

Friday, December 20, 2013 A Fortunado Publication in conjunction with Countywide News Service 10808 Foothill Blvd. Suite 160-446 Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 (909) 628-8436

Upland & Montclair Consolidate Fire Department Administrations

Over the objections of a contingent of Upland residents, the Montclair and Upland city councils on December 16 embarked on what has been touted as the wave of the future for local governmental jurisdictions when they separately approved the consolidation of their respective city's fire administrations.



Rick Mayhew

model," Montclair Councilman Bill Ruh proudly

proclaimed.

Across the city limits in Upland, a handful of residents and business interests and one dissenting city council member expressed concern that the merger was one that benefited its smaller neighbor far more than it did the City of Gracious Living, which under the terms of the agreement would be essentially

subsidizing a portion of Montclair's public safety services.

Upland, the second most affluent of San Bernardino County's cities as measured by median household income, pays its firefighters higher wages and provides slightly better benefits than Montclair firemen receive.

A previously contem-

plated accompanying dissolution of the service boundaries between the two agencies will be postponed until July 1, Montclair City Manager Edward Starr said.

The cities will split the compensation for Upland Fire Chief Rick Mayhew, who will now be fire chief for both cities, and a fire marshal, who will likewise **See P 2**

Chino Hills Consents To Yet Another Secluded Neighborhood

Furthering its reputation as the most upscale and exclusive of San Bernardino County's 24 incorporated cities, Chino Hills last week consented to the creation of yet another gated community within its 44.7-square mile confines.

Located in the extreme southwest corner of San Bernardino County and nestled against Riverside County to the south, Orange County to its southwest and Los Angeles County to its northwest, the 74,799 population city boasts the highest median income and highest household median income among all cities in the county.

The gate is to be located at the entrance to the neighborhood on Summer Canyon Road at Canyon Hills Road, north of Carbon Canyon Road.

This week, Irvine-based Forester Canyon Hills had its plan to set off the 76 homes it has developed on Summer Canyon Road, Spring Oak Way Rock Vista Lane Viewcrest Road Hawk Canyon Road, Feather Hollow Court, Flint Hollow Place, Canyon Glen Road, and Rock Ridge Way as a gated community which will be accessible only to the residents of the neighborhood and public safety personnel.

According to findings first made by the planning commission in October and confirmed by the city council this week, the vacation of those roads as public thoroughfares is consistent with the Chino Hills General Plan and exempt from environ- **See P 7**

CalPERS Succeeds In Getting Appeal Of SB Bankruptcy Ruling Certified

LOS ANGELES—The California Public Employees Retirement System will get another bite at the apple in trying to establish that U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Meredith Jury erred when she ruled four months ago that the city of San Bernardino qualified for bankruptcy protection.

After years of staving

off financial challenges, San Bernardino filed a Chapter 9 bankruptcy petition in August 2012. In its filing, the county seat asserted it had \$180 million in ongoing unfunded liabilities and a \$49 million annual operating deficit. Shortly thereafter, the state's public employees retirement system,

known by its acronym CalPERS, contested the city's filing, maintaining San Bernardino has hundreds of millions of dollars worth of assets it could liquidate to make good on its responsibility to its creditors.

CalPERS is San Bernardino's largest creditor. The city currently has a \$25 million annual

obligation to the retirement system and it withheld more than \$14 million in pension fund payments from July 2012 until July of this year. The city wants to continue to make partial payments until such time as it gets back on its feet financially. Even more alarming to CalPERS is the perception that the

city is looking down the road at a longer-term solution that would include renegotiating the amount of its commitment to the retirement system, one that would indeed set a precedent in California of reducing the pensions of retired or soon-to-retire city employees.

In addition to opposing San Ber- **See P 6**

Lame Duck SB Councilman Jenkins Pleads Not Guilty



Robert Jenkins

RIVERSIDE—San Bernardino Second Ward Councilman Robert Jenkins pleaded not guilty on Tuesday to the

thirty criminal charges lodged against him by the Riverside County District Attorney's Office.

On October 17, Jenkins was charged with 18 felonies and 12 misdemeanors pertaining to his use of the internet to place several personal advertisements on Craigslist seeking sex liaisons and then diverting responses to those ads to his one- **See P 3**

Facing Financial Meltdown, Hi-Desert Medical Center Promotes Tyk To CEO



Robert Tyk

JOSHUA TREE — The Hi-Desert Medical Center's governing board on December 11 voted unanimously to promote Robert Tyk, the

hospital's chief financial officer for the last 11 months, to the position of chief executive officer.

The board's action follows by less than two months what was termed a mutually agreed-upon decision for current chief executive officer Lionel "Chad" Chadwick to depart at the end of the year.

Tyk will officially take over the reins of the hospital on January 1.

The decision to hire

Tyk came during a half hour-log closed session in which Dianne Swella was not present but participated by the means of a remote communication device.

The same secrecy that shrouded Tyk's selection attended Chadwick's departure. Throughout the first nine months of 2013, Chadwick appeared to be working diligently on the financial challenges facing the hospital district. On October **See P 5**

Ontario Airport Displays A Trove Of Diverse Art By SoCal Artists

Travelers will have another reason to utilize Ontario International Airport over the next five months as its two main terminals will host a display of the work by several contemporary artists relating to international themes.

Los Angeles World Airports, in partnership with the city of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, announced

a group exhibition featuring twelve Los Angeles-based artists who derive inspiration from the urban and natural worlds to create photographs, paintings, sculptures, and installations, which are on display at Ontario International Airport, on the Departures Levels in Terminals 2 and 4 through May 2014. Curated by Ginger Van Hook, Out of Thin Air



Untitled Chromogenic prints 16 x 16 inches each by Yoichi Kawamura (on view in Terminal 2) (left and right)

features a blend of original contemporary artworks reflecting the individual artistic processes

intrinsic to working and creating in Southern California amidst an assemblage of people, places, and ideas from across the world.

Los Angeles World Airports, known by its acronym LAWA, is the airport oversight and operations department for the city of Los Angeles, which owns and operates Los Angeles International Airport, **See P 7**

Chabot To Run In 40th Assembly District

Paul Chabot has given indication he will run for the lower house of the California Legislature if 40th Assembly District Assemblyman Mike Morrell is obliged to leave that post if he achieves success in his bid to succeed bill Emerson, who resigned as 23rd District state sena-

tor effective December 1. That senate seat will be filled in a special election next year.

Chabot, a Republican who unsuccessfully sought election to the Assembly in the 63rd District in 2010, touts himself as a conservative, Navy veteran and anti-drug crusader.



Paul Chabot

Morrell's 40th Assembly District includes Rancho Cucamonga, the foothills and mountains around San Bernardino, and the cities of Highland, Loma Linda and Redlands. It is considered to be a relatively

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Upland Montclair FD Management Consolidation

from front page

devote his work week between the neighboring cities. 73,732-population Upland, which heretofore employed 36 full-time firefighters staged out of four fire stations will cover 67 percent of the cost of employing Mayhew and the fire marshal. 36,664-population Montclair, which now fields 24 firefighters operating out of two fire stations, will pick up 33 percent of those salaries.

Also subject to the merger will be battalion commanders sufficient to cover each station in

both cities, augmented by a central administrative staff consisting of an executive assistant, a clerk and secretary.

Not subject to the merger will be two deputy fire chiefs, one for each city.

For the time being, each department will maintain its own identity and retain responsibility for its own firefighters below the command level. The two-year pilot program is being undertaken at this time, with the stated intention of merging the departments entirely down the road. According to Starr, the Upland firefighters will remain Upland

city employees and the Montclair firemen will remain as Montclair city employees. In Montclair, the merger was particularly well-received.

As a result of the state of California's shuttering of municipal redevelopment agencies throughout the state, toward the end of the 2010-11 fiscal year, Montclair laid off 10 employees as part of its effort to make up for its loss of redevelopment money. Throughout much of 2010-11, one of the Montclair Fire Department's paramedic units was parked and the city's paramedics functioned from the department's remaining

engines, which stayed in service. Over the last year-and-a-half, what was a 27-firefighter department has lost three positions to attrition, and has not filled those vacancies, making up for the manpower shortage with overtime. In September 2012, Starr, in a cost-cutting move that saved the city a third of a million dollars a year in wages and benefits, elevated police chief Keith Jones to the position of director of public safety and gave fire chief Troy Ament his two-week severance notice. In June of this year, police captain Michael deMoet was appointed to the posi-

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tion of director of public safety, following Jones' retirement. de Moet will continue to function in the role of Montclair fire chief until the merger becomes effective, likely next month.

Starr projected that Montclair will realize \$476,170 in operating cost savings as a result of the merger. The agreement will not result in any further layoffs of firefighters, Starr said, but the department will from this point get by without filling any of its vacant slots. Starr said

the merger will also assist his city's fire department in reducing overtime costs.

Unlike Montclair, which has been engaging in a drawdown of its service, the Upland Fire Department has been intensifying its level of service, including maintaining, over the past four years, an air ambulance, consisting of a paramedic team stationed aboard a helicopter based at Cable Airport. That enhanced level of service may in part explicate the discrepancy between the \$476,179 in savings Montclair is to yield by the merger in comparison to the \$156,000 in savings Upland is projected to see.

While there was marked enthusiasm for the limited merger of the two departments in Upland, where the city will likely see, according to city manager Stephen Dunn and Mayhew, \$156,000 in savings, the approval of the consolidation, or at least its timing, was not unanimous as it was in Montclair.

The merger was opposed by one city councilman, the chairman of the council advisory committee and a prominent city businessman.

Upland City Councilman Glen Bozar cited salary increases to management staff and resultant future pension benefit costs as a major factor in his opposition.

"There is no true savings in this," Bozar said. "This is savings on paper only. This is not reducing our current operating expenses. Not enough scrutiny was given to

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GLIMPSE OF SBC'S PAST

Historic Holiday Tradition: Christmas At SBC'S Indoor Shopping Malls

By Ruth Musser-Lopez

Despite recent fears during the economic downturn that they could turn out to be "white elephants," our county's oldest and soon to be historic (+50 years old) indoor shopping malls, the Inland Cen-



Shock turns to smiles after one or two holiday seasons at SBC's indoor shopping malls--little ones soon learn Santa's white beard and mustache means red and green December toys and treats. Santa at Inland Center Mall.

ter Mall and the Montclair Plaza were bustling with activity last weekend as the countdown

to Christmas shortens. The politely termed "aging monoliths" appear to have renewed energy this holiday season.

There's no place like the heated indoor mall to get a snapshot of the young'uns meeting Santa for the first time--making their first Christmas wish--meanwhile walking about eating freshly baked salted pretzels, drinking hot chocolate and poking inside wide open doorways to find that special gift.

The mall as a place for children to meet Santa for the very

first time has become a holiday tradition for many families in San Bernardino County who want to preserve the moment by taking advantage of the camera ready, holiday backdrop of Christmas tree and brightly colored ornaments situated in the centrally located high vault of the local indoor shopping mall.

Worth the drive when the weather is cold outside, the enclosed concourse of the indoor mall is a nice, warm substitute for chilly weather and long walks between

neighborhoods.

The Inland Center Mall near downtown San Bernardino was the first indoor mall to be built in San Bernardino County. It was con-

storefront density as the best way to contain urban sprawl by fending it off from the natural environment. Sources say nineteen across America had been opened by the

patterns that would contain sprawl and preserve the environment, shop by mail would also work. No one could have envisioned in the 1950s, 60s or even the 70s, how



J. C. Penney closed its longstanding store on Euclid Ave. in Ontario to anchor the Montclair Plaza in 1968 along with the May Co. and Broadway. Despite its current decline in stock market share value, Penney's is the only one of the three big names still intact at Montclair.

structed in the 1960s and opened in 1966, ten years after the very first indoor regional shopping mall in the nation, Southdale Center, was opened in Edina, Minnesota. The Minnesota mall was the archetypal brainchild of Vienna born, Victor Gruen, who sixty-one years ago, in 1952, published his provocative plan in Progressive Architecture.

He wanted to transform American shopping patterns envisioning centralized

time of the concept's peak popularity in 1990, but since 2006 not one new mall hall has been "decked with holly" and some believe the reasons go beyond the recession.

Online shopping is exploding and is likely what one face of the next generation of retail shopping looks like. As evidence, the United States Postal Service is making a huge comeback despite the competition from private mail services. In terms of Gruen's legacy of ideas for consumption

computers and the internet would transform American consumption behavior.

In Southern California, the outdoor mall has also posed considerable competition, as is the case for the second oldest indoor mall in San Bernardino County, the Montclair Plaza.

Developed by contractor Ernest W. Hahn and opening on November 5, 1968, the Montclair Plaza seems to have

Continued on Page 8



In 1966, the Inland Center Mall was the first of the large monolithic indoor shopping malls to open in San Bernardino County. Santa on the concourse continues to be a holiday tradition here, almost 50 years later.

newer stores at trendy outdoor malls like retrovintage Victoria Gardens in Rancho Cucamonga and The Shoppes in Chino Hills tactically and more recently located in economically upscale

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Jenkins Pleads Not Guilty from front page

time boyfriend or the man whom Jenkins is alleged to have believed his former boyfriend to be involved with, as well as with forging a San Bernardino Police Department internal memorandum. Jenkins is represented by attorney Virginia Blumenthal, who has consistently proclaimed her client's innocence, as well as by attorney Jeff Moore.

Blumenthal previously suggested Jenkins, who once hid but now openly acknowledges his homosexuality, was set

up by his former lover, who had a key to his home and access to his computer.

But the Riverside District Attorney's Office says evidence churned up during the course of its investigation contradicts that version of events. Investigators traced the online ads to Jenkins directly at locations beyond his home, linking the postings, through IP, or Internet protocol, addresses at his workplace at the Riverside Office of Education and the home of his relatives, where his former boyfriend had no access.

Moreover, the forged

San Bernardino Police Department memorandum was conclusively shown to be the handiwork of Jenkins, investigators insist. Jenkins is said to have relied upon his access, as a city councilman, to materials unavailable to the two alleged victims in the case. The forged memorandum utilized the names of two department employees, Sgt. Tom Bielaszka and Lt. Dario Robinson, along with police department seals. The memorandum was intended to make it appear that Jenkins had also been a victim of online harassment, accord-

ing to the district attorney's office.

Jenkins, who avoided arrest and being taken into custody when Blumenthal arranged for a bondsman to post \$25,000 bail on Jenkins's behalf through the court on the day he was charged, was nevertheless hurt by the negative publicity surrounding the affair. On November 5, Jenkins failed in his reelection attempt, losing to his only opponent in the race, Benito Barrios. Jenkins will remain in office until March, when Barrios is to be sworn in.

Growing East LA Fixture Manufacturing Company Locates In Ontario

A growing Southern California Company has expanded its manufacturing footprint, moving some two-thirds of its operations into San Bernardino County.

The expansion of CELCO Manufacturing, Inc. from what was formerly its main base of operation in East Los Angeles into the city of Ontario's industrial district is the model that Inland Empire officials are hoping will be repeated

over and over again as business owners are learning that lower property leasing and purchasing prices in and around San Bernardino County represent a decided advantage for entrepreneurs.

Celco is the corporate personification of the Cortés Family, who immigrated to the United States from Mexico in the mid-1970s. Seven of the eight Cortés brothers found employment with

Hamilton Fixtures West, a manufacturer of display furniture located in Brea, learning the various aspects of the fabrication of both wood and metal furnishings and display racks.

In 1994, the eleven Cortés brothers and sisters – who then ranged in age from 18 to 37 – contributed to starting Celco. They drew their clients from both the retail industry and display furniture manufacturers.

They specialized in providing display racks and cases for companies such as Nabisco and Kraft Foods as well as component parts such as shelving and case legs.

The company struggled initially as it sought to break into a market dominated by well-established companies, but forged a toehold in the industry and grew steadily if slowly for a dozen years. By 1996, Celco boasted 35 em-

ployees and exceeded the \$3 million revenue mark.

The economic downturn that began the following year took its toll, however, and by 2009 the company brought in only \$1.8 million and was forced to shed 17 of its employees.

Beginning that year, the company intensified its marketing efforts, targeting furniture design companies with needs for the type of components Celco could read-

ily supply.

By late 2010, the company experienced a turnaround, with a 40 percent uptick in sales. And even as the recession's grip on the local and national economy persisted, the company continued to prosper. In 2010, the company had \$2.6 million in sales.

This year, the company is on track to hit over \$6 million, and it now employs 58, of whom, *Continued on Page 9*

Upland Montclair FD Admin Merger from page 2

this 42-page document before the council gave the mayor authority to resign it, locking ourselves into an agreement with our neighboring city we cannot walk away from. Montclair previously made substantial layoffs in its fire department. How did those vacancies there come to be? They did not fill those because of budgetary problems."

Bozar continued, "This agreement is going to expand the administration of the fire department. Our fire chief and three of our guys are going to get very generous salary increases out of this. Where are we going to come up with the money to give all these raises? No one on the council was informed of what the chief's salary will be or where this is going to land in terms of the increases in our public employee retirement system costs for the fire chief and at least two others. This does nothing with regard to our ongoing issues with the budget. This does nothing to control costs. Figures available from the state controller's office show that as a city we have 12 people on our payroll who are making more than the governor of California. That was as of 2012. This does not alleviate that and now we are going to be on the hook for additional public employee retirement benefits."

Tom Mitchell, the chairman of the Upland

City Council Advisory Commission, told the *Sentinel*, "One of the things I had difficulty on was the creation of the two assistant chiefs positions and the creation of a third position. I was given a response to indicate there would actually be elimination of two existing command positions so that matter was resolved. Another problem, I thought, was the long term nature of this and were we entering into a two-year commitment we would not be able to get out of if problems developed. It was stated that either city can terminate this with six months notice, so that was resolved. The one issue that for me remains unresolved is what we are taking on by the promotions of our battalion chiefs who will be getting a \$20,000 per year pay increase. This could only make worse the situation with regard to our pension requirements. Our responsibility to the state pension fund already is an unfunded liability that we have not resolved. Under the current retirement formula, firefighters can retire at 55 and be eligible for a pension. There is a multiplier of three percent times the number of years worked, so at 55, a battalion chief who has been with the city for thirty years can retire and be eligible for 90 percent of his pay. We are already under the gun and unable to keep up or barely keep up with our pension fund payments. An increase of \$20,000 per year for

each of these battalion chiefs means \$18,000 a year more when they retire. I don't think we can afford that.

"I just wanted to make sure that the city council looked at this all the way around before moving forward with it," Mitchell said.

Albert Pattison, a resident, businessman and major property owner in Upland, expressed concern that the council's action might be counterproductive and premature.

Pattison said the city had not publicly released a cost analysis of the consolidation, saying he wanted the public and the council to see a side-by-side accounting of the

number of fire department command positions currently and what those employees receive in salary and benefits and the city's total costs in employing fire department commanders after the merger. Noting that the city's budget management task force is currently considering the city's revenue enhancing and cost cutting options, Pattison said the council's commitment to the command level staffing numbers contained in the merger agreement with Montclair did not allow the task force to bring forth proposals related to eliminating battalion chiefs within what might be considered to be a top-heavy depart-

ment.

"We did not give the committee, which is composed of top-tier business people and residents of our city, an opportunity to weigh in on this," Pattison said. "What it boils down to is they have given us razzle-dazzle, not facts. There has been no disclosure to the public on the detail needed to analyze this thoroughly. They have not divulged what is actually in the contract. I have not seen the contract and neither has anyone else. They have not given this process enough time. They rushed it through before the specially-appointed budget committee had time to consider it.

There has been a totally inadequate discussion of how this will impact the financial stability of the city. Montclair is going to realize savings of \$470,000 on this and Upland is going to supposedly see a \$156,000 reduction. But Upland is putting two-thirds of the horsepower into this and Montclair is providing one third. I'm not sure there is a cost-benefit equity in this deal. This was not put on the budget task force's agenda and now that the council has ratified the agreement, it is another element that will contribute to the confusion and retard the city's ability to deal with its financial challenges."

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Once-Influential Police Rights Law Firm Sued By Police Interest Group

SANTA ANA—The Police Officers Research Association has sued the recently shuttered Upland-based law firm of Lackie, Dammeier, McGill & Ethir, alleging malpractice and fraud relating to alleged overbilling practices.

Over the last 16 years, Lackie, Dammeier, McGill & Ethir had grown to become what was arguably the most aggressive and successful of law firms in the state devoted to representing police officers and their unions.



Dieter Dammeier

Along that way, the firm had made a fair number of enemies, including ones inside and outside the law enforcement establishment, particularly after the firm made use of tactics and

surveillance techniques that had formerly been the province of the law enforcement agencies that employed many of their clients.

Lackie, Dammeier, McGill & Ethir represented police unions, officers in legal actions or defenses as well as professional law enforcement interest groups such as the Police Officers Research Association of California, known by its acronym PORAC, which maintained a legal defense fund for officers.

The firm established

a reputation for dogged representation of its clients, prevailing in a majority of the cases it handled, occasionally pursuing expensive litigative strategies the unions had not endorsed that more often than not resulted in positive results, either at trial or in settlements short of trial.

A criticism leveled at the firm was that it routinely blurred the distinction between an aggressive legal defense and political activity, as was demonstrated in the unfulfilled political

aspirations of one of the firm's founding partners, Dieter Dammeier, as well as intensive scrutiny that bordered on the verge of invasions of privacy of elected and non-elected government officials and police department administrators in an effort to obtain negotiating leverage in legal cases or labor actions that were characterized by some as intimidation tactics or efforts at extortion.

This year, even as the firm was experiencing unprecedented success on several legal fronts,

it was hit with a devastating rearguard action when PORAC this summer alleged Lackie, Dammeier, McGill & Ethir had consistently overbilled it.

On September 10, PORAC President Ron Cottingham informed his group's legal defense fund participants Lackie, Dammeier, McGill & Ethir had been removed from its panel of approved providers of legal services, based on a finding of the legal

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Chadwick Out, Tyk In At HDMC from front page

29, however, the district made an abrupt announcement that Chadwick would be leaving his position on December 31. Despite statements to the effect that all parties were amenable to the departure, an indication of the board's discomfiture with Chadwick came in the form of the terms of his departure, which did not include the conferring of a severance payment.

A terse press release that went out with the

announcement of Chadwick's pending departure cited "irreconcilable incompatibility of management approach" between Chadwick as hospital CEO and the board. "Dr. Chadwick has made meaningful and appreciated contributions to the district's mission and operations," according to the release. "We thank him for his many contributions and wish him well in his future endeavors."

The hospital district's financial woes are variegated, consisting of burgeoning patient care costs and dwindling revenue from solvent

patients, insurance carriers and governmental programs set up to cover the medical costs of indigent patients or those otherwise eligible for subsidized medical assistance.

Many of the services rendered at the hospital by doctors are not billed for by the hospital but by the physicians themselves, who are not employees of the hospital, by law. The hospital does not now have clearly delineated revenue sharing agreements with local healthcare providers such as Oasis Healthcare and the county of San Bernardino.

A major portion of Hi-Desert Medical Center's financial travail is attributable to the persisting economic recession, which has been accompanied by the reduction of government payments to hospitals, including 25 percent cuts from the Medicare and MediCal programs, entailing an annual loss of revenue to the institution exceeding \$500,000. Simultaneously, federal law mandates that hospitals deliver emergency care whether or not patients have medical coverage or the ability to pay for that treatment. This has been coupled with steady

increases in the cost of delivering medical care.

Chadwick had advocated the aggressive use of case management to discharge recovered patients earlier and reduce the length of time they remained in the hospital consuming costly services. This was of only limited success.

In order to remain operational, Hi-Desert Medical Center has for the last three-and-a-half years burned entirely through its operating budgets and tapped into financial reserves. Chadwick's attempts to stem this hemorrhaging of red ink have failed, resulting in the consternation of the board. Chadwick's efforts to directly lobby both state and federal legislators for relief, coupled with similar requests of other civic and community leaders he had enlisted for that cause were largely ineffective.

In a last-ditch effort to right the hospital's listing financial ship before he was essentially forced out, Chadwick in September induced the board to vote to put a tax initiative on the November 2014 ballot.

That move was considered a long shot. In the less lean economic atmosphere of 2005, the hospital sought voter approval for Measure N, a tax bond that would have added \$24 to individual homeowners' annual property taxes to provide funding for emergency room improvements and

other hospital service enhancements. Measure N went down in defeat in a mail-in ballot election.

The board, led by board president Korina Cole, is staking the hospital's future on what it hopes will prove to be the superior financial management skills of Tyk, who boasts more than three decades of experience in the healthcare industry, including a stint as chief financial officer for Roswell Regional Hospital in New Mexico and interim financial management and reform work at several institutions while he was with Kaizen Consulting.

Tyk said he took pride in his selection by the board to "lead our healthcare district through these challenging times. I look forward to working with this board, our physicians and staff to ensure the viability and future of our healthcare district."

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PORAC Sues Dammeier Lackie Law Firm *from page 5*

defense fund's board of trustees "that the former panel law firm Lackie, Dammeier, McGill & Ethir has committed serious acts of misconduct regarding their billing practices."

Cottingham said auditors that had gone over the PORAC Legal Defense Fund books found that Sakunthala E. Ethirveerasingam, one of the firm's thirteen partners, in 2012 submitted invoices claim-

ing to have worked 4,275 hours, more than double what a full-time attorney would bill for in a typical year, and that she had acknowledged she had engaged in not only double billing, but "triple billing" on occasions where she had worked on three client cases at the same time, billing PORAC for three hours of work during a single one-hour period. Ethirveerasingam uses the professional name "Saku Ethir."

Auditors had also determined, Cottingham said, that another of the Lackie, Dammeier, McGill & Ethir attorneys, Kasey Sirody traveled

once to a single destination to interview three clients and then submitted invoices to PORAC's legal defense fund for three separate trips, including time and mileage.

PORAC's auditors also accused Lackie, Dammeier, McGill & Ethir attorney Peter Horton of billing for "phantom trips" and that he generated "scores of invoices" claiming travel mileage and travel time when he had never traveled at all.

The lawsuit, filed by the Police Officers Research Association (PORAC) on Nov. 26 in

Orange County Superior Court, alleges legal malpractice, fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, negligence, unjust enrichment and unfair business practices. It names as defendants attorneys Dieter Dammeier, Michael McGill, Peter Horton, and Kasey Sirody.

The Orange County venue was an inauspicious one for the firm. It was in Orange County where its aggressive tactics in representing law enforcement officers with regard to labor actions came under sharp scrutiny, which in turn led to the demise of the firm, which dissolved

earlier this year.

As tense contract negotiations were proceeding in 2012 between the city of Costa Mesa and the Costa Mesa Police Association, the firm, which represented the union, advised members to step up pressure on the city's elected leadership. Shortly thereafter, a private investigator under retainer by Lackie Dammeier McGill & Ethir, Christopher Lanzillo, began tailing members of the Costa Mesa City Council. On August 22, 2012, Lanzillo followed Costa Mesa Mayor Jim Righeimer to a bar, Skosh Monahan's,

owned by another city councilman, Gary Monahan. Lanzillo followed Righeimer after he left Skosh Monahan's as the mayor drove home, and en route called 911 to report Righeimer was drunk and driving erratically. When police came to Righeimer's home, they found that he appeared sober but subjected him to a field sobriety test, which he passed. Righeimer subsequently produced a time and date-stamped credit card receipt for two Diet Cokes he had consumed while at Skosh Monahan-

Continued on Page 11

CalPERS Ap- pealing SB Bank- ruptcy Ruling *from front page*

San Bernardino's bankruptcy petition outright, CalPERS has asserted that the pension fund system has a special status among the city's creditors and that it should go to the front of the line when the city begins to pay those to whom it is in arrears. Jury did not accept that, ruling that CalPERS has no greater or lesser standing than the scores of other entities the city owes money to.

Moreover, Jury has consistently ruled that

San Bernardino is as insolvent as it claims. In August, she ruled that the city's bankruptcy should be granted pursuant to a pendency plan by which the city continues to pay its employees and other expenses critical to its day-to-day operations but services its other debts on the basis of the limited financial means available to it.

CalPERS wants out of Jury's courtroom and previously pressed for leave to appeal the matter to another judge, a request Jury denied.

CalPERS took a writ to U.S. District Court in Los Angeles, where Judge Dolly Gee granted

the pension fund's request to appeal Jury's findings directly to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Gee's decision merely gives the California Public Employees' Retirement System permission to request that the 9th Circuit hear the case. The 9th Circuit can turn down the appeal request or agree to hear arguments that Judge Jury was wrong in allowing the city to envelope itself in the blanket of bankruptcy protection.

Jury had been reluctant to allow CalPERS to pursue the appeal because she was hopeful that ongoing media-

tion sessions involving the city and its creditors before one of her colleagues, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Gregg Zive, were making considerable progress and she was concerned the appeal would divert both the city and the pension fund's focus to non-productive issues.

As it stands, the Zive-led efforts to reach an accommodation will continue while the 9th Circuit considers whether to hear the appeal.

That appeal and the mediation come in the midst of a profound examination of a basic public financial and policy issue, i.e., the question of

whether public pension obligations are to be held as sacrosanct, no matter how generous or reasonable individual pensions are, or whether troubled municipalities can skip out on their commitments to continuously fund the retirement accounts of their current and past employees.

San Bernardino is at the forefront of that issue, having sought to have its pension fund obligations categorized as indistinguishable from its responsibilities to its other creditors.

In the cases of two other cities in California that have sought bankruptcy protection, Stock-

ton and Vallejo, those cities have chosen to stay current on their obligations to CalPERS.

Seven-ninths of the way across the continent, in Detroit, the Motor City had its bankruptcy petition granted on December 3 as a consequence of having run up a monster debt so humongous it could only be estimated – at an unfathomable \$18 billion. The U.S. Bankruptcy Judge hearing that case, Steven Rhodes, threw public employee unions and pension funds into paroxysms when he ruled that Detroit is not only eligible for bankruptcy but can also cut pension benefits as part of its strategy to map its way out of the financial abyss it has found itself in. Pensions, just like any other contracts, can be altered, given the exigency of bankruptcy, Rhodes ruled.

Rhodes' ruling provides a precedent that outfits San Bernardino with more leverage in its match with CalPERS, providing the city with the potential option of abrogating a contract that CalPERS and the city's municipal employee's unions considered absolutely ironclad.

Like that of Jury, Rhodes' ruling is now the target of an appeal request.

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Contemporary Art On Display At Ontario Airport Terminals from front page

Ontario International Airport, and Van Nuys Airport. Over the last several years, city of Ontario officials have been critical of LAWA as ridership at Ontario International has declined from its peak of 7.2 million passengers enplaned there in 2007 to 3.9 million this year. In response, LAWA is seeking to attract passengers to San Bernardino County's largest commercial airport, a medium-hub, full-service facility with seven carriers offering 14 daily nonstop flights to 13 major U.S. cities plus seven daily nonstops to Guadalajara, Mexico.

Out of Thin Air is a free exhibit on the second floor of both terminals, beyond the airport's security screening barriers,

making it accessible only to ticket-bearing passengers.

The nine artists on



DRIP, drip, drip Oil on canvas 16 x 20 inches (left) **SMALL Drip, drip, drip** Acrylic on wood panel 11 x 10 inches (right) by Scott Grieger (on view in Terminal 4)

exhibit in Terminal 4 use a variety of media and methods to survey their surroundings.

Kenneth Ober, Luke Van Hook, Holly Tempo, and Michael Giancristiano demonstrate distinct approaches in examining and interpreting the landscape, in its organic and artificial states, from intricate renderings to fields of color and pat-

tern. Renée Foxcomb-nesornate paintings and sculpturesto depict microscopic occurrences,

such as the propagation of a flower or the power of a seed, while Shizuko Greenblatt incorporates synthetic and organic objects to reference Ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arrangement.

Michael Massenburg and Mark X Farina mix color, language, and abstract forms to create a sensory experience and express human relation-

ships with the environment. Artworks by Scott Griegeralter manipulate perspective using digital art and design.

The three artists on exhibit in Terminal 2, Siri Kaur, Yoichi Kawamura, and Anne Marie Rousseau, use photography

zons and Kaur's diptych of photographs capturing the Aurora Borealis reference themes of infinity, vastness, and contemplation. Rousseau's combination of air show photographs creates a collage of intersecting lines and open space.



Raw Dynamism #2 Deconstructed plywood, stain, and sand 24 x 24 inches (top) **Empty People / The Pits of Despair** Deconstructed plywood, acrylic, stain, and sand Dimensions variable (11-piece installation) (bottom) by Michael Giancristiano (on view in Terminal 4)

to explore the expansive and limitlessness nature of the skies. Kawamura's images of distant hori-

Initiated in 1990, the purpose of the Public Art and Exhibitions Program at Los Angeles World

Airports is to educate and entertain the traveling public at Los Angeles International, Ontario International and the FlyAway Bus Terminal at Van Nuys Airport. The program showcases local and regional artists through temporary exhibitions and permanent public art installations, which enhance and humanize the overall travel experience for millions every year. Additional information is available at www.lawa.org.

Ontario International Airport is located near the confluence of the I-10 and I-15 freeways, roughly 35 miles east of downtown Los Angeles, and close to Orange County, the San Gabriel Valley, and Palm Springs, making it the Inland Empire's preferred airport for non-stop flights throughout the West. Information on flights and schedules is available at www.fly-ontario.com.

Volaris Confirms Ontario Airport Service To Guadalajara Starting Next Spring

ONTARIO—Volaris confirmed a start date of April 13, 2014 for its previously announced, twice-weekly service between Ontario International Airport and Guadalajara.

"This is the first time Volaris will serve Ontario International, which is great news for international travelers wanting more options when flying to Mexico," said

Ontario International Airport's manager Jess Romo. "We look forward to partnering with



Volaris and having another international carrier at Ontario Airport."

Tickets will be available through www.volaris.com, Volaris' Call Center at (866) 988-3527, as well as through authorized travel agencies. Starting April 13, the schedule includes arrival of the inaugural flight to Ontario International at 12:05 a.m. with a departure from Ontario at 1:20 a.m. Flights will arrive in Guadalajara at 6:45

a.m. Departures from Ontario International Airport will continue on Sunday and Thursday of each week.

Volaris Chief Executive Officer, Enrique

the market of those who visit family and friends between Mexico and the U.S. "This market is the largest of its kind in the world, which is why we are committed to cov-



Beltranena, spoke of the importance of arriving in Ontario as a significant step in stimulating

ering its connectivity requirements, offering flights at affordable fares that allow us to compete

with ground transportation fares, while fostering cultural, commercial, and financial exchange with the United States."

Other airlines currently serving Ontario Airport include Aero-Mexico, Alaska, American, Delta, Southwest, United and US Airways. International flights depart from Ontario Airport's Terminal 2 with arrivals at International Arrivals Terminal.

The addition of Volaris will raise the number of Ontario International's carriers from its current seven to eight.

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Gated Community In Chino Hills from front page

mental review as a minor alteration to land under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Vacating the streets for public roadway purposes, according to a city document "is a benefit to the public because the city will not be responsible for the maintenance and liability costs associated with such roads."

As such maintenance of the streets will now be the responsibility of a private homeowners association.

According to the city, "The gate will make it a well defined neighborhood. The surrounding land and homeowners met design review and access standards."

To ensure emergency response to the area is not interrupted the fire department will be provided with a key sys-

tem consisting of switch override capability. The city also said the proponents of the gated community met minimum setback requirements on structures and provided a 40-foot radius turnaround on the roadway to ensure unrestricted access from the gate area. Putting in the gate, the city said, "won't inhibit the general public from access to parks and other public facilities."

SBC's Indoor Shopping Malls

from page 3

survived the last recession and will reach the age of 50 years old in five years, meaning that it will officially meet the age criterion as a national historic place—that is, if it can continue to be competitive. According to David Allen (Inland Valley Daily Bulletin, August 2, 2008) competition from Victoria Gardens caused many of the stores at the Montclair Plaza to fail.

J. C. Penney closed its longstanding store on Euclid Ave. in Ontario to anchor the Montclair Plaza along with the May Co. and Broadway at the time of "The Plaza's" opening at a cost of \$50 million, with 69 stores on a single level. Penney's storefront windows had faced the segment of Euclid Avenue, which at that time and today, is in itself an outdoor mall-like setting accommodating life size nativity scenes displayed annually during the holidays in its central grassy median walkway corridor.

Then, as now, a setting was prepared

on Euclid annually for a regularly scheduled Santa Claus to hold children on his lap while noting their Christmas present requests. Not to be outdone, the Montclair Plaza provided for a front door centrally located at the central vaulted ceiling entry, immediately in front of Penney's.

Just before the height of mall popularity in the 1990s, the Montclair Plaza was upgraded with a second level that opened on October 30, 1985; the first Nordstrom store in San Bernardino County opened at the Montclair Plaza on May 2, 1986. High paced development of restaurants, stores and shops in the parking area and along its access road corridors continued to expand the mall's offerings and attractiveness.

To keep the mall's popularity after Victoria Garden's opening, the mall was renovated during the summer of 2008 and re-opened on November 9, 2008. But the show had been stolen in San Bernardino County when the nouveau urban Victorian setting with brand new old fashion wall-to-wall shopping structures went street side in the upscale neighborhood of Rancho

Cucamonga.

In the mild climate of the Inland Empire of southern California and San Bernardino County, it was soon realized that density mall-type shopping could be realized in an outdoor setting with success. The convenience of easy curbside vehicle access and the additional attraction of trolley cars to get around in was a winning attraction. At Victoria Gardens, secure walks under canopies of palm trees in the sunny bright daylight and the moonlit stars in typically mild and dry inland evenings compromised shopper interest in enclosed malls.

Some think that at age 60, the enclosed regional shopping mall in America is an idea that has run its course and they are trying to imagine ways to "repurpose these aging monoliths" (see Emily Badger at "Urban Wonk" blog of TheAtlanticCities.com site <http://www.theatlanticcities.com/arts-and-lifestyle/2012/07/shopping-mall-turns-60-and-prepares-retire/2568/>).

Repurposing is not likely in the plans for indoor mall structures that continue to

work well in cold winter climates like the first Gruen style mall in Minnesota and during the holiday season in southern California when temperatures turn cold. Malls will continue to be a warm place to push babies around in strollers; the additional new indoor food courts are also a drawing card.

Despite its current decline in stock market share value, Penney's is the only one of the three big names still intact at Montclair and it appears to be bustling this season, providing a characteristically ample



Darkly lit Carousel Mall at night, now quarters County of San Bernardino offices; the parking lot is a concourse for the holiday homeless and county vehicles.

level of customer service. The "aging monolith" at Montclair seems to be making a comeback with its anchor stores JCPen-

ney, Nordstrom, Sears, Macy's, and Barnes and Noble, though the old Macy's store, formerly Robinsons May, is currently vacant (see Montclair: Images of America, Arcadia Publishing, 2005).

Fairing so well does not appear to be the case for the Carousel Mall in the downtown City of San Bernardino.

When the Carousel Mall opened in 1972 as Central City Mall, it boasted two stories, 52 stores, and 3 major anchor stores.

In the mind of city leadership, the 3rd and

of San Bernardino, was to be key to the mall's success and the city's urban renewal project it was meant to jumpstart. Instead, location seemed to doom the mall and neither it nor the revitalization project was successful.

The multi-million dollar multi level mall opened in 1972 shortly after the first burst of success of indoor malls throughout the country. The investment represented the high hope of city leadership to reverse the declining economic trend in downtown.

The malls challenges are said to have been many, including the financial interest of the city leadership and multiple changes in management. Not only was the mall location plagued with blight and a gathering place for local gangs, it was to compete with the previously established nearby Inland Center Mall, also just off an Interstate 15 exit in the same city. Though Inland Center Mall is only one story, it was strategically situated nearer Interstate 10 making access closer from surrounding cities.

Continued on Page 10

Scott Markovich Candidate for Assembly District #33

Thomas Jefferson said it best, "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whatever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such a form as to them shall seem most likely to affect their safety and happiness."

If you feel your government is not protecting your inalienable rights and needs reform, join us in creating a plan to restore our government to the people.

www.scottmarkovichhasaplan.com

Fixture Manufacturer Relocates To Ontario *from page 4*

according to president and CEO Cesar Cortés, “27 are immediate family.”

The decision to set up shop in Ontario, Cortés said, was one that naturally evolved as a consequence of the company’s success, the lower cost of functioning outside of Los Angeles, the quality of the manufacturing and warehouse space available in Ontario, the nearby presence of a number of the company’s customers and suppliers, as well as the consideration that the new location is much closer to where the majority of Celco’s employees reside.

“We have a 17,000 square foot building in East Los Angeles,” Cesar Cortés told the Sentinel during an exclusive interview at his company’s new 30,000 square-foot plant, located at 1524 West Brooks Street in Ontario. “We are going to keep that facility open while we move 70

percent of our operation here. We chose to relocate here, first, because we need a bigger place and, second, some of our best customers are in this area. One important difference is it is almost 30 percent less expensive here. Six out of eight of our supervisors live nearby in Chino. Most of our suppliers are closer – San Dimas and Ontario. There is also the advantage of 45,000 square feet of enclosed yard at this location, which is very valuable for the type of business we do.”

Cortés gave a description of the niche his company has found.

“Our basic product line is point of purchase displays – racks and fixtures for department stores such as Sears and Forever 21,” Cortés said. “Our products include some office furniture. We incorporate wood, metal and plastic into our production process. We provide wood products for companies that fabricate or deal mostly in metal products. We do thousands of wood components for the La-

Z-Boy, United Furniture Industries and Jonathan Louise. We have a couple of customers who purchase close to a million dollars worth of merchandise from us. We have had great sales for four consecutive years, with each year exceed-

ing the last. In 2010, we predicted sales of \$2.8 million and the company hit \$3.2 million. We are now up to six million.”



All eleven Cortés siblings and their parents.

In touting his com-

pany’s fabricating capabilities, Cortés said he would like his prospective customers “to know that we are one of just a few companies in Southern California that has the machinery and capacity to meet high capacity demand in a

very short turnaround time. We have a proven track record fabricating a quality product to our customers’ specifications. We work primar-

ily as a subcontractor to businesses that want to increase their sales but find themselves too busy to complete new job proposals. We offer fabricating outsourcing that carries with it the advantage of reducing a company’s machinery

handling and on ordering raw materials. We have at our disposal ten CNC [computer numerical control] machines, two edgebanders, one panel saw, a CNC dowel inserter and ten conventional woodworking machines. We have a full-blown engineering department that can do volume engineering.”

The consideration that Celco is a family-owned and operated business provides the advantage of cohesion and dedication that is not always available elsewhere, Cortés said.

“My brothers, including myself, worked 103 combined years at Hamilton Fixtures West and we now have 83 more combined years working together with Celco,” Cortés said. “We are an unusual family in that we have been working together – the four of us who are the corporate officers with Celco – for 32 years. We occasionally have differences of opinion but we get along and we all take pride in meeting our customers’ needs and expectations.”

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San Bernardino County Coroner Reports

Coroner case #701309104 — On 12/14/2013, at approximately 1015 hours, San Bernardino County Sheriff Department and San Bernardino County Fire Department personnel were called to the 44000 block of Barton Lane, Sugarloaf, for the report of an unresponsive male. Upon arrival they found 43 year old Robert John Graner, a known transient in the Big Bear area, lying in a tent unresponsive. Graner was declared dead on scene by Fire Department personnel. The San Bernardino County Sheriff Coroner Department will be performing an autopsy to determine the cause of death.[12172013 0857 SY]

Coroner case #701309092 — On 12/13/2013 at 7:02 PM, Theodore Eugene Persell, a 39 year old resident of Rancho Cucamonga was driving a 2006 Acura 4-door sedan traveling southbound on Hermosa Avenue and collided with another vehicle at Cielito Street in Rancho Cucamonga. After the impact, the Acura lost control and collided with a tree. Paramedics responded and pronounced him dead at the scene. The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department is investigating the collision. [12142013 0640]

Coroner case #701309088 — On 12/13/2013 at 8:06 PM, Frank Sanchez, a 63 year old resident of Barstow, was a pedestrian attempting to cross the 600 block of Armory Road in the city of Barstow and was struck by a 2002 Ford truck. Paramedics responded and pronounced decease at the scene. The Barstow Police Department is investigating the collision. [12142013 0200 EM]

Coroner case 701309084: — On Friday, 12/13/2013, at 4:29 PM, while transferring a transport container within a granite and marble holding yard located in the 700 block of Taylor St. in Ontario, the driver of tractor-trailer rig was struck by the vehicle when it slipped into gear. Juan Manuel Gonzalez, a 56 year old resident of Los Angeles, was pronounced dead at the scene. The accident is under investigation by Ontario Police Department and the California Occupational Safety and Health (CAL-OSHA). [12/13/13 2230 VN]

Coroner case 701309068 — On 12/12/2013, at 1:47 PM, San Bernardino County Sheriff personnel were called to a residence in the 11000 block of Winterhawk Way, in Apple Valley. Upon arrival they found Robert Paul Stone, an 18 year old resident of Apple Valley, dead. Investigation continues to verify the cause of Stone's death. Refer to the press release by San Bernardino County Sheriff Homicide Detail. [12/12/13 2345 VN]

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

Malls from page 8

Planned for Central City was an aerial monorail tramway that could potentially transport consumers from residential complexes and transportation hubs at the bus and train depot to various downtown

historic attractions, civil government facilities and of course, the shopping mall. The tramway never happened and even with the 1991 addition of a large interior carousel, brightly colored paint and a new name, "Carousel Mall," the plaguing reputation of gang

problems persisted.

The safety issue stigma is said to be responsible for the downtown mall's downward spiral. The Carousel Mall now quarters county of San Bernardino offices; the parking lot is a concourse for the homeless and county vehicles.

Despite Gruen's hope that the indoor shopping mall might be the answer to worldwide revitalization projects by reversing urban decay and blight, from the examples seen in San Bernardino, it appears that shopping malls do best when constructed

in already established upscale neighborhoods easily accessed by those with dollars to spend. Things do change however. With a seeming fetish for the style trend celebrating the "urban decay" look, it will be interesting to watch what the next generation

of designers will do with historic downtowns, particularly the city of San Bernardino's (that is, if the city itself survives its present bankruptcy proceedings).



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County Wildlife Corner

Mule Deer: *Odocoileus Hemionus Californicus*

Christmas brings us the holiday tradition of welcoming a jolly, red suited gentleman with his trusty herd of reindeer pulling his sleigh. However, there are no reindeer in California. So a local Saint Nick might prevail upon our native Mule Deer, a species of black tailed deer, living in mountainous areas, woodland chaparrals, deserts and open coniferous regions of our state.

Due to their large mule-like ears, that move constantly and independently, *Odocoileus hemionus* are easy to identify. Brownish-gray in color for winter, they have a white rump patch and a small white tail with a black tip. Their summer coat is reddish-brown. Inside their ears and legs are white with lower portions from cream to tan. A dark V-shaped mark, extending from a point between the eyes upward is typical of

all mule deer. Their body color provides a physical camouflage in their habitat which disguises it from predators like cougars, coyotes, bears



and golden eagles who will swoop down on a fawn. According to the climate, the bucks' antlers (bone covered with keratin) start growth in spring and are shed around fall and winter each year. Antlers are positioned high and branch forward, forking equally into 2 tines with a spread up to 4 feet. The males lose their antlers after breeding and grow new ones yearly, with each set becoming larger than the previous one. Not running like other deer, they have a peculiar and distinctive bounding leap (stotting) over distances up to 8 yards, with all 4 feet coming down together. In this way, they can reach a speed of 45 m.p.h. for short periods.

Mule Deer are ruminants and are capable of digesting highly fibrous roughage. They have no canine teeth and, like the cow, have a multi-part stomach, the first two chambers of which act as temporary storage bins. Food stored here can be digested later when the deer chews its cud. Mule deer consume a wide variety of plants and are primarily browsers on woody vegetation. They particularly live on ceanothus (which we call deer browse), oak leaves and bark, manzanita, herbaceous plants and bushes like blackberry, blueberry and thimbleberry. They have an affection for apples, acorns, and to the annoyance of gardeners, rose bushes.

In winter, mule deer forage on Douglas-fir, cedar and juniper, and twigs of deciduous trees and shrubs like aspen, willow, dogwood, serviceberry and sage. Over much of the species range, snow and ice cover many food sources and the food that is accessible grows slower. So the deer's metabolism slows and individuals become less active to survive in an environment with less food. During the winter, mule deer often move down from mountains, where the snow is deeper and covers most of the food, into valleys with less snow.

Mountain populations migrate to higher elevation in warmer months, looking for nutrient-rich



new-grown grasses, twigs, and shrubs. They maintain separate summer and winter ranges, connected by a migratory pathway. In milder climates, they do not migrate. They live in small social groups of about three, except during the winter, when large groups may come together to feed in open meadows. Females tend to stay close to where they were born. Males disperse farther, establish their own territories, and compete for access to females during the breeding season.

Males disperse as individuals or aggregate in groups of unrelated individuals. During winter and spring, the stability of female clans and male groups is maintained with dominance hierarchies. Increases in strife and alarm behavior, and decreases in play among fawns, occur as population density increases. The frequency of aggressive behavior be-

tween the sexes remains low year round

The "rut" or mating season usually begins in the fall as does go into estrus. Males become more aggressive,



competing for mates and does may mate with more than one buck. Fawns are born in the spring, staying with their mothers during the summer and being weaned in the fall. Mule deer females usually give birth to two fawns, although if it is their first time having a fawn, they often only have one. Communication between mule deer is performed mostly through scents (pheromones) emitted by glands on their legs, hooves, tails and urine deposits that may signal alarm, distress, or herd movement.

Mule deer rarely travel far from water or forage, and often bed down within easy walking distance of both. Young generally forage together in family groups; older bucks tend to travel alone or with other bucks. Most actively foraging around dawn and dusk, they usually bed down in protected areas midday, but will also forage at night in more open areas, during full moons, or when pressured by hunters. Mule deer make temporary beds which are usually nothing more than flattened areas of grass or leaves. They will use their hooves to scratch a level depression into the cold earth, even in winter!

Because of their ability to outrun most of their predators, mule

deer can live longer than most large mammals in the wild. However, it's a hard life for mule deer in California. Due to seasonal licensed hunting and vehicular accidents



that greatly impact the population of the herd, many orphans become prey for other animals, or simply starve to death. Many wildlife rehabilitators must deal with raising fawns, hoping to release them back into the wild.

At Wildhaven Ranch, our experience with mule deer over the past 13 years, has included fond memories of close interactions with a highly intelligent and reactive animal. Bottle-feeding orphans past the spotted coat stage into full fledged adults has been a privilege. Observing their playful behavior of running, jumping, boxing and chasing each other, displays their exuberance for life. This stocky deer with sturdy legs is 4 to 6-1/2 feet in length and 3 to 3-1/2 feet high at the shoulder. Their weight can vary from 130 pounds in females to over 280 pounds in males. Their formidable strength and beauty captivates us into believing that they could be capable of pulling a sleigh through the snow!

Wildhaven Ranch is a wildlife sanctuary in the San Bernardino Mountains specializing in educating the public about wildlife in our ecosystem. Visit them at www.wildhavenranch.org or call for tours at (909) 337-7389.

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PORAC Sues Dammeier Lackie Law Firm from page 6

an's. Information then emerged that the police association had also been seeking, at Lackie Dammeier McGill & Ethir's suggestion, to entrap Monahan and another council member, Steve Mensinger.

Soon thereafter, the Costa Mesa Police Association ended its relationship with Lackie Dammeier but not before other Orange County municipal officials, including city council members from Buena Park, Fullerton and Irvine, came forward to tell how the Upland-based firm and its clients engaged in efforts to harass them as they headed into elections and contract negotiations with their cities' police unions, which were represented by Lackie Dammeier McGill & Ethir.

So brazen was the law firm in its pro-police union strategies that it posted on its website a political activity play-

book that advised police unions on how to intimidate and twist the arms of politicians and lobby the public in a way that associates police pay raises with higher levels of public safety. In the brouhaha that ensued, Lackie Dammeier McGill & Ethir removed that posting.

The Orange County District Attorney's Office's has opened up an investigation of Lackie, Dammeier, McGill & Ethir. On October 10, investigators with the Orange County District Attorney's Office, assisted by Orange County Sheriff's Department detectives and officers, served a search warrant at the 367 N 2nd Avenue Upland law office of the law firm, which at that point was in the midst of decommissioning itself and farming its cases out to various of its former partners or other law firms. Investigators carted off scores of boxes full of documents and other materials from the office.



California Style Seasons Greetings

By Grace Bernal



My very first Santacon experience occurred in 2013 and proved wild, wacky, and silly. It took place in the city of Los Angeles.

Santacon is a very random event where they give out no pre-information. The location is determined, distributed

and gathered hourly by cell phones. There was a nice crowd this past Saturday December 14th, with some creative people



participating. The fun started at El Mercado in East Los Angeles. They rode into downtown Los Angeles and China Town via Metro passes and headed west to meet up with the west side L.A.

Santacon crowd. The celebration was felicitous, and the crowd was continually doing silly things, It's a day of merriment, drinking, and eating.

Santacon has been happening each year and I always thought it would be fun to cover.



I didn't know where it was but I was able to follow them in my car and that's how I caught some

photos. This year they all road the metro bus and called it the sleigh



ride. Santacon started in 1994 in San Francisco. Since then it has spread to Washington D.C., Los Angeles, Philadelphia and New York. This is

such a spontaneous event it resembles a bunch of hippies getting together

with crazy antics and offers a modernistic feel-



"I stopped believing in Santa Claus when I was six. My mother took me to a department store and he asked for MY autograph!" -Shirley Temple

in unique Santa suits. The costumes make Santacon fun and interesting and put you in a lighthearted mood. Can't wait to see what Santa-



con has to offer in 2014. 'til then, Seasons greetings from Los Angeles!



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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Chabot from page 2

safe district for Republicans.

Though he has not officially declared his candidacy, Chabot sought to deflate the chances of

others who might vie to replace Morrell. In an email sent to his supporters on December 15, Chabot mentioned without being specific a Republican rival to succeed Morrell who he

said is claiming to have endorsements of GOP higher-ups. Chabot said that is not true.

"[T]here is misinformation being spread regarding the Assembly race I intend to for-

mally enter after the New Year," Chabot said. "First, the state party and state party chairman have not endorsed nor are they supporting my soon-to-be opponent in the race. This piece of misinformation has been told to a number of officials in our region. The chairman, by rules, cannot support, and neither can the party. There are two local Republicans in this race so far, and could be others."

Chabot did not name who those local Republicans are. He said he had personally "just returned from a trip to Sacramento and "leadership" [i.e. Republican Party leadership] has made absolutely no decision on 'support' in this race -It's

too early."

Referring to his campaign, Chabot said, "We are not making an official announcement until after the New Year - and even then it's too early. Morrell still holds the seat and has yet to resign from it."

"I will go to Sacramento as your future elected Assemblyman and lead with courage, honor, integrity, faith, passion, leadership and dedication," he declared on one of the website's pages.



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