

Judge Rules Ontario Pact With LA For Operation & Sale Of Airport Was Lawful

RIVERSIDE—The city of Ontario's efforts to wrest control of Ontario International Airport back from the city of Los Angeles by legal means suffered two serious setbacks this week when the judge hearing Ontario's lawsuit ruled the agreements Ontario entered into with Los Angeles in 1967 and 1985 to give the larger

city first operating control over and then ownership of the airport were legal and binding.

In pursuing its lawsuit against Los Angeles, Ontario has contended those agreements, which have been honored at this point for 48 years and 30 years, were improperly entered into and therefore not binding. The court's tentative ruling

entered this week shoots down that legal theory.

After five years of declining ridership at Ontario Airport, the city of Ontario in 2013 sued Los Angeles in an effort to undo the terms of a joint operating agreement for the airport forged between the two cities in 1967 and Ontario's deed-ing of the airport to the megalopolis to the west



Andre Cronthall

in 1985, after performance criteria specified

in the original agreement calling for such a transfer were met. Ontario, alleging Los Angeles had mismanaged the airport through neglect, sought a ruling forcing Los Angeles to give up ownership of the aerodrome and return authority over its management back to Ontario.

The lawsuit was put on hold in late See P 6

Homeowner Insists On Going To Trial In Upland Brown Lawn Prosecution

UPLAND—The criminal case brought by the city of Upland against Fernand Bogman for not watering his lawn will proceed to trial on March 30, with trial preparation set for March 27.

In that matter, Bogman will be represented by attorney Michael P. Vollandt, who has recently notched a victory over the city of Upland, its police department, its code enforcement division and city prosecutor Dan Peelman for what was widely perceived as an overextension of the city's authority.

Bogman was previously represented by public defender Gary Austin.

Austin and Bogman battled the city to a standstill thus far, with the city having managed to keep the case against Bogman alive, while subjecting itself to considerable negative publicity in the process that has brought the continuing tenure of the city staff member who oversees the code enforcement into question. Meanwhile city residents and those aware of the matter are beginning to question the wisdom of the city's policy which requires what at least some consider to be the profligate use of water to maintain aesthetic standards during an ongoing drought.

The city initiated proceedings against Bogman under its administrative citation authority in August 2013. Technically, the city of Upland through Peelman has charged Bogman with a violation of See P 2

Victorville Landfill To Host Ten Megawatt 58-Acre Solar Generating Facility

SAN BERNARDINO—The County planning commission this week approved the establishment of a 10-megawatt solar farm at the Victorville Landfill.

The panel, which is one member short, granted the applicant, SunEdison and its representative, Jeremy Krout of EPD Solutions, permission to proceed with

what was described as an "interim" solar photovoltaic generating facility. The facility is to cover 57.6 acres within the 90-acre third expansion phase of the 491-acre landfill.

According to a report on the project prepared by county land use division employee Tracy Creason, the terrain upon which the facility

will be located consists of rolling hills and desert washes which slope from the northwest to the southeast with an elevation change of approximately 120 feet, over a distance of approximately a half mile. Vegetation on the property currently consists of Mojave creosote bush scrub and bursage scrub with a smattering of Joshua trees.

While proposed solar energy projects in other areas of the county have been opposed by environmentalists and nearby residents and in some cases halted, this project met with little resistance.

According to Creason, "The proposed commercial solar energy generation facility is either (a) sufficiently separated from existing com-

munities and existing/developing rural residential areas so as to avoid adverse effects, or (b) of a sufficiently small size, provided with adequate setbacks, designed to be lower profile than otherwise permitted and sufficiently screened from public view so as to not adversely affect the desirability and future development of See P 6

Once Burned For \$680,000, Upland Again Targets Dirt Pile

The city of Upland has reinitiated communication with the current ownership of Dineen Trucking, apparently over the accumulation of debris at that company's corporate yard, located north of Foothill Boulevard and south of Cable Airport, a very short distance from where Central Avenue dead ends into Foothill.

The city's communication presages an effort to again eradicate that

pile of debris, which is referred to as "Dineen Mountain" or "the dirt pile" and which is readily visible from Foothill Blvd/Route 66, the major east-west corridor through the City of Gracious Living. But that effort is fraught with hazards to both the city's taxpayers and its officials, who previously failed in their efforts to shut down the Dineen operation.

Dineen See P 7

Fight Over Permitting Of Yucca Valley Dollar General Now In Appellate Court

The dispute over the county planning commission's 2013 4-1 approval of a proposal by Dynamic Development to establish a Dollar General store at the corner of Twentynine Palms Highway and Sunburst Avenue in Joshua Tree has now moved on to the Fourth Appellate District Court.

The effort by Dynamic Development in conjunction with the

Goodlettsville, Tennessee-based Dollar General Corporation has proceeded in stages, which could be likened to rounds, entailing opposition by local residents who consider the Dollar General to be out of character with the rustic community and would prefer to not see it built. In most of rounds, however, Dynamic Development has prevailed. That has not discouraged

the opposition, which is now looking to use the proponent's appeal to the Fourth Appellate District as a forum for challenging even further aspects of the project locals find objectionable.

Dynamic Development prevailed in the first round, convincing Gus Romo and Ernie Perea, planners with the county's department of land use services, to make a finding See P 8

County Spending \$2.4M To Fix Helicopter After Catastrophic Engine Failure

The board of supervisors earlier this month elected to spend \$1.5 million to purchase engines and a gear box to return a 43-year-old helicopter in the sheriff's department's air fleet to service.

On November 8, 2014, two sheriff's department aviation division employees were operating the department's Bell 212 helicopter near the

division's Rialto hangar when one of its engines suffered a catastrophic failure. Pilot Brian Miller was able to land the craft safely, but the engine was a total loss.

The department was faced with the prospect of accepting the loss of the helicopter, repairing it or acquiring one to replace it.

The Bell 212, a 1972 model, was purchased



nearly 27 years ago, when its acquisition, at a cost of \$872,000 was approved by the board of supervisors on March 14, 1988.

Until the November

incident, the civilian twin-engine Bell 212 was one of two "medium duty" helicopters the sheriff's aviation division operated, the other being a single-engine

military surplus UH-1H Super Huey. Together, they were called upon to perform specialized law enforcement assignments, firefighting and search and rescue duties, including high altitude operations at popular outdoor recreation locations such as 11,503 foot high Mt. San Gorgonio peak, 11,209 foot high Jepson Peak and 10,680 foot high See P 3

Homeowner Insists On Taking Brown Lawn Case To Trial from front page

Upland Municipal Code Section M8.12.020(D), maintaining nuisance landscaping. Peelman has also charged Bogman with a violation of Upland Municipal Code Section M12.24.130, maintaining a nuisance parkway. In Upland, parkways are owned by the city but the municipal code requires that the most proximate landowner maintain them.

With regard to the second charge, Bogman maintains that he actually watered and attempted to save the tree in question, which is located on city property in front of the sidewalk in front of his house, but that some unknown condition beyond his control such as blight had infested it. He contends it was the city which neglected its own tree and caused it to expire.

The city cited Bog-

man for having allowed the lawn at his residence, located in the 1000 block of West 14th Street, to turn brown. Bogman, who does not have official title to the property in question, informed the city he was not the owner of record. The city proceeded with its action against him anyway. Under the authority the city assumed as a consequence of the administrative citation ordinance the city had put in place following a controversial 3-2 vote of the city council the month prior to the issuance of the Bogman's citation, a summary finding against him was made and collection of the fine was handed over to a collection agency.

Bogman protested the city's action, only to be told the five-day deadline for making an appeal had elapsed. Citing principle, Bogman stood his ground and now the city is attempting to get a misdemeanor conviction against him for refusing to water his lawn.

Bogman acknowledges that he did in fact cease watering his lawn, having done so because of the continuing drought. Responsible public officials were calling for water conservation throughout the state, he claims, and he said he was personally convinced that "pouring buckets and buckets of water on grass, while water is growing ever more scarce, is immoral."

Complicating the issue is that in recent months, Bogman has reseeded his lawn and it is now green. That occurred, however, after a protracted go-round with city officials in which Bogman, who has installed a drip irrigation system which delivers a precise amount of water to the base of the rose plants and shrubbery in his yard, attempted to learn from city officials what drought tolerant plants he could plant that would be acceptable to the city. What Bogman learned from that

exchange was that the city did not have a policy in place with regard to drought tolerant landscaping. He was instead told to preview for city officials what his plan was to see if it was acceptable. Moreover, according to Bogman, the city had blurred the distinction between drought tolerant and California native plants.

In November, Peelman attempted to have Bogman capitulate to the city's request, offering to drop the prosecution of the criminal case if he would pay a fine and redress the situation with his lawn. Bogman refused, demanding a trial. On the day that the trial was to begin, Peelman failed to show up. This angered Judge Jon Ferguson, who was hearing the case. Ferguson was on the brink of dismissing the city's case against Bogman at that point, but told Bogman to return to court the following week, and Bogman complied. The case has continued to drag on.

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In the meantime there has been considerable publicity with regard to the matter, not limited to the local area but extending into the Los Angeles media market and beyond. Some of that publicity has been less than flattering to the city.

Of particular moment in the information being played out publicly is that the city itself has properties where it has allowed its landscaping and vegetation to go unwatered, a point Bogman made repeatedly in his

interviews with the news media. In responding to that point, Upland Mayor Ray Musser lamented that the city had been less than fully conscientious about keeping its own landscaping maintained to the same standard its code enforcement officers were imposing on the city's residents because the city did not have the financial resources appropriated to restore landscaping that had perished during the drought, now more than three years running. The hypocrisy of the city's action was widely denounced by media pundits.

Also brought out was that Bogman was adhering to a mandate by California Governor Jerry Brown, who had appealed to the residents of the state to cease irresponsible water use and emphasized the mandate by ceasing the watering of the lawn at the governor's mansion in Sacramento.

Even more than the city's reputation is riding on the Bogman prosecution. One specter hanging over the matter is the city's administrative citation ordinance, which was passed just prior to the citation being issued to Bogman. That ordinance gave the city's code enforcement division sweeping authority that extended from citing individual residents or business owners to creating a process by which the citation would be adjudicated and the guilt of the party cited ascertained or determined by the city. The process then provided

Continued on Page 4

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Two Barstow Educators Arrested For Relations With Students

Two school officials in the Barstow area were arrested this month in separate incidents relating to improper and unlawful sexual relations with minors.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department's Crimes Against Children Unit arrested and booked Kristen Kay

Blanton, a secretary at Barstow Christian School, on January 12 for allegedly engaging in sexual acts with a teenage student who attended Barstow Christian.

The sheriff's department began investigating the matter on January 11, and by the following day had enough information

to arrest Blanton, 37, on belief that she had sexual relations with a male student, who is now 14. She has been placed on unpaid leave by Barstow Christian School.

Barstow Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics Academy Principal Mark Lesley Hall was arrested

by Barstow Police on January 16 on suspicion of engaging in a sexual relationship with a 17-year-old girl identified only as a Barstow Unified School district student.

The police department began looking into an allegation that Hassell

Continued on Page 10

Forum... Or Against 'em

Observations from a Decidedly Continental Perspective

By Count Friedrich von Olsen



I love my adopted country. Despite the negative attitude of some in the international community with regard to America and all she stands for and the outright jealousy of an equal or greater number of others, I can tell you that the United States of America is, on balance, the object of admiration and envy the world over. In fact, I can make a case that no one can appreciate America more than a non-American, since natural born Americans themselves do not have the perspective of seeing up close or living intimately with the disadvantages that the citizens of many other countries are born into. Without having that comparison as a guidepost, one cannot see the opportunity that befalls every American as a birth-right...

Nevertheless, it never ceases to astound me how out of touch some elements of American governance are with the reality over which they have authority. To put it rather bluntly, certain of our rulers in this country are unworthy of the honor that has been bestowed upon them. There are too many examples of this, in my opinion, and I could expend the rest of the too few days left me on this earth holding forth on just the ones I know about. For the sake of brevity, I will dwell on just one case in point, that of the board of trustees for the Rialto Unified School District...

For over a year now, Mohammad Islam, who was formerly that district's associate superintendent of business services, has been serving in the capacity of acting, or interim, superintendent. He was appointed to that position after former Rialto Unified Superintendent Harold Cebrun was placed on administrative leave as a consequence of the scandal involving Judith Oakes, the district's accounting official who it has now been confirmed embezzled \$1.8 million in proceeds from the district's school lunch program over the five year period between 2008 and 2013. Oakes is suspected of having embezzled another \$1.4 million from the lunch program between 2001 and 2007.

Miss Oakes might still be pilfering money from the district if it had not been for Mr. Islam paying attention to detail and following up on what he observed and reacting appropriately and forthrightly. There is some evidence to suggest that Miss Oakes and Mr. Cebrun, to use the vernacular, "had a thing going," although Mr. Cebrun has denied that was so...

Whatever the truth about the relationship between Mr. Cebrun and Ms. Oakes, who had been stealing money from the district prior to Mr. Cebrun being hired by Rialto Unified in 2009, she felt comfortable continuing to do so after Mr. Cebrun was in place as the head of the district. During Mr. Cebrun's tenure as superintendent, the videorecording system that was in place to monitor the counting of money from district enterprises such as the lunch program was inoperable. Whether that was by design or chance is not clear...

Within a year of his hiring as associate superintendent of business services, Mr. Islam took notice of the numbers running through those various accounts. Looking at the numbers of students, the numbers of meals, the cost of preparing those meals, the income

Continued on Page 7

The Count's views do not necessarily reflect those of the Sentinel, its ownership, its publisher or editors.

\$2.4 M To Fix Sheriff's Helicopter from front page

Shields peak in the San Bernardino Mountains and 10,068 foot high Mount Baldy Peak in the San Gabriel Mountains located at the border between San Bernardino and Los Angeles County in the Angeles National Forest.

In 2014, the helicopters flew approximately 500 hours for fire and search and rescue missions, which included response to 158 calls to the sheriff for service.

Despite the consideration that the Bell 212 is over 40 years old and the original mechanical components are no longer available, a decision was made to upgrade it with new, more powerful engines, as the estimated cost to purchase a new

medium duty helicopter to meet the sheriff's mission requirements is \$10 million to \$12 million.

The upgrade/repair of the Bell 212 will require replacement of the gearbox and transmission, as well as reinforcement of the tail boom section and other structural components of the helicopter to withstand the increased torque. While the Bell 212 helicopter is nonoperational, any required fire and/or search and rescue missions must be performed by the remaining UH-1H Super Huey, which has only about 90 flight hours available before its next Federal Aviation Administration inspection. If any deficiencies were to be found during the inspection, the sole remaining "medium duty" helicopter could

be grounded for repairs, leaving the county with no hoist/rescue capable aircraft.

A second engine to match the replacement engine for the motor that failed has to be purchased because, according to sheriff's department captain Shannon Dicus, "In order for the helicopter to operate safely, both engines must be compatible so failure of even a single engine requires replacement of both engines. The requested purchase of two new engines and a gearbox from Pratt & Whitney is necessary in order to return this helicopter to service. It is imperative, therefore, that the sheriff return the Bell 212 to service as soon as possible in an effort to balance the workload, ensure the longevity of these aircraft and be responsive to public safety needs."

The board of supervisors authorized the county's purchasing agent to issue a purchase order to Pratt & Whitney Services Inc., in the amount of \$1,530,958.32 for the purchase of two engines and one gearbox, including a core exchange of two engines and one gearbox from the sheriff's department Bell 212 helicopter, which included a fleet enhancement agreement with Pratt & Whitney Services Inc.

The sheriff's department solicited competitive bids for the purchase of the engines and gearbox. Pratt & Whitney had the lowest cost proposal, which included a year-end price discount and core exchange of the existing engines and gearbox. Pratt & Whitney's discounted price was originally to expire

on December 31, 2014, but the company agreed to extend the price until January 6, 2015, on which date the board of supervisors gave approval to the purchase.

Pratt & Whitney's liability is limited to the cost of the engines and gearbox, which includes damages that may be related to Pratt & Whitney's omission or negligence. The warranty provisions exclude coverage for Uniform Commercial Code implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for purpose.

The product warranty is for a period of five years or 1,000 flight hours. The warranty can be voided due to factors beyond Pratt & Whitney's control, including the engine being used in a manner that Pratt & Whitney deems to have compromised the parts life or reliability.

The total cost to repair and upgrade the Bell 212 is estimated at \$2.4 million and will, according to Dicus, "extend the life of the helicopter for 10 - 15 years."

In addition to the Pratt & Whitney purchase, the helicopter will also require a new transmission, the cost of which is estimated at \$400,000, and retrofitting and installation services, estimated at \$500,000.

The sources of funding for the upgrade include \$300,000 from the sheriff's department budgetary savings, \$1.5 million in additional Proposition 172 sales tax revenue as the result of a one-time adjustment from the state of California, with the remainder funded with AB 109 revenues in excess of amounts included in the 2014-15 budget.

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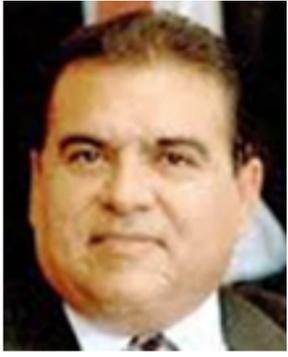
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Bribery Figure In CalPERS Investment Scandal Commits Suicide

Alfred Villalobos, the figure at the center of the California Public Employees Retirement Sys-



Alfred Villalobos

tem bribery scandal that ensnared the pension fund's former chief executive, apparently committed suicide last week.

Villalobos, a Nevada businessman who was set to go to trial next month on charges that he bribed California Public

Employees Retirement Fund Chief Executive Officer Fred Buenrostro, is believed to have fatally shot himself in the head January 13 at an indoor shooting range in Reno, according to Reno police.

The scandal which involved Villalobos and Buenrostro first broke in 2009, and has continued to unwind. Buenrostro has admitted receiving over \$250,000 in bribes and hush money from Villalobos and is scheduled to be sentenced in May.

Though Buenrostro referred to each other as "friends," Buenrostro was to be called upon to testify against Villalobos when his matter came to trial, elucidating

details of how Villalobos made payments to him while he was brokering investments on behalf of the California Public Employees Retirement System. Those bribes to Buenrostro were intended to gain favor for the clients of Villalobos' investment firm.

Villalobos had been a board member for the California Public Employees Retirement Board in the early 1990s, which led to his association with Buenrostro. Subsequent to his departure from the retirement system's board, Villalobos worked Sacramento assiduously as a representative of Apollo Global Management and other hedge funds and private equity firms. In

this capacity Villalobos sought investment dollars from the big pension fund. He found both Buenrostro and another board member, Charles Valdes, receptive to his approach. In one eight month period, between August 2007 and April 2008, the California Public Employees Retirement System invested approximately \$3 billion in several Apollo funds. As a broker on those transactions, Villalobos and his firm ARVCO Capital Research received \$14 million in placement fees.

According to assistant U.S. attorney Timothy Lucey, who was prosecuting Villalobos, Villalobos gave Buenrostro more than \$250,000

in bribes, including \$200,000 in cash delivered in three installments at the Hyatt hotel



Fred Buenrostro

across the street from the State Capitol in 2007. Furthermore, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Villalobos fed Buenrostro's gambling addiction, covering an unspecified amount of his losses believed to be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars at

Lake Tahoe and Reno casinos for nearly a decade. Villalobos paid for Buenrostro's wedding and treated Buenrostro and Valdes to an all-expenses-paid vacation to Europe and Asia in 2006. Later, according to Lucey, when investigators were zeroing in on Villalobos' activity, he wrote Buenrostro a \$50,000 check in an effort to dissuade him from being candid with those investigators.

Villalobos's corruption of Buenrostro was of some moment, in that in recent years California has been beset by a public employee pension fund crisis in which taxpayers have been called upon to bail out the Cali-

Continued on Page 11

Brown Lawn Prosecution

from page 2

for the city to levy fines of up to \$1,000 per day on offenders who had not been given the opportunity to plead their case before an independent magistrate or hearing officer. The administrative citation ordinance was a controversial proposal from the outset, and was passed on a 3-2 vote of the council.

One of the administrative citation ordinance's architects was community development director Jeff Zwack. The use of the ordinance in the city's enforcement action against Bogman, now playing out under the microscope of media attention and all of the particulars of Bogman's case entails – in particular an effort to criminalize a resident who asserts as his defense his own crisis of conscience in having to abandon the principle of water conservation buttressed by the state governor's mandate in order to comply with a city ordinance that gives no consideration to the extenuating circumstances of drought and a state mandate that conflicts with the ordinance – is now being seen as a referendum on

Zwack's performance in his position of trust and authority with the city. The *Sentinel* has learned that at least two of the city council's members are contemplating firing Zwack. Thus, Peelman's ability to extract a pound of flesh from Bogman – and thus acquit the city with regard to the administrative citation authority it has assumed – is seen as a crucial factor in whether Zwack will remain employed in Upland.

City prosecutor Peelman, perhaps seeking to shore up the city's position vis-à-vis the Bogman prosecution and Zwack's responsibility in laying the groundwork for it, engaged in an atypically vitriolic personal attack during the round of questioning earlier this week when the media learned that he had again offered Bogman a plea bargain in the form of a \$1,000 fine in exchange for a dismissal of the criminal action against him and that Bogman had turned that offer down.

Peelman stridently accused Bogman of "blatant" disregard of the city's landscape standard ordinances and of seeking to manipulate the media by making "disingenuous" statements that Peelman suggested

falsely implied Bogman had allowed his lawn to die because of his concern about the drought when in fact, Peelman claimed, Bogman had taken up the issue of water conservation because it was "politically advantageous" to do so.

Meanwhile, Bogman's attorney, Michael Vollandt, the managing attorney at the Upland-based Law Offices of Marc Grossman, is heading into the case with a determination to

demonstrate the city is abusing its code enforcement authority. Vollandt recently concluded a defense of Grossman, who was accused by the city of having failed to display a business license for a second hand store. Grossman was running in one of the two buildings he owns in Upland. Peelman had upped the ante in that case, seeking to get a criminal conviction against Grossman. Vollandt had demonstrated, however,

that Grossman had indeed paid for the business license but could not display it because the city had failed to forward it to him. Vollandt prevailed in that case by calling Peelman's bluff, insisting that the case be taken to trial. Faced with the prospect of having to explain to jurors why the city had cited Grossman for not having the business license on display when it was a city official that had failed to give Grossman the

license even though he had paid for it, Peelman folded and the case was dismissed short of trial.

Vollandt said he will on Bogman's behalf put Peelman and the city through their paces.

"The city wants to put its citizens in jail if they conserve water by not watering their lawns," Vollandt said. "We believe a jury of Mr. Bogman's peers will feel differently if they are given access to the facts of this case."

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Glimpse Of SBC's Past

Francisco Garcés - Explorer, Discoverer, Missionary & Martyr

By Mark Gutglueck and Ruth Musser Lopez

One of the truly towering figures of San Bernardino County history



Francisco Garcés

is Francisco Hermenegildo Tomás Garcés, a Spanish Franciscan friar who was among a secondary wave of early European explorers of the Southwest.

As a missionary and explorer in the colonial Viceroyalty of New Spain in the 18th Century, he gave the Colorado River its name. His travels covered a significant portion of North America, including present day Sonora and Baja California in Mexico, and the U.S. states of Arizona and Southern California. His death, along with those of his companion friars, by a group of Native Americans he was seeking to convert, led to his being declared a martyr by the Catholic Church, and he is at present a candidate for sainthood.

Born April 12, 1738, in Morata de Jalón, Aragon, north-central Spain. Garcés entered the Franciscan Order about 1758 and was ordained a priest in 1763 in Spain.

Garcés was dispatched by the Church to New Spain, present day Mexico, where he served at the Franciscan college of Santa Cruz in Querétaro. In an effort to exert greater control of his dominions, the Spanish king in 1768 expelled the Jesuits from their extensive mission system in northwestern New Spain, which included present-day Baja California, northwestern Mexico, and the southwestern United States, replacing them with Franciscans.

Garcés, who was among the Franciscan replacements, was assigned to Mission San Xavier del Bac in the Sonoran Desert, near present-day Tucson, Arizona.

The expulsion and departure of the Jesuits by the King of Spain had a dynamic and far-reaching effect on the existing missions and prompted an even more energetic mission outreach effort. The missions in the Sonoran Desert in the present-day Mexican state of Sonora and those in the current day U.S. state of Arizona fell at once under the authority of the Franciscans from the college of Santa Cruz in Querétaro. More significantly, the exchange of authority over the Spanish New World mission system resulted in the ascendancy of Father Junipero Serra, who was among the Franciscans from the college of San Fernando in Mexico City assigned to replace the Jesuits in the Baja California missions of the lower Las Californias Province.

Serra's energetic presence and leadership of the Baja California Franciscans had a dramatic



Statue of Francisco Garcés Near Borrego Springs

effect in the expansion of Spanish and Catholic influence northward as he took seriously the assignment, given in 1769, to increase Spanish presence in the unsettled upper Las Californias Province, otherwise referred to as Alta California, i.e., present day California. In 1773, control



Statue of Francisco Garcés In Bakersfield

of the Baja California missions was transferred to the Dominican friars, while the creation of new missions was entrusted to the Franciscans. The Viceroy of New Spain and local Franciscans recognized the importance of establishing an overland connection between upper Las Californias and central New Spain - for defense, trade, and travel - through the Sonoran Desert, crossing the lower Colorado River and the Colorado Desert, and through the peninsular ranges to the Alta California missions and presidios (forts) in the new coast region.

Garcés became a key player in this effort, conducting extensive explorations in the Sonoran, Colorado, and Mojave Deserts, the Gila River, and the Colorado River from the Gulf of California and Lower Colorado River Valley to the Grand Canyon.

In 1768, he explored the Gila and Colorado River Valleys, both down the Colorado to the Gulf of California and up it to the Grand Canyon and overland to several Hopi villages.

Garcés provided a wealth of information for later historians, anthropologists and archeologists as he made copious recordings of his encounters with Native American tribes, among

them the Quechan, Mojave, Hopi, and Havasupai, in their desert and riparian valley homelands. Throughout this, he remained true to the overarching mission of establishing and maintaining cordial relations for the Spanish Crown.

Many journeys he took were explorations on his own initiative and peril into the vast desert regions.

He accompanied soldier-explorer Juan Bautista de Anza part way in both his large overland expeditions: the 1774 De Anza Expedition - first to reach Alta California's Pacific coast from the east; and the 1775-76 Anza Colonizing Expedition, which traveled as far north as San Francisco Bay. The route Garcés took from the Colorado River across the Mojave Desert is known to four-wheel-drive adventurers today as the Mojave Road.

The 1774 De Anza Expedition made its way through what is present day San Bernardino County.

Here follows a passage, translated by Brigadier General (USMC Retired) Maurice G. Holmes, from Father Garcés' diary:

"In continuation of the reports which Lieutenant Colonel Don Juan Bautista de Anza has sent you, it has oc-

curred to me (improving the occasion of sending for wine in order to say Mass) to inform you how I have come down this river passing through the tribes, Cajuenches, Tallicuamais or Quiguimas, and Cucarpa. I came to the ocean where I observed and tasted the water besides noting the flood and ebb of the tides as I told you in my diary."

The passage continues, "The Indians of the sierra gave me accounts of the priests in both Californias, Upper and Lower. The three nations or groups of people who inhabit this river line down to the sea have received me as I had not expected, showing me all the courtesies they possibly could, although the Cucarpa [sic] were at war and very sad on account of their great losses. These had been inflicted upon them by the Yumas, Cajuenches, and Tallicuamais but, thank God, the joy of peace has been attained. This very day, Palma tells me that some Indians will come in here who formerly were enemies."

"All the four nations aforesaid, and the Pimas and the Cocomaricopas from the Gila River, are awaiting with pleasure and great eagerness the coming of the priests and the Spaniards to their country, as they have told me repeatedly." The diary passage continues. "Their land is well-suited to the production of every sort of grain. In the greater portion, especially along the Colorado, it is adapted to raising cattle and horses. Although with respect to the location of towns, this Colorado terrain does not offer the greatest advantages due to widespread overflowing of the river, yet, some tablelands adaptable for town locations are not lacking. So it is, that in some areas, plantings will have to be made on the other side of the stream."

The passage concludes, "I hope that God

our Lord may grant me the same felicity among the nations upstream to which, God willing, I intend to start out soon."

In 1775, Garcés, became the first European to meet the native inhabitants of eastern San Bernardino County, the Mojave Indians.

On his pioneering missionary journey up the Colorado River in 1776 Garcés christened the Mojave (Aha Macav) rancherias and farming community there "Santa Isabel." More than a century later, in the 1880s railroad officials renamed the area Needles in reference to the sharp prominent peaks to the south.

According to Garcés' diary, farming communities had been established well prior to European contact with the Americas, and this has



A depiction of Francisco Garcés the Explorer

been verified by other archaeological evidence, including radio carbon dating of the remains of preserved corn kernels to indicate maize was being cultivated via incipient farming technology in San Bernardino County for over 2,000 years.

Two members of the Mojave tribe accompanied Garcés on his journey to the coast. Garcés's route took him through lands occupied by the seasonally migratory Chemehuevi. He documented in his diary in considerable detail his encounters with the Chemehuevi, and described the route now

Continued on Page 10

Judge Dismisses Two Issues In Ontario's Airport Suit Against LA
from front page

2013, while the two cities were to seek a negotiated settlement of the differences that divide them, but no suitable terms could be worked out. Substantial disputes remained apparent between the two parties over the amount of compensation Los Angeles wanted to receive for renouncing interest in the airport. In the 48 years Los Angeles had managed the airport, over \$500 million in improvements had been made to the facility, paid for by revenues generated at both Ontario and Los Angeles International Airports, Federal Aviation Administration grants, and proceeds from bonds issued by the

city of Los Angeles at the direction of the corporate entity controlled by Los Angeles which runs its airport division, known as Los Angeles World Airports, or the acronym LAWA.

Quietly, so as to not publicly contradict its official position that the airport grounds are a public benefit property and thus of no sales value, the city of Ontario privately tendered a \$250 million offer to Los Angeles World Airports for transfer of the airport's title and operational control. That offer included Ontario assuming \$75 million of the outstanding bond debt obligations for past improvements to the airport, \$125 million in future passenger facility charges to be realized at the airport and \$50 million cash.

Los Angeles World Airports officials scoffed

at the \$250 million figure, pointing to the \$560 million in improvements made to the airport since 1967

With the failure of that temporary truce, the parties headed back to court, with Los Angeles again put in the position of having to fend off the claims by Ontario's law firm, Washington, D.C.-based Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton, that there are grounds to terminate the long existing agreements Los Angeles and Ontario have been abiding by for 48 years and 30 years, respectively.

In September, lawyers for Los Angeles filed a motion to dispense with crucial elements of the suit, based on the statute of limitations pertaining to rescission and reformation, which holds that any contesting of the original joint operating

agreement or the airport title transfer had to be made within four years of their official ratification by the city councils for Ontario and Los Angeles. That point was subject to considerable briefing after the September motion was filed, as the judge hearing the case, Riverside Superior Court Judge Gloria Connor Trask, delayed her ruling with regard to the validity of the joint powers agreement and the title transfer, as Ontario was making the rather noteworthy argument, essentially, that its elected officials had overstepped their authority in transferring the airport's ownership to Los Angeles. According to Ontario attorney Andre Cronthall, Los Angeles has referred to the 1985 action to transfer title as a sale. The sale of such a significant public prop-

erty, Cronthall asserted, could only take place pursuant to a vote of the public and not be effectuated by a mere vote of the city council.

This week, Trask entered a tentative decision which stated, "The court upholds that the 1967 Joint Powers Agreement complied with applicable statutes and was lawful." And further, Trask found, Ontario had both the power and authority to transfer ownership of Ontario Airport to Los Angeles, as it did in 1985. That transfer was voidable, she said, but only if an entity followed the proper procedure in a timely manner, that is, within the four-year statute of limitations applicable to such agreements.

The *Sentinel* reached Ontario's attorney, Andre Cronthall, shortly after Trask's tentative

decision was made available.

He said Trask had seriously entertained his argument that the sale of the airport on a 4-0 vote of the Ontario City Council in 1985 was improperly done and should have been subject to a vote of Ontario residents. "Judge Trask recognized the proper procedure had not been followed in the effort to transfer, or as Los Angeles says, sell, the airport. She acknowledge in her ruling the right to void the sale. She just ruled against us on statute of limitations grounds."

Cronthall said the two motions Trask has ruled upon did not extend to the three issues remaining in the suit which have yet to be litigated and which entail a claim for damages. Ontario's

Continued on Page 9

Solar Field Going In At Landfill *from front page*

communities, neighborhoods, and rural residential use. Proposed fencing, walls, landscaping and other perimeter features of the solar energy generation facility will minimize the visual impact of the project so as to blend with and be subordinate to the envi-

ronment and character of the area where the facility is to be located. The siting and design of the proposed commercial solar energy generation facility will either be: (a) unobtrusive and not detract from the natural features, open space and visual qualities of the area as viewed from communities, rural residential uses, and major roadways and highways

or (b) located in such proximity to already 'disturbed' lands -- such as electrical substations, surface mining operations, landfills, wastewater treatment facilities, etc. that it will not further detract from the natural features, open space and visual qualities of the area as viewed from communities, rural residential uses, and major roadways and high-

ways. The siting and design of project site access and maintenance roads have been incorporated in the visual analysis for the project and shall minimize visibility from public view points while providing needed access to the development site."

In addition, Creason stated, "The proposed commercial solar energy generation facility will not adversely affect to

a significant degree the availability of groundwater supplies for existing communities and existing and developing rural residential areas."

In the cases of other proposed solar projects that were denied approval, opponents often latched onto the degradation of the habitat of the desert tortoise those projects represented. In the case of the one to go

in at the Victorville landfill, Creason said, "The solar energy generation facility will be sited so as to avoid or minimize impacts to the habitat of special status species, including threatened, endangered, or rare species, critical habitat areas as designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service."

Creason also stated that the project "is located in proximity to existing electrical infrastructure such as transmission lines utility corridors and roads such that: (a) minimal ground disturbance and above ground infrastructure will be required to connect to the existing transmission grid, (b) new electrical generation tie lines have been co-located on existing power poles whenever possible, and (c) existing rights-of-way and designated utility corridors will be utilized to the extent practicable."

The project required and the commission granted a major variance because grades exceed 5 percent.

The city of Victorville did not oppose the project.



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The Count... from page 3

and the outgo, Mr. Islam saw that the numbers did not scan, and he sensed that something was not quite right. He acted sensibly and bravely. He did not inform Mr. Cebrun of his suspicions. Rather, he risked his own personal position by arranging to have the video recording system in the money counting room reactivated...

The result of that action is now well known. Moving images of Miss Oakes stuffing money into her bodice were captured on that video recorder. She was arrested and prosecuted and has pleaded guilty to embezzling the earlier reference \$1.8 million

and has been sentenced to five years in state prison. Last year, after six months on paid leave, Cebrun retired...

The school board this week signaled its intent to bring in a permanent replacement for Mr. Cebrun, voting unanimously to pay the La Quinta-based firm of Leadership Associates \$26,500 to carry out a search and recruitment for a new superintendent...

I hope I am not the only observer bothered by the school board's action. They already have an ideal candidate for superintendent. They need search no further. They can save the district \$26,500 by rescinding the contract with Leadership Associates and simply dropping the

qualifier "interim" from Mr. Islam's title...

Need I spell out my rationale? Mr. Islam has already demonstrated his competence. In the relatively short period of time that he was with the district, he recognized a problem that previous superintendents, assistant superintendents, finance managers, accountants and accounting firms had consistently missed for over a decade. He met the problem head on with no shillyshallying. He stuck his own neck out on behalf of the students of the district and their taxpaying parents. What would have happened to Mr. Islam if Mr. Cebrun had learned he had gone behind his back to reinitiate the video recording and was

in touch with authorities outside the district? Mr. Islam got to the root of the issue...

I know that some will say that even though Mr. Islam is an astute bean counter and he acted properly in this instance, he is not necessarily qualified to lead the school district for the next decade or more. After all, they will point out, Rialto Unified is an academic institution, or a collection of academic institutions, and its ultimate director should be a serious academic...

My response to that is Mohammad Islam is a serious academic. He studied the situation in the Rialto district more intently than anyone else. He is obviously bright, sensitive, disci-

plined, well-trained and educated, not to mention resourceful. But more than that, he is committed and brave. He may not have a doctorate in education. But he possesses an intangible quality the previous superintendent, the other assistant superintendents and the entirety of the school board lack: situational awareness, the ability to recognize the challenges the organization faces and the will and courage to take on and defeat those challenges...

Is there anyone who will suggest that Mr. Islam will not reach within himself or move beyond himself to make the Rialto Unified School District live up to its mission of educating

the young minds of Rialto and prepare them for dealing with the world? I, for one, am confident Mr. Islam, if he does not possess the expertise to address certain issues facing the district, will reach out to network with those who do possess that expertise. Instead of wasting money trying to find something they already have, the school board's members should see the opportunity that lies before them, prove themselves worthy of the honor of authority that has been bestowed upon them and promote Mohammad Islam to the position of superintendent, post haste. They have done much worse in the past...



Despite Previous Black Eye It Sustained In Fight Over Dineen Dirt Pile, Upland Effort Resumes from front page

Trucking has been operating in Upland since 1958, specializing in services ancillary to construction businesses. Specifically, Dineen engages in dirt, rock and debris hauling to and from construction sites, providing top soil and fill dirt when it was needed for landscaping or stabilization or, conversely, hauling away rocks, excess earth and debris from construction sites.

The original owners of Dineen Trucking, Patrick and Jack Dineen, turned his company over

to Ken Beck 15 years ago. Beck had access to a crusher with which he would convert some of the materials Dineen Trucking had acquired into aggregate that would be used as base for roads.

There has been discontent with the towering mountain of dirt and rubble at the Dineen Trucking yard for more than a decade. On November 24, 2003, a zoning complaint letter arrived at Upland City Hall, sent by Lee Jackson, a lawyer representing Intravaia Rock and Sand, a company in competition with Dineen Trucking. The letter suggested mounds at the Dineen trucking yard, which contained rubble Dineen Trucking had hauled from an earlier city of Upland project,

were out of compliance with zoning changes that had been instituted in 2000.

Despite the hubbub, the zoning changes were not applicable to Dineen Trucking because during the 2000 city council meeting at which the zoning changes were adopted, existing businesses were given on-the-record exemptions from the newly codified standards and were allowed to maintain their operations as legal non-conforming uses. Upland's senior planner at the time indicated that he was "not aware of one single incidence where the city enforced" against a nonconforming use existing at the time a new zoning ordinance was passed. Such uses, he said, would be "allowed to continue, as

long as they continue." The city's director of community planning confirmed at that meeting that the city's policy was to enforce newly drafted and passed zoning ordinances only against new property uses.

Thus, Dineen Trucking's activity has been, in municipal zoning parlance, "grandfathered in" as a legal, non-conforming use.

Nevertheless, the city made efforts to persuade Dineen Trucking to close out its Upland operation during the first decade of the millennium. Ultimately, these did not play out well for the city. When the city excluded Dineen Trucking from offering bids on a city project, Dineen Trucking owner Ken Beck objected, resulting in a series of confrontations with city officials in both public and private. When the police department arrested Beck in the aftermath of one of those confrontations, he sued and the matter made its way to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals after the city sought to have the lawsuit brought by Beck dismissed. In a 22-page opinion, the Ninth Circuit rendered findings that suggested the city had indeed overstepped its authority and abused its discretion in deal-

ing with Beck, such that Beck's case should be permitted to go to trial.

Before the matter went to trial, however, the city of Upland forged a settlement, paying Beck and his attorneys, according to former city attorney Bill Curley, \$375,000. In fending off that lawsuit, the city had spent somewhere in the neighborhood of \$300,000 on its own legal fees, bringing the cost of that single entanglement with Beck and Dineen Trucking to more than two-thirds of a million dollars.

More recently, it has been city councilman Gino Filippi who has been pressing his colleagues and city staff to reinitiate a tougher line with regard to Dineen Trucking's operation and the dirt pile at its corporate yard. Filippi, however, has been on the city council only since 2010, and was not in office or heavily involved in city affairs during the era in which the city was engaged in its futile and expensive undertaking to close down Dineen Trucking. Nor was city manager Rod Butler nor city attorney Richard Adams involved in past dealings with Dineen Trucking. Given this lack of institutional memory to the Dineen Trucking yard matter, there is concern among some city

residents the move now afoot against Dineen Trucking may again entail expense in pursuing a less than thoroughly thought through goal, no matter how desirable closing down the Dineen Trucking operation may be from some perspectives. This is particularly true in the case of Adams, who works for the city through a contract with his law firm, Jones & Mayer, which provides him and the firm a financial incentive to take up such cases as the Dineen Trucking operation abatement, since Adams and Jones & Mayer will be paid for their work at a rate of \$250 per hour, regardless of the outcome of the effort.



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Locals' Opposition To Joshua Tree Dollar General Reaches Appellate Court from front page

that the construction of the store at its proposed location is justified. That finding was passed along to Romo and Perea's boss, Terri Rahhal, the planning director for the county, and included a recommendation to be passed along to the county planning commission that it approve Dynamic Development's conditional use permit application.

Dynamic Development won the second round when Rahhal accepted Romo and Perea's report and reiterated its findings to the planning commission.

In that report, Romo and Perea maintained the 1.45 acre site is compatible from a land use standpoint with the applicant's plans. In their jointly authored report and recommendation, Romo and Perea stated, "This area of 29 Palms Highway is designated

for commercial development and intended to cater to pedestrian and vehicular traffic. The project is considered a general retail use permitted within the Joshua Tree Community Plan zoning designation subject to approval of a use permit. Therefore, the proposed development and retail use are considered compatible with the surrounding land uses and general plan land use designations."

Dynamic Development prevailed in the third round when the planning commission followed Rahhal's recommendation and approved the project.

Maintaining that they prided themselves on the rustic character of their town, a number of people in the community including the entire membership of the Joshua Tree Downtown Business Alliance took it upon themselves to extend the matter to a fourth round, appealing the planning commission's decision to the board of supervisors. The local opponents of the project told the board of super-

visors the 9,100-square foot Dollar General, a national corporate retail establishment, would compromise the Old West ambience of a desert town that relies on tourism.

In June 2013, the board of supervisors held a public hearing that incorporated a video hook-up with the meeting room at the Joshua Tree Community Center to consider the appeal, allowing Joshua Tree residents to lodge their protests without having to make the 200-mile round trip to the county seat to be heard. Despite that accommodation, round four went to Dynamic Development, with the board of supervisors denying the appeal and approving the project.

Having been shut out in the first four rounds, the Joshua Tree residents and the downtown business alliance insisted on a fifth round, filing a lawsuit in San Bernardino County Superior Court the following month, asserting the county's land use services division did not fully examine the

negative impacts of the project, including cutting into the profitability of preexisting businesses and upsetting the rural character of the district.

Round five went to the project opponents when San Bernardino County Superior Court Judge Donald Alvarez in March 2014 sided with the plaintiffs, ruling that the county needed to rescind Dynamic Development, LLC's permit for the Dollar General retail store while county undertakes the preparation of an environmental impact report which Alvarez directed should specifically analyze the potential economic effects on surrounding businesses.

The county's mitigated negative declaration of any untoward impacts of the project was insufficient, Alvarez ruled, in part because the analysis of the possible economic effects to existing businesses, which could result in urban decay, had not been done previously.

In reaching his conclusion, Alvarez relied upon a 29-year-old case

pertaining to proposed new development in a less-than-highly-urbanized setting, the ski-resort community of Bishop. In that case, the court determined the California Environmental Quality Act called upon the governmental agency overseeing the project to "consider the secondary or indirect environmental consequences of economic and social changes."

Though Alvarez said the California Environmental Quality Act is "not a fair competition statutory scheme intended to protect against economic competition," he said the impact on preexisting businesses "must be considered if the loss of businesses affects the physical environment by causing or increasing urban decay."

The project opponents of the Dollar General had further alleged the project was inconsistent with Joshua Tree's community plan, which encourages small businesses, and challenged the project approval on the basis of a failure of the county and the propo-

nent to do a traffic study. Alvarez did not find in favor of the plaintiffs on those issues.

Dynamic Development immediately intimated that it intended to extend the contest into a sixth round by appealing Alvarez's ruling to the state appellate court in Riverside. Mark Ostoich, an attorney representing Dynamic Development, said the project met all the criteria of an acceptable property use.

Before Dynamic Development could initiate round six, the alliance and the town's residents initiated and won that stage of the competition when they sought and received from Alvarez an order prohibiting the San Bernardino County land use division from permitting Dynamic Development from engaging in any pre-construction or preparatory activity relating to the construction of Joshua Tree Dollar General store at the corner of Twentynine Palms Highway and Starburst Drive in Joshua Tree.

In late December

Continued on Page 11

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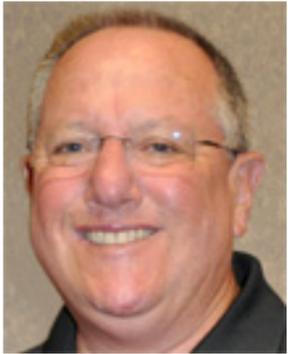


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Judge Rules Ontario Pacts With LA For Airport Are Valid
from page 6

legal effort to reclaim the airport and have the Ontario International Airport Authority, which was created in 2012 as a



Alan Wapner

joint powers authority involving Ontario and the county of San Bernardino, assume management and control of the airport remains intact, he said. "We are disappointed in Judge Trask's decision and are looking forward to being heard before she enters her final decision on those two issues," Cronthall said. "We disagree with the rulings, as stated. We are looking forward to litigating our claims that Ontario has deliberately mismanaged the airport, breached

its fiduciary duty and violated the terms of the joint powers agreement."

The Ontario International Airport Authority, through its president, Ontario City Councilman Alan Wapner, reacted to Trask's ruling by stating, "Although we are disappointed by the court's decision barring two claims within its complaint, we are pleased that a jury will have the opportunity to consider Ontario's three other claims for L.A.'s breach of its contractual and fiduciary duties when the lawsuit goes to trial this spring."

The real gravamen of the case has yet to be heard, Wapner asserted, and he referenced Trask's specific language that "The motions do not seek to resolve, and thus the court does not determine at this time, whether Los Angeles, LAWA, or the [Los Angeles Airport] Board breached the terms of their agreements. Those issues remain to be adjudicated." As such, Wapner said, "Ontario looks forward to its day in court and for Los Angeles to be held accountable for its inex-



This horse displayed its atypical talent at last Saturday's Norco Horsetown Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, an annual event held just a few miles south of the San Bernardino County line every year intended to honor Norco champion horses and equestrians. Photo by Jay Davis of JnJ Photography.

cusable neglect of its obligations to promote air service development at Ontario. At trial, Ontario will seek damages and

an injunction to regain control of the airport. While Ontario continues to vigorously prepare for trial, we also will consid-

er whether to appeal the court's decision." Cronthall told the *Sentinel* he believed an appeal of the case is in-

evitable, no matter how the case is hashed out in Trask's court. He said he anticipates Los Angeles
Continued on Page 11

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San Bernardino County Coroner Reports

Coroner case #701500652 On January 21, 2015 at approximately 12:23 A.M., 21 year-old Las Vegas, Nevada resident Gerrisha Guraline McClodden was the driver of a 1998 Saturn sedan northbound on Interstate 15 in Rural Newberry Springs. At mile marker 110.36, the Saturn was struck from the rear by a 2010 Toyota RAV4. The Saturn left the roadway and continued approximately 30 feet down an embankment before coming to rest on its wheels in a wash. McClodden was pronounced dead at the scene by paramedics. The California Highway Patrol is investigating this incident. [012115 1021 SY]

Coroner case #701500567 On Sunday, January 18, 2015 at 8:14 PM, 35 year-old Upland resident Daniel Calles was driving his 2008 Harley Davidson northbound on S. Waterman Avenue in San Bernardino. At Parkcenter Circle the motorcycle struck a F350 flatbed truck. Calles was pronounced dead at the scene. The San Bernardino Police Department is investigating the incident. [012015 0825 SY]

Coroner case #701500546 On Saturday, January 17, 2015, at approximately 9:20 P.M., deputies from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Barstow Station, responded to a mandown incident in the area of Highway 395 and Cuddeback Road in Red Mountain. Upon arriving at the scene, deputies located the victim, Richard Henighen, a 25 year-old male resident of Lakewood, suffering from upper body trauma. Henighen was pronounced dead at the scene from his injuries. An autopsy will conducted later this week to determine the cause of death. Refer all questions to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Homicide Detail. [01192015 0825 SC]

Coroner case #701500505 On January 16, 2015, at 1:20 PM, Ronald Stanley Olson, a 76 year old resident of Apple Valley, was struck by a gold 2002 GMC truck in the 14800 block of Joshua Road in Apple Valley. Olson was transported to a nearby hospital where he succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced dead. The California Highway Patrol is investigating. [011715 2300 TC]

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE: Coroner case #701405219 On July 9, 2014, 91 year-old Clifford Arnold Briggs died in a residence in the 1300 block of N. Waterman Ave. in San Bernardino. The San Bernardino County Sheriff Coroner Division is asking for the public's assistance in locating Mr. Brigg's friends and family. Anyone with information is urged to contact the Coroner's Division at (909) 387-2978. [011615 0744 SY]

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

Garcés

from page 5

known as the Mojave Road.

In 1779 Garcés and

Juan Diaz established two mission churches on the lower Colorado River at Yuma Crossing, as part of a new pueblo), in the homeland

of the Quechan peoples, known also as the Yuma or Kwitsáin. Garcés endeavored to keep peace between all parties. The formerly peaceful rap-

port with the Quechan was lost due to Spanish settlers violating the treaty with the native peoples, such as seizing their crops and farm-

lands.

On July 17, 1781, Diaz and Padre Juan de Barreneche were killed during the first day of hostilities involved in a

civil resistance uprising at the Mission San Pedro y San Pablo de Bicuñer, known as the Yuma Uprising and Yuma Revolt. Two days later, on July 19, 1781, Garcés and José Moreno were killed in the latter part of the same uprising.

Garcés' body was later reinterred at Mission San Pedro y San Pablo del Tubutama. He and the other friars killed at those missions are considered martyrs by the Catholic Church.



Barstow Educators Arrested

from page 3

was involved with the student on January 13, interviewing the student and gathering further information, which led to the issuance of an arrest warrant on Friday, January 16.

Both Blanton and Hassell were able to immediately post bail. Neither has been charged by the district attorney's office.

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Round 7 In Dollar General Contest For Approval Reached from page 8

2014, Dynamic Development made good on its earlier indication of a pending appeal, lodging a further legal challenge, effectively initiating round seven.

The appeal of Alvarez's ruling to the Fourth Appellate District extends to Alvarez's order that Dynamic Development carry out at its own expense the preparation of a full-blown environmental impact report. This transfers the matter to a three-judge panel in Riverside. The lodging of that appeal opened the door for the project opponents to have the issue with regard to the proposed project's incompatibility with the Joshua Tree Community Plan as well as the need for a traffic study heard.

The Downtown Business Alliance filed its notice of opposition to

the appeal. Ultimately, the courts, at both the Superior Court and appellate levels do not have land use authority. But Opponents are hopeful that the intent of law will be interpreted by the court in a way favorable to them, finding that the construction of large scale business structures, not in kind with the current architectural theme of Joshua Tree's art district, will have an adverse impact upon the existing economics of the business district and will in effect be an eyesore turning away the current clientele. Opponents hope that the court will require this adverse impact to be mitigated or alleviated and that such mitigation can only mean that the Dollar General must be built in conformance with the scale and character of the existing historic district.



Judge Rules Against Ontario from page 9

will appeal the case if the matter is adjudicated in Ontario's favor, just as, he said, Ontario will

not capitulate if it loses at the Riverside County Superior Court level.

"Whatever Judge Trask ends up doing, there is a good likeli-

Continued on Page 12

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Coyote Melon - Cucurbita Palmata

Coyote melon is known by its scientific name Cucurbita palmata



and a host of other common names, including the coyote gourd, coyote ear, buffalo gourd, stinking melon, calabazilla, or chilicote. It was first identified by Sereno Watson in 1876. They grow in the Mojave Desert and other areas of the southwest and northwestern Mexico, along the edge of washes and over rocks and shrubs.



Thriving during the desert's summer monsoon season, the plant features a sprawling vine with rough, stiff-haired stems and dark green, light-veined palmate triangular pointed five fin-

gered leaves with grasping tendrils, producing large and stiff orange-yellow trumpet shaped flowers two-and-a-half to three inches wide and then a striped green fruit, roughly three-and-a-half to four inches wide which ages to yellow when ripe.

As appetizing as the



coyote melon looks, its flesh is extremely bitter. This pulp, which is the

placental attachment for the seeds contains cucurbitacins, which rank as the most bitter substances ever encountered. The seeds, however, are highly nutritious and can be eaten, but only



after being thoroughly cleaned of the pulp and roasted. if any pulp clings to the seeds, they will be inedible, even if roasted. The pulp in any form acts as an emetic if swallowed, as the human digestive tract finds it so offensive that it almost convulsively pass the cucurbitacins out, either up or down, absolutely cleansing the digestive tract.

Despite the human aversion for the pulp of this squash, some animals have an affinity for the seeds and will put up with the bitter taste of the pulp to get to them. Coyotes in particular will eat them. Thus the name for these melons.

In prehistory, apparently, the coyote melon had its fans. In The Ghosts of Evolution, Connie Barlow states that Mastodons ate them. Rhinoceroses, which will tolerate very bitter

foods, will eat them.

Because the coyote melon hybridizes readily, it presents a threat to other types of edible gourds and squash. As every type of squash depend upon bees which feed upon the nectar of their flowers for the transference of pollen from male to female flowers, the coyote melon pollen sometimes is



planted on the female flowers of edible squashes. The offspring of such a match carries a bitter taste.

The coyote melon does well in hot, arid regions with low rainfall, preferring soil that is loose, gravelly and well-drained.

Villalobos Suicide from page 4

fornia Public Employees Retirement System by making ever larger payments into the system to cover staggeringly high pensions for its members.

California Public Employee Retirement System officials have attempted to downplay the impact of the Buenrostro/Villalobos scandal, maintaining that Buenrostro's management of the pension fund showed a consistent profit.

The California Public Employee Retirement System commissioned a report by Washington

securities lawyer Philip Khinda. Khinda concluded that Villalobos' bribes had not steered any pension fund dollars to his clients, but noted his work probably interfered with the system's negotiators' autonomy and enabled the investment firms to get more favorable rates. This probably cost CalPERS millions of dollars in additional management fees paid to those firms, according to the Khinda report.

Villalobos' death was not instantly disclosed. In fact, it caught prosecutors completely by surprise. When they appeared in court for a hearing related to a re-

quest by the defense to delay Villalobos' trial, Villalobos' lawyer, Bruce Funk, told the judge Villalobos had died. Lucey, unprepared

for that announcement, according to courtroom observers, "rushed" from the courtroom without any further input.

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California Style A Hint Of Color



wines, and midnight blue colors. It's all quite

An interesting part of fashion is that it changes according to the weather. The colors get deeper into blacks, greens, deep



simple, since we dress according to weather. Thank goodness for the



Southern California climate, which allows us to explore fashion and color



By Grace Bernal



to the maximum. The January period brings a ton of hope with a spark of fiesta-like striped colors. Everywhere you look you see bits of the chevron stripes. Although nothing is replacing basic black, it's cheerful to see these Mexican fiesta striped looks that are popping out and adding color on the streets. Everyone

can say fashion means nothing but it really does because it's uplifting to get up every morning and get dressed. Make a statement and keep reviving fashion by trying new looks. Winter is here, but the weather is flexible and that is terrific fun. Bring a hint of colored stripes to your black. Have a wonderful weekend!



"Pure, intense emotions. It's not about design. It's about feelings." — Alber Elbaz



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

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Judge Rules Pacts Giving LA Sway Over Ontario Airport Are Legal

from page 11

hood the court of appeal will end up ruling on most, if not all, of the issues being tried," Cronthall said.

Under Los Angeles's

management of Ontario International, the airport prospered, with its ridership increasing from less than 200,000 in 1967 to 7.2 million in 2007. Over that forty year period, Los Angeles made substantial improvements to the airport, including paving its gravel parking lot, laying down a

second, entirely new east-to-west runway over its obsolete northeast-to-southwest runway, modernizing its existing east-to-west runway, including the widening of taxiways and the addition of storm drains, modernizing its control tower, and constructing two ultra-modern ter-

minals at a cost of \$270 million, augmented with a world class concourse.

With the economic downturn of 2007, however, air travel in general declined and over the next six years ridership at Ontario International shrunk to just over four million per year. Meanwhile, Los Angeles, which had embarked on a modernization effort at Los Angeles International Airport in 2006, continued with that effort. Passenger traffic into Los Angeles zoomed to astronomical levels, leading to the perception that Ontario was being given short shrift by Los Angeles. In 2011, Ontario began a campaign to take back ownership and control over the airport. and that campaign has grown ever more vitriolic.

Los Angeles World

Airport officials have hunkered down in the face of the lawsuit and the accompanying campaign being carried out by the city of Ontario to convince the public that Ontario deserves to reassert ownership over the airport. In response to Trask's tentative ruling, Maria Tesoro, Los Angeles World Airports'

public affairs director for Ontario International Airport, told the Sentinel, "Los Angeles World Airports is satisfied with the decision. We will continue the path of working with local entities and our airline partners towards the long-term success of LA/Ontario International Airport."



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