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# The San Bernardino County Sentinel

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

Friday, February 21, 2014

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## Upland Employees Targeted In Internal Investigation

An outside investigative firm is conducting what is described as an "administrative investigation" into activities by one or more Upland city employees, the *Sentinel* has learned.

Norman A. Traub Associates, an organization of former police executives and attorneys engaged in workplace investigations and specializing in probes of public employees, was

retained by senior Upland municipal officials to look into what has been alleged to be more than one instance of unspecified misconduct.

Evidence relating to the alleged misconduct was turned over to a Traub Associates investigator, Jeff Love, a former police lieutenant who is now an attorney. Love was apparently able to trace the evidence back to at least one city

employee.

According to a city memorandum dated January 23 obtained by the *Sentinel*, the city has initiated an investigation into allegations of misconduct said to have occurred in the last five months of last year and continuing until last month.

"An administrative investigation is currently being conducted into the events which were

reported on or about January 6, 2014 for alleged misconduct," the memo states. "The city has initiated an investigation into allegations of misconduct said to have occurred from August 2013 to January 2014."

The memorandum, from Stephanie Mendenhall in her capacity as the city's administrative services director, informs the recipient that he/she will need to

submit to questioning as part of that investigation.

"You will need to report to the human resources division on January 28, 2014 at (sic) answer questions relating to this administrative investigation involving possible misuse of city resources," the memo states.

According to the memorandum, which was delivered to one of the employees suspected of the

See P 3

## Markovich In Bid For 33rd District Assemblyman



Scott Markovich

Rim of the World School District Board Member Scott Markovich has officially announced he will vie to succeed Tim Donnelly as assemblyman in the 33rd District.

Markovich is among nine residents of the district, which includes the San Bernardino Mountain communities of Lake Arrowhead, Crestline, Cedar Glen, Cedarpines Park as well as the desert cities and communities of Hesperia, Apple Valley, Victorville, Barstow, Trona, Newberry Springs and Needles, who have given indication they will run now that Donnelly is making a gubernatorial bid.

A lifelong resident of the Mountain, Markovich said his indignity, his work as a contractor and his orientation as a moderate Republican distinguish him from the pack of competitors in the 33rd District.

"There was no hospital up here at the time, so I was born in San Bernardino Community Hospital," he said. "My parents lived in Crestline at the time. Except for a few different but brief circumstances, I have lived the majority of my 52 years in Crestline and Cedarpines Park, where I built my own home. I'm a contractor. My wife and I both graduated from Rim of the World High School as did all three of our children. My parents both graduated from Rim of the World High School."

Markovich See P 5

## Fourth District Race To Pit Congresswoman vs. Assemblyman

What promises to be the most spirited supervisorial race in San Bernardino County in the last generation was set in motion on Tuesday when Congresswoman Gloria Negrete-McLeod announced she will not seek a second term in the House of Representatives and will instead battle Assemblyman Curt Hagman for the right to succeed Gary



Gloria Negrete-McLeod  
Ovitt as Second District county supervisor.

The race will prove a crucial one in the partisan and ideological battle for the soul of San Bernardino County, which is one of the last bastions of Republicanism in California.

Currently three of the county's five supervisors are Republicans. Though county supervisor is considered a non-partisan office, governance in San Bernardino



Curt Hagman

County in general and on the board of supervisors

specifically is highly politicized. Over the last twelve years, three of the members of the board of supervisors have served as chairman of the San Bernardino County Republican Central Committee: Bill Postmus, Paul Biane and Ovitt.

Currently, Hagman, who represents the 55th Assembly District in Sacramento, is the chairman of the San See P 2

## Long Languishing Rancho Las Flores Project In Summit Valley Resurrected

HESPERIA—The defunct Rancho Las Flores project, which was originally projected to result in the construction of 9,100 residential units in Summit Valley, has been resurrected by its current corporate successor as a three-phase 19,396 home development.

Shortly after the city of Hesperia's 1987 incorporation, the Dana Point-based ARC Las Flores Corporation sought city

approval of the 10,000-acre property at the city's extreme south end that consisted of the 490-acre Las Flores Ranch and several adjacent parcels, including Bureau of Land Management property obtained through a series of land swaps.

Hesperia's first city manager, Robert Rizzo, convinced members of the city's maiden city council – Percy Bakker, George Beardsley and

Bruce Kitchen, among them – that the project would generate economic development and create neighborhoods to rival those in upscale Orange County. Within two years, under Rizzo's guidance as well as that of Hesperia Planning Director Rob Zuel, the scope of the project grew and in 1990, the city approved the Rancho Las Flores specific plan, which called for See P 6

## Second Massive Solar Project In Ivanpah Gets Federal OK

The federal government has given go-ahead to another large solar project at the extreme northeast end of San Bernardino County.

Tempe, Ariz.-based First Solar Inc. is the proponent on the 2.6 square mile Stateline Solar Project, which is to be located just west of the California/Nevada border near Primm, Nevada. In giving its blessing to the Stateline Project, which is to lie within

San Bernardino County, the Barack Obama Administration also endorsed First Solar, Inc.'s Silverstate South Project proposal, an even larger 3.8 square mile project east of Primm in Nevada.

Both are within the Ivanpah Valley, which occupies portions of both California and Nevada.

On December 30, BrightSource Energy Company's \$2.2 billion Ivanpah So- See P 5

## Three GOP Candidates Emerge In 31st After Miller's Withdrawal



John Valdivia

Republican Congressman Gary Miller's announced decision last

week to not seek reelection in the Democratic-leaning 31st District has prompted three members of the GOP to step up in an effort to succeed him, despite the obvious disadvantage any member of their party will have in this year's electoral contest.

Miller, who has been in Congress since 1999, decided not to seek an eighth term in Congress at least in part because



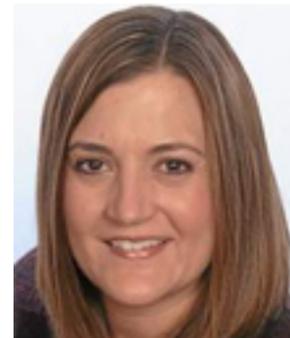
Paul Chabot

his own electoral chances in the 31st were grim. Miller's capture of the seat in 2012 was some-

thing of a fluke.

In 2012, California had switched to an open primary system, which ended sequestered party ballots and effectively brought to a close the tradition of guaranteeing that a Democrat would face a Republican in the November general election.

After the redistricting that followed the 2010 Census, the 31st District encompasses parts of



Lesli Gooch

Upland and Rancho Cucamonga, and stretches eastward across San Bernardino See P 6

## Negrete-McLeod Vs. Hagman In 4th District

from front page

Bernardino County Republican Central Committee.

Negrete-McLeod is a Democrat. If she prevails, the board will be populated by a majority of Democrats for the first time since the 1970s.

Negrete-McLeod won a position in Congress in 2012 after a contentious race against fellow Democrat Joe Baca in the heavily Democratically-leaning 35th Congressional District. Baca was an incumbent at the time, in the 43rd District. Following the redistricting that followed the 2010 Census, he had opted to run in the more Democrat-friendly 35th. He managed a comfortable 12,619 votes or 47.17 percent to 9,078 or 33.93 percent victory over Negrete-McLeod in the June 2012 primary, but was unseated in November of that year, with Negrete-McLeod polling 61,065 votes or 54.35 percent to his 51,281 votes or 45.65 percent. Negrete-McLeod's victory came, ironically,

after her campaign was boosted by \$3.8 million in donations from a political action committee controlled by then incumbent New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, a Republican.

Prior to her election to Congress, McLeod, now 72, served on the Chaffey College Governing Board, in the Assembly and California State Senate.

"It is a great honor and privilege to have represented the constituents of this district for almost two decades in many elected positions including Congress, but my heart is here in the district," she said in announcing that she would not vie for reelection to Congress. "I have chosen to seek election to the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors and not reelection to Congress. This was a decision not made lightly. However my desire to represent this community locally, where I have lived for more than 40 years, and where I have long served as an elected official, won out. My federal, state and local experience will allow me the opportunity

to effectively represent the constituents of the Fourth District."

Negrete-McLeod's move, which has been rumored about for several weeks, represents a serious challenge to Hagman, a still up-and-coming politician who is more than two decades her junior. A former mayor of upscale Chino Hills who ran a successful bail bond business, Hagman was elected in 2008 to the State Assembly from a strongly Republican District in the extreme southwest end of San Bernardino County and the southeastern portion of Los Angeles County and northeastern Orange County, including the communities of Diamond Bar, Walnut, Brea, Yorba Linda, La Habra and Rowland Heights.

While San Bernardino County's Fourth Supervisorial District includes pockets which are saturated with registered Republican voters primarily in Chino Hills, the district on balance leans Democratic, covering Chino Hills, Chino, unincorporated San Bernardino County, Montclair, Ontario and the southern end of Upland.

Hagman, who at 49 is relatively young in comparison to Negrete-McLeod and Ovitt, is aggressive, ambitious and energetic. Last year, he commandeered control of the San Bernardino County Republican Central Committee from its previous chairman, Robert Rego. That takeover was followed by reports that he would run for supervisor in San Bernardino County in 2014. Following his current term in California's Lower House, Hagman is not eligible to run for the Assembly because of term limits. The next available state legislative position he would be eligible for, 29th District State Senator, is now held by Bob Huff and is not up for election until 2016. Thus, the position of county supervisor, an elected decision maker on a panel of five overseeing a 2.1 million population county with an annual budget in excess of \$4 billion, appeared a suitably impressive one to keep Hagman's political career intact.

While Ovitt denies that he was in any way pressured to retire in the face of Hagman's poten-

Established December 2008  
The San Bernardino County

# Sentinel

Maintains an office at  
10788 Civic Center Drive  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730  
(909) 628 8436  
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It is published and printed weekly in  
San Bernardino County by  
Mark Gutglueck

The Sentinel is a newspaper of general interest  
and prints news of public concern  
throughout the largest county in the lower 48  
states. It is distributed at various locations,  
including:

San Bernardino, Rancho Cucamonga, Redlands  
Loma Linda, Lake Arrowhead, Grand Terrace,  
Colton, Fontana, Upland, Ontario, Montclair,  
Chino, Hesperia, Victorville, Lucerne Valley,  
Newberry Springs, Baker & Needles

An annual subscription to the hard copy version is available at the rate of \$75 per year. An E-mail subscription to the Sentinel is available for \$30 per year.

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10808 Foothill Blvd. Suite 160-446  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730  
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tial challenge, in January he announced he would not seek reelection this year. Hagman, in control of the county Republican Party and vying for a position held by Republi-

cans for the last 16 years and seemingly facing no Democratic opposition with any fundraising horsepower, last month appeared a shoo-in in the June election.

The entrance of the congresswoman into the race entirely changes that outlook. As an incumbent in national office, Negrete-McLeod sports formidable fundraising capability and has banked money from past state campaigns — \$900,000 — that can be used in the supervisor's race.

Almost immediately upon Negrete-McLeod's announcement, Hagman went on the attack, raising issues and votes on Negrete-McLeod's part that he believes will reflect poorly on her with a majority of the district's voters.

In a terse press release that came within two hours of Negrete-McLeod's announcement, Hagman said, "I welcome Congresswoman Negrete-McLeod to the race. I look forward to hearing how she can make the county safer after she voted to release 20,000 dangerous inmates and voted to release even more through realignment."

Hagman's reference was to Negrete-McLeod's votes as state senator to support leg-

Continued on Page 4

# Inland Empire Bankruptcy Center

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Glimpse of SBC's Past

Get Back to Where You Once Belonged - in the SBC

By Ruth Musser-Lopez

Still reeling from Beatelemania history week? "Get Back to Where You Once Belonged" as the Beatles chimed, is fun in the SBC with all of the historic places and interesting museums made available for visitation by groups and individuals. There's something for everybody. Below is a listing of cultural heritage type museums—this listing is of indoor places which can be visited in inclement weather.

Most of these establishments have a website you can go to for more information and driving directions. Call before visiting to check seasonal operating hours and entry fee schedule. Your donations will help with the cost of maintaining our county's heritage resources.

With the holidays over and a little extra cash from tax refunds, historic showplaces or "indoor preserves" are a low cost weekend treat for the whole family right here in the largest county in the lower 48 states.

Inland Valley Region

Air Museum Planes



Planes of Fame Museum

of Fame 909/597-3722. World War II airplanes, fighter jets and memorabilia. 7000 Merrill Ave., Chino.

Yorba-Slaughter Adobe Museum 909/597-8332. Renovated 1853

adobe home with some original furnishings. 17127 Pomona Rincon Rd., Chino.

Graber Olive House 800/996-5483. Olive cannery from 1894 to present; museum. 315 E. 4th Street, Ontario.

Museum of History and Art 909/983-3198. Rotating cultural and historic exhibits along with a permanent local heritage collection. 225 S. Euclid Ave. Ontario

John Rains House 909/989-4970. Restored 1860 ranch residence of John and Maria Merced Rains, is one of the oldest fired brick structures still standing in San Bernardino County. Red clay bricks were made on-site. Period room furnishings and artifacts.



Graber Olive House

National Register site. 8810 Hemlock Street, Rancho Cucamonga.

Yorba and Slaught-

ter Families Adobe 909/597-8332. Adobe ranch house built in 1852-53 Raimundo Yorba, purchased by Fenton Slaughter in 1868. National Register site with Slaughter's original family furnishings. Renovated as a General Store of the 1890s now includes period agrarian exhibits. 17127 Pomona Rincon Road, Chino.

San Bernardino History and Railroad Museum 909/888-3634. Tour the depot, see the Santa Fe Railroad archives and collection, permanent and rotating. 1170 W. Third Street San Bernardino.

Heritage House and first jail (1860) in the city of San Bernardino locat-

ed at the Heritage House on 8th and D Streets, San Bernardino.

Colton Area Museum (909) 824-8814. Local historic artifacts are displayed.

380 North La Cadena Drive, Colton.

Rialto Historical Society 909/875-1750 The old First Christian Church now serves as a cultural center; museum in adjacent church school building. Citrus exhibit and packing house office, military display with medals and uniforms, and an early 20th century doctor's office with a display of medical instruments. There is also a collection of paintings by Jean Adams. 205 N. Riverside Ave. Rialto.

Boxing Museum

909/889-5555. World Boxing Council Legends of Boxing Museum includes memorabilia from past WBC champions including Muhammad Ali, Mike Tyson, Julio Cesar Chavez, and Lennox Lewis. 399 North D Street, San Bernardino.

Robert and Frances Fullerton Museum of Art 909/537-7373 Andy Warhol permanent collection, Chicano art and ceramics. 5500 University Pkwy, San Bernardino.

Assistencia Mission. 909/793-5402 Tour the 1930s reproduction of

the 1830s ranch outpost of Mission San Gabriel. Established as an adjunct

Cooper Museum 909-982-8010; 909-920-3742 Exhibits and events. Na-



Oak Glen Schoolhouse

to Mission San Gabriel Arcángel, the Asistencia is often said to be part of a second, inland chain of missions. Buildings include a small museum with site history and a chapel. 26930 Barton Road, Redlands.

Edwards Mansion 909/793-2031. Fourteen room 1890s mansion open for dining. 2064 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands.

Historical Glass Museum 909/798-0868. See American glassware from the early 1800s to modern times. 1157 N. Orange Street, Redlands.

Lincoln Memorial Shrine 909/798-7636 We have the only Lincoln memorial west of the Mississippi right here in the SBC! 125 W. Vine Street, Redlands.

San Bernardino County Museum 909/307-2669. The "mother ship" of county museums. The official curatorial facility for regional archaeology, geology, history, and art. 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands.

tive Americans thrived in the land before citrus groves, ... then home sweet home for the bedroom community in the City of Gracious Living. 217 A Street Upland.

Chaffey Communities Cultural Center 909/920-3742 This former St. Marks Episcopal Church is reported to have been designed by Myron Hunt who also designed the Huntington Library in Sierra Madre. 525 W 18th St, Upland.

Mountain/Foothills

Historic Oak Glen Schoolhouse 909-797-1691 11911. South Oak Glen Road, Yucaipa.

Mously Museum of Natural History 909/790-3163. Prehistory revealed by minerals, shells and fossils 35308 Panorama Drive, Yucaipa

Yucaipa Adobe 909/795-3485. An adobe ranch house constructed in 1858 by mountain man James Waters and purchased by John Dunlap in 1868 contains many

19th century furnishings. 32183 Kentucky Street, Yucaipa.

Parrish Pioneer Apple Ranch 909/797-1753. Oak Glen's first apple tree planted in 1860s. 38561 Oak Glen Road, Oak Glen.

Riley's Farm and 1800s general store. 909/797-7534 U-Pick apples in season. 12253 S. Oak Glen Road. Oak Glen.

Big Bear Valley Historical Museum 909/585-8100. Respective of the grizzly bear and its history. Sacred to Native Americans, California grizzlies, now extinct, once populated the SBC mountains—not just our state flag. Big Bear City Park, Greenway Drive, Big Bear City.

Big Bear Discovery Center. 909/866-3437 Heritage portal to San Bernardino National Forest. Fawnskin.

Desert - Route 62 Area



The Pinto Culture is probably best represented by the Pinto point.

Oasis Visitor Center - Joshua Tree National Park. 760/367-5500 Portal to the Park and the prehistoric "Pinto Culture"—see with your own eyes...tools of ancient hunters of the far west. 74485 National Park Drive, Twentynine Palms.

Old Schoolhouse Mu-

Continued on Page 8

Read all about the intrigue in the San Bernardino County political scene at inlandpolitics.com on the worldwide web.

Internal Investigation At Upland City Hall from front page

misconduct, "Jeff Love of Norm A. Traub Associates will be conducting this investigation. In doing so, he acts with the full authorization of the city. You must cooperate fully and answer all lawful questions fully and truthfully. You must do so without reservation. You must obey any lawful order given."

In addition to being the city's administrative

services director, Mendenhall is also the city clerk and director of human resources.

While the memorandum states the employee is to be allowed to bring his or her own recording device and/or representative to the question-

ing session, Mendenhall instructs the employee "You are ordered not to discuss this investigation or its subject matter with other current or former employees of the city, except for me or your representative."

While the memorandum references "misconduct," it does not specify what the misconduct is and it does not make specific reference to any violation of the law.

It is not clear why city administrators did not rely upon the police department to conduct the

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investigation. The Sentinel was unable to locate any spending authorization for work by Norman A. Traub Associates nor was a check to that company recorded in the most recent warrant register for the city.

At press time, the Sentinel had been unable to verify if the employee to whom the memorandum was addressed had attended the January 28 interrogation or what conclusion had been reached as a result of the investigation.

## Most Of Needles Lost Gas Service Much Of Wednesday And Thursday

Gas service to residences and businesses in Needles, San Bernardino County's smallest and easternmost city, was shut off for nearly 24 hours this week.

According to a representative of Southwest

Gas, the outage occurred Wednesday morning following what was supposed to be a routine test of lines, during which individual pipes are shut down temporarily. A Southwest employee inadvertently switched

off the wrong valve, turning off the flow of natural gas to nearly all of the 4,844-population city. When the valve was reopened, the city's lattice of gas pipes had lost their prime.

Restaurants and ho-

tels had to shut down because of no hot water or cooking fuel. Homes were without fuel for cooking or heating water for showers.

While Southwest Gas maintained that 200 of its customers were with-

out gas as of Wednesday night, reports were that at least 2,300 residents were without the service.

"Southwest Gas crews worked until 11:15 last night, and have restored service to approximately 200 customers, includ-

ing all priority customers (elderly, etc.) and commercial. Restoration efforts are continuing this morning. Additional personnel from Las Vegas were brought

*Continued on Page 5*

### Negrete-McLeod Vs. Hagman

*from page 2*

isolation aimed at meeting federal mandates to ease overcrowding in the state's prison system.

Hagman then cited her votes as a member of Congress.

"I'm hoping her ideas for county health care services work better than disastrous Obamacare policies she helped implement and steadfastly defends," Hagman said.

An hour later, Hagman told the *Sentinel*, "I am looking forward to her explaining her votes on Obamacare. In this district, crime is one of the higher level concerns voters have. The state of California released 20,000 prisoners into our communities with her support. I think she should explain that to the voters."

But those issues will be less important than economic development in the Fourth District and San Bernardino

County as a whole, Hagman said.

"While she was in the legislature, the Democrats took away redevelopment," Hagman said. "Building infrastructure to help create jobs and improving our economic base is what people care about. I have created jobs all my life. She has been living on the government payroll. I know what it takes to make San Bernardino County competitive. I am strong on that issue. I am strong on policies to create jobs. She is strong on policies that make businesses that provide jobs leave. That is a major difference between us. I have to make the residents of the Fourth District see what those differences are."

With regard to the county's slow but steady slide away from one dominated by the Republicans to one in which the Democrats will be in ascendency, Hagman observed, "It is true that the demographics have

changed over time" and he conceded that Democratic voter registration is up and Republican affiliation is relatively down. He said, however, "In general people are not voting along party lines in what is a non-partisan race. I see party affiliation and partisanship as less important than philosophy. I think the voters will look at our voting records and who was working to create jobs and opportunity for the people who live here. It's more about education and taxes and jobs. Not all Democrats are happy about Obamacare. Gloria is one of its biggest supporters."

As for Negrete-McLeod's decision to forsake her Congressional career and what appeared to be a safe seat for the foreseeable future, Hagman said, "I am disappointed that she could not handle the job. Being a U.S. Representative is a great honor. She wanted out of there. Basically, between the

travel and the weather, she did not like going to work."

Hagman said he was not daunted by the Democratic registration advantage in the Fourth Supervisorial District. He said being a Democrat gives a candidate an edge in terms of registration but that being a Republican gives a candidate an edge in terms of voter turnout.

"You can look at it any way you want to," he said. "The Democrats hold a slight registration advantage. If you look at the turnout models, Republicans have much higher turnout, plus 11 or 12 percent in the primaries and plus 6 or 7 percent in the general elections."

He was not deluding himself, Hagman said, with regard to Negrete-McLeod's ability to wage a campaign.

"Gloria has been in government a long time," he said. "She has money and she will hire the appropriate people

who know how to run a campaign."

With regard to Hagman's criticisms of her prison realignment vote, Negrete-McLeod said, "He was in the assembly during that time. Did he not realize that our state and our governor had to let those prisoners go? Did he not realize we were under an order from the court and that a three-judge panel said we had to release those prisoners to relieve overcrowding? What does he not understand about that? Hasn't he read in the newspapers and seen the statistics that crime has gone down or is that something I have to call him to tell him? Those were hard choices but in the legislature you have to make hard votes. Sometimes those votes are not popular but they are part of the job."

Negrete-McLeod said that Hagman had mischaracterized her as the biggest supporter of Obamacare in Congress, noting that she had missed some votes on

the matter when she was ill. Nevertheless, she acknowledged "At least 34 times I voted against the Republican efforts to either dismantle or abolish the Affordable Care Act. The Republicans wanted to undo it and even went to court. The Supreme Court eventually ruled that it was constitutional. The Affordable Care Act is working for senior citizens and others who do not have a way to get insurance. I am not interested in taking away people's ability to find medical care."

The congresswoman said that Hagman was mischaracterizing as well her attitude and voting record with regard to the support of small business owners and entrepreneurship. "If you check my voting history in the California legislature you will see I was a moderate Democrat. If he is saying that it is typical of Democrats to vote for overregulation and weakening small business, than he is being a typical Republican in being opposed to any type of regulation. This is a non-partisan seat. Why is he bringing up these things from the past that have no bearing on the issues facing San Bernardino County? I am proud of my voting record protecting families and small businesses and making sure there is a safety net for those people who cannot help themselves."

Negrete-McLeod said she did not want to go on the attack against Hagman, consenting only to say "Mr. Hagman was elected to the Assembly and in six years, he never made a hard vote. One of your principal jobs in the state legislature is to pass a budget. If you are going to say 'no,' you should give a reason why you vote no. He did a good job of being against everything, but came up with very little in the way of ideas of his own."

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**Gas Outage Dogs Needles**  
*from page 4*

in to assist and speed up the relight process," Stephen Miller, Analyst I, Communications at Southwest Gas Corpora-

tion, told a locally-based media outlet, *ZachNews*, on Thursday morning.

Southwest Gas established a command center for the service restoration effort near the intersection of East Broadway and Goodwill Street

in Needles. Into the afternoon of Thursday, February 20, work crews were observed driving into and out of the command center, retrieving work orders for points all around the community.

As of mid-morning on

February 20, the gas was not yet turned on at the Denny's restaurant, nor the Taco Bell, nor the Carl's Jr. and Green Burrito, nor the Munchy's Mexican Restaurant, nor Lucy's Mexican Restaurant, nor Cook's Cuisine,

nor China Garden, nor Valenzuela's Café, nor Riverfront Cafe & Cocktails, nor Porky's BBQ Restaurant, nor Burger Hut.

Gas was turned on at the River City Pizza Company, the Wagon

Wheel, the Subway and Dairy Queen and Juicy's Famous River Café and McDonald's.

Information about the status of Domino's Pizza and Jack in the Box was unavailable.

**Second Ivanpah Valley Solar Plant**  
*from front page*

lar Electric Generating System, the largest solar project ever built, went online. It is located about five miles from the Nevada border, some fifty miles northwest of Needles. It was tied into the state's power grid last September.

BrightSource's proj-

ect consists of 173,500 heliostats, paired mirrors that track the sun and focus the captured thermal energy onto a 459-foot tall tower to produce heat to boil water to create steam to run an electricity-producing turbine, putting out 377 megawatts, enough electricity to meet the needs of 140,000 California homes.

First Solar's Stateline project will likewise utilize mirrors and the sun to generate heat and run a steam turbine, thereby yielding roughly 223 megawatts, adequate electricity for 82,800 households.

While federal officials and some environmentalists are enthusiastic about the prospect of the availability of co-

pious quantities of energy derived from essentially non-polluting solar fields, some environmentalists had opposed the project on the grounds that the massive undertaking would destroy habitat of the desert tortoise and other wildlife, interrupt or disconnect the passages by which wildlife transit in the desert, and compro-

mise the majestic vistas from the nearby Mojave National Preserve as well as ones of the Soda Mountains, Silurian Valley and the Chuckwalla Valley.

The National Parks Conservation Association, the Western Watersheds Project and Defenders of Wildlife went on record against the approval of both of First

Solar's projects. During the five-year long application process for the projects, First Solar agreed to requirements by both the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that it acquire and set aside 7,200 acres of desert tortoise habitat elsewhere and bankroll \$7 million in tortoise protection efforts.

**Markovich**  
*from front page*

attended San Bernardino Valley College and then Cal State San Bernardino, where he obtained a teaching credential for instructing special education students.

He has been employed in three different capacities, Markovich pointed out. He worked at McDonalds while he was a college student. He taught school after he got his degree. And he subsequently obtained his general contractor's license and he now owns two companies, Empire Home Builders, a sole proprietorship, and Red Rooster Development, a corporation that specializes in building spec

homes.

Markovich said he is a moderate Republican with fiscally conservative leanings and more progressive attitudes with regard to social issues.

He said his political outlook is shaped in no small measure by his work as a contractor.

"Because of my contracting background," he said, "I understand what it is like to be taken advantage of by local or state or federal mandates. Government has infringed upon our ability to live freely as we choose, and government too often interferes with our ability to enjoy our lives. The United States came about to establish and protect our sovereign

rights as citizens and individuals. Somehow our political leaders and rulers have lost focus on that. Most of the elected leadership in Sacramento are serving special interests and corporations rather than working at enhancing our freedoms and building the infrastructure of a society in which we can have businesses that succeed so we can have nice homes and the freedom to travel and do things that better our lives and the lives of our families and everyone around us. We have lost focus on the real reasons we elect officials to represent us."

Markovich used a practical analogy taken from current reality to illustrate the role he

believed government should play.

"We used to be able to go to the well with buckets and get all the water we needed," he said. "But now the well has run dry. There is a drought. We have to pool our resources to dig the well deeper and build the infrastructure we need so we can have enough water to build houses and buildings for businesses and have water for fire protection."

Government, which should facilitate providing resources to its people, Markovich said, is perversely serving to obstruct citizens from obtaining the resources they need.

"As a contractor, I have always known how to go

to get a permit, pass the inspections, do a project on a budget, complete the project, achieve the goal. I know what mandates are and how they hurt us," he said.

Markovich said he is not blindly opposed to regulation. He said he understands the necessity for order and the imposition of standards.

"There are things we do need to regulate," he said. "I believe there has to be balance so we don't overregulate. There has to be more pragmatic thinking about laws."

He cited AB32, which is aimed at regulating exhaust emissions on commercial equipment, as an example of counterproductive regulation.

"My perspective is

based upon my interaction with the truck drivers I deal with who deliver rock, gravel, and sand to the construction sites I work," he said. "The law was supposedly aimed at huge operations, cement factories, other factories with smokestacks. Now those mandates are being applied to small vehicles and it is costing small operators upwards of \$25,000 to comply with regulations and with superficial standards that have no helpful effect in terms of the environment or controlling pollution or any of the good things that were intended in the legislation. The trucks and the truck drivers were not the problem. Regulations have their role, but when all parties are not represented then they become mandates that inhibit the economy. The proper balance on this can only come from candidates who have been part of the middle class that have been subject to these misguided laws. We should not be throwing everyone into the same category."

Markovich continued, "I really respect Thomas Jefferson. His contemporaries said that he was the most pragmatic politician of his time. There are politicians and there are statesmen. Statesmen go beyond entrenched partisanship and work for the common good and promote people rather than ideology. My goal is to not become a politician and instead try to be a statesman."

An example of regulation that is proper, Markovich said, is the modulation of land use policy. A case in point, he said,

*Continued on Page 7*

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**Rancho Las Flores** *from front page*

development of 15,540 housing units in eight phases.

The project never got off the drawing boards, however, and suffered setbacks after Zuel left the city in 1991, followed by Rizzo's demise as city manager in 1992 following revelations about his illicit efforts to filter money from Orange County development interests into the campaign coffers of council member candidates amenable

to the aggressive development proposals that would have doubled the city's population.

The proposal remained active under succeeding city managers and the guidance of community development director Tom Harp and principal planner Dave Reno, but encountered significant challenges that retarded its progression, such as the economic downturn of 1991 and 1992, the listing of three species that inhabited the property – the arroyo toad, the Least Bell's Vireo

and the willow flycatcher – as endangered.

In 1993, the project encountered a significant roadblock when the city of Barstow filed a lawsuit against upstream water users along the Mojave River, resulting in protracted litigation over water rights. The lawsuit led to a stipulated settlement in 2000 among the municipal and other water rights holders within the Mojave River Basin and a water allotment to Hesperia that brought into question whether Hesperia would have

access to enough water to allow the project to proceed. The city subsequently sought to secure the project's viability through the purchase of \$30 million in water rights, deemed sufficient for ARC Las Flores' purposes. The developers also obtained from the federal government clearance to proceed with the project subject to certain habitat protections for the endangered species living upon the property.

That ten year delay, however, resulted in the

expiration of the project's specific plan and its environmental impact report, requiring ARC Las Flores to reformulate those documents, which were not finalized until 2008. By that point, the economic downturn of 2007 inhibited progress on the project and in 2012 ARC Las Flores declared bankruptcy. Texas-based Terra Verde Group last year purchased the 10,000 acres for roughly \$45 million.

The company has since rechristened the Rancho Las Flores project as

the Tapestry Project, by which it intends to maintain the eight-phase nature of the undertaking.

Last month, Terra Verde's director of development, John Ohanian, gave indication to the Hesperia City Council his company is now purposed to proceed with the project. Without defining the terms he was using, Ohanian said the density of the residential units would fall in the "low-to-medium" range.

*Continued on page 10*

**Miller Withdrawal Brings Three GOPs Into 31st District Race** *from front page*

County through a large portion of Fontana, Rialto, Colton, San Bernardino and Redlands. Miller, whose previous district, the 41st, covered the southwestern portion of San Bernardino County and southeast Los Angeles County and northeast Orange County, was apportioned into other districts already held by Republican lawmakers after the 2010 Census. He chose to run in the 31st, gambling that his fundraising ability as an incumbent would offset the Democratic registration advantage his opponent would enjoy.

Members of Congress do not need to live in their district and are eligible for election as long as they live within the state they represent in Washington, D.C.

As it turned out, four relatively unknown Democrats – Pete Aguilar, Justin Kim, Rita Ramirez-Dean, and Renea Wickman – joined Miller in the 2012 31st District race. In addition, another Republican, Bob Dutton, entered the fray in the 2012 primary. Despite the seven percent Democratic voter registration advantage in the 31st, simple mathematics hurt the Democrats as their vote was divided four ways, while the Republican vote was split two ways. Dutton and Miller proved to be the two top vote-getters and under California's open primary arrangement, the November general election came down to a race between Republicans Miller and Dutton. Miller prevailed in that race.

For solid reasons, the Democrats consider the

31st District to be one that should naturally fall to them. Of the district's registered voters, 127,690 or 41 percent, are affiliated with the Democratic Party. Registered Republicans in the district number 104,938, or 33.7 percent. Independent political appraisers see the 31st as a Democratic asset as well.

Even before Miller defeated Dutton in 2012, Democratic strategists set their sights on the 31st District and Miller, determined to prevent the disarray that tripped their party up in 2012 being repeated again. In short order, a game plan was hatched by which Aguilar, who had polled the most votes among the four Democrats in the 2012 primary, was chosen as the logical party standard bearer. By promoting Aguilar early, engaging in brisk fundraising on his behalf and warding off any other Democrats so a concentrated party electoral effort to advance Aguilar can be mounted, they believed Aguilar could beat Miller in a toe-to-toe slugfest in November 2014, despite Miller's incumbency and formidable fundraising capability.

Consequently, Aguilar has been the beneficiary of a concerted Democratic fundraising and endorsement effort on his behalf. Seeing the writing on the wall, Miller opted out of the equation, announcing earlier this month that he was leaving Congress to devote time to his family.

Either lacking the political sense Miller possesses or possessed of determination to show the GOP flag no matter how dire their prospects,

three Republicans – San Bernardino County Councilman John Valdivia, perennial elected office candidate Paul Chabot and Miller's senior policy director Lesli Gooch, have issued announcements that they will test the waters in this year's 31st Congressional District Primary.

Valdivia who last year handily beat an effort by a Democratic Party-affiliated group of local political activists to recall him from office, indicated that as an Hispanic Republican he believes he stands a fair chance of success given the demographics of the district.

Chabot is an anti-drug crusader who claims to have been one of the youngest drug addicts on record before he underwent rehab at the age of 13. He has served as a reservist in both the sheriff's department and Navy and saw active duty in Iraq. Chabot previously sought election to the California Assembly and was actively campaigning to become assemblyman upon Mike Morrell's anticipated departure from the Assembly to succeed resigned State Senator Bill Emmerston when Miller announced he would not run for reelection. Chabot initially indicated he would support Bob Dutton in his ambition to succeed Miller. After Dutton gave indication he would continue to pursue his previously announced decision to be elected county assessor, Chabot abruptly abandoned his pursuit of the assembly spot and jumped into the 31st Congressional District race.

Reminding the electorate that he is the most conservative of the

candidates in the field, Chabot said, "This seat is too important to lose to a career politician who will give us more of the same – empty promises and failed results. Americans deserve elected officials who are willing to place the needs of the people they represent before partisan bickering in order to get things done."

He claimed the endorsements of former Congressman Jerry Lewis and current Second District San Bernardino County Supervisor Janice Rutherford.

Gooch launched her campaign with an endorsement from Miller.

"Lesli has spent the past 15 years on Capi-

tol Hill fighting for San Bernardino County families," Miller said. "Lesli has worked tirelessly developing programs to ensure safe, decent, and affordable housing opportunities for Inland Empire families; securing funding and administrative victories to improve our streets and schools; and fighting to ensure Inland Empire small businesses thrive and create good paying jobs."

Saying she was "disappointed" that Miller is departing Congress, Gooch said she has already secured \$100,000 in campaign funding.

Counteracting Rutherford's endorsement of Chabot, Fourth District

San Bernardino County Supervisor Gary Ovitt endorsed Gooch.

Despite efforts by the National Democratic Party to get members of the party to coalesce behind Aguilar, there is concern that the Republicans could again capture the 31st Congressional seat as three Democrats other than Aguilar are in the race – Colton attorney Eloise Gomez Reyes, San Bernardino school board member Danny Tillman and former Representative Joe Baca. Gomez Reyes, Tillman and Baca have so far proven resistant to calls for them to drop out of the contest in favor of party unity.

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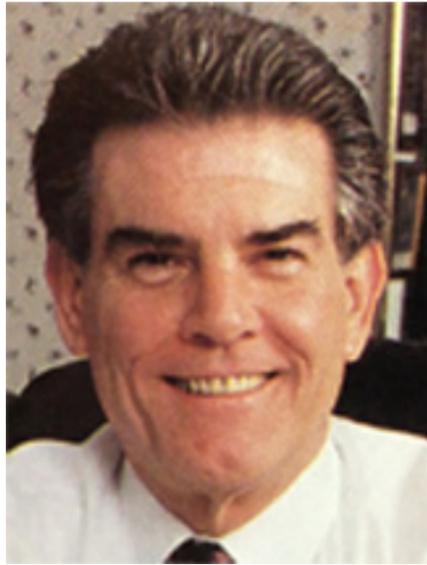
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**Remembrance**

to be held for the late

**Jon Mikels,**  
founding member  
of the maiden Rancho Cucamonga City Council who was later Rancho Cucamonga Mayor and Second District San Bernardino County Supervisor



**When:** March 1 at 2 p.m.

**Where:** Upland Brethern in Christ Church, 845 West Arrow Highway in Upland

**Markovich**  
from page 5  
is the Las Flores Ranch proposal, which would entail the construction of 15,540 residential units in Summit Valley.

"I am a contractor, so most people think I am pro-development," he said. Nevertheless, he said, he took issue with not only the size but at a very basic level the concept of the Rancho Las Flores project. "Property development of this scale in the most beautiful wetlands in the High Desert and at the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains is not beneficial," he said. "I understand property rights. When your development has significant impact on the environment and sanitation and the health and wellbeing of the community, these things have to be thought through to see if they are fundamentally environmentally and economically sound. Something like this might be good for the proponents and have some short term economic good for the community, but the water in the Mojave Basin is something that everyone shares in and building that project could

impact the water and its availability throughout the 33rd District. We could all end up paying a huge price if we let the developers have their way out there."

As one of the eight Republicans and a single Democrat in the field to replace Donnelly, Markovich said he believes he is distinguished from the others by his "conservatism on fiscal policy and opposition to things that are regressive and do not expand the economy and by my acceptance of freedom of choice on social issues. I am not against gay rights and I do not oppose a woman's right to choose. I have personal values and ethics that I hold dear and there are things other people do that I would never engage in, but I do not feel it is my place or the place of government to infringe on people's civil liberties and rights. In my life, early in our marriage when my wife became pregnant and then pregnant again, we were concerned about our careers and the burden of having children at that age. The right choice, we felt, was to choose life. We made the choice to

have children. That was our decision. It was not dictated to us. There are things about other people's lifestyles that I do not understand. But it is their right to choose for themselves. By putting restrictions on freedom into the law, it is counterproductive. I believe you should give people the freedom to make their own decisions."

The question he has encountered more often than any other since making his candidacy known, Markovich said, is one probing his stance with regard to Second Amendment rights.

"Instead of going after guns and ammunition and the people who have them, I think the government should work to ensure that there is responsible gun ownership. If gun owners are reasonable and responsible citizens, they should have the right to possess guns. There is a responsibility that goes with that. We need laws to keep us all accountable with respect to the exercising of those rights and gun use. Guns allow us to protect ourselves until the government comes. Gun rights should stay as part of our lives and our country."

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## San Bernardino County Coroner Reports

Coroner case #701401419 – On 02/16/2014 at 4:50 AM Norma Ann Poe, 49 years of age of Colton, was walking with a friend when she was struck by a train near South Mt. View Avenue and East Mission Street in Colton. Paramedics pronounced the death at scene. Union Pacific Railroad Police are investigating the incident. [021814 0911 SY] Correction: The location of the incident is South Mt. Vernon Avenue and East Mission Street in Colton. [021814 1502 SY]

Coroner case #701401458 – On 02/17/2014, at 9:09 PM, San Bernardino County Sheriff Department responded to a single vehicle collision in the area of Adelanto Road, north of Rancho Road, in the city of Adelanto. Shawn Lamonte Davis, a 46 year old resident of Adelanto, was extricated from the vehicle and transported to Loma Linda Medical Center where he later died of his injuries. An autopsy will be conducted to determine the cause of death. The San Bernardino County Sheriff Department is investigating the incident. [02182014 0620 EM] [02182014 0824 SY]

Coroner Case #701401420 – On 02/16/2014 at approximately 4:45 A.M. the Barstow Fire and Police Department responded to a structure fire in the 200 block of North 3rd Ave. in Barstow. After the fire was extinguished a dead body was discovered in the structure. The Barstow Police Department and The San Bernardino County Sheriff Coroner Department - Arson Bomb Division are investigating the incident. The name of the decedent will be released when identification is complete and next of kin notification is complete. [021614 1700 JK]

Coroner Case #701401418 – On 02/16/2014, at 4:05 A.M., a 21 year old Hispanic male was struck by numerous vehicles on the north bound side of Interstate 215 south of Little League Dr. overpass. Officers from the California Highway Patrol arrived on scene and confirmed him to be dead at 4:10 A.M. The California Highway Patrol is also investigating. The name will be released pending identification and notification of next of kin. [021614 1700 JK]

### Glimpse from page three

seum. 760/367-2366 Step back in time to a homesteader's 1927 classroom. 6760 National Park Drive, Twentynine Palms.

Hi Desert Nature Museum. 760/369-7212 Exhibiting natural history, art and culture. 57116 Twentynine Palms Highway, Twentynine Palms.

J T & S Railroad Museum (760) 366-8879 Joshua Tree and Southern Railroad Museum claims several full-sized railroad cars, a railroad station building housing a Francis Moseley live steam model collection. 8901 Willow Lane, Joshua Tree.

Cross County RT66 – Get your kicks on Route 66. Your car window is the display case...drive the old abandoned "mother road" across San Bernardino County from Upland to the Colorado River. See "ghost stations," historic architecture, scenic landscapes and craters, WWII features, historic roadside attractions (abandoned/no more), "bottle tree farm," "shoe tree," museums (and much more). Contact California Historic Route 66 Association: <http://www.route66ca.org>; or email: [cahistoricrt66@aol.com](mailto:cahistoricrt66@aol.com). See story below.

Desert – Route 66 Area California Route 66 Museum 760/951-0436 East from Victorville drive east on 7th St. until it dead ends at National Trails Hwy, turn left one block to 16849 D Street (RT66). Victorville. Victor Valley Museum & Gallery 760/240-2111.

The County website suggests you can "discover your own backyard!" here—you'll need to go to find out what they mean. 11873 Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley. Mojave River Valley Museum 760/256-5452. Calico Early Man Site collection and much, much more local Native

copter from the Needles area by the BLM as a "cultural" object protected under the Antiquities Act (see future Glimpse story). "Meteorites are still among the best clues we have to the ancient events of the solar system," Clarke was quoted as saying by the

the train depot/Harvey House, Barstow.

Calico Early Man Archaeological Site 760/252-6000. See tools and trenches of ongoing archaeological excavation. Minneola Road, Yermo.

Calico Ghost Town & Lane House and Museum 760/254-2122, 760/254-3679. In original situ structures of a prominent historic mine town. Live burros, gun fight shows and garb worn by storekeepers harkens back to the wild West. Calico mine memorabilia displayed at museum. 36600 Ghost Town Road, Yermo.

Goffs School House 760/733-4482. Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association "Friends of the Mojave Road" here provide a

A county gem not run by the state. Visitor center display of local historic and prehistoric artifacts while waiting for tour of tapering dripping calcium salt formations, stalactites and stalagmites. North on Essex Road of I-40. East Mojave.

Kelso Depot – East Mojave National Preserve 760 252-6100. Portal to east Mojave heritage brought to you by the National Park Service. North on Kelbaker Road from the I-40. Kelso.

Twenty Mule Team Museum. 760/762-5810. History and relics of local borax mining. BORON

Goldstone Deep Space Communications Complex/NASA Tracking Station. 760/255-8688. History in the making...

complex. 93 Goldstone Road, Fort Irwin.

Trona Museums (760) 372-5222. Searles Valley Historical Society will enlighten you. Main Street boasts authentic historic structures and features late 1800s industrial compressor, History House, Old Guest House Museum (1920s), Railroad Museum and Caboose, Fire House Museum, a museum in the 60 year old Fox Theatre, Austin Hall historical marker, Society address at 13193 Main Street, Trona.

Centennial Celebration History Symposium, Friday, March 28, 2014, 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Trona High School Auditorium, Trona. For more information, see below.

A cultural heritage type museum in San Bernardino County not listed above??? Send your suggested additional listing(s) to [Ruth@RiverAHA.org](mailto:Ruth@RiverAHA.org).



**Roy Clarke in 1977 with the Old Woman Meteorite, the second largest meteorite discovered in the United States.**

American and historic. 270 East Virginia Way, Barstow.

Desert Discovery Center. Hands on government (BLM) portal to the Mojave Desert. See the Old Woman Meteorite kidnapped by heli-

Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. 760/252-6060. 831 Barstow Road, Barstow. Route 66 "Mother Road" Museum 760/255-1890. Halcyon days flash back with relics, photos, film. 681 N. First Ave at



**Mitchell Caverns**

huge dose of east Mojave heritage, a refuge for cultural resources and a library full of history in an old school house. Northeast on Goffs Road from I-40. 37198 Lanfair Road, Goffs.

Needles Museum. Local historic and prehistoric artifact and art collections; authentic Mojave Indian beads, dolls and pottery. Historic district. 929 Front Street, Needles.

Outer Limits

Mitchell Caverns Natural Preserve CLOSED!

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*Continued on Page 9*

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## County Wildlife Corner

Western Gray Squirrel: *Sciurus Griseus*

By Diane Dragotto Williams

Genuine forest-dwellers from sea level to tree line, Western Gray Squirrels are a federal "sensitive species of concern," and considered a "management indicator" in oak and pine forests. However, they have not been listed as threatened or endangered at



this time. Once one of the most abundant mammals in the west in the 1920's, urbanization, road-kill mortality, dis-

eases, and habitat loss due to the introduction of their eastern cousin, fox squirrels, have decimated many populations in Southern California. Naturally shy, they will tolerate people in residential areas, but have been hunted by humans.

Also known as silver-gray squirrels, *Sciurus Griseus* is actually an arboreal, diurnal, rodent that does not hibernate, and forages the forest floor for seeds and nuts. Also eating fungi, insects and fruit when food is scarce, they become carnivorous and can consume birds, eggs, frogs and small rodents! Primarily an acorn eater, the Western Gray, when acorns fall in autumn,



spends considerable time on the ground gathering and burying each acorn in a hole three to four inches deep. Scatterhoarders, they retrieve acorns by their sense of smell, and will carry the food to their family, or the acorn becomes a seedling for another tree.

Our largest, native tree squirrel, it weighs 14 to 35 ounces, and its body can be 18 to 24 inches in length. With silver, gunmetal-gray fur, with pure white on the underside, it may have flecks of black in its tail. Large ears, without tufts, turn reddish-brown at the back in the winter. Its foot-long, fluffy, tail helps it to balance

and steer as the squirrel jumps from tree to tree, as well as provides warmth on cold nights. It also aids as overhead cover from predators when spread out over its body. A complete head-to-tail molt takes place



in spring, and rump-to-head molt in the fall. In the last four years, these severe molts may have contributed to the inability to keep parasites from overtaking their populations so quickly. Tail hair is replaced in the spring when nestling mothers use these tail hairs to line birthing



nests.

Sometimes enlarging an old woodpecker or flicker hole for their brood den, they produce a litter of three to five young in late winter or spring. The den, called a dray, may be a leafy nest made of sticks far

out on the branches of a large tree, twenty feet high. Using this as a nest to raise their young, they may also occupy additional wholes in trees to hide caches of food, train their young, or other drays used as sleep-

Mountains, Wildhaven Ranch tried, unsuccessfully, to rehabilitate the Western Grays that were attacked by mange. But the disease caused by mites, spread too rapidly to be controlled. Where once thousands of Western Grays lived happily in the mountain communities, now an occasional sighting of a few are discovered below 5000 feet in elevation. After the catastrophic wildfires of 2003 and 2007, much of the oak trees were destroyed, impacting tree squirrel habitat, and food. The beautiful, bushy-tailed creature that amused us all, hanging upside down from birdfeeders to try to steal tidbits, and scurrying throughout our forests, has been horribly erased from our landscape.

The hard lesson we learned was to appreciate this wild one, not taking it for granted, and to protect it with as much wisdom and fervor as we



can muster. Perhaps, with proper disease control and wildlife management, one day, we will again hear the chatter of Western Grays, alive and well, in the forest around us!

*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](http://www.wildhavenranch.org) or call for tours at (909) 337-7389.*

ing platforms. Mating between December and June, the squirrels bear young that are extremely dependent on the parents, and don't leave the nest until March through August. A typical behavior of tree squirrels is to lie "spread-eagle" on the branches of trees to cool down in summer, or take a well-deserved nap from frenetic activity. Conspicuous and loquacious, they give a hoarse chirp, sounding alerts to other squirrels of impending danger or threats. Joining in on the signal, birds and squirrels, alike, enliven the woods with noise. The gray squirrel is not as quick and nimble as other tree squirrels, staying in the safety of trees to avert being the victim of coyote, fox, bobcat, hawks, owls and eagles.

In the San Bernardino

## Glimpse

from page eight

ple of events coming up in SBC that will feature power point presentations focusing on topics in specific subject areas of history and archaeology pertaining to San Bernardino County.

RT66 Corridor Management Plan Scoping (Barstow to the Colorado River), Tuesday February 25 in Barstow at the Harvey House Train Depot and Thursday February 27 in Needles at the High School Cafeteria. From 6 – 8 p.m. For web-based meetings, send an email to [cart66cmp@lardnerklein.com](mailto:cart66cmp@lardnerklein.com) with the words "CART 66 Web Meeting" in the subject line. These important scoping sessions help planners to understand issues that are important to those that live or work along the route. According to the announcement "Route 66 was listed on the 2008 World Monuments Watch to draw attention to the complex challenges of preserving not only an iconic cultural landscape, but an historic American experience."

Topics include: 1) Intrinsic qualities and their stewardship --reasonable approaches to the preservation and stewardship of Historic Route 66 and its context; 2) Visitor experience--opportunities for creating the kinds of physical enhancements needed to attract visitors to the area, tell the story of Route 66, and describe the context through which Route 66 travels; 3) The road itself -- how to ensure that visitors can safely travel the route, feel comfortable about getting out of their cars, and enjoy the nearby communities and landscapes; and 4) mar-

keting and heritage tourism development using heritage tourism providers, how to best manage the route as a heritage- and nature-based tourism destination.

"The California Historic Route 66 Corridor Management Plan (CMP) is part of an ongoing regional and national effort to "keep America's iconic, 2000-mile Main Street, once a symbol of adventure, from vanishing into the past." The California section from Needles to Barstow through the Mojave Desert is one of the most unique sections of the route.

"The California Historic Route 66 Association and the California Desert District of the Bureau of Land Management have teamed up with their local and state agency and non-governmental organization partners to help preserve the history of Route 66 through the desert and develop strategies for educating visitors from both nearby and afar about its significant cultural and natural landscape features. The effort will also look for ways to increase economic activity through enhanced recreation and heritage tourism opportunities for visitors to its gateway communities.

"A recent economic study by Rutgers University identified significant economic opportunities for small communities along Historic Route 66 through heritage tourism, but these 'exciting opportunities for advancing historic preservation and economic development on the Mother Road [will] require enhanced cooperation amongst the various states and entities involved with Route 66.' The purpose of this planning effort is to facilitate

the necessary cooperation to realize those economic benefits."

For more information about the corridor management visit California Historic Route 66 Association: <http://www.route66ca.org>; or email: [cahistoricrt66@aol.com](mailto:cahistoricrt66@aol.com); also you may contact Doran Sanchez at the BLM – Barstow Field Office 760.252.6030 or email him at [dasanche@blm.gov](mailto:dasanche@blm.gov)

Trona Centennial Celebration History Symposium, Friday, March 28,

2014, 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Trona High School Auditorium, Trona. Former Bureau of Land Management State Archaeologist and California Desert District Archaeologist, Russell Kaldenberg has organized this Trona Symposium celebrating 100 Years of History 1914-2014 with opening remarks to be provided by James Fairchild, Searles Valley Historical Society, Trona High School and School Superintendent David Olney. Various presentations

include evening keynote speakers James L. Fairchild speaking on "Early Mining at Searles Dry Lake" and Rod Jensen on "Searles Valley Minerals Operations." Other presentations throughout the day long event include "A History of Trona High School" by Mackenzie Wheeler, "The History of the Searles Valley Historical Society From Its Inception In 1979 Covering Its Properties, Collections And Its Expansion To Four Museums" by Margaret "Lit" Brush,

"Searles Valley's Ice Age Legacy" by Roger Mitchell; "Historical Bureau of Land Management Data Sets for Searles Valley" by Larry Vredenburg, "A History of Trona Road" by San Bernardino County Historian Roger Hatheway; "Company-Built Houses of Trona, California" by Marty Dickes; "Westend Chemical Company: Borax Smith's 2nd Borax Co." by Steve Beck; "Garden City: a Desert Surprise" by

*Continued on Page 10*

# Southern California Style New York And Wonderful

By Grace Bernal



The end of New York Fashion Week was focused on creativity and



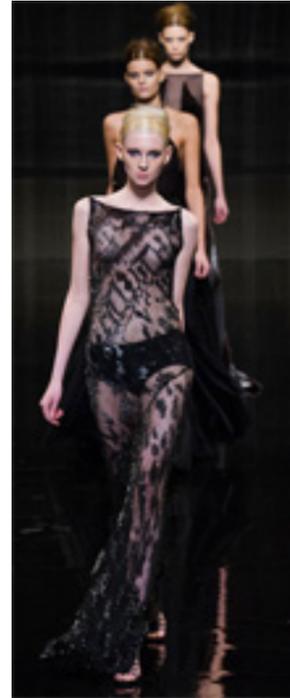
not so much on celebrities. The fashion presentations were creative and



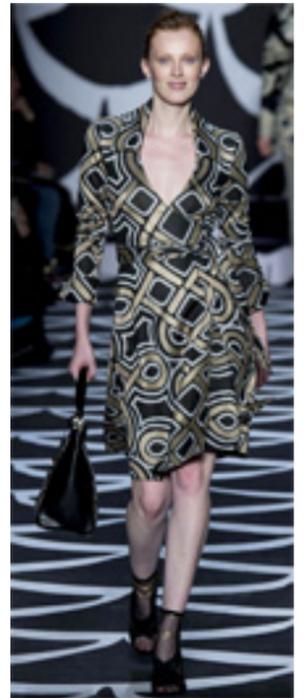
the clothes by designers were interesting and striking. The shape of the clothes was all about the woman. Balenciaga and Proenza took fashion to a more humanistic silhouette level with arched sleeves and shoulders

on coats. The art students from San Francisco were a reminder of Paris during the 70s era. Donna Karan celebrated the woman's body and Mikael Kors turned it around with flowing styles. Another striking trend was the furry coat with outside fur. Many designers ended with gold.

Diane Von Furstenberg is one of my favorite designers and she came out with great golden dresses making it an ending that made you want to go to the Roman Vatican and do the Disco. New



York fashion week was all about the clothes and not a silly party filled with alcohol. All of the collections were filled with designer artistry. It was wonderful to watch on TV even from down here in California.



"I design for the woman who loves being a woman."

— Diane Von Furstenberg



## Glimpse from page 9

Liz Babcock; "West-end, California: The Plant, The Town and The People" by Pat and Tom Dunne; "Growing Up In Borosolay, California from 1950-1966"

by Bill Gossett; "Water Across the Desert: History of the Trona Water Line and its Effects on the Town of Trona" by Kish LaPierre; "Chicken Liquor and Other Trona Bootlegging Stories" by Cliff Walker; "Military Aircraft Incidents History Recognition and Me-

morialization in Death Valley, Panamint Valley, and Saline Valley" by Blair Davenport; and "The Epsom Salt Monorail" by Ivan Summers. Registraton cost is \$25.00 per person. Meals are on your own and are not included in the price of registration.

Lodging available in Ridgecrest. Camping facilities at Valley Wells, \$5 per night beginning Thursday night, March 27th. Great Falls Basin, a BLM location with a backdrop to the Argus Mountains and running water, in the vicinity of the Pinnacles Natu-

ral National Landmark is an alternative campground for those with four wheel drive vehicles (recommended) due to the sandy nature of the access at Great Falls Basin. More information available-- email Russell Kaldenberg at kaldenberg@machlink.com,

or mailto:kaldenberg@machlink.com.

Ruth Musser-Lopez may be reached at the San Bernardino County Archaeological Heritage Association (SBCoAHA) 760/885-9374 or Ruth@RiverAHA.org.

Rancho Las Flores  
from page 6  
The currently applicable specific plan calls for

the construction of 11 schools on 207 acres, 372 acres of recreation facilities, two mixed-

use town centers on 137 acres, public and civic buildings and a waste-water facility.

The project would retain an element of the historical nature of the property, with a portion of the residential neighborhoods being reserved for equestrian use and a 114-acre trail system built into the overall project as open space.

The massive subdivision would have three major points of access, including Rancho Road and State Routes 138 and 173, together with four lesser methods of ingress and egress, including the extensions of Summit Valley Road and Maple and Santa Fe avenues.

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