. The phone number for the Lytle Creek Ranger Station is 909-382-2851.



Dems Hoping To Marginalize Baca from front page

was only seven percent over the Republicans. Incumbent Congressman Gary Miller, whose 42nd district in northeast Orange, southeast Los Angeles and southwest San Bernardino counties had likewise been reapportioned out from underneath him, elected against running against fellow Republican Ed Royce in the newly-drawn 39th District and instead declared his intention of wrestling Baca for the voters’ nod in the newly drawn 31st District.

Members of Congress do not need to live within the geographical boundaries of the district they represent, and merely need to live within the state where the district is located.

Baca, perhaps fearing Miller’s prodigious fundraising ability, opted to run in the neighboring 35th Congressional District, which was even more heavily laden with Democrat voters. And, indeed, Baca appeared to be a shoo-in in the 35th, where he cruised to a relatively convincing victory in the June 2012 primary, capturing 12,619 votes or 47.17 percent to 9,078 or 33.93 percent

that went to then-state senator Gloria Negrete-McCleod, another Democrat, and 5,058 votes or 18.9 percent, that went to Anthony Vieyra, a Green Party Candidate.

In 2012, California had switched to an open primary system, which ended sequestered party ballots and effectively ended the tradition of guaranteeing that a Democrat would face a Republican in the November general election. Instead, the open primary led to setting up a November race between the two highest vote-getters in June, regardless of party affiliation. Thus,

Continued on Page 8

Judge Rejects CalPERS Challenge Of SB Bankruptcy from front page

has special status among the city’s creditors and that the city cannot be excused from making good on its obligations to the pension fund. CalPERS maintains that it is a creature of the state government, and as such merits a first place in line among those to whom the city is in arrears. Jury has rejected those arguments. In its dissent CalPERS requested leave to appeal. San Bernardino responded by arguing that remaining in bankruptcy court before Jury is the appropriate venue for coming to terms with all of its creditors, including CalPERS, in accordance with a still confidential and

tentative plan for structured repayments which the city council approved in October. The plan is now subject to court-supervised mediation and the city claims a CalPERS’ appeal at this point is counterproductive to the mediation process.

Jury found that bringing the 9th Circuit into the matter would be “duplicative and not an efficient use of judicial resources.”

Unlike San Bernardino, two other large California cities that have filed for bankruptcy protection – Vallejo and Stockton – are continuing to make payments to CalPERS. In San Bernardino, which is now staggering under the end result of extremely generous salary and benefit packages granted to city employees as the result of aggressive public em-

ployee union pressuring of the city’s elected leaders, city officials are now exploring whether the city can use bankruptcy to reduce its pension obligations.

CalPERS, which perceives that San Bernardino prevailing in that effort would set a precedent that would be applicable up and down the state and compromise its ability to continue to deliver retirement benefits to all of its members, is digging in for a battle royal. Consequently, CalPERS did not accept Jury’s ruling as the final say in the matter and has taken its request to a U.S. District Court judge.





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Baca Now Persona Non Grata With Dems

from page 7

a confident Baca last fall squared off against Negrete-McLeod. On the strength of his primary showing, his incumbency, his perceived fundraising advantage, his superior name recognition, and his unwillingness to engage in a bare-knuckle political slugfest against a woman who was like him Democrat and Hispanic, Baca waged little more than a minimalist campaign, fully anticipating he would easily pick up at least three percent of the vote that had gone to Vieyra in the primary campaign to put him over the top.

In the final weeks before the general election on November 6, however, Negrete-McLeod's campaign was infused with \$3.8 million in donations from a political action committee controlled by Republican New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, which paid for a \$2.3 million television advertising blitz during the last week of the campaign. Caught flatfooted and unable to respond in kind to both a bevy of negative hit

pieces that attacked him on his record and upbeat mailers that lionized Negrete-McLeod for her service in the California legislature, Baca saw the election slip away, with Negrete-McLeod capturing 61,065 votes or 54.35 percent to his 51,281 votes or 45.65 percent.

Meanwhile, over in the 31st District, which encompasses parts of Upland and Rancho Cucamonga, and stretches eastward across San Bernardino County through a large portion of Fontana, Rialto, Colton, San Bernardino and Redlands, four Democrats – Pete Aguilar, Justin Kim, Rita Ramirez-Dean, and Renea Wickman sought election last year, as did Miller. In addition, another Republican, Bob Dutton, joined the fray in the 2012 primary. Despite the seven percent Democratic voter registration advantage in the 31st, simple mathematics hurt the Democrats as their vote was divided four ways, while the Republican vote was split two ways. Dutton and Miller proved to be the two top vote-getters and under California's open primary arrangement, the November general election came down to

a race between Republicans Miller and Dutton. Miller prevailed in that race.

Now 66, Baca is unwilling to hang up his political spikes and has given every indication he intends to make a comeback by challenging Miller next year. Despite the consideration that he shied away from battling it out with Miller last year, his candidacy has some viability.

In addition to the name recognition Baca brings to the political table, he possesses, as a former member of Congress, indirect and residual political clout, together with an insider's knowledge of issues and alliances, which he is working assiduously to bring to bear. In this way, Baca can count on big money backing from national and even international players. An example of this is his recent move to stand up for the Keystone XL Pipeline, which was originally undertaken by one of Baca's former political supporters, ConocoPhillips, in conjunction with TransCanada. The first two of the four phases of the pipeline system to transport oil sands bitu-

men from Canada and Bakken synthetic crude oil and light crude oil produced from the Williston Basin, known as the Bakken region, in Montana and North Dakota primarily to refineries on the Gulf Coast have been completed. ConocoPhillips at this point has sold its interest in the undertaking to TransCanada, which is now investing heavily in the effort to assure the completion of the last two phases of the project, involving the expansion of refining and processing capability on the Gulf Coast and a controversial pipeline to originate at Hardisty in Alberta, Canada and extend 1,179 miles to Steele City, Nebraska.

Environmentalists are opposed to the project. Baca, however, has given TransCanada his assurance he will support the project on the grounds that it represents an advance toward North American energy independence as well as economic rejuvenation. In this way, he has taken a crucial step toward ensuring that he will receive substantial assistance from TransCanada, its investors,

lobbyists and the political action committees TransCanada has endowed.

TransCanada is just one of the big name, big money players Baca is counting on to boost his electoral effort.

Whatever his overall chances, the heart of the Democratic Party is not behind Baca. Rather, it has locked onto Aguilar, the current mayor in the city of Redlands, as its best hope to reclaim primacy in the 31st Congressional District.

With no little justification, the Democrats consider the 31st District to be one that should naturally fall to them. Of the district's registered voters, 127,690 or 41 percent, are affiliated with the Democratic Party. Registered Republicans in the district number 104,938, or 33.7 percent. Independent political appraisers see the 31st as a Democratic asset as well.

Even before Miller outpolled Dutton in November 2012, Democratic strategists were conferring about what steps could be taken to ensure that Democratic disarray in 2014 does not perpetuate Miller's incumben-

cy beyond the current Congress. In short order, a game plan was hatched by which Aguilar, who had polled the most votes among the four Democrats in the 2012 primary, was chosen as the logical party standard bearer. By promoting Aguilar early, engaging in brisk fundraising on his behalf and warding off any other Democrats so a concentrated party electoral effort to advance Aguilar can be mounted, they believe Aguilar can beat Miller in a toe-to-toe slugfest a year from now, despite Miller's incumbency and formidable fundraising capability.

Relatively early on, well-connected Democratic-functionaries acted to boost Aguilar. In May, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee selected Aguilar as one of five candidates nationwide to be included in its Jumpstart Program, which is intended to assist early-emerging Democrats seeking to unseat incumbent Republicans deemed to be vulnerable.

Party leaders convinced California's two

Continued on Page 11

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Salvation Army Serving Thanksgiving Dinners At Eight Inland Empire Locations

This Thanksgiving, the San Bernardino Corps of the Salvation Army will once again provide Thanksgiving dinner to help needy families of the Inland Valley.

The San Bernardino Corps will serve dinner from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 28 at its Corps headquarters building on 746 West Fifth St.

"Times are really tough for everyone, especially at this time of year when people really need an extra hand to get them through the holiday season," said Major Daniel Henderson, San Bernardino Corps officer. "We have a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner planned, complete with turkey, potatoes, gravy, stuffing, vegetables and pie, and all are welcome to join us."

The annual Thanksgiving meal brings in hundreds of families, single mothers with children and individuals who do not have the

means to provide themselves a Thanksgiving dinner. People come from throughout the Inland Valley for this Thanksgiving dinner, which often serves close to 300 people each year.

The hungry families are joined by hundreds

serve food, the Salvation Army is encouraging people to donate turkeys or hams, side dishes and other food by calling (909) 888-1336.

"An effort of this size is not a one person show," said Major Henderson. "Volunteers are needed

should be a special day for everyone, not just for those who can afford it."

For more information about this Thanksgiving dinner, donations or volunteering for The Salvation Army San Bernardino Corps, call (909) 888-1336.

784-4490 Nov. 27 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Salvation Army Redlands 838 Alta St., Redlands, CA 92374 (909) 792-6868 Nov. 28 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Salvation Army Moreno Valley 14075 Frederick St.,

Moreno Valley, CA 92553 (951) 653-9131

Nov. 28 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Salvation Army Ontario 1412 South Euclid Ave., Ontario, CA 91762 (909) 986-6748 Nov. 28 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Salvation Army Victor Valley 14585 La Paz Drive, Victorville, CA 92395 (760) 245-2545 Nov. 28 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Salvation Army Victor Valley/James A. Woody Community Center 13467 Navajo Road, Apple Valley, CA 92308 (760) 240-7880 Nov. 28 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Salvation Army Corps Hemet/Valle Vista Assembly of God 45252 E. Florida Ave., Hemet, CA 92544 (951) 791-9495 Nov. 28 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The Salvation Army San Bernardino Corps may be able to provide emergency services including food; lodging for homeless or displaced families; clothing and furniture; assistance

Continued on Page 12



of volunteers who help prepare the food and serve meals to the families. Along with asking volunteers to help

to help prepare and serve the food along with decorating the facility. It truly is a community effort in making this event a success. Thanksgiving

Other Salvation Army Corps in the Inland Valley are also planning Thanksgiving dinners. Dates, times and loca-

tions are as follows:

Salvation Army Riverside 3695 1st St., Riverside, CA 92501 (951)

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San Bernardino County Coroner Reports

Coroner Case 701308460 – On 11/19/2013, at 10:33 PM, San Bernardino County Sheriff Department responded to a 911 call for an auto verses a pedestrian in the intersection of State Hwy 18 and Rancherias Rd, in the city of Apple Valley. Deputies arrived on scene and found a 36 year old Hispanic male with trauma to the head. The man was transported to an area hospital where he later died of his injuries at 11:06 hours. The name of the decedent will be released pending notification of the next of kin. An autopsy will be conducted to determine the cause of death. San Bernardino County Sheriff Department is investigating the incident. [112013 0530 EM]

Coroner Cse #701308447 – On 11/19/2013, at 1412 hours, officers of the California Highway Patrol and Colton Police Department were called to the area of the Interstate 215 and Interstate 10, in Colton, to investigate the report of a man down. Upon arrival they found that Luke Alben Johnson, a 35 year old resident of Loma Linda, had suffered upper body trauma and was pronounced dead on scene. The Colton Police Department is investigating the incident. [11192013 2245 EM]

Coroner Case # 701308405 – Fifty-nine year old Guy A. Spells of Granada Hills died on 11/18/13, at 5:39 AM, as the result of a traffic accident. Spells was southbound on Interstate 15, one mile north of Stoddard Wells Road (Bell Mountain exit) in Victorville when he drifted off the freeway and into the rear-end of a stopped tractor-trailer on the right (west) shoulder. Spells was seatbelted and was not ejected. California Highway Patrol (CHP) – Victorville Station is also investigating this incident. [111813 1810 TC]

Coroner Case #701308389 – On 11/17/2013, at 6:35 PM, Adrienne Deltoro, an 18 year old resident of Claremont was a passenger in a 2005 Volkswagen Passat what was traveling westbound on Interstate 10 east of Monte Vista Avenue in Montclair, when for unknown reasons the driver lost control of the vehicle and was struck on the passenger side by a 2003 Toyota. Paramedics responded and pronounced her dead at the scene. The California Highway Patrol is investigating the collision. [111813 0605 EM]

Coroner Case #701308370 – On 11/15/2013 at 8:19 PM, 911 calls were received by the Ontario Police Department regarding shots fired in the 200 block of W. Ralston St., in Ontario. When officers arrived they found Horacio Hernandez Jr., a 23 year-old resident of Ontario, with trauma to his upper body. He was taken to the Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Fontana where he succumbed to his injuries at 9:04 PM. The Ontario Police Department is conducting the investigation into the death. An autopsy will be conducted sometime this week to determine the exact cause of death. (CN 11172013 0547)

Coroner Case #701308347 – On Friday, 11/15/2013, at approximately 1:24 pm, Vanessa Martinez, a 24 year old resident of Riverside, was shot by assailants at Check N Go located at 12083 Central Avenue in Chino. She was transported to Chino Valley Medical Center where she died from her injuries at 2:17 pm. The Chino Police Department is investigating this homicide. [11162013 1032 GB]

Coroner Case #701308344 – On 11/15/2013 at 12:45PM, Michael Nelson, a 43 year old resident of Ontario, was traveling eastbound on his Suzuki motorcycle on Mission Blvd when he struck a Honda Civic traveling southbound on Cypress Avenue. Nelson was transported to Chino Valley Medical Center where he was pronounced dead in the emergency room at 2:20PM. Ontario Police Department is investigating this traffic collision. (CN 11162013 0051)

Coroner Case #701308349 – On 11/15/2013 at around 4:15PM, Robert Camacho, a 20 year old resident of Pomona, was shot at the Peachwood Mobile Home Park located on Kingston Lane, in the county area of Montclair. He was transported to Chino Valley Medical Center where he was pronounced dead from his injuries at 5:10 PM. San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Homicide Division is investigating. (CN 11152013 2337)

Coroner Case #701308304 – On 11/14/2013 at 5:46 am the California Highway Patrol received a call reference a pedestrian who had been struck by a vehicle on Highway 18, just east of Custer Ave., in Lucerne Valley. Officers arrived on scene to find Danny Plotner, age 65 of Lucerne Valley, had been struck by a vehicle while attempting to cross the roadway. Paramedics arrived on scene and pronounced Plotner deceased on scene at 5:56 am. The California Highway Patrol is investigating the incident. (CN 11152013 0643)

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Baca Non Grata With His Own Party from page 8

senators, Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, to endorse Aguilar. Party donors, inside and outside California, were encouraged to provide him with campaign cash, and money started pouring into Aguilar's political war chest. More attention was drawn to him, ensuring even more contributions, when the Washington-based news organization, Politico, in July named Aguilar one of "50 Politicos to watch in 2013."

Despite all that, Baca remains in place as a candidate. Not only that, two other Democrats have declared their candidacies in the 31st next year and they are further compromising any chance for party unison heading into the June primary. Eloise Gomez Reyes, an attorney and longtime Democratic activist, and Danny Tillman, a school board member from San Bernardino and a one-time close associate of former California Assemblyman Jerry Eaves, don't appear to be responding to their party's signals to get out of the race. While neither can boast anything approaching the funding at the beck of Miller, Aguilar or Baca, both seem to genuinely believe they have sufficient charisma, existing support, and name recognition to get one of the two top spots in the primary and then follow-up to prevail in November 2014.

This leaves Aguilar with a double-dilemma: to ensure at least a second-place showing in June, he will need to go on the attack against one or all of his Demo-

cratic rivals, a move he would rather not make. Moreover, to engage in such attacks, he will need to squander money he would rather retain for the big fight against Miller in the general election.

Clearly, Aguilar, who has already made a good impression on high ranking members of his party, needs to do something to distinguish himself from the pack of Democratic candidates in the minds of those whose decision will ultimately count next year, i.e., the voters in the 31st District. Despite the money he is raising and despite the endorsements he is accruing, two recent polls show that among the 31st District voters, Miller and Baca have the most name recognition, the highest positive name identification totals and that Miller and Baca are ahead of the other three candidates in the race.

Aguilar has yet to undertake a campaign against Baca in earnest, though such an effort will be very likely if the status quo continues, involving, perhaps, unprecedented early mailers and advertising to get the Aguilar campaign off the dime and into gear. At present, a fierce behind-the-scenes battle to cut Baca off at the pass is being waged. One sign of how cut-throat the completion between Aguilar and Baca is finds demonstration in how local Democratic clubs have been pressured by party higher-ups to suspend party and club rules to make early endorsements of Aguilar.

In September, in a rare if not unprecedented move, the Redlands Area Democratic Club endorsed Aguilar. Normal-

The agile kangaroo rat, *Dipodomys agilis* and the desert kangaroo rat, *Dipodomys deserti*, are small rodents native to San Bernardino County. The kangaroo rat's common name derives from its bipedal form and the consideration that it hops in a manner



similar to the much larger kangaroo, although the two are not related.

Four-toed heteromyid rodents with big hind legs, kangaroo rats have small front legs and relatively large heads. Adults typically weigh between 70 and 170 g. The tails of kangaroo rats are longer than both their bodies and their heads

Kangaroo rats are drawn to arid and semi-arid areas, particularly on sandy or soft soils, which are suitable for burrowing. Kangaroo rats live in complex burrow systems, with separate chambers for specific purposes like sleeping, living and food storage. Colonies of kangaroo rats can vary from as few as a half dozen to several hundred dens. The burrows are spaced

depending on the number of kangaroo rats and the abundance of food. The burrows allow kangaroo rats to maintain a constant temperature and relative humidity in their living environment. Sensitive to extreme temperatures, kangaroo rats plug their burrow

entrances with soil during the day, allowing them to remain in a cool, humid area when the outside temperature

is too hot. During heat waves, a kangaroo rat leaves its burrow only at night. To minimize body moisture loss from respiration while sleeping, a kangaroo rat buries its



nose in its fur to accumulate a small pocket of moist air

Primarily seed eaters, kangaroo rats will occasionally eat vegetation and some insects. They are known to store the seeds of mesquite, creosote, bush, and grama

County Wildlife Corner The Kangaroo Rat

grass in their cheek pouches. Kangaroo rats are generally solitary animals with little social organization. They do cluster together in some feeding situations. They generally go out on foraging trips alone, hoarding the seeds they find in seed caches. While caching, kangaroo rats are vulnerable to predators. Kangaroo rats are preyed on by coyotes, foxes, owls, and snakes.

Kangaroo rats inhabit home ranges, which tend to be small, with most of their activities taking place within 200-300 ft of their burrows. Recently weaned kangaroo rats move into new areas not occupied by adults. Within its home range, a kangaroo rat has a defended territory consisting of its burrowing system.

Kangaroo rats live in aggregations and colonies. There is a dominance hierarchy among male kangaroo rats in competition for access to females. Sexual dimorphism exists in kangaroo rats, with males being larger than females. Male kangaroo rats are

generally more aggressive than females and are more dominant over them. Males that are victorious in their encounters with other males are more sexually active. Kangaroo rats have a promiscuous mating system. Their reproductive output is highest in summer following high rainfall. During droughts



and food shortages, only a few females will breed. Kangaroo rats can assess weather conditions and adjust their reproductive efforts accordingly. Female kangaroo rats will mate with multiple males to ensure greater chances of producing offspring. The gestation period of kangaroo rats lasts 22-27 days. The young are born in a fur-lined nest in the burrows. They are born blind and hairless. Offspring are weaned between roughly one month and six weeks after birth, but will remain in the birth mound for up to a few weeks before departing.

ly, party clubs hold off on making endorsements until after, in some cases well after, the filing deadline for a particular office is closed, giving all potential candidates an opportunity to make the case for their candidacy. The Redlands Area Democratic Club's action defied that tradition. In reaction, the Democratic Central Committee adopted new rules and bylaws that called for Democratic clubs holding off until after the final filing date for office to ensure that no candidates are left out of the endorsement evaluation

process.

Yet so intense is the pressure to promote Aguilar and thereby foreclose Baca's candidacy, four more Democratic clubs – the West End Democratic Club, the East Valley Democratic Club, the Helen L. Doherty Democratic Club, the Stonewall Democratic Club – have announced their support for Aguilar, in defiance of the new rule.

"Our members voted unanimously to endorse Pete Aguilar for Congress because of his proven record of delivering results for the

citizens of Redlands and his strong commitment to improving the lives of hard-working families throughout San Bernardino County. Pete's just the leader we need to make sure that Congress is working for us," the clubs' leadership announced in a joint communiqué.

Baca said he was disappointed the four clubs' leadership and members had broken a party charter rule, but that he was confident that among the district's Democratic voters at large, he retained a commanding

lead over Aguilar.

Steve Chapman, the president of the Redlands Area Democratic Club, said Aguilar's support by a key constituency within the Democratic Party – public employees – distinguished him from the other candidates in the race. "Aguilar's leadership through difficult financial times and fair treatment of municipal employees has been very impressive," Chapman said.



California Style Mom on the Run

By Grace Bernal



The celebration of winter fashion is just begun and we are starting to feel the blasts of the cold weather. Weather definitely dictates what people are going to wear. This week's fashion items are knitted hats with veils, sweaters, and scarves. The weather is



definitely ready for them and what fun it is to find them whether new or old. Color plays a big role during this season, with the golds, grays and reds too. Get into the season and start mix-



ing and matching your sweaters with hats and



scarves. These items are perfect for a day on the job, fun, or evening. Go



ahead, have fun and add a little personality with a unique hat or scarf to go with your cozy sweater. Winter is going to be hot



this season. So let's have a terrific time dressing up for this cozy warm season. Winter is full of magic!



"Fashion is architecture: it is a matter of proportions." -Coco Chanel



As always, if there's anything you need, I'd love to hear from you: Greygris@aol.com or visit my page I Love Your Style on Facebook Copyright Grace Bernal all rights reserved

Salvation Army Meals from page 9

with rent or mortgage and transportation when funds are available. The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) assists rescue workers and evacuees in such disasters as fires.

The Salvation Army

is an evangelical part of the Universal Christian Church, and also offers evangelical programs for boys, girls and adults. One of the largest charitable and international service organizations in the world, The Salvation Army has been in existence since 1865 and in San Bernardino since 1887, supporting those in need without discrimination.

The San Bernardino Corps of The Salvation Army serves Bloomington, Colton, Grand Terrace, Highland, Rialto, and San Bernardino. Donations may always be made online at www.salvationarmyusa.org or by calling 1-(800)-SAL-ARMY. The local number is (909) 888-1336.

Glimpse: Local Indian Food from page 4

a good reliable chronological sequence for the prehistoric human activity along the Colorado River in San Bernardino County. Sadly, many, if not most, deep prehistoric deposits have been illegally looted, and unfortunately the chances that the same fate will fall on the one that archaeologists in San Bernardino County had set their hopes on is inevitable. Should this happen the information of the site will be lost forever.

During the investigation of the Mojave Desert looting activity called "Operation Indian Rocks," investigators caught up with the group of criminals responsible for the crimes, resulting in some of the stiffest penalties ever issued for archaeological crimes. In 2004, the ring leader, Bobbie Wilkie, 45, was sentenced to three years

in prison; Frank Embrey, 54, was sentenced to 18 months in prison; Kevin Peterson, 43, received five months; and Wilkie's ex-wife Deanne Wilkie, 44, and David Peeler, 53, each received five years of probation and six months of home detention. The gang was ordered to pay \$344,000 in restitution and fines. Beyond the 11,000 or so relics that were lifted from public federal land, the value of the information that is now and forever lost cannot ever be

known.

We are now fortunate to have available in some regions, intensive patrols by volunteer site stewards who monitor important archaeological sites—but we need more in San Bernardino County. Give thanks on Thanksgiving for our Native American heritage and food, then volunteer to be a Site Steward. Contact Ruth Musser-Lopez at the Archaeological Heritage Association 760/885-9374 for more information.



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