

Prosecution Sets About Rehabilitating Witness After Savage Defense Attacks

By Ruth Musser-Lopez and Mark Gutglueck

After six days of watching one of its key witnesses being savaged, each day progressively more viciously than the last, the prosecution in the Colonies Lawsuit Settlement Public Corruption Case this week undertook to rehabilitate him and revive its effort to send Rancho Cucamonga developer Jeff



Adam Aleman

Burum, former Supervisor Paul Biane, one-

time sheriff's deputies union boss Jim Erwin and Mark Kirk, who had been the chief of staff to ex-supervisor Gary Ovitt, to prison.

That witness, Adam Aleman, was at one time a rising star in the Republican Party and regional politics and government, a less luminescent but yet notable element of the Postmus constellation that had blinded

and dominated San Bernardino County for the better half of the first decade of the Third Millennium. It all revolved around Bill Postmus, who in 2000 at the age of 29 was elected as the youngest member of the board of supervisors in San Bernardino County history, representing the vast desert portion of the county within the First Supervisorial District.

Defining himself as a rock-ribbed conservative Republican who sprouted from a Baptist and Pentecostal base in San Bernardino County's Victorville/Baldy Mesa/Hesperia/Phelan/Pinon Hills/Wrightwood Bible Belt, Postmus wooed Republican Party stalwarts throughout the region with his clean cut appearance and right wing rhetori- See P 5

Upland Council Set To Yank Elliott From Adjunct Board Assignments



Janice Elliott

In a move reminiscent of the governance exercised by former mayor John Pomierski, the Debra Stone-led Upland City Council on Monday will consider stripping councilwoman Janice Elliott of her three committee or adjunct board assignments.

On the agenda for the June 12 city council meeting posted late Thursday, item 11 J lays out interim city manager Martin Thouvenel's proposal to remove Elliot as the alternate Upland representative on the Inland Empire Utility Agency, remove her as Upland's representative on the San Bernardino County Interagency Council on Homelessness, and remove her from her position on the City of Upland Investments Committee.

Thouvenel indicated that change could be made by a resolution. He simultaneously recommended that city councilman Gino Filippi move into her post with the Inland Empire Utility Agency, that city resident Eric Gavin assume her place on the San Bernardino County Interagency Council on Homelessness and councilwoman Carol Timm assume Elliott's role on the City of Upland Investments Committee.

According to Thouvenel, "The proposed action supports the city's goal to provide representation on city and regional boards See P 3

Oxford Petitions For Writ Of Mandate Forcing Rechartering By CVUSD Board

Oxford Preparatory Academy has sought and obtained a temporary restraining order that puts on hold the shuttering of the school scheduled at the end of the month.

Superior Court Judge David Cohn granted Oxford's petition for the stay last week. A hearing on the continuation of the hold on the school's operations being discon-

tinued is scheduled for June 23.

Oxford has been functioning as a charter school since it was granted a charter by the Chino Valley Unified School District in 2010 which was first applied for in 2009. After its students showed spectacular success on state-mandated and sponsored academic testing that put it at

the top of all schools in San Bernardino County, Oxford's charter was renewed in 2011 for the five school years thereafter, 2012-13 through 2016-17.

Oxford continued its exemplary academic performance and anticipated that its rechartering for another five years by the school board would be a formality in March

2016, but the board denied that renewal after district superintendent Wayne Joseph recommended against doing so based on his findings of financial wrongdoing by Sue Roche, the founder of Oxford whose educational formula was credited with the school's success.

Oxford's internal board appealed the

school district's decision to the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools and to the California Department of Education, but was thwarted in both attempts. A state commissioned audit of Oxford found that Roche had, through the creation of for-profit entities she controlled, diverted \$5.3 million in Ox- See P 3

Uphill Battle Against Upland & SAH Annexation Picking Up Momentum

From the outset, many people believed the Upland City Council and city manager Martin Thouvenel were trying to cram a square peg into a round hole by shuttering the Upland Fire Department and then annexing the entirety of the city along with neighboring San Antonio Heights into a county fire protection services district, FP-5, so the county's fire agency could assume firefighting duty in the City of Upland.

Despite the substantial citizen opposition to the concept, in over-

coming that opposition Upland City Hall had the dual advantages of its administrative authority as well as the

agency-to-agency privilege extended to it by the division of county government which oversees border and jurisdictional

disputes. Moreover the sheer procedural complexity of the annexation protest process made trying to stop the an-

nexation a David versus Goliath proposition.

As it now turns out, however, there are literally thousands of Davids lining up to take on Goliath and the odds that the city will be able to simply close out its 111-year-old municipal fire department and hand over the duty for fire protection to the county as a done deal carries with it a legal and financial risk city officials had not counted upon.

Last year the Upland City Council gave assent to studying a proposal to annex See P 2

Pro-City Bias Seen In LAFCO's Approach

By Mark Gutglueck

For decades, the San Bernardino County Local Agency Formation Commission has been subject to charges that it has deviated from its charter of logically and fairly hashing out jurisdictional disputes between the county's various municipalities and districts and has instead

been influenced by both political considerations and monetary inducements tantamount to bribery. Of late, it has found itself under the most withering questioning in its 54 years of existence. In the most recent criticism of its function, however, graft is not a primary but instead a secondary issue.

Rather, the most raised concern about the commission at present is the tendency for it and its staff to cut procedural corners and failing to protect common citizens from the overreach of government.

Since San Bernardino County's Local Agency Formation Commission was estab- See P 4

Cook Votes To Supplant Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform With HR 10

Congressman Paul Cook (R-Apple Valley) voted on June 8 for HR 10, the Financial Choice Act of 2017. The bill passed the House by a margin of 233-186.

The Financial Choice Act of 2017 amends the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and other financial regulatory laws. Dodd-Frank, passed in 2010, substantially redrafted Ameri-

ca's financial laws, adding regulatory protection following the Wall Street meltdown of 2007. Some objected to its scope, complaining of the costs imposed on financial institutions, American consumers, investors, and small businesses.

Proponents of HR 10 say it will end taxpayer-funded bailouts and ensure no company remains "too big to fail." They say it holds Wall

Street accountable with penalties for fraud and deception, by increasing the maximum criminal fines for individuals and firms that engage in insider trading and other corrupt practices.

The legislation reins in the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), subjecting the agency to Congressional oversight and the normal Congressional appropriations process, seen by

some as a compromise of the bureau's potential effectiveness. HR 10 redefines the agency's charter to determine which financial products and services Americans can purchase. Asserting the bill increases opportunities for small businesses, innovators, and job creators by eliminating bureaucratic regulations, Cook said, "The Financial Choice Act of 2017 holds Wall Street

accountable while empowering Main Street. It relieves well-capitalized banks and credit unions from the onerous one-size-fits-all regulatory approach that has harmed small banks. This bill is a big step forward and good for the economy, provides much-needed relief to small businesses, and empowers individuals to make decisions about their financial future."

Upland & San Antonio Heights In Spirited Protest Against Fire District Annexation from front page

the Upland Fire Department and transfer its fire stations, personnel and assets into San Bernardino County's Valley Fire Service Zone. By the time that proposal was fully worked up by the staffs for the San Bernardino County Fire Department and the San Bernardino County Local Agency Formation Commission so it could be submitted to the commission itself, it had been altered to include annexing not just the 15.65 square miles within the Upland City Limits but the unincorporated community of San Antonio Heights, which lies to the city's north. Despite some opposition from Upland residents and the overwhelming opposition of residents in San Antonio Heights, the LAFCO board approved the annexation in March. As part of the takeover, property owners in Upland as well as within San Antonio Heights will have to pay an annual \$152.68 per parcel assessment that is subject to a three percent per year increase. Residents are given the opportunity to stop the annexation, but only through the process of a protest vote. That protest vote has to be lodged by residents in the form of a LAFCO protest form. In this way, anyone who does not mail in such

a letter of protest containing exact and precise information will be deemed to have assented to the annexation. The original window to register a protest ran from May 12, through June 14, 2017. Under the original deadline, which has since been extended, protest forms were to have been filled out and dated between those two dates in order to qualify.

Objections to the changeover have proven multifold.

One issue was economics. For 111 years, Upland's fire department has existed as a part of Upland's municipal operations, paid for and supported by the revenue stream that pays for and supports city services generally, ad valorem property taxes, sales taxes and other pass-through revenues from the state and federal government. In justifying the dissolution of the fire department, city officials cited "greater efficiency" and "cost savings." Why then, many residents asked, was every household in the city now being called upon to pay an additional \$152.68 per year for fire protection? Some interpreted that as double-dipping by the government, i.e., making taxpayers pay twice for the same thing. The city was not providing a commensurate reduction in ad valorem or sales tax back to the city's residents, the critics observed. When pressed, city officials acknowledged that the revenue generated from the assessment would go

directly to the county to defray over 30 percent of the fire department's operational costs. The city will make up the difference between what its residents and businesses pay through the assessment and the county's actual cost of delivering fire protection, which is anticipated to be almost \$2.5 million less than the \$11,986,104 million the city is paying to operate its fire department in the current 2016-17 fiscal year. Thus, with the assessment generating \$3,346,440 [21,918 parcels X \$152.68], the city stands to net \$5.846 million or thereabouts in savings. Taxpayer advocates characterized this move as sleight-of-hand, a maneuver by which the city council manipulated the process to increase taxes by \$3.3464 million per year without a required vote of the city's voters, not to mention a diminution of the quality of fire protection service those residents will sustain. Pursuant to the county takeover, there would also be a higher fee structure imposed upon businesses and developers in the City of Upland, which is cataloged in an 18-page schedule.

A second issue is the loss of local control. By closing out the municipal fire department and transferring that function to the county fire department, the city council will surrender control over what will be the de facto fire department to the county board of supervisors, not to mention the department's vehicles, equipment and real estate. As only two of the board's members, the Fourth District supervisor and the Second District supervisor, represent Upland, the majority of the political decision-making body overseeing fire protection issues in Upland will not be answerable to the city's residents.

A third issue is the level and quality of service. Despite the consideration that the city's residents will be paying more for the service, the actual amount of money provided toward operations will decrease. In this way, some fear, the level, quality and intensity of service will diminish and the ability and opportunity to cus-

tomize that service in accordance with the community's needs, unique features and qualities and its idiosyncrasies is being forever lost.

A fourth issue is the pride the city's residents take in Upland, which is known as "The City of Gracious Living." The fourth municipality of the county's current 24 cities to incorporate in 1906, Upland boasts the sixth highest per capita income among the county's incorporated cities and the eighth highest per capita income among its 47 major communities, incorporated or unincorporated.

A fifth issue is the consideration that the Upland City Council did not have the authority to speak for San Antonio Heights, and it was upon the Upland City Council's application for the dissolution of the Upland Fire Department and the city's inclusion in a county fire protection service zone that the San Bernardino County Local Agency Formation Commission, without a request by San Antonio Heights residents or anyone speaking on their behalf, made a determination that San Antonio Heights should be included in the terms of the City of Upland's change of organization. Available information suggests the San Bernardino County Fire Department included San Antonio Heights, which is not currently subject to a fire service assessment, in the takeover proposal to be able to lower the cost of the service proposal provided to the City of Upland.

A sixth issue is that the San Bernardino County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), without consultation with Upland or San Antonio Heights residents, elected to include those areas in San Bernardino County Fire Protection District Service Zone FP-5, which is 48 miles distant from Upland as the crow flies and 64 miles removed from it in driving distance. Zone FP-5 was selected as the district into which both the city and San Antonio would be annexed, despite the consideration that San Antonio Heights is currently within a completely separate service zone,

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the Valley Service Zone.

Kathleen Rollings-McDonald, the executive director of LAFCO, on June 7 told the *Sentinel* that in the judgment of LAFCO staff and the full commission, placing Upland into Zone FP-5 was a responsible and defensible decision from a legal and safety standpoint.

"It is a service zone to augment fire protection and emergency medical service," she said. "With the administration of fire protection and emergency medical operations the distance between differing operations is not relevant to the provision of that service. The county fire department proposed the annexation into the FP-5 service zone. Different areas of the zone do not need to be contiguous under the law."

Despite widespread opposition to the city's move as blessed by LAFCO, those wishing to stop it were confounded by the peculiarity in California law with regard to annexations. Instead of holding a straightforward election of those to be impacted by the annexation, a governmental entity that gets the approval of the Local Agency Formation Commission for such an annexation and accompanying assessment district need only conduct a "protest vote" of the residents or citizens impacted. The terms of a protest vote hold that unless a landowner or registered voter in the impacted area explicitly casts a no vote, i.e., files or mails in a LAFCO protest form to LAFCO, he or she is deemed to have voted in support of the annexation. If 25.01 percent to 50 percent of

either the parcel owners or the registered voters in the impacted jurisdiction cast such negative ballots, then a traditional election vote on the annexation is held. If any number greater than 50 percent lodge protest forms with LAFCO, then the annexation fails outright. Protest votes that effectively prevent an annexation are extremely rare, close to nonexistent. Indeed, within the last two years, in the cities of San Bernardino, Twentynine Palms and Needles, the dissolution of local or municipal fire departments took place and those cities were annexed into a county fire protection/assessment district, likewise Zone FP-5, subject to a protest vote procedure, which in each case came nowhere near garnering sufficient protest forms in the one-month protest period to stop the annexations. The Upland/San Antonio merger into San Bernardino County Fire Protection District Service Zone FP-5 seemed no different, although there has been a spirited effort by a core of Upland and San Antonio Heights residents to encourage their respective fellow residents to lodge protest forms.

Accompanying that effort, several attorneys, some of them coordinating with one another and some of them acting independently, have studied the matter, examining it from a variety of legal perspectives, seeking to find a procedural or legal error that Upland or LAFCO might have engaged in which might lead to the undoing of the annexation. Within the last fortnight, one of those attorneys hit defi-

Continued on Page 4

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Upland Council Looking To Strip Elliott Of Committee Assignments
from front page

and committees.” Thouvenell said the changes are intended to be “effective immediately upon adoption of the resolution.”

The city council has the authority, according to Thouvenell, through Resolution No. 6397 which it adopted on April 10 to make the change. Section 7 of Resolution No. 6397 states, “Any committee, commission, board, or authority member may be removed from office during his/her unexpired term upon 4/5ths vote of the city council, when in the sole discretion of the council said removal is deemed appropriate.”

From 2000 until 2011, John Pomierski served as Upland’s mayor. Relatively early on, Pomierski established a ruling coalition on the council that catered to his will and that of his political donors and supporters. Few differences among council members surfaced, and when they did, Pomierski was deemed the ultimate arbiter of how they were to be resolved. Appointments to city and regional boards and committees became a tool of Pomierski’s em-

ployment of power and were handed around as perquisites of being on his team. As mayor, Pomierski would brook no dissent or challenge to his authority. When then-councilman Ray Musser voted against him in the 2004 election and continued to call into question some of the city’s policies, Pomierski, in concert with the remainder of the city council, removed Musser from the city and regional boards and committees he had previously been assigned to. Moreover, Pomierski used his political reach and grip to intensify his domination of the city, relying upon the cohesion of the council majority he had constructed to purge the city of employees who were not subservient to his command. Among those forced out in this process was Thouvenell, who was then Upland’s police chief and whose loyalty to Pomierski was under question. Pomierski retained his dominance of the city right up until the day of his resignation the day prior to his indictment by a federal grand jury on charges that he had used his hold on City Hall to shake down businesses and individuals with business before the city council or applications for city permits and licenses. Ultimately, Pomierski was convicted and served two years in

a federal prison. He was succeeded as mayor by Musser.

Elliott, who was first elected to the city council in November, has found herself disenfranchised from the current council because of her reluctance, failure or refusal to embrace the guidance Thouvenell, who was hired to serve as interim city manager in the immediate aftermath of the council’s abrupt termination of former city manager Rod Butler last summer. On relatively rare occasions Elliott has dissented from the majority vote. She has also made expression of her differences with the council majority in the local press. Her strongest deviation from the team attitude came when she lodged a complaint with the district attorney’s office alleging a violation of the Brown Act over the council having been presented in closed session at its May 8 meeting with a written protocol entitled “In House Policies of the Upland City Council.” This protocol related to council members’ dealings with the press, the use of social media and forums for communicating with the public all members of the council were expect-

ed to sign and adhere to. The Ralph M. Brown Act is California’s open public meeting law and requires that all government-related business be discussed in an open session, with the exceptions of pending or actual litigation, pending real estate sales or purchases or negotiations for sales or purchases, and issues relating to personnel decisions. Elliott’s complaint filed with the district attorney’s office was two-fold: that the presentation of the “protocol” document to the city council in closed session was improper and that its presentation was accompanied by a fraudulent attempt to disguise what was occurring by representing the discussion as a personnel matter pertaining to Thouvenell. Since Elliott’s complaint with the district attorney’s office’s public integrity unit became public, the anger of her council colleagues and Thouvenell toward Elliott has been palpable.

Neither Thouvenell, Stone, Filippi nor deputy city manager Jeannette Vagnozzi responded to Sentinel inquiries about the proposal agenda item 11 J. -Mark Gutglueck

Forum... Or Against 'em
Observations from a Decidedly Continental Perspective

By Count Friedrich von Olsen



Lord knows I am something of a Cold Warrior of longstanding, someone who saw, sadly, firsthand the degradation of the Soviet domination of East & Central Europe. I have no charity in my soul for the enslavement of the spirit that ideology represented. So, you might expect that I would be in with those calling for the head of our president for having played footsie with the Russians, whose current leader was once the head of the KGB...

I detect something overblown in the way this issue involving President Donald Trump and our former FBI director is playing out. The Democrats are much too anxious, methinks, to find any pretext they can to discredit our leader, who was elected last November, including making unsubstantiated charges that he conspired with Vladimir Putin to steal the election...

Let me offer an alternative interpretation: Perhaps Donald Trump was elected for a reason. And perhaps that reason is that the American People saw in him a vision, or the glimpse of a vision, most do not possess. He is a man who traffics in the world of international commercialism. Instead of being the type of person who sees two days down the road, or two months into the future, or even a year or seven, he is rather of the persuasion that recognizes the trend of the next several decades. Maybe what he sees is what should be obvious to us all: that the model of the Cold War, this us vs. them conception of the United States against the CCCP is passé. The Russians are a remarkable people. They have, in certain areas, achieved technical advancement that rivals our own. They have not come as far as we in the realm of certain consumer goods, but they have much to offer, not the least of which is petroleum, most of which will be sold to consumers on the other side of the world from us. But they will have, indeed they already do have, revenue from those sales, a newly emerging wealth...

Perhaps what Donald Trump sees is that Russia is our next great trading partner, one who is ready to buy more from us, using that wealth accumulated from the sale of its oil to nations outside our own. The Russians are ready to buy, buy and buy some more U.S.-made high quality products. They are our natural ally against the likes of China, which is outmaneuvering us with its sale of inferior but less expensive, and thus more buyable, products...

Perhaps what we need to do is pay less attention to those of smaller vision and let our president do his job...

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

Oxford Seeks Writ To Force Chino School District To Renew Charter
from front page

ford contracts to herself and her associates. Oxford disassociated itself from Roche and her business partners and sued her in an effort to convince decision-makers with the district, and state and county education officials to give the school license to continue operating. That did not succeed, however.

Last month, what seemed the end of the road for Oxford came when the California State Board of Education declined to take any action with regard to its final administrative appeal and petition to be rechartered. Contending that student academic achievement should be the primary consideration and that the rejection of the charter renewal petition last year was hurtful to the its

students, Oxford Preparatory Academy on May 31, 2017 filed a “Verified Petition for Writ of Mandate, Writ of Prohibition, and Complaint for Injunctive Relief” against the Chino Valley Unified School District, the Governing Board of Chino Valley Unified School District and Mr. Wayne Joseph in his capacity as district superintendent in San Bernardino County Superior Court.

The writ seeks a court order that the district either approve the September 30, 2016 Oxford charter renewal petition with Chino Valley Unified or an order that the district re-evaluate the petition. Cohn on June 2 granted a temporary restraining order intended to maintain the status quo, as of May 31, 2017, until the court makes a final determination on Oxford’s writ petition.

Oxford board chairman Andrew Vestey said, “Our legal team took the first step of fil-

ing a writ of mandate with the Superior Court of San Bernardino to keep our school open. The court can make the decision to deny the writ, approve the renewal petition, or mandate Chino Valley Unified vacate their previous decision and reevaluate our renewal petition under the correct and legal standards.”

During a specially-

called closed session of the Chino Valley Unified School District Board yesterday, Thursday June 8, the board unanimously voted to send its legal team to the June 23 hearing in San Bernardino Superior Court to oppose the legal action by Oxford.

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Uphill Battle Against Annexation *from page 2*

nite pay dirt while yet two other legal issues appear to hold further promise.

Joe Farrell, an attorney and a resident of San Antonio Heights, picked up on the consideration that in LAFCO's notification of the owners of the more than 21,000 parcels located within the confines of the Upland City Limits and inside the borders of San Antonio Heights it had routinely omitted making notification of women who are co-owners with men, in the vast majority of cases their husbands, of parcels affected by the proposed annexation. Farrell in May lodged an objection with LAFCO, maintaining that a significant number of women had not been provided with legal notice. This was, Farrell maintained, tantamount to wholesale gender discrimination. LAFCO attorney Paula C.P. de Sousa Mills, in a response to Farrell dated May 31, denied there had been any violation of the rights of women as a class in the LAFCO action.

"SB LAFCO affirmatively states that no action it has taken with respect to the reorganization has in any way, whether intentionally, incidentally, or otherwise, discriminated against property owners based on gender," de Sousa Mills wrote.

LAFCO, however, endeavored to look into the matter and determined that in sending out the protest notices/invitations it had used property tax billing information gleaned from lists provided by the San Bernardino County As-

essor's Office. In those cases where there are two owners listed – generally speaking a man and wife – the man is listed first. The notices were addressed to only the first individual listed. This omitted a significant number of parcel owners who are women.

Farrell's having confronted LAFCO with the oversight, given the prospect that he was very likely to take the matter further, prompted LAFCO, i.e., its executive director Kathleen McDonald in consultation with de Sousa Mills, to make a decision to repost notices, this time including ones to all of the parcel owners. Those notices are going out today, June 12. As a consequence, the number of property owners recognized by LAFCO in the combined area of Upland and San Antonio Heights has been increased from 21,413 to 35,416, an increase in 13,713 owners, which increases the number of protest votes needed to block the annexation. Nevertheless, the protest period has been extended to July 11 and annexation opponents are gamely continuing their protest form signing drive.

Another legal issue which annexation opponents believe might be utilized to challenge the county fire department takeover consists of the inclusion of San Antonio Heights into the proposal. San Antonio Heights residents are not eligible to vote in Upland City Council elections and the Upland City Council does not represent or speak for the San Antonio Heights or its residents. That the LAFCO board used the Upland application as a pretext to usher San An-

tonio Heights into the annexation could prove in a court of law that the annexation was illegitimate, some lawyers have suggested.

City and county officials have asserted the move to effectuate the annexation and push both San Antonio Heights and Upland into the pre-existing Zone FP-5 and impose the fire service assessment on those communities' residents, landowners and businesses is legally justifiable under the precedent setting case of *Citizens Association of Sunset Beach v. Orange County LAFCO*. In that matter, a group of Sunset Beach residents miffed at the imposition of taxes on them after what was essentially a hostile annexation by the City of Huntington Beach sued, arguing they had not been provided with an opportunity to vote on what for them were new taxes. After prevailing at the trial court level, an appellate court ruled that the annexation approved by the Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission stood and that the pre-existing taxes and assessments in Huntington Beach then being imposed on the residents of Sunset Beach did not require ratification in a traditional ballot election but could be confirmed with a protest vote. Lawyers connected with the annexation opponents in Upland and San Antonio Heights, however, have taken stock that Upland and San Antonio Heights are not unincorporated county areas being absorbed into an existing municipality. Rather, in the case of Upland, it is an existing municipality being absorbed into a service

area originally created for an unincorporated county area, a significant difference. A properly lodged challenge could lead to a determination that the annexation is legally invalid, those lawyers have theorized.

John T. Goss Jr., a San Antonio Heights resident and the chairman of LAFCO Protest Subcommittee, this week told the *Sentinel*, "There are significant issues at stake with the implementation of the LAFCO 3216 annexation proposal. Upland and San Antonio Heights homeowners will be saddled with an unconstitutional tax of \$152.63 per year, with annual increases of 3% each subsequent year forever. LAFCO has clearly attempted to establish as many roadblocks as possible in front of affected residents who are demanding a voice on this tax. Residents should not have to jump through hoops to exercise our Constitutional Right to a vote on any new tax."

Continuing, Goss said, "San Antonio Heights residents, who are already serviced by San Bernardino County Fire are being sucked into the FP-5 tax zone purely because the County of San Bernardino Fire District needs the San Antonio Heights Station No. 12, to service the northwest portion of Upland, which has no coverage due to the fact that the City of Upland and San Bernardino County Fire are shutting down Station 162, located on San Antonio Avenue and 20th Street. The County of San Bernardino County Fire Division/City of Upland's plan falls apart without Station No 12 being annexed into FP-5. The city management has sold the people of

Upland down the river, again. For years, city management has failed to adhere to sound financial procedures and now they find themselves in yet another financial mess and are trying to solve their mismanagement on the backs of the taxpayers. The city of Upland's actions will result in the residents of San Antonio Heights being dragged into this without our consent. We are joining with citizens of Upland who are likewise opposed to the additional, unconstitutional-

al tax forced upon them."

Goss intoned, "It is time that this playground politics stops, and that the City of Upland get a real city manager with financial background, to run the City of Upland the way it should be run. The City of Upland is in trouble and needs strong, educated, and responsible leaders to bring the city out of this extreme financial situation that the current and past leaders have put this city into." -Mark Gutglueck

LAFCO Sides With Government Officials Over Citizens *from front page*

lished in 1963, its ostensible purpose has been to oversee the establishment, expansion, governance, and dissolution of local government agencies and their municipal service areas, setting boundaries between cities and between varying districts, more or less to ensure that the provision of infrastructure and services. Local agency formation commissions exist within all 58 counties in the State of California and function under the auspices of California Government Code Sections 56375 and 56133. San Bernardino County's LAFCO has on its seven-member board a citizen member along with six currently serving elected officials from city or county government/governmental districts. At this point, its citizen member is James Bagley, a former city councilman/mayor with the City of Twentynine Palms. Two members of the county board of supervisors, James Ramos and Robert Lovin-

good, are LAFCO board members. While all local agency formation commissions statewide are ostensibly intended to "inhibit urban sprawl and encourage the orderly formation and development of local agencies," that intent has sometimes been frustrated or corroded in San Bernardino County by allowing the commission's voting board members to participate in decisions pertaining to their own jurisdictions or those impacting landowners or developers with whom they have financial ties or from whom they had been provided political donations or electioneering assistance. In this way, the commission has on occasion allowed cities or districts to assume jurisdiction over property where infrastructure on that land would have been more logically provided by a neighboring governmental entity. In some other cases, where the entity owning or developing the annexed property was able to avoid the cost and responsibility of constructing infrastructure or could reduce the

Continued on Page 6

Postmus Relied On Aleman To Keep Control Over The County GOP from front page

cal flourishes. By 2002 he had acceded to the position of chairman of the San Bernardino County Republican Central Committee. In 2004, he was handily reelected supervisor and shortly thereafter was chosen by his fellow board members to serve as chairman of the board of supervisors, the youngest person to ever hold that position. At that point he bestrode San Bernardino County like a political colossus.

Already larger than life, Postmus moved to consolidate his power even further, constructing a political machine rivaling that of Tammany Hall. He had already formed a firm and fast alliance with Paul Biane, the Second District Supervisor who oversaw Rancho Cucamonga, Upland, Western Fontana, Mt. Baldy, San Antonio Heights and Wrightwood, who was simultaneously the vice chairman of the county Republican Central Committee and the vice chairman of the board of supervisors. Postmus had further aligned himself with former Ontario Mayor Gary Ovitt, whom he had assisted in his successful run in the specially held 2004 race for Fourth District supervisor to permanently replace Fred Aguiar, who had departed upon being appointed head of the California Consumer Services Agency by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Postmus' team included his own chief of staff, Brad Mitzelfelt, Victorville Councilman Bob Hunter, Hesperia Mayor Jim Lindley, previous Republican Central Committee Chairman Ed Laning, political consultant Michael Orme, Republican Central Committee Member Anthony Adams, Republican Central Committee Member and former Foothill Fire District Board Member and Chairman Dan Richards, then-Fontana Councilwoman and Republican Central Committee Member Acquannetta Warren, along with Republican Party operatives Anthony Riley and

Mark Kirk. In 2004, the 33-year-old Postmus met Adam Aleman, then 21-years old, while the latter was working as the maître d' at an Outback Steakhouse. Aleman had already evinced an interest in politics – Republican politics – by having worked on behalf of Elia Pirozzi in his unsuccessful run for the California Assembly in 2002. Postmus hit it off with Aleman and soon offered him a paying position with the county Republican Central Committee. Aleman took him up on the offer. A few months later, Postmus offered Aleman a second position as a field representative with his supervisor's office.

In 2005, Postmus and Biane, who were already in solid control of the county Republican Party by virtue of their chairmanship and vice-chairmanship of the central committee and alliances with GOP office holders across the county, strengthened their grip further in a power play reorganization of the central committee. Using the pretext that far-flung 20,205-square mile San Bernardino County presented traveling distance challenges to the central committee members such that at times less than a quorum was present at their meetings, thus preventing them from tending to important issues impacting the party, Postmus and Biane arranged to empower the central committee's executive committee, which consisted of Postmus and Biane and, with the exception of a single member, employees working in their offices, to assume the voting authority of the entire central committee. At that point, Postmus' political power within the confines of San Bernardino County, where in the 2004 primary election county-wide registered Republican voters had bettered their Democratic Party counterparts in turnout countywide 282,657 to 252,314, was entirely unfettered. Around that time, while Aleman was yet working for him as a field representative in his supervisor's office, Postmus elevated him to the position of the executive director of the county Republican Party. Ale-

man was then only 22 years old.

The following year, 2006, Postmus declared he would seek to unseat the incumbent county assessor, Don Williamson, in that year's election. Tapping into funding available through the Republican Party as well as donations from a host of entities with businesses in the county and project proposals subject to county approval, Postmus raised over \$3 million for his assessor's campaign – which still stands as a record for any electioneering effort for a San Bernardino County office. He entrusted the running of the campaign to Aleman, employing him as his campaign manager. In the June Primary against Williamson and two other candidates, Postmus polled 46.86 percent, falling just 3.14001 percent short of winning without having to move into a run-off that November. In that November's final toe-to-toe showdown against Williamson, Postmus prevailed by a less than fully impressive margin, 52.62 percent to Williamson's 47 percent and another .38 percent in write-in votes. Even before he took office in January 2007, Postmus made arrangements while he was still chairman of the board of supervisors to create a host of new positions within the assessor's office. Upon assuming office, he reorganized the assessor's staff, creating a second assistant assessor's post where before there had been only one, and thirteen executive office positions that previously did not exist. He appointed Jim Erwin, the former deputy sheriffs' union president who was then serving as that union's executive director, as one of the assistant assessors. He initially sought to hire Paula Nowicki, who had been a senior analyst with his supervisorial office and was the wife of one of his political allies, former Hesperia Mayor Dennis Nowicki, as the other assistant assessor. When it turned out that Paula Nowicki had no education beyond a high school diploma, she did not get the job. Instead, the post, which paid \$131,000 per year in salary plus \$60,000

in benefits, went to Aleman, who had taken a single college course – ornithology – at that point. Aleman was previously set to assume the position of assessor's office communications director, one of the 13 new executive positions Postmus had created for the office. Postmus installed in all 13 of those posts political appointees who had no experience with regard to the professional function of the assessor's office.

Unbeknownst to the public at large, Postmus, despite his conservative Republican, traditional Christian family values façade, was a promiscuous homosexual who with almost daily frequency was engaging in drug-fueled sexual encounters with men he had never before met by means of an internet-based hook-up service, Adam 4 Adam. This proclivity had rendered him by 2005 hopelessly addicted to methamphetamine. Aleman, who was ostensibly being paid by the county first in his capacity as a field representative for Postmus when he was supervisor and then as assistant assessor, had taken on the actual role of his claviger – his praetorian, his protector, his custodian, his concierge, his watchdog, his escort, his protector, his baby sitter, his steward, his keeper, all in one. Officially, Aleman was Postmus' aide-de-camp. In actuality, he had been entrusted with a key to Postmus' house and he would arrive in the morning to awaken him and put him into the shower, chase his boyfriend or boyfriends from the evening before out of the house if he or they had not already left, hide any tell-tale signs of drug use including the drugs themselves or paraphernalia such as smoking pipes or syringes, help Postmus get dressed and then either send him to his scheduled rounds or drive him there himself and accompany him to the meetings and make certain that any materials or documents were on hand for reference. This effort to keep Postmus' secret hidden almost failed spectacularly in the summer of 2006 during his electoral campaign for assessor, when an effort was made

to have Postmus complete drug rehab in Yakima, Washington. This entailed an extended absence during which Postmus missed board of supervisors meetings and was unavailable for consultation during a devastating fire in the desert. Aleman fielded questions in Postmus' place, posting emails or responses in his name and fibbing to the press, telling them that Postmus was in Wisconsin for the funeral of his grandmother. As time progressed and when Postmus transitioned into being assessor, the need for him to engage in one-on-one interactions with his constituents and other public officials decreased significantly from the demands that he had been under as supervisor. By that point he grew ever more reclusive during daytime, going for as long as a week or a week-and-a-half without coming into the assessor's office, descending even further into the morass of drug addiction, gravitating toward huffing – using inhalants such as DVD cleaner, aerosols and solvents – to augment his binges, rendering himself even further out of the bounds of reality.

In the meantime, Aleman, completely unequipped to deal with the actual duties and responsibilities of being assistant assessor and the role of determining the value of property for taxing purposes, spent his time at the office engaging in political activity relating to promoting the Republican Party, potential or actual Republican candidates and Republican causes. He oversaw similar activity, including extensive postings to the GOP blogs Red County and Flash Report made by several of Postmus' 13 political hires at the office, a few of whom were Postmus' boyfriends, at least on those occasions when those employees would show up for work. As early as the late spring of 2007, even before Postmus had marked the six-month anniversary of his time in office as assessor, the press had picked up on the sheer number of emails on political topics having nothing to do with the assessor's office and internet post-

ings to blogs such as Red County and Flash Report emanating from Aleman and other assessor's office employees during normal working business hours. By the early summer of that year, those and other anomalies relating to Postmus and the assessor's office were a subject of discussion within county government and elsewhere. Before the summer had elapsed, a complaint about untoward activity in the assessor's office had reached the county's civil grand jury, and the public integrity unit of the district attorney's office was notified. When investigators with the district attorney's office began poking around the assessor's operations, Aleman, hyperconscious of what they might find, panicked and destroyed the hard drive in one of the county laptops that had been issued to Postmus to prevent anyone from learning the extent of his misfeasance and malfeasance in office. When investigators subpoenaed office documents, Aleman instructed an office secretary, Wanda Nowicki, the daughter-in-law of Postmus' political ally Dennis Nowicki, to alter the minutes of several assessor's office's executive staff meetings to prevent anyone reading them from detecting that the assessor's office was a hotbed of illicit political activity. Aleman took the altered meeting minutes with him when he was called before the grand jury, proffering them to indicate that all was as it should be operationally in the assessor's office under Postmus. Unbeknownst to him, however, Nowicki had retained a copy of the original minutes, which she had provided to the district attorney's office. When Aleman was confronted with the original minutes, his duplicity was apparent and on June 30, 2008, the day the grand jury report containing the account of the political exploitation of the assessor's office was released, Aleman was arrested and charged with six felony counts pertaining to the destruction/vandalism of government property, the alteration of public documents, falsification

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LAFCO Unsympathetic To Citizens In Jurisdictional Disputes With Cities *from page 4*

burden of defraying the cost of that infrastructure because of a more favorable relationship the developer or individual owning the property had to the office holders of the agency or municipality applying to annex the property, the San Bernardino County LAFCO would blithely countenance such annexations, even in cases in which a representative of the governmental jurisdiction into which the property was being annexed was participating as a voting LAFCO board member. Perhaps the most egregious examples of this abuse of the system historically in San Bernardino County occurred during the era in which the LAFCO board was under the influence of former San Bernardino County Fifth District Supervisor Robert Hammock in the mid-to-late 1980s. That LAFCO board also seated William Kragness, then a Fontana City Council member who would go on to become that city's mayor. During Hammock's and Kragness's tenures, with developers and land owners connected to Hammock who had interests in or options on land in the Fontana area driving the agenda, LAFCO consistently granted Fontana's annexation requests along its eastern border with Rialto and similarly accommodated its aggressive jurisdictional seizures along its western frontier with Rancho Cucamonga. Three decades later, the excesses of that time resonate, as Rancho Cucamonga has striven to ward off any further territory grabs along its periphery by maintaining a presence – a significant one – on the LAFCO board. Two of the LAFCO board's seven voting members hail from Rancho Cucamonga: Rancho Cucamonga Councilwoman Diane Williams and James Curatalo, a member of the board of directors for the Cucamonga Valley Water District.

More recently, a growing number of county residents have suggested

the function of San Bernardino County's LAFCO has been corrupted by a bias favoring governmental entities over the citizenry whenever a dispute between officials and the residents they govern arises. This is evinced in the near universal rulings by LAFCO to allow annexations or consolidations to proceed even in the face of strong resident opposition. Four cases in point consist of the moves by three cities – San Bernardino, Needles and Upland – and one district – the Twentynine Palms Water District – over the last two years to divest themselves of their local fire departments and have the county fire department provide fire protection service to their respective cities and the population therein. In all four instances a far greater level of opposition to those changes manifested publicly during hearings for the annexation proposals than did support. Nevertheless, LAFCO overrode that opposition, approved the annexation of the confines within the city limits of each respective city into the county Service Zone FP-5, which was originally formed to provide fire service to the Helendale/Silver Lakes district in the Mojave Desert, and sealed the deal with a “protest vote” confirmation – a mere formality – of the arrangement, consisting of LAFCO's invitation of property owners and voters within each of the jurisdictions to lodge letters of protest against the annexation. Each protest letter received was counted as a single vote against the annexation. Any resident or voter not lodging a letter of protest was presumed to have voted to accept the annexation. Nothing approaching sufficient opposition in San Bernardino, Needles and Twentynine Palms materialized to prevent the dissolutions of the fire departments in those places and the annexations from proceeding. In Upland and neighboring San Antonio Heights, which LAFCO rolled into the Upland annexation proposal, the protest period began on May 12 and was previously set to conclude on June 14. Because LAFCO failed in the comprehensive-

ness of its noticing of the protest process to invite all of the property owners in Upland and San Antonio to lodge letters of protest, an attorney, Joe Farrell, threatened LAFCO with legal action. LAFCO has capitulated and extended until July 14 the protest period for Upland and San Antonio Heights. Despite an energetic and seemingly well-coordinated effort by a core group of Upland and San Antonio residents to incite residents/parcel owners there to lodge letters of protest, it is anticipated that the annexation will go through.

This may prove a Pyrrhic victory for LAFCO, as the annexation effort in Upland and San Antonio Heights has stirred up, it seems, the wrong hornet's nest, one that numbers among its members some very wealthy and sophisticated individuals. Those individuals, who collectively believe LAFCO cut corners and simply rubberstamped the City of Upland's proposal, are resentful and determined to hold the city and LAFCO to account and are employing attorneys in that effort. Moreover, they have begun to reach out and coordinate with others within the county beyond Upland and San Antonio Heights who are likewise miffed at the fashion in which LAFCO has proven insensitive to citizen concerns when it is considering and processing requests by agencies and municipalities to set boundaries that are at odds with the wishes of a significant number of those agencies' or municipalities' constituents.

In Highland there has been longstanding enmity toward LAFCO that began even before the city incorporated in 1980. That is partially because before the 18.9 square mile city incorporated in 1987, LAFCO staff recommended against the city's formation, opining that it did not have enough income through traditional ad valorem and sales tax revenue sources to sustain itself. Over that staff objection, a divided LAFCO board gave go-ahead to the city's formation and it has since established itself to be, in current LAFCO Executive Officer Kathleen

Rollings-McDonald's words, “a well run city.” In recent years, LAFCO has sustained its unpopularity in Highland through a longstanding agenda to consolidate the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District with the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District. LAFCO has not achieved that, but in 2015 it did substantially expand the sphere of influence of the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District, inflating it to cover the entirety of the Bunker Hill Basin and the total area of the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District. This has been viewed with some distrust by some influential members of the Highland community as being a forerunner of a move to make a merger they are opposed to.

Growing out of this, a serious challenge of the senior staff member at LAFCO, Kathleen Rollings-McDonald, has manifested. In 2003, Rollings-McDonald, who had been a LAFCO staff member since 1979 and who was then the deputy executive officer of LAFCO, succeeded James Roddy as its executive director shortly before Roddy's death. For seven years, Rollings-McDonald was the face of LAFCO. In 2010, she retired after being a public employee for 35 years and eight months and began collecting an annual pension of \$222,203.10 in current year dollars. Almost immediately, she went back to work for the county in a contract capacity, retaining her title as LAFCO executive officer. Her contract called for her working an average of 19.2 hours per week, 50 weeks per year, at a rate of \$121.87 per hour, or an annual salary of slightly over \$117,000 per year.

While working in the capacity of contract LAFCO executive officer, Rollings-McDonald has continued to collect her pension. According to available documentation, Rollings-McDonald was paid \$339,268 in 2015-16 and is on track to make a similar amount in 2016-17, which draws to a close at the end of the month.

Dennis and Nancy Johnson of Highland this spring retained for-

mer Highland City Attorney Marguerite Battersby to undertake an inquiry into the county's arrangement with Rollings-McDonald. According to Battersby, Rollings-McDonald engaged in prohibitive “double dipping” by retiring, applying for and collecting her pension and then continuing to work in her governmental capacity under contract while collecting a salary for doing so. Battersby drafted a letter to LAFCO and its board of directors dated May 10, 2017, which was also sent to San Bernardino County Counsel, challenging that arrangement, which she said was in defiance of the Public Employees Pension Reform Act of 2012. The arrangement, Battersby maintains, is an illegal one that needs to be abated at once and carries with it serious criminal and civil implications, including the need for Rollings-McDonald to disgorge the money she has been paid under the contract.

“There is so much corruption going on, someone has to do something about it,” Dennis Johnson told the *Sentinel* on June 6.

Battersby's letter triggered no little consternation among LAFCO officials, prompting them to have attorney Isabel C. Safie of the law firm Best Best & Krieger respond in writing dated June 5, 2017. Safie asserted that the San Bernardino County Employees Retirement Association arrived at an “express determination” that “the executive officer's post retirement employment from October 23, 2010 through January 7, 2015 was subject only to the requirements [that] she was employed in a position requiring special skills or knowledge as determined by the county or district employing her; and hours worked did not exceed 960 hours in any one fiscal year. If the preceding requirements were satisfied, the executive officer could ‘be paid for that employment.’” Safie also wrote that Rollings-McDonald's post retirement employment with LAFCO county was subject to the Public Employees Pension Reform Act of 2012 as of January 8, 2015 but that one provision of the reform act requiring

that employees not commence post-retirement employment until 180 days after retiring was not applicable to her because that provision applies only to retirees taking retirement after January 1, 2013. Safie said a further requirement in the Public Employees Pension Reform Act of 2012 requiring that LAFCO inform the San Bernardino County Employees Retirement Association of the re-employment of a retiree prior to commencement of that work could not have been met since Rollings-McDonald was already re-employed by LAFCO when the act went into effect in San Bernardino County on January 8, 2015. That notification did not take place prior to Rollings-McDonald's re-employment, Safie acknowledged, but “Consistent with the preceding, LAFCO and the executive officer notified the San Bernardino County Employees Retirement Association and submitted a certification of compliance.” While the benefits to LAFCO, the governmental entities within its jurisdiction, and their constituents of retaining the services of the executive officer given her vast knowledge of the law, LAFCO operating procedures and the geopolitical intricacies of the region have been substantial, the executive officer's employment will end no later than September 30, 2018 as approved by the San Bernardino County Employees Retirement Association.”

Safie said Rollings-McDonald is in compliance with applicable law by not working more than 960 hours in any one year period as a post-retirement rehire.

This week, Rollings-McDonald told the *Sentinel* she rejected charges made by LAFCO's critics that over the last two years she had evinced bias in favor of municipalities seeking to jettison their fire departments and against the constituents within those cities who were opposed to the shuttering of those departments. That perception was an outgrowth of the fashion in which the law imposes a far higher bar for those

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Under Threat Of Prosecution, Aleman & Brown Betrayed Their Bosses *from page 5*

of public documents and perjury. In October 2008, through his attorney, Grover Porter, Aleman arranged to dialogue with the district attorney's office with regard to cooperation in possible exchange for lenient treatment or a reduction in the charges against him or his sentence. In November 2008 he entered into a plea arrangement with prosecutors in which he entered guilty pleas to four charges, his sentence was put into abeyance and he agreed to cooperate by providing the district attorney's investigators with information about the wrongdoing in the county he had knowledge of and to act as the district attorney's investigators' agent by surreptitiously recording his phone calls and conversations with others suspected of criminal wrongdoing, Postmus in particular.

While Aleman's initial statements to the investigators pertained primarily to activity within the assessor's office, during these exchanges with the investigators the major focus gradually moved to the November 2006 vote by the board of supervisors to confer a \$102 million settlement on the Colonies Partners to settle a lawsuit that company had brought against the county and its flood control district over drainage issues at the Colonies at San Antonio residential and Colonies Crossroads commercial subdivisions in northeast Upland. Aleman related how after Postmus returned from a September 2005 trade mission to China during which Postmus and Jeff Burum, one of the two managing principals in the Colonies Partners, had a considerable degree of interaction, Postmus grew obsessive about settling the lawsuit, assuming from Biane the lead role toward that end. Aleman further related that when Postmus and Biane were unable to induce their board colleagues to support a settlement of the lawsuit on the terms Burum was demand-

ing, Burum, through Jim Erwin, sought to extort Postmus and Biane. Aleman related that Erwin, who at that point was working as a consultant to the Colonies Partners to assist in reaching a settlement while he was yet employed as the executive director of the county's sheriff's deputies' union, threatened to expose Postmus' homosexuality and drug use and Biane's personal financial difficulties to the public through the posting of mailers to hundreds of thousands of the county's voters. Ultimately, those mailers, known as "political hit pieces," were withheld, Aleman said, and after the 2006 election in which Postmus was elected assessor and Measure P, a county-wide initiative sponsored by Biane to up supervisors' annual salary from \$99,000 to \$151,000 per year was passed by the county's voters, a divided board of supervisors at the end of November 2006 by a 3 to 2 margin with Postmus, Biane and supervisor Gary Ovitt voting in the affirmative, approved settling the litigation with the Colonies Partners for \$102 million. Following the settlement and after Postmus had acceded to the position of assessor, the Colonies Partners between March and the end of June 2007 provided two \$50,000 contributions to each of two political action committees Postmus had arranged for Aleman to set up, the Inland Empire PAC and the Conservatives For A Republican Majority PAC; a \$100,000 donation to a political action committee, the Committee For Ethical Government, set up by Mark Kirk, who was Ovitt's chief of staff; a \$100,000 donation to a political action committee set up by Erwin, the Committee For Effective Government; and a \$100,000 donation to a political action committee, the San Bernardino County Young Republicans PAC, that had previously been set up by Biane's chief of staff Matt Brown. The \$100,000 donations to Postmus, Biane, Kirk and Erwin were thinly disguised bribes, Aleman said, which were kicked back to the recipients in return for the approval of the settlement.

Based upon Aleman's information and further information developed by the investigators, the district attorney's office stepped up its investigation of Postmus and others relating to the exploitation of the assessor's office for political purposes. This coincided with Postmus' implosion, hastened by his drug addiction and the exposure of his drug use when investigators in January 2009 served a search warrant at his Rancho Cucamonga condominium and found the drugs methamphetamine and ecstasy as well as smoking pipes and syringes. Two months later, Postmus resigned as assessor. Later that year, the district attorney's office lodged charges against Postmus and others based upon their diversion of taxpayer funds and the public resources for partisan political use. Throughout this time, Aleman continued to maintain a close relationship with Postmus, recording more than 70 phone conversations between them and a handful of exchanges they had during face-to-face meetings, and passing along to the district attorney's office more than 1,000 text message exchanges they had.

In May 2009, district attorney's office investigators separately approached Kirk and Brown, threatening them with prosecution for their parts in what they said was the laundering of the bribe money provided to Ovitt and Biane by the Colonies Partners in the form of the \$100,000 contributions to the Committee For Ethical Government and San Bernardino County Young Republicans PACs. Both were shaken. Brown forged an agreement with the investigators, agreeing to use a hidden microcassette recorder at his workplace to capture his conversations with Biane in an effort to obtain Biane's acknowledgement of the bribery scheme. Kirk, however, refused.

In February 2010, the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office and the California Attorney General's Office made a joint criminal filing in which Postmus and Erwin were charged with involvement in a complex con-

spiracy, extortion, and bribery scheme related to the settlement of the Colonies Partners lawsuit against the county. Unnamed in that complaint were five undicted co-conspirators described as Does One through Five. Based on information contained in the complaint and the descriptions of the charges and the alleged overt acts, Burum; his co-managing principal in the Colonies Partners, Dan Richards; Patrick O'Reilly, a public relations consultant who had worked with the Colonies Partners during its effort to reach the lawsuit settlement; Biane; and Kirk could be discerned as the five Does. Also described in the complaint were references at various points to an unnamed "confidential informant." Both Postmus and Erwin entered not guilty pleas to the charges against them.

Some time after the charges were filed, a drug addled Postmus began reading the complaint and the accompanying investigative reports relating to the case provided to his attorney and recognized that Aleman matched up with the description of the confidential informant referenced in those documents. The once-close relationship between Aleman and his political patron ended. Similarly, in April 2010, Biane, or at least those around him, came to suspect that his chief of staff had been cooperating with the district attorney's office. This led to a rather uncomfortable situation for Brown, who was subjected, he later claimed, to threats of retaliation, termination and worse along with continual harassment after his colleagues pieced together that he was cooperating with the district attorney's office. Brown retained attorney Sanford Kassel to represent him and in May 2010, the matter became public and Brown was placed on administrative leave.

Within a month, Brown was transferred to the county recorder/auditor-controller office under Larry Walker, who agreed to install him as his second-in-command, i.e. as the assistant auditor-controller. In so doing, Walker ousted his longtime assistant and

close associate Betsy Starbuck, who was ignominiously sacked after having served more than twenty years as Walker's right hand woman, both when Walker was Fourth District supervisor, the position he held before he ran for auditor-controller, and as auditor-controller. The displacement of Starbuck, who after more than eight years in the position of assistant auditor-controller practically ran the division, to accommodate the inexperienced Brown was widely perceived as something that was imposed on Walker by county chief executive officer Greg Devereaux and district attorney Mike Ramos as part of an effort to protect a witness seen as crucial to the prosecution of the Colonies settlement criminal case.

In March 2011, Postmus entered guilty pleas to 14 felony charges pertaining to both the scandal in the assessor's office and the entirety of the charges leveled against him in the Colonies lawsuit settlement case filed against him in February 2010. He turned state's evidence and in April 2011 went before a specially impaneled criminal grand jury formed to look into the Colonies lawsuit settlement matter. He was the primary witness in the troika of star witnesses that included Aleman and Brown. In his testimony, he essentially corroborated the narrative of events that Aleman had provided investigators. A refined version of that narrative became the indictment that the grand jury returned against Burum, Biane, Erwin and Kirk the following month, with the charges in the indictment against Erwin superseding the criminal charges filed against him the previous year.

After more than five years of pre-trial legal sparring between prosecutors and defense attorneys, the case went to trial on January 4 of this year. Brown's testimony came in February and was less helpful to the prosecution than was anticipated, as the intervention of a decade between the events in question and his examination on the stand compromised, he said, his recollection. During much of the tes-

timony that preceded and followed Brown's, the prosecution, with some notable exceptions, found itself bogged down as the defense countered in no small measure by successfully dwelling, it seemed, on the Colonies Partners' lawsuit against the county which underlies the criminal charges, almost as if the civil case were being relitigated, attempting to demonstrate that the suit against the county was meritorious and that the county had obstructed the Colonies Partners in moving ahead with its developmental agenda, insinuating into this a suggestion that the efforts to induce the members of the board of supervisors to settle the case were in some measure justified.

When Postmus took the stand on May 1, the trial had been dragging on for three days short of four months. During his first two days on the stand under direct examination by Supervising San Bernardino County Deputy District Attorney Lewis Cope he dramatically resuscitated the flagging case, testifying that while he and Burum were both in China in September 2005, Burum had lobbied him in an effort to obtain his support for the settlement of the lawsuit the Colonies Partners had brought against the county over flood control issues that delayed the completion of the Colonies Partners' residential and commercial subdivisions in northeast Upland. Postmus on direct examination said that in the latter half of 2006, Erwin, working

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The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A.

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

S/ Ismael Garcia
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on 05/31/2017.

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

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By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

S/ Lisa L Vaughna
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on 05/08/2017.

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel: 6/2, 6/09, 6/16 & 6/23, 2017.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF WILLIAM PICKEL, CASE NO. PROPS1700528 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of WILLIAM PICKEL and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both: A petition has been filed by DENNIS GLENN PICKEL in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO, requesting that DENNIS GLENN PICKEL be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of WILLIAM PICKEL. Decedent died intestate. (The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. This will avoid the need to obtain court approval for many actions taken in connection with the estate. However, before taking certain actions, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action. The petition will be granted unless good cause is shown why it should not be.) The petition is set for hearing in Dept. No. S37 at SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO SAN BERNARDINO DISTRICT - PROBATE DIVISION 247 W. 3rd STREET SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92415-0212 on AUGUST 14, 2017 at 08:30 AM

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

Public Notices

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 58 of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery of the notice to you under Section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may request special notice of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Section 1250 of the California Probate Code.

Petitioner: DENNIS GLENN PICKEL 25982 E 28TH ST. SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92404 Telephone: 909-529-1641 IN PRO PER
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel: 6/2, 6/09, 6/16 & 6/23, 2017.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER CIVRS1700182

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:Petitioner: Jesus Morga Jr. filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Jesus Morga Jr. to: Jesus Carmona

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

Notice of Hearing:
Date: 07/19/2017
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Department: S17

The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, San Bernardino District - Civil Division, 247 W Third Street, Same as above, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0210, San Bernardino

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SENTINEL in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Dated: May 31, 2017
R. Glenn Yabuno
Judge of the Superior Court.
Published in THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SENTINEL On 06/02/2017, 06/09/2017, 06/16/2017, 06/23/2017

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER CIVDS1709388

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:Petitioner: Savanna Leckemby filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Savanna Leckemby to: Chase Mae Leckemby

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

Notice of Hearing:
Date: 07/03/2017
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Department: S17

The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, San Bernardino District - Civil Division, 247 W

Public Notices

Third Street, Same as above, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0210, San Bernardino

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in The San Bernardino County Sentinel in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Dated: May 18, 2017
Michael A. Sachs
Judge of the Superior Court.
Published in The San Bernardino County Sentinel On 06/02/2017, 06/09/2017, 06/16/2017, 06/23/2017

Title Order No.: Trustee Sale No.: NR-50590-CA Reference No.: Meadowood Village HOA APN No.: 0208-954-03-0-000 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE (NOTICE OF LIEN SALE OF REAL PROPERTY UNPON LIEN FOR HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION DUES) (CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE § 5700 AND 5710) [ATTENTION RECORDER: PURSUANT TO CIVIL CODE §2923.3, THE SUMMARY OF INFORMATION REFERENCED BELOW IS NOT ATTACHED TO THE RECORDED COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT BUT ONLY TO THE COPIES PROVIDED TO THE TRUSTOR] NOTE: THERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT ATTACHED YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A NOTICE OF DELINQUENT ASSESSMENT DATED 11/23/2015. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 06/28/2017 at 1:00 PM, Nationwide Reconveyance LLC As the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Notice of Delinquent Assessment, recorded on 12/03/2015 as Document No. 2015-0530213 Book XX Page XX, of Official Records in the Office of the Recorder of San Bernardino County, California, property owned by: Obie L. Crouch and Laurie M. Crouch, and described as follows: As more fully described on the referenced Assessment Lien. WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a State or national bank, a check drawn by a state of federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state.) At: NEAR THE FRONT STEPS LEADING UP TO THE CITY OF CHINO CIVIC CENTER, 13220 CENTRAL AVENUE, CHINO, CALIFORNIA All right, title and interest under said Notice of Delinquent Assessment in the property situated in said County, describing the land therein: 0208-954-03-0-000 The street address and other common designation, if any of the real property described above is purported to be: 8350 Spring Desert Pl. #C, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum due under said Notice of Delinquent Assessment, with interest thereon, as provided in said notice, advances, if any, estimated fees, charges, and expenses of the Trustee, to-wit: \$11,592.14 Estimated Accrued Interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. The claimant, Meadowood Village Homeowners Association, under said Notice of Delinquent Assessment heretofore

Public Notices

executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 949-860-9155 or visit this Internet Web site www.innovativefieldservices.com, using the file number assigned to this case NR-50590-CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE A DEBT COLLECTOR Date: 05/26/2017 Nationwide Reconveyance LLC For Sales Information Please Call 949-860-9155 By: Rhonda Rorie, AVP (IFS# 2336 06/09/17, 06/16/17, 06/23/17)

FBN 20170005318
The following entity is doing business as:

A TIME 2 TALK BIBLICAL COUNSELING 9605 BUSINESS CENTER DR SUITE #T RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730 LISA L VAUGHN 15497 AVENS LN FONTANA, CA 92336

This business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A.

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

S/ Lisa L Vaughn
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on 05/08/2017.

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel: 6/2, 6/09, 6/16 & 6/23, 2017.

FBN 20170005702
The following entity is doing business as:

KNOW NO LIMITS 1925 WEST COLLEGE AVE APT F253 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407 JESUS D CUELLAR 1925 WEST COLLEGE AVE APT F253 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407

This business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A.

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

S/ Jesus D Cuellar
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on 05/12/2017.

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel: 6/09, 6/16, 6/23 & 5/29, 2017.

FBN 20170005689
The following entity is doing business as:

Public Notices

California, County of San Bernardino, San Bernardino District - Civil Division, 247 W Third Street, Same as above, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0210, San Bernardino

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SENTINEL in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Dated: June 5, 2017
Michael A. Sachs
Judge of the Superior Court.
Published in THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SENTINEL On 06/09/2017, 06/16/2017, 06/23/2017 & 06/30/2017

FBN 20170005318
The following entity is doing business as:

A TIME 2 TALK BIBLICAL COUNSELING 9605 BUSINESS CENTER DR SUITE #T RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730 LISA L VAUGHN 15497 AVENS LN FONTANA, CA 92336

This business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A.

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

S/ Lisa L Vaughn
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on 05/08/2017.

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel: 6/2, 6/09, 6/16 & 6/23, 2017.

FBN 20170005702
The following entity is doing business as:

KNOW NO LIMITS 1925 WEST COLLEGE AVE APT F253 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407 JESUS D CUELLAR 1925 WEST COLLEGE AVE APT F253 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407

This business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A.

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

S/ Jesus D Cuellar
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on 05/12/2017.

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel: 6/09, 6/16, 6/23 & 5/29, 2017.

FBN 20170005689
The following entity is doing business as:

Public Notices

BETWEEN HIS SHOULDERS 14610 WILLOW ST. HESPERIA, CA 92345 MARK A CLINE 14610 WILLOW ST. HESPERIA, CA 92345 [and] VALERIE S PRICE 14610 WILLOW ST. HESPERIA, CA 92345

This business is conducted by: A MARRIED COUPLE.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A.

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

S/ Valerie S Price
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on 05/12/2017.

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel: 6/09, 6/16, 6/23 & 5/29, 2017.



FBN 20170005316

The following person is doing business as: COLOR NAILS AND SPA, 1902 N CAMPUS AVE SUITE K UPLAND, CA 91784, 8NUSENSE CORPORATION, 1902 N CAMPUS AVE SUITE K UPLAND, CA 91784

This business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 5/08/2017

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 5/19, 5/26, 6/2, 6/9, 2017.

S/ ALLEN TRINH
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on 5/08/2017

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 5/19, 5/26, 6/2, 6/9, 2017.

FBN 20170005317
The following person is doing business as: FACE 2 FACE COUNSELING MIND BODY & SOUL, 10601 CIVIC CENTER DR. UNIT L RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730, TONIA D HENDERSON, 10850 CHURCH ST N206, RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730

This business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 6/18/2012

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

S/ TONIA D HENDERSON
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on 5/08/2017

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 5/19, 5/26, 6/2, 6/9, 2017.

FBN 20170005348
The following person is doing business as: THE HOUSE OF LAYERS, 141 WESTFOOTHILL BLVD SUITE C. STUDIO 30 UPLAND, CA 91786, LINDA L BELL, 141 WESTFOOTHILL BLVD SUITE C. STUDIO 30 UPLAND, CA 91786, [AND] LESLIE E JANSE, 141 WESTFOOTHILL BLVD SUITE C. STUDIO 30 UPLAND, CA 91786

This business is conducted by: AN GENERAL PARTNERSHIP.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above

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rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 5/19, 5/26, 6/2, 6/9, 2017.

ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

The registered FBN No. 20170005322 was filed in San Bernardino County on 05/08/2017. The following entity has abandoned the business name of: FUENTES AND SONS FACTORING, 16876 LIVE OAK ST HESPERIA, CA 92345, CARLOS H FUENTES, 13089 HILLHAVEN CT VICTORVILLE, CA 92392, [AND] ALBERTO C FUENTES, 11974 WALLFLOWER CT ADELANTO, CA 92301, [AND] JOSE C FUENTES, 13089 HILLHAVEN CT VICTORVILLE, CA 92392

By signing BELOW, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes public record upon filing.

S/ CARLOS H FUENTES

This business was conducted by: GENERAL PARTNERSHIP
Related FBN No. 20130013403 was filed in San Bernardino County on 12/26/2013

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 5/19, 5/26, 6/2, 6/9, 2017.

FBN 20170005328

The following person is doing business as: ALABOUT PLUMBING, 35157 AVE B YUCAIPA, CA 92399, LUIS E DEL RIO, 35157 AVE B YUCAIPA, CA 92399

This business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

S/ LUIS E DEL RIO
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on 5/08/2017

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 5/19, 5/26, 6/2, 6/9, 2017.

FBN 20170005334
The following person is doing business as: SIERRA GROUP OF COMPANIES, 1370 INDUSTRIAL PARK AVE REDLANDS, CA 92373, MARK F TAYLOR, 971 GRASS VALLEY ROAD, LAKE ARROWHEAD, CA 92352 [AND] KATHERINE L TAYLOR, 971 GRASS VALLEY ROAD, LAKE ARROWHEAD, CA 92352

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PORT, 11256 BOLTON AVE ONTARIO, CA 91762, FRANK PULIDO, 11256 BOLTON AVE ONTARIO, CA 91762
This business is conducted by an: INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ FRANK PULIDO
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on 5/31/2017

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 6/9, 6/16, 6/23, 6/30, 2017.

FBN 20170006395
The following person is doing business as: W & F VALET PRODUCTION, 827 W 23RD ST. SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92405, WALTER W FRANCO, 827 W 23RD ST. SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92405

This business is conducted by an: INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ WALTER W FRANCO
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on 5/31/2017

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et

Public Notices

seq., Business and Professions Code).
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 6/9, 6/16, 6/23, 6/30, 2017.

FBN 20170006405
The following person is doing business as: LCN MARKETING, 14624 WOODLAND DR FONTANA, CA 92337, LIZETH ALMAZAN, 35 RISING HILL RD POMONA, CA 91766, [AND] CARLOS R BASURTO, 14624 WOODLAND DR FONTANA, CA 92337

This business is conducted by an: GENERAL PARTNERSHIP.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ CARLOS R BASURTO
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on 5/31/2017

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 6/9, 6/16, 6/23, 6/30, 2017.

FBN 20170006413
The following person is doing business as: ACE ADVERTISING AGENCY, [AND] DIANE ADONAL, [AND] RAAMES RESEDA, [AND] REVEREND EKS, [AND] THAAO THANATY, [AND] THE EKSES SOCIETY, [AND] THE SORCERY GUILD, [AND] ANTON ZENOR, [AND] HIGH PRESTESS RAYVN, [AND] PRINCESS LIGEIA, 1365 KIMBARK AVE SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407, STEPHANIE A BRUCE, 1365 KIMBARK AVE SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407

This business is conducted by an: INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 6/05/2012

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ OSCAR L PARROTT
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on 6/01/2017

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et

Public Notices

s/ STEPHANIE A BRUCE
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on 6/01/2017

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 6/9, 6/16, 6/23, 6/30, 2017.

ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

The registered FBN No. 20170006422 was filed in San Bernardino County on 06/01/2017. The following entity has abandoned the business name of: DEPENDABLE MOBILE SERVICE, 378 S.MOUNTAIN VIEW AVE SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408, OSCAR L PARROTT, 378 S.MOUNTAIN VIEW AVE SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408

This business is conducted by an: CORPORATION.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ EDMUNDO RUEZGA
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on 6/01/2017

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 6/9, 6/16, 6/23, 6/30, 2017.

FBN 20170006423
The following person is doing business as: AKAHINA, 1478 FLORENCE CT UPLAND, CA 91786, SANDRA P MORALES, 1478 FLORENCE CT UPLAND, CA 91786, JUAN C ALVAREZ, 1478 FLORENCE CT UPLAND, CA 91786

This business is conducted by an: MARRIED COUPLE.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 09/02/2015

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

Public Notices

s/ SANDRA P MORALES
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on 6/01/2017

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 6/9, 6/16, 6/23, 6/30, 2017.

FBN 20170006426

The following person is doing business as: ROMELISE MARKETING INC, 12207 FUSCHIA AVE CHINO, CA 91710, ROMELISE MARKETING INC, 12207 FUSCHIA AVE CHINO, CA 91710

This business is conducted by an: CORPORATION.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ OSCAR L PARROTT
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on 6/01/2017

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 6/9, 6/16, 6/23, 6/30, 2017.

FBN 20170006436

The following person is doing business as: UNIVERSITY DENTAL GROUP, 419 BROOKSIDE AVE REDLANDS, CA 92373, JAMES P CALEY, 419 BROOKSIDE AVE REDLANDS, CA 92373

This business is conducted by an: INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 01/01/1998

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true

Public Notices

and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ JAMES P CALEY
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on 6/01/2017

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 6/9, 6/16, 6/23, 6/30, 2017.

FBN 20170006454

The following person is doing business as: VEGGIE CRUMBS, 28399 ASHFORD CT HIGHLAND, CA 92346, EWS AUTO BROKERS, INC., 444 E FOOTHILL BLVD SUITE A RIALTO, CA 92376

This business is conducted by an: CORPORATION.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ EDMUNDO RUEZGA
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on 6/01/2017

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 6/9, 6/16, 6/23, 6/30, 2017.

FBN 20170006491

The following person is doing business as: A BIT OF EVERYTHING HANDYMAN SERVICES, 2896 MUSCUPABE DR SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92405, WILFREDO CAMPOS, 2896 MUSCUPABE DR SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92405

This business is conducted by an: INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 01/01/1998

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true

Public Notices

This business is conducted by an: INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ WILFREDO CAMPOS
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on 6/02/2017

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 6/9, 6/16, 6/23, 6/30, 2017.

FBN 20170006492

The following person is doing business as: SALON DE EVENTOS GABY, 254 S. MT VERNON AVE SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92410, MA G PEREZ SANCHEZ, 254 S. MT VERNON AVE SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92410

This business is conducted by an: INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ MA G PEREZ SANCHEZ
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on 6/02/2017

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 6/9, 6/16, 6/23, 6/30, 2017.

Public Notices

2017. 231731
ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

The registered FBN No. 20170006500 was filed in San Bernardino County on 06/02/2017. The following entity has abandoned the business name of: ROQUE MOBILE SERVICE, 1005 E. RIALTO AVE SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408, JOSE L ROQUE, 1005 E. RIALTO AVE SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408

By signing BELOW, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes public record upon filing.

s/ JOSE L ROQUE
This business was conducted by: INDIVIDUAL

Related FBN No. 20160005991 was filed in San Bernardino County on 5/23/2016

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 6/9, 6/16, 6/23, 6/30, 2017.

FBN 20170006507

The following person is doing business as: 211 CONSULTING AGENCY, 6368 AMHERST CT. CHINO, CA 91710, RAMON CARRILLO, 6368 AMHERST CT. CHINO, CA 91710, [AND] EDGARDO W MORATAYA, 6368 AMHERST CT. CHINO, CA 91710

This business is conducted by an: GENERAL PARTNERSHIP.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 06/02/2017

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ RAMON CARRILLO
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on 6/02/2017

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 6/9, 6/16, 6/23, 6/30, 2017.

Aleman Confronted With His Own Criminality from page 7

on behalf of Burum, had threatened to expose his homosexuality and Paul Biane's financial travails to get them to support the settlement. And Burum had promised to support him in either or both future political and business endeavors once the settlement was out of the way, Postmus said. He believed, Postmus said, the \$102 million paid out to the Colonies Partners was "ridiculously more" than the development company was due as a consequence of the litigation but that the threats and promises of reward and the desire to put the whole thing behind him stamped him into the settlement. Once the settlement was in place, Postmus testified, the Colonies Partners came through with two separate \$50,000 dona-

tions to the political action committees he had control over. He affirmed the previous testimony by numerous witnesses who said he essentially commandeered from Paul Biane the role of the major champion for forging a settlement. During their cross examination of Postmus, defense attorneys, particularly Jennifer Keller, one of the attorneys representing Burum, maneuvered to counter the damage Postmus had inflicted upon the defendants under direct examination, pressing hard during cross examination to demonstrate that nearly a decade of escalating methamphetamine use capped by the use of the drug ecstasy and inhalants had devastated his memory and left him pliable to suggestion. Keller drove home this last point by leading him again and again through a series of questions by which she wrung from him statements in support of the defendants

which mitigated or contradicted aspects of his testimony under direct examination in some respects and came close to a recantation of it in others. Thus, Aleman, who immediately followed Postmus to the witness stand, served as a pivotal witness. In Postmus' role as supervisor and assessor, Aleman had been his aide-de-camp; in Postmus' private life he had been his manservant. In this way, Aleman had a direct window on virtually every aspect of Postmus' existence in 2006 and 2007. Consequently, he was used to impressive effect by Mandel to reinforce those damning elements of Postmus' testimony. Under cross examination by Keller and Erwin's attorney Raj Maline, Aleman found himself obliged to expound on the level of criminality he had himself been involved in when he was working in the assessor's office.

This provided Keller and Maline with a forum to malign his character by an exposition of how fluidly he had flipped from covering up for Postmus to assisting the district attorney's office in accumulating information that would convict his one-time boss. Keller and Maline highlighted contradictions in his various statements to investigators. Most of all, they suggested that Aleman was in such a desperate situation with regard to the criminal charges against him that he had spun a false tale of a criminal conspiracy relating to the Colonies lawsuit settlement in-criminating Postmus and the current defendants because he could achieve leniency by creating a criminal case against bigger fish than himself. When testimony resumed on Wednesday of this week, Maline picked up on where earlier attacks on Aleman had left off. He referenced inconsistencies in Ale-

man's statements regarding the hit pieces that are at the center of the prosecution's contention that Burum and Erwin blackmailed Postmus and Biane prior to the lawsuit settlement. Aleman acknowledged that he had told investigators on November 1, 2008 that he saw at least two mailers on Erwin's computer at the sheriff's deputies' union hall, at least one targeting Biane and another relating to Postmus. Maline then pointed out that ten days later, on November 11, 2008, Aleman claimed only to have seen one, which pertained to Biane. Maline said that during the ongoing trial, on May 15, Aleman's testimony touched only on hit pieces skewering Biane. Aleman said one of the mailers, which was intended to promote opposition to the pay raise initiative Measure P, attacked the board members collectively. "It was Mr. Postmus and Mr. Biane," Aleman said. "My

recollection is cloudy on that." Maline angled as to whether the hit piece attacking Postmus dwelt on drug use or homosexuality. "On Postmus, you said it involved drug issues," Maline said. "Yes sir," Aleman responded. "Did you see the actual image on the computer, or a printout?" Maline asked. "I remember the computer, but I can't remember if they were printed out or on the computer screen," Aleman said. "That is vague to me." Maline cited Aleman's testimony that he had seen hit pieces which utilized a young boy making an "L" sign on his head with the thumb and finger of his right hand and another that used a graphic of wadded up bills or rolls of money. There was some ambiguity in the questions over the use of the term "bills," and it was

Citizens See LAFCO As Biased In Favor Of Government In Jurisdictional Disputes

from page 6

opposed to such annexations than those in favor of them, she implied.

"I implement the law as it is written and the protest procedure we operate under has existed since the 1960s," she said. "I do not have a choice in how to operate them. I understand that people are upset, but I am implementing the law. If the state wants to change it so rather than a negative protest vote it is a positive vote, that would change things, but I must implement LAFCO law as it is written."

Rollings-McDonald acknowledged that in all four of the cities where local or municipal fire department dissolutions took place there was public opposition to the annexations into the county fire service district. Nevertheless, she said, those of that sentiment failed to convince the requisite number of

their fellow and sister residents to effectively stop those takeovers. "They [the impacted residents] were provided with mailed notices and there were public notices in the newspaper that the commission consideration was taking place 21 days prior to those hearings. The protest hearings had time period of varying lengths of protest periods: the City of San Bernardino 45 days, Twentynine Palms and Needles 30 days," Rollings-McDonald said. "The property owners were noticed as well by an eight page legal notice. In every case the entity that initiated the application held a formal hearing on whether to initiate that proposal. The commission heard those proposals. There were a number of people opposed who attended the hearings. I don't agree with the premise that the majority opposed the annexations. The protest letters were counted in all of those cases. Not one of them came close to the threshold to require an election."

Rollings-McDonald sidestepped the question of whether she personally felt that constraining a resident's failure to lodge a protest of an annexation proposal as an endorsement of such an annexation application was proper by saying that she could speak only as the executive officer of LAFCO. Asked if as the executive officer of LAFCO she believed interpreting a resident's silence in the face of an annexation proposal as acquiescence in the procedure was wise, she would say only that she was constrained by the law.

Rollings-McDonald was dismissive of suggestions that the noticing effort carried out by LAFCO for such annexations is inadequate to the task of actually vectoring all of those residents' and parcel owners' attention to the matter and that a large number or even a majority of residents may perceive the mailed notices as unsolicited communications or junk mail and not read it.

"I don't agree with

saying it was piece of junk mail," she said. "It is a notice. It may not be as pretty as you want."

Rollings-McDonald was both unapologetic about the practice of populating the LAFCO board with individuals who are overwhelmingly creatures of government, i.e., elected officials, and she was unsympathetic toward those who see in such an arrangement an inherent conflict of interest and bias, both when it comes down to differences between citizens and their governments and border and jurisdictional decisions of the board when the cities those board members represent are applicants before the board, or a board decision impacts a donor to or financial interest of a board member.

"We will provide our commissioners an ownership list for the annexation or project for their own evaluation," Rollings-McDonald said. "If there is a conflict of interest, it is their obligation to recuse themselves. We have been doing that all these years,

21 days in advance of the hearing. That information is provided to them. If you or anyone saw that [a conflict of interest engaged in by a LAFCO board member], they could have raised that issue. It is incumbent upon the member to review the materials and make the decision. We [LAFCO staff] don't have information on their [LAFCO board members'] campaign contributions."

Mounting numbers of county residents, including ones in Upland, San Bernardino, Needles and Twentynine Palms who are in a state of discomfiture over the dissolution of their fire departments and their being forced against their will into paying assessments to support their respective cities' annexations into county service area FP-5, see at the very least an ethical conflict, if not an outright legal one, in Rollings-McDonald's return of loyalty to the governmental entity that has conferred on her the opportunity to pull down total annual compensation which surpasses that of only but a hand-

ful of current county employees. They have noted the reflexive tendency for governmental entities to accrue power and authority and to expand jurisdiction. That Rollings-McDonald heads the one division of government – LAFCO – which is designed to hold that governmental-power-and-authority-accumulation-dynamic in check while she has consistently over the last two years abetted the county in wresting from local residents their last vestiges of immediate local control over a key feature of municipal operations has convinced them something is amiss. Thus, individuals and collectives in a cross section of San Bernardino County cities are now in the process of hitching their legal horses up to the same side of the wagon, intending to pull the county and their city leaders in a direction those officials don't want to go, a complete reexamination of governmental authority.



Defense Attorney Grills Aleman On Whether He Threw Out, Destroyed Or Returned Laptop Hard Drive

from page 16

not clear whether this referred to greenbacks or payment invoices. The latter is consistent with the theme of the hit piece[s] Aleman claimed to have seen relating to Biane's alleged arrearages on his payments. According to the prosecution, the hit pieces were prepared but never actually mailed, having been used as a threat against Postmus and Biane. Maline, by showing actual mailers that were sent out that were vaguely consistent with Aleman's description of the hit pieces – one utilizing a young boy forming the sign of an "L" on his forehead, which was opposed to the candidacy of Rancho Cucamonga City Council candidate Dieter Dammeier, and one against Measure P using the graphic of a roll of money – implied that Aleman either erro-

neously conflated issues or outright lied, and that no blackmail effort involving political hit pieces had taken place.

Nevertheless, Aleman headed Maline off.

"You recall rolls of money that were wadded up?" Maline asked.

"Yes," responded Aleman. "That was the one that actually got mailed."

Maline then displayed on the courtroom's visual projectors an anti-Measure P mailer featuring rolls of currency.

"Now that I reflect, this is not the one that I saw on the [computer] screen," Aleman said. "This is the one that got mailed out."

Maline asked, "Did Mr. Biane ever see the mailer?"

"I don't recall," said Aleman.

"He didn't see it in your presence?" Maline inquired.

"Not at all," Aleman said.

"We're you in any meeting where Mr. Biane was told about those?" Maline asked.

"I can't recall a specific meeting," Aleman said.

"Did Mr. Postmus see

the mailers?" Maline asked.

"I don't recall whether he saw them, but I went and told him right away," said Aleman.

"Did you do so on your own, or were you told to [by Erwin]?" Maline asked.

"I don't recall word for word, but either implied or direct, I was supposed to get the message back right away," Aleman said.

Maline then reviewed testimony Aleman had given before the grand jury on April 27, 2011 to assert that Aleman had previously stated that he had been present when Biane was given warning about the mailers' existence, something to the effect that "If you guys don't get moving on the settlement, this is what is going to come. The next mailer was like, delinquent bills..."

Maline cited Aleman's testimony on direct examination by Mandel on May 17, "He wanted me to deliver the message to Bill direct and what the ramifications were if things weren't settled quickly."

"The attack was on

Biane, but the message was to be delivered to Mr. Postmus," Maline said. "Yes," said Aleman.

"In other words, Ms. Mandel asked you if the mailers you were asked to deliver to Bill were about Biane," Maline said.

"Yes," said Aleman.

"But here you are telling us a different thing, correct?" Maline asked.

"I think the nature of what I was supposed to deliver was the same," said Aleman.

"But you said you were in the presence of Paul Biane..." Maline said.

"Yes, I saw that," said Aleman.

"Ms. Mandel asked you...whose presence were you in when you saw these mailers," said Maline. "Were you present when Mr. Biane [was told] or [was the message taken] to someone else? You said, 'Yes, Mr. Brown.'"

"I took it to Matt Brown," Aleman said, referencing Biane's chief of staff.

"Now it's Matt Brown," Maline said, implying again that Ale-

man was lying.

"I can recall that situation," Aleman said. "We rattled the cage. I just can't recall the exact of how we delivered the message." Aleman then asserted himself. "No, Jim Erwin did not show me the mailers in the presence of Matt Brown. That is not what I testified to. Mr. Erwin showed them to me, one-on-one. I didn't take them back. I told them. I can't recall if I told Mr. Biane directly. I vaguely remember when it became a big to-do in the office and it got everyone active."

"Did the investigators ask if there were threats about exposing Mr. Postmus' homosexuality?" Maline asked.

"Yes," said Aleman.

"As you sit here today, do you recall any threat to Mr. Postmus to expose his homosexuality?" asked Maline.

"From who?" said Aleman.

"Anyone," said Maline.

"Yes," said Aleman.

"What did you tell the investigators about that?" asked Maline.

"I can't recall," said

Aleman.

Maline delved into Aleman's previous statements about private investigators bedeviling Postmus by shadowing him and parking in front of his house. Maline said that Aleman had told district attorney's office investigators Hollis Randles and Bob Schreiber during his November 1, 2008 interrogation that he saw people sitting in a Ford in front of Postmus' house and that they looked like Randles and Schreiber. Aleman made no mention of confronting those in the car during that interrogation but had later said he confronted someone digging through Postmus' trash. "On direct examination you said that you went over to the car," said Maline. "In November of 2008 you said that they drove off."

"The exact steps are vague in my mind now," said Aleman.

Aleman was lying again, Maline asserted. "You say these things and when you are not telling the truth and making things up, you

Continued on Page 18

San Bernardino County Coroner Reports

Coroner case #701703871 On Wednesday, 05/31/2017, at 11:33 PM, deputies with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and paramedics with American Medical Response responded to a call for assistance in the 7700 block of Golondrina Drive in Highland. Paramedics found, 23 year old Jorge Moises Grimaldo of Highland, suffering from trauma. He was transported to Loma Linda University Medical Center. On Thursday, June 01, 2017, at 12:48 AM, Jorge was pronounced deceased in the emergency department. The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Homicide Division is investigating the incident. [06022017 1700 JK]

Coroner case #701703856 On Wednesday, 05/31/2017, at 12:47 pm, the California Highway Patrol received 911 calls regarding a traffic collision on Interstate 15 south of Field Rd., in the unincorporated area of Newberry Springs. When officers and paramedics arrived they found that a 2005 Lexus GX470 had been southbound Interstate 15 when the driver lost control of the vehicle and left the roadway becoming airborne. The Lexus struck another vehicle before colliding with a northbound 2014 Nissan Armada being driven by Sharmain Bounds, a 64 year-old resident of Henderson, Nevada. Once the Lexus struck the Nissan it overturned and came to rest in the roadway center. Bounds was pronounced dead at the scene from injuries sustained in the collision. The California Highway Patrol is investigating the collision. [06012017 0200 SC]

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Prosecutor Tries To Reestablish Aleman As A Credible Witness from page 17

forget," he said.

"This is not made up," said Aleman.

Maline spent nearly three-quarters of an hour going over and over the differing accounts of what Aleman had done with Postmus' county-issued laptop computer, which Aleman was charged with and convicted of vandalizing. A county official said he had pried it open with a screwdriver to remove the hard drive. Aleman said he had not pried it apart but had unscrewed the bottom panel. He acknowledged he had made misrepresentations to the investigators early on – in March 2008 – in their inquiries because at that point he was still seeking to protect Postmus, who, he said had instructed him to destroy the hard drive because it contained confidential information about his deliberative process. During a search of Aleman's home by district attorney's office investigators on May 22, 2008, Aleman told investigators he had given the hard drive he took out of the computer to Postmus, and that he subsequently retrieved it from Postmus and disposed of it in a dumpster. On November 11, 2008 Aleman told investigators he witnessed Postmus throw the hard drive into the trash at his Hesperia home. Maline pointed out that Aleman's contradictory or false claims about what he had done to the laptop to investigators in November 2008 came after

he had entered into a plea agreement with the prosecutor's office and had committed to providing them with the truth. Aleman told Mandel on May 30 he destroyed the hard drive. On cross examination by defense attorney Jennifer Keller, Aleman said he gave the hard drive to Postmus.

Maline did not miss the opportunity to signal to the jury that Aleman cannot be trusted.

"For you, it doesn't really matter what happened, does it?" Maline asked, which triggered a sharp objection from Mandel that was sustained by Smith.

Biane's attorney, Mark McDonald, who has with only a few exceptions during the trial allowed the cross examination of witnesses to be handled primarily by Maline and the two main attorneys for Burum, Stephen Larson and Jennifer Keller, showed some rare animation, rising at once after Maline's cross examination was concluded and querying Aleman with a series of rapid fire questions about the mockups of the hit pieces Erwin had displayed for him on his union office computer.

"After leaving Erwin's office, you never saw them again?" McDonald asked.

Aleman said that was the case. McDonald asked Aleman why Erwin relied on him to indirectly convey the threat implied in the hit pieces to Postmus when he had contact with Postmus and could have done so directly.

"I think it was a passive-aggressive attempt to get a message to Bill," Aleman said.

McDonald returned to Aleman's tangled ac-

counts of his destruction of Postmus' laptop and the removal and actual disposition of its hard drive. Referencing that there are two juries hearing the case – one to pass judgment on Erwin and the other to decide the fate of Burum, Biane and Kirk – and that the question is of equal importance to both, McDonald asked, "Will you tell the jury, both juries sitting here, which version of the hard drive is true?"

Aleman said so much time had gone by that he could not remember.

When Kirk's attorney, Peter Scalisi, inquired why, as Aleman had testified, Postmus was disturbed about Kirk taking a \$20,000 consultation fee from the Alliance for Ethical Government PAC he had created and into which he had received the \$100,000 contribution from Colonies Partners which the prosecution now alleges was a bribe paid to him in return for delivering Gary Ovitt's vote in favor of the settlement, Aleman said Postmus was concerned it would "blow their cover" and betray to anyone paying attention that the Colonies Partners' contributions were connected to the settlement. Kirk made a "direct pocketing" of the money, by which he said Kirk could be shown to be directly profiting from the settlement, Aleman said.

Beginning late Wednesday afternoon after the defense attorneys concluded their cross examination, California Supervising Deputy Attorney General Melissa Mandel sought to reestablish Aleman's believability in the aftermath of Keller's, Maline's, McDonald's and

Scalisi's onslaught. That effort continued Thursday morning.

First, Mandel sought to distinguish between the misrepresentations Aleman made prior to his arrest, which he acknowledges, and the account he has given since he entered into a plea arrangement with the prosecutors, which called for his cooperation with and providing accurate information to the district attorney's office investigators and testifying truthfully.

Mandel elicited from Aleman that in the spring of 2008, he became aware the district attorney's office was snooping around the assessor's office when investigators walked into the office.

"After the first meeting, we realized Mr. Postmus and I were targets," Aleman said.

Aleman was arrested on the last day in June 2008 and he did not begin his dialogue with the district attorney's office until October, and he did not begin his official cooperation with the investigators until November 2008.

When he was first interrogated by the district attorney's office's investigators in March 2008 and then brought before the civil grand jury later that spring, Aleman was yet prevaricating.

"The first time you were concerned about being a suspect was in March of 2008?" Mandel asked. "Did you talk to Mr Postmus about it?"

"Yes," said Aleman.

"Were you aware the investigation was ongoing at that time?" Mandel asked.

"At the beginning we thought it was civil grand jury doing their job and the...normal course of

their business," Aleman said. "When I got called, I realized that it was criminal nature that they were investigating."

An issue of substantial importance to the case as it now stands is the relationship that existed between Aleman and Burum. Aleman testified that he was present at between six and twelve meetings between Postmus and Burum between January and June of 2006, during which Aleman claims Burum assured Postmus

he would take care of him financially in terms of supporting him in future political or business endeavors once the Colonies lawsuit settlement was effectuated. Postmus, whose memory has been compromised by drug use and the passage of time, could recall only one or two meetings where Aleman was present at meetings he had with Burum. And the defense teed off on Aleman, attempting to and in some cases succeeding in tripping him up with regard to the details of those meetings, such as the meeting locations, getting him to waver with regard to whether the meetings took place at the El Torito and Aca-pulco restaurants in Upland and Montclair, respectively, as he at first recollected during his testimony in this trial, or the El Torito and Aca-pulco restaurants in Ontario, as he had stated to investigators more than seven years ago. He also claimed to have been present with Postmus at two meetings with Burum at the Red Hill Country Club in Rancho Cucamonga. During her cross examination of him, Keller confronted him with the assertion that the clubhouse at the

Red Hill Country Club, on the patio of which Aleman said those meetings took place, had been razed for renovations between the months of January and June 2006. The defense sought to portray Aleman as a minor personage within Postmus' orbit with whom Burum would not have had any substantial interaction and around whom he certainly would not have been discussing with Postmus future monetary support, political or otherwise.

To counter defense assertions that Aleman was lying about his association with Burum, Mandel elicited testimony from Aleman that, while the district attorney's office's investigators were breathing down his neck in examining the political activity in the assessor's office, Aleman received a phone call from Burum.

Mandel asked what Burum told him.

"He said he was a very good friend of the district attorney," Aleman said, "and it was going to be a slap on the wrist and he was going to take care of it with [district attorney] Mike Ramos."

"When did that phone call take place?" Mandel asked.

"Prior to the arrest, between 2007 and the time when the DA was investigating," Aleman said. "It was deep in the investigation of the assessor's office, when Mr. Postmus and I were targets. The exact date is vague to me. I am sure there are records because that conversation took place."

Mandel then referenced proof in the form of phone records to show the phone call from Burum to Aleman had been

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County Wildlife Corner

California Coffeeberry



California coffeeberry is a species of flowering plant in the buckthorn family native to western North America and which is present in the San Bernardino Mountains. It has been scientifically classified as *frangula californica* and (previously as *rhamnus californica*). It is sometimes referred to as California buckthorn.

The plant occurs in oak woodland and chaparral habitats at various places in California, the Southwestern United States, and Baja California. It is an introduced species in Hawaii.

Frangula californica is a large, evergreen shrub with an open structure and shiny, dark leaves growing most often three to 12 feet tall, but occasionally to 15 feet

or more in the shade. In the sun, it is more compact with lighter grey-green leaves. In favorable conditions the plant can develop into a small tree over 12 feet tall. Individual plants can live an estimated 100 to 200 years. The branches may have a reddish tinge and the new twigs are often red in color. The alternately arranged evergreen leaves are dark green above and paler on the undersides. The leaves have thin blades in moist habitat, and smaller, thicker blades in dry areas.

The 1/8 inch greenish flowers occur in clusters in the leaf axils, have 5 sepals, and 5 shorter petals. This plant blooms in May and June. The fruit is a juicy drupe which may be green, red, or black. It is just under a centimeter long and contains two seeds that resemble coffee beans.

This shrub is a member of many plant com-



munities and grows in many types of habitat, favoring open woodland, brush canyonsides, chaparral, coastal sage scrub, California oak woodlands, foggy coastal oak woodlands, Coast redwood forests, California mixed evergreen forests, and mountain coniferous forests. It can be found alongside chaparral whitethorn (*Ceanothus leucodermis*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), skunkbush (*Rhus trilobata*), redberry (*Rhamnus crocea*), and western poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*). In brushy mountain habitat it grows among many species of manzanita.

The plant reproduces sexually by seed and vegetatively by sprout-

ing. After wildfire or cutting, the plant generally resprouts from its root crown. Reproduction via seed is most common in mature stands of the plant. It produces seeds by two to three years of age. Seeds are mature in the fall. Seed dispersal is often performed by birds, which are attracted to the fruit; some plants are so stripped of fruit by birds that hardly any seeds fall below the parent plant.

This long-lived plant is persistent and becomes a dominant species in many habitat types, such as coastal woodlands. In the absence of wildfire, the shrub can grow large, with a wide spread that can shade out other flora. When fire occurs, the plant can be very damaged but it readily resprouts from the surviving root crown, which is covered in buds for the purpose. It reaches its pre-burn size relatively quickly.



Parts of the plant, including the foliage and fruit, are food for wild animals such as mule deer, black bears, and many resident and migrating birds, as well as livestock.

This plant is cultivated as an ornamental plant by plant nurseries, for planting in native plant, water conserving, and wildlife gardens; in large pots and containers; and in natural landscaping and habitat restoration projects. It is also used for erosion control, and is usually deer resistant. As a pollinator plant it is of special value to native butterflies and bees.

The seeds inside the berries make an excellent, caffeine-free coffee substitute, superior to chicory and with over-

tones of mocha. Although the plant itself looks much like a coffee plant, its berries, which are succulent, do not, but they can be made into jams and jellies.

Native Americans of the west coast of North America had several uses for the plant as food, and used parts of it as a traditional medicinal plant. Several tribes of the indigenous peoples of California ate the fruit fresh or dried.[28]

The Ohlone people used the leaves to treat poison oak dermatitis. The Kumeyaay people had similar uses for its bark. The Kawaiisu used the fruit to treat wounds such as burns. The bark was widely used as a laxative by the indigenous peoples. Names for the plant in the Konkow language of the Concow tribe include pä and pö.

Sources include *Wikipedia* and the *California Native Plant Society Blog*

Aleman Claims Burum Phoned Him And Offered Assistance With DA Just Prior To His Arrest

from page 18

made.

“Did you ever see transcripts of other evidence on the records of that conversation?” she asked.

“Not until Ms. Keller said I was lying in that conversation, so that was the first time I heard anything about that on the record,” he said.

Shortly thereafter, a sidebar conference with all of the lawyers – prosecutors and defense counsel – took place with Judge Michael Smith.

When Mandel resumed her redirect examination, it was established that the phone number Aleman was using at the time was 909 996 1115.

“With regard to the phone call you testified about, was that in that time frame during the assessor investigation?”

Mandel asked.

“Yes,” said Aleman, noting it “was out of the ordinary.” He said that for him or Postmus to “receive a comforting phone call or reassuring phone call [from Burum] was uncommon after we moved over to the assessor’s office.”

Aleman also testified that the day after his arrest, on July 1, 2008, he received a phone call from Jim Erwin. Erwin, who had a falling out with Postmus and resigned as assistant assessor in October 2007, had gone to the district attorney’s office at that time, reporting on the improper use of government facilities for non-assessor-related purposes.

Aleman said Erwin advised him to go to the district attorney’s office and tell them about Postmus’ malfeasance. He said Erwin told him “to tell the truth,” which Aleman said is what he did.

“What was the nature of your relationship with Mr. Erwin at that time?” Mandel asked.

“Nonexistent,” Ale-

man said. “After he had left the assessor’s office he had distanced himself.”

“Did Mr. Erwin encourage you to talk to the district attorney’s office and tell the truth?” Mandel asked. “Did you understand that to be about the Colonies case?”

“He said, ‘Tell them everything you know, and be truthful,’” Aleman said.

“So, was it your belief that Mr. Erwin was cooperating with the district attorney’s office?” Mandel asked.

“Yes,” said Aleman.

Mandel then established from Aleman that a secretary in the assessor’s office, Sheila Raines, controlled Postmus’ calendar and that Postmus’ scheduled meetings were what he called “mirrored” onto his BlackBerry communication device. Mandel then projected onto the courtroom’s visual screen a page from Postmus’ calendar showing that on July 25, 2006 a scheduled lunch meeting for Postmus, Burum and Brad Mitzelfelt, who was

Postmus’ chief of staff, and Aleman for July 26, 2006 was entered. That date fell more than three weeks beyond the January-to-June 2006 timeframe in which Aleman had earlier testified he had been with Postmus during meetings with Burum. Mandel asked Aleman if he had any recollection of the meeting with Mitzelfelt and Burum. Aleman said he did not. Mandel did not produce any calendar entries indicating meetings involving Aleman and Burum during the January to June 2006 timeframe, though Aleman offered a statement that there were many “off-the-book” meetings he attended with Postmus and Burum. Mandel attempted to reference another calendared event that took place on September 9 at which Postmus, Burum and Aleman were present, but a defense objection prevented that item from being displayed or explored.

Mandel asked Aleman if he recalled meeting with Postmus and the

Colonies Partners’ publicist, Patrick O’Reilly, at an El Torito restaurant on an unspecified date while negotiations on the lawsuit settlement were ongoing. “That is something I would have done,” said Aleman, “I don’t recall the specific event.”

Mandel went in a slightly different direction in seeking to uphold Aleman’s credibility when she asked him if he had discussed with O’Reilly what had occurred during a meeting involving Postmus, Burum, Erwin and O’Reilly at an Ontario hotel in October 2006. Aleman earlier testified the meeting took place at the Sheraton and that he had come there to provide some documents to Postmus, and Keller had taken him to task by pointing out that the meeting actually occurred at the Doubletree Hotel. Establishing Aleman’s meetings with O’Reilly took place shows he was in some fashion considered important to the support network around the Colonies Partners.

Moreover, Mandel was seeking to show that despite his failure to recall granular detail with regard to events that took place over a decade ago, such as precise locations of meetings, that he nevertheless had a grip on the broad circumstances and his recollection of those events in general is reliable.

“So, after 2006, did you and Mr. O’Reilly have an independent relationship?” Mandel asked.

“Yes,” said Aleman, explaining that O’Reilly bid on two county contracts in the near aftermath of Postmus’ election as assessor, including doing the annual report for the assessor’s office and making the board of supervisors’ response to a critical civil grand jury report. Mandel wanted to know if Aleman had a “relationship, a friendship” with O’Reilly.

“An association,” Aleman said. “He is a very friendly guy, but I would not characterize our re-

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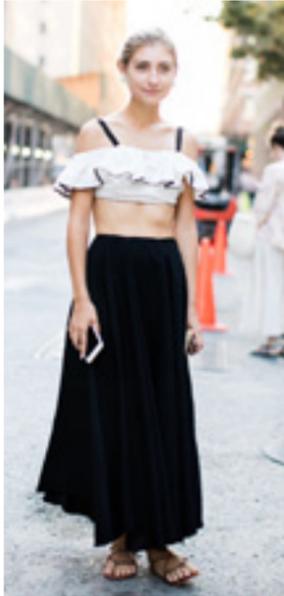
California Style Cropped

By Grace Bernal



The short top hasn't been in the picture for a while but it seems to be making a comeback and its ready to be reconsid-

ered by the people of the streets. I recall the trend



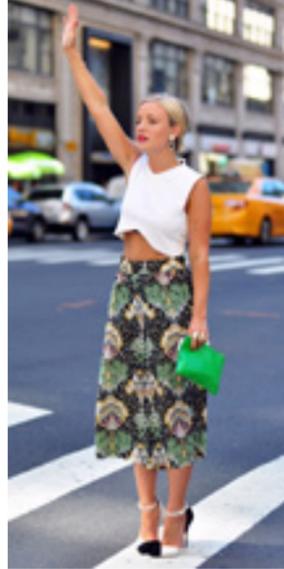
you're up for it age has no limit so go ahead and bare it this sum-



was pretty big in the 80s This was a huge trend in the '80s and then cam tunics. The cropped top is going to be a nice piece to have for the hot days ahead of us. The look great with shorts, skirts, and jeans. Depending on the age the crop top can be a daring piece but if



mer. They are trending in different forms from



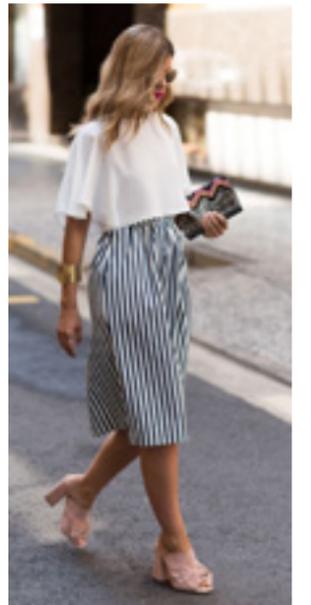
crop tank to crop blouse and you can choose how



much skin you want to reveal. Get to the nearest store and try one to see which one fits you best. Another way to wear them is with the high waisted pieces that are in this season. With that said, have a great beginning of summer and stay cool.



"Fashion is the armor to survive the reality of everyday life." — Bill Cunningham



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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He Was Present At Meetings Between Postmus, Burum & Richards During Which The Colonies Settlement Was Discussed, Aleman Claims from page 19

relationship as a friendship. Mr. O'Reilly and I had some cocktails, we would not go off together on a business trip, but we might have a side bar at political events, etc."

"Was there anything else in 2006 that you worked with the Colonies Partners?" Mandel asked.

"There was a lunch meeting with Mr. Postmus and Mr. Dan Richards," said Aleman. Richards and Burum were the two managing principals in the Colonies Partners.

"Was the Colonies lawsuit discussed at that meeting?" Mandel

asked.

"Yes," said Aleman. Mandel took on directly the suggestion that Aleman was considered too much of a lightweight to be involved in the meetings between Postmus and Burum, and the assertions of the defense that he was not present when Postmus and Burum got down to brass tacks.

"What was your relationship with Mr. Postmus that you were [invited to the meetings with Burum]?" Mandel asked.

"My relationship was that due to his drug use, he had an inability to get from point a to point b," Aleman said. "He also wanted the company of someone political, trusted, with a surface level knowledge of politics in the community. I tagged along."

Aleman said he was not much of a participant in the discussions, which

he said were "maybe 85 percent between Mr. Postmus and Mr. Burum."

Mandel revisited the subject of the Red Hill County Club and the meetings Aleman said he attended there with Postmus and Burum. Alluding to Keller's suggestion that the club house had been torn down throughout the time Aleman said those meetings occurred, Mandel asked, "When you were interviewed in 2008, at that time when you began to talk about these meetings, did you recall then that it was under construction?"

"I remember I had meetings with Mr. Burum at the Redhill Country Club," he said. "On the patio. The specifics are vague. We did have a meal there."

"Do you recall any temporary structures on the property?" Mandel asked.

"I can't recall," Aleman said.

Mandel then took up with Aleman's mistaken assertion in his earlier testimony that the sheriff's deputies' union, known by its acronym SEBA, opposed Biane's Measure P. Documentation was produced to show that SEBA had donated \$5,000 to the Yes on Measure P Campaign. Aleman acknowledged the error. Mandel did, however, produce for Aleman to examine a piece of electioneering material SEBA sent out in the fall of 2006. Known as a slate mailer, it listed the candidates and measures supported by SEBA in the then-upcoming election. While the slate mailer did endorse Proposition 83, also known as Jessica's Law, and Proposition 90 calling for limits on eminent domain, it did not list an endorsement for any other initiative, in-

cluding Measure P.

When Mandel asked Aleman what that meant, Aleman said Erwin "was dangling the endorsement over the heads of the supervisors, particularly Mr. Biane, because it was his initiative he was pushing, and Mr. Erwin had the financial means to get the message out due to his position as president of SEBA."

Mandel asked about Maline's suggestion from last week that Aleman was enabling and even encouraging Postmus in his drug use because that enhanced Aleman's power. She asked him what the extent of his power was in 2006.

"It was just over his campaign," Aleman said, his reference being to his serving as the campaign manager for Postmus' electioneering effort for assessor.

Mandel asked about a statement Aleman made to the effect that "Bill is

75% there and 25% high all the time."

"I meant that a quarter of the time he was incapacitated due to drug use," Aleman said.

Mandel then gave Aleman a second bite at the apple to answer a question Maline had addressed to him during cross examination, demanding to know why, when he was surreptitiously recording his conversations with Postmus, he had shied away from directly asking about whether the donations Burum made to the political action committee were bribes.

"That would have raised a major red flag," Aleman said. "Mr. Postmus would have immediately suspected I was cooperating with investigators if I had broached on those terms," Aleman said.

