

Friday, April 18, 2014 A Fortunado Publication in conjunction with Countywide News Service 10808 Foothill Blvd. Suite 160-446 Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 (909) 628-8436

Four City Elders Counsel Upland To Dispense With Pension Liability

Four Upland residents with extensive financial management and business management experience have called upon the Upland City Council to move ahead with city employee pension reform and workforce reductions.

All four expressed the view that if the

city does not make meaningful, substantial and immediate inroads on the amount of money it is shelling out to cover the cost of employing nonproductive personnel as well as the pensions of workers no longer employed by the city, it will in the next three to four years be forced

to declare bankruptcy.

Bob Nelson, a certified public accountant and former chief financial officer for Star Medical who has taught cost and management accounting at Chaffey College, was chosen as a member of the city of Upland's financial advisory task force last fall. At that

time he warned of the city's growing unfunded pension liability and called for various steps to redress the situation, including imposing a hiring freeze on city staff, which he said would prevent the city from incurring any further future pensioners while efforts to rein in pension costs are

ongoing. The full task force, however, rejected that suggestion.

This week, on April 14, Nelson came before the city council, using the four minutes allotted to anyone wishing to speak on items of civic import during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Nelson not- See P 7

Victorville In For Fight With Golf Legend Billy Casper



Billy Casper

The city of Victorville is on the brink of adding golfing legend Billy Casper and his corporation to its long and impressive list of legal adversaries.

In 2010, the city entered into an agreement with Billy Casper Golf to operate the Green Tree Golf Course, a major amenity in Victorville with a storied history stretching back three-quarters of a century.

On its links and in its clubhouse, politicians, businessman, developers and officials discussed and even closed deals relating to major developments in the Victor Valley.

Nearly four years after Billy Casper Golf took on responsibility for the landmark, however, city officials have not seen it restored to the status of past grandeur they had envisaged.

On March 17, city officials informed the corporation that the golf course has remained in operation within the strictures of the agreed-upon annual budget and that the course has not been maintained "in reasonably good condition."

Thus, the city said, Billy Casper Golf is "in default."

Billy Casper Golf Senior Vice President Bill Rehanel See P10

Abuse Of Prisoners At County Detention Facilities Sparks FBI Civil Rights Probe

The action of several employees at the West Valley Detention Center in Rancho Cucamonga and Adelanto Detention Facility in the High Desert is the focus of an investigation by the FBI.

The detention center has been for two decades and is currently the largest jail in terms

of inmate population maintained by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. The just completed Adelanto Detention Facility, wings of which were recently put into operation, will eventually house a comparable number of inmates as West Valley.

Based upon state-



West Valley Detention Center

ments by the sheriff's spokeswoman Laura department and FBI Eimiller, the FBI has

interested itself in longstanding accusations of civil rights violations of prisoners at the center.

So far, the *Sentinel* has learned, the actions of 16 sheriff's department employees or former employees are under scrutiny. Three have See P 2

Ambrozic Stakes Assembly Run On Medical Reform Platform



Michelle Ambrozic

Steeped as Michelle Ambrozic is professionally in the health care industry, it is not surprising that she

considers health care as a major issue facing both the 33rd Assembly District and the entire state of California in her campaign for the Assembly.

"I am a health insurance broker dealing with health care on a daily basis, so I am seeing a lot of people suffer from the consequences of Obamacare [i.e., the Fed- See P 6

Reddy Putting Up \$40 Million To Found Medical School Near ARMC In Colton



Prem Reddy

Dr. Prem Reddy and the medical foundation he created and runs will put up \$40 mil-

lion to create a medical school in Colton.

Reddy, who is providing the lion's share of the financial backing for the undertaking, is one of the four members of the just created board of the California University of Science and Medicine, to be known as CalMed. The other three board members are Dr. Dev GnanaDev, the chief



Dev GnanaDev

of surgery and former medical director at Arrowhead Regional Medical See P 2

Court Grants Twentynine Palms Writ In Battle With State Over RDA Funds

TWENTYNINE PALMS—The Sacramento Superior Court has granted the city of Twentynine Palms a writ of mandate in its ongoing battle with the California Department of Finance in its effort to recover bond proceeds the state insisted the city must surrender to it as a consequence of the 2011 shuttering of the Twentynine Palms Redevel-

opment Agency.

Those bonds were issued in conjunction with the city's effort to rejuvenate downtown Twentynine Palms as part of Project Phoenix, which was to include a community center, a 250-seat theater, classrooms, a civic plaza, a park, a paseo, residential units, a wastewater treatment plant, and improvements to the downtown fire

station. The last of the bonds were issued three months before Assembly Bills XI 26 and XI 27 passed and went into effect.

Passed by the state legislature three years ago at the behest of Governor Jerry Brown, Assembly Bills XI 26 and XI 27 closed out all municipal and county redevelopment efforts statewide. A coalition of

cities fought the law, but the state Supreme Court upheld the measure. While 317 of the state's 482 incorporated cities went along with the new law without question and shut down their redevelopment agencies, 165 cities have resisted the state on the issue. That resistance ranged from registering relatively mild protests to filing lawsuits against the state

and its Department of Finance, which is the entity designated under the law to make a determination with regard to how the money that was in the possession of the former redevelopment agencies is to be disbursed.

Twentynine Palms, led by its city attorney A. Patrick Muñoz of the law firm Ruttan & Tucker, has been the most aggressive of San See P 8

Medical School from front page

Center in Colton; Albert Karnig, former president of Cal State San Bernardino; and Dustin Corcoran, chief executive officer of the California Medical Association.

The board is hopeful that CalMed could achieve accreditation from the American Medical Association to enroll its first 50 stu-

dents and begin classes as early as 2016. The institution would be affiliated with San Bernardino County's public hospital, the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton. The CalMed campus would be located less than a half mile from the county hospital.

Cal Med has opened a dialog with the successor agency to the city of Colton's former

redevelopment agency, which owns 21.5 acres at the corner of West Valley Boulevard and North Meridian Avenue. If the purchase can be arranged and the medical school established, medical students would be able to do many of their clinical rotations at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

"This is an exciting and much-needed op-

portunity for medical students in the Inland Empire and California," GnanaDev said. "Because of many factors, including the extremely limited medical school spots in our state and severe shortage of doctors, we believe this project will have a significant positive impact on the economy, education and health for many decades."

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Jail Civil Rights

Probe from front page

been terminated. One resigned under threat of termination.

The FBI initially undertook its investigation after receiving what was characterized as "highly credible" information that in March three deputies had participated in an incident in which inmates were hand-

cuffed or shackled to a fence and then shocked with taser stun guns or otherwise physically assaulted.

At least one of those involved in the beating, the *Sentinel* is told, was a recent graduate of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Academy.

Three deputies working at the facility in the middle of their work shift two weeks ago were, in the words

of one source, "walked off" the detention center grounds in handcuffs by federal agents and then subjected to an interrogation.

At least two of those deputies have recounted past incidents of treatment of inmates similar to the early March handcuffed stunnings that piqued the FBI's interest, implicating several of their colleagues. In addition, accusations

have surfaced that guards used a chemical mace on inmates in their cells at the Adelanto Detention Facility.

The sheriff's department did not go beyond acknowledging that an investigation was under way with regard to a single incident in March of this year and that three deputies had been terminated. It made no mention of the fourth deputy who had resigned. While

a spokesman for the sheriff's department implied the department was itself conducting the investigation, Eimiller said the sheriff's department was acting in the capacity of a cooperating agency.

There have been consistent recurrent reports relating to escalating violence, including inmate-on-inmate, inmate-on-deputy and deputy abuse of prisoners at

West Valley since late 2012. The sheriff's office does not catalog a report on discipline or use of force against inmates but does collate statistics on inmate-on-inmate and inmate-on-deputy incidents. According to the department, in the 18 months after Assembly Bill 109 and Assembly Bill 117 went into effect in October 2011, assaults by inmates against inmates rose 50 percent and assaults by inmates on jail staff doubled. Assembly Bill 109 and Assembly Bill 117, which constitute the legislative basis for California's so-called prison realignment, mandated the release of prisoners from the state's 33 prisons so that by June 27, 2013 those facilities were at no more than 137.5 percent of their design capacity. The realignment was intended to bring the state into compliance with an order by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In reducing the state's prison population, officials in many cases sent prisoners into county facilities. That has resulted, law enforcement officials say, in increasing the number of violent and hardened criminals into the local jail population.

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Henry Advocates Mutual Accommodation In 40th Assembly District Run

San Bernardino Community College Board Member Katy Henry said she is seeking election in the 40th Assembly District to spur economic growth in her district and throughout the state by facilitating “the sustainable growth of



Kathleen Henry
small businesses” and

to improve the quality of childhood education and ensure high school graduates have access to affordable quality instruction at public universities and college.

“We have been able to do a lot of things at the community college level,” she said.

“There is so much more that needs to take place with education. We also have needs with infrastructure and water availability throughout the state. There are a number of areas beyond the scope of the board for the community college

where I can serve.” Henry, a Democrat, decried the tenor of partisan politics. “There is a need for a more balanced approach because there is too much divisiveness,” she said. “In our political and governmental discussions

it is either one way or the other. There is not much of an in-between stage. If we continue with these rigid position we are not going anywhere. We are not moving forward. I believe in a more collaborative approach. *Continued on Page 4*

GOP's Downing Wants To Make History As Youngest Bi-Racial Congressman

Ryan Downing, who was the last candidate to emerge in the race to succeed Gary Miller as Congressman in the 31st District, is widely seen as the spoiler in the race.

Two years ago, Miller, a Republican whose former 41st Congressional District

in southwestern San Bernardino County, Northeastern Orange County and Southeastern Los Angeles County was redistricted into other districts occupied by fellow Republicans, chose to run in the 31st District, which lies within San Bernardino County

and featured a 41 to 33 percent registration advantage favoring the Democratic Party. Despite that, Miller benefited from the open primaries California reinstated that year. Miller found himself competing against one other Republican, Bob Dutton, while the



Ryan Downing
Democrats fielded four

candidates – Pet Aguilar, Justin Kim, Rita Ramirez Dean and Renea Wickman. Simple mathematics redounded to his favor as he and Dutton divided the Republican vote two ways, while the slightly larger Democratic vote was divided four ways. Miller and

Dutton proved the two top vote-getters in the June primary race and then Miller defeated his fellow Republican in November 2012.

This year, Miller opted not to run again. That brought two Republicans into the race – Lesli Gooch, *Continued on Page 5*

Roelle Running For Assembly On Strength Of His Law Enforcement Background

Former Apple Valley mayor Rick Roelle said he seriously considered running for state Assembly in 2008 but postponed that effort until now for both political and personal reasons.

“I was going to run

six years ago, but I wasn't ready to retire, so I held off,” he said. “Two years ago I ran for the open seat for county supervisor. I came up 1,200 short out of 100,000 votes cast. I'm ready to retire now and there is

an open seat in the Assembly with Tim Donnelly running for governor. Public service is my passion and that is why I am running.”

The retirement he alluded to will be from the sheriff's department, where Roelle is now a lieutenant.

He said the issues facing the 33rd District are essentially indistinguishable from the major issues at the state level.

“I see our state dealing with the same issues that are big in this district - taxation, over-regulation and public safety,” he said. “The reason we have over-taxation is because the voters keep voting tax hikes on themselves. Sixty percent of the people in surveys say they believe we are overtaxed but the voters still keep voting for tax increases. The solution is if they are going to keep showing our throats, we have to have more people on the payroll, with decent paying jobs paying into it. If there is

going to be tax creation there first has to be job creation. Basically, what we need is more people going to work in the state. We're getting to the point where we have fifty percent of our population supporting the other fifty percent with all of these entitlements.”

Roelle said, “California leads the nation and the world in over-regulation. With all of the regulation on business - workers compensation insurance, environmental issues, inspections and standards, getting a business off the ground and continuing is a tough accomplishment. That regulation exists at the city level all the way up through the counties, the state and the federal government. An example I can give you is my father makes environmental containment systems for gas stations. In California those tanks have to be double-walled. The cost of that to an owner of a gas station is thousands and thousands more than for a

gas station owner anywhere else. California is the only state with that requirement.”

With respect to public safety, Roelle said keeping criminals behind bars would be one of his aims as a legislator.

He referenced Assembly Bill 109, which was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown in 2011. Along with another piece of legislation, Assembly Bill 117, the law was intended to “close the revolving door of low-level inmates cycling in and out of state prisons” and comply with a U.S. Supreme Court-confirmed mandate that the number of inmates in the state's 33 prisons be reduced to 137.5 percent of design capacity by June 27, 2013.

“AB 109 released thousands of inmates from California's prison system into our communities,” Roelle said. “This is just coming to the forefront. It has happened because we do not have enough bed space. We have to



Rick Roelle

continue to house people who commit serious crimes. The only way to do that is to expand the prison system. We need more jail space and prison space if we are going to get a handle on crime.”

As to what distinguishes him from the other nine candidates in the race, Roelle said, “obviously my 32 years in law enforcement, the last ten in a management position. Look at my background. I had eight years as an elected official on the Apple Valley Town Council, two of which were as mayor. I am a taxpayer in California. I understand what people are going through. My experience in government and law enforce-

Continued on Page 4

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Henry from page 3

I have taught in an on-line environment where personality is taken out of the equation. It is all about give and take and understanding and helping others. In that environment individuals look at things in a different perspective. We need that approach in the political arena. In the middle of a political debate, people are looking at things in a certain way and the others don't understand why they see it that way. We have to open each other's minds. We have to broaden people's horizons. Everything cannot be a flashpoint. Everything in our current political dialogue is about inciting people's anger. We have to bring people to a different way of thinking. Our effort has to be about being collaborative and building coalitions."

Henry continued, "I think one of the issues that faces us on a statewide level but also exists in the 40th is education. Education flows into different things – economic growth, diversity of business, creating jobs. Our work is not just about creating jobs. We need a diversity of business. We have to create a diversity of work opportunities for individuals who are getting educated. We do not now necessarily educate our students into programs that offer them assurance of employment. There are only a certain number of jobs out there and only a certain number of types of jobs. We have jobs that are technology related. We have jobs that are not particularly technology-dependent. We have jobs in the hospitality field. There is land here that is under-utilized. We could interest corpora-

tions and employers to locate here if we had the infrastructure in place to support their business operations. Infrastructure could create opportunities for our educated students. We can't afford to educate students here and then have them go elsewhere to go to work. They are taking on student debt and investing money in their future and for them to complete their educations and then not be able to get a job in their field here is a tremendous mismanagement of our assets and resources and priorities. There are currently only a limited number of local jobs in the fields that many of our students are training in. We need to expand that job market locally. There is an education gap in who can afford an education and unfortunately that spread exists along racial and ethnic lines."

Henry said there are already programs and institutions in place that should be expanded or changed to meet the demands of the community.

"We have some really good programs in the inland empire, transitional programs between high school and community colleges and even universities," she said. "Too many students in high school do not know what it takes to go to college. That gap is increasing. We have to improve those pathways. Economic growth is often about infrastructure: roads, public safety, sewer treatment systems. San Bernardino has an aging sewer system. If we impose taxes, we are imposing taxes upon the already taxed, but if that tax creates something that allows companies to set up here or flourish and make a profit off that,

people will realize the benefits and accept the tax, even if they don't see too much of a return on it right away. It just takes time."

With regard to the statewide issue of water usage, she said, "We can't pit farmers against the fishing industry. If too much water is taken from the delta, the water gets warm and the water goes down and the smelt can't live in that environment. There are no pat answers. That issue is too complex for pat answers. We need to have good water management practices. We have to create a way in which to turn gray water into potable water. The north and south don't need to refight the Civil War in California. We need to figure out a new way of things between northern and southern California. We need serious conservation. Whole neighborhoods should convert to drought-resistant landscaping. When I was in Northern California, I went

through water rationing in the 70s. Water rationing is what you do when you have gone beyond the possibility of conservation. It comes when you get into the shower when the water is still cold."

Henry said she was not interested in criticizing the others in the race.

"I run my own campaign," she said. "I do not know the platforms of other candidates."

She called for an evaluation of the interests of the district, issue by issue, rather than by party affiliation. "In my district, the

voter identification and party affiliation ratio is 37 to 42 in favor of the Democrats. Only one side will win. Either 37 percent are not going to have a voice or 42 percent won't have a voice. I think no matter who wins, we need to go out into the community to meet people and survey and take the pulse of the community, using field reps to see how people feel about what is going on up in Sacramento. We need to be collaborative across party lines."

A native Northern Californian, Henry

graduated from Santa Rosa High School and obtained her AA degree from the Travis Air Force Base campus of Southern Illinois University in workforce education and development. She has a master's degree in organization development and PhD in human and organizational techniques from the Fielding Institute. She has been working as an on-line instructor since 2001 and owns a consultancy that specializes in corporation interventional strategy. She is unmarried.

Roelle from page 3

on wide-based support makes me a credible person who can go to Sacramento and do the job. I have no special interest distractions. I am not a big land owner other than the house I live in. I am not looking at the betterment of my career. I am close to retiring from the sheriff's office. I have more than thirty years experience in public service. I believe I can count

they are not gouged by the cuts government has to make." Born in Covina, he has lived in Apple Valley since he was a teenager. He graduated from Apple Valley High School and studied administration of justice at East LA College and Victor Valley College. Divorced, he has two children and one grandchild.



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Downing from page 3

who was a member of Miller's staff, and Paul Chabot, who had previously lost out in a narrow race for state assembly in 2010. Republicans were heartened to learn that the Democrats appeared fated to a replay of the series of events that sent a Republican to Washington, D.C. to represent the Democratic-leaning 31st District two years ago. Again, four Democrats – Pete Aguilar, Joe Baca, Eloise Gomez Reyes and Danny Tillman – qualified their candidacies this year. Déjà vu seemed possible, with Gooch and Chabot potentially being able to outpoll their Democratic rivals in June to force a run-off between two members of the GOP in November.

That hopeful scenario for the Republicans was dealt a setback, however, when Downing, a Republican who lives outside the district, jumped into the race at the last minute.

Downing lives in Whittier, well outside

the 31st District, which stretches eastward across San Bernardino County through a large portion of Fontana, Rialto, Colton, San Bernardino and Redlands. Members of Congress, however, need not live in the district they represent but must merely be a resident of the state in which the district is located.

Downing rejected suggestions that he is looking to be a spoiler in the race or was somehow serving as a stalking horse on the part of the Democrats to cripple Chabot and Gooch and harm their elective chances.

Rather, he said, he was earnestly seeking the office out of a sincere desire to reassert basic American principles.

"I want to try to do something by working with my constituents to help reestablish and restore the value of the Constitution," he said. "We have had our First and Second Amendment rights trampled on. We are losing our right to free speech. Honest citizens are no longer able to carry weapons

to protect themselves from criminals. The government is telling people they have to buy health care. Those are all contrary to our constitutional rights."

As he moved down the list of issues he believes are most germane to the interests of the district voters and residents, Downing sounded like a bona fide Republican. "Changing and improving education, reducing taxation, and jobcreation is what I stand for," he said. "The 31st District is stagnating economically. There are no jobs here. To survive, everyone needs to bring in income. People can't live on a \$500 monthly county handout. We need to work to make ourselves competitive. We need to create free market conditions. We need perfect competition, fair competition."

Downing said his solution to the 31st District's malaise is "First and foremost we need a representative to go to companies and tell them we will do whatever it takes to have you put your factories in San Ber-

nardino County and locate your warehouses here. Then we should give them incentives in the form of tax breaks to make good on those pledges."

Schools are in need of drastic reform, Downing said. "We need to tear down the education system and rebuild a system designed to actually teach. The community needs to hold its teachers accountable. Our students are near the bottom percentile in worldwide testing. We should have standards and goals that are strictly enforced. The people who are educating and rearing our next generation should be getting psychological evaluations."

While he said universal medical care availability is a laudable goal, he said the Affordable Care Act was a misnomer and that there were better methods for achieving the goal of making health care available to everyone.

"Something needs to be done about Obamacare," he said. "It does not stick to the Constitution and it is too

expensive. My wife makes about \$3,000 per month at her job. Parking is \$400 per month. With rent and health care and taxes, her entire paycheck is gone. We need more doctors. We need to educate more doctors. In Germany, if you want to be a doctor, they send you to school to become a doctor."

He likened being a Congressman to two things: "Being a congressman is serving as a simple public servant. Being a congressman is like being a circus performer juggling many different hats. I believe I deserve to be elected because I am like the people in the 31st District. I am a common man. I believe the job of a congressman is to be a simple civil servant. You can call me on my personal cell phone. I will be every bit as approachable as the watch commander at the police department or the fire marshal. I will put my constituents first. I look forward to people hearing what I have to say and then giving me their yea or nay. I will be a person who does what the Constitution says. Congress should not be out of touch with the citizens. I will be in the field meeting people. People will be able to come to me and I will come to them. You will be able to catch me out in front of WalMart meeting people. I may not agree with everyone and I know others will have differences with me. But I will find a meeting point where we can agree to find some common ground. I can speak in human language. I can speak for the common man. I can speak for the common human good. That is what distinguishes me from the other candidates. I offer hope. Not Obama

hope, real hope." Downing bristled at the suggestions of some of his opponents that he was a carpetbagger, who lived outside of the district and was illegitimately seeking to become the leader of a constituency which he was not truly a part of.

"I am from Whittier," he said. "So what does that mean? Are they saying I should be considered a carpetbagger? That is not what I am. I do happen to live in Whittier. I have a business that takes me all over the area, particularly into San Bernardino County. I am familiar with Whittier and the people and business owners there are very familiar with me. Whittier is a strong community. The community dictates to the politicians there. The politicians do not dictate to the citizens. I chose to run in San Bernardino County because I believe I can bring to it what exists in Whittier. I could have run in Whittier where more people know me and where I might even have had a better chance. I think my talents and what I have to offer will do more good in San Bernardino County. I did live in Fontana. I went to Fontana High

Continued on Page 6



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Ambrozic

from front page

eral Affordable Care Act],” Ambrozic said. “I want to tackle the issue of access to health care within the district. We have hospitals going bankrupt. Seven out of ten people are unable to pay for health care insurance or are now losing the health care insurance they had before Obamacare was put into place.”

Ambrozic continued, “Specifically I see two areas with regard to the health care issue, accessibility and cost. With regard to accessibility, for many people it is becoming very difficult to see a doctor or a specialist. You can have a sev-

eral hour-long wait in line. That issue is directly related to the second issue. There is a reason doctors don’t come here and there is a reason doctor’s are leaving. The inability to see a doctor is the second part of that cycle. Employers are laying people off and those people are losing their health insurance, for themselves and their families. There are not enough people with wealth or private health insurance, particularly in Southern California, where taxes and regulation are so high. Doctors do not want to set up businesses in California’s rural areas. Medicare

and Medi-Cal do not offer enough in the way of payments to make up the difference.”

Ambrozic said she had a formula that would go a long way toward fixing the problem.

“I consider the 33rd District to be a rural area,” she said. “I believe what we need to do is create in California’s rural areas something similar to California’s enterprise zones, areas that will entice doctors to operate here. We need to alleviate the tax and regulatory burdens imposed on doctors and health care providers in the form of tax relief in every rural portion

of the state,” she said. “One example is the exacting seismic construction regulations put in place on medical centers and doctor’s offices and hospitals. In rural areas this is a particularly heavy burden. One cannot afford such construction requirements with this economy and this has discouraged doctors from coming into those areas and hospitals from being constructed. I would propose a moratorium on this level of regulation to give hospitals the time and opportunity to operate in these areas. The other major problem involving an intolerable burden

placed upon the medical community by government is that under our government-run medical programs doctors and hospitals have to wait up to 18 months to get reimbursed for the care and services they have delivered. This is on top of the regulatory burden and the cuts in rates insurance companies are paying for those services, the escalating rates doctors must pay for their liability insurance. Doctors are increasingly reluctant to accept new Medicare patients at the same time that thousands and thousands of low income Medi-

care patients are coming along. They are not willing to accept new Medicare and Medi-Cal patents because they are not being paid adequately. It is not financially feasible for them to accept these new patients. We need to get money to expand Medicare and Medi-Cal. We need to make sure our state medical reimbursement rates are what they should be. We need to set up a program so that if after graduating from medical school and being licensed, primary care physicians can commit to a rural area for up to six years and have their medical

Continued on Page 7

Downing

from page 5

School. I worked at the discount market in Rialto. When I was there San Bernardino was still an All American City. My aunt still lives there. I was away for a while and when I came back, I could not believe what happened to the place. I don’t know how government could let that happen. San Bernardino has a

lot of issues but it is not entirely crippled from being something good again. Redlands and Rancho Cucamonga still offer strong communities and business districts. People who know me know that I chose to jump into a race to run against six seasoned people because I really believe people have a choice to make, to vote for a candidate that will do the most he can to car-

ry them up the mountain while he is getting his back whipped. If I lose, I will respect what the constituents say.”

Downing said he wanted the voters in the 31st District to know that he believes that “Congress should stick to the law of the land, which is the Constitution. We have the right to land, liberty and freedom. We left Britain because the British King George

was taxing us as colonists unfairly and we had become a slave to the monarchy. We are pretty much repeating that all over in America today.”

Downing, who at the age of 25 is the minimum age required to be a member of the House of Representatives, said the voters in the 31st District should avail themselves of “the opportunity to elect the youngest bi-

racial candidate for Congress in U.S. History. I will work tirelessly to represent the district and return it to All-American standing. I call upon the district’s residents to really research who they are voting for.”

Born in Monterey

Park, Downing attended Cal State Northridge, where he studied cinema, television arts and philosophy. He owns political consulting and signature gathering business. Married, he has two children.

Medical School

from page 2

If it can gain accreditation from the Ameri-

can Medical Association, which would also set the number of medical students the institution can graduate in each class, Cal Med would join UC Riverside’s School of Medicine, which opened in August 2013, and Loma Linda University Medical Center, as the third medical school in the Inland Empire.

Reddy’s financial backing is the linchpin of the undertaking. A physician himself, he owns Prime Healthcare Services, a for-profit corporation which operates 25 hospitals in California, Pennsylvania, Nevada, Kansas, Rhode Island, and Texas. He also heads Prime Healthcare Foundation, which operates six nonprofit hospitals in California and Texas.

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End Pension Drain On City, Upland Solomons Say from front page

ed that the council was scheduled, later that evening, to approve a 19.2 percent sewer rate increase after setting in motion last month a 22 percent water rate increase. He noted that the city manager has signaled his intent to set aside a reserve fund equal to 28 percent of the city's \$39.6 million general fund.

While Nelson said the effort to set aside reserves was laudable, he expressed skepticism that the money to fill that reserve fund could be produced.

"Where is this cash cow coming from?" he asked. "We have this

sewer rate increase, then water rate increases. Next, you will be considering a sales tax increase of one half of one percent. Where does it stop?"

Nelson warned that any new revenues the city takes in will be immediately eaten up by increased pension costs as more city employees retire.

"The city's deficit is driven in large part by its pension obligation," he told the *Sentinel* after the meeting. "The city needs to transition its pension system from one that provides defined benefits to one based on employee contributions. The present system is a

house of cards that is going to collapse. The city is already danger-

ously close to a death spiral. If something is not done very rapidly, the only way out will be bankruptcy."

At the April 14 meeting, Warren Bowers, who has lived in Upland for over 40 years and previously was the director of manufacturing engineering with an aerospace company and as such was responsible for transitioning the company's projects from the engineering phase to the manufacturing phase and for all of the company's manufacturing start-up budgets, told the city council he did not believe its management team had come to terms with the immensity of the financial tidal wave that is about

to hit the city as a consequence of mushrooming pension costs and that management does not have the will to stanch the future red ink by insisting that the generous pensions provided to city employees in the past be cut back or rescinded. "I know we have a financial crisis," Bauer said. "I think we also have a management crisis. By management crisis, I mean we have a cultural problem in top management that runs the day-to-day operations of this city. I have a distinct impression they are not active, I should say proactive, in looking at all of the cost reduction options. I do not think they are motivated. Something has to be done about

it. If that means you as a council must change top management, that is what you should do. We can't have this same culture. We can't have a rubber stamp. We can't increase taxes. If you aren't willing to make the hard calls, then let someone who is willing to do it take your seat."

Bauer was followed by Larry Kinley, a 20-year Upland resident who worked for Bank of America for 42 years, the last 15 of which he was a manager in the problem loan administration dealing with borrowers with financial difficulties.

"The last CPA audit stated the city has suffered substantial recurring losses that raise substantial doubt

about the city's ability to continue as a going concern," Kinley said. "Yet, when the CPA firm was here in person to review their report, no one person asked, 'What is the cause of the recurring losses?'"

Kinley noted that when the CPA audit was passed along to the mayor and council by the city manager and the city's administrative services director, the transmittal letter made no mention of the dire financial straits the city finds itself in. "The cover letter completely ignored the statement about the city's ability to continue as a going concern," Kinley said. "This is akin to presenting a

Continued on Page 9

Ambrozic from page 6

school debt forgiven. If they stay that long they will build a relationship with their patents. This will give them longevity. This is already being done in several other states. Some states implement this through state funding for education. We could do that in California. My preference would be that we have that money appropriated from the California Dream Act, which is utilizing taxpayer money to further the education of illegal aliens and people who are not citizens of our

state. I would rather see that funding go toward the education of Californians and California doctors. I think that money should be redirected to covering the medical school debt of doctors willing to operate in what are considered by those working in the medical profession to be the least desirable areas of our state. The biggest issue with this district and the entire area of San Bernardino County is that we have one of highest primary care deficits in the nation. We need to invite doctors to come here and get established in

the rural parts of this district. What I would propose legislatively is that the program apply to rural areas of the state. There are other rural areas of the state facing the same issue. Their representatives in Sacramento and on their respective county boards would be very supportive of a program such as this. With Medi-Cal cuts, doctors are no longer taking Medi-Cal patients. What happens when you can't find a doctor? You go to the hospital emergency room. So now hospitals have severe overcrowding issues. I

heard recently that one patent who had gone to St. Mary's Hospital in Apple Valley for a legitimate emergency had a wait time of 20 hours. Hospitals like St. Mary's are providing more treatment but most of those treated do not pay their bills. We have fewer and fewer doctors participating. We need a program to bring them here and keep them here. They can't stay in business with California's regulatory and tax structure. To keep them from leaving we need to relieve them of taxes. That doesn't mean the state will lose something because that is already going to have. We need to relieve the overhead costs for them and give them the opportunity to stay in business."

Ambrozic said she believes she merits the votes of those living in the 33rd District. "Looking at my opponents, I would call myself the most conservative person in this race," she said. "I have the most experience in

helping people. I work with business owners every day and I see why it is so hard to keep their employees employed and provided with health insurance. In addition to my health insurance brokerage, I work with my husband in running a construction company. I know a lot of business owners are facing the same difficulties we are. That is what sets me aside from the other candidates. I know one of the others owns a construction company. Another has a video game business. I commend them for owning and running a business but I do not believe their experience gives them a higher level of experience to work legislatively. I help people every day who are in business and trying to function under this burden of taxation and overregulation. Since we are so outnumbered in Sacramento, even if I am not successful in getting the Democrats to latch onto what I am proposing legislatively, I can be effective at

the level of the district office by assisting residents with resources to get information and get someone to help them with access to health care and other services. I believe I will be more resourceful than the other candidates. I am a conservative who believes in having women in government, lowering taxes and getting things started at the local level rather than the federal or even state level. If the people of the district vote for me they will have someone who puts the needs of this district first. I will help them have their voices heard. I will stand for them and fight for them in Sacramento."

Born in Miami, Florida, Ambrozic has lived in California since she was a toddler. She graduated from Beverly Hills High School and graduated from the University of Arizona with a degree in communications. She is married with three children.



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Coroner case #701402887—On April 12, 2014, at 3:00 AM, San Bernardino County Sheriff Department deputies were dispatched to Lear Ave. and Two Mile Road, in Twentynine Palms for a report of a two vehicle roll over traffic collision. Upon arrival they found Corey Coumbes, a 24 year old resident of New York, the passenger of a 2014 Kia, was deceased at the scene. The San Bernardino County Sheriff Department is investigating the incident. [041414 1311 SY]

Coroner case #701402827 - On 04/08/2014 around 9:25 p.m., paramedics and law enforcement responded to a call on State Route 18 and Blue Water Drive in the City of Big Bear, for a traffic collision of a motorcycle versus a sport utility vehicle. Emergency personnel arrived to find Michael Christy Stewart, a 72 year-old resident of Big Bear, with traumatic injuries. He was transported by helicopter to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center where he later succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced dead on 04/10/2014 at 7:07 a.m.. The California Highway Patrol is investigating the accident. [04142014 0945 JK]

Coroner case 701402896: On Saturday, April 12, 2014, at about 11:30 AM, Thuan Ngoc Pham, a 49 year old resident of San Diego, was hiking along the Sky High Trail, approximately three miles east of San Geronio Peak, when he was witnessed to fall down the ice covered slope. Pham was flown by Sheriff Air Rescue helicopter to Loma Linda University Medical Center where he was pronounced dead in the emergency room at 1:44 PM. [04122014 1958 CN]

Coroner Case #701402882 - At 2:42 AM on 04-12-14, the San Bernardino Police Department responded to E. 30th St. and San Gabriel St. for a reported solo motorcycle accident. Paramedics found Christopher D. Villegas, a 43 year old resident of Redlands, with unjuries and transported him to St. Bernardine Medical Center where he was pronounced dead of his injuries at 3:13 AM. The San Bernardino Police Department is investigating the collision. [041214 1957 CN]

Coroner case #701402853—On April 11, 2014, at 3:14 AM, San Bernardino County Sheriff Department and California Highway Patrol personnel were called to the area of Interstate 15, south of Dale Evans Parkway, for the report of a pedestrian having been struck by a vehicle. Upon arrival they found that an adult Hispanic male had been walking on the number one southbound lane when he was struck by a Cadillac Escalade. During the incident the male suffered major injuries and was declared dead on scene by American Medical Response personnel. The name of the decedent is being withheld pending a positive identification and next of kin notification. The California Highway Patrol is investigating the incident. [041114 0916 SY] Case number corrected [041114 1029 SY] Name release: Santiago Garza Amador a 38 year old resident of Bellflower [041514 1345 SY]

Coroner case #701402851—On April 11, 2014, at 1225 AM, officers of the California Highway Patrol were sent to the area of the Interstate 15, south of Outlet Center Dive, Barstow, for the report of a single vehicle accident. Upon arrival they found that a white Chevrolet sedan had been traveling southbound on the Interstate 15 in the number two lane, when for unknown reasons the vehicle left the roadway and struck the center median and rolled an undetermined number of times. The driver, a white female and sole occupant of the vehicle, was declared dead on scene by Barstow Fire Department personnel. The name of the decedent is being withheld pending a positive identification and notification of next of kin. The California Highway Patrol is investigating the incident. [041114 0912 SY] Name released: Katrina Lorraine Collier a 38 year old resident of Victorville [041514 1347 SY]

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Bernardino County's 24

cities in disputing the state's action in confiscating redevelopment money and then redis-

tributing it to other local taxing agencies or using it for education or public safety purposes.

At stake in the matter for Twentynine Palms, a city of 25,048 in San Bernardino County's

Mojave Desert outback, are two tax allocation bonds issued for a total of \$8.5 million. Those

bonds were intended to defray the cost of Project
Continued on Page 9

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Upland Cautioned To End Pension Giveaways

from page 7

financial statement to your bank listing your assets but failing to list the liabilities. How in the world do you tolerate biased and slanted communications from your subordinates?"

Kinley requested that the council come face-to-face with its pension crisis publicly by including an agenda item for its April 28 meeting "so that the citizens can hear from the city council what its members perceive as the cause of the city's problem and their ideas for a permanent correction." Kinley said he wanted the council to "freely express their thoughts because this will help the citizens decide the competency level of those in office and who to vote for in the next election."

Less than a week before Monday's meeting, another city resident, Bill Cary, who is a processing account manager with Tetra Pak Incorporated, on April 9 sent a letter to the mayor and city council in which he expressed grave concern about city finances.

"As Upland continues to move ever so much closer to bankruptcy, it is not very evident to the citizens of Upland what you are doing to stem the tide. Someone came up with the less than brilliant idea to raise the city sales tax to cover the shortfall in revenue.

This is not getting to the root of the problem and you are once again asking the citizens of Upland to pay for the mistakes that our managing city council, be it past or present, created on their own. We put our faith in you to manage and make the tough decisions. Now it's time to do just that. Before you can ask the citizens to bail you out, it would be best to ensure you have our house in order and can make the tough choices if necessary. The list of total compensation from police, fire and city top staff amounts to over \$18 million. Police and fire alone accounted for over \$15 million of this total. In the private sector, if we run into difficult times, we have been asked to take a cut in pay and even though we didn't like it, we knew it was the only way to preserve our jobs for the future."

Cary continued, "If police, fire and city staff were to take a 10 percent cut in total compensation it would provide almost \$2 million in savings. I know the police and fire unions will scream bloody murder and say they have already given too much. These groups need to understand that they are not helping to come to a solution because they are the problem. By running a search of salaries from other cities in California, as well as large cities throughout the country, it is evident that Upland pays a lot more

The Desert Tortoise is the quintessential inhabitant of the Mojave Desert. They inhabit semi-arid grasslands, gravelly desert washes and sandy canyon bottoms below 3,500 ft.

A land dwelling turtle belonging to the Testudinidae family, the Desert Tortoise is also known as a gopher tortoise because it belongs to one of 4 species of the Gopherus genus. Desert tortoise populations in some areas have declined by as much as 90% since the 1980s, and the Mojave population is listed as threatened.

It has muscular and flattened front legs and long claws, which are very well adapted for digging deep burrows. Desert Tortoises can make hissing, popping, and poinking sounds, usually out of fear or distress. Its domed, brown shell, known as a carapace, can grow to be 9-15 inches in length, 4-6 inches high. Adult tortoises can weigh from 8 to 15 lbs. If unmolested by predators, man or disease, they will typically live to be about 80 years old, with some reaching the century mark.

Both genders have an

than all cities listed."

Cary said excessive pay to city employees in Upland was not limited to the police and fire departments.

"We have a deputy public works director, Acquanetta Warren, who makes \$163,000 a year total compensation and she is the mayor of Fontana. Where is her allegiance directed to? Was there no one in the city of Upland who could handle the job?

Court Grants 29 Palms Writ from page 8

Phoenix.

Based on an analysis by Muñoz, the Twentynine Palms City Council publicly asserted that that AB X1 26 and AB

County Wildlife Corner The Desert Tortoise

extension on the front of their lower shell called a gular horn. The horn is longer on the males and



they will use them to upturn rival males. Males will fight each other whenever they meet. These fights usually end with the defeated male scurrying away. Males and females share crevices and burrows to get out of the extreme heat of the day, but when they emerge, the males will again try to upturn each other.

To escape the heat of the summer and the cold of winter the desert tortoises dig burrows and live in them, often remaining in the same burrow for their entire lives. A completed burrow is three to six feet deep. From November until February, the tortoises retire to their burrows and in a torpid state in their underground burrows. A tortoise that lives to the age of 80 will spend roughly 76 years underground.

Their most active time is in the spring when they will forage for herbs, grasses, new growth of cactus and flowers. Individual tortoises develop a preference for certain plants, and their digestive systems become accustomed to this personal diet. If they are forced to forage on plants to which they are unaccustomed, it will take them three to four months for their digestive system to adapt. In the spring they absorb enough, or nearly enough water to last them an entire year, storing almost a quart in their bladder. Destruction of their habitats and the plants in them can prove fatal to the desert tortoise.

Desert Tortoises dig catch basins in the soil to catch rainwater. They return to these watering holes when it rains.

Though the Desert Tortoise will mate anytime it is above the ground, as a species they are notoriously slow at reproducing. The females wait to begin breeding until they are at least 15 years old. They can store sperm and will lay a clutch of 4-8 hard-shelled eggs in a nest dug near the burrow opening

in May, June, and July. She can lay 2 to 3 clutches a year. The female will leave the nest and the eggs are then incubated by the warm soil. After 90 to 120 days the young tortoises hatch. The survival rate for these hatchlings is not impressive. Only three to four out of 100 live to adulthood. Because their shells remain soft for five years, they are vulner-



able to predators.

Ravens, gila monsters, kit foxes, badgers, roadrunners, coyotes, and fire ants are all natural predators of the desert tortoise.

It is unlawful to touch, harm, harass or collect a wild Desert Tortoise.

Upon being frightened, they will empty their bladder as a defense mechanism, and the loss of water can be fatal to the tortoise. The Desert Tortoise is considered a "threatened" species under the California state Endangered Species Act in 1989 and the federal Endangered Species Act in 1990.

anything is ludicrous."

Cary concluded, "I work for a privately held company and my compensation is based on how well I do. I am paid on a commission basis and if we don't sell we don't get paid. If we continue to not sell we will be replaced. When someone reduces your pay based on the company's performance, you learn real quick how to make the tough decisions."

X1 27 are trumped by federal securities regulations, meaning the money the Twentynine Palms Redevelopment Agency bonded for in 2011 must be utilized only for the purpose that bondholders were told the money would be applied toward.

The city followed Muñoz's recommendation to have the successor agency to the redevelopment agency lay claim to the redevelopment money and declare its intent to proceed with Project Phoenix. AB X1 26 and AB X1 27 provided for

the creation of locally based oversight boards to direct the discharging of remaining redevelopment money. In May 2012, Muñoz drafted a contract between the successor agency and the



Continued on Page 10

California Style Springing

By Grace Bernal

After a long and boring winter, spring week is finally here. It's time to take off the jacket and



throw on the maxi dresses and shorts. The bright-

est colors bring this season to life. It's nice to see



everyone taking on the first spring day in their own fashion. Life is definitely renewed with this

new season. Enjoy the talk it has to offer but most of all fall in love with the taste of fashion. 'Til then, Happy Easter!

"Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'"

Robin Williams



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

Court Grants 29 Palms Writ from page 9

city by which the successor agency turned over the bond spending authority to the city with a directive that it go toward Project Phoenix. On a 4-1 vote on May 22, 2012 the city council voted unanimously to transfer the seven-member oversight board's duties and obligations to administer the bond proceeds to "the city in its capacity as a municipal corporation."

To reinforce that action, on February 26, 2013, the city council authorized Muñoz to file litigation against the Department of Finance

so the city could move forward with the expenditure of the bond proceeds. Muñoz did so in April 2013. The city in that litigation took the position that the bond documents are contracts that created specific obligations between the city, as the issuer, and the bond purchasers, and as such are enforceable obligations such that the state cannot interfere with them. Moreover, according to Muñoz, the city would be violating IRS and SEC regulations as well as putting the tax exempt status of the bonds in jeopardy if it does not spend the money for the purpose for which the bonds were issued.

AB X1 26 and AB X1 27 contained a provision requiring any municipalities that contested the law to do so in Sacramento Superior Court. The California Department of Finance is being represented by the California Attorney General's Office's civil division in the case. On December 23, the California Attorney General's Office laid out an answer to Twentynine Palms' legal action preparatory to an upcoming January 24 hearing on the matter.

According to deputy attorney general Michael Witmer, \$12 million of the tax allocation bonds issued by the city – offered to bondholders in

March 2011 – while earmarked for Project Phoenix, contained no concomitant contracts to build anything or a defined plan of how the bond proceeds were to be expended.

Witmer maintains the assertion by Muñoz and

Victorville Says Casper Is In Default from front page

contests the city's claim, maintaining the golf course to be in "far better condition today than it was at the inception of our contract in June 2010."

Casper, now 82, attended the University of Notre Dame on a golf scholarship and had 51 PGA Tour wins in his career, the first of which came in 1956. He is ranked seventh among golfers all time in terms of tournament wins. He was a member of the United States team in the Ryder Cup eight times, and has scored the most points in the Ryder Cup by an American player. He is widely recognized as the best put-

a consultant working for the city in the capacity of community development director, Matt McCleary, that Project Phoenix disbursements could be placed on the phased out redevelopment agency's recognized obligations payment schedules runs

contrary to instructions from the California Department of Finance that the project was not to be listed on the payment schedule.

The writ and documents filed in conjunction with it contest that assertion.

ter of his era. He won at least one PGA Tour event for 16 straight seasons, from 1956 to 1971 inclusive.

On the senior circuit, Casper earned nine Senior PGA Tour victories.

Billy Casper Golf is the second largest operator of golf courses in the United States, and currently manages more than

140 golf facilities.

The city is currently involved in more than two dozen lawsuits and legal actions, including one in which it is contesting civil charges by the Securities and Exchange Commission that it defrauded investors in its issuance of bonds for improvements at Southern California Logistics Airport.



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