

The San Bernardino County Sentinel

News of Note
from Around the
Largest County
in the Lower
48 States

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Presiding Judge Defends Much Maligned County Court Realignment Plan



Marsha Slough

San Bernardino
County's current presid-

ing judge and immediate past assistant presiding judge this week said the scheduled realignment of the county court system in May is one that has been necessitated by the state drastically cutting back on court budgets and raiding the reserve funds county court administrators were previously allowed to maintain.

On March 19, the last full day of winter and less than two months before the opening of the new downtown San Bernardino Courthouse and the initiation of the realignment, Presiding Judge Marsha Slough, Judge Larry Allen, whose term as assistant presiding judge ended in January 2014, and San Bernardino County

Court executive officer Christina Volkers met with the *Sentinel* to provide a description of the realignment, explain the factors necessitating it and answer criticism that the move is a counterproductive change that will effectuate minimal cost savings while imposing on the residents of the county an insufferable burden by consolidating

the various functions of the court in too few locations and requiring most residents to travel tremendous distances to access justice.

The makeover will include transferring all civil cases countywide to the new San Bernardino Justice Center, an eleven story edifice with 35 courtrooms now in the final stag- See P 6

Effort Under Way To Seek Voter Okay For Twentynine Palms Fire Tax Hike

T W E N T Y N I N E
PALMS—Twentynine Palms Water District officials are on the verge of resurrecting a tax measure to fund the fire department.

Since 1958, the fire department in 29 Palms has been overseen by the water district. The department has grown to include two fire stations and seven fire-

fighters to cover the 59 square miles within the Twentynine Palms City Limits and the 29 square miles of unincorporated county area that also falls under the water district/fire department's 88-square mile jurisdiction. The city does not contribute to, participate in or subsidize the fire department's operational budget.

H, a tax increase proposal, and the water district explored surrendering authority over the fire department to the county fire department.

That same year, the San Bernardino County Local Agency Formation Commission indicated the water district would need to find augmenting funding for the fire department or relinquish

control of it.

The water district and the city of Twentynine Palms worked on a proposal to have the county's fire division subsume the fire department but that goal was not achieved after county fire chief Mark Hartwig said that in working within the confines of the \$1.244 million in available special tax fund- See P 2

Twentynine Palms Band Of Indians To Open Tribe's Tortoise Rock Casino On March 31

Superintendent's Resignation Heightens Disarray In AESD



Lily DeBlieux

of Desert Trails Elementary School pursuant to an effort to utilize California's Parent See P 4

T W E N T Y N I N E
PALMS — The Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians has scheduled March 31 for the opening of the Tortoise Rock Casino.

Tribe members and a smattering of public dignitaries will attend a private reception that afternoon, to be followed by a 5 p.m. ribbon-cutting ceremony. Afterwards, the gaming will begin at the 30,000-square foot facility's seven tables and 490 slot machines.

Live musical entertainment has been arranged for the opening night.

The Twentynine Palms Band of Mission Indians also operates the Spotlight 29 Casino in Coachella. Tribal Chairman Darrell Mike said the opening, which follows ten months of construction activity on the site at 73829 Base Line Road "is not only a significant milestone for our tribe, but we are also very happy to bring jobs and add excitement to entire High Desert community."

The casino will employ close to 100 and will feature blackjack and several forms of poker.

The Twentynine Palms Band of Mission Indians initially proposed developing and operating the See P 3

Mondary Appointed Commander Of Morongo Valley Sheriff's Station

JOSHUA TREE—
The sheriff's department has installed a department veteran who lives in the Morongo Basin as the head of its regional station there.

Dale Mondary, who most recently has been serving as the commander of the sheriff's department's court services division, will be installed as the Morongo Basin station command-

er on April 19.

He is to officially replace retiring Captain Richard Boswell, who has been the head of the sheriff's station in that portion of the desert since September 2012.

The Morongo Basin includes the two incorporated municipalities of Yucca Valley and Twentynine Palms, as well as the unincorporated communities of

Morongo Valley, Landers, Pioneertown, Joshua Tree, Wonder Valley and the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Training Base.

Mondary has been a resident of Yucca Valley for 21 years, two fewer than the 23 years he has served with the sheriff's department.

In his capacity as station commander, he will also serve as police chief



Dale Mondary
of Yucca Valley and Twentynine Palms, both

of which contract with the sheriff's department for law enforcement service.

He worked previously at the Morongo Station as a deputy, detective, sergeant and lieutenant. Mondary has a masters degree in criminology and criminal justice from Indiana State University and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. See P 5

Sense Of Déjà Vu Haunts Dems In 31st District



Pete Aguilar

The chain of events that prevented Democrats from claiming what appears to be their rightful heirship in the 31st Congressional District in 2012 are replaying themselves once more in 2014. The internecine battle for primacy between four Democratic contenders in the district, which stretches from Rancho Cucamonga through a large portion of Fontana, Rialto, Colton, and San Bernardino to Redlands, could once again result in the GOP coppering the



Gary Miller

Congressional seat now held by Republican Gary Miller.

Miller's 2012 victory in the 31st Congressional District, which had been redrawn after the 2010 Census, was an extraordinary occurrence.

With the Republicans holding a majority of the seats in the House of Representatives and California being an overwhelming Democratic state, the Democrats have a real incentive to paint the 31st Congressional District blue, especially given See P 5

29 Palms Inch-ing Toward Again Seeking Fire Tax Increase *from front page*

ing for local fire service, he would need to close down one of the fire stations and reduce the department to no more than four firefighters.

So far the water district has maintained control of the fire department but as of last July 1 the district closed out its Lear Avenue Fire Station. The water district is now leasing the station to Copper Mountain College, which is using the facility to conduct fire science courses.

All of the fire department's operations are now run out of the Adobe Road Fire Station, known as Station 421, and its paid person-

nel have been reduced to five. Response times to certain portions of the 88-square mile fire protection jurisdiction have increased.

Twenty-nine Palms Fire Chief Jim Thompson and Twenty-nine Palms Water District General Manager Tamara Alaniz have obtained an endorsement from the Twenty Nine Palms Citizen Advisory Committee, chaired by Adam Lunn, to again seek voter approval of an increase to the parcel tax imposed on residents within the water district's boundaries.

The current parcel tax is \$80. Lunn and his cohorts have advised that the district ask their customers to approve a \$20.40 per year increase to that assessment on developed property and

a \$10.20 increase on vacant parcels. The committee has further suggested that the measure authorize the increase for three years and give the district the ability to add a three percent annual inflation adjustment in the years beyond 2018.

Were Twenty-nine Palms area residents willing to increase their fire tax burden, according to the advisory committee, the Lear Avenue station could be reopened and the fire department reconstituted to its former level, consisting of seven paid personnel and a complement of on-call firefighters. Local control of the fire department would be guaranteed, according to the panel.

At present, Thompson manages the fire department for the wa-

\$1,244,800 in revenue from the special tax to fund operations that cost \$1,209,525 annually, while salting away \$52,775 in a reserve account.

At one point, county fire chief Hartwig proposed reducing the department to three firefighters and one station and utilizing volunteers/paid call personnel to function within the \$1.2 million financial model. Eventually, the water board, under increasing pressure from members of the community, rejected the concept of handing the department off to the county, whose unionized firefighters draw higher pay and benefits than the current department's members.

The advisory committee has suggested that the community could

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potentially be convinced to embrace the increased assessments by demonstrating that the reopening of the Lear Avenue facility, known as Station 422, would ensure

a needed higher level of service to Twenty-nine Palms' Indian Cove and Desert Heights neighborhoods.



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Glimpse Of SBC's Past A Large Shot Of Steinbeck In Needles

By Ruth Musser-Lopez.

"A town along Route 66 must have something unique--a set of unique resources that keep visitors in town for a while. How many Route 66 towns are there? Each town wants to get a share of the kicks on Route 66--so you've got to have something special—a must see" Jim Klein of Lardner/Klein Landscape Architects prompted the packed room of stakeholders attending one of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) three Route 66 scoping meetings, this one held Thursday, February 27th, 2014 in the Needles High School cafeteria.

And Klein actually had in his own mind a very "unique something" about Needles which he shared with those in the room.

Klein, is not new to Route 66 and his company has assisted in developing corridor management plans along the route in other states. From his knowledge and experience along the route he shared that there is no other place along the

corridor route like "Carty's Camp" right here in Needles. Scenes in Needles. Signs for Carty's Camp are in the movie 'The Grapes of Wrath,' considered to be one of the one hundred greatest American films. The 1940 film starred Henry Fonda and was based

a ruin and is falling in, it represents an important story of how traveling evolved in the twentieth century. People camped in tents, then moved to semi-permanent places like this one built with particleboard and steel cased windows. In the 1930s they moved to

doned and deteriorating tourist cabins adjacent to a gasoline filling station.

"Jess Lopez visited with both John Steinbeck and Henry Fonda at the time when the short scene in Needles was being filmed. They were cattycornered from the street where he lived and they came over and talked to him. Jess said Steinbeck and Fonda were both staying at Carty's Camp during that time" said James "Jim" McIntyre the son of Needles former (now deceased) mayor Joe McIntyre. A long time resident of Needles, and Santa Fe Railroad employee, Jess was Jim's and my beloved father-in-law, who passed away in 1990.

"Jess loved boxing," Jim said. "Jess told me that the famous boxer Joe Louis also stayed at Carty's Camp. Lewis had fought Max Schmeling, a German boxer who was a famous heavyweight champion of the world between 1930 and 1932. His two fights with Joe Louis in 1936 and 1938 were worldwide cultural events because of their respective national association. Louis knocked out Schmeling in one round in 1938 and took the title. Smelling returned to Germany and fought in WWII as an elite paratrooper for the German Air Force. "Hitler made him a hero," Jim said. The camp consists of a group of now aban-

other hand, died in poverty and toward the end of his life he was a greeter at the Moulin Rouge in Las Vegas.

Maggie McShan, the late Needles author and reporter, also attested to the fact that John Steinbeck stayed at Carty's Camp (Needles Desert Star, April 16, 2003). Maggie is, in her own right, a Route 66 celebrity. For over 30 years

out of their home in Needles along Route 66 was a roadside attraction in itself and it apparently had a fairly brisk business during the route's heyday.

After the I-40 was built, the McShans began publishing a homespun magazine on their own printing press on the rock shop property. That was in 1973, before the age of computers and



"The missing link on Route 66" Carty's Camp made famous in Grape's of Wrath—a ghostly semi-permanent camp. No other like it is left on the entire ghost highway.

upon the book written by the great American novelist, John Steinbeck. "The Grapes of Wrath" takes as its subject a trek by the Joad Family from their native Oklahoma to the promised land of California in an effort to flee the "Dust Bowl" of the 1930s. "Though Carty's Camp looks like

more permanent buildings like the 'L' shape motels on concrete block and framed structures. Something like Carty's Camp, I have never seen in all of my travels of Route 66. It is the missing link, a semi permanent construction," he said.

In its state of disrepair and deterioration it does actually appear as a unique ghostly site like no other on the entire ghost highway.

In the film, "The Grapes of Wrath" the first sights on entering California were signs for the town of Needles and for "Carty's Camp."

The camp consists of a group of now aban-



Thunderbirds and arrowheads outlined with obsidian tears embedded in mortar at the pink flagstone masonry building of the old McShan Rock Shop on RT66 in Needles.

before her passing in 2004, she championed the cause of historic preservation of various prehistoric and historic sites along Route 66 including the El Garces Harvey House.

Maggie L. Hargis McShan was born in 1915 in Arkansas and with her husband Frank "Mac" McShan traveled to Needles on Route 66 in 1936 with the intent that Mac would be working the mines near Needles (refer to http://www.spiritrockshop.com/Sand_Spikes.html). Rock collecting was a natural for Mac and Maggie. The rock and bottle shop they opened

printers. Regular issues of "Footprints" were published until 2003. The publication contained a mixture of Needles history, musings, recipes, current cultural events and a diary of the McShan's own journeys into the desert.

The rock shop the McShan's built is of masonry construction using flag stone with small "obsidian tears" pushed into the mortar in the shape of thunderbirds and arrowheads. It incorporates railroad ties and recycled barn siding. With its southwestern Native American expres-

Continued on Page 7

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29 Palms Casino Opening March 31 from front page

casino on tribal land in Twentynine Palms but discarded those plans after the Department of Defense raised objections to locating the project so close to the Marine Base. In lieu of that, the tribe resolved to relocate the proposed project, redubbed the Nüwü Casino, some 23 miles away, in Joshua Tree, on a 130-acre parcel on the north side of Twentynine

Palms Highway west of White Feather Road and east of downtown Joshua Tree. That site was well outside the tribe's reservation and what is recognized as the tribe's ancestral land. To overcome the opposition of many vocal Joshua Tree residents as well as that of then-county supervisor Neil Derry and Joshua Tree municipal advisory council member David Fick, the tribe was forced to jump through a number of hoops, including filing an application

tribe's ancestors ranged into Joshua Tree.

Mike and his advisors, including the band's chief financial officer, Steve Gralla, reassessed the likelihood of prevailing in a bruising battle with project opponents, and elected to resurrect its effort to develop and operate a casino on tribal land in Twentynine Palms.

Segalla And Chino Valley Independent Fire District Part Company

CHINO – A year after Paul Segalla's hiring as fire chief of the Chino Valley Independent Fire District was hailed as a giant step forward for the department and the community, he officially departed from his position, a month-and-a-half after he was placed on administrative leave January 24.

Segalla had continued to draw his annual \$188,328 salary during his absence, which came



Paul Segalla

about, board president John DeMonaco said, as the board made an "assessment of the compatibility of his manage-

ment style with the goals of the district."

Apparently, the board's members were unable to collectively resolve the administrative and management differences they had with Segalla. The district said in a press release last week that Segalla, who had been fire chief with the West Covina Fire Department for five years when he accepted the position in Chino Valley, is intent on seeking em-

ployment elsewhere.

"Chief Segalla has informed the board that he is now desirous of seeking a new position outside of the district," according to the district press release. "While it has been a pleasure working with him, on behalf of the board of directors we wish Chief Segalla future professional success and thank him for his dedicated service to the district."

Segalla, who had

been provided with a three-year contract upon his hiring, was removed from the district payroll as of March 4, an indication that there were unfavorable issues in the evaluation that the district is willing to cite in justifying the contract termination.

Neither Segalla nor the district, has gone beyond the district's prepared public statements.

Segalla had been the fire chief with West Co-

vina since 2008, and previously was fire chief in Lockport Township, Illinois, fire captain with the Berkeley Fire Department, fire lieutenant in Aurora, Illinois and a firefighter and deputy chief with the Downers Grove Fire Department in Illinois.

Interim Fire Chief Tim Shackelford has been leading the department in Segalla's absence.

Superintendent Resigns from front page

Empowerment Act to restructure that school.

Though she had gamely sought to run the district and make gradual improvements in the carrying out of its educational mission, DiBlieux was buffeted by a string of controversies that compromised the focus on improving the academic performance of pupils in the district. Most recently, the district hired, following a 4-1 vote of the school board, an administrative secretary at a salary of \$87,722, with employer-paid benefits of \$18,819.60 and additional health and welfare benefits of \$15,864.56 for a total compensation package of \$122,406.14. That clerical position is intended as an assistant to the school board.

At the time the hiring was discussed and decided upon in closed session, DeBlieux sought to distance herself from it, telling the public the hiring had been acted upon solely by the board. It was approved by a 4-1 vote, with board member Debra Jones dissenting.

The board sought to shroud the matter in a mantle of secrecy, claiming the hiring was actually the promotion of a district employee who had previously been put on administrative leave. Board members cited the confidentiality that attends personnel issues in refusing to disclose the rationale for the hiring, which triggered a round of public criticism of the

district, both for the perceived inflated salary of a clerical worker and the manner in which the hiring had been carried out outside normal channels.

The district is still refusing to identify who the administrative secretary is.

In late 2011, a parent union was formed by parents at Desert Trails Elementary, in large measure at the instigation of the Los Angeles-based nonprofit Parent Revolution, which is devoted to challenging the traditional authority of school districts.

In January 2012 the parent union submitted 466 signatures on petitions asking the district to undertake a set of what the parents union maintained would be

reforms at the academically challenged school, where students had for years consistently scored near the bottom of state-mandated standardized academic tests. A group of parents opposed to the parent takeover of the school formed and went to work obtaining rescissions of many of the signatures on the petitions.

Those petitions called upon the district to sack the school's principal, David Mobley, and surrender to the school's parents authority in hiring his successor, infuse in the new principal hiring authority for the school's faculty, reduce class sizes and increase the number of school days and instructional hours, and include more science, history and art in the curriculum.

The parent union

half of five of the members of the parents union – Doreen Diaz, Kathy Duncan, Teresa Rogers, Olivia Zamarripa and Bartola Del Villar. Holscher maintained that the district did not make an impartial tally of the signatures and "engaged in a systematic effort to invalidate the petitions."

Judge Steve Malone, to whom the case was assigned, restored 97 of the signatures tossed out by the district. Malone ruled the district did not have the authority or a basis in law to discount signatures that proponents gathered and he ordered the Adelanto Elementary School District to accept the petition as filed by the parent union.

The parent union

modified its demand to having the school converted to a charter academy, offering an intensified curriculum. Delays prevented the school district from converting Desert Trails Elementary into a charter school at the initiation of the 2012-13 academic year.

The Adelanto Elementary School District thus became the first district in the state in which the "parent trigger" law had been successfully applied. In the same time frame, the district's superintendent, Darin Brawley, resigned.

At about the same time as DeBlieux was hired as superintendent in January 2013, the school board voted to accept LaVerne Prepa-

ratory Academy as the operator of Desert Trails Elementary School.

Under DeBlieux, who took the helm as superintendent in March 2013, the district achieved having Desert Trails converted to a charter school, although that transition resulted in hard feelings and controversy, as well.

A central component LaVerne Preparatory Academy's approach consists in engaging parents in their children's educational process. That parent involvement had been consistently lacking at the school. Many of the parents and educators opposed to the takeover pointed out that a significant number

Continued on Page 11

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Déjà Vu In 31st District from front page

the registration advantage they have over the Party of Lincoln within it. 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.

Nevertheless, the Democrats founded there in 2012, having been undercut by a lack of party cohesion and the advent of open primaries that year.

Four Democrats – Pete Aguilar, Justin Kim, Rita Ramirez-Dean, and Renea Wickman – sought election in the 31st in 2012, as did Miller and another Republican, Bob Dutton. 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 Democrats who ran third, fourth, fifth and sixth in the June race were shut out and the November gen-

eral election came down to a race between Republicans Miller and Dutton. Miller prevailed in that race.

Now, two years later, déjà vu has descended on the 31st District. Red-



Lesli Gooch

lands Mayor Pete Aguilar, the top Democratic vote-getter two years ago, attorney and Democratic Party activist Eloise Gomez-Reyes from Colton, former congressman Joe Baca from Rialto and San Bernardino City Unified School District Trustee Danny Tillman have all qualified their candidacies in the race.

In February, Miller announced he would not seek reelection. That brought two Republican hopefuls into the race, Lesli Gooch, a member of Miller's congressional staff, and Paul Chabot, a self-styled anti-drug crusader who in 2010 ran for the State Assembly but

lost to fellow Republican Mike Morrell.

In 2012, 62,667 total votes were cast in the June Primary in the 31st District. Miller claimed 16,708 of those, or 26.66 percent. Dutton snagged 15,557, or 24.82 percent, which edged out Aguilar, who claimed 14,181 votes or 22.63 percent. Justin Kim came in fourth with 8,487 votes or 13.54 percent. Renea Wickman, the third most popular Democrat in the race, placed fifth overall, with 8,487 votes or 13.54 percent. Rita Ramirez-Dean came in last, but siphoned off 3,546 votes or 5.66 percent.

Thus, 32,265 of the district's voters, or 51.48 percent, voted for Republicans, and 48.52 percent voted for Democrats in the primary.

Under normal circumstances, Republicans exhibit greater voter turn-out at the polls than do Democrats. Moreover, this disparity is even more pronounced in primary elections than in general elections. In November 2012, voter turn-out in the 31st Congressional District at the general election was well more than double what it was in the primary, with 161,219 casting votes. And in the voting for president, the district's voters supported Demo-

crat Barack Obama with 57.2 percent of the vote to Republican Mitt Romney with 40.6 percent, which probably reflects what the outcome would have been had a Democrat opposed a Republi-



Paul Chabot

can in the congressional seat voting.

It is possible that Gooch, who has picked up Miller's endorsement and who has begun to tap into the funding stream Miller used including the National Realtors Association's political action committee, and Chabot, with his name recognition among a faction of local Republicans, could cut the Democrats off at the pass again in June. In fact, many political observers consider such an outcome likely.

Meanwhile, an earlier effort by the Democratic establishment to break the GOP's unlikely hold on the 31st District has sputtered.

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 did not perpetuate Miller's incumbency beyond the current Congress. In short order, a game plan was hatched by which Aguilar 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 could be mounted, high-ranking Democratic Party officials believed Aguilar could beat Miller in a toe-to-toe slugfest in November.

Relatively early on, well-connected Democratic-functionaries acted to boost Aguilar. In May 2013, 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 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, Gomez-Reyes and Tillman somehow failed to get the message.

Baca, who had been a member of Congress for more than 13 years when he was ignominiously chased from office by another Democrat in the 2012 election, is less than accommodating at this point of his party's alliances and priorities. His political demise in

2012 came about as a consequence of his own decision on where he would run, a visceral side-effect of open primaries and his Democratic rival's readiness to enter into an opportuni-



Joe Baca

tic political arrangement with a well-heeled, out-of-state Republican.

Beginning in 1999 when he won a special election to succeed long-time Democratic Congressman George Brown after Brown died in office, Baca represented California in Washington D.C.'s lower house, serving the heavily Democratic-leaning 42nd and 43rd Congressional districts with solid Democratic support. In 2012, he found himself most logically ushered into the newly drawn 31st Congressional District as a result of the reapportionment following the 2010 Census. Simultaneously, Congressman Gary Miller, whose 42nd district in northeast Orange, southeast Los Angeles and southwest San Bernardino counties had likewise been reapporionted out from underneath him, opted out of running against fellow Republican Ed Royce

Continued on Page 9

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**Judges Defend
Court Realign-
ment**
from front page 4

es of completion. In addition, San Bernardino district criminal cases, now being heard in the San Bernardino Central Courthouse built in 1927, will be tried in the new San Bernardino Justice Center.

West Valley Superior Courthouse in Rancho Cucamonga, which currently is the venue for both civil and criminal cases originating on the west end of the county, will be devoted primarily to criminal cases, including those arising on the county's west end and other felony and misdemeanor cases from the county's central district which are currently routed to the Fontana Courthouse. A small portion of the criminal cases now heard in Fontana will be adjudicated in San Bernardino. At least temporarily, hearings on both civil and domestic violence restraining order matters will be heard at the Rancho Cucamonga Courthouse.

The historic San Bernardino Courthouse will remain as the forum for the family law cases it currently hosts and will soon serve as the venue for the family law cases presently heard in Ran-

cho Cucamonga.

The Fontana Courthouse will become the stage for all small claims, landlord tenant disputes and traffic/non-traffic infractions from the San Bernardino, Fontana and Rancho Cucamonga districts. The lion's share of criminal cases now being heard in Fontana will transfer to Rancho Cucamonga. A lesser number of the Fontana criminal cases will go to San Bernardino.

The Victorville Courthouse will remain a venue for High Desert family law cases.

After the terms of the realignment were spelled out to the county's legal community, alarm spread among the county's lawyers in general and particularly among attorneys working on the county's west end.

A chorus of those attorneys pointed out that the closures of the Needles courthouse at the county's north east end, the closure of the Chino courthouse at the county's southwest end, the closure of courthouses in the San Bernardino Mountain communities and the removal of civil cases from the Victorville and Joshua Tree courthouses had already greatly inconvenienced large numbers of the county's residents and compromised their ac-

cess to justice. The realignment set to take place in May, they assert, will virtually prevent a major segment of the county's population from going to court altogether.

Far flung San Bernardino County, which spans more than 20,000 square miles, is the largest county in the lower 48 states, with a land mass greater than the states of Delaware, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Connecticut combined.

Even before the civil courts were closed in Victorville, it was a forbidding sojourn for some county residents seeking justice. Driving distance from Needles to Barstow is 144 miles one way, with an average traveling time of two hours and eleven minutes. The trip from Needles to San Bernardino, which in less than two months will host the only courtrooms in the county where civil cases will be heard, is 212 miles, with an average traveling time of three hours and nine minutes.

Residents of Chino Hills and Chino, who two years ago had the courthouse in Chino at their disposal but since December 2012 have needed to travel anywhere from 20 to 30 miles to reach the Rancho Cucamonga Courthouse, will need to travel

45 to 55 miles to access the civil courts in San Bernardino.

Large numbers of attorneys, including Dennis Stout, who was formerly the county district attorney and mayor of Rancho Cucamonga; Gus Skropos, a former judge and former mayor of Ontario; Richard Anderson, who has been practicing law since 1968 and was formerly Upland mayor; as well as James Banks and David Ricks, a past president and the current president-elect of the Western San Bernardino County Bar Association, respectively, assailed the realignment as an ill-conceived move that would produce only marginal cost savings for the court system itself while transferring the financial burden to the county's residents and other public agencies, while simultaneously legally disenfranchising hundreds of thousands of the county's residents.

Numerous problems with the realignment were cited, including:

- The sheer distance large numbers of county residents will need to travel to have their cases heard
- The disadvantage that poorer defendants and litigants will suffer vis-a-vis contesting charges against them or responding to or pressing forward

with lawsuits filed by or against well-heeled adversaries

- The concentration of criminal defendants into Rancho Cucamonga's downtown district

- The lack of adequate parking in downtown San Bernardino to accommodate the influx of litigants, lawyers, witnesses and jurors

- The perception that transferring all of the county's civil cases to San Bernardino was being done not to conserve finances or improve the provision of justice but to assist with the urban renewal of San Bernardino, which as the county seat and the largest of the county's 24 cities, suffered the ignominy of having filed for bankruptcy in 2012.

Judge Marsha Slough, who has served as presiding judge for San Bernardino County since September 2012, rejected those criticisms, saying the realignment was a carefully calibrated and crafted approach to a nearly impossible challenge.

"We are doing it this way because it allows us to focus our resources where we need to focus them," she said. "I know for those on the outside looking in and even for some of those on the inside it is very hard to get your arms around this."

The rationale behind this may not seem clear but if you are sitting in this seat as I am and you see and are living every day with the decline in the money we are receiving year after year and you still have the statutory obligation to handle those files in a timely manner, you better figure out how to do it. Missing statutory deadlines is not something you can do once you have taken the oath to uphold the constitution. We understand what this will entail. We have gotten into our cars and driven throughout the county."

Slough sought to provide a financial backdrop to the situation she and Allen, who was previously presiding judge in 2006 and 2007, face.

"In 2008-09, the court system in San Bernardino County had a budget of \$110 million," she said. "Most of our funding for that year came directly from the state, such that the county courts spent \$1.1 out of its reserves that fiscal year. In 2009-10, the state began cutting the amount of money the county court system had to work with, resulting in a \$99.2 million budget, with \$6.3 million of that coming from the system's reserves. In 2010-11, the court system in San Bernardino County saw a respite in the funding reductions, based upon the state providing an infusion of funds consisting of one-time transfers of funds from other state accounts that pushed the San Bernardino County court system budget back up to \$108 million, with \$1.8 million coming from reserves. But that did not last. The following year, 2011-12, the state was again reducing funding to the courts, with the budget being reduced to \$103 million, requiring the expenditure of \$4.7 million from the county system's reserves. In 2012-13, the money supplied by the state to the county court system dropped precipitously to \$84 million. The county

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Continued on Page 8

**Glimpse from
page 3**

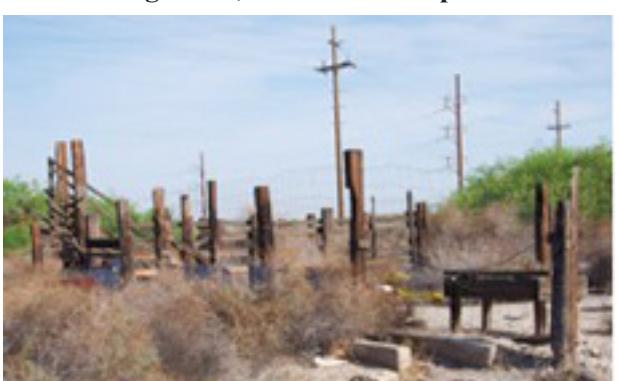
sion, it represents the spirit of hope, creativity and entrepreneurialism that brought people west on Route 66 during the Great Depression.

Time stood still in the



Above and below:

Unique Needles: A rustic loading shoot and corral made with railroad ties and tree poles, now dilapidated and dark with age, across the way from the old rodeo ground, at the McShan place on RT66.



setting surrounding the McShan property along the banks of the Colorado River. Overgrown athol trees drape down over now abandoned vernacular homes that the McShan's eventually acquired and rented out. A rustic loading shoot and corral made with railroad ties and tree poles, dark with age, stands across the way from the old rodeo ground. Giant saguaro cacti continue to grow even after the McShans' passing, ghostly and silent. All against the backdrop of a stark

property was reportedly donated to the city of Needles to maintain as a museum and heritage park. At the current time it is fenced off. The fencing itself is constructed of antique metal landing strips of the World War II era.

After World War II, prosperity in the country increased and by the 1950s road travel replaced train travel for an increasing number of passengers. Also, "tin-can" tourists who pulled trailers behind their cars since 1919 were being

In 1946-47, the "66 Motel," previously owned by Evan and Ruby Gott was constructed in front of Carty's Cabin camp. The camp went into decline—but its still there.

"Putting a protective fence around Carty's Camp might be a desirable first step in preserving its future," Klein suggested.

contrast—the new two-story riverfront homes on the other side of the adjacent Colorado River in Arizona.

Mac had already passed when in 2004 Maggie died of complications after falling. The

replaced or supplemented with an increasing number of travelers who opted for staying in motels. In testament to the change, in 1949, the old El Garces railway hotel, built in 1908, accommodated its last overnight visitors (see William Kaszynski (2003-05-01). Route 66: Images of America's Main Street. p. 139); the new Route 66 realignment bypassed the old hotel by a block, foretelling its demise.

During the climax of Route 66 between 1930 and 1970, numerous motels were built in Needles offering air conditioning, TV and kitchenettes. Here is an initial attempt to list them (subject to revision): 66 Motel, Imperial 400, Overland (shuttered), Sage Motel (shuttered), Bink's (gone), River Valley Inn, a neighboring motel (gone), El Adobe (gone), a neighboring motel (closed), Best (name changed), Desert Mirage (name changed), Le Brun (shuttered), Budget (name changed), Relax Inn, Knight's Inn. Their neon signage once lit up the nightlife in town.

Farther out of town traveling toward the west and up the river is Fenders (name changed).

Farther out of town traveling toward the west and up the river is Fenders (name changed).

Further out of town traveling toward the west and up the river is Fenders (name changed).

The decline of Route 66 in Needles got so bad that in 2012 a private fundraising effort was led by Ed Klein of Route66World.com. At the time of this writing, it is unknown whether Jim and Ed are related.

Time flies by and by the 1970s a new alignment of the transcontinental route dubbed as I-40 provided only a "fly-by" view of the village below. Three off ramps were thrown to Needles like a bone after local officials including the mayor, Joe McIntyre, and Bill Claypool made a trip to Washington D. C. to make sure that the new highway at least went through town. "They met with a sena-

no more"--the sites of the old bowling alley, the old drive-in theatre, the old California Hotel, the old rodeo ground, the old round house, the old Coca Cola bottling works, the gold refinery, the old stock yard, the two old dairies, the creamery that looked like a green castle demolished this year, the old tie cabin torn down this year and the old Penny Avenue that was flooded forcing many out of their homes and then transformed into a golf course long ago.

To the list, Mayor Ed Paget added another ghostly attraction, the Pioneer Cemetery as a place some would be interested in. Seeing the 100 year-old tombstones and who is buried there would definitely be an important part of the Route 66 ghost road experience. And, actually, a portion of the cemetery still exists...another por-



Directly across the Colorado River from the McShan place, the striking contrast of affluence and development in Arizona.

tor and a congressman from Arizona and then together had a meeting with the Secretary

motel has been closed to overnight stays since the 1990s. It now survives through monthly rentals



The 66 Motel in Needles was built in front of Carty's Cabin where John Steinbeck stayed when Grapes of Wrath was being filmed, barely noticeable under the Athol trees down the lane in the background. The shuttered gas station is on the left next to RT66.

of Transportation," the old mayor's son Jim McIntyre recalled. They were successful in their effort and are credited with the fact that the I-40 was not aligned to the north at Davis Camp by the dam, as was the plan. But, the small "ma and pop" motels that weren't at an off ramp essentially were bypassed. Further, the attraction of the casinos in growing numbers in Laughlin, Nevada, across the river from Davis Camp, eventually drew travelers away from overnight stays in Needles, anyway.

and Carty Camp still can be seen behind it.

We "scopers" at the

tion was replaced by I-40 which runs right smack through old cem-



Lyn Parker, a retired Needles High School American Literature teacher, on behalf of the Needles Chamber of Commerce and the Historic California Route 66 Association, on March 11, 2014 presented Mayor Ed Paget and the Needles City Council with an ornamental "Historic Route 66 Needles" road sign in recognition of the City Council's support in the progress toward historic preservation of what may soon become a National Scenic Byway—Route 66.

scoping meeting could have mentioned a lot more "places that are

etary hill.

Continued on Page 11

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**Judges Defend
Court Realign-
ment from page 6**

dug into its reserves that year to come up with \$15.4 million."

At that point, Slough said, new legislation went into effect that called upon all court systems to maintain a reserve of no more than one percent of their annual budget.

In the current 2013-14 fiscal year, the court system for San Bernardino County has a projected budget of \$98 million. In 2014-15, Slough said the court system for San Bernardino County's budget was projected at \$98 million again.

Slough said she realized that many lawyers and others are lamenting the consolidations that are to be put into place with the realignment in May, but pointed out that the trend in consolidation has been ongoing for several years now.

"We had an informal juvenile court," she said.

"We did away with that. We closed the courthouse in Chino in December of 2012. We closed the Barstow Courthouse but we have now reopened one courtroom there three days a week for handling small claims, unlawful detainees, domestic violence/restraining orders and traffic trials. Barstow does not do a full traffic calendar. It does not handle criminal cases. It does not handle civil cases, all of which have been removed to San Bernardino. San Bernardino already does all of the civil cases from Barstow and Victorville, Joshua Tree and Big Bear. Victorville has not had civil cases for years. At present Victorville is limited to criminal cases, family law, traffic, small claims and unlawful detainees."

Both Slough and Allen used the term "evolving" in reference to the ongoing changes in the court system, which contrasted with the depiction of devolution which the critics of the realignment lay at the

feet of the court's executive office.

"At one time, we had almost thirty courts in this county," Allen said, indicating the closures over decades and the more recent accommodations that he said were carefully weighed and considered. "This has been something that has been a long time formulating. This reorganization, realignment, reengineering or whatever you want to call it did not spring full form like Athena with a full panoply of war from Zeus's head. There has been an evolution toward efficiency and consolidation. If I had my way, it would not be like it is today, with only six active courthouses. I would do it differently with many more small local courthouses. But we are left with what we have.

We cannot just tear everything we have down and start over. We have to make our changes incrementally on what we have and our vision of the future."

Slough said she inher-

ited from her predecessors as presiding judge a situation in which the county's court system had been hamstrung by funding limitations.

According to California's Judicial Needs Assessment, San Bernardino County should have 156 judges and

The state has authorized 91 judges to serve on the courts located in San Bernardino County but has provided funding for only 86.

"We have more than fifty percent fewer employees - judges and staff - than we need," Slough said. "This is a horrific situation. It is remarkable, to be honest with you, that we are still functioning and meeting our statutory requirements. With the budget cuts we have made layoffs to our staff. When the employees you had go away, that workload stacks on top of the employees that remain. Our courts are still running and I cannot say enough about how much our staff does, year after year, by the month, the

week, every day, every hour."

Referring to court staff as those serving "on the front line," Slough said they were carrying out their duty despite having been undercut by budgetary decisions made in Sacramento.

"For every dollar that comes out of the state general fund, the courts get 1.2 cents," she said.

Allen said that the governor and the legislature have fallen into a pattern of raiding the courts' financial allotments early in the budget process and then making slightly less draconian cuts with the final passage of the annual budgets, calling the pittance that is restored new mon-

ey.

"It's not new money," Allen said. "What they put back in does not equal what they took away."

Slough said she has had no choice but to make the unpopular changes to the way the county's courts function.

"If you look at the background and what

has been going on since 2008-09, you can see we are confronted by a financial crisis," she said. "We could not continue to operate in the same way we always had. When the state takes that big of a chunk of your funding away from you and you are limited to one percent on your saving account, you are called upon to reallocate and reshuffle where and when you will do the work."

One aspect of Slough's realignment that was roundly second-guessed was concentrating the county's criminal cases in Rancho Cucamonga and San Bernardino. Both Slough and Allen dismissed the suggestion that this was in any way a disservice to the county's residents or resisted by the sheriff's department or the district attorney's and public defender's offices.

"The response from the sheriff with regard to our reduction in criminal court locations

Continued on Page 9

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Déjà Vu In 31st District from page 5

in the newly-draw 39th District. Instead Miller declared his intention of wrestling Baca for the voters' nod in the newly drawn 31st District.

Though the 31st was a Democratic-leaning district, Baca, perhaps fearing Miller's prodigious fundraising ability, decided to run in the neighboring 35th Congressional District, which was even more heavily laden with Democrat voters than the 31st.

Incumbent 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 in which they hold office is located.

Baca appeared to be a shoo-in in the 35th, where no Republican candidate bothered to run. 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 Veyra, a Green Party Candidate.

**Danny Tillman**

The switch to an open primary system ended sequestered party ballots and effectively brought to a close 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, a confident Baca in November 2012 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 voting trend that had gone to Veyra 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.

Baca is now gunning to make a political comeback and he is not inclined to heed the pleas of Democratic Party officials who stood idly by a year-and-a-half ago while his Democratic rival utilized boatloads of Republican money to clobber him. He is seeking to utilize the name recognition he has cultivated from two decades as a legislator in Washington, D.C. and Sacramento, his indirect and residual political clout, together with an insider's knowledge of issues and alliances, and sheer force of will to regain a berth in the House of Representatives. He is looking to tap into big money backing from national and even international players, such as ConocoPhillips and TransCanada, whose Keystone XL Pipeline intended to transport oil sands bitumen from Canada and Bakken synthetic crude oil and light crude oil produced in Montana and North Dakota to refineries on

the Gulf Coast. Baca has supported even as environmentalists have opposed that project.

Nor did Democratic

**Eloise Gomez Reyes**

honchos make any headway in convincing Gomez Reyes or Tillman to clear out of Aguilar's way. Indeed, Gomez-Reyes in particular, has demonstrated the seriousness of her campaign.

According to campaign finance reporting documents filed with the Federal Election Commission, she has raised \$315,520.94. Moreover, she has been gaining momentum and advancing in the early polling that has been conducted, making inroads against both Aguilar and Baca as she has earnestly prodded her message and pursued her maiden campaign after years of

building goodwill among Democrats throughout Southern California as a party activist and campaign worker for others.

The money Aguilar, Baca and Gomez-Reyes appear poised to throw into the advertising onslaught in advance of the June primary will very likely ensure that the vote between them will be relatively evenly distributed, with Tillman claiming an inevitable three-to-eight percent of the Democratic vote as well.

Another factor that has increased the likelihood of a similar replay of the 2012 31st District outcome, with the advantage accruing to Gooch and Chabot, is that a third potential Republican candidate, San Bernardino City Councilman John Valdivia, who took out nomination papers, at the last minute decided against running. Valdivia's presence on the ballot would have likely divided the Republican vote significantly. His decision elevates the political prospects of Gooch and Chabot considerably.

Realignment from page 8

is very favorable," Allen said. "We will now be functioning entirely from more secure locations. At the central courthouse you have defendants in custody chained together who are then moved through corridors or hallways where members of the public are exposed to them. In Fontana, these shackled prisoners require constant monitoring by bailiffs and sheriff's personnel. In Rancho Cucamonga and in the new San Bernardino Courthouse, a member of the sheriff's department is able to put our in-custody defendants unescorted into an elevator and send them up to a specific floor where they are met by a bailiff. That is a far better arrangement. This reduces the need for personnel. The courts have always been looking for ways of reducing the number of bailiffs.

This is a much more efficient and safer way of processing defendants. The sheriff's department loves it. They will now need to transport their prisoners to fewer places. This consolidation offers the same cost benefit to the public defender and district attorney from the standpoint of reducing their need for multiple facilities and offices."

Slough met accounts of widespread resistance to the realignment by judges, court staff and prosecutors with the response that "not every individual deputy or probation officer is going to be happy with being transferred. When Larry was presiding judge I was sent out to Joshua Tree. I did not appreciate it at the time. If I recall, I don't think he got a Christmas card from me that year. But looking back on it, I now see it as one of the best times I served. Yes, there are judges who do not want to move. Was

every single judge counseled? No. Each was informed. Many were advised. Some told me straight out 'You have to make the hard decision. I'm glad it's you and not me,'" she said.

Slough continued, "If you take every big decision out to a committee you will flounder in frustration because there will always be differences of approach among even those with the same basic goal. The best you can do if you are charged with making the decision is to get educated on what you are faced with, what the facts are and the limitations you have to work within, local and global, and then you make the tough decision and execute."

The perception that the realignment plan was formulated in secret and is being imposed by executive fiat is inaccurate, Allen said, although he acknowledged it was abruptly unveiled to prevent the dissemination of inaccurate information.

"The courts and the people who work within them are incapable of keeping a secret," he said. "Once the information is out there it goes all over the place, in a mutated form usually. You have to be discrete in discussing things of this nature. That is just an outgrowth of the process." Allen said the realignment in its "early version was displayed at a full bench meeting. Many had not heard of it before that time. We put it out as a proposal. We asked for suggestions. The judges had their chance to weigh in then. This outcry that some talk about was never said directly to Judge Slough. At one time we were considering polling all of the court reporters in family law about this.

When we consulted with the judges about that we decided not to go that route."

Allen continued, "The presiding judge is not a Caesar-like figure who can disregard her col-

leagues. She can be recalled. We have to live with this image that in this office [of presiding judge] there is this monolithic power, but there is no monolith. If there are people who are against this but do not want to be quoted, you have to ask why they are not willing to take a stand publicly. That they are unwilling to be identified, I think, brings what they are saying into question."

Allen said he and Slough had formulated the best approach to the financial crisis they can, given the constraints they must function within. He owned up to some degree of inconsistency in approach and strategy over the years, but said this was an outgrowth

of changes in the state's economic support network.

"Every decision you make in retrospect may not have been the best," Allen said. "When I was presiding judge, we built another courtroom in

Joshua Tree. That was before we experienced all of the budgetary cutbacks we have gone through. I did not foresee the downturn in the economy."

Allen was presiding judge in 2006 when the plan to build the new courthouse in San Bernardino was approved. He said that he and other decision-makers at that time had a somewhat differing conception of how it would be utilized than the range of uses to which it will actually be put when it opens in less than two months.

He said previously a portion of the courthouse was envisioned as being devoted to juvenile court. That has been abandoned, he said.

"It turned out that the juvenile operational portion did not have proper sight and sound barriers for juveniles in adult custody," he said. "How it would be used is changed dramatically

Continued on Page 10

San Bernardino County Coroner Reports

Coroner case # 701402238 – On 03/18/2014, at 4:54 PM, California Highway Patrol personnel were sent to Interstate 15 and State Route 60, for the report of a two vehicle traffic collision. Upon arrival they found that Timothy J. Coles, age: 40, a resident of San Bernardino, was the sole occupant of a motorcycle traveling northbound on the Interstate 15 when he struck the rear of a mini-van. He was transported from location to the Kaiser Ontario Medical Center, by ambulance where he was declared dead at 5:43 PM. The California Highway Patrol is investigating the incident. [03182014 2315 EM]

Coroner case #701402212 – On 03/18/2014 at 6:00 am the Upland Police Department received a 911 call reference a traffic accident on Foothill Blvd just east of Benson Ave in Upland. Officers arrived on scene to find a silver 2006 Honda Civic had been traveling westbound on the eastbound lanes of traffic on Foothill Blvd and struck a semi tractor trailer. The driver of the Honda was identified as Phuong Lam, age 44 of Pomona. Lam was transported to San Antonio Community Hospital and pronounced dead at 6:53 am, as a result of his injuries. The Upland Police Department is investigating the incident. [03182014 2310 EM]

Coroner case #701402105, 701402106, 701402107, 701402113 – On 03/13/2014 at 8:33 pm the San Bernardino Police Department received a call of a traffic accident on 5th Street just east of Cooley Street in San Bernardino. Officers from San Bernardino Police Department and the California Highway Patrol responded to the scene. Preliminary investigation revealed that a tan 1997 Toyota Camry was traveling eastbound at a high rate of speed. The Toyota attempted to pass a vehicle traveling in front of it, veered into on coming lanes of traffic, lost control and plummeted down the wash several feet. There were four females in the Toyota. Three were pronounced dead on scene. They were: Germany Brizick Lee Willis, a 24 year old resident of Highland (701402105), Kristy Marie Ort-Medina, a 36 year old resident of Highland (701402106), Joy Terri Doss, a 24 year old resident of San Bernardino (701402105, 701402106, and 701402107). The fourth female was transported to ARMC where she later died of her injuries (701402113). The identity of the females will be released once their identities are confirmed and their next of kin have been notified. The California Highway Patrol is investigating the incident. [031414 0757 SY] (701402113). [031414 1309 SY]

Coroner case #701402084 – On Thursday, 3/13/2014, the remains of Anthony Forte, a 61 year old resident of San Bernardino were found in the 22200 block of Fisher Street in the city of Highland. Anyone with information regarding this investigation is urged to contact San Bernardino Sheriff Homicide Detail at (909) 387-3589 or anonymously at the We-tip hotline 1-800-78-CRIME (27463) or at www.wetip.com. [031314 1750 SY]

The Coroner Reports are reproduced in their original format as authored by department personnel.

Realignment from page 9

because of the budget cuts we have experienced in the years since. The process of running a court is very fluid."

Efficiency is the watchword, Slough insisted.

"As the administrators of the court, we are responsible for making decisions so that our precious resources are distributed as efficiently

as possible so we can provide the best service to those we are charged to serve," she said. "We have looked at the numbers and have tried to efficientize our case loads. Family law being consolidated in one building consolidates the self-help and mediator services where people can come to access them rather than having them spread all over and for these family law cases, which are very impor-

tant to people, we have a broader source of judges and staff. In Rancho Cucamonga there are four family law judges with just over 1,000 cases a piece filed in 2013. San Bernardino has five family law judges and their case load is 1,500 each from 2013. We are taking this opportunity to more equitably distribute the handling of the cases from throughout the county. This is not being done for the convenience

of the judges but for the people we serve. We will be able to have self help services and mediation services in one location. When we consolidate like that we can offer everyone who needs them a higher level of service and ensure everyone of the same level of service. It is not just the efficiency we are looking at but the quality of service."

In a similar fashion, Slough said, moving the

entire court system's civil division to San Bernardino will allow disparities in case loads to be rebalanced.

"Our judges and staff in Rancho Cucamonga do substantially less civil work than our judges in San Bernardino," she said. "The civil judges here [i.e., in San Bernardino] have almost 600 cases more per judge. Having all that work load is not good. The five

judges hearing civil cases in Rancho Cucamonga have an average case load of 2,300 cases filed in 2013. In San Bernardino, the judges average case loads of 2,900. From 2013 By bringing all of the civil judges and civil cases to San Bernardino we can essentially distribute and equalize the case loads between judges. This won't happen immediately but as new cases are filed, the ones with the shorter case loads will see their number increase, so the work will be more equitably distributed. The same applies to our family law judges."

Additionally, Slough said, "By having all of the civil cases in San Bernardino, we can pool the courtrooms sharing court reporters affiliated with the civil and criminal divisions and we can backfill with those court reporters as it becomes necessary."

Slough sought to deflect charges that in planning for the new courthouse in San Bernardino, parking issues had been neglected.

Conceding that "from the beginning we knew parking here is atrocious," she said she and her staff have been "meeting with the county of San Bernardino and the city of San Bernardino to fix problems that have been in place since

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Glimpse from page 7

The scoping effort is a prelude to the preparation of a "Route 66 Corridor Management Plan" leading to a National Scenic Byway designation by the Federal Highway Administration. To be so designated, the route must have regionally or nationally significant intrinsic qualities, traveler support facilities and an approved plan that demonstrates how the corridor will be managed over time.

The Bureau of Land Management is the lead agency since 98% of the land under consideration is on BLM land—the

153 mile segment of the famous, historic route crossing over a long stretch of east Mojave desert between Barstow and the Colorado River. Lardner/Klein, a Virginia based firm, has been contracted to prepare the plan. See the 3/7/2014, Glimpse article for more details on this effort.

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Superintendent Resigns from page 4

of the students at Desert Trails Elementary have parents whose first language is not English and nearly all of the instructional materials used by LaVerne Preparatory are in English. Whereas 466 parents at the school signed the petition to move forward with the parent trigger process in late 2011 and January 2012, when the parents union held its election in October 2012 to determine which of the charter schools that had submitted proposals should be chosen to educate their children, only 53 parents participated in that vote.

On June 25, 2013 then-Adelanto Planning Commission Chairwoman Lori Yuan and another parent, Chrissy Guzman, both of whom were involved in the anti-parent trigger effort, were alleged to have done nearly \$7,700 worth of damage to a Desert Trails classroom



two feet and weigh anywhere from three-and-a-half to six pounds.

The third largest of North American hares, the *Lepus californicus* can be vicious, and, according to Mexican legend, will attack and even kill humans who are lost, weakened or disoriented in the desert. The species ranges throughout the deserts of the Southwest and into Mexico, where they have been referred to as "El Conejo de Muerta (The Rabbit of Death)."

Black-tailed jackrabbits are not rabbits but hares and, sporting 24 chromosomes, they cannot interbreed with domestic rabbits, which have 22 chromosomes.

The black-tailed jackrabbit's dorsal fur is a dark buff sprinkled with black and is creamy white on its underside and the insides of its legs. The ears are black-tipped on the outer surface, with no pigment inside. The tail's ventral surface is grey or white,

Realignment from page 10

the 1980s. We are aware that the city has been working with the county and the district attorney to add a multi-level parking structure off of Arrowhead Avenue south of Third Street."

She said she and Allen had been mindful that a significant portion of those adding to the park-

County Wildlife Corner Black-Tailed Jackrabbit - *Lepus californicus*

and the tail's dorsal surface is black, forming a black stripe. Females are larger than males.

Black-tailed jackrabbits generally occupy mixed shrub-grassland terrains and in California prefer chamise and chaparral, while avoiding closed-canopy chaparral. Strict vegetarians, black-tailed jackrabbits forage shrubs, grasses, sagebrush, and creosotebush, broom snake-weed, mesquite, yucca and cacti. They drink rainwater, springwater



or dew when it is available but rely mostly on acquiring water from the plants they eat.

Male black-tailed jackrabbit reach sexual maturity at about seven months of age. Females usually breed in the spring of their second year, although females born in spring or early summer may breed in their first year. Ovulation is induced by copulation. There are two peak breeding seasons in California, one lasting from

ing problem are people coming to court to address traffic citations. "We are taking all of the traffic cases and moving them to Fontana," which she said would eliminate "single rider vehicles" from the downtown San Bernardino district altogether.

Slough downplayed suggestions that concentrating criminal cases at the Rancho Cucamonga Courthouse would have a deleterious impact on

January to March and the other in June. The gestation period ranges from 41 to 47 days. In California the average litter size is three.

Female black-tailed jackrabbits do not prepare an elaborate nest, but rather give birth in shallow excavations called forms that are no more than a few centimeters deep which are sometimes bare or sometimes lined with hair prior to giving birth. Young are borne fully-furred with eyes open, and are mobile within minutes of birth. Other than for nursing, which lasts for no more than eight weeks, females do not hover around, stay with or protect their young. Siblings will stay together for about a week after leaving the form and then move out on their own.

Black-tailed jackrabbits do not migrate or hibernate during winter; staying in place. On a daily basis, however, they may move about anywhere from two to ten miles, staying within or near shrub cover during the day and foraging at night.

A black-tailed jackrabbit can reach a speed of 40 miles per hour and leap well over ten feet, allowing it to outrun most of its natural predators. The hares also sprint in a zig-zag pattern, further confounding their pursuers. The species' natural predators include hawks, owls,

eagles, coyotes, dogs, foxes, badgers, mountain lions, housecats, bobcats and snakes. Raccoons and skunks will prey on young black-tailed jackrabbits.

Despite the somewhat dubious legend that black-tailed rabbits have on occasion actually killed humans, the reverse is in fact far more common. The hares are known to destroy crops and for that reason are not suffered gladly by farmers. In the 1930s and 1940s, there was a bounty on jackrabbits in the area in and around Hesperia. As many as 35,000 of the creatures may have been killed in a single exterminating go-round.

The black-tailed jackrabbit has somehow withstood the onslaught of human destruction, in some measure because of its prolific breeding capability but also, paradoxically, because the parasites that hector it



are even more loathsome to humans.

The black-tailed jackrabbit population is riddled with ectoparasites, such as fleas, ticks, lice, and mites, as well as endoparasites including trematodes, cestodes, nematodes, and botfly (*Cuterebra*) larvae. Black-tailed jackrabbits are diseased with tularemia, equine encephalitis, brucellosis, Q fever, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. As such, informed humans are reluctant to catch black-tailed jackrabbits as game. Those who do are well advised to wear gloves while handling carcasses and to cook the meat thoroughly to avoid contracting tularemia, which can result in death.

Continued on Page 12



L'Wren Scott, was a striking, tall beauty, and always elegantly



fashion designer to high profile people such as Michelle Obama, Nicole Kidman, and Sarah Jessica Parker. L'Wren was

in downtown San Bernardino.

"What has happened to the budget over the last five years is the driver," she said.

"San Bernardino will be getting a new court facility downtown, which is certainly of some benefit to them," Allen said. "It is a nice facility. San Bernardino is the city where the newest and largest facility is located. But San Bernardino was six years away from bankruptcy in 2006 when I, as the presiding judge, made that decision. The civil case loads were moved to San Bernardino from the desert a few years ago. No one said then that we were moving civil cases there at that time to help the city of San Bernardino."

Both Slough and Allen bridled at the suggestion that any factors other than streamlining the judicial system were factors in formulating the realignment. There was a twang of impatience in Slough's voice when she responded to the charge that the realignment had as a goal urban renewal

and where the county's probate cases were heard eight years ago.

"We have to reimagine," he said. "The way we did business in probate ten years ago was we had it in all of the courts in the county but not as a full assignment to anyone, just as an add-on calendar. Probate was in no way a full assignment, with a half afternoon or afternoon at most in one courtroom. No one judge had developed an expertise in it. It had become the poor step child. My determination when I was presiding judge was to move probate courts from all over the county to Redlands. There was a great outcry. Attorneys complained that their clients could not get there. We went to great lengths to accommodate them and made it so people could go to the courthouse nearest them and appear by means of video hook-up. No one used that. But we set up the probate

court in Redlands and now it is seen like sliced bread. Attorneys and their clients alike loved it because they found that we then had two judges devoted to probate who had developed an expertise and knew what they were doing and the lawyers were able to get to know them and know what direction they were going in. Now everyone thinks it was the greatest idea I ever had but that is not how they thought of it at the time."

Allen said he hoped the realignment would be similarly perceived down the road.

Slough and Allen would not accept the suggestions that they had failed the citizens of the county by opting to realign and redesign the county court system to the convenience of themselves as the court's executives, the judges and the court employees at the expense of the citizens of the county.

Judge Slough's ef-



cy" and 2007's "Ocean's Thirteen." In addition to her haute couture creations, she designed a collection for Banana Republic that was introduced late last year. Madonna, Allison Williams and Christina Hendricks were among her celebrity clients.

The life of a designer or a creative person



isn't always glamorous and golden, as it seems. L'Wren Scott was 49 when she killed herself by "hanging," on March 17, 2014. Fashion designer L'Wren Scott created versatile, classic pieces that can be worn in a variety of ways and forever be remembered for these creations. RIP L'Wren you were an artist in the true sense of the word.

"I believe in stopping work and eating lunch."

L'Wren Scott

As always, if there's anything you need, I'd love to hear from you: Greysgris@aol.com or visit my page I Love Your Style on Facebook

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Realignment from page 11

Rancho [Cucamonga]

Allen said he did not believe there will be an exodus of lawyers and a closure of their offices from around the civic center in Rancho Cucamonga or an influx of bail bond businesses into the area. "Bail bondsmen will open up around the jails and the holding facilities, not the courthouses," he said. "Apparently there are people in Rancho Cucamonga who do not want all these criminal cases transferred there. What are they saying? 'We only want high class civil people here?'"

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forts have been unparalleled," Allen said

Citizens, lawyers and whatever discontented judges and court employees there are need to look past the immediate inconvenience of making the change, Slough said. "We have seen historically that cycles come and go and some have created chaos in our

court system," she said. "What I am trying to do is put our operations on a solid foundation so that we can weather those cycles and keep providing the utmost level of service even if we are in the position of the governor and the legislature taking away even more of our money."

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