

Court Realignment Puts Presiding Judge At Odds With County's Lawyers

In September 2012, Judge Marsha Slough succeeded to what might have otherwise been considered the apex of her judicial career when she was elevated from the position of assistant presiding judge to replace Ronald M. Christianson as the presiding judge of the San Bernardino Superior Court.



Marsha Slough

achievement, while no doubt an honor and tribute to her and the esteem

she is held in by her fellow jurists, came at a most unfortunate juncture.

Even before the economic downturn of 2007, the court system in California was inadequately funded and San Bernardino County's courts were particularly lacking in both financial and human resources. When Slough became presid-

ing judge five years later, San Bernardino County had the most substantial shortfall of judges of any of California's 58 counties, with 91 jurists serving a population of over 2 million residents. That was 65 fewer than the 156 judges the state of California's Judicial Needs Assessment said San Bernardino County should have. As one of

those overworked judges, Slough was more than conscious of the massive caseloads and mounting backlog of cases she and other members of the bench were staggering under.

Immediately upon being chosen to fill the presiding position, Slough was buffeted by further cuts.

Judge Larry See P 6

Chino Hills Allows High Density Units At Butterfield



Timur Teciner

Over the strenuous opposition of nearby residents, the Chino Hills City Council last month opted to allow Overton Moore Properties to proceed with its high density apartment project on the east side of Butterfield Ranch Road.

The project will entail 331 apartment units on 16.5 acres. The project site is bordered on the north by the Heights Apartments complex, low density single residential homes to the south, medium density single residential homes to the west, and the 71 Freeway and Pinehurst Park, which Overton Moore is to develop as part of the project, to the east.

The property was formerly zoned service commercial and the project approval entailed a general plan amendment and a change of zoning to very high density residential. Overton Moore is involved primarily in the development of real estate for commercial purposes and acquired the property primarily because of its previous zoning. The conversion of the property to high intensity residential use is potentially as profitable for Overton Moore as developing it commercially.

According to city manager Konrad Bartlam, at the January 7 planning commission hearing for See P 2

At The County Seat Morris Era Ends As Davis Picks Up San Bernardino Scepter



Carey Davis

The city of San Bernardino made its tran-

sition from the eight year-long administration of Pat Morris to that of Carey Davis on Monday.

Davis was elected with the support of Morris, turning back the candidacy of former councilman Wendy McCammack, who for the last eight years was a Morris rival. McCammack was recalled from office in November, on

the same day she ironically qualified for the February mayoral runoff.

Under the stewardship of both Morris and McCammack, the county seat had not fared so well, having declared bankruptcy in 2012.

In another layer of irony, McCammack, a Republican, had been a supporter of the city's



Patrick Morris

employee unions, in particular the police and

fire bargaining units, despite her party affiliation, while Morris, a Democrat, had proven a leading advocate against generous union-negotiated city employee salary and benefit contracts, which he said had led to the city's economic decline and collapse.

Democrats are traditionally pro-union, while Republicans See P 2

County Ups Engineering Firm's Fees On Perchlorate Cleanup

The county is increasing by another \$1.13 million the \$1.3 million it has already paid the environmental engineering consulting firm Geo-Logic Associates for assistance with regard to perchlorate contamination in northern Rialto.

Upon the recommendation of public works director Gerry Newcombe, the board of supervisors last week, in the words of New-



Jerry Newcombe

combe's official staff report, approved an amendment to a contract "with Geo-Logic See P 4

County To Shell Out \$3 Million To Measure Its Performance On Social Service Programs

The county will pay a sole-source vendor \$2.96 million to monitor its compliance with federal law in providing social services to its impoverished residents.

The county of San Bernardino Transitional Assistance Department administers the Cal Works, Cal Fresh, Medi-Cal, General Relief and Child Care programs.

CalWORKs provides temporary financial as-

sistance and employment related services to families with minor children. Homeless Assistance is included in that program.

The CalFresh program (previously Food Stamps) is a nutritional assistance program designed to help single people and families with little or no income to buy food.

The Medi-Cal program pays for health



Nancy Swanson

care for certain needy residents of California, including public assistance recipients. See P 2

Former Supervisor Jon Mikels Lionized At Upland Memorial Service

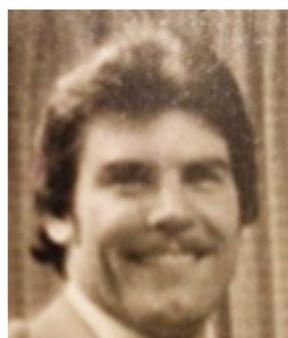
Family, friends, associates and acquaintances participated in a remembrance for former San Bernardino County Supervisor Jon Mikels at the Upland Brethren in Christ Church on March 1.

Mikels passed away on December 31.

More than a hundred attended the memorial service, which was held at the house of worship

in Upland where Mikels married Marjorie Mussler four decades ago.

Marjorie Mikels and her three children with Jon - Angela Dunning, Jessica Appelgren and Amanda Mikels Vigdal - offered their vision of their husband and father, panegyricizing him as a community leader who had risen to the challenge of guiding an explosively growing community in



Jon Mikels

the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s and early 2000s.

Jon Mikels was a

member of the charter Rancho Cucamonga City Council when that city formed in 1977. At the age of 30, he placed fifth in a field of 36 candidates. He was later selected by his council colleagues in 1982 to serve as mayor. In 1986, he challenged and defeated incumbent Second District Supervisor Cal McElwain.

Mikels made his mark as chairman of the board

of supervisors and as chair of the South Coast Air Quality Management District. He took the lead with respect to several regional planning issues, having co-sponsored the effort to approve Measure I, which imposed a half-cent countywide sales tax to pay for traffic improvements. He also sought to protect the right-of-way for what was then called See P 9

Davis Now Mayor In SB *from front page*

take a generally anti-union stance.

On his first day in office, which entailed a city council meeting following his inaugural, Davis plunged headfirst into the political fray, as the council took up his recommendation that the city create a committee to specify municipal charter changes.

Davis is looking toward changes in the city charter which lock in an-

nual city employee salary raises. Those charter changes must be ratified by city voters and need to be placed upon the ballot. Davis hopes those proposals could come before voters as early as November.

The vote on the creation of the panel was deferred until a special meeting March 11, after the city attorney's office pointed out that the charter review body cannot be formed as a commission without a vote of the

city's residents. Rather, it appears the council on March 11 will reconsider the matter by determining whether to create the task force as a committee.

Councilman John Valdivia, one of the few remaining Morris rivals on the council, also sought to have the format and composition of the panel reconsidered. Davis had proposed having the council appoint representatives from the business community,

city staff and citizens at large, along with a hired municipal charter "specialist."

Valdivia indicated he wants the committee to have members appointed to it at least partially on the basis of their residency or affiliation with the city's wards.

On Monday, the two other newest members of the city council, Benito Barrios and Henry Nickel, were sworn in.

Chino Hills Okays High Density Project *from front page*

the project, seventeen members of the community commented on the project, one speaking in favor of it and sixteen expressing concerns or in opposition. Bartlam conceded that community concerns included the project representing an overconcentration of multifamily residential development within the southern portion of the city, that the proj-

ect was too dense and did not comply with the Chino Hills Development Code, that there is already significant traffic on adjacent roadways, that the project would add students to the nearby already overcrowded schools, that there was inadequate on-site parking that would lead to overflow parking into the park site and into adjacent neighborhoods, that noise impacts would be onerous, that the project would result in decreased property values,

and the development of the property would have effects on privacy.

But Bartlam said "The California Department of Housing and Community Development allows cities to satisfy their Regional Housing Needs Assessment requirements by rezoning properties to a very high density, which in metropolitan areas such as southwestern San Bernardino County is a density of at least 30 dwelling units per acre."

As approved, the de-

velopment will consist of 18 buildings of 1 - 3 bedroom units. A new public street is proposed off of Butterfield Ranch Road, which will serve as the main access for the apartment development and the public park.

Gross density of the project is 20 units per acre, and net density exclusive of the 1.03 acre street and the 1.10 acre drainage channel is 23 units per acre.

The city council unanimously approved the project, pursuant to

Bartlam's recommendation, in so doing making what is called a negative declaration, that is, asserting that no unmitigated impacts to the community will come about as a consequence of the project.

One project opponent bitterly complained that the council's action "proves that the needs of special interests trump the voice of the citizens in Chino Hills."

The city council gave only "lip service" to its general plan and devel-

opment standards, he said.

Overton Moore Chief Executive Officer Timur Tecimer said the council's vote drew to a close two years of needless delays over the project.

\$3 Million Contract To Monitor County's Social Work *from front page*

The County General Relief (GR) program provides loan assistance to indigent individuals and families in temporary need of housing, food, and/or transportation. General Relief is the only TAD program that is totally funded, as well as administered, by the County of San Bernardino.

The Transitional Assistance Department operates a child care program funded by California Department of Social Services (CDSS). This program provides child care payments to providers on behalf of CalWORKs recipients in approved work or training programs, parents in child protective services cases, and the working poor.

Last week, at the recommendation of Nancy Swanson, the director of the county Transitional Assistance Department, the board of supervisors approved a contract with Exemplar Human Services, LLC "to provide customized automated performance management monitoring reports and services in the amount of \$2,961,999 for

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Continued on Page 3

Glimpse Of SBC's Past A Share Of The Kicks On Sexy Route 66 (Part I)

By Ruth Musser-Lopez

"An annual gain of 2400 jobs, \$90 million of income and \$37 million in tax revenues has been generated over the entire length of RT66 due to historic preservation efforts, economic studies by Rutgers University for the World Monument Fund has shown," Jim Klein of Lardner/Klein Landscape Architects, announced at a public scoping meeting held inside the Needles High School Cafeteria on Thursday, February 27.

Klein and his Virginia based environmental Landscape Architect firm were contracted by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to prepare a "Route 66 Corridor Management Plan." Three scoping meetings, one in Barstow, one in Needles and one on the world wide web, were held last week as a prelude to the preparation of the eagerly anticipated plan. This current effort in the eastern portion of San Bernardino County is to address the 153-mile segment of Route 66, mostly on BLM

land, that extends from the western city limits of Barstow, California to the Colorado River near Needles, California.

The public was given 30 days after this last scoping meeting to submit their comments and suggestions for inclusion in the Route 66 Corridor Management Plan to Lardner/Klein Landscape Architects, Attn: Route 66 Corridor Management Plan, 815 North Royal Street, Suite 200, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314 or by email at: cart66cmp@lardnerklein.com.

"Everyone Loves Route 66... but how do we get our share?" is the question that Klein addressed before the packed room that included Needles' Mayor Edward T. Paget and Needles City Manager Rick Daniels. Most of the Needles City Council members also showed along with a number of Needles Route 66 business owners including Needles historic Theater owner Linda Fitzpatrick, Needles Chamber of Commerce members, a number of retired Needles school teachers

and Needles residents. Joining them from other communities which are located along RT66 were Santa Monica Mayor Pam O'Connor, Ventura City Council Member Carl Morehouse, Dennis and JoAnne Casebier of the Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association, Ed Dietl of the Historical Preservation Association of Rancho Cucamonga. Also present was Glen Duncan, president of the California Historic Route 66 Association, a partner organization in the planning effort and a person who called himself an "accidental tourist," Donald M. Scott, who reportedly learned about the meeting while traveling as a tourist through town that day.

Phil Thomason of Thomason and Associates, who has worked for the National Park Service writing National Register nominations between Chicago and Los Angeles, has been brought in on the team of contractors. Thomason briefed the audience on the historical significance of the route. Euro-Americans historically referred to the route as

the 35th parallel trans-continental route. Over time, he said, there have been various alignments of that route which were used for various purposes including an animal trail, a Mojave foot path, a wagon road, a railroad and then as an automobile route. Route 66 alone has been altered and has at least 3 different alignments in various locations in the study area.

"We got a sense that everyone loves Route 66 back in November when we were here on the guided bus tour when we saw the various resources along the route between Barstow and Needles" Klein said. "The economic benefits from Route 66 improvements will come by actively engaging in resources, working carefully with visitor services, caring about what visitors see and the entire travel experience including cafés with refreshments."

He explained that the RT66 Corridor Management Plan will "spell out the attractions" using both historic and recent photographs people have taken along the route. Some of the compo-

nents of the plan will include "public outreach," "stewardship," "enhancing the visitor experience," "maintaining the road," "attracting visitors" for example using the Chamber of Commerce and with potential support from the World Monuments Fund.

Klein explained once again that "the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the lead agency since 98% of Route 66 is on BLM land. As the property owner, the BLM is the responsible contracting agency and Lardner/Klein is their contractor whose team was hired to partner with the Historic Route 66 Association to develop the plan. The county of San Bernardino, the cities of Needles and Barstow, CalTrans, all have a piece of the road and are also involved."

Klein said that the National Park Service has an interest in the road's historic preservation and its listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic linear corridor with roadside attractions along with a backdrop of scenic landscape vistas worthy of being protected. Route

66 enthusiasts have been involved in the planning effort and the partnership between the agencies and the public has really been a grass roots effort to preserve what remains of the road.

According to Klein, the plan will be developed over a series of web based meetings and at the end of this planning process it is anticipated that a National Scenic Byway designation will be the result, based upon the route's historic, cultural, natural scenic attributes. Four of the eight states through which the road runs--Illinois, Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico--have gone through the planning process. "Missouri is currently developing its plan, Kansas has a small piece, leaving only Texas and California to complete theirs," he explained.

Being sought were "ideas and thoughts about what are the important things and experiences along Route 66," he said. "What is so special about it? What resources along the route are of greatest interest? and why? What are the concerns? How can

Continued on Page 5

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Contract To Monitor Social Work from page 2

the total contract period of March 1, 2014 through February 28, 2017."

Swanson said Exemplar will provide "analytic performance management services," which she described as a "web-based subscription service" that will give her department "the necessary tools to enhance overall performance in order to meet mandated program requirements and improve service delivery and accuracy of benefits provided to eligible residents of San Bernardino County. The reports provide work lists for specific categories, caseload activities, and statistics that show key ratios related to specific operations at all lev-

els of the organization. This information allows executive staff, managers, supervisors, and line staff to monitor performance and manage daily caseload activities. In an effort to meet mandated performance standards, the Transitional Assistance Department must have a reliable system to effectively monitor mandated program requirements, including timely processing of status reports, redeterminations of eligibility, and various other caseload activities related to administration of the programs."

Swanson continued, "The Transitional Assistance Department utilizes the Statewide Automated Welfare System (C-IV) eligibility system to manage caseloads and associated tasks. However, C-IV is not currently programmed to

provide the Transitional Assistance Department with reports necessary to effectively monitor performance and manage workload activities and productivity. Therefore, the Transitional Assistance Department, as a C-IV county, has had to purchase these services from another vendor. Exemplar is the only vendor currently providing these services in California."

According to Swanson, "Exemplar specializes in providing analytical services to public assistance, Welfare to Work, and human services agencies nationwide to monitor and analyze key elements of performance."

County spokesman David Wert told the *Sentinel* Exemplar Human Services will "measure the performance of em-

ployees who process these benefits. All of the various programs are federal programs the county is required to carry out at the local level. Along with providing the county with the funds for the benefits, the federal government requires that the county processing of the recipients and management of the programs be maintained at a certain level. The county does not have a way to measure this performance in giving out these benefits. This will allow the federal government to measure the county's performance in administering these programs and will provide the federal government with a report to show how well the county is managing these federal mandates."



County Extends Engineering Firm's Contract For Perchlorate Cleanup from front page

Associates to provide continuing and additional maintenance and operations support for the perchlorate and volatile organic compound groundwater treatment system at city of Rialto Well No. 3, in the amount of \$1,131,550, increasing the total contract amount from \$1,299,342 to \$2,430,892, for the contract period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016."

Geo-Logic's work is related to activities at the former Broco facility, which the county purchased two decades ago and included as part of the operations at its Mid Valley Landfill.

In the late 1990s, a plume of contaminants containing perchlorate was found to be migrating through the local water table. It is believed that five corporate entities – Pyro Spectaculars, Ken Thompson Inc., Chung Ming Wong, BF Goodrich, and Emhart Industries – were engaged in manufacturing activities that resulted in the accumulation and release of the perchlorate.

Water agency officials, state officials and federal officials believe the county of San Bernardino may have engaged in activity that exacerbated the perchlorate problem.

The county runs the Mid-Valley Landfill in north Rialto.

Officials with the Rialto-based West Valley Water District and their lawyers have alleged that San Bernardino County razed and buried a hazardous waste-disposal facility at the site, an act those officials maintain was not only illegal but has worsened the contamination of the groundwater below Rialto.

Broco Inc. maintained the hazardous-waste disposal operation in northern Rialto from the mid-1960s until the late 1980s. The county purchased the property in 1994 and used it in the expansion of the Mid-

Valley Sanitary Landfill.

According to attorney Barry Groveman, who represents the West Valley Water District, it appears the county simply knocked the hazardous waste facility down and spread the debris around before burying it. That action was against the law, Groveman said.

Groveman said the county was in violation of state hazardous waste handling regulations and the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

Burying hazardous waste and storing it without a permit is illegal.

In the area around the Broco site, Pyro Spectaculars, Ken Thompson Inc., Chung Ming Wong, BF Goodrich and Emhart Industries had operations that were ongoing in the 1940s, 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. Public health officials have identified that area as the origin of the plume of perchlorate.

Perchlorate is a product used in the manufacture of both fireworks and ordnance. In very minute quantities perchlorate can wreak havoc on the thyroid gland.

The site has been designated by the Environmental Protection Agency as one of its Superfund sites, which makes federal funding for the remediation available but also carries with it a requirement that the parties responsible for the contamination assist in the effort. Simultaneously, the EPA will apply the Superfund money toward the remediation. Eventually, if any of the parties deemed responsible for the contamination refuse to sponsor or otherwise pay for a share of the remediation, the EPA will sue and under federal law, any party proven responsible will be required to pay triple the cost of that portion of the clean up for which it was the contaminating party.

The ability to impose triple damages serves as an incentive for the responsible entities to undertake the clean-up on their own or participate in funding an EPA-sponsored remediation.

Previously, the city of Rialto sued BF Goodrich over the contamination issue. Rialto dropped that lawsuit after the company agreed to undertake a remediation effort. BF Goodrich did pay a total of \$4 million – \$1 million each to the cities of Fontana, Rialto and Colton as well as to the West Valley Water District. That money was used to treat specific wells that were producing perchlorate-laden water but did not redress the underlying problems in the aquifer. BF Goodrich, like the other companies, will yet likely be on the hook for millions of dollars more in decontamination efforts.

An EPA-designed program of remediation, consisting of contaminated water being pumped out of the ground to then be treated and distributed to water districts, is underway. It will likely take two decades or more for the perchlorate levels to be reduced to acceptable limits.

Rialto officials had initially resisted the call to have the area declared a Superfund site, largely because doing so could have a deleterious impact on property values in the area. As the expense of completing a remediation of the

problem has been driven home to city officials, it is now accepted that the Superfund designation is the only realistic way of coming to terms with the problem.

The county of San Bernardino, nevertheless, has committed several million dollars to a court battle to obtain a finding that it is not responsible for the contamination.

In May 2009, then-county counsel Ruth Stringer convinced the county board of supervisors to retain the law firm of Gallagher & Gallagher at an original cost of \$710,000. The legal services Gallagher & Gallagher was to provide pertained to allegations against the county for perchlorate contamination in connection with particular matters that fall outside of the defense work covered by the county's insurance. Gallagher & Gallagher currently represents the county in connection with the federal and state court litigation and federal and state agencies' investigations of the perchlorate groundwater contamination in the Rialto-Colton Basin. Records show that so far the county has paid Gallagher & Gallagher a total of \$2,325,000 and that another law firm,

Price Postel & Parma has been paid \$4 million by the county for its work with regard to perchlorate contamination litigation.

According to Newcombe, "Amending this contract allows for the continuation of certain services associated with the replacement of media, such as resin and activated carbon filters, and laboratory analysis of the groundwater treatment system samples at the perchlorate and volatile organic compound (VOC) treatment system at City of Rialto Well No. 3, through years two and three of the contract. In addition, this amendment includes laboratory analysis of the groundwater treatment system samples from the first year of the contract term to continue through years two and three, and for additional services for the repair and replacement of miscellaneous groundwater treatment system equipment, as needed, to maintain operation of the system for the remainder of the contract term."

Newcombe said the county is working in cooperation with Santa Ana Region Water Quality Control Board and the Department of Public Health to remediate the circumstance at the

city of Rialto Well No. 3, "thus reducing the long term financial liability of the county. This amendment will ensure the county continues to meet its obligations under state-mandated Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R8-2004-0072 and the Department of Public Health permit for perchlorate and VOC related impacts to the groundwater from city of Rialto Well No. 3.

On June 25, 2013 the board of supervisors approved a sole source contract with Geologic Associates (GLA), for a three-year term to provide consulting services to conduct maintenance and operations support, groundwater monitoring and reporting related to perchlorate and VOC impacts to groundwater in the vicinity of the landfill, and to provide review and oversight of the perchlorate and VOC removal by the groundwater treatment system at city of Rialto Well No. 3.

Newcombe told the board of supervisors, "Costs approved by amendment consist of the following: two resin replacements per year with an average cost of \$119,400 per replacement; and two granular

Continued on Page 5

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Glimpse from page

3 the important things be protected? How can we preserve and enhance special qualities or attributes? How must we support visiting travelers by telling the story of the Route 66? How will Route 66 be managed over time to sustain its resources 10 years from now...say until 2024 and beyond?"

Quite a few people had something to say, particularly about the points of interest around Needles. Those comments will be covered in a follow up article. A few suggestions were made about Route 66 in general: collaborative groups should be formed; the hazards of old wooden trestle bridge crossings should be a priority; not enough intensive on the ground cultural survey of the road has been completed to know what is really there--particularly the prehistoric remains; the relationship between RT66 and its predecessor alignments should be addressed in detail; and more support from San Bernardino County

is needed in the permitting process and in tax incentives to help private individuals and organizations to preserve resources in RT66 roadside museums.

ZachNews Service reported that earlier in the day on a special tour of the El Garces Harvey House in Needles, Ed Deitl suggested that a local landmark program be instituted so that each point of interest along the route is accurately marked for visitors.

BLM Consultant Phil Thomason, highlighted a few of the various locations along the route in the Corridor Management Plan project area as examples of how the planning process might work for those sites.

What follows is a list of points of interest along Route 66 east from the east side of Barstow to Ludlow. A very brief description, though not a comprehensive history, is provided for each and this is just for starters. A subsequent Glimpse article will pick up at Essex and continue eastbound. The following sources were used to supplement my own

material but I am sure there is much more to be learned: the 3rd Edition of the EZ66 Guide for Route 66 Travelers by Jerry McClanahan, the Historic Route 66 Association website at www.Historic66.com and some descriptions distributed by the Route 66 Mother Road Museum which is located in the Historic Harvey House at 681 N. First Avenue in Barstow—refer to www.route66museum.org or contact 760-255-1890, BarstowMuseum@yahoo.com. Those resources also provide location information as well.

Nebo Street Exit of I-40, turn north. The cordoned U. S. Marine Base includes the portion of Route 66 between Barstow and Nebo Street Exit. But between Nebo Street and Daggett on Route 66 are a series of dips to bounce up and down over. The dips make for a thrilling ride on the back of a Harley.

Daggett (See Glimpse 12-13-2013 for more detailed information). Originally a milling town for the silver mines in the Calico Mountains. Several alignments of

Route 66 are conspicuous due to the age of the structures on the par-



Buildings from the late 19th and early 20th Century still stand in Ludlow, above and below.



ticular alignment. 1880s Alf blacksmith shop/Daggett Garage, Stone Hotel where Death Valley Scotty and Wyatt Earp are reported to have stayed, the Desert Market opened in 1908 as Ryerson's General Store, the 1926 Visitor Center, the 1950s inspection station and several now closed cafes, service stations and stores provide a spectrum of history.

The Daggett Agricultural Inspection Station seen on Route 66 and while still standing, has long been shuttered.

Newberry Springs. Sitting on the bed of the large Pleistocene era Lake Manix or the smaller Troy Dry Lake for the Holocene era, the water table is close to the surface here thus affording residents with lakes and ponds made simply by digging a hole. During the days of steam engine locomotive, the Santa Fe Railroad obtained water here which was transported by a train of 20 tank cars to supply the water tanks at other steam engine water stops across the desert to the east. Cliff House Resort with a large concrete swimming pool was the only pool between Barstow and Needles on Route 66.

The Bagdad Café is the site of the cult classic film of the same name. The café is actually located on the east end of Newberry, not in Bagdad. The café is currently in operation and attracts Route 66 enthusiasts as well as the cult

movie fans.

Whiting Brothers "ghost station." Once a living, thriving gas station, now abandoned located just east of the Bagdad Café.

Pisgah Crater. A historic cinder mine is operated by the Twin Mountain Rock Company. The crater area was visited prehistorically by Native Americans who lived at nearby Lavic Lake to the south.

Ludlow. "Googie" style architecture at the Ludlow Café/Coffee Shop, angled stain glass window and a display of old mining carts in front is just some of the historic visuals at Ludlow. A marker here commemorates a 1963 "Atomic Age" plan to use 23 nuclear bombs to blast a path for the I-40 through the nearby mountains! The Murphy Bros Mercantile reinforced concrete building from the early 1900s is slowly but surely deteriorating. Note the words on the exterior wall in my circa 1980 photo: "Groceries, Meat Market, Liquors."

That's all for now, folks. To be continued next week.

Perchlorate Cleanup Engineering Contract from page 4

activated carbon change-

outs per year with an average cost of \$51,700 per change-out. In addition to media replace-

ment costs, this amendment includes a budget of \$75,000 per year to cover expenses to repair

or replace miscellaneous groundwater treatment equipment. Examples of such expenses are as

follows: replacement bag filters and ultra-violet unit bulbs (costing about \$50 to \$1,500 per order), electrical repairs required to service the system booster pump (originally costing about \$65,000), variable frequency drives (originally costing about \$25,000) and "CLA" valves (new cost about \$15,000), flow meters (new costs about \$3,500). Hence, replacement costs for such equipment may range from \$24,000 to \$65,000 per item which would consume most of the annual cost originally allocated for this task. This amendment accounts for a five percent annual increase in costs for equipment, media replacement and labor.

"Based upon the discussion above approximately \$995,000 (88%) of the amendment increase is attributed solely to media replacement and equipment repairs and replacement," Newcombe said.

"The term of the contract commenced on July 1, 2013 and will continue through June 30, 2016, unless extended pursuant to contract section 29 or terminated pursuant to contract Section 7, or as otherwise provided for in the contract."



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Court Realignment from front page

Allen, the assistant presiding judge, in late 2012 summed it up this way: "Our court has been operating on a shoestring budget for many years. Now the state is taking away the shoestrings."

Slough, Allen and then-court executive officer Stephen Nash huddled and came up with a painful but nonetheless necessary strategy to meet the challenge, which involved \$22 million in further state funding cuts for 2012-13 to be followed by another \$13 million in funding reductions in 2013-14. In a series of moves, Slough shut down the Chino Courthouse, which served residents in the southwestern portion of the county, the Needles Courthouse, which served the northeastern portion of the county, the Barstow Courthouse, serving the northernmost portions of the county and the Big Bear Courthouse, which served the San Bernardino Mountain Communities.

Those economies saddled county residents with an immense burden. Far flung San Bernardino County, which spans more than 20,000 square miles, is the largest county in the lower

48 states, with a land mass greater than the states of Delaware, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Connecticut combined.

The Joseph Campbell Courthouse in Victorville was the closest courthouse to most people living in the High Desert, and residents in the communities of Trona and Needles were obliged to make round trips of nearly 200 miles to obtain justice. After a massive protest, the Barstow Courthouse was opened one day each week, with a single judge there hearing cases.

A year-and-a-half into her tenure as presiding judge, Slough is on the verge of yet another response to the financial challenge to the county court system. This response is of such scope that it is being billed as a "realignment." The terms of the change are so sweeping and in the phraseology of some so "radical" that the move is one that has garnered virtually no support of attorneys, who are traditionally highly accommodating of the forum within which they must function.

While the general public is virtually unaware of the coming changes, Slough's tentative announcement of the pending changes last October sent shock waves through the le-

gal community. Echoing outrage grew into a deafening crescendo last month when Slough through her office gave official notice that the realignment would indeed go into effect in May.

The makeover will include transferring all civil cases countywide to the new San Bernardino Justice Center, an eleven story edifice with 40 courtrooms now in the final stages of completion. In addition, San Bernardino district criminal cases, now being heard in the San Bernardino Central Courthouse built in 1927, will be tried in the new San Bernardino Justice Center.

West Valley Superior Courthouse in Rancho Cucamonga, which currently is the venue for both civil and criminal cases originating on the west end of the county, will be devoted primarily to criminal cases, including those arising on the county's west end and other felony and misdemeanor cases from the county's central district which are currently routed to the Fontana Courthouse. A small portion of the criminal cases now heard in Fontana will be adjudicated in San Bernardino. At least temporarily, hearings on both civil and domestic violence restraining order matters will be heard

at the Rancho Cucamonga Courthouse.

The historic San Bernardino Courthouse will remain as the forum for the family law cases it currently hosts and will soon serve as the venue for the family law cases presently heard in Rancho Cucamonga.

The Fontana Courthouse will become the stage for all small claims, landlord tenant disputes and traffic/non-traffic infractions from the San Bernardino, Fontana and Rancho Cucamonga districts. The lion's share of criminal cases now being heard in Fontana will transfer to Rancho Cucamonga. A lesser number of the Fontana criminal cases will go to San Bernardino.

The Victorville Courthouse will remain a venue for High Desert family law cases.

David H. Ricks, the president-elect of the Western San Bernardino County Bar Association, spoke to the *Sentinel* in his capacity as a private attorney and citizen, making clear that he was not representing with his comments the Western San Bernardino County Bar Association, which he said has not officially committed to publicly opposing the realignment as an organization. Ricks said virtually every attorney he has discussed the realignment

with is adamantly opposed to it.

"I had a meeting with [then-county court executive officer] Stephen Nash and Judge Slough, who are the architects of this whole thing," Ricks said. "I asked point blank 'What is the financial benefit to be realized?' The presiding judge said in essence that there is none. That is not the purpose of this. It is a convenience maneuver to address the use of judges and court reporters. This is intended to consolidate the court clerk's office for efficiency purposes."

Ricks said, "Their position is this is not a matter of cost. It is a matter of convenience to the courts and the ability to move people around as well as the ideal with regard to the movement of prisoners. The Rancho Cucamonga Courthouse and the new San Bernardino Courts are situated atop holding facilities and they are designed for moving detainees in and around the courthouse. They have elevators that can go unmanned between floors and have hallways that are not exposed to the public or the judges. One justification for doing this is that in Fontana where there are currently a lot of criminal matters handled, the prisoners have to be walked with

bailiffs and sheriff's deputies as escorts. There is no secure hallway there to move prisoners. This is not going to result in any appreciable cost savings, nor did they do a study to see if cost saving would be obtained."

Ricks continued, "On the weekend in October before I learned about this, there was a meeting between Judge Slough and the western San Bernardino County judges. I talked with several of the other judges just as what was going to happen was announced. It was a surprise to them. There had been no information about it or discussion prior to that morning. There was no consultation with any bar organization or any local government agency. The cities did not know about this until it was announced and officially decided that it was going to be done [Board of supervisors chairwoman] Janice Rutherford did not know until it was announced. Members of the board of supervisors then had asked that the courts not to do this and were basically told it will happen and that is the way it is."

One of Ricks' predecessors as Western San Bernardino County Bar Association president, Jim Banks, told the *Sentinel*, "The only savings that result from realignment are saving administrative headaches allocating clerks, court reporters and other court personnel. The truth is that for every judge you need a clerk, usually a bailiff and often a court reporter, regardless of whether they are in one building or three. Civil court reporters are charged to the litigants. Some clerks and research attorneys may be more conveniently located among all of the judges in one building, but each of them will be on the court payroll whether they are sitting in San Bernardino, Rancho Cucamonga or Victorville. Realignment, therefore, is not a solution to the budget shortfall. It is little more than an attempt to make the court easier

Continued on Page 7

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Court Realign- ment from page 6

to manage. The problem is that while it makes court management a little bit easier and possibly a little bit cheaper, it has disastrous consequences for the public, the litigants and attorneys in Rancho Cucamonga and Victorville."

Banks continued, "The elderly, poor and other disadvantaged persons may not be able to get to court at all. Even if they can afford the transportation, the trip will be exhausting and they will be in a strange place, exhausted, frightened, weakened and confused. Fewer people will be able to afford to go to court because it will cost more for litigants due to travel time for witnesses, experts, attorneys and others."

Banks said the city of San Bernardino is not equipped to handle the influx of both civil litigants and jurors. "Jurors, from Needles to Chino Hills, will be expected to travel to San Bernardino, find a parking place because they're not furnished by the court, move their cars from time to time, walk several blocks through the streets of San Bernardino, sit and wait or serve, then hike back to their cars and drive back home. Presumably their outcry will be swift and loud. For that reason alone, realignment is a disastrous alternative."

While Banks said the realignment would hurt county residents, he pointed out that at least one public entity, the city of Rancho Cu-

camonga, would suffer significantly as a consequence of the concentration of criminal cases in the courthouse there.

Banks said the Rancho Cucamonga Courthouse will become "a magnet for criminals of every stripe imaginable. What is the prognosis for the beautiful Rancho Cucamonga Civic Center and its surrounding neighborhood? Most experts (Realtors, lawyers) agree that it will be turned into a campground for all sorts of accused criminals including gang members, drug dealers, child molesters, rapists, other violent offenders and their friends and relatives, all collected from Chino to Rialto and concentrated in one courthouse. Attorney offices will be replaced by bail bondsmen. The buildings and other improvements will be subjected to excessive vandalism and eventually fall into a state of disrepair. The civic center will be converted from a beautiful and peaceful environment to an ugly and dangerous neighborhood."

Sal Briguglio, who has worked as an attorney in San Bernardino County for more than three decades and has had an office in Rancho Cucamonga for most of that time, told the *Sentinel*, "I have multiple concerns, the first of which is how people without a vehicle are going to reasonably get to the new courthouse. We checked the bus system. To take a bus from Rancho Cucamonga, you have to take two busses. The first has 27 stops to

get you to the middle of Fontana. You then pick up a second bus, which after 31 more stops will take you into San Bernardino. You then have to walk a half mile to get to the courthouse. If you are coming from Chino or Chino Hills, you have to take four busses or you can take a bus to the MetroLink, which will dump you a half mile from the courthouse. If you live in Barstow and don't have a car, there is no bus service to Victorville. You have to hitchhike."

Briguglio said the concentration of civil cases in San Bernardino was going to precipitate a logistical nightmare for litigants, their lawyers and witnesses.

"The new court building has no public parking," Briguglio said. "It was built with only 200 parking spaces. They have not thought out what this means in practical terms. Where are the attorneys, litigants and jurors going to park? When you get three blocks past the courthouse you are in a high crime residential area. You have to leave your car there and hope it is there when you get back. To get to the courthouse you will then have to walk through a very rough neighborhood. You will not be able to take anything with you to protect yourself such as mace because you are not allowed to bring that into the courthouse. Safety accommodations have been made inside the building but the safety issues outside the courthouse have not been addressed."

Briguglio said the state and local officials are to be commended for having done something – in this case constructing the new courthouse – to overcome the shortcomings at the historic courthouse.

"I have been practicing law for 35 years and I can't remember a time when everyone was not complaining about the outdated and miserable conditions in what is called the historic courthouse," he said. "There is no air conditioning, no heating. The only air conditioning is opening windows when it gets too hot. The lighting is poor. The elevator dates back to the 1930s. The bathrooms are in less than standard condition. It is not compliant with Americans With Disabilities Act requirements. The whole thing needs to be torn down. I believe that is why the judiciary approached the state to provide the funds to build a new courthouse. That old building is not an appropriate place to be conducting trials. A new courthouse has been on the books for many years and we had been waiting for state funding, which came in."

Unfortunately, said Briguglio, the offsite accommodations for the new facility are vastly inadequate.

"If you are going to have 40 new courtrooms, then you need to provide for the needs of the public," he said. "No private sector developer could build an 11-story office building anywhere in the county of San Bernardino and get a permit to build with only 200 parking spaces. I do not know what went into the decision-making to set that up. I do know that there are going to be four empty courtrooms in the new building, which could be filled with operations that should be transferred over from the old courthouse, so they could just knock it down and turn the land where it is now into a parking lot."

Briguglio said he had not expressed his concerns directly to Slough,

indicating he felt doing so as a private attorney would be inappropriate. He said the sentiments of lawyers in that regard would be better provided through the collective forum of the San Bernardino County Bar or Western San Bernardino County Bar associations.

The Western San Bernardino County Bar Association was formed in the late 1950s by a group of lawyers in the Ontario, Chino and Upland area. The association's primary mission was to convince court officials of the need to provide a court on the west side of the county, an effort which successfully culminated in the construction of a courthouse in Ontario at Mountain Avenue and Sixth Street. That facility was later closed down and replaced by the courthouse in Rancho Cucamonga.

One attorney who asked that his name not be used uttered a sentiment similar to those of several of his professional colleagues when he told the *Sentinel* that closing out the civil division in Rancho Cucamonga would throw the west end of San Bernardino County "back into the dark ages."

Richard Anderson, who has been practicing law since 1968 and was the mayor of Upland from 1984 to 1992, told the *Sentinel*, "I have to tell you I am against what they are calling the realignment. I have yet to ascertain the purpose or what the benefit is to the community or the court system. There is absolutely no economic benefit that I can see. Initially, there was some discussion about how in these difficult economic times there was a need to bring about court efficiency and that the courts need to save money. But that is just not so with this. There is no way this will bring about economic benefit. We are still going to have the same judges and the same staffs. In fact we will have additional costs because of the need for so many people to travel. That this will bring about sav-

ings is a canard. I also see in this that justice will be denied here because people who live in the more remote areas of the county, because of the realignment, will have to travel greater distances. This will certainly put an undue burden on people who must go to court on family law matters or unlawful detainers to protect their property interests. I can't see a benefit, either to the administration of justice or to cost efficiency."

Anderson said he is joined by many other attorneys in his perception.

"That is the way I feel," he said. "I deal with many other attorneys in the civil arena and I can tell you that others agree with me. Sundry other attorneys have expressed the same thing and they are wondering 'Why are they doing this?'"

Dennis Stout, who was both the mayor of Rancho Cucamonga for eight years in the 1980s and San Bernardino County District Attorney for eight years in the 1990s and early 2000s, said the realignment is "a non-starter in terms of the better administration of justice or cost efficiency. All governmental entities are supposed to serve the people. What they have done with this, I am afraid, is totally ignore the needs of the public. This may make sense to people oriented around their own self needs, but it just bypasses the principle of why we have a justice system that is accessible to everyone. In order for the justice system – both the criminal justice system and the civil courts – to operate and operate fairly, it has to be done in a public way. That is why things are open to the public. It encourages people to participate. What this is going to do is put a hardship on everyone who either needs to participate or wants to participate. There may be some marginal savings to the courts in this, although I don't know that for a certainty. But this is going to transfer

Continued on Page 8



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Court Realign- ment

from page 7

the costs to members of the public and to other government agencies, for example police departments who will have to send their officers way out of their jurisdictions. This is going to impose costs on the sheriff's departments, the district attorney's office, the public defender and at least some of our county's cities. This isn't going to represent any savings in the long haul."

While some attorneys were willing to speak on the record, many were not. Some said it would be impolitic, unwise or poor form to be critical of the bench and the presiding judge in particular. Significantly, no attorneys speaking publicly or privately to the *Sentinel* supported the concept of realignment. The *Sentinel* was unable to locate a single currently serving judge willing to publicly comment on the pending move. All but one of those

judges, current and former, who did consent to speak with the *Sentinel* regarding the realignment did so only under a strict understanding of anonymity. All of those were uniformly opposed to the realignment. The *Sentinel's* survey of the bench was by no means exhaustive or scientific, but indicated widespread skepticism about the workability of the arrangement Judge Slough will be imposing in May. One confided that realignment would in short order prove to be "disastrous" and that Slough had been autocratic in devising the realignment strategy, and had not consulted with the bench in drawing it up. The *Sentinel* did learn, indirectly through Western San Bernardino County Bar Association President-elect David Ricks, that there was a judge who is supporting Slough's realignment. Ricks did not identify who that judge is.

"I can tell you without indicating who, be-

cause I have agreed not to share their identities, I have found one judge in favor of it," Ricks told the *Sentinel*. "That's it. The other ones I have had conversations with have not been in favor of the change. That is also true of bailiffs and the court clerks. Of the ones in Rancho Cucamonga, none are thrilled about the idea of going from Rancho Cucamonga to San Bernardino and making that daily commute to work."

The *Sentinel* located one former judge willing to weigh in on the realignment issue.

Gus Skropos was a Superior Court judge from 2000 until 2005. Prior to that he was mayor of Ontario from 1994 to 1998, as well as city councilman in that city for six years, and served as an appointed member of the county board of supervisors. He worked as a deputy prosecutor with the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office for 12 years.

Skropos said he con-

sidered the realignment ill-advised and an approach that reflected the degree to which the judiciary has lost touch with the citizenry it is supposed to serve.

"If this were the first effort to consolidate our courts I think we lawyers and the public at large would be more tolerant and understanding," Skropos said. "I remember the days when we had municipal courts before they were consolidated with the Superior Court. Municipal court judges were elected and had to live in the local community and as such were inclined to meet the local constituents' needs. Since the consolidation of the municipal courts, which no longer exist, with the Superior Court, we now have judges who no longer have to live within the county or the communities in which they serve and I see that as a defining moment in why we are now headed in this direction. Judges can, and many do, live elsewhere in the state

and I don't think judges are as well connected to their local constituency as they were two decades ago. This is not a huge problem, but I think there is a disconnect there. I know our judges work hard and are dedicated and sincere, but this particular decision is headed in the wrong direction, in my mind."

Skropos decried the move as one that will render justice hard to achieve for the common citizen.

"I can recall when we had courtrooms in Twin Peaks, Chino, Redlands, Needles and 29 Palms," Skropos said. "All of that has evaporated and it does a disservice to local residents. I think people understand that those courthouses were shuttered because we were experiencing tough times and our facilities needed to be streamlined and made more economical. But whereas with the first round of cuts and closures, court services continued to be

relatively accessible to the public and the legal community, that is no longer the case. Access to the courts and the dispensing of justice exists to serve the constituents, not the other way around. The public does not exist for the convenience of the courts. I understand these are difficult economic times. There has never really been a time when money was flowing. There are going to continue to be hard budgetary times. Civil courts, family law courts, small claims courts are very important to the community. Some people tend to think that the courts are just there for criminal matters. That is not the case. If this goes into effect, and I believe it will, people in very populated areas of our county, not just at the extreme ends but people living in the desert and the mountain communities are going to need to drive in excess of 100 miles in many cases on family law mat-

Continued on Page 9

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Mikels Remembrance *from front page*

the Highway 20 corridor and which is now the extension of the 210 Freeway from La Verne to San Bernardino.

Dunning, who is now an attorney working in San Francisco, said that as a child she had not realized the magnitude of the public issues her father was involved in. "All I knew as a kid growing up was I had a big, strong dad who was always there to protect us or scare us if we got out of line."

Dunning said her father "wasn't interested in being famous or being a politician." Rather, she said, he "had a vision. He saw what this community could be and he saw what the county could be if we worked together and actually thought about the future and how to plan ahead."

Marjorie Mikels credited him with instigating progressive action on the board of supervisors, even though he had not always initially embraced the ideas of his more liberal-minded constituents.

Like her daughters, Marjorie Mikels said her husband relished the role of being a "farmer." After he would return from work and take off his business suit, which she referred to as his professional "costume," she said he would delight in pruning the fruit trees on their property, many of which he had planted himself.

Among those paying their respects were Jeffrey King, who succeeded Mikels as mayor of Rancho Cucamonga and then went on to become a Superior Court judge and is now serving on the appellate court; former supervisor Dennis Hansberger; and Dennis Stout, who succeeded King as Rancho Cucamonga mayor and went on to become county district attorney.

Stout remembered Mikels as a "larger than life figure."

Perhaps the most poignant tribute to Mikels was made by his boyhood friend, Don Robertson, who first encountered Jon Mikels, he said, when Mikels was about nine years old and living in the Los Angeles County community of Herman Valley. He said that Mikels was highly competitive, having com-

mitted to memory all the defensive and offensive plays possible in a primitive toy football game set they played as youngsters. He said that Mikels was a star basketball player whose skill eclipsed that of another local basketball luminary, Jim Marsh, who went on to play at Pasadena City College, USC and with the Seattle Supersonics. Mikels' college and professional basketball aspirations were thwarted, Robertson said, by a vindictive former coach who had Mikels suspended from the high school athletic federation on the basis of his having not met residency requirements at the high school he had transferred to. Basketball would have diverted Mikels from his true calling, Robertson said, which was serving as an elected official.

"The NBA's loss was your gain," Robertson said

Robertson then recited two poems that took Jon Mikels as their topic.

The first was one written by Mikels' friend, Ron Evans, who grew up with Jon and later lived near Mikels in the community of Bandon, Oregon, where he had retired and ultimately passed into eternity.

Robertson declaimed:

*"We were not like minded, you and I
Almost polar opposites, truth be told...
I, in my desire for purposes beyond view,
Would in flights of fancy pass through reality's bounds
Often blurting out what to both of us was nonsense.
We were not like minded, you and I
Almost polar opposites, truth be told ...
You, so self assured in the sweep of your grasp
You, not trusting what could not be verified
Restrained by tangible matter
Beyond which we did not speak.
Yet both of us were amazed and speechless
And so we would often sit silently
Just glorying in the truth of now."*

Robertson then recited his own composition, Big Bad Jon.

It goes:

*"He stood tall and stout and strong
But one day he finally fell.
Friends once called him Big Bad Jon."*

*In the end, the weight of living would tell.
He liked to live in splendid isolation
But with arms spread wide to welcome a friend.
The visage of loved ones were his consolation
And their every need he did attend.
He once had been a political man
Who fought to make fairness abound.
One day he took a courageous stand
And a pack of crooks brought him down.
Three marvelous daughters he left behind
Who are jewels of achievement and grace.
A finer legacy one could never find
And they mourn he left in haste.
Jon trudged through his last years a lonely man.
The love of his life was gone.
It was a constant pain he could barely stand
But he carried on, smiling and strong.
Friends came together to say goodbye
In his chosen town, Bandon-by-the-Sea.
We joined with his family to laugh
And to cry and to celebrate
All that Big Jon loved to be."*

**Court Realign-
ment**
from page 8

ters, custody matters, property cases to access the courts. We have already shuttered five of our courthouses in the last decade. If this were just going to be an inconvenience for attorneys, there would probably not be a lot of sympathy for them with the public. But this will be a major strain on many of our residents who will have business before the court. I don't

envy the decision-makers who have to make these tough calls on the allocation of our public dollars, but I believe there needs to be a re-analysis of this decision. If there were substantial savings to be had, I think people would be a little more inclined to go along with this. But from what I understand, this is just a one or two percent savings at the most. In the larger scheme of things, I think there are better places to look to achieve that economy."

In response to a request for an interview, Slough told the *Sentinel* via email, "[O]ur county court system has historically been underfunded, and the cuts unfortunately hit us harder than it has in some of the better funded county courts. Our cuts went straight to the bone, as we did not have fat to trim! The closure of Needles, Big Bear and the almost complete closure of Barstow Court have clearly added stress to an already stressed court system.

"The decisions I and others of this court have been faced with have truly weighed heavily, not only on me, but on our court and court family as a whole," Slough continued. "Of course, these decisions have come at a steep price to our county citizens, and have not been made lightly. I do understand

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Continued on Page 11

San Bernardino County Coroner Reports

Coroner Case #701401794 – On 03/02/2014, at 10:36 PM, Colton Police Department officers responded to a single vehicle collision located at N. Rancho Ave and W. Johnston St, in the city of Colton. Officers found both occupants of the vehicle were ejected. The driver, Adriana Gonzales Iniguez, Age: 23 from Colton, was confirmed dead of her injuries at the scene. An autopsy will be conducted to determine the cause of death. The Colton Police Department is investigating the incident. [03042014 0620 EM]

Coroner case #701401818 – On 03/03/2014, at 5:07 PM, San Bernardino County Sheriff Department deputies were dispatched to Buena Vista Drive and Surrey Street, Yucca Valley, for the report of a two vehicle traffic collision. Upon arrival they found that Jacob Andrew Koval, a 27 year old resident of Yucca Valley, the sole occupant of a 2005 Suzuki, was traveling westbound on Buena Vista Drive, when he was struck by an unknown vehicle which left the scene. Paramedics responded and pronounced him dead at the scene. The San Bernardino County Sheriff Department is investigating the incident. [03042014 0030 EM]

Coroner case #701401768 – At about 5:00 PM on 03/01/2014, Richard Martinez, Jr., a 14 year old resident of San Bernardino, was a rear seat passenger in a sport utility vehicle travelling southbound along the 2700 block of Sierra Way in San Bernardino when it lost control and rolled over. Martinez sustained major injuries and was transported to Loma Linda University Medical Center emergency room where he was pronounced dead at 5:41 PM. The collision is under investigation by the San Bernardino Police Department. [03012014 2359 CN]

Coroner case #701401766 – At about 2:43 PM on 03/01/2014, Marissa Trujillo, a 7 year old resident of San Bernardino, was with her family parked at the side of the road in the Valley of the Falls when an oncoming vehicle struck her family's pick-up truck. Marissa and other family members standing outside the pick-up sustained serious injuries when caught between the vehicles. The injured were transported to Loma Linda University Medical Center emergency room, where Marissa was pronounced dead at 3:48 PM. The collision is under investigation by the California Highway Patrol. [03012014 2359 CN]

Coroner Case #701401763 – at 2:25 PM on 03/01/2014, Robert McCann, a 52 year old resident of Newberry Springs, was pronounced dead on the Interstate 15 after he lost control of his vehicle and struck the center divider. No other persons or vehicles were involved. The Victorville office of the California Highway Patrol is investigating this collision. [03012014 2309 CN]

Coroner Case #701401767 – at 3:45 PM on 03/01/2014, Robert Edwards, a 53-year-old resident of Lancaster, was driving a Dodge Stratus eastbound on Highway 138, near the Interstate 15, when he became unresponsive and veered off the roadway into an embankment and struck a tree. He was transported to Community Hospital of San Bernardino where he was pronounced dead in the emergency room at 4:46 PM. The San Bernardino office of the California Highway Patrol is investigating this collision. [03012014 CN 2304]

Coroner case #701401754 – On 03/01/2014 at approximately 3:07 AM, San Bernardino City Police and Fire responded to a "shots fired" call in the 1100 block of North G Street in San Bernardino. Darrick Terrell Moses, a 33 year old resident of San Bernardino, was found on the sidewalk/road deceased with trauma to the body. The San Bernardino Police Department is investigating this incident. [030114 1630 TC]

Coroner case # 701401753 – On 03/01/2014, at approx 3:35 AM, two vehicles collided head-on in the 10700 block of Balsam Avenue in Hesperia. One of the drivers involved was pronounced dead on-scene by paramedics. Once positive identification is made the name of the decedent will be released. The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, MAIT, is investigating the collision. [030114 1630 TC] NAME RELEASED Maria Zavala, a 44 year old resident of Hesperia (03012014 CN 1904)

Coroner case #701401732 – On 02/28/2014 at 10:45 AM Tobias Gonzalez Lezama, a 43 year old resident of Escondido, was driving a semi-truck with trailer, westbound on Interstate 10 overpass off ramp to the Interstate 215. The semi struck the overpass guard rail. The driver received traumatic injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene. The California Highway Patrol Inland Division (San Bernardino) is investigating this incident. [022814 1721 SY]

Coroner case #701401722 – On 02/27/2014, at 10:11PM, San Bernardino Police Department officers responded to a 911 call for a man who had been in a wheelchair that was struck by a SUV in the 1900 block of W. 20th Street in San Bernardino. Officers arrived and found a male adult with trauma to the upper body. The man was transported to Community Hospital San Bernardino where he was pronounced dead of his injuries at 11:03 PM. The name of the man will be released pending notification of the next of kin. San Bernardino Police Department is investigating the incident. [022814 0945 SY] Name released: John William Windley, a 38 year old resident of Rialto [022814 1351 SY]

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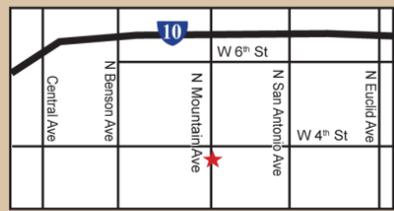
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Officers arrived and found a male adult with trauma to the upper body. The man was transported to Community Hospital San Bernardino where he was pronounced dead of his injuries at 11:03 PM. The name of the man will be released pending notification of the next of kin. San Bernardino Police Department is investigating the incident. [022814 0945 SY] Name released: John William Windley, a 38 year old resident of Rialto [022814 1351 SY]

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Court Realignment

from page 9

that the realignment plan which has prompted your contact is met with opposition, as have all of these very tough decisions.”

Judge Slough has extended the *Sentinel* an invitation to meet with her and the county court system's recently-hired executive officer, Christina Volkers. This will, Judge Slough said, allow her and Volkers to “discuss these issues and the backdrop of the past years with you. This will give us the opportunity to discuss the questions that you included in your email and also to brief you on our budget and operational difficulties which have led to the most difficult times this court has probably ever endured.” The *Sentinel*'s interview with Judge Slough and Volkers is scheduled for March 19.

In the meantime, concern is mounting that the course Slough has set for the court system will be one that will be extremely difficult to reverse, even after what critics call its multiple drawbacks manifest.

“This is going to be set in stone,” Ricks said. “There are no contingency plans to bring civil back to Rancho Cucamonga. No plans. If the budget changes it is more likely they would reopen the Barstow Courthouse before they do anything else. Under this court administration, it does not look like the resumption of civil cases in Rancho Cucamonga is going to happen. The difficulty in trying to reverse what will happen in May is

there won't be money in future budgets to move back or revert back. It will eat up \$1 million from the budget to make this change. No one thinks using the money that way is advisable other than the presiding judge. No one is able to stop it. The county will have to find more quarters for the DA. The county will have to rent office space for the DA in Rancho Cucamonga. The public defender has the same problem. This will have a dramatic effect on businesses around the courthouse, which support attorneys and civil clients from out of the area. They will not be there anymore.”

Ricks said that several civil and family law attorneys contemplated legal action to block the realignment, but that option was ultimately rejected.

“In 2012, Los Angeles County made modifications to its court system,” Ricks said. “Personal injury cases were consolidated downtown. They basically closed tons of courts. All civil courts in Pomona except two to handle business cases were shut down. A lawsuit was filed by lawyers, but it did not get anywhere. I talked to the firm that handled the lawsuit. They told me the lawsuit was essentially thrown out. We did not see filing a lawsuit or an injunction as worthwhile. If it was tried and defeated in another county, we could expect the same results here.”

It has widely circulated that there is a hidden impetus for the court realignment, one involving a former presiding judge. That impetus has nothing

Known as the Crawford's gray shrew, the *Notiosorex crawfordi* is also referred to as the desert shrew. It is found in northern Mexico and the southwestern United States. It is the only shrew known to live in the Mojave Desert. There have been numerous sightings of the creature in the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve.



It is a member of the order Soricomorpha and the family Soricidae. Crawford's gray shrew is among the smallest of desert mammals and one of the world's smallest homeotherms. Fully grown this shrew extends to little more than two inches long, half of which is the tail. They weigh in at no more than 5 to six grams, or .18 to .22 ounces.

The shrews are gray brown on top and most light gray below. It sports small but prominent, ears.

ing at all to do with court efficiency or economies of operation, according to that line of thinking. Rather, the goal is one of urban renewal, specifically the rejuvenation of the county seat, the city of San Bernardino.

Just this week, Patrick Morris retired as the mayor of San Bernardino. Prior to his mayoralty, Morris was a Superior Court judge, and acceded to the position of presiding judge. Morris's eight year tenure as San Bernardino mayor was marred by the city's 2012 filing for Chapter 9 bankruptcy protection.

The advent of the new courthouse in San Bernardino is seen as one of the first major developments in the city's effort toward financial recovery. By filling it with a majority of courtrooms devoted to civil rather than criminal cases, the courthouse can be utilized as a strategic

means of drawing a well-heeled clientele to downtown San Bernardino on a daily basis.

ment, ears.

Crawford's shrews are generally born in litters of three to six during the summer. Infants are the size of a honeybee, hairless and pink in color. They grow rapidly, reaching full size in about a month. Mothers nurse their young and then provide them with regurgitus as they mature.

By the fall, the shrews leave the nest and begin to forage on lizards, small mice, scorpions and arthropods. Shrews have accelerated metabolisms and can easily eat as much as or more than three-quarters of their body weight in food per day.

Because of their metabolisms, shrews are prone to overheating. This is doubly problematic for desert shrews as they normally do not have access to a ready water supply. A strategy they use to conserve water consists of finding shelters from the heat. Rather than construct their own burrows, they prepare themselves small nests in pack rat

houses or in cavities under dead agaves.

Desert shrews further conserve water by being nocturnal, unlike other shrews, which hunt day and night to avoid starvation. Because of its poor vision, the Crawford's gray shrew uses its finely attuned hearing and acute sense of smell to hunt. They are also make a practice of echolocation, similar to bats, using the resonance from their high-pitched squeaks to locate prey.

Shrews make a grue-



some habit of not killing their prey, but rendering them immobile by biting off their legs or partially crushing their heads so they can keep their victims hydrated and a source of liquids.

Another method the shrew uses to reduce water loss is to warm air to its body temperature before inhaling to thereby absorb the resultant water vapor through its

nasal membranes. When the exhaled air cools within its long snout, this creates condensation which the shrew also absorbs.

Despite its high active time metabolism, the desert shrew has the lowest resting metabolic rate of all shrew species.

Because of its voracious eating habits, Crawford's gray shrews expel copious amounts of nitrogenous waste. They reduce water loss from urinating by concentrating urea in the urine. The urine of a Crawford's shrew is four times more concentrated than that of a human.

Despite all of these adaptations, the desert shrew is victim of its own highly charged metabolism and is relatively short lived, dying off before it reaches the age of two. Moreover it is itself prey to nocturnal hunters, such as snakes and owls, although it does have a partial defense in this regard in that it emits a musky odor that makes it less appetizing to mammalian predators.

mayor has gone through this horrific financial debacle. This changeover that will be putting all of the county's civil courtrooms in downtown San Bernardino is a God-



Artists rendering of the soon-to-be-completed San Bernardino Courthouse

prime mover in this realignment,” one attorney said. “He was highly respected as a jurist. He was a mentor to many of the judges who are still on the bench. The city where he has just finished up two terms as

send for that community. Maybe this is just a coincidence. Others can draw their own conclusions, but I see the influence of Patrick Morris behind this.”

While stopping short of attributing the shape

of Slough's realignment to Morris's influence, Richard Anderson expressed the belief that an effort to improve the situation in San Bernardino was a factor in the new court operations policy.

“The only conceivable benefit to this is the urban renewal it represents for San Bernardino,” Anderson said. “What this is doing is throwing a bone to the city of San Bernardino in the form of trying to bring in some additional business. I think that is what they are trying to do here but it doesn't make sense. I know from experience that the parking situation around the existing much smaller courthouse is atrocious.”

It is a battle of wills at this point, Ricks said, and given her position of power and authority, Slough appears to

Continued on Page 12

California Style Rainy Days

By Grace Bernal



after the storm there was snow in San Bernardino County's mountains, and people were busy snowboarding and making snow angels. People were able to enjoy the weather and in style, too. The snow is probably

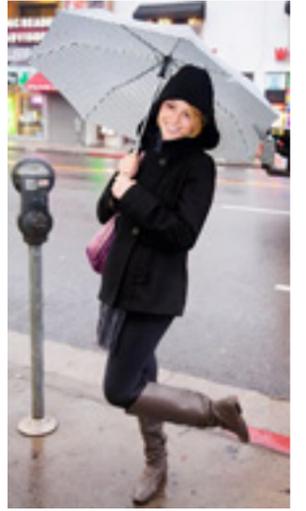


The monster pour-down we had last week added fashion to the Inland Empire. Everyone came out covered in coats, rain boots, riding boots, hoods, and even downcoats covering their bodices. It was amazing! The morning



going to melt and new ideas will be popping out soon, thanks to the fashion troops that continue to make style interesting with their sense of what looks good. I love it! Look out, spring is just around the corner and the weather will begin

to shift into color soon. Until then, follow your fashion attitude because that's what it's all about.



"I dress for the image. Not for myself, not for the public, not for fashion, not for men."-Marlene Dietrich



As always, if there's anything you need, I'd love to hear from you: Greygris@aol.com or visit my page I Love Your Style on Facebook Copyright Grace Bernal all rights reserved

Court Realignment from page 11

be destined to win, no matter what the consequences.

"When I met with her in November," Ricks related, "in an attempt to encourage her not to do this, I said, 'Look, we attorneys are businessmen and businesswomen and we have ideas about how to streamline things and save money. What if we can come together to come up with ideas to reduce costs to preserve

our courts where they are, so the West Valley area could be served locally rather than have civil courts transferred to San Bernardino? I as an attorney have lots of ideas.' At that point I was told it was not about budgetary issues and it was not going to make any difference. This was being done for the convenience of the court and the ability to manage their manpower more than anything else. The idea of savings was shot down. According to Judge Slough, it is

far more convenient for them to have the ability to cover for judges who may be sick or out for some other reason when you have them in the same location. For administrative purposes it is much more efficient when you have court reporters in the same location. You can pool court reporters to cover more courtrooms. Under the realignment, they are not firing anybody, they are not terminating anyone. From a cost standpoint, this is not making any difference. The state has

created a real problem for the courts. Because of the state's dictates the courts have only a one or two percent reserve available at any time, which means they have just enough money at any time to keep operating for two weeks or at most a month. The courts cannot operate at a deficit so they have to become much more efficient to avoid the potential losses. We understand that and are more than happy to work with the courts to reduce costs and increase efficiency and avoid unnecessary costs. The private sector is much more efficient and we could go through the courthouse and see where efficiencies could make big differences."

But Judge Slough has proven impervious to the entreaties to reconsider the realignment, Ricks said, and no one has the leverage to prevent it from occurring.

"Basically, the public does not at this point care and has not reacted," Ricks said. Janice Rutherford met with Judge

Slough and district attorney [Mike] Ramos met with her as well as someone from sheriff's office, all of whom encouraged her not to do this. During a walk-through of the new building, someone asked her not to do what she has said will come in May. They were told it is going to happen. Many people express anger about it in private and in confidence, but no one wants to oppose the presiding judge."

Once the move is made, both Ricks and Briguglio said, the public will awaken.

"For us attorneys, it will be 'Oh, well, we get paid anyway.'" Ricks said. "It will be something way different for someone who has to travel all that distance, a 200 or 300 mile round trip. It will dawn on people then."

Said Briguglio, "Everyone is going to have to adapt and the general public will have to deal with it as the rest of us are. My hope is as these problems arise there will be some flexibility and willingness to make adjustments for what is unexpected."



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