

County Pushing Daggett, Yermo & Newberry Springs CSD Mergers

The San Bernardino County Local Formation Commission has recommended that the Daggett Community Services District consolidate with two other nearby community service districts. This week the Local Agency Formation Commission reviewed a draft plan, the centerpiece of which is that the Daggett

Community Service District, the Yermo Community Services District and the Newberry Community Services District be merged to form one district.

Under that recommendation, the services for all three communities would be provided in common and consolidated.

The Local Agency Formation Commission staff has formulated a so-called "plan for service" that would make for consistent service levels, allow for the free distribution of resources between the entities and communities, streamline governance and management and reduce overall costs. A five-year projec-

tion shows the newly-formed district would remain fiscally solvent for at least half a decade, with no diminution of service levels in any of the three communities.

Daggett encompasses 26 square miles and is home to 487 residents. Newberry Springs covers 117 square miles and has 2,288 inhabit-

ants. Yermo, at 74 square miles, boasts a population of 1,629. Despite the size differences between the three communities, they have similar population densities. Daggett averages 18.7 people per square mile. Newberry Springs has 19.6 residents per square mile. Yermo has a per square mile density of 22.

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Colton Bans Council From Appointing Kin To City Commissions



Frank Gonzales

COLTON—In the immediate aftermath of Frank Gonzales's departure from the Colton City Council, the newly composed council last week enacted a host of ethics reforms that included a nepotism prohibition to prevent the council from appointing family members to city commissions.

Many Colton residents, and even Gonzales himself, saw in that action a slap at Gonzales, who over the course of all of or portions of six decades, two centuries and two millennia proved himself to be the most formidable political force in Colton.

Gonzales was first elected to the city council in 1966, the first of nine elections that he won. In all, he would run for office eleven times. Of the nine elections he won, six were for mayor and three were for city council. He was reelected to the city council in 1970. In 1974, he ran, successfully, for mayor. Every four years thereafter for the next four terms – 1978, 1983, 1986, and 1990, Gonzales was reelected mayor.

Along the way, he had developed a dependable political rivalry with another established Colton politician, councilman Abe Beltran.

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L.A. County Inmate Overflow Project Survives Change On Adelanto Council

ADELANTO—The Adelanto City Council this week stayed the course and gave a key second approval to LCS Holdings' plan to construct a 3,264-bed detention facility to house Los Angeles County's overflow inmate population.

That approval came on a 4-1 vote, the same margin the project was favored with on a vote

taken by the council on November 20. Two votes of approval, known as a first and second reading, were required to confirm project approval by the city. Since November 20, the council's make-up has changed substantially. Councilmen Charles Valvo and Steve Baisden, along with mayor Cari Thomas, were unsuccessful in their re-



Buck Johns

election bids on November 4. Thus, the council

meeting of November 19, which lasted into the wee hours of November 20, was the last official exercise of their elected authority before they left office this month. All three, along with councilman Ed Camargo, voted to approve the project. This Wednesday, December 10, Charley Glasper and John Woodward were sworn in to re-

place Valvo and Baisden, while Rich Kerr replaced Thomas.

There was some degree of drama when the item pertaining to the LCS Holdings project came before the council, since the possibility that two or even three of the newcomers might register votes opposite to their predecessors' votes existed, where-

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Two Private Eyes Linked To Dammeier Law Firm Arrested

The Orange County District Attorney's Office this week obtained and served arrest warrants for two private investigators who worked for a once-powerful but now defunct Upland-based police union law firm.

Christopher Joseph Lanzillo, 45, of Lake Arrowhead, and Scott Alan Impola, 46, of Canyon Lake, are each charged with two felony counts

of conspiracy to commit a crime of unlawful use of an electronic tracking device, one felony count of false imprisonment by deceit, and one felony count of conspiracy to commit a crime of falsely reporting crime to an agency. If convicted, Lanzillo and Impola face a maximum sentence of four years and four months in jail, as well as revocation of their private investiga-

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Barstow Joins County In Surrendering Its Prostitution Regulating Leverage

BARSTOW—Like the county of San Bernardino did before it, the city of Barstow is surrendering to the state of California the major tool it has at its disposal to crack down on the proliferation of prostitution.

Last week, the Barstow City Council voted 5-0 to give first reading to an amendment to the city ordinance relating to massage parlors and clinics. That amendment



Richard Harpole

essentially defers the city's regulatory reach to the California Massage Therapy Council. The California Legisla-

ture, through enactment of Assembly Bill 1147 on September 18, 2014, significantly revised this state law pertaining to massage parlors. Known as the Massage Therapy Act, the new state law routes regulation of massage parlors and clinics to the California Massage Therapy Council, which was created in 2008, to over-

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Hi-Desert Medical Center Enters Into Partnership With Tenet Healthcare

JOSHUA TREE—The Hi-Desert Memorial Health Care District board of directors on December 3 voted to enter into an affiliate relationship with Dallas, Texas-based Tenet Healthcare.

In response to falling revenues and continuous budget shortfalls, the board hired Jon Spees, the senior vice president of the Camden Group to serve as a consultant to

map out a strategy for achieving economic stability while continuing to provide adequate and comprehensive care for patients in Twentynine Palms, Joshua Tree, Yucca Valley and Morongo Valley, including the hiring of more medical care specialists. Spees' recommendation was that the hospital enter into a partnership with a large corporation that pos-

sesses the resources to help Hi-Desert Memorial achieve its goals.

the district received responses from Strategic Global Management and

net, a \$4.2 billion company, which has a working relationship with 81 hospitals nationwide, over 200 outpatient centers and 36,000 physicians.

Board member Joe Sullivan was particularly laudatory of Tenet's reach throughout the medical profession and its ability to attract physician specialists of all type.



After soliciting letters of intent from health care provision entities,

Tenet Health Ultimately, the board voted 5-0 in favor of Te-

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Daggett, Yermo, Newberry Merger

Within its confines, Daggett contains its own water company, which services an area beyond its borders, including several businesses and a few residences as well as Silver Valley High School, all located in Yermo.

The Yermo Water Company has long been troubled. Formerly owned by Donald Walker, the Yermo Water Company fell into severe disrepair early last decade, a situation which was exacerbated by Walker's departure to Florida, making it difficult for his company's customers to contact him.

As the absentee owner, Walker did not have a licensed operator available to operate the system. During the summer of 2006, the primary water tank serving the Yermo community's water system developed a leak and customers were without water for a week

in the small community near Barstow, where temperatures exceeded 100 degrees every day. The California Department of Health and the California Public Utilities Commission initiated an investigation into the matter in 2007.

A decision to pursue the appointment of a receiver was issued in May of 2009. A community-based prospective buyer surfaced and the receivership was suspended while it appeared that a sale of the system was possible. But after more than two years of negotiations, Walker refused to inform the prospective buyer how much he owed in back taxes and fines to the California Department of Health. As a result, the sale fell through. The receivership arrangement that took place in November 2012 was contested by Walker's family but was denied by the Superior Court on March 6, 2013. Beginning in November 2012, the Yermo Com-

munity Services District took over operation of the company's assets and in December 2013, arrangement for the Apple Valley Ranchos Water Company to purchase the Yermo Water Company in its entirety began. Preparations for that takeover are yet ongoing, as repairs to the water system are being carried out.

In its 2012-13 report, the San Bernardino County Grand Jury identified numerous shortcomings in the governance, accounting and financial management, and internal controls of the Newberry Springs Community Services District. The Local Agency Formation Commission detailed its staff to look into those issues and others pertaining to Yermo and Daggett. The upshot was a finding that it would behoove all three districts to merge and settle on management and leadership for the collective that is competent and efficient. At the very least, ac-

ording to commission staff, the Daggett Community Service District and Yermo Community Services District should come together to form one entity. Economies of scale, not to mention other advantages, make it logical that the Newberry Community Services District be brought in on the merger, according to the Local Agency Formation Commission.

There have been similar consolidation imperatives and consolidations carried out involving those communities in the past. In the 1960s Daggett's school district was forced into a shotgun marriage with the Barstow Unified School District. In 1978, the Daggett School District was able to reassert its independence, breaking away. But in that departure, Daggett had to forego assets and resources local residents felt rightfully belonged to Daggett and not Barstow.

Daggett and Yermo resisted the Local Agen-

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cy Formation Commission's push for them to merge five years ago.

While few of the residents in the Daggett, Newberry or Yermo communities look upon the pressure to merge favorably, they are subject to the authority of the Local Agency Formation Commission, which is putting each district through its paces in having to respond to the merger concept. The Local Agency Formation Commission will lay out the options outlined by

its staff and present them to the three communities and their residents. On January 21, the Local Agency Formation Commission will consider those plans/options.

For a significant number of residents, there is concern that the dictates from the county seat in San Bernardino some 70 miles away will impose on them a management and operation plan that will run roughshod over local control and in some cases, at least, result in services, including emergency services, being based at locations that will be more remote and not conducive to quick response or sensitive response.

Adelanto Approves New Detention Center Project

from front page

by the project would ultimately have been denied approval. The drama and tension mounted as the council chambers was filled to near capacity, mostly with residents and others opposed to the project, and 21 of the 24 people who addressed the council on the topic spoke out in opposition to it.

Ultimately, however, Glaspar, Woodard and Kerr voted in favor of the project, as did Camargo. Councilman Jermaine Wright, as on November 20, was the lone dissenting vote against the project.

Wednesday night's confirming vote in favor of LCS Holdings' proposal puts the city of Adelanto squarely be-

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Highland Growing Impatient With SCE

Highland City officials are growing increasingly impatient with Southern California Edison over a delay in the removal of a light pole in the public right-of-way on Greenspot Road near Boulder Avenue.

As part of its effort to widen the road to allow for three eastbound lanes, the city requested that Edison dispatch with the pole, in so doing paying the utility company's expenses. The pole, at press time, remains in place.

According to Highland Mayor Sam Racadio, who was formerly Highland city manager, "The Edison company is not responding like they should."

Chino Police Chief Retires

Chino Police Chief Miles Pruitt has moved into retirement after 31 years with the department.

Pruitt began with Chino P.D. in 1983 as a reserve police officer in the city. He was hired as a full-time patrolman in 1985. He eventually pro-

moted to sergeant, and in that rank served as a field supervisor, team leader on the SWAT team, watch commander and problem oriented policing team leader.

He became lieutenant in 2005. After two years in that billet he was promoted to captain in 2007. In 2009, when then-chief Stan Stewart retired, he was elevated to chief.

29 Palms Hires Basketball Coach As City Manager

TWENTYNINE PALMS—Former Twentynine Palms councilman and mayor Larry Bowden, who was also the Twentynine Palms High School basketball coach, has been chosen to serve as Twentynine Palms interim city manager.

Bowden was one of those considered for the city manager's spot in June when the city council sacked Joe Guzzetta. At that point the council decided to go with Andy Takata, the one-time town manager of Yucca Valley and city manager of Banning, who was then serving as interim city manager in Calexico.

In November, Takata

abruptly departed to become the chief of staff for San Bernardino County Second District Supervisor Janice Ruth-erford.

There is only limited prospect that Bowden will remain in the position for more than six months. The city council intends to recruit a permanent city manager, whom they hope to have in place no later than April.

Bowden was the city's parks and recreation department supervisor.

College President's Credentials Questioned

The academic credentials of recently-appointed San Bernardino Valley College President Gloria Fisher have come under question.

Fisher, who places the term doctor before her name and has served 18 months as interim president, had worked for 22 years as an administration of justice instructor at the college before being elevated to the interim position in June 2013.

According to Frank Peterson, an attorney and San Bernardino Valley College instructor who was on the college's hiring committee when Fisher was hired in 1991, he recommended against granting Fisher the tenure-track position at that time. After Peterson retired in 2006, he filed a lawsuit against the community college district in which he asserted that the San Joaquin College of Law from which Fisher obtained her juris doctor degree in 1986 was unaccredited. Peterson did not prevail in the case, which was aimed at disqualifying Fisher as an instructor.

Leonard Lopez, an assistant professor in the philosophy department, since this summer has questioned Fisher's credentials along the same lines laid out by Peterson in the context of her lack of qualification as a college president, a post traditionally held by an established educator with a Ph.D. Fisher does not have a bachelor's degree and she is not a member

of the California Bar.

A juris doctor degree is roughly the equivalent of a master's degree, which is generally considered a six year degree awarded after two years of study that follow the awarding of a four-year bachelor's degree. A juris doctor degree carries with it no requirement for the submission of a dissertation, as is required with a Ph.D.

Upon appointing Fisher as full college president on November 13, the college district board conferred upon her a doctorate stipend in addition to her annual salary of \$186,000. The board revisit that issue and reconfirmed Fisher's hiring last night.

County Housing Authority Refinances Loans

The San Bernardino County Housing Authority has moved to refinance the \$15.7 million arrangement it entered into with Bank of America last year for the 168-unit Andalusia Apartments in Victorville.

The housing authority's \$16 million loan agreement with Prudential Mortgage Capital Co. at an all-in rate of 4.02 percent supplants the existing \$9.7 million, 6.75 percent-rate loan and \$6 million line of credit with Bank of America.

The change was unanimously approved last week based on the recommendation of the county housing commission. The switch will result in savings of \$70,000 annually for the housing authority's account with regard to the Andalusia property.

The housing authority houses over 30,000 residents countywide. Some 9,100 vouchers issued to in-need residents cover almost \$70 million paid annually to the county's landlords, according to the county.

Yucaipa Forming Arts Foundation

The Yucaipa City Council has approved the formation of the Yucaipa Community Arts Foundation, which is

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

By Count Friedrich von Olsen



Some 4,100 feet in elevation below me and 25 miles distant, in the county seat at the very foot of the mountains here, a most interesting scenario is playing out. The dramatis personae are, in descending order, San Bernardino Mayor Carey Davis; his departing chief of staff, Mike McKinney; city manager Alan Parker; the city council, the most prominent of whom in the current scene is councilman Fred Shorrett, an erstwhile Davis political ally; and an assortment of lesser courtiers, courtesans and liegeman...

Davis is a political neophyte and naïf, if ever there was one. I do not dislike him for that, and actually, I am in favor of installing our political posts with non-politicians. I cannot resist liking Davis. He appeals to me on several levels. As an accountant by trade he is sensitive to the need for parsimony in the management of government. He has gamely taken on a formidable assignment with San Bernardino, mired in financial challenges, and I cannot help admiring his fortitude. What's more, he is a Republican, which elevates him in my estimation...

Yet, despite all these advantages, he has shown himself as something of a stumblebum when it comes

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

to be dedicated to raising operating funds for the Yucaipa Performing Arts Center.

Capital is needed for the facility's construction and subsequent operation, management and the "broader mission of enhancing the role of the arts in the community."

The foundation will be a non-profit 501 C (3).

The first order of business, according to a city staff report, is to establish and register the foundation, set up its financial structure, its budget and accounting system. Yucaipa Director of Community Development Paul Toomey estimated that it would cost roughly \$2,000 to jumpstart the effort by filing for non-profit status.

The city has already picked out a site for the performing arts center.

Supreme Court Petition Denied

The California Supreme Court this week denied a petition by defense attorney Stephen Larson to review Superior Court Judge

Michael Smith's rulings against dismissing criminal charges facing defendant Jeff Burum in the Colonies Lawsuit Settlement Public Corruption Prosecution on grounds of improper grand jury instruction and the withholding of exculpatory evidence.

Larson petitioned the Supreme Court on behalf of Burum after the 4th District Court of Appeals in Riverside rejected two writs Larson filed in October.

Last summer, Smith dismissed a central conspiracy charge against Burum and former county supervisor Paul Biane, former assistant assessor and sheriff's deputies union president Jim Erwin, and former Second District supervisory district chief of staff Mark Kirk, who are also charged in the case, on statute of limitations grounds. Smith allowed charges pertaining to the misappropriation of public funds and the provision of bribes to public officials to proceed in the case, which Larson had appealed.

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Colton Takes First Step In Prohibition On Nepotism from front page

Gonzales consistently bettered Beltran at the polls in those mayoral races, even as he served on the same council with Beltran for nearly two decades. Both had achieved prominence in Colton, a blue collar city where, long before most other cities in Southern California, the dormant Hispanic political giant had awoken.

But in 1994, George Fulp, a bombastic demagogue from Cleveland, Ohio who was a regional representative of Domino's Pizza living in Reche Canyon who had run and lost numerous times for a position on the Colton school board, challenged Gonzales. In doing so, Fulp counted upon Beltran making his standard run for mayor. Beltran did not disappoint. Fulp shrewdly convinced another Colton resident, Jesse Valdivia, to run for mayor as well, inducing Valdivia to toss his hat in the ring by buying him a pickup truck. Fulp's stratagem worked. With three Latino candidates on the ballot, the city's Hispanic vote was fragmented just enough for Fulp to eke out a razor-thin victory over Gonzales, who finished in second place.

That was seemingly the end of Gonzales's political career. But it came, in a very real way, at a fortuitous time for Gonzales. The Colton mayor's post from that point on seemed to have some sort of curse on it. Fulp, already in the throes of alcoholism when he won the seat, slid further into a besotted state. As the seeming king of Colton, he would on a regular basis drink himself into intoxication, spray himself with cologne to mask the tell-tale odor of his inebriation and drive around Colton in his Cadillac without fear of being arrested for driving under the influence, given his station as the city's mayor and the authority that implied over

the police department. His alcohol-fueled tirades, with residents on the street as well as at the city's council meetings, began to wear thin on the city's electorate and even many of his former political supporters. Two years after his election, he was ignominiously recalled from office.

Fulp, most certainly inadvertently, had saved Gonzales from himself and what was likely an untoward fate and the curse that had seemingly descended on the office of Colton mayor. In the same 1994 election that had sent Gonzales toward the door and pulled Fulp into office, Dennis Stout had been elected district attorney. Stout and the man he had appointed assistant district attorney, Dan Lough, came into office with an agenda to prosecute politicians in the county they considered corrupt. On that list were San Bernardino council members Ralph Hernandez and Valerie Pope-Ludlum and Colton politicians Abe Beltran and Frank Gonzales. As fate would have it, Gonzales dropped off Stout and Lough's radar screen by virtue of the fact that he had failed to achieve reelection. But Hernandez, Pope-Ludlum and Beltran were not so fortunate; indeed, Stout and Lough would prosecute or otherwise hound all three out of office. In the case of Beltran, Stout detailed a then-up and coming prosecutor in his office, Mike Ramos, to go after him. Beltran was charged with corruption in office in 1996, just as the election that year was approaching. As a result, Beltran was defeated by Kelly Chastain.

Fulp was succeeded by Karl Gaytan, Gaytan was forced from office along with two other sitting Colton council members, James Grimsby and Don Sanders, when he, Sanders, Grimsby and Beltran were named in a federal indictment relating to their having received bribes for voting to allow a company to place billboards along the I-10 Freeway. Gaytan was

succeeded as mayor by Betty Cook, who suffered a stroke within days of being chosen as mayor and died shortly thereafter. Cook was succeeded by councilwoman Deirdre Bennett, who invited her council ally Kelly Chastain to oppose her in her run for mayor as a ploy to ward off any other candidates. Chastain, in a development that shocked her as much as anyone, won that election. Chastain's victory resulted in a major break with Bennett, who two years later made a political return as a council member, in which role she became a major opponent/rival to the mayor. Chastain's mayoralty was marred in large measure by fiscal challenges facing the city, which was worsened by the economic downturn/recession of 2007. To avoid bankruptcy, the city was obliged to engage in massive layoffs in 2009 and 2010. Consequently, one of those forced to leave the city, community development director David Zamora, opposed Chastain in the 2010 election. In that election, Chastain was chased from office. Elected the same day as Zamora, after a political absence of 16 years, was Frank Gonzales, this time as a councilman.

The following year, the curse on the Colton mayoralty continued when the 56-year-old Zamora had a heart attack while driving home from City Hall for lunch. He suffered massive injuries in the resultant accident and died a few hours later. He was succeeded by his wife, Sarah, who was chosen by the city council during a fit of mourning over her husband. This year, she chose not to seek reelection when Gonzales announced his intention to run for mayor. In that election, Gonzales was opposed by former councilman Richard DeLa Rosa, who handily beat him, after every sitting member of the city council refused to endorse Gonzales and instead backed DeLaRosa.

While Gonzales was supported and admired by a portion of the Colton electorate, his 32 years in office in many ways had begun catch up with him.

One of the issues which Stout and Lough had intended to pursue back in the mid-1990s were reports of political patronage, cronyism and out-and-out quid-proquos at Colton City Hall, including reports that individuals had been rewarded with municipal posts in exchange for

political support when Gonzales had been mayor. This was backed with reports that an overwhelming number of Colton municipal employees were Gonzales's family members. One report, perhaps apocryphal or anecdotal, was that 32 of the city's employees were blood relations of Gonzales, his wife or were otherwise one of his in-laws. That report had never been substantiated with any documentation. Nevertheless, the city appeared to be suffering from a reputation that held the quality of city employees had been compromised by nepotism. That stigma was greatly attenuated by Gonzales's 16-year absence from the council, but upon his election as councilman in 2010, the insinuations resumed.

While Gonzales remained in office and as he campaigned for mayor earlier this year, the issue did not get much play officially. But in lighting quick action after Gonzales rode off into Colton's political sunset, an ethics reform measure was brought before the city council on December 2.

Ironically, DeLaRosa was one of the newly constituted council's members who opposed it. Also voting against

it was councilman Isaac Suchil and, of note, newly-elected councilwoman Summer Zamora Jorin, the daughter of David Zamora and Sarah Zamora.

Summer Zamora Jorin had served, while her mother was mayor, on the Colton Recreation and Parks Commission. She noted that had the anti-nepotism restriction been in place previously, she would have been barred from serving in what she said was a volunteer capacity. Jorin said she did not perceive there to be anything untoward with relatives and city employees serving on committees and commissions. She pushed for limiting the prohibition to family members living under the same roof and disallowing a council member from nominating his or her own relative to a city panel but not going beyond that. Jorin said volunteerism would be "discouraged. We're excluding groups from being part of our commissions. We're welcoming one group [and] we're discriminating against people, taking away their right to serve. We should embrace... and encourage them to give back their time and their

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Glimpse Of SBC's Past

Eugene Mueller - Upland Police Chief & County Sheriff

By Mark Gutglueck

Eugene Mueller was San Bernardino County's first and arguably only reformist sheriff.

an athletic scout and a booster.

In 1941, Mueller left Pasadena for Upland, where he had been of-

ernize and improve the department.

While in Upland, his children attended Chaffey High School. He created a quarterback's social club, which entailed Monday morning breakfast meetings of participants. He promoted youth sports programs such as Golden Gloves. As a scout for Stanford, he recruited three Chaffey High grid-iron standouts for the Stanford football team: Jim Vick, Jim Hayes and Don Lucas.

In 1950, Mueller ran for San Bernardino county sheriff against incumbent Jim Stocker and another challenger, former sheriff Emmet Shay in the June primary. After qualifying for a run off against Stocker, Mueller prevailed by 992 votes in what was the closest election for county sheriff in San Bernardino County history. Out of 85,362 votes cast with all but three of the county's precincts accounted for, 43,177 votes went to Mueller and 42,185 votes were captured by Stocker.

The impetus for Mueller's candidacy had been his backers' call for him to make inroads with regards to what the Los Angeles Daily News had exposed as a \$3 million vice ring operating in San Bernardino County in which none of the major principals had been indicted and of which only a single pimp had been arrested.

As the newly elected sheriff, Mueller inherited an organization with a checkered past, conflicting loyalties, and questionable alliances, political, legal and moral. For generations those in power and those with money had been able to utilize the sheriff's department much like a private security force to protect their interests first and those of the public second. Protection rackets were an inherent part of the system. Houses of ill repute

flourished throughout the county unmolested, as did gambling enterprises. Law enforcement officers were paid to look the other way, if they were not invited to outright participate in illicit enterprises directly or indirectly.

Gambling houses and bookmaking operations operated with seeming impunity in San Bernardino County throughout the 1940s and into the first year of the 1950s. Occasional raids on such enterprises were staged by Stocker and his men, but reports on the activity were not consistently provided to the district attorney's office and the gaming operations carried on.

Mueller set his sights first on these elements of the county's vice activity, seeking to spur his department into action.

Upon coming into office in 1951, Mueller undertook what would be described in the press as "a sweeping shake-up of his office." Mueller said the changes were being made "to bring about closer supervision, thereby ensuring greater efficiency, and to broaden deputies with a wider orientation of duties in various areas."

He had some success in changing the complexion and tenor of his department's operations, but felt his deputies were not moving with the alacrity he envisioned was necessary to achieve the goals he had set out for the department. In response, he moved to reorganize the department's command structure, demoting five people holding administrative echelon positions, including 69-year-old undersheriff Harry R. Heap, whom Mueller perceived as being too lackluster in his performance. Heap was reduced in rank to chief investigator.

Mueller settled upon the one senior administrator under Stocker in whom he saw the most promise, Ray Deakins,

as his best bet for serving him in the role of second-in-command. Thus, Deakins became undersheriff. Mueller further used his authority and autonomy as sheriff to promote those men in the department he felt made the best fit with his goals and management style.

He created the office of acting chief of detectives in the bureau of investigations and installed deputy L.L. "Zeke" Eblen in that post. He named lieutenant James M. Holloway chief of the administrative intelligence squad, to be assisted by detective lieutenants Robert Graefe and James Willis. He put inspector H.C. English in charge of all uniformed patrol deputies and their activities, jail operations, the department's substations and its rescue operations. He further created the office of chief of plans and training, assigning captain Lester Liess to oversee it.

But the series of changes Mueller instituted touched the lives of roughly two of every five of his deputies and his approach triggered protests and grumbling. And his challenge to Heap's turf as well as to two of the other five members of the department he demoted resulted in official appeal filings with the San Bernardino County Civil Service Commission.

Relatively early on, the new sheriff would get a glimpse of what he was up against. Ten months into Mueller's tenure as sheriff, in November 1951, George C. Fitzwater, who was then 66 years old, was arrested and charged with collecting money under false pretenses. Fitzwater had been the local coordinator for a pension collective. He was accused of bilking Lawrence Harpham, the proprietor of an establishment near Colton and just north of the River-

side County line, of \$350. Fitzwater was arrested after Mueller's deputies raided Harpham's gambling house on November 10, 1951 and an outraged Harpham told them they were making a mistake. He then explained that he had paid "fix" money to Fitzwater with the understanding that \$150 of the money would be kept by Fitzwater and the other \$200 would be paid to Deakins, the acting undersheriff. The purpose of his payment, Harpham thought, was to keep his gambling operation from being raided.

The event was a learning experience for all involved. Harpham and other gambling house operators learned that Mueller and Deakins' enforcement of the law was not subject to monetary influence as had apparently been the case during the Stocker administration when Heap was undersheriff. And Mueller and Deakins learned something about why their vice suppression operations were less effective than they intended.

Meanwhile, Mueller's reassignment of deputies to different duty stations, ones that were in some cases a hundred miles or more away from their previous assignments, rankled some of his men. Mueller was dealing with the reality of the sheer size of the county, from its northeast corner where the Inyo County line meets the Nevada border to Carbon Canyon near Chino Hills in the southwest and from Trona at the county's northwest corner nestled against Inyo and Kern counties at the gateway into Death Valley down to San Timoteo Canyon along the frontier with Riverside County and everything in between. At 20,014 square miles, San Bernardino County is a land mass larger than New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware and

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Eugene Mueller

He was born in Chicago on December 12, 1904 to Alfred Mueller, a veteran of the Spanish-American War, and his wife, Clara.

Alfred was wounded in the leg while in battle in the Philippines, which left him disabled for the remainder of his life. To support his parents, who moved to California in 1919, Eugene Mueller went to work at an early age and therefore never received an academic education beyond high school.

He began working as a policeman with the Pasadena Police Department in 1927, walking a beat in his first assignment. In 1932 he was lent to the Southgate police department, where he reorganized operations and served as police chief for three years. He returned to the Pasadena Police Department in 1935.

While with the Pasadena department, he was given the assignment of escorting the Stanford football team around town during one of its appearances at the Rose Bowl. This led to Mueller's lifelong association with Stanford as both

red the assignment of police chief. When he arrived in Upland, he found accommodations for his family, which included his wife Norma, his daughter Marilyn and two sons, Don and Ken, at a citrus grove estate on what is now 20th Street. Concerned about maintaining stability for his children in their educational setting, he committed to remaining in Upland.

While overseeing the Upland force, he made the noteworthy stride of hiring the department's first minority members, including Felix Quesada. As chief, Mueller involved himself in the rudimentary elements of police work, walking a beat, patrolling and personally investigating crime within his department's jurisdiction. He was close to his officers and played second base on the department baseball team, and was averred to be a good hitter.

During the late stage of World War II, Mueller traveled to Washington, D.C., where he attended the National Police Academy, bringing back concepts on how to mod-

Colton Prohibits Nepotism

from page 4

knowledge and help and serve on a committee.”

Council members Deirdre Bennett, Frank Navarro, David Toro and newly elected councilman Luis Gonzalez politically outmuscled Jorrin, DeLaRosa and Suchil, voting to insert into the city’s ethics policy a prohibition on city employees and relatives of council members from sitting on city commissions and committees. The most passionate advocate of the policy change was Na-

varro, who asserted that Colton has built up an “unsavory reputation” of favoritism to relatives of city officials. “We need to promote a sense of honesty, integrity and transparency,” Navarro said, suggesting that the city start the reform process by preventing those with familial connections to the city’s decision makers from serving on commissions and committees.

Also contained in the ethics reform package was a prohibition on city employees serving on commissions. That, too, could be interpreted

as being aimed at Gonzales. In the 1990s, the city’s public works director was John Hutton. Hutton was perceived by many as being a Gonzales ally. As a Colton resident, Hutton ran for city council and was victorious. He was thus simultaneously serving as a city staff member and council member.

Navarro hinted that the city should take the reforms even further by ending the hiring of council members’ family members.

“For too many years the city of Colton was identified as the city

where all relatives work for the city,” Navarro said in what was a veiled reference to Frank Gonzales. “There was a level of nepotism that was going on at that time that kind of put a cloud over our community.”

Gonzales told the *Sentinel* he saw the change in the ethics policy by the insertion of language pertaining to relatives of city council members as a gesture against him.

“Yeah, I think it was,” he said.

He said putting such restrictions in place in Colton was creating a pretty exacting standard

that would not easily be adhered to.

“You have to remember that anybody who is a native of Colton probably has relatives here,” he said. “A lot of them have many relatives. I have a lot of people who are part of my family here, between me and my wife. How can you discriminate against them? I don’t think it’s right or fair. They don’t have the same restriction on business owners being on a commission but residents who live here, pay taxes and spend money here are discriminated against. And you

can’t be on a commission for two years after you leave the council. You cannot place a family member on a commission. How will the family benefit? Those are volunteer positions. But a businessman can be on a commission when they could be making a decision that will benefit their business, such as tax fee structure. That is a conflict of interest. They are playing favorites. We want someone on those commissions who will fight for the citizens and do what is best for the city.”

Adelanto Approves Detention Center Project

from page 2

hind the project, representing an important but not final element needed to bring the Los Angeles County inmate overflow holding facility project to fruition.

In May, the two principals behind LCS, Newport Beach-based developer Buck Johns and Corrections Corporation of America Founder Doctor Crants of Nashville, Tennessee, presented the plan to alleviate crowding in Los Angeles County’s detention facilities to the Los

Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Johns and Crants told the board the project would save Los Angeles County \$674 million in capital costs and could be in place to receive inmates in two years. Johns and Crants asked Los Angeles County for no capital contributions toward the project, but wanted a commitment from the county that it will house its overflow inmates there for 20 years at a cost of \$88 per inmate per day, or roughly \$104 million per year.

Los Angeles County, the largest county population-wise in California, has been hit particularly

hard by the mandates in Assembly Bill 109, legislation aimed at closing California’s so-called “revolving door” of low-level inmates cycling in and out of state prisons. Assembly Bill 109 was drafted in an effort to comply with a U.S. Supreme Court order to reduce the number of inmates in the state’s 33 prisons to 137.5 percent of original design capacity. The law sent inmates deemed low risk – those who were convicted of non-violent offenses – back to the county where they were convicted for incarceration.

Johns and Crants sought to wed the needs

of Los Angeles County to those of Adelanto, which is San Bernardino County’s sixth smallest city population-wise at 31,765 residents and is teetering on the precipice of bankruptcy. Last year the city council declared the city was in a state of fiscal emergency, but its residents have refused to consent to impose on themselves a tax that city officials say is needed to stave off bankruptcy. With little in the way of sales tax revenue-generating commercial development, the city is in need of some kind of significant cash infusion. Adelanto does have land that can be used for

a prison and it is already host to two large detention facilities and has another federal prison at its border with Victorville.

Johns and Crants are proposing that the \$332 million cost of constructing the jail, which is to be located on 160 acres on Adelanto’s eastern boundary, be defrayed with bonds issued by a public finance authority or other agency. The city of Adelanto would own it. Once operating, Johns and Crants say, it would generate enough revenue to debt service the bonds and would provide the city with water and sewer connection fees of \$11,317,482,

development impact fees of \$3,713,750, public schools impact fees of \$215,220, and engineering department fees of \$91,046. In addition, Johns and Crants maintain the project would involve off-site infrastructure installation expenditures of \$5,734,000 that would be of tremendous future benefit to the city and would create an estimated 3,769 construction jobs and an estimated 1,250 permanent jobs once the facility is in place.

Nevertheless, the concept of another prison in Adelanto garnered significant opposition. A group calling itself Defund Detention has been very active in opposing Johns and Crants. Its members maintain that constructing more detention facilities in a city that already has three is not in the city’s long term interest, no matter what economic benefits might be derived from hosting such facilities. In addition to arguing that the proliferation of prisons in Adelanto is harming the city’s image, Defund Detention asserts that public sentiment and rehabilitative theory is moving away from incarceration as a cure for social ills. One anti-prison activist, Sarai Herrera, said that detention facilities are “inhumane” and that the city has grown to be part

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Mueller from page 5

Rhode Island combined. Mueller wanted his men to familiarize themselves with all aspects of the county, from its desolate and seemingly boundless expanse of desert to its snow capped peaks in the San Bernardino and Angeles Mountains as well as its agricultural zones, its railroad towns such as Needles, Barstow and Colton, its stretches of lonesome highway and its urban centers such as San Bernardino, Ontario and Redlands. Working counter to Mueller was not simply the inbred corruption he detested, but the very geography of the county itself.

The challenges to Mueller's department reorganization were eventually heard by the civil service commission.

Heap, the dean of the department as he approached his 70th year, was reinstated as undersheriff, though only temporarily. In reinstating Heap, the commission took into consideration that he was scheduled to retire within two months, while recognizing that Mueller was looking for more dynamic leadership for his department. "The big issue seemed to be that Heap had outlived his usefulness and lacked in initiative and administrative ability," the civil service commission's finding stated. "This may be true but little or no evidence was submitted to substantiate the sheriff's position."

The other two department members who had contested Mueller's ac-

tion were Roy Cornelison, the former Fontana substation captain who had been replaced in that assignment by sergeant J. M. Staudemayer and transferred to the central division in San Bernardino as a patrol deputy, and P. T. Coleman, who had been relieved of his post as resident deputy in Trona and was likewise sent back to San Bernardino to do patrol work.

The commission approved the one-grade demotion of Roy Cornelison, whom the commission characterized as using "poor judgment" at times. The commission further found that occasionally Cornelison's "conduct, manners and language were unbecoming a substation captain."

The commission approved the demotion of Coleman from resident to patrol deputy, finding there was evidence "of conduct unbecoming an officer, poor judgment while on duty and poor public relations over a long period of time which did not enhance the prestige of the sheriff's office in the minds of a substantial number of citizens in the Trona-Argus desert area."

A citizens' group formed to fight the changes and, utilizing representatives from a number of the communities around the county, lodged assertions with the commission that civil service regulations were not being followed by the new sheriff. Mueller was able to allay those concerns with the commission and most of the public.

Emblematic of how the new ethos Mueller advocated did not sit well with at least some of his men was the dissolution of the sheriff's posse. Mueller rode horses, but was not a devout equestrian. On the other hand, his predecessor, Stocker, had the reputation and mindset of a cowboy. Stocker had founded in 1947 the sheriff's mounted posse, a throwback to the days of old. The posse consisted of horsemen sworn in by Stocker, who were in a perpetual stand-by status, ready to be called out to search the county's considerable expanses for fleeing criminals, jail or prison escapees, lost hikers or hunters or fishermen or for any rescue operation where they might be useful.

Mueller, though appreciative of the posse in concept, had not put as high of a priority on its contributions as Stocker and, busy with other matters, did not get around to swearing the posse in until four months after he took office. The posse members, who yet counted Stocker among them, took this as a slight. Claiming that politics was not involved, the horsemen disbanded the posse, saying Mueller had allowed it to "drift." In its place, they immediately formed a new riding club – the San Bernardino County Rangers.

Mueller then did some maneuvering of his own, creating the sheriff's reserve mounted posse and forming the sheriff's reserve motorcycle posse, with 30 members chartered to assist with traf-

fic emergencies, search and rescue and forest fire response.

Following Heap's retirement, Mueller was able to assert authority over the department he headed.

Mueller assigned a deputy to do occasional patrol of Lake Arrowhead to discourage reckless speeding by boaters there.

One facet of Mueller's direction of the department that distinguishes him from both his predecessors and his successors is the sartorial standard he set for the department. He insisted that his men adopt uniforms that were reminiscent of the dress regalia of the Marine Corps, complemented by World War II National Park ranger hats, which he believed conveyed an image befitting the esteem he believed the public should have for officers of the law.

Mueller was also the first San Bernardino County sheriff to add women to the ranks of the department and it was under him that the department's ladies auxiliary was organized.

He participated in and often led department raids, signaling commencement of the enforcement team's charge with the call "Geronimo."

Mueller had an effective way of commanding the attention of his men or others in a crowd who had slipped off into a myriad of separate private conversations when it was time for him to convey something of importance. He kept a blank bullet in his gun and he would take aim at the ceiling and shoot. The loud report would bring the focus back to him.

On June 29, 1953, the sheriff's department's aeronautical unit was formed with the acquisition of the department's first aircraft. Also in 1953, the sheriff's reserve emergency unit was organized.

By his fourth year in office, the department had made significant strides in eroding the

gambling component of the region's vice activity.

Nevertheless, Mueller never fully recovered politically from the dissension that was sowed in the ranks over his effort to change the culture of the force under his command. In 1954, Frank Bland, exploiting some of the deputies' expressions of discontent over their transfers and the newfangled way of running the department Mueller represented, challenged him in the sheriff's race. Bland, a railroad policeman and detective from Needles who had joined the Needles Police Department and had risen through the ranks to become police chief there, was like Mueller, a graduate of the National Police Academy. Bland campaigned on three issues: He charged Mueller with being a city slicker from Upland who had neglected the more remote and rustic areas of the county. Bland vowed to close down all of the pinball parlors around the county where youngsters were squandering too much of their time, he claimed, instead of staying home and doing their chores and homework. And he vowed to close down the houses of ill-repute which proliferated at various spots of the far flung county along its myriad of highways and outback reaches.

Mueller was one of the first San Bernardino politicians to be buried under the avalanche of a negative campaign. In addition to being attacked for slighting the county's backwaters, he was attacked for dressing his deputies in fancy and overly flamboyant uniforms.

Ultimately, too much reform too soon undid Mueller politically in San Bernardino County. Elected at the halfway mark of the Twentieth Century, Mueller gamely attempted to modernize and professionalize a department that yet had one foot firmly planted in what was at least the mystique if not the reality of the "Old West." Moreover, the wide open lawlessness of the un-

bridled frontier that was much of San Bernardino County resisted the regulation and order he was seeking to impose. He lost convincingly to Bland 20,926 to 16,591 in a head-to-head, two-man race held in June 1954, during that year's California primary election.

Bland's victory that year was the first of seven successive electoral victories he racked up, allowing him to serve a record 28 years as sheriff in San Bernardino County. A horseman, Bland was able to pool the support of Stocker and utilize the discontent over Mueller's reforms to canter to victory, posing as a reformer of sorts and creating in the process a political machine that has outlived him and survives to this day. Each sheriff that has succeeded him – Floyd Tidwell, Dick Williams, Gary Penrod, Rod Hoops and the current incumbent John McMahon – did so with the assistance of the political machine Bland created. Each of those sheriffs came into office with the political endorsement of his predecessor. And though Bland initially made good on his commitment to take a stand against vice and in particular close down some of the houses of prostitution in the county, in time that effort lapsed. In 1966, information surfaced that Bland himself had pilfered thousands of dollars from a

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Mueller from page 7

fund that had been set up to provide his deputies working the vice/narcotics detail with money for drug buys, place bets with bookies or make the monetary exchanges needed to arrest pimps and prostitutes. Despite the revelation, Bland remained in office and was never molested by the district attorney as he was often returned to office without electoral challenge or was able to bury the negative publicity under an avalanche of positive sounding mailers and handbills and gain re-election when he was opposed.

In 1978, Bland again dodged a mortal bullet when a scandal enveloped his campaign that showed 24 years after his maiden campaign for sheriff based upon eradicating the county of the scourge of prostitution Bland's department had become mired in questionable ties with ladies of the evening. At a Bland campaign fundraiser in April of that year at Sweeten Hall in Rancho Cucamonga, donors and others in attendance with Bland were offered the services of prostitutes inside a trailer within the hall's parking lot. A bust of the proceedings corralled a couple of the girls, a

member of the sheriff's department and one of Bland's supporters. The ensuing case was prosecuted by deputy district attorney Bill Parker, leading to revelations about the matter that came too late to prevent Bland from being elected to serve a seventh term.

In 1982, Bland, then 69, chose not to seek reelection to an eighth term as he was mired in controversy relating to sheriff's officers helping themselves to stolen property that had been recovered by his department. Instead, he handed off the reins to his second-in-command, undersheriff Floyd Tidwell.

To this day, Mueller has a legitimate claim to having been the leading reformist sheriff in San Bernardino County history.

Mueller's work as a lawman did not end with his defeat in the 1954 election. In 1955, California Governor Goodwin Knight appointed Mueller to work with attorney Jim Cox on rooting out racketeering in boxing.

Meanwhile, in Culver City in Los Angeles County, a laissez-faire atmosphere with regard to vice had persisted for some time. Gambling in particular was a wide-open phenomenon there, and the atmosphere of tolerance was at one

with the political leadership of the time. But in 1956, Culver City Mayor Harold Shields, who had reformist leanings, was able, with three other successful reformist council candidates, to get control of the city's reins of power. Together, they eased police chief W. N. Hildebrand, who had a modus vivendi with the gaming interests in town, toward the door. Hildebrand would become eligible for a disability retirement on June 11, 1956 and that was the date set for his retirement.

Shields conferred with then-Los Angeles Police Chief William Parker, asking for his recommendation as to a replacement for Hildebrand, in particular someone who would aggressively step up enforcement against gaming and bookmaking operations. Parker suggested Mueller. Shields then prevailed upon Mueller to leave his Sacramento assignment and become police chief in Culver City.

Mueller lit into the city's illicit gaming establishment.

"Some of it moved out when the mobsters heard I was coming and we took care of the rest," Mueller later said.

Mueller remained as Culver City police chief for thirteen-and-one-

half years, retiring on January 1, 1970.

One noteworthy change Mueller made toward the end of his career was that he lightened up on his requirement that the officers under his command wear officious looking uniforms. By 1969, Mueller had changed the dress code for Culver City police officers to allow them to wear typical street clothes with the sole requirement that they wear only one common item of apparel - a gold blazer

with a pocket insignia identifying the wearer as a policeman.

Sometime prior to his retirement, Mueller sat down for an interview with the Los Angeles Times, at which he sized up the challenges facing society, vis a vis cops vs. crooks.

"There is far too much sympathy for the criminal and not enough for the victim," he said. "The bleeding hearts talk of the 'poor fellow' -and they're not referring to the victim, but the

criminal. All judges need to get a little tougher. There must be a day of atonement for the commission of a crime. The individual must be held responsible for his actions. Otherwise there is chaos."

The mission of a police department administrator should be, he said, "toward increasing the professionalism of policemen, through selection, training and improved human relations."

Mueller died in 1977.

The Count from page 3

to running his city and riding herd on the city council. The first indication that something was amiss came shortly after he took office, when he prevailed on the council to allow him to hire Mike McKinney, or more accurately, Mike McKinney's public relations firm, MICA-PR, to serve in the role of his chief-of-staff. This is troubling because one should never make the mistake of substituting public relations or propaganda for policy. Running a government, as in running a corporation, requires substance before form. Form and beauty and window dressing are luxuries you can afford only after you have ad-

dressed basics. And the hiring of McKinney and MICA-PR were doubly troubling because McKinney had been recommended to Davis by a cabal of Democrats, the very group of Democrats who had championed the wholesale recall of the city council, the mayor and the city attorney in 2013. There are times, I will allow, that bipartisanship is called for. But I find more than questionable Mayor Davis's reliance, indeed obsequious dependence, upon guidance from someone so obviously in the Democratic camp...

Lest I be accused of some form of partisan hair-splitting, bear in mind that I am merely observing reality and reflecting upon its impact. One strong indica-

tion that Davis had gone in the wrong direction consists of the defection from his camp that came when his greatest ally on the council, Fred Shorett, parted company with him over the McKinney issue. In fact, it was Shorett that infused the remainder of the council with the backbone to refuse Davis's request that McKinney's contract as chief of staff be extended into 2015...

This debacle sunk to a yet further level this last week, when Davis, miffed over his isolation on the McKinney contract extension, took aim at city manager Alan Parker. The ostensible justification that Davis gave in calling to have Parker tossed out of his \$210,000 per year job

Continued on Page 12

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Barstow Surrenders Vice Regulating Leverage
from front page

see implementation and enforcement of the state law. Under this state law, those persons who wish to provide massage services may apply to the California Massage Therapy Council for issuance of a certificate. Such certificate holders are exempt from any county's or city's massage technician licensing requirements.

The action by the Barstow City Council last week, which must be followed up with a second confirming vote known as a second reading to go into effect, was intended, city officials say, to bring the city's massage therapy ordinance in compliance with the Massage Therapy Act.

Such action on the city's part was not mandated by the state. Massage technicians and massage parlors could still be subject to local regulation under the act where those massage professionals themselves choose to remain under local authority. Op-

erators and masseuses would have had the option of either getting state licensing and bypassing local regulations or conforming with local regulations. Barstow's massage therapy ordinance was originally adopted in 1999 and was amended in 2000.

The Massage Therapy Act takes effect January 1, 2015. The new law establishes standards of conduct for state certificate holders, even if such conduct does not constitute criminal behavior. Given these standards and the consideration that the California Massage Therapy Council has greater expertise and resources, some local officials, including those in Barstow, have reasoned that it is no longer necessary or efficient for the county or city to maintain and enforce their own regulations.

The amendment to the city ordinance shifts the licensing and regulating authority over massage parlors and clinics as well as those that work at such establishments from the city's planning and land use divisions to the California Massage

Therapy Council.

While the Massage Therapy Act does not prohibit a local police department or agency from investigating massage clinics for potential criminal conduct, removing local control over the issuance of massage practitioner permits as previously required could complicate or lessen local authorities' ability to actually carry out those investigations, as information pertaining to the employees would be repositied into a state data base in Sacramento. Moreover, both Assembly Bill 1147 and state legislation passed in 2008, Senate Bill 731, which created the California Massage Therapy Council, grew out of complaints that local regulations relating to massage operations are or were burdensome to legitimate massage service providers.

County officials, including clerk of the board of supervisors Laura Welch, have acknowledged that the county has long recognized that massage parlors have been utilized as a front for houses of

prostitution.

"Although most massage technician services are legitimate, the historical concern of local governments has been that some massage clinics use massage technicians to engage in prostitution," Welch told the board of supervisors last month.

Some public officials, such as city managers in San Bernardino County cities where prostitution has been a persistent problem, have expressed the view that by liberalizing regulations for legitimate massage businesses, the state

may have created leeway for illegitimate ones to flourish

Historically, San Bernardino County has been a haven for the prostitution trade, with scores of houses of ill repute located along its major thoroughfares such as Highway 66, Highway 395, Old Highway 60, and elsewhere, in both sparsely populated and remote areas as well as in its population centers such as San Bernardino, Ontario and Barstow. For decades, a close relationship existed between many of the brothel operators and county law

enforcement, which essentially entailed a semi-institutionalized government protection racket.

Members of the Barstow City Council, including Councilman Richard Harpole, who retired from the Barstow Police Department as a lieutenant, offered assurances that entrusting the licensing, permitting and zoning authority over massage parlors to the state would not, in the words of Harpole "limit our options against any criminal actions that may occur at these businesses."

Private Eyes Arrested
from front page

tors' licenses.

The law firm of Lackie, Dammeier, McGill, and Ethir specialized in the representation of police officers and their collective bargaining units. A significant number of the firm's lawyers were former peace officers themselves. The firm had an impressive track record in court

defending officers who had been charged with crimes and was no less successful at the pre-trial level in dissuading prosecutors from proceeding with cases against the firm's clients as well as in obtaining favorable outcomes in representing officers being subjected to departmental discipline procedures.

Moreover, the firm had a defining reputation as an aggressive advocate for police unions with regard to contracts,

salaries and benefits in negotiations with the cities and agencies employing those unions' officers. Indeed, the firm employed what many considered to be ruthless tactics in intimidating the elected leaders and senior administrators of those municipalities and agencies, directing political campaigns that variously rewarded by keeping in office elected officials who cooperated

Continued on Page 10

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San Bernardino County Coroner Reports

Coroner case #701409075 On Wednesday, December 4, 2014 at 8:04 PM. Rialto Police Department officers responded to the area of 1500 block of N. Riverside Ave for a report of shots fired. Officers found an adult Black male with trauma to the upper body in the street. The man was confirmed dead of his injuries at 8:13 PM. The name of the decedent will be released when his next of kin have been notified. An autopsy will be conducted to determine the cause of death. The Rialto Police Department is investigating this incident. [120514 0745 SY]

Coroner case #701409042 On Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at 11:36 PM, California Highway Patrol officers responded to a 911 call for a three-vehicle traffic collision on southbound I-15 and Kenwood Ave. Seventeen year-old Redlands resident Brian Castaneda was pronounced dead on the scene by paramedics. The California Highway Patrol is investigating the incident. [120514 0740 SY]

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

Adelanto Approves Detention Center Project from page 6

of a "Prison Industrial Complex."

At Wednesday night's

meeting, a group of project opponents held a prominent banner which read: "No more cages. Build strong communities."

Another of those in-

involved in Defend Detention, Victoria Mena, maintains that California residents on general principle are opposed to the construction of more jails. She asserts that

California residents, in passing Proposition 47, which reduced property and drug crimes from a felony to a misdemeanor status in order to reduce jail crowding, have ini-

tiated a trend against detention facility construction. Warehousing large numbers of criminals in the community will compromise public safety, Mena asserts.

Indeed, in its reaction to Mena, the city narrowly avoided creating a cause célèbre that

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Private Eyes Arrested from page 9

with the union during collective bargaining sessions and opposing and thereby drumming out of office politicians who resisted the union's demands. Some accused the firm, those in its employ and the members of at least some of the unions Lackie, Dammeier, McGill, and Ethir represented with crossing the line by seeking to or actually using extortion against elected officials.

In making a case against Lanzillo and Impola, the Orange County District Attorney will be attempting to verify, document and establish that such extortion attempts tool place.

According to the Orange County District Attorney's Office, at the time of the crimes Lanzillo and Impola were under the employ of Lackie, Dammeier, McGill, and Ethir, engaging in political skullduggery. It has been established that the Costa Mesa Police Officers' Asso-

ciation retained Lackie, Dammeier, McGill, and Ethir to conduct "candidate research," including surveillance on Costa Mesa city council members, in the months leading up to the November 2012 election.

On June 19, 2012, according to Orange County Senior Deputy District Attorney Robert Mestman of the special prosecutions unit, Lanzillo is accused of purchasing a GPS monitoring device using the alias of Robert Teller with Teller Investigations. According to

Mestman, between July 25, 2012, and August 22, 2012, Lanzillo and Impola conspired to place a GPS tracking device on the vehicle of Costa Mesa City Councilman Stephen Mensinger without his knowledge or permission. Lanzillo and Impola are accused of using the GPS device to illegally track Mensinger's location and movements.

Further, according to Mestman, Impola conducted an operation searching for evidence to use against Costa Mesa

Councilman Gary Monahan to damage his political career. The criminal complaint against Impola states that on August 22, 2012, Costa Mesa City Councilmen Jim Righeimer and Monahan were at Monahan's Skosh Monahan's restaurant and bar in Costa Mesa. Lanzillo is accused of arriving near the restaurant a short time later.

"Impola and Lanzillo communicated with each other and Lackie, Dammeier, McGill, and Ethir Managing Partner Dieter

Dammeier by calling on their cell phones and through text messages," according to Mestman. "At approximately 5:45 p.m. on August 22, 2012, councilman Righeimer left the restaurant in his vehicle and drove home after he had consumed two non-alcoholic beverages. Lanzillo called 911 and falsely reported that he observed a man stumble out of the location and into a vehicle that matched the description of councilman Righeimer's vehicle."

Lanzillo is accused of falsely reporting that the vehicle was swerving on the road and that the driver may be under the influence of alcohol or disabled.

The Costa Mesa Police Department dispatched an officer to conduct an investigation. Councilman Righeimer was detained outside his home during this investigation for driving under the influence. Righeimer had in his possession two receipts for Diet Cokes he had purchased at Skosh Monahan's. After administering a sobriety test and not observing any objective symptoms of intoxication, the officer determined that Councilman Righeimer was not under the influence and he was released. "It was later determined that councilman Righeimer did not stumble out of the bar and was not swerving when he drove," according to Mestman.

Continued on Page 12

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Adelanto Approves Detention Center Project from page 10

could have undone all of the progress Johns and Crants had made with regard to their proposal.

On August 16, Mena orchestrated a Defund Detention protest she dubbed "Schools Not Jails." Initially, she intended to concentrate the activity at Adelanto City Hall. The city insisted that for her and her group to do so, they would need to first obtain a \$1 million insurance policy. Refused the permit to protest, Defund Detention retreated to a vacant lot across the street from City Hall. Mena was cited by city officials there and charged with criminal violations. She had been scheduled for arraignment on three misdemeanor charges earlier in the day on December 10, the same date the city council was scheduled to vote on the project.

The American Civil Liberties Union leapt into the breach, alleging the city had violated Mena's Constitutional rights, and threatened to sue the city. ACLU lawyers armed themselves

with an admission from Adelanto City Manager Jim Hart that the city had acted to prevent Defund Detention and Mena from getting the demonstration permit through the inflated insurance coverage ruse because he had made a determination that the protest was contrary to City Hall's interests.

The ACLU dashed off a letter to the city, demanding that the charges against Mena be dropped, while alleging officials had overstepped their legal authority. "It appears that city officials may have acted out of disagreement with the protesters' message, and sought to use [their] permitting scheme to silence them," the ACLU letter charged.

With the prospect of even wider scrutiny over the city's action mounting as media outlets were picking up on the story of the prosecution of Mena, the city on December 9 in an ex parte motion moved to have all of the charges against her dropped "in the interest of justice."

That move may have attenuated the protest, already substantial, that

By Diane Dragotto Williams

Wildhaven Ranch, though over 5,000 feet in altitude, has had its share



of stray pelicans often blown off course. These distinctive birds of North America, with their oversized orange-salmon bill and vast wingspan of 8 to 9 feet are one of the largest waterbirds, standing 4 feet tall! *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* winters in California looking for lakes as they migrate, causing unexpected visits in our mountains as they are caught up in a storm. Clumsy on land, the pelican is a good swimmer and graceful in flight as they fly in flocks, with their necks bent back on their bodies. Using its long neck and expandable pouch, the pelican catches its fish by scooping up water, holding its

County Wildlife Corner American White Pelican

head up and draining out the water, while swallowing its prey! Eating up to 3 pounds of fish a day, its pouch can hold up to 3 gallons of water! Another pound of crayfish and amphibians can also be speared for meals.

Its plumage is almost entirely white, except for black primary and secondary feathered edges, sometimes visible only in flight. Pelican groups of a dozen or more will



work communally by herding fish into shallow inland lakes. Making their summer home near inland lakes, they then prefer to forage alone, or may steal fish from other waterbirds. Their nests

are made of built-up dirt with twig, stick and reed debris, holding 1-2 dull or chalky white eggs. The young often grow up in pods, in colonies where an abundance of pelicans provide protection. Colony predators include foxes, coyotes and large avians. Young pelicans are sometimes hunted by great horned owls and bald eagles. Avian interlopers will be met by aggression with jabs of their enor-

the western, southwestern and Gulf Coast states into Canada, and



as far as Central and South America. Braving storms, weather changes, different topography and sometimes toxic waters has made this striking aquatic bird quite a survivor. At Wildhaven Ranch, visits from White American Pelicans gave us great amusement as we watched our guests easily consume pounds of fish, only to wait patiently for more to materialize! They always left with a smile on their beaks!

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

mous pelican bills. But mammals usually force pelicans to abandon their nests.

Soaring high on thermals, pelicans fly in a straight line or V formation, migrating across

manifested on the evening of December 10 in the council chambers. Had the city council been served with a lawsuit on Mena's behalf that evening, the three new council members may well have been dissuaded from supporting the project.

As it was, opposition to the project was reaching a crescendo. The Victorville City Council on December 9 declared it was "fundamentally opposed" to incarcerating Los Angeles County inmates near the Adelanto-Victorville border and in a letter signed by newly-elected Victorville Mayor Gloria Garcia, requested that the Adelanto City Council table its vote on the project until a discussion on the matter could take place.

"The need for jobs is abundantly clear, how-

ever, we are concerned with other undesirable elements and the stigma the high concentration of correctional facilities could have on the region's ability to attract new industry," the letter stated.

Simultaneously, town officials in Apple Valley and city officials in Hesperia expressed concern about the project.

The out-of-town meddling in Adelanto's affairs, however, may have backfired.

Glaspas, who was newly sworn in to the council Wednesday night, but had previously served on the council, including a term as mayor, put it somewhat delicately. "You can take your letter and shove it," Glaspas said in reference to Garcia's missive. "I don't need them telling us what we should be do-

ing."

The rest of the council, sans Wright, dug in their heels and approved the project.

Johns told the *Sentinel* that he appreciated the wide range of input regarding the project as well as the outcome. "We are, frankly, very pleased with the questions raised by the public and the questions raised by the council," he said. "I think they came away satisfied that this will create a significant income stream for the community. And 5,000 jobs will be very good for Adelanto."

Johns said the project is not out of the woods yet and he and Crants yet have to get the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to buy into it.

"It will be a different kind of conversation in

Los Angeles County," Johns said. "They told us that they would not take it up before Adelanto weighed in on this and we would have to be where we have the project located and we have permits and we have to be fully ready to build. That's what we have done. They did not want to hear about what we would like to do. They wanted to know about what we had ready to go. Now, we are ready to go and we will be reaching out to the [i.e., Los Angeles] county on an ongoing basis. We will have discussions with the board of supervisors. We would like to get started right away, but realistically, with the holidays, we probably won't be taking this to them formally until January."

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California Style

The Kids Are In Town

It's really amazing to see out-of-towners visiting the different places in



camonga's Victoria Gardens, The Shoppes at Chino Hills, and the Ontario Mills. They really enjoy shopping, buying designer clothes, and wearing them, too. The message from the out-of-towners is one you just can't escape. They really are having the fashionable time of their lives. I'm not sure how they afford some of the



San Bernardino County. This goes especially for the kids because they're so daring! They're fashion insight is pretty fabulous. You can notice the visitors while they're shopping in Rancho Cu-



fashion pieces they're buying, but it's neat watching them wearing it all. The backpacks



By Grace Bernal

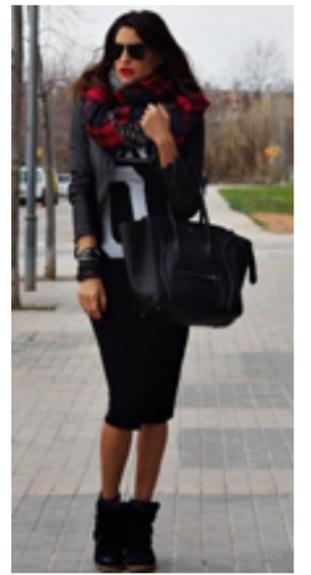
and fun bags they're into are super to watch. The statement they make is



pretty strong too when it comes to wearing black and white. This season black and white comes in stripes. Another trend is



proportioned foot wear. For those of you who think nothing is happening in fashion, you should lay off the meds and get with the kids. Because the fashion



gear the kids are wearing is where it's at. It's a marvelous time of the year this season and I'm enjoying the great view right here in the good ol' San Bernardino County. The fashion picture is looking great and festive and its coming through loud and clear. Enjoy the shopping, enjoy the festivities and wear something daring. Til next week!

"Fashion is architecture. It is a matter of proportions." ~Coco Chanel

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

Private Eyes Linked To Dammeier Firm Arrested from page 10

Further, according to Mestman, between June 21, 2012, and July 12, 2012, Lanzillo and Impola placed a GPS tracking device on the vehicle of an attorney at a law firm that was a competitor to the Lackie, Dammeier, McGill, and Ethir firm without

the victim's knowledge or permission. Lanzillo and Impola are accused of using the GPS device to illegally track the location information of the victim.

According to Mestman the Costa Mesa Police Department cooperated in the matter and "provided reports and information to the Orange County District Attorney's Office. We conducted an extensive

investigation into all matters surrounding this incident. The investigation is on-going."

Efforts to obtain statements from the former principals of the Lackie, Dammeier, McGill, and Ethir firm were unsuccessful.

The Count from page 8

was that he had not made fast enough progress in formulating the city's

bankruptcy exit strategy. In 2012, which was well before Parker was brought in to manage the city, San Bernardino had filed for Chapter Nine bankruptcy protection. Federal bankruptcy judge Meredith Jury has patently indulged the city as it is struggling to get its financial house in order but more recently signaled that she wanted San Bernardino to hurry things toward a recovery plan that will allow its debtors and creditors to be made whole...

Curiously, Davis had no problem with leaving Parker in place all these many months, despite the rather common knowledge that Parker was no stranger to the inside of a bankruptcy court, himself. Indeed Parker had twice filed bankruptcy personally, and his detractors and creditors have alleged that he was leading an extravagant lifestyle, both before and after his filing, including

purchasing and receiving expensive items and services and thereby increasing his debt obligations as well as transferring property or assets just prior to both filings. Last June, when councilman John Valdivia was pushing for an exacting performance review for Parker with what appeared to be any eye for terminating him, Davis quashed that effort...

Davis's timing in wanting to sack Parker now has eroded his po-

litical credibility. This week, the council held a special session to consider doing just that. Under the city's charter he needed a 5 to 2 vote to accomplish that. He had to know going in that he was far short of that threshold. When the meeting was over, Parker was still city manager and Davis had one fewer friend at City Hall. With every move, it seems, Davis confirms what a political novice, and ineffectual novice, he is...

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